



# Branch

# Banter

MARCH 2023

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## TROVESTREET – REIMAGINING THE AGING EXPERIENCE

**WHEN:** Tuesday, March 14 7:00 p.m.  
6:30 p.m. Social time Business meeting follows program

**WHERE:** York Alliance Church, 501 Rathton Road, York

**PROGRAM:** Cathy Bollinger, Embracing Aging/Executive Director, TroveStreet, will present a fresh way to gain information about aging on the website [TroveStreet](#). Come and learn new ways to be informed, empowered, and even excited to open new doors as we grow older.

### **TroveStreet: Live Your Best Life**

The choices you make today impact your future. But beyond possibly saving for retirement, people don't plan for their changing needs and wants as they age. Without planning, decisions are made at times of heightened stress and crisis. Some people do nothing and settle for status quo. TroveStreet, a website and planning navigator service, is an initiative of York County Community Foundation (YCCF). It introduces concepts of aging-in-place and provides valuable information to help you make more informed decisions related to where and how you live.

At the heart of TroveStreet is Cathy Bollinger. As a managing director with YCCF, and with over 30 years' experience as a strategic thinker, facilitator and innovative problem-solver in both for-profit and nonprofit settings, Cathy works with community stakeholders to improve how people perceive and experience aging. Driven by her passion to eliminate ageism and provide everyone the resources they need to have the best life possible as they grow older, Cathy's vision for TroveStreet is a result of needs she saw in her home community of York County, PA. As a highly engaged native, Cathy has a deep knowledge of the resources available for older adults in our community.

*Lois Conaway & Carol Heintzelman, Program Co-Vice Presidents*

## **BANTER DEADLINE**

**March 24** is the deadline for articles for the April *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

I have been reading about women who have been successful in structuring their own lives as they saw fit.

The preoccupations of Hildegard, founder of an 11<sup>th</sup> century abbey on the Rhine, were centered on the interdependence of spirituality and nature. She gave this expression in her writing and in some of the very earliest of liturgical music in the Western Canon. In her, we see that powerful belief coupled with ability, drive and **autonomy** from family obligations is clearly most helpful.

Many of these personal attributes and the independence given by circumstance apply to Susanna Wright of Wrights Ferry as well. In early America she **lived alone** on the frontier, managed the ferry, traded with local tribes, imported books for study and silkworms for silk production, and entertained and corresponded with Founding Fathers, including Benjamin Franklin.

Then there is the new biography of Chaucer's Wife of Bath. First married at the age of twelve, she buried five husbands. Thus, in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, she had money in an age when **widows** inherited and when the population had been decimated by years of the plague. Her accumulated fortune she increased by her management of her business in the cloth trade. So, to the aforementioned, add cold cash.

Circumstance may provide opportunity but one needs also belief, drive, knowledge and ability. AAUW enthusiastically supports all these without a commensurate enthusiasm for plagues, war or multiple marriages. It would seem also that personal independence is not without its rewards.

*Carol Anderson, Co-President*

## BOARD MEETING

The March 7 Board meeting will be conducted by Carol at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom.

## SAD NEWS

We are sorry to announce the passing of long-time member, Karen Julian, on January 28, 2023. Karen was born in Evanston, IL, on December 30, 1933. She graduated from Monticello Junior College and the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

Karen joined AAUW in 1977 and served the branch in many ways during her forty-five-year membership. In the early years, she was the Public Information Chair, the Membership V.P. and the Yearbook Chair. She also started two interest groups, "Write Stuff," a group that concentrated on creative writing, and Investment Group II. Other early activities were the Philosophers and Lunch and Learn groups. Remarkably, Karen served on the mailing committee for over twenty-five years in the days before we sent the *Branch Banter* out by email.

Karen volunteered for the Spring Market Faire, Write-Read-Write and this year was a member of the Bridge Group and Book Group. She continued as the chair of Game Group until this fall. Karen Received the Outstanding Woman award in 2011.

We will miss Karen's smile and her ability to listen carefully and pose thought-provoking questions. We send our sincerest sympathy to Karen's husband, Dick, and the rest of her family.

*Betty Hooker, Archives*

## **AAUW FUND**

During 2022, the York Branch and Branch members donated a total of \$21,015 to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. These donations earned the York Branch one of the top places for total Branch giving in Pennsylvania. The Greatest Needs Fund allows AAUW to respond rapidly in communications and advocacy to issues affecting women. It also supports research and advocacy work to pass fair pay laws and other key equity legislation. These donations have entitled the Branch to choose members as Named Gift Honorees for 2022. The Board has chosen Donna C. Fulton, Launa Groft, Margaret Kremer, Susan McMillan, Rita Meisenhelder, Dr. Amber Majeske Stokholm, and in memory of Sue A. Zitnick. Thanks to all the York Branch members who donated to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund in 2022.

*Jane Long, AAUW Fund Chair*

## **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE**

At the February Branch meeting, upon the recommendations of the Board and the DEI Committee, our members voted unanimously to have our Branch apply for membership to the Confronting Racism Coalition (CRC). As you recall from Nicole Shaffer's January's presentation, the CRC's mission is to create sustainable change by breaking down systemic racial barriers and promoting healing, equity, and inclusion for all. Their mission fits perfectly with AAUW's vision of equity for all.

As our Branch looks forward to community partnerships in our work of diversity, equity, and inclusion collaborating with CRC is a perfect way of achieving that goal. CRC is still finalizing its application process, but enthusiastically supports our work and is looking forward to having AAUW as one of its partners. The DEI Committee will update you as we have more information about the application process.

Come join our group for interesting group discussions. Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, at 10.30 a.m. via Zoom.

*Rita Meisenhelder & Barbara Woodmansee, DE&I Co-Chairs*

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

AAUW-PA supports efforts to pass paid leave in Pennsylvania. It continues to work with the Family Care Coalition to achieve this goal. At this point, the Family Care Act has not been introduced in the State Senate and no memorandums have been issued by the previous Senate sponsors, Senator Dan Laughlin (R-49) and Senator Marie Collett (D-12). On the State House side, memorandums seeking cosponsors have been issued by Representative Dan L. Miller (D-42), the prime Democratic sponsor from last session, and Representative Kathleen C. Tomlinson (R-18), who is taking over as the Republican prime sponsor from the former sponsor, Representative Wendy Thomas, who did not run for reelection. Again, this will all have to wait until the House reconvenes.

*Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair*

## EDUCATION ISSUES ACTION GROUP

### Fair School Funding in Pennsylvania – An Urgent Problem

In 2014, Pennsylvania school districts, parents and advocacy groups filed a lawsuit against the state, arguing that the state's funding system is unconstitutional because it does not provide all students with a "comprehensive, effective, and contemporary education that prepares them for a career and civic life," as required by Pennsylvania's Constitution (Education Clause, article III, section 14).

On February 7, 2023, Renee Cohn Jubelirer, President Judge of the Commonwealth Court, agreed with the premise of the suit. She declared that the State of Pennsylvania has not fulfilled its obligation to all children. Schools in Pennsylvania are mostly funded by property taxes. Only about a third of funding comes from the state. Property taxes vary greatly depending on the value of property in each district; students living in school districts with low property values are deprived of the same opportunities and resources that students from districts with high property values enjoy.

- Pennsylvania sends most of its basic education dollars, which totaled about \$7.6 billion last year, to school districts using enrollment numbers from the early 1990's. About 80% of state funding is based on this 30-year-old formula which does not consider the current populations of school districts.
- A new funding formula was passed in 2016 that applies only to new funding; not preexisting funding. It considers poverty levels, English learners and the number of special needs students in districts; however, the 2016 law includes a "hold harmless clause" that guarantees that no district will lose funding, even if their school-age population has declined. About 20% of funding is distributed through the new formula.
- Additional funding has been sent by the Legislature to the state's one hundred poorest districts since 2021.

What comes next?

- The Pennsylvania General Assembly could appeal Judge Jubelirer's decision and have the case heard in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, OR
- The Democratic controlled House and the Republican Senate could work together to remedy the problem. According to experts, at least \$3 to 4 billion in new spending will be needed to satisfy the court's order. This will require new state taxes and/or closing tax loopholes.

This issue provides a serious dilemma for legislators. Stay tuned for future developments.

*Betty Hooker, EIA Group*

## **BOOK GROUP**

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

**March 15:** *Beautiful Country* by Qian Julie Wang

If you are interested in joining a discussion, you can request a list of discussion questions.

## **BRIDGE GROUP**

The Bridge Group will meet at the home of Gayle Brass on Wednesday, March 1, at 10:00 a.m. Please bring a sandwich for our lunch break.

Hosting Bridge for the next few months are: April, Connie Keeney; May, Phyllis Sword; and June, Nancy Rexrode.

For information please call Lois Kulp.

## **LUNCH A MONTH**

Please join us for lunch at Iron Horse York on Wednesday, March 22, at 1:00 p.m. If you are planning to attend, please contact Donna Fulton. 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.