



# Branch

# Banter

NOVEMBER 2019

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## WISDOM IN SAYINGS AROUND THE WORLD

**WHEN:** Tuesday, November 12 7:00 p.m.

**6:00 p.m. Book Sale** 6:30 p.m. Social Time Business meeting follows program

**WHERE:** York Alliance Church, 501 Rathton Road, York

**PROGRAM:** Charles (Chip) Kauffman, adjunct professor of World Languages and Indo-European Languages at York College, and a retired certified U.S. Government linguist with a 34-year career working with multiple languages, is the featured speaker. He will discuss the wisdom in unique sayings, proverbs, and adages passed down for generations throughout the world, and how sayings, such as 'You can't judge a horse by its saddle,' 'A bird in hand is worth two on the roof,' and 'Don't make an elephant out of a mosquito,' provide insight into life in diverse cultures. A short question and answer session will follow the presentation.

*Suzy Hershey and Joan Beekey, Program Co-Vice Presidents*

### **\*\*\* USED BOOK SALE AT THE NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING \*\*\***

We will hold our Used Book Sale at the November Branch meeting **starting at 6:00 p.m.** Collect books you have read and think other members would enjoy reading and are in good condition. Please plan to bring your books to the York Alliance Church on Tuesday, November 12, between 3 and 4 p.m. so the books can be set up on tables. If you cannot make it, ask a friend to bring them. If all else fails, call Sue Zitnick for pick up. The money raised by the book sale will go towards a scholarship for a Pennsylvania young woman to attend AAUW's NCCWSSL conference in June. Thanks.

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To support AAUW's mission, we are seeking volunteers for a proposed Fundraising Committee. All members are invited and anyone with knowledge of AAUW fundraising policies and procedures would be especially helpful, as well as anyone with general fundraising experience. More information will be provided at the November Branch meeting.

*Launa Graft, Assistant Finance Officer*

## **FROM THE PODIUM**

Soon the colorful autumn leaves will be gone. We are so fortunate to witness the seasonal changes in our part of this world. Looking forward to hearing about our world's wisdom at the November 12 program. It is time to sort your books and donate the ones that no longer 'spark joy' to our Branch. Connecting with other members does spark joy! Try an Interest Group, volunteer for a Project, or offer to join a Committee.

Reminder – Vote on Tuesday, November 5. We owe it to the suffragettes who earned the right for USA women only 100 years ago! Check out [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) (from League of Women Voters Education Fund).

*Martha Fleischer & Barbara Woodmansee, Co-Presidents*

## **BOARD MEETING**

The Board will meet on Tuesday, November 5, at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Barbara Woodmansee. Board meetings are open to all Branch members.

## **BRANCH YEARBOOKS**

If you have not received your 2019-2020 Branch *Yearbook*, please contact Betty Hooker by phone or send an email. The *Yearbook* has a bright green cover and contains names and contact information for all of our members.

## **WRITE – READ – WRITE**

Thank you to all members who have signed up to sponsor books for the third graders at Phineas Davis School. The students' letters will be handed out at the November 12 meeting. If you are not able to attend, please ask someone to take your letter for you. Your student's letter should give you an idea for a book he or she would enjoy. We will look forward to receiving your books at the December meeting.

*Jean Quickel & Suzanne Robertson, Write-Read-Write Co-Chairs*

## **MEMBERSHIP – RIDE-SHARE LIST**

To ensure that members who need transportation to meetings are able to attend as desired, we would like to compile a list of members who would be willing to provide rides to meetings for those who cannot drive themselves. If you wish to provide this service and would be willing to be part of a ride-share list, please contact Sandy Cooley or Nancy Spataro. When this list is compiled, we will coordinate ride opportunities as needed.

## DAYTIME BOOK GROUP

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m., Lyndon Diner

Contact: Linda Palmer

November 20: *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett Led by JoAnn Piotrowski

## EVENING BOOK GROUP

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

November 19: *The Storyteller's Secret* by Sejal Badani. Jaya, a New York journalist, reeling from the heartbreak of a third miscarriage and a failing marriage, flees to India looking for clues to her mother's past.

Book for December: *The Little French Bistro* by Nina George

## BRIDGE GROUP

Carol Anderson will host the Bridge Group in her home on Wednesday, November 6, 11:30 a.m. Please call Carol if you plan to play.

A hostess is needed for the December 4 game.

New players are welcome at any time. For information, please call Lois Kulp.

## LUNCH A MONTH

We will meet on November 14 at 1:00 pm. at the Eagles Nest, 2519 Mt. Rose Ave. Please sign up no later than the meeting on November 12 or call Suzanne Robertson.

## BANTER DEADLINE

**\*November 23\*** is the deadline for articles for the December *Banter*.

## 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.

## PUBLIC POLICY

Since AAUW's founding, members and supporters have spoken out about policies important to women and girls. Without their voices and hard work, valuable legislation would not have been passed. In recent years, such legislation includes the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Matthew Shepherd and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. AAUW's policy work connects and rallies advocates at the local, state, national, and global levels to advance our work to empower women and girls. With member-endorsed Public Policy Priorities as our guide, AAUW uses lobbying and grassroots efforts to push forward policies that break through educational and economic barriers for women. The AAUW Public Policy and Government Relations Department, with input from the member leaders of the AAUW Public Policy Committee, leads AAUW's lobbying and grassroots efforts. However, AAUW member advocates across the country who give their time, energy, and voice to AAUW issues deserve the credit for truly advancing women. AAUW has the resources available and the AAUW policy staff can be reached at 202-785-7793 or [advocacy@aauw.org](mailto:advocacy@aauw.org).

*Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair*

## TAXES AND VOUCHER PROGRAMS

Some leaders in the Legislature support a new school voucher program for Pennsylvania, and an expansion of the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit. These programs already divert over \$180 million in taxpayer money into private and religious schools each year. One proposal would increase the amount to **\$5 billion!** If passed, this would reduce money in the General Fund and make it more difficult for the Legislature to adequately fund public schools.

Supporters of vouchers claim that students can escape from poorly-performing public schools and obtain a quality education through voucher programs. However, research by Keystone Crossroads shows school voucher programs mostly benefit wealthy families that already have children enrolled in private schools. **An analysis of 151 private schools that administer their own tax credit scholarship programs showed that 57 schools reported enrolling no low-income students, and 15 schools reported that fewer than 5% of their students were in the low-income category.**

If you value strong public schools, I encourage you to join Education Voters of PA. The web address is [educationvoterspa.org](http://educationvoterspa.org). This organization will keep you informed of pending legislation and encourage you to contact your legislators at critical times to register your support for public schools and public education.

*Betty Hooker, Education Committee Co-Chair*

## A REPORT ABOUT FINANCES FROM AAUW

On September 2, you received an email from AAUW-PA with a link for the Fall *Keystoner*. In that *Keystoner* was a link to a video done last May of Kim Churches, AAUW's CEO, talking about the organization's finances. This is that link: <https://www.aauw.org/kim-churches-leader-webinar-presentation-for-5-21/>

Since Kim arrived, they have been reviewing the whole organization, evaluating the legacy structures and working to ensure AAUW can modernize for a stable, effective future. There are more than 400 organizations working on pay equity and/or gender equality – what was our niche, where would we have the most impact? They used the new Strategic Initiatives that was just developed last year to focus staff time and projects on what would have the most meaningful impact on society going forward.

A thorough analysis of the budget using 'non-profit best practices' showed that for the past 10 years, the previous administration had been spending more money than they were taking in. The AAUW office building was sold with the intention of putting the \$13 million in an endowment to pay rent leases forever – but they did not do that. National conventions had run at a loss of several million, and staffing had been increased to do more projects. But AAUW was now running out of money. Working on last year's budget, they cut it by 10% and left 8 positions unfilled. This year they have reduced it more, cut 10 positions and made 2 positions part-time. Plus the senior executives have taken a pay cut so they can keep some staff. The office lease they inherited is expensive on a square foot basis and is for too much space – but they cannot get out of it and it runs for 16 years. They are working on subletting space. The financial statement looks like AAUW has lots of money, but it is mostly in restricted funds for fellowships, grants, LAF, and Eleanor Roosevelt, with little left for running the non-profit business that is AAUW – staff, rent, utilities, etc., plus all the new projects like Tech Trek and Work Smart.

Part of the problem, as in many other organizations, is a decline in membership. AAUW members are active and loyal, but the average age of AAUW members is 72. Younger women are more interested in networks with online and media participation, not monthly meetings. But dues only cover 15% of the budget. Grants from corporations and foundations cover a lot, but can take 18 to 24 months to close.

The good news is that AAUW can still be a highly impactful organization with a smaller size. It is esteemed on Capitol Hill for pay equity laws and Title IX gender equality. The Start Smart and Work Smart programs are going over well nationally and are being held twice here in York in October!

What you can do:

1. Use the AAUW *Two Minute Activist* to send letters to your Congress people.
2. Encourage those you know to do the online workshops: Start Smart for those entering the workforce and Work Smart for those already working.
3. Eliminate contributions to restricted funds and donate to the Greatest Needs fund to keep AAUW nimble and agile to respond rapidly to changing needs – such as the #MeToo movement and changing legislation.
4. Be patient as they work to modernize the aauw.org website over the next year. It is 15-20 years old and needs a complete makeover

AAUW's mission and purpose are unchanged. The national office is just working for good governance and sustainability for a long and dynamic future for AAUW.

*Sue Zitnick, Bylaws Chair*

#### *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.