



Branch

Banter

DECEMBER 2017

Meet the Artist: Ophelia Chambliss
“The Rhetorical Power of Representation and the Visual Image”

WHEN: Tuesday, December 12 7:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. Social Time Business meeting follows program

WHERE: York Alliance Church, 501 Rathton Road, York

PROGRAM: Ophelia M. Chambliss, artist and educator, has been successfully working and exhibiting as a fine artist for many years in solo and group exhibitions, as well as several distinguished juried shows, and has been recognized for her work on public art projects in York.

She holds a Bachelors in Communication Arts and Sciences, and a Masters in Communications from Penn State University. Ophelia is also serving a term as a Commissioner for the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission, and was recently named to the Advisory Board for the PSU Harrisburg Humanities department. She was also awarded the Alumni Achievement Award for her community, and creative work by Penn State University.

Ophelia will present a series of images, while discussing symbolic representations of image, discourse, and story to tell the story behind her work.

“As a public artist and muralist, I pride myself in working with different stake holders with a common goal to build community around art. I work to build collaboration, ownership and a belief in the process and production part of the final piece of art.

As an Academic, I have been addressing the issue of “What is Black art?” Is Black art defined by the cultural content of the art, or the ethnicity of the artist? Much of my work straddles these two distinctions and challenges the limitations that are thrust upon being either. I try to work within the representations of culture, and the Black American Experience, while creating art that is stylized beyond a cultural racial distinction.”

Public art has revitalized downtown York – come hear about the latest from one of the leaders of the movement!

Carol Little & Rita Meisenhelder, Program Co-Vice Presidents



Inclement Weather? Check your email for a program cancellation.
(Those not on email will be contacted by phone.)



Fragrance-Free Meetings Let’s make our Branch meetings “fragrance free.” Several members have allergies to perfume or strongly scented powders and deodorants. **So please remember, no perfume!**

BOARD MEETING

The Board will meet at 12:30 p.m. on December 4 at Anne McFeely's house. Come at noon and bring a sandwich to socialize first.

FROM THE PODIUM

Just a brief note to say "Thank You" to Board members and Branch members for your kind words and concerns due to my illness. It is hard to believe Thanksgiving has come and gone and we now look forward to the busiest time of the year – the Holidays. Best wishes to one and all.

Carol Heintzelman, York Branch President

BRANCH AWARDS

York Branch is given the opportunity to present three awards annually through the sponsorship of our State organization, AAUW-PA. The honorees are recognized in the AAUW-PA Yearbook, and members receive a certificate at the convention, which will be held in the Poconos this year.

The **Gateway to Equity Award** is given to individuals or organizations that have shown by action and philosophy that they advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy or research.

Member Making a Difference Award (formerly Branch Spotlight Award and Teal Award) is given to a member who has made a big difference in something important to the branch within the last year. This person need not be an officer or a committee chair.

Outstanding Woman Award

- She has provided meritorious service to the branch and the community over multiple years.
- She may not be the current president.
- The state allows two nominees.

Check the *Yearbook* for past honorees. Please submit your nominations **in writing by January 15**, and give examples of the person's accomplishments.

You may send an email or a note via mail to Betty Hooker. Thank you for your suggestions. A committee of past recipients will select the 2018 honorees.

Betty Hooker, Awards Chair

SUNSHINE

If you know of an AAUW member who deserves a card due to illness, death in family, or thinking of you, please notify Linda Rupert.

BRANCH SCHOLARSHIPS

The Board recommended and the membership has voted to change the budget to reflect the former allocation of \$3,000 to the Graduate Scholarship and \$1,000 to the Undergraduate Scholarship. This has been done with the understanding that if monies are available, as they have been for the past few years, additional undergraduate scholarships will be granted.

In the coming year the Board will consider past and possible future fundraising activities to determine how we might best and most easily raise monies to support this fundamental service of our organization. In addition, as we are able to have one fundraising event every year, and as the Kitchen Tour is now scheduled in alternate years, consideration will be given in 2018 to the possibility of an additional event. We also ask that our members consider making a personal contribution to the scholarship funds.

Carol Anderson & Martha Fleischer, Scholarship Chairs

BOOK GROUP I

Wednesday, December 20 1:00 p.m. Home of/Regrets: Linda Collison
Book: *The Japanese Lover* by Isabel Allende.
Book for January: *A Piece of the World* by Christina Baker Kline

BOOK GROUP II

NO meeting this month. Contact Gayle Brass for more information.
January book: *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict

EVENING BOOK GROUP

3rd Tuesdays 7:30 p.m. Books A Million Store Café Contact: Sue Zitnick

December 19: *The Firebrand and the First Lady* by Patricia Bell-Scott. Bell-Scott tells the story of how Pauli Murray, a brilliant writer-turned-activist and granddaughter of a mulatto slave, and Eleanor Roosevelt, the first lady of the United States, forged an enduring friendship that changed each of their lives and helped to alter the course of race and racism in America.

Book for January: *White Trash* by Nancy Isenberg.

BRIDGE GROUP

Wednesday December 6	11:30 a.m.	Lunch and Bridge at the Blue Heron
Wednesday January 3	12:15 p.m.	<i>Hostess needed</i>
Wednesday February 7	12:15 p.m.	<i>Hostess needed</i>

Bridge players and subs are welcome to join the group at any time. New this month will be a Bridge luncheon at the Blue Heron Restaurant. Call Lois Kulp for information.

FEMMES DU JOUR

Please join fellow members on **December 7** to experience "Christmas at Fort Hunter." This Federal Style mansion sits on the site of the old French and Indian War Fort Hunter and dates back to 1786. We will have a guided tour of the mansion and then have free time to browse the gift shop and explore the grounds, weather permitting. Lunch will follow at Rock Bass Grill, Front St., Wormleysburg. We will car pool from Betty Hooker's home, leaving at 9:30 a.m. Please contact Cheri Stine **ASAP** with questions or to indicate your interest in going.

FEMMES DU JOUR – SAVE THE DATE – *SHOW BOAT* – APRIL 5, 2018

The Femmes will be traveling to the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre on Thursday, April 5, for a buffet and the matinee performance of *Show Boat*. *Show Boat* traces the lives of the performers, stagehands and dockworkers from the *Cotton Blossom*, a Mississippi River showboat, for over forty years from 1887 to 1927. It includes classic songs such as *Ol' Man River*, *Make Believe*, and *Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man*.

We will leave the Galleria parking lot at 10:45 a.m. and arrive at the theatre for the 11:45 a.m. lunch buffet. The show begins at 1:15 p.m. **Guests are welcome**. The cost for the lunch and the show is \$55 which includes tax and the meal gratuity. (Gratuity on soda and alcoholic beverages is extra.)

Don't wait! Tickets are limited. Ensure your reservation by sending Betty your check, made payable to 'Betty Hooker' (for more information, contact her).

GAME NIGHTS – DECEMBER & FEBRUARY

Sunday, **December 3**, at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Toni and Bill Schreiber. Please contact Toni **ASAP** if you can come and find out what to bring to the potluck.

Sunday, February 25, at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Carol and Brad Little. Put this on your calendar now and contact Carol when the time gets closer to let her know you can come and find out what to bring to the potluck.

LUNCH A MONTH – DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY

There will be **NO** Lunch-A-Month in December, but the January and February events will be at Knickers and Victor's respectively. The details of these lunches will be in the next *Banter*.

BANTER DEADLINE

December 17 is the deadline for articles for the January *Banter*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM SUSAN SPICKA, NOVEMBER PROGRAM

From: Susan Spicka [mailto:sspicka@educationvoterspa.org]

Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Hi, Betty and Carol,

Thank you very much for inviting me to speak at your AAUW meeting last night and making me feel so welcome by taking me out to a lovely dinner before the meeting. Thank you also for the honorarium.

After I finished talking, I realized that I should have ended on a more positive note. So, here are a few things that we can feel very optimistic about when it comes to public education.

In September, **the PA Supreme Court ordered the [PA school funding lawsuit](#) to go to trial.** This lawsuit aims to force the legislature to change the way it funds public schools. The case has been brought on behalf of 7 school districts, the NAACP, the PA Association of Rural and Small Schools, and parents. It alleges that the school funding system violates the PA constitutional mandate to provide a "thorough and efficient system of public education to meet the needs of the Commonwealth." It also alleges that it violates the Equal Protection Clause because some children are denied an adequate education simply because of where they live.

We expect the lawsuit to go to trial sometime within the upcoming year. This lawsuit will shine a very bright light on the vast disparities in PA's school funding system, which will put pressure on legislators to fix it. If the plaintiffs win, the court could order the legislature to change the way it funds schools. In many other state court cases like this one have forced legislatures to take action and have significantly improved school funding issues.

There is also reason to hope that we will see cyber charter reform come out of Harrisburg sooner rather than later. **Brick and mortar charter schools increasingly view cyber charters as a massive weight that is pulling them down and they are increasingly trying to distance themselves from the cybers.**

In addition, people throughout PA are waking up to the outrageous costs of cyber charters and to the terrible quality of education that most children who attend these schools receive. Lawmakers are hearing more and more from their constituents about these issues and feeling pressure in their districts to deal with them.

Finally, a large and diverse statewide campaign, the [Campaign for Fair Education Funding](#) (the AAUW is a member), is increasing its power and has the potential to put significant pressure on lawmakers to fund our schools.

While we face a lot of challenges, for sure, all is not bleak, especially when engaged and informed Pennsylvanians like the AAUW members come together and take action to hold lawmakers accountable!

Thank you again for inviting me to speak at your meeting. If there is anything I can do to help you with advocacy, please let me know. I hope that we'll keep in touch.

Best, Susan

PS: If anyone would like to make a donation to support our work they can click [HERE](#) to do that online. Donations really make a difference with a small organization like ours.

Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Vision Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Diversity Statement

AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.