



CAPE MAY COUNTY BRANCH

Website <http://capemay-nj.aauw.net>

The purpose of this branch shall be to further AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

APRIL 2021 Newsletter

President's Corner

Hello everyone! Well, it's officially spring! I hope you're thinking spring and what special projects you can tackle this year.

Please think about how you can help our club this spring, too. We need new officers for our next year - vice president and secretary. We could also use someone to coordinate fundraising. Is this something you're good at? Can you help? If so, get in touch with me. My phone number is (609) 420 7643 or email me at crohrman39@gmail.com. Waiting to hear from you. Thanks!

Chris Rohrman

BOOK NOOK

Greetings Fellow Readers,

Spring, vaccinations, Passover, Easter, family - and the winner is family as the theme of this month's column. Since both Chuck and I plus our adult children

have received our COVID shots we finally feel comfortable enough to have an in-person family visit over Easter weekend. This is the first time we have all been together since the quarantine began. We are very excited!

This started me thinking about books about memorable families. The first book that came to mind is *Five Little Peppers and How They Grew* by Margaret Sydney. This is an old children's series that I read when I was in 3rd grade and it captured my imagination partly because I was an only child. But I won't bore you with children's books. After much thought I settled on five adult books in which a memorable family was featured.

We Were the Mulvaney's by Joyce Carol Oates is the story of a "perfect" family. The setting is upstate New York in the 1970s and 1980s. An unfortunate incident sends the family into a downward spiral until an extended family reunion brings them full circle with family pride restored.

Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver takes place in Vineland, New Jersey. Part fiction and part history, it chronicles the lives of the Knox-Travoularis family who

move into an inherited house which, unknown to them, is falling down. Money woes, job insecurity, two very different adult children with problems, and research into a neighbor who lived 100 years ago all bring the family together in unexpected ways. History, politics, ecological issues, and racism are all woven together into an absorbing read.

We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves by Karen Joy Fowler is a book that we discussed several years ago in the Daytime Group. Rosemary, the main character, is the daughter of behavioral psychologists. She was raised with her sister, Fern, who was sent away mysteriously when Rosemary was young. Rosemary has always had difficulty fitting in with societal mores. As she explores her childhood she realizes that Fern was part of an experiment her parents had been conducting. This is a family that is hard to forget.

In *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett the house in the title is a main character in the story of siblings, Danny and Maeve Conroy, who were raised in it. Their father built the house for his wife who abandons the family after an illness. He remarries a cold, unfeeling woman who forces the children out after their father dies. Danny and Maeve rely on each other and, as adults, return and park outside the house to hash out their past and consider their future. The book explores a close sibling relationship and the effects of abandonment on children among other things.

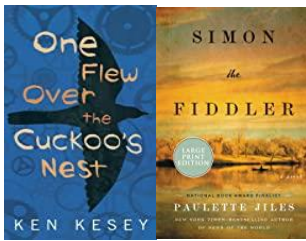
Finally, *Educated* by Tara Westover is a controversial memoir written by the daughter of a survivalist Mormon family. As she writes about childhood abuse, isolation from people other than her family, and life-threatening situations for herself and other family members, she tells about her determination to get an education. We discussed this book several years ago in the Daytime Group. In this brutal story we learn how the author went on to complete a PhD program in history at Cambridge University. The book earned many awards including being named by the *New York Times* as one of the 10 Best Books of 2018. It is certainly a story that lingers in my mind.

Whew! After thinking about all these families and their complicated stories, I appreciate my own family more! So I've come full circle and can't wait to have our two children, their spouses, and our three grandchildren together again. Have a wonderful spring and enjoy your own families, large or small!

Happy reading,

Mary Jane

PS Don't forget to check our website often for ZOOM meetings for each book group and to find good books to read. capemay-nj.aauw.net



Tuesday, April 20 at 1pm *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey.

Wednesday, April 28 at 6:30pm *Simon the Fiddler* by Paulette Jiles.



Tuesday, May 18 at 1pm *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert.

Wednesday, May 26 at 6:30pm *The Martian* by Andy Weir.

TECH TREK 2021

STEM - Gail Davis

Our 2020 Tech Trek camp will be virtual in July this year. A 2021 will NOT be chosen. We hope to have an Alumni camp in the future if funds permit. We will have a virtual Meet /n Greet on May 15 and they will get to meet what would have been their roommates. Possibly a virtual campus tour with Alumns. Then we need to ascertain IF they all will have internet access after schools end in June. At

camp they will have a morning YOGA class, then 4 core classes, workshops in the afternoon, possibly virtual field trips.

Professional Women's Night is being worked on by Virginia Rettig.

My interview team may be asked to help assemble the kits each camper will receive.

PUBLIC POLICY

Theresa Basquez

AAUW's policy work connects and rallies advocates at the local, state, national, and global levels to empower women and girls. With the member-voted Public Policy Priorities as our guide, AAUW uses lobbying and grassroots efforts to push forward policies that break through educational and economic barriers for women. AAUW priorities focus on economic security, education and Title IX and civil rights.

In support of the policies advocated by AAUW, letters were written to both houses of Congress in January and February:

- Letter to Congress Urging Support of the FAMILY Act (2/11/21)
- Letter to Congress Urging Support of the Raise the Wage Act of 2021 {2/10/21)
- Coalition of Over 200 Organizations Letter to Congress Supporting the Paycheck Fairness Act (2/3/21)
- AAUW Letter to House of Representatives Supporting the Paycheck Fairness Act {1/27/21
- AAUW Letter to Senate Supporting the Paycheck Fairness Act (1/27/21)
- AAUW Letter Outlining Legislative Priorities for the 117th Congress ((1/22/21)

Learn more at <https://www.aauw.org/issues/>

Tributes

Gifts to our Tribute Scholarship Fund are a thoughtful way to recognize an anniversary or remember a friend, member or relative while providing support to our scholarship recipients.

An acknowledgement is sent to you and to the individual recognized. Your name will be made known, but not the amount of the gift.

Please send your gift to Barbara Heinrichs, 503 Whildam Ave., North Cape May, NJ 08204.

<http://capemay-nj.aauw.net>

KEEP OUR WEB ADDRESS HANDY

Events, meetings, book discussion dates, and more!

You can always find up-to-date information here. Book lists and dates for both groups are posted.

A complete membership list with contact information is available.

To access the information for Members Only call: Mary Jane Slugg (609) 884-7041 or Barbara Heinrichs (609) 889-1647 and we will give you the password!

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