

# 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.

## OCTOBER 2023 Newsletter

### President's Corner



Hello everyone,

It's fall – love this season! Fall means it's time for our **Welcome Back Dinner**. Hope you join us on Sunday, October 1 at Alfe's in Wildwood at 4:30pm.

Our fall board meeting will be held on Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 at the Crest Arts Pavilion at 6301 Ocean Ave, Wildwood Crest. (the old Crest library building) Everyone is welcome! We will discuss past achievements, current numbers and future plans.

In September, our club was officially invited to attend the Ribbon Cutting at ACCC Cape May County campus for their new **BizHub** (Business Center). It was created as a resource for local small businesses, and it's loaded with new technology and old-fashioned sources of information (books and pamphlets). Russ and I had a nice tour of the facility. We wish them lots of success.



Ribbon cutting for the ACCC BizHub.

See you soon,  
Chris Rohrman  
President of Cape May County AAUW

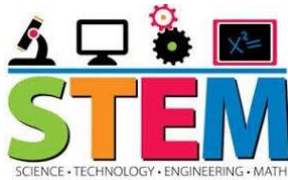
# CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!



Stockton University, in association with AAUW, is hosting **TWEEN TECH** on **Wednesday, January 3, 2024**. Activities for the 6th-8<sup>th</sup> Grade girls begin at 8:00 am, and close at 2:00 pm. AAUW volunteers are needed to chaperone - please email your willingness to participate to me at [tbasquez\\_86@hotmail.com](mailto:tbasquez_86@hotmail.com).

Thanks! It is a fun and interesting day. Select your choice of morning and afternoon workshops, and enjoy lunch between.

-----

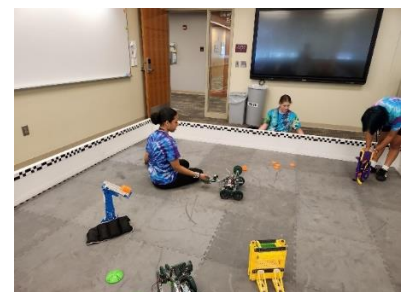


Tech Trek 2023 was held at the Stockton University campus from July 23-29. Thirty-five girls from many counties in NJ spent the week attending core STEM courses in biotechnology, robotics and ornithology in the morning, with two shorter topical sessions each afternoon. Each day started with breathing techniques, mindfulness, and yoga stretches and ended with fun evening activities, including movies and games. On Thursday evening, the girls attended Professional Women's Night, where they spoke with professional women about their education, career path, and challenges.

One student from Cape May County attended. The students were actively engaged in classes where they participated in class discussions and were challenged by hands-on lab work. The girls kept a journal throughout the week, formed friendships and had a lot of fun.

AAUW members and volunteers (and others) participated as leaders, planners, dorm moms and day counsellors. Special thanks to all of our local Atlantic and Cape May Counties volunteers: Kristina Baker, Kathy Ghanavati, Joan Vicari and Theresa Basquez. AAUW volunteers from other NJ counties included Lauren Coyle - Morris, Nina Del Collo - Nutley - AAUW Funds Director, Marian Haag - Sussex, Liz Price - Burlington, Susan Remster - Sussex, Beverly Strickland - State affiliation, and former member Marge Coach.

And, of course, heartfelt thanks to those organizers who work on Tech Trek all year long: Claudine Keenan, Stockton Dean of Education and Assistant Camp Director, Jackie McGuinness and Meghan Hooper-Jackson.



# BOOK NOOK

Dear Fellow Readers,

Being part of a book discussion group means that you read a variety of books - nonfiction and fiction of all sorts such as historic, mystery, fantasy, and science fiction. Most times I hope you can say, "Wow, that was a really good book!" But sometimes you will have to admit that you didn't like the book at all. Hence my topic for this month: What makes a good book?

First I did some research to find out what literary experts had to say. The first article I encountered was by a group called masterclass.com, a site designed to encourage and teach new writers. According to them there are 5 elements of a good book.

1. A Strong Opening: A good book hooks you on the first page and doesn't let you go until the last word. A book is only as strong as its opening and may be the difference between someone reading the book or putting it back on the shelf.

2. Compelling characters: Good characters give us someone to love, hate, or identify with. They give us insight into human nature. The protagonist is the most important but the antagonist and other characters should be well developed too.

3. An absorbing story: Readers want to be entertained or challenged from the inciting

incident through the rising action to the climax. We want to be captivated by the plot until the very last word.

4. Sharp dialogue: Good dialogue should sound natural and flow to advance the story. Conversations should not be stilted but sound as if the characters are real. If dialects are used they should add to the story not confuse the reader.

5. Unique style: Writing style is the voice or tone a writer uses to tell the story. Every writer has their own style which is reflected by the types of literary devices they use. Humor, plot twists, and kind of narration are examples.

I found several websites where readers were asked to respond to the question: what makes a book worth reading? The answers were as different as the readers writing them; however, there were a few things that were mentioned frequently. Content was one. Readers like to be challenged, to learn something new, to be able to connect to the content emotionally. We want a captivating story and well developed characters who seem like real people. Often we want a story that has relevance to our own lives, telling about situations similar to what is happening in our own life. Lastly, the book must be well written. Poor writing can doom a book even if it has a good story to tell.

For me a good book is one that grabs my attention so thoroughly that I am unaware of my surroundings while I am reading. I like to feel that I am in the story, a "fly on the wall"

so to speak. I want the characters to be people I can laugh and cry with, people that I would like to meet in person. When I meet characters like these I want to meet them again in other stories; I like to read books in a series. Most of all a good book is one that I don't want to end! What makes a good book for YOU?

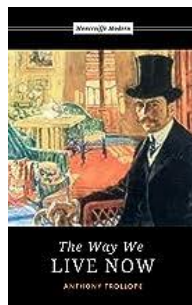
Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Tis the good reader that makes the good book; a good head cannot read amiss: in every book he finds passages which seem confidences or asides hidden from all else and unmistakably for his ear."

Happy Reading,

Mary Jane

## OCTOBER BOOKS

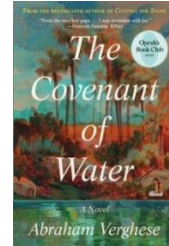
Note: All books selected for September through January 2024 are listed on our website. The website has been updated. Book Groups is now on the opening page.



*The Way We Live Now* by Anthony Trollope

We will meet on **Tuesday, October 17** at Crest Pier Community Center, 5800 Ocean Avenue, Wildwood Crest (between Crocus & Heather).

Please bring your lunch & beverage. Dessert will be provided.



*The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese

We will meet on **Wednesday, October 25** 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.

---

## AAUW Public Policy



Over the summer, AAUW Public Policy advocates met with the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) Coalition to discuss current paths forward to pass legislation in Congress that will eliminate the original ten-year deadline for passage of the ERA contained in the Preamble and allow the Amendment to become law. The amendment has been approved by the

required three-fourths of states - the last was Virginia in 2020.

There are several paths working toward passage. You can find background on the ERA and information about the three plans of action here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wn06g50jX1x9V-EHNK9n8GNOclBW0VBt82ElbOpNAo4/edit?usp=sharing>

Members are encouraged to contact their Senators and Congressional Representatives to voice support for passage of resolutions that would allow the ERA to finally become law.

On Friday, September 8, AAUW Atlantic County and Cape May County members of the Explorers Group visited the Sunset Flower Farm in Belleplain where flowers are grown to supply local florists.. Thank you to Kristina Baker for arranging the outing, and thank you to Linda Matousch-Rau for our tour of your flower farm.



---

### Canasta / Mahjong



We would like to know if some of our members are interested forming groups to play Canasta or Mahjong.

If you're feeling a bit rusty about how to play, there are classes at the Cape May County Library under Events.

Please contact Sue Laufer via her email [laufer5@comcast.net](mailto:laufer5@comcast.net)



AAUW Atlantic County members and AAUW Cape May Chapter members, along with guests, toured the Cape May Point Science Center on Thursday, September 28.



Our one hour tour covered not just the science center, but provided interesting information about the history of the building, Cape May Point, and Cape May. Our guide, Operations Manager Martha Bierut, highlighted an exhibit of amazing wildlife photography by Dennis Flanagan. We also watched a short film about bird tagging and learned about the new method of monarch tagging



Following our tour, we were free to explore the courtyard and see the statue of Harriet Tubman on the side of the building. (This statue is on loan from the Harriet Tubman Museum in Cape May.)



Thank you to our awesome guide Martha for the engaging tour of the Cape May Point Science Center.

## EVENT CALENDAR

**Sunday, October 1** Welcome Back Dinner at Alfe's

**Tuesday, October 17** Daytime Book Club

**Wednesday, October 25** Evening Book Club

**Tuesday, November 21** Daytime Book Club

**Wednesday, November 22** Evening Book Club – date advanced due to Thanksgiving holiday

## *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:

Chris Dewaghe

<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!

President  
Chris Rohrman

Vice President

Secretary  
Sandy Sieber

Treasurer  
Barbara Heinrichs

Book Groups  
Mary Jane Slugg  
Joan Vicari

Fund Raising  
Chris Rohrman

Historian

Membership  
Mary Jane Slugg

Newsletter  
Barbara Heinrichs

Programs  
Joan Vicari

Public Policy  
Theresa Basquez

Public Relations

Scholarship  
Sandy Sieber

STEM Coordinator  
Theresa Basquez