



Branch

Banter

FEBRUARY 2021

PLAN YOUR EVENTS WITH *PARTY BELLES*

WHEN: Tuesday, February 9 7:00 p.m. (link opens at 6:45 p.m.)

WHERE: Using Zoom (see link information below)

PROGRAM: Confused about how to plan a gathering during these confusing times? Our February speaker will provide us with some answers.

Amy Herwig is the founder and proprietress of Party Belles, an award-winning wedding and event planning company, based in her hometown of York, Pa. She will be discussing event planning in 2021, as well as giving us the important questions to ask when hiring a planner. If you have any questions in mind regarding any aspect of her business, please feel free to submit them to her directly at amy@partybelles.com.

Amy still resides in York, with her husband Joe, their 7 pound Miki dog, Zeus, and a sassy little parrot named Paisley.

NOTE: *The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom link will open at 6:45 so that we all have time to get online and resolve any technological issues. If you have problems joining the meeting, please contact Amber Seidel so she can help you.*

Margaret Kremer & Amber Seidel, Program Co-Vice Presidents

BANTER DEADLINE

February 24 is the deadline for articles for the March *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.

FROM THE PODIUM

January 2021 has been a time of “the best of times and the worst of times.” Our Democracy has been threatened as all Americans witnessed on January 6, 2021, the assault on our United States Capital building. Stunned, we were exposed to a very ugly side of our national divide. As Pennsylvanians, we witnessed how our votes were being undermined and under attack. Thankfully, truth and order prevailed that day and far into the night. The result was the inauguration of our 46th President, Joseph Biden, and the first woman Vice President, Kamala Harris, on January 20, 2021. A peaceful transfer of power was accomplished. History was made that day for women, women of color, South Asian women by Vice President Harris representing all of us. As inspired by the President, aspirations of unity, truth, healing, equity and justice are our future. Democracy has prevailed!

As we move ahead in 2021, AAUW is focused on equity for all, opposing systemic racism, improving public education, and including all interested parties in our organization who value the same. Branches, State organizations and National rely on each other to determine our priorities and create long standing change for the advancement of women. Each is equally important in making a difference in our country. What an exciting time for our Branch to be part of the effort.

Rita Meisenhelder & Barbara Woodmansee, Co-Presidents

BOARD MEETING

The February 2 Board meeting will be conducted virtually using Zoom (see link above). Rita will email the agenda a few days before and then lead the meeting, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Branch members are welcome to attend Board meetings.

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW’s Gender Policy Agenda outlines priority issues for the 2020-2021 program year. Here is what AAUW would like to see nationally to advance gender equality in terms of education:

1. DEFEND AND STRENGTHEN TITLE IX: Pass the Hold Accountable and Lend Transparency on Campus Sexual Violence Act, the Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA), the Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act, and advocate against regulatory action seeking to weaken Title IX protections and enforcement.
2. REDUCE STUDENT DEBT: Protect and expand the Pell Grant Program, make loan repayment and forgiveness programs more accessible to borrowers and address the costs students face beyond tuition by supporting programs like the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program.
3. EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN STEM: Pass the Stem Opportunities Act.

Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair

DAYTIME BOOK GROUP

3rd Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. **via Zoom** Contact Linda Palmer
February 17: *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens Led by Jo Ann Piotrowski

EVENING BOOK GROUP

3rd Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. Contact: Sue Zitnick

Reading more about the COVID-19 vaccine, I think it will be April or May before we can get together outside where we will be safer. So keep reading books, sharing good titles and enjoy talking over the phone. Stay safe and healthy. Sue Zitnick

BRIDGE GROUP

Bridge Group is on hold. Contact Lois Kulp.

GAME NIGHT

Game Night is on hold. Contact Karen Julian.

LUNCH A MONTH

Lunch A Month is on hold. Contact Sandra Cooley.

SUPPER CLUB

Supper Club is on hold. Contact Lois Kulp.

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.