



Branch Banter

JUNE 2023

FROM THE PODIUM

It is time to launch quickly into summer, especially because it never lasts long enough. Among other things, you are probably gathering your reading for the beach, the hammock or rocking chair. The DEI Committee has given us an extensive and varied list of book suggestions which I urge you to incorporate into your pile. These are not as fun as a rom-com but do have the information we need to live in community. If you feel many are too close to the bone, I suggest a good history or biography. These, too, will give you good background and, as they deal with what has passed, are far easier to tolerate.

We might try for the ration of either one serious to one fun book or, more likely to be successful, of one demanding tome to two relaxing reads.

Carol Anderson, Co-President

COMBINED BOARD MEETING – JUNE 6

In-coming and out-going Board members will meet on June 6 at 10 a.m. at Carol Anderson's home. Carol will email the agenda in advance and lead the meeting. Branch members are welcome to attend Board meetings.



Lunch A Month Picnic in the Country

Date: Thursday, August 24 (Rain or Shine)

Time: Noon (not the usual 1:00 p.m.)

Place: Betty and Tom Hooker's Farm

Details: Betty will provide sandwich fillings, breads, and paper products. Please bring something to share such as an appetizer, beverage, side dish, or dessert. Call or email for directions, and to let Betty know you are coming and what you will bring.

MEMBERSHIP – IMPORTANT NOTE

It is important to renew your membership before June 30 because State dues will be increased to \$12 as of July 1. Time is needed to record your membership on the National membership data base; therefore, please pay no later than June 23.

- The dues renewal form and information are at the end of this *Banter*.

Jean Quickel & Suzanne Robertson, Membership Co-Vice Presidents

AWARDS UPDATE

Here is the link for the AAUW-PA Yearbook. The original publication did not include our *Members Making a Difference*. Thanks to Pat Byerly, State Administrative Director, this omission has been corrected and all our awardees have been included.

<https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/files/2023/05/2023-Yearbook.pdf>

Lois Conaway, Awards Chair

BOOK SALE AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING!!

Our Branch's Book Group will be conducting a used book sale at the Branch meeting on September 12. Please begin gathering books you would like to contribute and you think other members would enjoy. Drop off will be that day, with further instructions in the September *Banter*.

Linda Palmer, Book Group

DISPOSABLE UNDERWEAR DRIVE AT THE SEPTEMBER BRANCH MEETING

The Branch will be collecting disposable underwear again this year at the September meeting. Although we focus on adult comfort products and wipes, donations of baby diapers are also welcome. Check newspapers and flyers for coupons throughout the summer. You may be lucky enough to get a bargain, and if you do, pass the news on to your AAUW friends.

Betty Hooker

PROGRAMS IDEAS

If you have any suggestions for programs for our meetings, please send them to us. Thank you.

Lois Conaway and Carol Heintzelman, Program Co-VPs

SAD NEWS – FORMER MEMBER

Long-time members may remember Judy Irwin. Judy passed away on March 27. Judy was active in the York Branch in the 1970's, 80's and early 1990's. She received the Outstanding Woman Award in 1990. Judy moved to the St. Michaels area in 1993 and invited the whole Branch to her home on several occasions. She and her husband later settled in Florida.

Betty Hooker, Archives

EDUCATION ISSUES ACTION GROUP

Education has always been a linchpin of AAUW's mission since its inception. Maintaining a high quality of public education is a key element in breaking the cycle of poverty, promoting upward movement, and keeping American-style democracy healthy by exposing students to those who are different from themselves.

With that in mind, our objective is to consider various issues confronting our system of public education, and choose one or two areas where we can be effective as a group, with specific actions and a timeline.

The primary school board elections are past, and the races probably will heat up again in September, but keep them in mind as you encounter any of the local candidates at various events. Be sure to ask them how they feel about book banning, etc., if you get the opportunity.

The same applies to our state legislators. If you have not done so, please write or email yours, urging them to find fair and equitable state funding for the public schools, reminding them that public schools are often, especially in smaller communities, the one place where one meets a cross section of the community. (If you need suggestions or 'talking points' on what to put in the letters, please contact either of us.)

Carol Little & Betty Hooker, EIA Group

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE – Fundraiser Facts

We will not be holding a Spring Market Faire fundraising event in 2024 because:

- We lack the "womanpower" to staff it
- Homeowners are reluctant to volunteer their houses post-COVID
- It is difficult to recruit chefs

The decision to search for a substitute for the Spring Market Faire was made after a great deal of careful thought and consideration.

The Fundraising Committee has decided, with the approval of the Board, to host a Spring Luncheon fundraiser to be held at the Country Club of York, Sunday, April 28, 2024. The event will feature entertainment, a basket raffle, an enticing catered meal, and a pleasant afternoon in a lovely venue. We anticipate reaching out to the community, resulting in approximately 100 guests. The event then has a dual purpose – to raise funds for our scholarship program and to increase community awareness of our Branch and our purpose.

Analyzing all the costs, we can make a profit charging \$50 - \$60 per ticket. We also will encourage contributions in the form of sponsorships and/or the purchase of advertising in a booklet that will be distributed at the event.

The Spring Luncheon format will be less labor intensive, enabling our Branch members to relax and enjoy the day. The Fundraising Committee will be coming together again in the fall to flesh out our plans. We welcome all our members to help us by sharing your thoughts and experiences. If you have attended a meeting or event at which there was a performer, speaker, musician, etc., that you feel we might consider, send me an email or give me a call. If you know of a local merchant or businessperson who might serve as a sponsor, let me know. If you want to be a part of the planning, I can add you to our email list. Together, we can make this a productive, enjoyable means of financing our Branch and its scholarship programs.

Nancy Buckley, Fundraising Committee Chair

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

"Progress comes when Americans recognize that all, not just some, possess common rights and are due common respect. Such is a pragmatic vision with a moral component: If the rights of others are sacrosanct, then so are yours. In a democracy, the pursuit of power for power's sake, devoid of devotion to equal justice and fair play, is tempting, but destructive."

As stated by the historian and author, Jon Meachum, in his latest book, And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle.

Our Committee is focused on enlightening our membership regarding the history and current trends of diversity, equity, and inclusion for all. This year we have sponsored two programs at Branch meetings, suggested a historical novel for the Book Group, written monthly articles for the *Banter*, and continued our participation with the York County Confronting Racism Coalition. As we approach the summer months, we invite you to continue your understanding by reading from our Summer Reading List. The list includes books that members have read and/or would like to read. Choose something to read from our book list and enjoy your summer!

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

DE&I SUMMER 2023 READING LIST

- *White Rage* by Carol Anderson
- *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson
- *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks
- *The Nickel Boys* (Pulitzer Prize Winner) by Colson Whitehead
- *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
- *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson
- *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life & Freedom on Death Row*
by Anthony Ray Hinton
- *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds
- *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving
- *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin
- *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* by Dr. Martin Luther King
- *The Seed Keeper: A Novel* by Diane Wilson (Indigenous People)
- *Sabrina & Corina: Stories* by Kali Fajardo-Anstine (Indigenous People)
- *Finding Me* by Viola Davis (autobiographical)
- *Driving While Black* by Gretchen Sorin
- *Born A Crime: Stories From South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah

BANTER DEADLINE

August 25 is the deadline for articles for the September *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.

PUBLIC POLICY

The **Two Minute Activist** is an online tool. It takes just minutes and an Internet connection to make your voice heard on issues impacting women and girls. AAUW provides everything you need to contact your members of Congress and your state legislators. In order to get started, you need to enter the following URL in your browser: aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist or click the link [here](#). This will take you to *The Two-Minute Activist* page. You can sign up immediately to receive monthly alerts. You also can get all the information that you need to know and use by clicking on *Explore the Issues*, *Get Empowered*, or *Take Action*. Two subcategories under *Take Action* are 'Nationally' and 'In Your State.' Take time to review and join other AAUW members as a *Two-Minute Activist* and make your voice heard.

Carol Heintzelman, Public Policy Chair

BOOK GROUP

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

We will not be meeting in June or July. On August 16, we will meet via Zoom to choose books for the upcoming months. I will email current members a few days in advance as a reminder. All Branch members are welcome to join us and can contact me if interested.

Linda Palmer

GAME GROUP

We will meet at Anne McFeely's at noon on Saturday, July 15. Please RSVP to Anne. I will have hot dogs and hamburgers. Let me know what you will be bringing to share. BYOB. I will have water and iced tea. See you then!

Anne McFeely

LUNCH A MONTH

Wednesday, June 14, at 1:00 p.m. will be the last Lunch A Month until September. It will be held at Boardwalks at 3608 E. Market St. I understand they have very good crab cakes among other things! Please contact Sandy Cooley to make a reservation by June 9.

Sandy Cooley

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.