



# 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.

## SEPTEMBER 2021 Newsletter

### President's Corner

Hello Everyone,

It's September: welcome to another year in AAUW. What a nice summer this was compared to last year. We were able to see family and friends in person. Such a wonderful relief!

Hopefully, we will be able to continue seeing each other in person in our book groups. Mary Jane will give us more details on that.

Good luck to all our students going off to school. I hope they stay safe and healthy.

See you at the next book group!

Chris Rohrman  
President



Cheers!

## BOOK NOOK

Greetings Fellow Readers,



**Tuesday, September 21** – Choose any book in the series of 28 by Janet Evanovich

We are meeting at 12:00 noon at **Castaway Café**, 301 Bayshore Road in the Villas. We'll order lunch first and then have our discussion.



**Wednesday, September 29** (the **fifth** Wednesday of September) – *The Innocent Man* by John Grisham

Sandy Sieber has graciously offered her home for our evening book group meeting in September. Her address is 3409 Shore Drive in the Villas.

We are meeting at **5pm** for appetizers. Everyone is encouraged to bring a favorite appetizer of their own but that is not required as there will be plenty there. Masks are not required.

We will socialize and eat from 5pm to 6. Then have our book discussion of *The Innocent Man* by John Grisham from 6 to 7:30. For those who love sunsets, you can stay watch the sunset at 7:45.

Sandy has lots of chairs and we might sit on her porch, weather permitting. Her driveway is reserved as a handicap parking spot but otherwise park anywhere on the street but not blocking a driveway.

## BOOK NOOK

Welcome back Cape May AAUW Book Lovers! Both Daytime and Evening book groups will begin meeting monthly in September - Daytime at 12 noon on the 3rd Tuesday and Evening on the 5th Wednesday at 5:00. We had to juggle some dates and times so please check the list of titles to verify time and place in the monthly newsletter.

One afternoon this summer my daughter, an elementary school librarian, and I were discussing our reading habits along with my grandson who just turned 13 and is in 7th grade. We are all readers with different tastes and interests. In addition to reading for pleasure my daughter has to keep up with new books for her library including many graphic novels. My grandson has read the Harry Potter series and Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* series several times but has fallen in love with graphic novels too. It seems that this genre is becoming popular with all ages.

This discussion started me thinking about my childhood and how my reading habits have changed. When I was in elementary school I went to the library regularly and devoured as many books as I was allowed to check out. But

I also loved comic books! I used 10 cents of my weekly allowance to walk to the local drugstore and purchase a comic book. I kept them all and lent them to neighborhood kids after I had read them over and over. My favorites were Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck, Archie, and Little Lulu. I even made my own Little Lulu paper dolls. I also loved the funnies in the newspaper. One of my favorite memories is sitting on my father's lap while he read the Sunday funnies to me.

Which brings me to the real topic of this column - graphic novels. They are becoming more and more popular with elementary and middle school children and are appearing on best seller lists. My daughter has been reading books on the Reading Olympics list for school. She gave me one, a graphic novel, to critique for age appropriateness. *White Bird* by R. J. Palacio is a story about hiding a Jewish boy from the Nazis. It was extremely well done but we thought it should be listed for 10 and up. This reminded me of when I was still teaching in the early 1990s and *Maus 1 + 2* by Art Spiegelman was released. This was the first graphic novel to receive academic attention. I ordered it for my classroom through Scholastic books. After I read it I decided that my 7th graders would need parental permission to borrow it. It is the story of a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe and his son. This remains the most chilling depiction of the Holocaust that I have ever read even though the Nazis are cats and the Jews are mice in the graphics.

I've been doing some more research on graphic novels for adults. With the help of Kara Buono, the Collection Development Librarian in charge of graphic novels at the Cape May County Library, I have discovered a new genre that I would like to introduce to both of our discussion groups in the spring. Kara put together a list of a few of the graphic novels that she thought our groups would enjoy. I just finished reading graphic adaptations of *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and K. Woodman-Maynard and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and Fred Fordham. Both were enjoyable and true to the

originals although the styles of narration and illustration were very different.

The next graphic novels I read will be from the fiction and nonfiction lists. Kara included a short description of each book she cited which will help me make my choices. I don't think I am quite ready for The Avengers but there are many other story lines more to my reading tastes. I will report back to you in my October Book Nook column as I continue my adventures with graphic novels.

I'm really looking forward to seeing many of you as we laugh our way through lunch at the Daytime Meeting on September 21 reviewing the adventures of Stephanie Plum in the Janet Evanovich books and at our Evening Group discussion of *The Innocent Man* by John Grisham on September 29 which will be more serious but just as enjoyable. See you soon!

Happy reading,  
Mary Jane Slugg  
[Shoresluggs@aol.com](mailto:Shoresluggs@aol.com)

Our website (See top of Page 1 for the full web address) lists the book selections and meeting dates for September through November. Some dates for fall meetings are revised due to holiday conflicts.

At the top of the home page on the website, select Activities – Book Groups

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## TECH TREK 2021

Middle school girls across the state of New Jersey attended Tech Trek NJ 2021 virtually. The girls selected for Tech Trek 2020 waited through the pandemic and finally had their camp experience in July 2021. One of only 4 virtual camps in the USA this summer, ***Tech Trek NJ 2021 camp was a big success!***

## A BIG THANK YOU

to the **Tech Trek Leadership Team** for their dedication, flexibility and endless hours of hard work to make camp a reality: **Claudine Keenan,**

**Ann Marchesani, Linda Harmon, and Gail Davis,** all members of AAUW Atlantic County Branch. In addition, thank you to the following:

Many AAUW Volunteers across the branches for their time and support in interviewing the girls and helping to deliver packages of workshop materials; especially Nina DelCollo, Marian Haag, Edwina Sessions, Mariel Kolker, RinaMaslow, Judy Vernon, Karen Topham, and Karen Wertheimer.

**Virginia Rettig** for organizing Professional Women's Night for the girls to meet and learn from women in the fields of STEM across New Jersey

The teachers for the core classes and other workshops provided at camp including Robotics with **Malika Green**, Chemistry with **Ashley Brown**, Bio Mimicry with **Meghan Hooper-Jackson**, and Forensics with AAUW Member **JackieMcGuinness**.

The Leadership team is looking forward to holding an in person Tech Trek Camp in Summer of 2022. If you are interested in volunteering to support the camp, contact theteam at [AAUWSTEMCAMP@outlook.com](mailto:AAUWSTEMCAMP@outlook.com).



## Claire Nagel

Claire M. Nagel, age 89, passed away March 28, 2021. A long time resident of Cape May, she was active in politics, various charities, and non-profit organizations including the Cape May Branch of AAUW. She loved organic gardening, baking, and published her first novel at age 86. She was born in Brooklyn and was a graduate of Cornell University, (BA, History). She received her MBA from New York University. She had a long career as a Human Resources officer at Doubleday, Cornell University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Lutheran Church in America, before becoming a New York Life agent.

## EVENT CALENDAR

**Tuesday, September 21** Daytime Book Club

**Wednesday, September 29 (fifth Wednesday of the month)** Evening Book Club

**Tuesday, October 19** Daytime Book Club

**Wednesday, October 27** Evening Book Club

**Tuesday, November 9** Daytime Book Club

**Wednesday, November 17** Evening Book Club

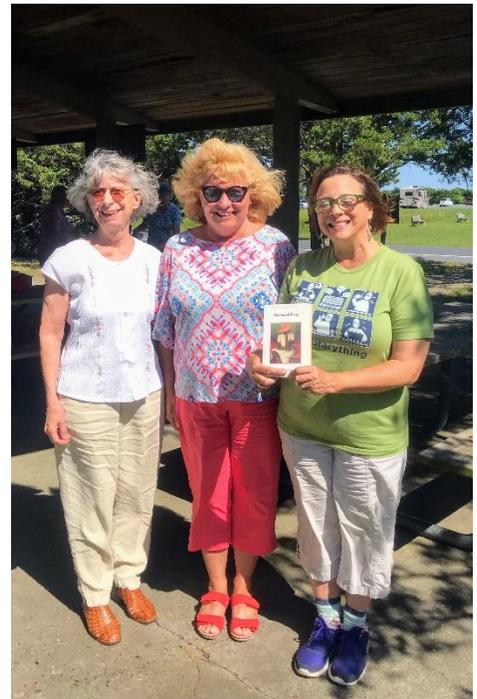
**Tuesday, December 7** Daytime Book Club

**Wednesday, December 15** Evening Book Club

**SOME PICTURES TAKEN BY JOAN VICARI FROM OUR BOOK CLUB MEETING  
AT THE CAPE MAY POINT STATE PARK JUNE 15**



Left to right – Mary Ann, Theresa, Mary Jane



Karen, Kathy, Joan



Carolyn, Chris, Barb, Connie

This was our book choice for March of this year. If you have read it or would like to read it, there will be a Zoom Talk and Q&A with the author on Monday, October 25 at 7:00pm. You can register for this event at <https://www.oceancitylibrary.org/events/oc-reads-2021>

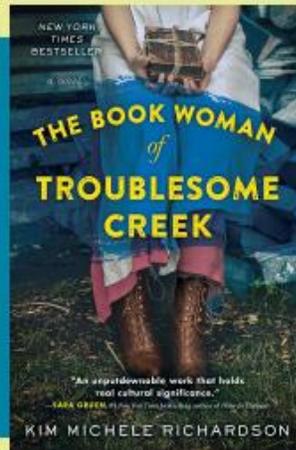
The 2021 OC READS book selection is...

# The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek

by Kim Michele Richardson



Photo Credit: Leigh Photography



OC READS  
& The Ocean City Free Public Library  
invite you to a Virtual Talk and Q&A  
with Author Kim Michele Richardson on

**MONDAY,  
OCTOBER 25, 2021  
at 7:00PM**

This talk will be held virtually on Zoom and will be free and open to the public. Advanced registration is required. Spaces are limited.

Register here:  
[www.oceancitylibrary.org/events/oc-reads-2021](http://www.oceancitylibrary.org/events/oc-reads-2021)

OC READS is a program designed to bring people together through literature by encouraging them to read the same book and participate in discussions and other events centered on that book.

NEW YORK TIMES, LOS ANGELES TIMES and USA TODAY bestselling author, Kim Michele Richardson, has written four works of historical fiction, and a bestselling memoir, *The Unbreakable Child*.

Her latest multi-award winning, bestseller novel, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* has earned a 2019 LibraryReads Best Book, a 2019 Forbes Best Historical Novel, an Oprah's Buzziest Books pick and a Women's National Book Association Great Group Reads selection.

It was inspired by the real life "blue people" of Kentucky, and the fierce, brave Packhorse Librarians who used the power of literacy to overcome bigotry and fear during the Great Depression.

Kim Michele lives with her family in Kentucky and is also the founder of Shy Rabbit. To learn more visit [www.kimmichelerichardson.com](http://www.kimmichelerichardson.com)



The Ocean City Free Public Library  
1735 Simpson Ave.  
Ocean City, New Jersey 08226 | (609) 399-2434  
[oceancitylibrary.org](http://oceancitylibrary.org)



From Linda Harmon, AAUW NJ Secretary

Sans 2020, every year, AAUW NJ has sponsored an annual event. These have always been fun and you get to know AAUW members across the state. Staying closer to home this year, the AAUW NJ State District Coordinators are sponsoring our next in person fun event. It is limited in number, first come, first serve.



- Sponsored by AAUW NJ and Coordinated by Central, Northern, and Southern Districts
- Allaire State Park, Monmouth County, 4265 Atlantic Ave. Wall Township, NJ
- (Additional Information provided on Allaire State Park website or 732-938-2371)
- **DATE: Saturday September 11, 2021----11:00 am**  
**(Travel in groups on your own statewide to this Central Location)**



**Inclusive:**

- Open Car Antique Steam Train Ride in Park
- Picnic Area Individual Lunch from Jersey Mikes (sub, chips, cookie, water)
- Picnic Tables available or bring your own folding chairs



- At your leisure tour Open Flea Market (creative vendors)  
Historic Village (tour at leisure (All buildings open and appropriately staffed for information and questions))

**Cost: \$40.00 Non- Refundable Checks made out to: AAUW NJ**

**First Come First Serve limited spots available**

**Send to Patricia Baroska AAUW-NJ Central District 2 Wisteria Place Howell, NJ 07731**

H-732-458-5906, C-732-267-3127

Questions Pat: [shorebeachgirl@hotmail.com](mailto:shorebeachgirl@hotmail.com) Northern District Diane: [dianelcrawford@gmail.com](mailto:dianelcrawford@gmail.com)

Southern District Linda: [linda.harmon@gmail.com](mailto:linda.harmon@gmail.com)

**Donation: will be given to AAUW National Greater Needs Fund by AAUW NJ**

## *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.

Acknowledgements:

Pat Quinn

<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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