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**President’s Corner**

Hello everyone,

It is with great sadness that I report that our fellow member, treasurer and newsletter editor, Barb Heinrichs, has passed away. She will be sorely missed. She was a wonderful person and very important member of our club.

Usually this month, Barb would start reminding members to renew their membership through the National website. If you have problems, then let me know. I will try to fill Barb’s shoes and help.

Don’t forget the **Hats Off Luncheon & Fashion Show** on June 9.

Chris Rohrman

President of Cape May County AAUW

**In Memoriam**:



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**BOOK NOOK**

Greetings Fellow Readers,

Lately I have read several articles about Reading Rooms. We are all familiar with rooms in college and university libraries that are equipped with tables, chairs and study carrels for students to use for reference work and studying. However, with the advent of the internet, these spaces are used to set up laptops instead of amassing a pile of books. It is often unnecessary to actually go to the library; computer research can be done anywhere there is WiFi. Public libraries also have similar facilities.

But these aren’t Reading Rooms! In the articles I read, reading rooms were rooms or nooks furnished with comfortable couches and chairs where people can go to read; just sit in a quiet place and read their book. There is no interaction or discussion with other readers. It’s not a club with book discussions. It is simply a quiet, comfortable place to read in the company of other like-minded people. Reading rooms can be found in churches, community centers, recreation centers, coffee houses and other facilities.

Many large chain bookstores are also providing more comfortable seating areas for potential customers to sit down and read a few chapters of a book. They also have coffee and juice bars to make customers more at home. I read a few pages of a blog from one of the large chains. They said it was a good business ploy. Customers tended to buy more and come back more often if they knew they would find a comfortable place to rest, have a drink and read a bit of a book to see if it seemed like one they could like. One blogger suggested that it was like shopping for clothes. You don’t wany to buy it unless you can try it on.

The author of one of the articles opined that the new interest in creating Reading Rooms for the general public is a result of the isolation so many people experienced during Covid. Now some people just want to be around other people without needing to interact. Reading rooms are the perfect place to do your reading in the quiet company of other readers. Some rooms have a table where you can leave a book and take another. Sometimes quiet conservations take place and new friends are found. But mostly it’s a comfortable place to get you out of the house and enjoy your book at the same time.

I’m all for anything that encourages reading!!

Happy Reading,

Mary Jane

**BOOK GROUP SELECTIONS - MAY THROUGH JUNE**

**Daytime Group** We will meet at Crest Pier Community Center, 5800 Ocean Ave., Wildwood Crest at 12:00. Please bring your lunch and beverage; dessert will be provided.

May 21 - Daughters of Nantucket by Julie Gerstenblatt

June 18 - Frozen River by Ariel Lawton

**Evening Group** We will meet at Mulligan’s Bar & Grille, 310 Hildreth Ave., Wildwood at 6:00 for dinner followed by our discussion. Please contact Mary Jane Slugg (609-884-7041 or shoresluggs@aol.com) if you are coming.

May 29 - The Island at the Center of the World by Russell Shorto. Wayne Conrad will lead the discussion with a guest speaker, Dave Montange.

June 26 - The Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar You may also enjoy Vincent and Theo by Debra Heligen as a companion book.

**CALLING ALL HAPPY READERS!**

Is anyone interested in having book discussions in July or August? We will pick fairly short, light books to read. Sue Laufer has offered her home as a meeting place for June. We will stick to the 3rd Tuesday, June 18th, at noon as our meeting time. Please let us know ASAP if you are interested.

Mary Jane – shoresluggs@aol.com

Joan – jbvicari@yahoo.com

**STEM News**



TEENTECH is coming to Atlantic Cape Community College on May 10th! This one-day workshop for middle-school girls stimulates the mind – two STEM workshops and a keynote address by Virginia Rettig, Manager of the Edwin B Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge (and an AAUW member). The body is sustained with breakfast and lunch. Many thanks to the volunteers whose support makes this event possible.

Speaking of volunteers, please let me know if you can volunteer at TECH TREK – the week-long STEM camp for rising eighth grade girls held at Stockton University July 21-27, 2024. You can volunteer for any amount of time – a few hours, a day or two, or all week. Volunteers will chaperone the girls throughout the day, starting with breakfast and a core morning class. After lunch, there are various workshops illustrating that scientific activity is interesting, challenging and fun – and opens a window to the many types of career options that are available. See the website at: https://techtrek-nj.aauw.net/ Email me at tbasquez\_86@hotmail.com if you’d like to volunteer.

**PUBLIC POLICY**

Are you Election Ready?

**It’s My Vote! Campaign.**

AAUW is providing every member information they need to know to be an effective advocate for women and girls in the upcoming general election. Just click on this URL to find out what’s planned. https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/get-involved-in-elections/ AAUW and the AAUW Action Fund have created the It’s My Vote! Campaign to motivate women to be effective advocates.

Two-Minute Activist: BE HEARD

The Bringing an End to Harassment by Enhancing Accountability and Rejecting Discrimination (BE HEARD) in the Workplace Act would build on existing civil rights laws to provide new protections against harassment for workers, while also safeguarding existing discrimination laws. To learn more and act, go to: https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minut



**OUTINGS**

June 9 **Hats Off Fashion Show & Luncheon**

June 14 at 1:30pm we will visit the **Reed’s Organic Farm and Animal Rescue** on Spruce Road in Egg Harbor Twp. (not far from Boscov’s) Cookie Till, one of the owners of Steve and Cookies Restaurant in Margate, will tell us about the history of the farm, all of its functions and services, and visions for the future.

<https://www.reedsorganicfarm.org/>

**WANTED**

Treasurer – if you like money and math, we have the perfect position for you. We need a new Treasurer to keep track of membership dues, donations and scholarship money. If you can help, please contact Chris Rohrman, President at crohrman39@gmail.com

Website http://capemay-nj.aauw.net

President: Chris Rohrman

Vice President: Sue Laufer

Secretary: Sandy Sieber

Treasurer:

Book Groups: Mary Jane Slugg & Joan Vicari

Fund Raising: Chris Rohrman

Historian:

Membership: Mary Jane Slugg

Newsletter: Chris Rohrman

Programs: Joan Vicari

Public Policy: Theresa Basquez

Public Relations:

Scholarship: Sandy Sieber

STEM Coordinator: Theresa Basquez