

Education and Libraries - Narrative 2024

Woman's Club of Lacey, Inc

Book Discussion/Book Club

The Book Club of the Woman's Club of Lacey meets on the third Thursday of each month at the community center to discuss the latest title supplied by our local library. The chair of this group coordinates the selection of books, pick up and drop off with the Ocean County Library Lacey Branch. This year the Literature Club read and discussed the following books: *Only Woman in the Room*; *The Kind Worth Killing*; *Camino Island*; *And Then There Were None*; *The Last Romantics*; *A Woman of No Importance*; *Dear*; *My Grandmother Asked*; *The Book of Two Ways*. Lively discussion over refreshments always ensues. The final meeting of the year is always a wonderful outdoor picnic. Additionally, the Book Club provides a gift basket for raffle once per year at a general meeting. The basket has a reading focus of course: books, fuzzy socks, candy, a bottle of wine – all things necessary for a cozy afternoon of reading.

Library/School Library Project

The Woman's Club of Lacey sponsors a third-grade poster contest every year at each of the township's four elementary schools. Students create a poster depicting a book they have enjoyed each year. The schools' principals and third grade teachers select the top posters from each school. Members of the Woman's Club vote at their March meeting on the best poster from each school. Gift cards are secured from local businesses as prizes. Debbie Smith coordinates with classroom teachers to make a special presentation to each winning student.

GCI Delegate Sponsorship

The Woman's Club of Lacey sent two delegates to Girls Career Institute at Douglass College in 2024. Committee members contact the high school guidance counselor in January to set up a schedule of interested girls to be interviewed. The members of the committee interview each girl and make their selections. They work with parents to set up all the arrangements and accompany the girls to the orientation in the spring. Girls are invited to come back to a general meeting and tell the members about their experience.

Read Across America

In January our Education Chairperson communicated with the principals of our four elementary schools to schedule times for our members to read to the children. They are always happy to hear from us and encourage our participation. This year members read to multiple classes in multiple schools including our pre-k and kindergarten group. Some members volunteered to continue reading to the little ones throughout the school year as they have no library or librarian.

Scholarships

Our scholarship committee of five selects the recipients of the WCOL high school scholarships awarded in June. This involves reading over 30 applications and essays written by the student applicants and determining the recipients. This year we gave out four \$1000 awards to worthy high school students. This year, we received an email from a scholarship awarded 50 years ago. This student wrote how this scholarship gave him the confidence to aspire to a career in science and two advanced degrees.

Special Needs Class Support

Each month a 50/50 raffle is held at the general meetings of the Woman's Club of Lacey. A table is set up and raffle tickets are sold. This year, Joe Bond, Supervisor of Special Services in Lacey Twp. School District accepted a check for \$1200 from the Woman's Club of Lacey to create a sensory decompression room for students within the autistic spectrum at the Mill Pond Elementary School. This is the second sensory decompression room the Woman's Club of Lacey has funded in the district.

Bridge of Books Foundation is an organization that provides an ongoing source of books to underserved children in NJ. This is the third year the Woman's Club of Lacey has participated in this worthwhile book drive. Members bring new or gently used books to the general meeting in November and December. Donations are also sought from the community. After all the books are collected at the chairperson's house, the group needs to sort them by age group and then they are taken to the Foundation's headquarters. There they are picked up by teachers and librarians of underserved schools. This **year 1,100 books** were donated by the Woman's Club of Lacey.