



# Branch

# Banter

MAY 2024

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## MAY ANNUAL BRANCH MEETING

**WHEN:** Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m.

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

**6:30 p.m.** Social time with light refreshments. Snacks, desserts, and beverages will be provided by members who graciously volunteered.

**7 p.m.** Program and Business meeting

**PROGRAM:** Annual meeting

### Installation of new Officers and Awards Presentations

At least one of our Dual Enrollment students will attend. Branch Awards recipients will receive their certificates. Hope to see you for the final meeting of our program year.

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

## FROM THE PODIUM

Here comes the season of light reading. However, to be perfectly candid, there are some among us who must admit that light reading has been what we have been doing for some good while.

Therefore, to all those of us indicated above, I suggest that as a mid-year resolution, we at least opt for a ratio of two easy reads to one that may be a bit more meaningful. When I gird myself to read what is good for me, I find that it is also very engaging and sometimes even riveting.

So, let us resolve to search out demanding fiction, good history, insightful biography, exploration of economics, climate, and migration (often all three are now related). And, if you really want to understand AI, the *New York Times Book Review* of February 18 listed six of the best books on the subject.

*Carol Anderson, President*

## BOARD MEETING

The May 7 Board meeting will be conducted virtually using Zoom. Carol will email the agenda prior to the meeting, which will begin at 7:00 p.m. Branch members are welcome to attend.

## BRANCH AWARDS



### **OUTSTANDING WOMAN AWARD – Nancy Buckley**

Nancy has served our York Branch in several capacities over the years. She served as Co-President from 2021-2023. She stepped up to become the chair of our Branch's Fundraising Committee when the Branch needed to raise funds for scholarships for young women. Nancy led the Branch through several successful and unique fundraisers including opening her home to be part of our very lucrative Spring Market Faire fundraiser. Nancy is now leading our Branch as we planned for our new and exciting "Spring For Scholarships" fundraiser. Her leadership, her ability to think creatively, and her enthusiasm have helped our Branch remain strong.



### **MEMBER MAKING A DIFFERENCE - Bonnie Bluett**

As Co-Finance Officer, Bonnie has added clarity to the financial reports. She also researched and implemented ways for our Branch to remain financially secure. As a member of the Board, Bonnie takes her responsibilities seriously. She offers her perspective on every aspect of the Branch's activities such as scholarships, college partnerships, membership, and fundraising. Her enthusiasm has helped to generate excitement about the Branch's projects. Through her involvement on the Fundraising Committee, Bonnie engaged our members to volunteer for our upcoming "Spring For Scholarships" fundraiser. Bonnie's dependability and commitment to the mission of AAUW has helped to make our Branch a vibrant organization.



### **YORK BRANCH SPECIAL HONOREE – Betty Hooker**

Betty is being recognized for her dedication to our branch for many years. She has held many Offices and preserves Archives, chairs collection of Comfort Products and Get Out the Vote, publishes the Yearbook and this year took on the task of updating the By-Laws. She is willing to take on a project wherever needed.

*Lois Conaway, Awards Chair*

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

**Renew your York Branch membership by June 15, if you have not already done so.** That is closer than it might seem to be. So please either renew online with your credit card (it is not that hard) or mail the completed form and your check to Martha Fleischer or bring your check along to the May 14 Branch meeting to pay in person.

Also, if you have not already done so, please complete your online votes for both the AAUW PA bylaws vote (ends May 4) and the national AAUW proposed amendment vote (ends May 5). Emails about both were sent April 3 and are very simple to follow. *The national AAUW election is especially important as it is about the proposed change in who is eligible for membership.*

Our May 14 Branch meeting and program is a good time to invite that friend, neighbor or acquaintance to attend and see if they are interested in joining.

*Joan Beekey & Martha Fleischer, Co-Membership VPs*

## SAD NEWS

Audrey Futer Eigenrauch, a member of the York Branch from 1988 until 2016, passed away on April 1, 2024, after a prolonged illness. We remember Audrey for her enthusiasm and cheerful disposition. She was always smiling or enjoying a good story. Audrey was particularly helpful with the Spring Market Faire scholarship fundraisers, selling tickets at Futer Bros. and generously donating items for our raffles. Audrey enriched our lives in many ways, and we will miss her.

*Betty Hooker, Archives*

## COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

On April 4, Carol Anderson, Betty Hooker, Suzanne Robertson, Sue McMillan, Rita Meisenhelder, and Barbara Woodmansee met with seven York College students at the Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) Club meeting. It was an informal meeting to share information about our life experiences. As we painted rocks, we learned why they chose York College and what they saw as their future goals. They all agreed that the small York College campus was an asset in their educational experience because of the individual attention they received from the faculty. They each chose a major that they liked, whether it was mechanical, electrical, or civil engineering. They discussed some of the challenges they faced being in the minority as a woman in the engineering field. Despite the overt and covert challenges they faced, they were moving forward and were determined to be successful.

Using AI, the students introduced some 'Conversation Starters' which led to a discussion about some of our greatest accomplishments, what our decision-making process was, and what our background was. When asked about AI, they did not see it as a problem as long as it was used appropriately.

We all left the meeting inspired to see young women so supportive of each other and goal oriented. It was an enjoyable experience and a way for our Branch to be engaged in the community. The WiSE Club plans to invite us for another get-together next year.

*Barbara Woodmansee, Community Collaborations Coordinator*

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

The DEI Committee explores all aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We acknowledge that DEI is more than race and gender. It can also be about faith.

No one may be actively trying to “discriminate” or exclude religious minorities. Exclusion comes from not knowing and the sense of not having to know about our neighbors’ faith.

Often, DEI professionals have neither the knowledge nor comfort level necessary to include religion in how their workplaces handle diversity, even though religion is an essential part of personal and community identity. Their silence and lack of knowledge are speaking volumes to the religious minorities around them.

As individuals, in our attempts to be inclusive, we should not group all believers of the same religion as being the same, specifically if we group them all to be part of an extremist organization. Treating others differently because of their chosen religion is a form of religious discrimination.

As with all types of diversity, religious diversity brings different perspectives that strengthen a team. Supporting religious diversity helps to recruit and retain diverse members and creates a supportive culture. In society, learning about other religions can help us “take responsibility for living a life that benefits the world.”

Information taken from: RNS Religion News Service, *Living Religion* by Khyati Y. Joshi, and AAUW’s *DEI Tool Kit: Religious Beliefs*

Book Recommendation: *Master Slave Husband Wife* by Ilyon Woo. This is the true story about Ellen and William Craft who escaped slavery with Ellen disguised as a white man.

*Barbara Woodmansee & Rita Meisenhelder, DEI Co-Chairs*

## EDUCATION ISSUES ACTION GROUP

I wrote a Letter to the Editor about school vouchers, focusing on the discrimination inherent in private schools. Sent on behalf of the Branch with Board approval, it was published in the *York Sunday News* on April 14.

*Carol Little, Education Issues Action*

## BANTER DEADLINE

**May 26 is the deadline for articles for the June *Banter*, the last issue until September.** To list any Branch summer activities, please send them to the *Banter* editor.

## 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 following items reflect activities of AAUW at the national level:

1. **Moyle v. United States:** A case brought by anti-abortion legislators seeking to overturn a federal court decision barring Idaho from enforcing its Defense of Life Act (which criminalizes the act of performing an abortion) in situations where the ban would violate the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA). EMTALA requires hospitals receiving Medicare funding to offer “necessary stabilizing treatment” to pregnant people in emergencies, which the federal court found to include abortion in emergency cases. Oral argument was set for April 24, 2024.
2. April 3 marked Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Women’s Equal Pay Day. AANHPI women, including part-time and seasonal workers, are paid on average only 80 cents for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men – and when you look past the average, many AANHPI women face much wider pay gaps.
3. AAUW joined coalition partners in opposing the Protection of Women in Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (H.R.7187). The bill does not address equity issues that women and girls face in sports. Instead, it would harmfully target and exclude transgender women and girls from participating in any recreational or Olympic sports governed by the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committees, including youth and grassroots programs.

*Carol Heintzleman, Public Policy Chair*

## **BOOK GROUP**

The Book Group will meet on Wednesday, May 15, at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline.

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

## **BRIDGE GROUP**

The Bridge Group will meet Wednesday, May 1, at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Jenny Sears. Please bring a sandwich for the lunch break.

If you are interested in becoming a sub for the group, please contact Lois Kulp. We are a friendly group of Bridge players, always open to accepting new members.

### *Mission*

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

### *Vision*

Equity for all.

### *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.