



Branch

Banter

APRIL 2022

THE HISTORICAL CONSTRUCTION OF RACE IN AMERICA

PROGRAM: This presentation will give a brief overview of the historical origins for the creation of “race” in the western world. Beginning with English colonization in North America during the 17th century, racial categories such as “Black,” “White,” and “Red” were fashioned by colonists in order to create verbal and visual shorthand for “free” versus “unfree” or “civilized” versus “uncivilized” peoples. Creating these simplified categories for human populations thus enabled Anglo-Americans to fashion a white supremacist vision for America in which hierarchies of humankind could then be reinforced through legal codes and cultural institutions.

Dr. Joy Giguere is an associate professor of history at Penn State York. She has a Bachelor’s in anthropology and music (Bowdoin College) and a Master’s in historical archaeology and a PhD in history (University of Maine). She teaches courses on US History, African American History, History of Technology, Medical History, the Civil War era, and the History of Death & Mourning. Her research expertise centers on American commemorative culture, including cemeteries, grave markers, public monuments and memorials, and other expressions of public memory. She has published a number of research articles, and has written one book and is currently working on another. She resides in Dallastown with her husband, two sons, and black cat named C.C.

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

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSIVENESS AD HOC COMMITTEE

During the month of April, our committee has several opportunities for the Branch members to join our discussion on diversity. At the Branch meeting on April 12, the program will be about the History of Racism as described above. On April 20, the combined book groups will be reading *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. All members are encouraged to read the book and join in the discussion on April 20 via Zoom.

At the end of the Banter, please find a questionnaire that we would like each member to complete about diversity. It is to help and inform our committee about how important this issue is to you, and in what particular areas. We look forward to hearing from each of you. Thank you for your cooperation.

Rita Meisenhelder & Barbara Woodmansee, DE&I Ad Hoc Co-Chairs

FROM THE PODIUM

As I write this month's *From the Podium*, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is undergoing questioning by the Senate Judiciary Committee. She is responding with competence and grace to queries both profound and ludicrous in this major step toward becoming America's first Black female Supreme Court justice – a major step for women and especially for women of color. We wish her well!

On the other side of the globe, the Taliban has announced that education for women must end with sixth grade. How far we still must go to achieve gender equality!

AAUW gives us a voice – locally, through AAUW Pennsylvania, and through National AAUW. The coming months bring opportunities for you to make choices that will affect our organization.

Election of officers for AAUW-PA is being held online. For introductions to the candidates and instructions for casting your ballot, click on this link: <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/about/nominations> The election closes on April 13, so be sure to vote before then.

The AAUW-PA Annual Meeting will be held on April 23, from 10 a.m. to noon, on Zoom. Bylaws changes will be presented for approval, along with 2022-2024 Public Priorities. This is your opportunity to consider our focus for the coming years. To register to attend, click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArc-qppjssHteGndxYq5iQr1qKjCW1-B5m>

The AAUW-PA Convention will take place June 3-5 at the Central Hotel and Conference Center in Harrisburg. This in-person meeting will give an opportunity to meet state officers and members of other branches, an opportunity we have not had in several years.

Plan to attend AAUW York Branch's 50th Anniversary Celebration on May 10. Detailed information, including a reservation form, can be found in this issue of the *Banter*. We would love to see all our members at this gala event!

Nancy Buckley & Rita Meisenhelder, Co-Presidents

BOARD MEETING

The April 5 Board meeting will be conducted virtually using Zoom (see link above). Nancy 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 FUND

In 2021, the York Branch and individual branch members donated a total of \$20,787 to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. This fund allows AAUW to rapidly respond through communication and advocacy to critical issues affecting women and girls. Donations to this fund also can be used to fuel groundbreaking research and advocacy work to pass fair pay laws and key equity legislation. These donations have entitled the Branch to select members as *Named Gift Honorees* for 2021. Betty Bortner (in memory), Sandra Cooley, Linda Palmer, Shirlee Smolin (in memory), Nancy Spataro, Phyllis Sword, and Barbara Woodmansee have been chosen by the Board as *Named Gift Honorees* for contributing their time and talents to benefit the York Branch and AAUW. Thanks to all the Branch members who donated to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund to help AAUW pivot as the national dialogue shifts.

Jane Long, AAUW Fund Chair

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS – VOTE

Rationale:

The Board suggests these changes for the following reasons:

- Because the co-finance officer's position is complex, this change allows an over-lap of officers. The first year will give the co-finance officer the opportunity to learn the complexities of the position. The second year, the experienced co-finance officer will mentor the incoming co-finance officer.
- People will be more willing to accept this position, if they receive a year of training before they are expected to take full responsibility for the branch's finances.

Procedure

Section 3. Procedures. Provisions of these bylaws not governed by the *AAUW Bylaws* may be amended by a three-fourths vote of those present and voting at the annual meeting or any regular meeting of the branch, provided notice of the proposed amendments shall have been given at the previous regular meeting or in writing to every member at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Proposed Changes:

Article VII Nominations and Electors

Section 4. Rotation of Officers

Even Numbered Years. One co-president, vice presidents for program, ~~finance~~ **co-finance officer**, ~~assistant finance officer~~ and assistant secretary shall be elected in even numbered years.

Odd Numbered Years. The president or one co-president, membership vice-president/co-vice presidents, ~~co-finance officer~~, and secretary shall be elected in odd numbered years.

Article. IX OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1. Officers and Directors.

Elected Officers and Directors

The elected officers and directors shall be a president or two co-presidents, or official representative(s), vice presidents for program and membership, secretary, assistant secretary, ~~and co-finance officers and assistant finance officer.~~ Co-officers may be nominated and elected to fill any of the primary positions, in which case the assistance office is not necessary.

Section 2. Duties

f. Co-Finance Officer(s)

4) Receive all monies due the branch and pay all bills provided for in the budget or verified by the president/co-presidents; keep a proper set of books; render a financial report at the annual meeting of the branch and at such other times as is requested by the board of directors; serve on the budget committee; present the books for an annual financial review.

~~g. Assistant Finance Officer. The assistant finance officer shall assist the finance officer or take her place if she is absent or incapacitated.~~

Sue Zitnick, Bylaws & Policy

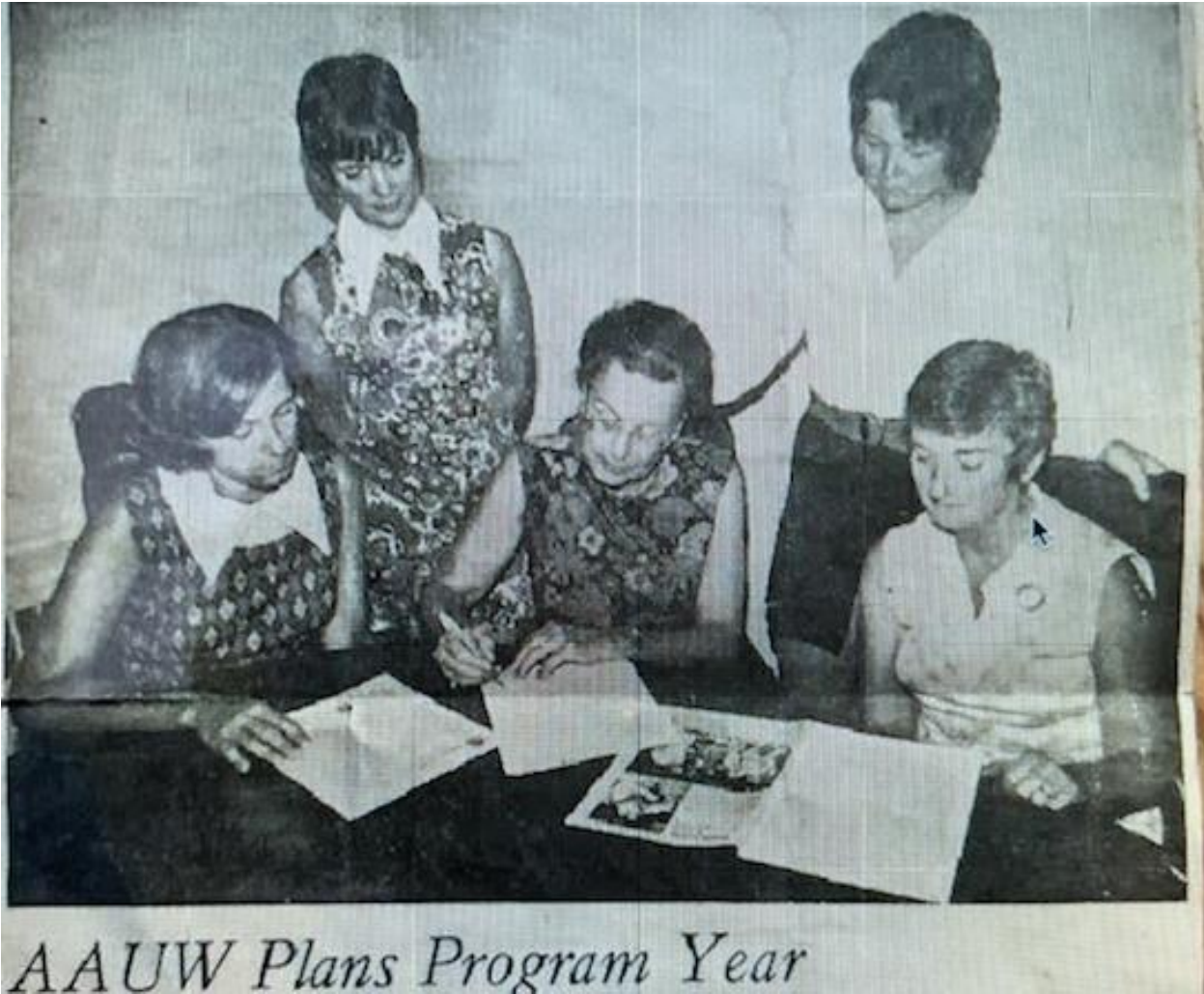
GET OUT THE VOTE

For information on voter registration and the May primary, check the website at:

www.vote.pa.gov/

Betty Hooker, Get Out the Vote Chair

AAUW YORK BRANCH HISTORY – APRIL 1, 1972



York Branch celebrates its fiftieth year on April 1. This undated photo shows the “Founding Mothers” of the Branch. The caption states they are, “from left, seated Mrs. Daniel C. Witmer, president, Mrs. Charles Briddell, secretary, and Mrs. Eugene P. O’Brien, treasurer, and standing Harriet Fitzkee, first vice president and Mrs. Dale D. Shaffer, second vice president.” They are planning programs for 1972-1973. The September speaker was Mary Purcell, second vice president of the Middle Atlantic Region of AAUW, later to become national president.

Fifty years are something to celebrate! We have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for scholarships, served the community through numerous community projects, lobbied the State Legislature and United States Congress for equal pay and equal rights, made life-long friendships, experienced new things and had a lot of fun!

Join us for the Fiftieth Anniversary celebration on Tuesday, May 10. Several of our “Founding Mothers” will share their memories of York Branch AAUW – the successes, the challenges and the adventures of the earliest years of the Branch.

Betty Hooker, Archives

YORK BRANCH FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

You are invited to join your fellow AAUW members in celebrating our Branch's 50th anniversary. The celebration will be held on May 10 at 4 p.m. Come and reflect on the Branch's history and its many accomplishments. You will meet charter members whose vision saw a need to establish an AAUW Branch in York.

Please complete the enclosed reservation at the end of the *Banter* with your check no later than May 2. We hope to see you there!

Barbara Woodmansee & Betty Hooker, 50th Anniversary Committee Co-Chairs

AAUW FLOWER POWER FUNDRAISER!

Warm weather is arriving – time to spruce up the garden! Click on <http://AAUWYork.fundraising.com> to select some flowers, vegetables, or herbs to fill those vacant spots. Consider that 50% of the price of the seeds you select will be rebated to the Branch. Orders must be placed by May 15.

Nancy Buckley, Fundraising Committee Chair

PUBLIC POLICY

President Biden nominated Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court. See AAUW's full statement on the nomination here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/statement-jackson-supreme-court-nomination/>

Did You Know – A History Moment. In 1919, AAUW urged the creation of the U.S. Department of Education. In 1920, members raised \$156,413 toward the purchase of one gram of radium for Professor Marie Curie's research.

Carol Heintzeman, Public Policy Chair

MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal forms will be in the May *Banter*. We are still waiting to receive clarification of procedures from the National office relating to the payment of dues. Thank you for your patience.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY 2022

Since COVID has affected our meeting practices for the past two years, the Board thought that this would be a good time to ascertain your opinions about meeting times and practices. Following the directions, please complete and return the survey form at the end of the *Banter* by April 28. Thank you.

Jean Quickel & Suzanne Robertson, Membership Vice Presidents

BANTER DEADLINE

April 24 is the deadline for articles for the May *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.

DAYTIME BOOK GROUP

3rd Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. via Zoom Contact Linda Palmer
April 20: *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson Led by Rita Meisenhelder

EVENING BOOK GROUP

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

On April 20, we will meet with the Daytime (Wednesday) Book Group to discuss *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. The discussion will be held at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Use the usual Zoom link.
Tuesday, May 17: *The Venice Sketchbook* by Rhys Bowen at Betty Hooker's home.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will meet Wednesday, April 6, at 10:00 a.m., at the home of Anne McFeely. Please let her know if you are attending. Bring a sandwich for the noon break. For information about becoming a sub for the group, please call Lois Kulp.

GAME GATHERING

The Game Group will be gathering at the home of Toni and Bill Schreiber on Saturday, April 30, at noon.

Please contact Toni to let her know you will be there and find out what to bring to the potluck. New people always welcome. Come for an afternoon of food and fun!

LUNCH A MONTH – APRIL

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

LUNCH A MONTH – MAY

The May Lunch will be held on Thursday, May 12, at 1:00 p.m. at Loxley's Restaurant in Lancaster. Please RSVP to Carol Heintzelman by May 9. Hope to see you at Loxley's!

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.