

AAUW 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 2022 Newsletter



President's Corner

Hello everyone! Happy spring! Did you do anything special to celebrate the first day of spring? Russ and I are still in Florida, so we went to a Sunday Brunch that day. Spring break was really wild down here. Everyone was happy to get back to almost normal. Tons of young students and families were enjoying the nice weather on the beach.

Don't forget to take time to get outside and enjoy the spring flowers. Take some photos and send them to me. I'd love to see your favorite flowering tree or spring bulb.

Enjoy spring!

Chris Rohrman
President of Cape May County AAUW



Spring blooming plant – Florida style

TEENTECH 2022

TeenTech 2022 – will be held **Wednesday May 25, 2022 at Atlantic Cape Community College (ACCC) Mays Landing Campus.**

The tentative time schedule is 8 am to 1 pm.

Volunteers are needed to help as bus greeters, workshop monitors, and public relations.

If you are able to volunteer that day, please call or email Linda Harmon 609-204-8596 linda.harmon@gmail.com

STEM

Ann Marchesani, Steminst Camp Director assures me that teachers are in place. Soon our alumni will be contacted to see who will make themselves available for the respective camps.

We will still need volunteers for core class duties, etc. So please contact me if you can spare a day or 1/2 a day during July 24-30 for a fun time! Meals provided and most likely a T shirt too.

We always need monetary donations so please consider donating to AWCO.

Gail H. Davis
3045 Bay Ave, Ocean City, NJ 08226
609-513-6281 Ghdath@comcast.net

FUND RAISING

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
To everyone who took part in our Marion MacEwan Second Chance Scholarship 5-year Pledge.

What a wonderful success! We raised \$8750 for our scholarships. A special thank you to Pat Ford Roegner for conceiving this great idea and to Karen to encouraging us to contribute and being a super contributor herself.

Our NEW 5-year pledge drive will start this month and continue until 2027! Again, you are encouraged to donate \$100 a year for the next 5 years. I would like to add a goal of \$10,000! This newsletter will feature a pledge form (separate attachments to this email in two different formats) for you to fill out and send to Barb Heinrichs, our treasurer, (mailing address on Page 5) with your first \$100 for 2022. (Feel free to contribute even more!)

Thanks,
Chris Rohrman
Fund Raising Chairperson

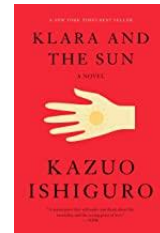
Editor's note: For those who must take RMD's from a traditional IRA, there is a way to donate directly from your traditional IRA reducing your tax burden. Your tax advisor can explain in detail.

APRIL BOOKS



The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams

We will meet on **Tuesday, April 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.



Klara and The Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro

We will meet on **Wednesday, April 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

Greetings Fellow Readers,

I am woke! At least I think I am. I have seen this word used over and over in different newspaper articles and editorials. I thought I knew what it meant but I looked it up to be sure. According to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary the meaning of woke is "aware of and actively attentive to important facts and issues (especially issues of racial and social justice.)"

I am woke to what is happening in our libraries in general and especially in our school libraries all over the United States. Many citizens today also seem woke about the diversity of books available in our libraries. One would think this was a good thing but some people seem to think that because they don't agree with the subject matter or opinions in a book they can demand that the book be removed from the library and banned. I am woke and I have a problem with this attitude.

After reading *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *The Press of Atlantic City* each day and talking with both working and retired librarians I am incensed about individuals trying to remove books from our libraries without going through proper procedures. This will eventually impact our education system and

prevent both adults and children from having opportunities to read about and discuss controversial issues with knowledgeable leaders.

I'll get off my soap box now! As I write about this issue, titles of books from our discussion groups keep running through my mind. Being able to read and discuss these books made a difference in my way of thinking and increased my understanding of many subjects and issues.

For example, *Educated*, a memoir by Tara Westover, described a life that was hard to imagine and showed how one person overcame hardships, was able to go to college, and changed her life. *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family*, a true story by Amy Ellis Nutt, was my first exposure to what it means to be transgender. *River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey*, a nonfiction book meticulously researched and written by Candice Millard, painted an unforgettable picture of a former president whose public image was larger than life. *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, by Kim Michele Richardson, introduced me to the blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the history of the Kentucky Pack Horse Library Service in the 1930s. I didn't know either of these existed. Finally, *Maus I and Maus II*, graphic novels by Art Spiegelman, drew a chilling picture of the plight of the Jews living in Nazi Germany and their internment in the concentration camps. The books are the result of Spiegelman's interviews with his father, a survivor. Although I have read many books about the Holocaust these have stayed in my mind and still haunt me. All of the above books have been challenged or banned somewhere in the United States!

My message here is simple. We need access to all books and the chance to judge the content for ourselves. Children need to have age-appropriate books on many different subjects and parents and teachers who help them understand what they are reading. As AAUW members we all need to be woke about the issue of willy-nilly challenging books in our libraries.

Happy Reading,
Mary Jane

In the 49 years since its enactment, Title IX has opened doors for girls and women from classrooms to playing fields. But despite tremendous progress, challenges to equity in education still exist. That's why the Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act ([GEEA](#)) of 2021 was reintroduced, to ensure schools and educational institutions have the resources they need to comply with this landmark civil rights law.

Follow the link to read more about the legislation, and to let your representatives know that you support it!

AAUW Public Policy

tbasquez_86@hotmail.com

Support the Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA)

Update: The U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights held a virtual public hearing in June 2021 to review all existing regulations, orders, policies and guidance documents pertaining to Title IX. AAUW provided public comment that emphasized the need to create regulations that uphold the commitment to ensuring equal and nondiscriminatory access to education for students at all educational levels. The information gleaned from the hearing will influence future regulations pertaining to Title IX that we expect in the coming months and years. In the meantime, the need for legislation is critical to strengthen protections, regardless of who is in the White House.

EVENT CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 19 Daytime Book Club
Wednesday, April 27 Evening Book Club

Tuesday, May 17 Daytime Book Club
Wednesday, May 25 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.

Acknowledgements:

Theresa Basquez

Marge Corson

Sue Laufer

Mary Jane Slugg

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

KEEP OUR WEB ADDRESS HANDY

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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