



# Branch

# Banter

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MARCH 2022

## 2021 DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

**PROGRAM:** 2021 was the first year that York Branch awarded scholarships to students who wished to take college classes while they were still in high school. Dual Enrollment Programs give high school students a head-start on their college careers. Furthermore, the college credits are offered at half-price which allows students to get a jump start on college at “bargain” rates.

Join two of 2021’s Dual Enrollment Scholarship winners as they discuss their experiences with the program. They will introduce themselves and discuss how they chose their courses, anything that surprised them about their courses, and how the courses fit in with their future plans.

Come and meet our Dual Enrollment Scholars. Bring your questions and get a fresh take on today’s students.

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

## FLOWER POWER FUNDRAISER!

Ready for winter to end? Then you are ready for our Spring Fundraiser!

### **Flower Power Spring Flower, Bulb and Seed Sale**

Dahlias, Lilies, Perennials, Annuals, Vegetables, Herbs, and more for Spring planting and guaranteed to grow. And – 50% of the cost goes to our Branch for our scholarship program and to support our activities. To see the full scope of this sale, go to <http://AAUWYork.fundraising.com>.

Make your selections, then order through the website. Orders will be mailed directly to your address. If you have no computer access but might want to order, call me and I will arrange for you to place an order. Please share the web address above with your gardening friends, family, and neighbors.

**Orders must be received by May 15.**

*Nancy Buckley, Fundraising Committee Chair*

## FROM THE PODIUM

At last, we welcome the coming of spring this month, as we enter March. On occasion, Mother Nature has been teasing us, this February, with surprisingly delightful weather for this time of year. By May, we will again be enjoying meeting together outdoors.

On February 1, AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell issued this statement in response to the announced retirement of Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer: “Justice Breyer retires with a distinguished legacy defending the rights of women workers, championing reproductive rights, safeguarding free speech and upholding civil and human liberties. American women have had a staunch advocate on the bench, and Justice Breyer’s considered opinions and rulings have changed our country for the better.” As President Biden seeks a replacement for Justice Breyer, hopefully someone will come forward with the ability and integrity to continue to uphold these rights for the future of every woman and every girl.

Currently, the three priority issues of AAUW are: 1. **Removing Bias from Education.** Gender, economics, race, and ethnicity should not limit opportunities for educating women and girls; 2. **Fighting for Fair Pay and Economic Equity.** It’s time to close the pay gap and for the work world to embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion so we can all thrive; 3. **Advancing Women in Leadership.** Women make up more than ½ the work force and ½ of college graduates. We are still not represented at the upper levels. How about becoming a “two-minute activist” to promote these causes on National’s website?

From AAUW PA, Pennsylvania’s Equal Pay Day will be observed on March 15. The Commonwealth’s mail voting law has been ruled unconstitutional but remains in place as Gov. Wolf appeals the ruling. Also, Gov. Wolf has raised the minimum wage for Commonwealth employees.

Currently, our York Branch is forging ahead with Committees’ and Interest Groups’ actions. If you are feeling left out of all this activity, please feel free to get in touch with a committee chair or the interest group’s leader.

*Rita Meisenhelder & Nancy Buckley, Co-Presidents*

## BOARD MEETING

The March 1 Board meeting will be conducted virtually using Zoom. 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.

## GET OUT THE VOTE

As we go to press, plans are in flux for the May 17 primary election. Because the Legislature and the Governor could not agree on the new Congressional maps, the State Supreme Court will rule on the issue very soon. For more information on voter registration and the May primary, check the website at: [www.vote.pa.gov/](http://www.vote.pa.gov/)

## YORK BRANCH AWARDS

### GATEWAY TO EQUITY AWARD

The York Branch has selected **Crystal Perry**, Advocacy Coordinator for the Human Trafficking Task Force at the YWCA, for this award. As Chair of the Task Force, she seeks to provide comprehensive, high quality social services to all victims of human trafficking and protection of their rights. She spoke to the Branch regarding Human Trafficking and Violence against Women at our October 2021 meeting.

### MEMBER MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARD

**Nancy Spataro**, the Chair of the Higher Education Scholarship Committee, has been selected for her work on our Branch scholarships for high school students enrolled in the Dual Enrollment program for students taking college courses. She has worked tirelessly making contacts with the schools and coordinating all the logistics that are involved with this program.

### OUTSTANDING WOMAN AWARD

**Barbara Woodmansee** has recently served as President and has stepped up to cover program responsibilities this year when the Program Co-Vice Presidents were not available. She also is coordinating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for our Branch and serving on the ad hoc Diversity, Equity, & Inclusiveness Committee. She previously led our co-mentoring project with Penn State York.

### OUTSTANDING WOMAN AWARD

**Betty Hooker** has served as President and chairs many committees, including Archives and Get Out the Vote, publishes the *Yearbook*, and assisted with programming this year when our Program Vice Presidents were not available. She also headed the Comfort Products Drive for those in need. This year she is coordinating our Branch 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

### YORK BRANCH SPECIAL HONOREE

**Sue Zitnick** is receiving this award for her many years of service on the Branch Board as Bylaws Chair, keeping us up to date with the rules and helping us all to understand the importance of our branch, state, and national bylaws and policies. Sue also has served in many other capacities supporting our Branch, highlighted by her involvement in the Spring Market Faire and our annual book sale.

*Lois Conaway, Awards Chair*

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

Our committee is sponsoring the program for the April Branch meeting. We have invited a professor from Penn State York to speak to us on "The Historical Construction of Racism in America." Coinciding in April, the combined book groups will be reading the book *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. The discussion will be held on April 20 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please join us for these enlightening presentations.

The next DEI&B Committee meeting will be on Friday, March 11 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. All are welcome!

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

## OFFICER NOMINATIONS NEEDED

Why did you join AAUW?

- Because its mission of equity for girls and women is important?
- Because it is a purposeful, but fun group?
- Because of friendships with people who share the same goals as you do?
- To help other women and girls?

For nearly 50 years, the York Branch has been a vital organization in the community. Would you like to continue that tradition? Do you have ideas for revitalization? Now is your chance to be a part of its future!

- *Can you organize and run a meeting? We need a Co-President.*
- *Are you good at writing? We need a Secretary for a 1-year term.*
- *Can you balance a checkbook? We need a Co-Finance Officer.* (You do not have to be a CPA!)

Remember: **You have a partner to work with**, and a supportive Board to help you, should circumstances prevent you from performing duties. There are job descriptions and month-by-month guidelines available for you. We promise we will NOT overwhelm you! Please consider taking one of the positions we need to fill.

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

## **SAVE THE DATE! TUESDAY, MAY 10 AT 4:00 P.M. YORK BRANCH'S 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COME, CELEBRATE AND LEARN ABOUT OUR ILLUSTRIOUS HISTORY!**

Meet with old and new friends as you enjoy a gourmet boxed lunch by Ginger Babies Catering and celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of York Branch. The program will feature charter members and long-time members reminiscing about their earliest days in AAUW. Look for details and a meal order form in the April *Banter*. We have accomplished much to be proud of. Come and celebrate our fifty years!

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

## PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW joined the National Women's Law Center (NWLC) amicus brief to the Sixth Circuit in support of two groups of Ohio State University male athletes who were sexually abused by Dr. Richard Strauss in *MOXLEY v. OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY* and *SNYDER-HILL v. OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY*. A district court in Ohio recently dismissed the athletes' Title IX claims as untimely, ruling they should have brought this lawsuit within 2 years of when they were abused (1978-1998) or when they graduated from or dropped out of OSU. The court rejected the athletes' arguments that they did not understand that they had been sexually abused and that OSU had been deliberately indifferent to their abuse until 2018-2019, when allegations of OSU's cover-up surfaced in the press and independent investigators determined that Strauss's procedures were medically inappropriate and unnecessary. NWLC's brief explains that sexual assault is pervasive, especially on college campuses, and that failure to recognize sexual abuse is also a pervasive and insidious problem.

*Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair*

## SUNSHINE

Thank you received:

Dear Ms. Rupert,

Belated thanks to you and the Sunshine Group for the condolences to my family on Mom's loss. At times she seemed larger than life, and your organization was very important to her, (following in her mother's footsteps), -- as well as the wonderful friends she had through AAUW. Wishing you a wonderful year.

Sincerely,

Sally, Nat, Harry, and Stacy Craley

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.

## DAYTIME BOOK GROUP

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

March 16: *Hidden Valley Road* by Robert Kolker Led by Judy Morreels

## EVENING BOOK GROUP

3rd Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. Contact: Betty Hooker for information. We will meet at Betty's home in March.

Tuesday, March 15: *While Justice Sleeps* by Stacy Abrams

Tuesday, April 19: *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson

Tuesday, May 17: *The Venice Sketchbook* by Rhys Bowen

## BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet at the home of Jenny Sears at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 2. We break at noon for lunch. Please bring a sandwich. Call Jenny if you plan to attend. Provide a sub for her if you are unable to make it.

For information about becoming a member or sub, please contact Lois Kulp.

## GAME GATHERING

The next Gathering will be on Saturday, March 12, at noon, at the home of hostess Lois Kulp. Please contact Lois to let her know you can come and find out what to bring to the potluck lunch.

## LUNCH A MONTH – MARCH

The March Lunch will be held on Thursday, March 17, at 1:00 p.m. at The Blue Heron. Please RSVP to Barbara Bott **by March 15**.

## LUNCH A MONTH – APRIL

On April 14 at 1:00 p.m., we will be going to lunch at the Revival Social Club, 19 N. George Street, in York. Please make a reservation by contacting Sandra Cooley **by April 7**. Hope to see you there!

*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.