

# 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.

## JANUARY 2024 Newsletter

### President's Corner



Hello everyone,

Well, the holidays are over, but we have our book groups to keep us happy and busy. And I'm sure that Joan Vicari will come up with some great adventures for us this winter and spring.

Thanks to all who joined us for our Holiday dinner at Lobster House. We had a nice dinner and enjoyed their beautiful decorations.

The beginning of a new year is a good time to think about supporting our Second Chance Scholarship fund. Your pledge of \$100 (or more) a year is greatly appreciated. Contact me or Barb Heinrichs for more information. You can also add to the Weis-funded Endowed Scholarship for ACCC. If you are taking out funds from your IRA, you can donate them directly to us or the endowed scholarship. The endowment has special rules for donations – contact Barb Heinrichs.

Chris Rohrman  
President of Cape May County AAUW



I attended a Holiday High Tea at Flanders in Ocean City with my 3 sisters. They have their high teas once a month.



## 2024 STEM EVENTS

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

**TWEEN TECH** – many thanks to those who volunteered 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)

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## BOOK NOOK

Greetings Fellow Readers,

Here's wishing you all a Happy Healthy 2024! This month I decided to highlight a few of my favorite living female authors. As I thought about my topic and started listing names, I had enough to fill several pages! I managed to whittle the list down to nine women whom I follow and look forward to their next book.

My first two authors write nonfiction which is not usually my go to genre. Doris Kearns Goodwin is an award-winning author who is able to weave facts into stories that make history come alive. We had a lively discussion in our Evening Group when we read *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt and the Golden Age of Journalism*. I also recommend *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* which showed a side of Lincoln that I hadn't found in biographies.

Candice Millard writes history too. *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey* was a book that I could not put down. It's hard to believe that he and his companions lived to tell the tale. *Destiny of the Republic: James Garfield's Assassination* is another book that I found riveting. Garfield should have lived; I found myself trying to talk to the doctors who

treated him. These books were also discussed in our Evening Group.

I especially enjoy Historical Fiction. Throw in a little fantasy in the form of time travel with the history and Diana Gabaldon wins the prize for best series with *The Outlander* books. Claire Randall, a WW II nurse, goes back in time to Scotland in the 1700s where she meets and falls in love with a Highland warrior, Jamie Fraser. She is able to go back and forth in time and eventually decides to stay with Jamie. There are ten books in the series and it isn't over yet! She has also written several novellas about supporting characters as well as a chronology. There is a TV series made from the books but I haven't watched it because I don't think any actors can replace my mind pictures of Claire and Jamie!

Geraldine Brooks, an Australian author, writes about many different time periods and subject matter. We just discussed *Horse* which went back and forth between the 2000s and the 1800s in the United States. The modern story took place in Washington DC and involved art history and racism. The historical part dealt with slavery, horse racing and the role of black horse trainers. These seemingly disparate subjects were seamlessly woven into a story that begged to be talked about. *The Year of Wonders*, another favorite of mine, deals with the plague in Europe in the 1500s. There were a lot of similarities to our Covid Pandemic.

Most of the books I read, except the ones for book groups, are fiction. One of my favorite fiction writers is Jodi Picoult who

has written approximately 30 books. I like her books because, in addition to telling a good story, she also includes a central issue or problem that is thought-provoking. Two of my favorites are *My Sister's Keeper*, about using a second child as an organ donor for an older sister and *Nineteen Minutes*, about a school shooting.

I love mysteries and follow several different authors and detectives. In one series I enjoy traveling to Three Pines, a little village on the border between Canada and Vermont that doesn't appear on any maps. Louise Penny, a Canadian writer, has created an idyllic setting with a diverse group of residents where Chief Inspector Gamache of the Sûreté du Québec gets called frequently. There are 18 books so far. I even have my husband reading them!!

Lisa Scottoline, who lives in nearby Chester County, PA, writes standalone mysteries and two different series. She is a lawyer turned writer who practiced in Philadelphia. Rosato and Assoc. and Rosato and DiNunzio are all female law firms in Philadelphia in her series books. My favorite standalone book is *What Happened to the Bennetts?* I learned about how the witness protection program works.

The last mystery author that I'd like to mention is one of our own members, Rena Leith. She has written three mysteries with the same core characters and a resident ghost. The first book is titled *Murder on the Beach* in which you meet the main characters. Her mysteries are fun to read and I am looking forward to the publication of her next book.

Finally, I couldn't write about favorite female authors without mentioning Janet Evanovich, the author of the Stephanie Plum books. In a nutshell, her books make me laugh out loud. She has started another series that I haven't tried yet but will probably read in the future.

So Many books; so little time! Thanks for bearing with my ramblings. Until next time....

Happy Reading.

Mary Jane

## JANUARY BOOKS

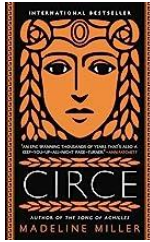
Note: All books selected for January through April are listed on our website. The website has been updated. Book Groups is now on the opening page.



*The Woman on the Orient Express* by Lindsey Jayne Ashford

We will meet on **Tuesday, January 16** at Crest Pier Community Center, 5800 Ocean Avenue, Wildwood Crest (between Crocus & Heather).

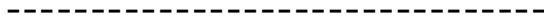
Please bring your lunch & beverage. Dessert will be provided.



*Circe* by Madeline Miller

We will meet on **Wednesday, January 24**. **Mulligan's is closed in January** so our meeting place will be announced at a later date. 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



AAUW joined a coalition of organizations on December 13, 2023, in a Washington, DC #NotOneMore #ERANow march and rally supporting passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). It's been one hundred years since the ERA was initially proposed in 1923. See the story here:

<https://eracoalition.org/2023/12/20/notonemore-the-march-for-the-era/>

We must continue to raise our voices and contact our legislators to urge that ERA become the law of the land. It won't happen without advocacy.

## EVENT CALENDAR

**Tuesday, January 16** Daytime Book Club

**Wednesday, January 24** Evening Book Club

**Tuesday, February 20** Daytime Book Club

**Wednesday, February 28** 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:

Sue & Ken Laufer

Mary Jane & Chuck Slugg in honor of Matthew Slugg, teacher and Beth Krout, school librarian

<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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