

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.

DECEMBER 2022 Newsletter

President's Corner



Getting ready for holiday reading

Hello everyone,

Happy holidays a little early! AAUW will officially celebrate on December 14 (1:00pm) at our Holiday Luncheon at the Tuckahoe Inn. I hope you've sent in your check already (\$35each), but if not, there is still plenty of time to get it to Barb. Hope we have a full house. I'm sure that the Tuckahoe Inn will be beautifully decorated for the holidays.

See you there!
Chris Rohrman
President, AAUW of Cape May County



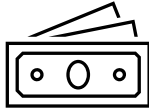
Trip to the Cape May County Historic Society

We are having our holiday luncheon at the Tuckahoe Inn on Wednesday, December 14 at 1pm. This will be a sit-down luncheon including salad, entrée, dessert and coffee/tea/iced tea. Our two entree choices are crab cakes or chicken bruschetta – your choice will be made at the restaurant.
Cost: \$35pp

Members and spouses are invited. Our room is limited to 35 people. As of today, we still have space for more.

Checks should be made payable to AAUW and mailed to:
Barbara Heinrichs
503 Whildam Ave
N. Cape May, NJ 08204

The Tuckahoe Inn is located at 1 Harbor Road, Beesley's Point 08223 - just outside Ocean City on Great Egg Harbor Bay.

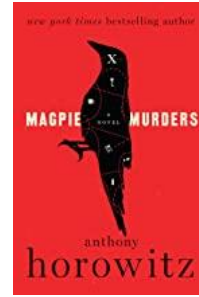


Fundraising

The club still needs a fundraising chairperson and some fresh new ideas. We have just started our new 5-year scholarship fund pledges. This year, 2022, was year 1 and we have 9 members pledging. Would you like to contribute?

Please contact Barb Heinrichs or me and we can get you started with a \$100 per year or more pledge. More information about other options will be discussed in our January newsletter.

Chris Rohrman
Fundraising Chairperson (temporary)



Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz

We will meet on **Wednesday, December 28** 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.

DECEMBER BOOKS



The Days of Afrekete by Asali Solomon

We will meet on **Tuesday, December 20** 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.

BOOK NOOK

I have become slightly obsessed by words! When is the last time you looked up a word in a dictionary? Or asked your smartphone for a definition? Or put your finger on a word in your Kindle and waited for its meaning to miraculously appear? What if we didn't have these tools? What if you were asked to be in charge of a project to collect all the words in the English language and put them into a dictionary complete with etymology, pronunciation and multiple meanings?

In 1879 Professor James Murray from London was charged with this task when he was appointed editor of a new English dictionary in 1857. The Unregistered Words Committee of the Philological Society of London called for a new English dictionary to succeed Samuel Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language* (1755).

A plan was devised. Murray built a corrugated iron building, named The Scriptorium, on the grounds of the school where he taught. Later, when he and his family moved to a new home, The Scriptorium was moved to his backyard. This is where the actual work of sorting words, verifying the authenticity of each citation, compiling the origin of each word and composing definitions for all the different meanings of each word was done. Volunteer readers were enlisted to read widely and record words for the dictionary on uniform-sized slips of paper. On the left-hand side was written the word and under it the date it was recorded. Under that, in order, the details were written: title of book or paper, volume and page number and a full sentence using the word. This technique is still used by lexicographers today. In the end more than six million slips of paper came in from the volunteers.

In The Scriptorium, or Scrippy as it was affectionately called, the walls were covered with shelves full of pigeon-holes for each word arranged alphabetically. When a slip came in it was put in the correct slot. In the middle of Scrippy there was a long table piled high with reference books and surrounded with chairs. Here Dr. Murray and his team read and sorted slips for each word and composed definitions.

The dictionary was printed in fascicles, or small volumes. In 1884 "A to Ant" was published, the first of approximately 125 fascicles. In 1928 the final volume, "V to Z", was published. Seventy-one years after it was proposed 150 men gathered in London's Goldsmith's Hall to celebrate the

Oxford English Dictionary or *OED*. Unfortunately James Murray had died in 1915 and did not see the completed work.

At this point, if you're still reading, you're probably wondering why I'm telling you all this! In 2023 we will be reading two books about the making of the *OED*. In March the Daytime Group will discuss *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams. This novel, inspired by actual events, focuses on the contributions of women in the process of collecting words. In May the Evening Group will discuss *The Professor and the Madman* by Simon Winchester. This account has two protagonists. The first is James Murray, the editor of the *OED*. If you read our daytime book you will be familiar with him. The second is Dr. W. C. Minor, a surgeon and American Civil War veteran and inmate at an asylum for the criminally insane. Minor contributed more than 10,000 slips to The Scriptorium. The lives of these two men are woven together masterfully by Winchester. If you get completely hooked by this subject Simon Winchester has written a nonfiction book on the subject called *The Meaning of Everything*.

This will be the final newsletter of 2022. I wish everyone a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Happy Reading,
Mary Jane

If you like to read ahead, following are our selections for January 2023:

January 17 - Daytime Group
The Last House on the Street by Diane Chamberlain

January 25 - Evening Group
Portrait of an Unknown Woman by Daniel Silva

All books through June 2023 are listed on our website capemay-nj.aauw.net under Activities – Book Groups

AAUW Public Policy

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PREGNANT WORKERS FAIRNESS ACT

This Act ([H.R. 1065/ S. 1486](#)) requires employers to make reasonable accommodations to protect the health of pregnant workers, such as letting them carry bottles of water or take restroom breaks. This legislation clarifies that it is unlawful to discriminate against pregnant workers by forcing them out of their jobs unnecessarily or by denying them reasonable accommodations that would allow them to keep working and providing for their families.

The Act passed the U.S. House in a bipartisan [315-101 vote](#) in May, 2021, but has been stalled in the Senate since, despite bipartisan support.

Please lend your voice by engaging our Senators, Corey A. Booker and Robert Menendez, in support of this bill. It's

important to move this bill before the end of this Congressional session.

Use the AAUW Two-Minute Activist Page: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/pregnant-workers-fairness-act/> for quick access to timely support.

EVENT CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 14 - Holiday Luncheon

Tuesday, December 20 Daytime Book Club

Wednesday, December 28 Evening Book Club

Tuesday, January 17 Daytime Book Club

Wednesday, January 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:

<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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