



# Branch Banter

MAY 2021

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## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE THROUGH DANCE

**WHEN:** Tuesday, May 11

**PROGRAM:** Come join us as we celebrate 100 years of Women's Right to Vote and look forward to continued equality in the future. As part of our celebration, we will have Cassandra Molloy performing a dance she choreographed herself for this 100 year anniversary. She will be dancing to *Don't Rain on My Parade* by Barbara Streisand. A junior at York Suburban High School, Cassie has been dancing for fifteen years and has been a competitive dancer for seven years. She has performed in multiple ballets with the Carnegie Performing Arts Center and Little Leapers Company. She was a tech dancer in *Annie*, *Frozen Jr*, *Matilda*, and *Legally Blonde* at the Belmont and in her school musicals. Cassie has spent her summers training with Joffrey School of Ballet in New York City, Oklahoma City Ballet, and Boston Conservatory at Berklee.

*Margaret Kremer & Amber Seidel, Program Co-Vice Presidents*

### FROM THE PODIUM

May is here and that means our 2020-2021 year is coming to an end. Our May meeting is the last meeting of the year and it is a time to celebrate our accomplishments and recognize members who have made substantial contributions to our Branch. What better way to celebrate than to conduct our meeting outside so we can see each other in person! We began this year meeting outside and we are ending it the same way.

At our May meeting, we will be installing five officers: Co-President - Nancy Buckley, Co-Membership VPs - Suzanne Robertson and Jean Quickel, Secretary - Donna Fulton, and Assistant Finance Officer - Bonnie Bluett. We appreciate their willingness to accept a leadership role in our York Branch. Their terms will begin July 1, 2021.

A sincere thank you goes to the current Board and Committee members who have kept our Branch viable during another turbulent year. We made it through and will do it again under the new leadership for 2021-2022. A special thank you goes to Nancy Buckley and her Fundraising Committee for developing and launching three new and very successful fundraisers. Thank you to everyone who stayed involved and supported our fundraisers. We could not have done it without you!

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve as Co-Presidents of this vibrant AAUW Branch. We look forward to seeing everyone on May 11!

*Barbara Woodmansee & Rita Meisenhelder, Co-Presidents*

## BOARD MEETING

The May 4 Board meeting will be conducted virtually in Zoom. Barbara 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.

## AAUW MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2021-2022

Your 2020-2021 membership officially ends on June 30, but please help your Membership Co-VPs **by sending your \$83 check to renew your membership by June 5**. This will ensure that you and your correct information are included in the next *Yearbook*.

We need the remaining time in June to track down those who have not responded to the call for membership renewal and to collate and tabulate the dues in order to get the state and national dues paid in a timely fashion. We also will be recording any 2021-2022 *Yearbook* information additions, deletions, or corrections for Betty Hooker.

Thank you for your help and your renewal!

*Sandy Cooley & Nancy Spataro, Membership Co-Vice Presidents*

## 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.

## DUAL ENROLLMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SPONSORS

A profound "thank you" to all whose names appear on this list as well as those who contributed lesser amounts. Those who have not yet had an opportunity to contribute, donations of any size can be sent to Nancy Buckley.

*Nancy Buckley, Fundraising Committee Chair*

### Benefactors (\$250+)

Carol Anderson Nancy Buckley Betty Hooker Sue McMillan

### Angels (\$100)

Joan Beekey Lois Conaway Janice Cromer Donna Fulton Carol Heintzelman Lorraine Hovis  
Karen Koons Kathy Levey Carol Little Jane Long Arlene Martin Rita Meisenhelder Linda Palmer  
Suzanne Robertson Linda Rupert – *in memory of Marion Bowman* Darla Stover Sally Wagman Sue Zitnick

### Patrons (\$75)

Susan Boyer Martha Fleischer Barbara Woodmansee

### Friends (\$50)

Marguerite Bernstine – *in memory of Ruthe Craley* Bonnie Bluett Ellie Bosserman Linda Keeler  
Sandi Ream Susan Renoll Kay Roddy Deb Smyser Elaine Yates

## IN MEMORY – RUTHE CRALEY

Ruthe Craley passed away on March 20 in Simpsonville, South Carolina, where she was living with her daughter, Stacy Craley. She was 92 years old.

Ruthe joined York Branch in 1983. She served as Public Policy Chair, but she may best be remembered for the key role she played in distributing the *Branch Banter*. Before the days of email and attachments, all members of the Branch received a paper copy of the *Banter* each month except during the summer. Distribution was no small task. It involved collating, stapling, folding, and taping, and then taking the *Banters* to the Post Office for bulk mailing. Ruthe graciously hosted the mailing committee at her home for many years.

Ruthe moved to Gettysburg in 2001 but maintained her membership in York Branch. While in Gettysburg, she was active in the Gettysburg Branch, serving as an officer and on many committees. When Ruthe returned from Gettysburg in 2014, she resumed active participation in York Branch, serving on the Education Committee and the Spring Market Faire Committee. In fact, she was a hostess at her former home on McKenzie Street when the new owners opened their home for the 2015 Spring Market Faire.

Ruthe was a graduate and life-long supporter of Gettysburg College where both of her parents had been professors, and she had a keen interest in politics and women's rights. She served as campaign chair for several candidates, making them promise they would run again if they did not win the first time.

On a personal note, I used to meet Ruthe at the Weis Market parking lot on Carlisle Road and drive her to various meetings. I never knew what topics we would cover in the car, but I always knew the conversation would be stimulating and that I would learn something!

Note: For more information, see *The York Daily Record*, Friday, March 26, 2021, page 1 and Sunday, March 26, 2001, page 7C.

*Betty Hooker, Archives Chair*

## PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW-PA, in partnership with Fair Districts, is working to improve the operation and transparency of government, especially in relation to redistricting. The transparency bills, House Bill 22 and Senate Bill 222, also called the Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Act (LACRA), are now officially introduced with co-sponsors from both parties. Fair Districts has launched a *March Toward Transparency*, a campaign to talk with every PA state legislator about the need to pass LACRA. It is now time to invite more co-sponsors and ask support for a vote. Latest events and updates can be found at <https://www.fairdistrictspa.com/>

*Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair*

## BANTER DEADLINE

**May 25** is the deadline for articles for the June *Banter*, the last issue until September. If you have any Branch summer events that you want listed, please send them to by the May deadline.

## VOTING ON CHANGE TO AAUW MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT

AAUW members will vote on a long-standing membership requirement, which creates a barrier to women who do not hold a college degree. By eliminating this requirement, AAUW can become a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with the needs of women today.

Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for a vote several times. The AAUW-PA Board feels very strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission, and limits our ability to build the skills needed to increase our impact as an organization.

AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity, yet the requirement for membership explicitly denies access to membership to those without college degrees. AAUW cannot promote equity for all women and girls if the organization maintains exclusionary membership requirements. We have had situations such as on the Kitchen Tour, where two friends wanted to join, but only one had a degree. – so, we lost two members! More information is available on the AAUW website about the election at [2021 Vote: Bylaws Amendment – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#) or [Open Membership Toolkit – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#).

*New Bylaws Wording - “An individual who supports the AAUW mission and pays annual AAUW dues shall be eligible to be an individual member with all rights and responsibilities of AAUW membership.”*

AAUW members can now vote on proposed changes to the bylaws recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee that would eliminate the degree requirement for membership. **You received an email on April 7 with your voting credentials and instructions for voting on AAUW Board members, this Bylaws change and Public Policy changes. Voting closes on Monday, May 17 at 5:00 pm ET.**

Have you voted yet? Please do if you have not voted. We need your opinion.

*Sue Zitnick, Bylaws & Policy*

## PRIMARY ELECTION – MAY 18, 2021

Pennsylvania's primary election will be held on Tuesday, May 18. This year's election is open to all voters because there are four constitutional amendments on the ballot.

- An amendment asks voters to allow municipal fire departments or companies with paid personnel and emergency services to become eligible to apply for loans from an existing state loan program.
- An amendment allows the Legislature to terminate or extend disaster emergency declarations or part of them without a governor's approval.
- An amendment limits the governor's emergency declarations to 21 days unless extended by the Legislature. It prevents the governor from issuing new declarations on the same issue unless approved by the Legislature.
- An amendment guarantees that a person's lawful rights will not be infringed in Pennsylvania based on race or ethnicity.
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The deadline to register to vote in the primary is May 3. For more information on the election check the website at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com).

*Betty Hooker, Get Out The Vote Chair*

## **DAYTIME BOOK GROUP**

3rd Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. **via Zoom** Contact Linda Palmer  
May 19: *The Story of Arthur Truluv* by Elizabeth Berg Led by May Kemp

## **EVENING BOOK GROUP**

3rd Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. Contact: Sue Zitnick  
Book for May 18: *A History of Ancient Rome* by Mary Beard.  
Book for June: *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster* by Bill Gates.  
Note: We are meeting in the afternoon at 1 p.m. for now and May is at Barbara Rooney's home. Also, we are limiting attendance to 6 members so we can maintain social distancing. Please call Barbara if you wish to attend. Plan on wearing a mask and bringing your own water/drink.

## **GAME NIGHT**

There will be an in-person gathering at the home of Lois Kulp on Sunday, May 16. Potluck will begin at 5:00 p.m. We have had such fun greeting members of the group who have left the area that we will have a Zoom time included in the evening's activities. Please contact Lois if you plan to attend.

## **BRIDGE GROUP**

Bridge Group is on hold. Contact Lois Kulp.

## **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.

