



# Branch

# Banter

JANUARY 2022

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## YOUR LIFE, YOUR WISHES: LIVING WILL

**PROGRAM:** Whether it is a baby on the way or your retirement plans, a family vacation, or your child's college fund, having confidence in responding to whatever life brings you is often a matter of simple, timely, and thoughtful preparation. Your approach to your own medical needs should be no different. Advance care planning begins with a conversation – the first of many conversations – in which you share with those closest to you the things that matter the most. In taking that first step, you will be claiming responsibility for your health care future and this website, *Your Life Your Wishes*, is your guide to making that happen.

Christine Harrop-Stein is a certified professional gerontologist, health educator, professor, and consultant. She is the owner of Aging Matters Consulting, a business aimed at helping older adults and their families navigate life transitions. Dr. Harrop-Stein is a member of the National Association for Professional Gerontologists, the Gerontological Society of America, and the American Society on Aging. In addition, she volunteers for Your Life Your Wishes, Sage-ing International, and White Rose Hospice. She has over 20 years of experience working in gerontology and health education.

*Margaret Kremer & Amber Seidel, Program Co-Vice Presidents, with Betty Hooker & Barbara Woodmansee*

## YORK BRANCH FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

York Branch is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary on April 1, 2022. Looking through the archives reminds us of the astonishing variety and quality of the projects that our Branch has undertaken over the years.

We are co-chairing a committee to plan some special events throughout the coming year to recognize York Branch's fiftieth year and its amazing members. WE WELCOME YOUR IDEAS and YOUR HELP!

Please contact Barbara Woodmansee or Betty Hooker if you are interested in helping with this project. We hope to hold one or two in-person or Zoom meetings to brainstorm some ideas to celebrate this important milestone.

*Barbara Woodmansee & Betty Hooker, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Co-Chairs*

## FROM THE PODIUM

Happy New Year, 2022! Wishing every one of our members good health for the coming year. As we enter the new year, we are hoping to help keep our members safe by resuming virtual meetings as suggested by National AAUW. We will continue through the winter months or until National advises us differently. If you need help with Zoom meetings, please let Rita or Nancy know.

We are delighted to have our Nominating Committee formed. Carol Little, Martha Fleischer, and Darla Stover have graciously offered to select nominees for Board positions for the 2022-2023 year. The positions which need to be filled are Co-President, two Program Co-VPs, Finance Officer, and Secretary. When a committee member calls you, please seriously consider becoming an officer. We have an active Branch and if we all want to continue our mission, interests, and camaraderie, we need members to fill these offices. If you are hesitant to do so, please contact any Board member to find out more.

It was April 1, 1972, when the York Branch of AAUW was incorporated: 50 years ago. This is something to celebrate and that is exactly what our Branch intends to do! Betty Hooker and Barbara Woodmansee have volunteered to head a group to plan events throughout the year. They are looking for members who would be interested in helping them. Please call Betty or Barbara for more information.

Our Branch can look forward to a new year of empowering women and girls through Gender Equity, Reproductive Rights, Leadership, and Education. Let's get started!

*Rita Meisenhelder & Nancy Buckley, Co-Presidents*

## BOARD MEETING

The January 4 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.

## OFFICER NOMINATIONS NEEDED

We need you! For our York Branch to continue to be a viable part of the community, we need members to step into leadership positions. This spring, we will be voting for the following positions:

**Co-President**, to work with the current Co-President (each year we elect one Co-President for a two-year term)

**Secretary**, to record minutes from board and general meetings

**Finance Officer**, to keep track of the treasury and report to the board and membership

**Program Co-Vice Presidents**, to plan programs for our meetings

Please consider your own talents and whether you can fulfill any of these positions, and when the Nominating Committee contacts you, say "Yes"!

*Carol Little, Martha Fleischer & Darla Stover, Nominating Committee*

## 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 by AAUW-PA, and members receive a certificate recognizing their accomplishments.

- 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. This award is selected by the Branch Board members.
- The **Member Making a Difference 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 our *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 Lois Conaway. Thank you for your suggestions. A committee of past recipients will select the 2022 honorees.

*Lois Conaway, Awards Chair*

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSIVENESS & BELONGING AD HOC COMMITTEE

Our committee met on November 5. We are approaching our diversity discovery in a three-tier manner: self, our Branch, and community. We are hoping to arrange for a speaker on diversity for one of the Branch programs in the coming months. Contact with the recently formed community organization *Confronting Racism Coalition* has been established.

Below is a list of resources for our membership:

AAUW PA: <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net>

*On the Home page, click Menu, and then click on "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging"*

Book list & Resources: [AAUW-PA DEI&B Resources List - Google Docs](#)

AAUW National: <https://www.aauw.org>

*Search for: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Toolkit (a wealth of information)*

Test Your Implicit Bias

*Rita Meisenhelder & Barbara Woodmansee, DEI&B Ad Hoc Co-Chairs*

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

On September 14, 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics released data indicating that, in 2020, women were paid 83 cents for every dollar paid to a man. While the numbers show that the gender pay gap closed slightly amidst the chaos of COVID-19, this data point is highly misleading. The unfortunate story behind the statistic is that the pandemic has been devastating for women and their families, reversing the progress women have made in recent decades. Unfortunately, because of COVID-19, the American Community Survey was not done this year. That means AAUW staff are not able to calculate the pay gap by congressional district, which has been used for years to raise this issue with state legislators. See the full statement and explanation by Kate Nielson, AAUW Public Policy Director, at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/statement-on-pandemic-effect-on-the-gender-pay-gap/> AAUW did update "The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap" which includes the national information. Download it at [https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2021/09/AAUW\\_SimpleTruth\\_2021\\_fall\\_update.pdf](https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2021/09/AAUW_SimpleTruth_2021_fall_update.pdf)

*Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair*

## **DAYTIME BOOK GROUP**

3rd Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. via Zoom Contact Linda Palmer

January 19: *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah Led by Karen Julian

## **EVENING BOOK GROUP**

3rd Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. Contact: Betty Hooker

We are meeting Tuesday, January 18, at 1:00 p.m. Location to be announced.

Please call Betty for location if you plan to attend. Plan on wearing a mask and bringing your own water/drink.

Tuesday, January 18: *Peril* by Bob Woodward and Robert Costa

Tuesday, February 15: *New Women in the Old West: From Settlers to Suffragists, An Untold American Story* by Winifred Gallagher

## **BRIDGE GROUP**

The Bridge Group will meet at the Blue Heron Restaurant on January 5 at 11:30 a.m. Please note time change for this month.

Carol Little will host Bridge February 2 at 10:00 a.m. in her home.

For information on joining the group or being a sub, please call Lois Kulp.

### **GAME GATHERING (new name!)**

The next Game Gathering will be at the home of Martha and Tom Fleischer on Sunday, January 9, at 1:00 p.m. (new time).

Please contact Martha to let her know you can come, and find out what to bring to the potluck. New players welcome. Contact Martha or Karen Julian with questions or for more information.

### **LUNCH A MONTH – JANUARY**

The January Lunch will be at Wyndridge Farms on Thursday, January 13, at 12:30 p.m. Please contact Anne McFeely.

### **LUNCH A MONTH – FEBRUARY**

The February Lunch will be held on Thursday, February 10, at 1:00 p.m. at The First Post. Contact Nancy Spataro.

### **BANTER DEADLINE**

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

#### *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.