



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.

OCTOBER 2021 Newsletter

President's Corner

Hello everyone! Well, it's finally fall. And I have a **board meeting** planned for October – **October 15 at 1:30pm**. I would love to host it at my house, but as many of you know my steps are a challenge. So, I am going to have it at my church here in Wildwood. They have a small comfy meeting room on the ground floor and plenty of off-street parking. The address is 2810 Atlantic Avenue, Wildwood, NJ. Everyone is welcome! Luckily, we're not voting on anything, so a quorum isn't needed.

If you have any suggestions for programs, please share with one of the board members. We will be discussing a Christmas luncheon this year (in person). Any thoughts on that?

Enjoy the cooler weather! Hope to see you at a book group or the board meeting. Stay safe and healthy.

Chris Rohrman
President



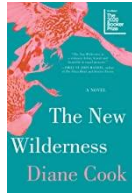
Just 2 "tourists" at Oktoberfest!

OCTOBER BOOKS



Buttermilk Graffiti by Edward Lee

We will meet on **Tuesday, October 19** at 12 noon at Crest Pier Community Center, 5800 Ocean Avenue, Wildwood Crest (between Crocus & Heather). Please bring your lunch & beverage. Dessert will be provided.



The New Wilderness by Diane Cook

We will meet on **Wednesday, October 27** at 6 pm at Mulligan's Shore Bar & Grill, 310 West Hildreth Avenue, Wildwood.

We will discuss the book after ordering dinner.

Contact Mary Jane Slugg at 609 884 7041 or shoresluggs@aol.com to let her know you are coming.

BOOK NOOK

Tomb it may concern,

No, that's not a typo! That's the way vampires start their letters! 😊 No, I'm not a vampire but I do love a scary story and Halloween is coming. So for October let's "Eat, drink, and be scary!"

As you may have guessed my topic this month is: authors who write scary stories. Ever since I discovered Edgar Allan Poe in 7th grade I have loved several "scary" authors and their books. Rereading "The Tell-Tale Heart" can still make my own heart pound.

In college I read *The Lottery* by Shirley Jackson. Although I didn't have nightmares, the story continues to haunt me. Thomas Tryon wrote *Harvest Home* in 1973. This is another chilling, unforgettable tale that is worth revisiting.

I must admit to a fascination with vampires. I read Ann Rice's *Interview with a Vampire* and couldn't wait for the next book. I think I have read the whole series. The movie did not do it justice. I also read the teenage vampire series, *Twilight*, which is set in Forks, Washington. My husband and I had visited Forks on a birding trip before the series was published. I'm a sucker for books set in a place that I have visited. Instead of birds in the trees and along

the Pacific coast the small town was populated with vampires and werewolves. The series was entertaining but can't compare to Ann Rice.

The Silence of the Lambs by Thomas Harris with its prequel and sequels is truly terrifying in parts. These stories are best read with the doors locked and the lights on. Peter Straub is another writer of the 1970s and 1980s who writes a good scary story. *Ghost Story* and *The Hell Fire Club* are both good examples of this genre. Another book by Straub, *Koko*, is an award-winning horror story that spans continents from Vietnam to Washington, DC as four Vietnam veterans try to solve the "KOKO" murders in Far East Asia.

My favorite authors of horror stories are Dean Koontz and Stephen King. I watch for their new books and order them immediately. I have two friends who also read these authors so we trade books back and forth.

My friend Joe turned me on to Dean Koontz when I was still at home with preschoolers. His early books were more about scary people rather than aliens and monsters. The plots are filled with twists and turns that you don't expect. He has also written a couple of mini-series such as the Odd Thomas books. Odd can "see" things, such as the ghost of Elvis, and has a talent for helping folks out of difficult situations. Koontz' latest books involve dogs, mostly Golden Retrievers, who have heightened senses and save people, especially children, from danger. Koontz himself is the companion of a Golden who he includes along with his wife in his book dedications.

Stephen King is in a class by himself! He has written 63 novels, at least one with his son Owen. Another son, Joe Hill, is a published writer as is his wife, Tabitha. King has also collaborated with Peter Straub to write *The Talisman* and *Black House*.

I have read most of King's major works but there are four that stand out for me. *Salem's Lot* scared the wits out of me when the main characters were creeping up to the vampire's house. I was home on a summer night reading.

The kids were asleep, Chuck was out, and the windows and doors were open. I had to put the book down and lock the doors before I could continue.

The Shining is a heart-stopping picture of a man sinking into the depths of alcoholism. In the movie version Jack Nicholson's portrayal of the main character adds to the enjoyment of the story. The creepy setting in the old, empty hotel adds to the unexpected events encountered at every turn.

Misery was very scary for me because the story is totally realistic. I had to shut my eyes because I didn't want to see what was coming, but it's hard to read with my eyes closed! The movie version with Kathy Bates as the main character enhanced the sheer horror of the story. Her performance made the story more believable and horrifying.

My favorite King book is *The Stand*. It is a classic tale; an epic confrontation between Good and Evil. King's inspiration for the book is *The Lord of the Rings*. He said in an interview that after reading Tolkien he had always wanted to write an epic. Although apocalyptic and fantastic in nature, this saga takes place in the United States and the land of Mordor is Las Vegas. The genre may be horror but the story is timeless.

Before you say, "I DON'T LIKE HORROR," give one of these authors a try. Have Boo-tiful October. 🧛 🎃

Happy Reading,

Mary Jane

Our website (See top of Page 1 for the full web address) lists the book selections and meeting dates for 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

STEM

No new news this month as we have yet to hear from National AAUW and we do not sign a memorandum of understanding with them until November. We continue to hope we are able to have an in person camp next summer as Virtual this year was an enormous amount of hard work by our volunteers.

As usual AWCO is in need of funding for our future camp. Any donation is fully tax deductible. Contact me if you wish to make a donation.

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EVENT CALENDAR

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

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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