

# 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 2023 Newsletter

Enjoy the holidays!

Chris Rohrman

President of the Cape May County AAUW

### President's Corner



Hello everyone,

As you've heard, this year we are going to celebrate the holidays with a dinner at **Lobster House!** The date is December 11 (Monday) at 5:00pm. Cost is \$45 each and our dinner choices are: broiled flounder, broiled crab cakes or chicken francais. Please email Barb ASAP and let her know you plan to attend and then send your choices with your check to Barb Heinrichs, 503 Whildam Avenue, North Cape May, NJ 08204. Spouses and guests are welcome. Hope to see you there!

If you are looking for a cute Christmas movie on Amazon Prime, I would recommend *This is Christmas*. It's a charming movie about train commuters to London at Christmastime.

In November, we enjoyed a fun and informative outing to CTT (Cellular Tracking Technologies). They are busy developing tracking modules for animals of all sizes. Thank you Mary Jane and Joan for organizing this!



## 2024 STEM EVENTS

AAUW STEM outreach has a full program this year in Cape May and Atlantic Counties:

**TWEEN TECH** on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at Stockton University

**TEEN TECH** on Friday May 10, 2024, at Atlantic Cape Community College

**TECH TREK** the week of July 21-27, 2024, at Stockton University

Mark your calendar and volunteer if you can! Please send an email to me at [tbasquez\\_86@hotmail.com](mailto:tbasquez_86@hotmail.com)



Several AAUW members, including NJ President Sharon Suber, attended the NJ Education Association conference in Atlantic City on November 9-10, 2023. It was a good opportunity to spread the AAUW mission of gender equity and STEM education for girls with attenders and exhibitors. Also noted was the passage of NJ legislation (S-1221/A-1349) this past August requiring school districts to provide menstrual products free of charge in every public school teaching students in one or more of grades six through twelve. Under the new law, applicable schools will be required to provide menstrual products in at least half of all their female and gender-neutral bathrooms. Any costs incurred by a school district in supplying menstrual products to meet the needs of its students will be borne by the State.

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## BOOK NOOK

Greetings Fellow Readers,

I've heard it said that the older we get, the more we remember the past but forget what we did yesterday! I find this is happening with books I've read. A few of the childhood books that I dearly loved keep coming back to me at odd moments. One of the first chapter books that I read all by myself was a gift from an aunt, *Five Little Peppers and How They Grew* by Margaret Sydney. It is still clear as a bell. I was an only child and wanted to be a child in the Pepper family in the worst way.

I started reading the Betsy-Tacy books by Maud Hart Lovelace when I started second grade and could get a library card. Betsy and Tacy soon added a third friend, Tib, and I was "friends" with the three of them until Betsy got married in the tenth and last book, *Betsy's Wedding*.

Another book friend of mine was Anne Shirley, better known as *Anne of Green Gables* in the eight book series by L.M. Montgomery. I laughed and cried with Anne as we grew up together. Anne was an orphan who was adopted by sister and brother Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert who had asked for a boy to help on the farm. They decided to keep her and we were only children together. Her life was more interesting than mine.

The last childhood book that I read and reread was *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. There was something magical about that book that was never captured in the several movies made from the story.

This little trip down Memory Lane, plus all the Christmas ads on TV, started me thinking about favorite Christmas stories! Next to the traditional *Bible* story from the book of *Luke* which is read every Christmas in church, my favorite book is *The Littlest Angel* by Charles Tazwell. If you missed this one it's worth a trip to the library to read it. My parents read *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* by Clement Moore every Christmas Eve before we put milk and cookies out for Santa and I was sent to bed. These memories are before TV when *Frosty*

*the Snowman, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and Charlie Brown's Christmas* all became traditional tales each year, especially for my children.

Thank you for joining me for this trip down Memory Lane. I wish you all holidays filled with friends, family and joy. I hope you are able to continue your own traditions as well as making new ones. And may your New Year be a happy, healthy one.

### FYI

Last spring we read two books about the making of the OED, the *Oxford English Dictionary*. The Daytime Group read *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams. The Evening Group read *The Professor and the Madman* by Simon Winchester. For some reason these books fascinated me.

I found a new book by Pip Williams called *The Book Binder*. It is set in Oxford during WW I and focuses on the bindery where the dictionary fascicles were bound and how the war affected the factory and the workers. I found the story engrossing, entertaining and informative.

One of our members gave me the Book Section from *The Washington Post* and as I was perusing the titles and descriptions I found another OED book, *The Dictionary People: The Unsung Heroes Who Created the OED* by Sarah Olgivie. It's about the 3,000 volunteers who supplied quotations to go with the words. Of course I ordered the book. I will let you know more after I read it.

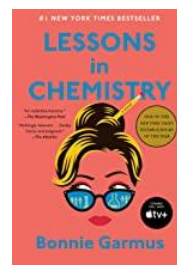
*So many books; so little time!*

Happy Reading,

Mary Jane

## DECEMBER BOOKS

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



*Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

We will meet on **Tuesday, December 19** at Crest Pier Community Center, 5800 Ocean Avenue, Wildwood Crest (between Crocus & Heather).

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



*The Wager by David Grann*

We will meet on **Wednesday, December 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.



Members of the Atlantic County Explorers Group and Cape May County visited the National Aerospace Research & Technology Park in Egg Harbor Township on November 10. We had a tour of the building and listened to a presentation by Howard Kyle, President/CEO of NARTP who explained some of their ongoing projects with the Air Force and the FAA.



On November 16, we visited the Cellular Tracking Technologies building at the airport complex in North Cape May. We learned how tracking devices can be attached to birds, butterflies and other creatures to track migration paths. Samples of the tiny transmitters were shown.



### **AAUW Public Policy**

The following information has been provided by Anjali Mehrotra, the Vice President of Communications, Director of Public Policy, American Association of University Women of New Jersey:

According to the [American Library Association](#), there were at least ten

attempts to restrict access to a total of 23 book titles in New Jersey schools and public libraries in the first nine months of 2023. In 2022, there were at least 13 attempts to restrict access to 28 book titles. To read more on this issue and to see which books are being challenged where, [read the full article on nj.com.](#)

Censorship in any form can be dangerous to a free and democratic society. **A bill (S3907) introduced in June by State Senator Andrew Zwicker and State Senate Majority Leader Teresa Ruiz (D-Essex) would permit state funding to be withheld from public schools and libraries that ban books.**

Click below to take action today by asking your Legislators to pass Bill S3907/A5734 now!

<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/take-action-today-ask-your-legislators-to-pass-bill-s3907a5734-now>

## EVENT CALENDAR

**Monday, December 11 – Holiday Dinner**

**Tuesday, December 19** Daytime Book Club

**Wednesday, December 27** Evening Book Club

**Tuesday, January 16** Daytime Book Club

**Wednesday, January 24** 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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