
2018 Year in Review



As we look back at the 2017-2018 year, we realized it was a year of many questions, interesting decisions, and some surprising outcomes. September started off with a joint brunch with the Allentown and Bethlehem branches of AAUW. Data had been collected on the possibility of merging the three branches and a lively discussion took place at our joint meeting. We agreed on some things and were far apart on other issues.

November saw another joint meeting on the topic Fake news: The Media in a Post Truth World. While the program was informative and drew people from the community, it was expensive and not the way our branch wanted to invest its resources, money, and time on a yearly basis. Our annual Christmas party was held at the home of Lois and Ken Wildrick. All who attended had a lovely time. January brought cold weather and acknowledgment that at this time, the Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton branches of AAUW were not going to merge into one group. Still friends and working together to support women but keeping our separate identities. As we headed into spring and our 4 years as co-presidents was coming to a close, the hunt was on to find members willing to serve as president or co-presidents. March also brought fun and much laughter as members tramped to Aaliyah O. Kee's art studio in downtown Easton for a paint party. Our 5th annual Authors' luncheon was held on April 21st. A good time was had by everyone who attended but the reality is that we are not raising as much money as we did with our yearly book sale. Our branch has a long history of giving scholarships, so this is an issue of concern and will need to be discussed in the coming year. Our annual May Dessert and Scholarship meeting was held on May 15. We also celebrated the installation of our new co-presidents Karol D'Huyvetters and Nancy Kinzli.

We thank all our elected and appointed members and event coordinators for their support and hard work during our four years as co-presidents.

Fran & Nancy

From the Presidents' Pens:



We have enjoyed our four years as co-presidents and are proud of the positions AAAUW has taken on the fundamental issues of today....educational, social, economic and political. For over 130 years, AAUW has worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families. Our nonpartisan, nonprofit organization has more than 170,000 members and supporters, 1,000 local branches and 800 college & university partners.

Nancy Kinzli and Karol D'Huyvetters were installed as our new co-presidents at our Annual Scholarship and Award Dessert on May 15, 2018. We wish them luck and your support as they start the next chapter in the history of AAUW Easton Branch.

Fran & Nancy

AAUW Easton Branch Annual Scholarship and Award Dessert Minutes

May 15, 2018 at the First Presbyterian Church

Fran Kennedy, Co-President, called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. There were 17 members, 5 guests and two scholarship recipients present.

Nancy Berry presented our Scholarship award to Madeline Squarcia (Easton High School). Kathryn Felix (Notre Dame) was also awarded a scholarship; however, she was unable to attend. Claire Degnan presented the Memorial Fund Scholarship award to Mia Gaeta (East Stroudsburg University).

Fran Kennedy presented the Outstanding Woman Award to Nancy Berry. She announced the Named Gift Honoree is Aaliyah Kee.

Our branch received a certificate titled: PA Public Policy Award-Notable Advocacy Efforts. Fran presented this to Toni Hoffman, Branch Public Policy Chair.

Nancy Butow presented the Special Honoree award to Marlou Belyea. Fran and Nancy presented the Presidents' award to Toni Hoffman.

Fran and Nancy installed Co-Presidents Nancy Kinzli and Karol D'Huyvetters.

Fran and Nancy thanked all board members and special event chairs.

Toni presented Fran and Nancy with thank you gifts from the branch.

Fran announced that the VP Membership position still needs to be filled.

Karol conducted a raffle of unclaimed baskets from the Authors' Luncheon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Rosemary Baker

AAUW Scholarships Give Local Women Opportunities

Mia Gaeta is returning to East Stroudsburg to finish her degree in International Relations. At the AAUW Easton Branch Annual Scholarship and Award Dessert, she told AAUW members being the recipient of the Memorial Fund Scholarship for interrupted studies made it possible for her to return to college. She is excited to finish her degree and plans to continue for a Masters' Degree. The scholarship award will open doors for her further education.

Mia was one of three recipients of AAUW Easton Branch scholarship awards. Each year AAUW Easton Branch awards financial scholarships to local women to promote their educational endeavors in universities or colleges. The scholarships are based on academic excellence and financial need.

The scholarships were awarded at the branch's May meeting. The other two recipients for the 2018 Annual Scholarship given by the Easton Branch were: Madeline Squarcia from Easton High School and Kathryn Felix from Notre Dame High School.

Madeline Squarcia will be attending Lafayette College. Her favorite subjects are math and science. Her mother, Jackie Squarcia, and her great aunt, Peggy Castronova, have been role models and encouraged her to follow her dreams. Madeline is often described by her teachers as the "hardest worker". While at Lafayette, she will be taking a double major in Civil and Environmental Engineering and Psychology.

Kathryn Felix will be attending Drexel College majoring in Civil Engineering. She was in the top ten percent of her class. Her interests include singing in the choir and guitar. She was unable to attend the award ceremony.

The Easton Branch of AAUW is very proud to support the award recipients in their endeavors for higher education. This year, there were many applications for the scholarships. The scholarships are one of our local endeavors to support equity for women through education. We wish all recipients the very best for their years in college and are excited to see them grow into their careers.

Nancy Berry
Scholarship co-chair



Ann-Marie Panella, friend, Ted Aquilar, boyfriend, Mia Gaeta, Scholarship Recipient, Millie Molina, friend



Peggy Castronova, great aunt, , Madeline Squarcia Scholarship Recipient Jackie Squarcia, mother



Kathryn Felix

AAUW EASTON BRANCH RECOGNIZES LOCAL MEMBERS

On May 15, 2018, AAUW Easton Branch held its Annual Scholarship and Award Dessert. At this event, the Branch presented the scholarship recipients and recognized accomplishments of the members. Four members were recognized: Aaliyah Kee, Marlou Belyea, Nancy Berry, and Toni Hoffman.

Named Gift Honoree Award was presented to Aaliyah Kee. Aaliyah is a local artist and a member of AAUW. She served as Vice President of Membership and hosted a paint party for the Branch. Named Gift Honoree recognizes a local member with a donation to AAUW Funds.

A special Honoree Award was presented to Marlou Belyea. Marlou is a nonagenarian who continues to be very active in AAUW. She participates in many committees. Also, she is very active in League of Women Voters and has served in public office.

Outstanding Woman of the Year Award recognizes a member for their accomplishments and contributions to society, to the community, to AAUW and to the Easton Branch. Nancy Berry was nominated as Easton's Branch Outstanding Woman of the Year. Nancy was Vice President of Membership for four years. Currently she is Co-Chairman for the Scholarship Committee and Let's Read Math Program. She is very active in the community and involved with her husband in Story Slam. She was recognized at AAUW State Convention in April.

Toni Hoffman received the Presidents' Award. This award is given to a member who supports the President of the local branch and AAUW endeavors. Toni maintains and updates our website and face book page. She is very involved with Public Policy at both the local and state level. Due to her notable advocacy efforts the Easton Branch was awarded AAUW Pennsylvania Public Policy Award at the State Convention. Also, she is the college/university facilitator and formats the newsletter. She is always available to assist with any of our branches projects.

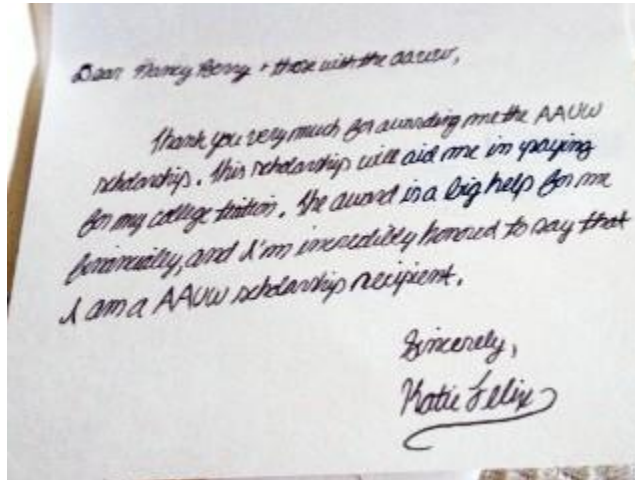
The Annual Scholarship and Award Desert is not only an excellent opportunity for our branch to meet and recognize the scholarship recipients but to also, recognize the accomplishments of our members. We are very proud of Aaliyah, Marlou, Nancy and Toni. They are outstanding role models for our members and scholarship recipients. Congratulations to our award winners!

Karol D'Huyvetters
Publicity Chair



Nancy Berry, Toni Hoffman & Marlou Belyea

Thank you note from Kathryn Felix



Co-Chair needed for Authors' Luncheon Committee

Enjoy shopping? Finding new restaurants? Meeting local business owners? The Authors' Luncheon Committee needs your help. Due to personal reasons, Peg Opthof, has resigned as co-chair of the Authors' Luncheon. Karol D'Huyvetters is willing to continue as co-chair and publicity responsibilities but needs help with all the different aspects of coordinating the Authors' Luncheon.

The Co-Chair responsibilities include:

- scheduling and chairing monthly committee meetings
- developing and sending out agendas (There are templates.)
- basket raffle and silent auction - recruiting donations from local business, artisans, wineries, etc. for the raffle and auction, making themed baskets, overseeing the raffle and auction

The Authors' Luncheon is our main fundraiser for our annual scholarships. Please consider volunteering as co-chair of this committee. If you are interested or have any additional questions, please contact Karol D'Huyvetters at 610-751-5047.

AAUW Easton Branch Hosts Fifth Annual Authors' Luncheon

Three local best seller authors were featured at the AAUW (American Association of University Women) Easton Branch's fifth annual Authors' Luncheon" April 21, 2018 at the Pomfret Club in Easton. Eugenie D. West, Jocelynn Cordes and Jeffrey E. Finegan Sr. spoke about their personal and professional experiences.

Eugénie D West is the author of the globally acclaimed mystery series, 'Reporting is Murder!' Under the name Deborah L Courville, she writes historical fiction based on 18th century house museums in Northeastern PA, where she now makes her home. A native of Boston, MA, West holds a doctorate in Mediaeval Linguistics. West draws inspiration for her books and characters from places she has visited or lived, and from people she has encountered. She has been a reporter for a weekly newspaper for more than 20 years and often uses actual cases she has covered as 'fodder' for her mysteries.

Jocelynn Cordes, who writes under the name Plum McCauley, prepared for her future career as a novelist by immersing herself in books at a very young age. In college, Jocelynn majored in literature, adding lots of history and theatre to the mix. She went on to acquire an M.A. in literature focusing on the Romantic poets, and then shifted gears for her doctoral work by studying the Modernist poets and Philosophy. Eventually, many years later, she realized that her true calling was writing fiction. Jocelynn is currently drafting her third novel.

Jeffrey E. Finegan Sr. is a 1982 graduate of Seton Hall University with a Bachelor's degree in broadcast communication. He claims he never read a book until he graduated from high school. His interest in history spans from the Norman Conquest of England to World War Two with a concentration in George Washington, the American Civil War and historic architecture. A collector of George Washington manuscripts as well as other important early American documents, he has gained a reputation as a noted speaker on the topic of the nation's first president through his three books on the topic.

The Authors' Luncheon raises scholarship funds to help support local women as they pursue their educational goals. In addition to the authors' presentation, there was a basket raffle and silent auction. Many local businesses and members donated merchandise or gift cards to make this a success! The funds raised will provide scholarships to deserving local high school seniors and/or women returning to school after an interruption in their education. With this fundraiser, we are able to continue this goal year after year. Also, the luncheon provides an excellent opportunity for fellowship and learning from local writers about their experiences.

Karol D'Huyvetters
Authors' Luncheon Co-chair



Public Policy Year in Review

The Public Policy year almost always begins with Get Out the Vote activities.

- This past year we registered voters at the Easton Area Neighborhood Center in the fall and at Northampton Community College before the May primary.
- Our inter-branch diversity group, Diversity: Deeds and Dialogue, partnered with the Bethlehem Library for a community One Read using the book **Tears We Cannot Stop** by Michael Eric Dyson. The discussion was both valuable and insightful and was well attended by the community. As a result of the community One Read, Toni Hoffman, Susan McNamara, and Randi Blauth were asked to lead a workshop at the AAUW-PA state convention.
- The three AAUW branches hosted a program on Fake News: The Media in a Post-Truth World that was attended by more than 130 members and the public. Bill White was one of the panelists.
- Toni Hoffman of Easton and Susan McNamara of the Bethlehem Branch were the speakers at the League of Women Voters Lehigh County “Hot Topics” luncheon in December, they spoke on Pay Inequity.
- Easton Branch members participated in an Equal Pay Rally and Lobby Day event in Harrisburg on April 10th and again in May at another Harrisburg rally put together by MomsRising partnering with AAUW-PA and the Pennsylvania Campaign for Women’s Health.
- Over the course of the year, branch members had several letters to the editor published in the Express Times.
- AAUW Easton Branch received a public policy award from AAUW-PA titled PA Public Policy Award-Notable Advocacy Efforts.
- And finally, members attended a press conference in Harrisburg where Governor Wolf announced he was signing an Executive Order for ending the practice of state agencies requiring a job applicant to provide their salary history during the hiring process and called on the General Assembly to pass similar protections for all working women in Pennsylvania.

[Executive Order 2018-18-03, Equal Pay for Employees of the Commonwealth](#), directs state agencies under the governor’s jurisdiction to:

- No longer ask job applicants their salary history during the hiring process;
- Base salaries on job responsibilities, position pay range, and the applicant’s job knowledge and skills;
- Clearly explain the pay range on job postings.

This year the AAUW-PA Public Policy Co-Chairs formed an Education Committee made up of AAUW members across the state specifically interested in education issues at the state and local level. If you are interested in being the Education Committee representative from the Easton Branch, please contact Toni.

**Toni Hoffman
Public Policy Chair**

Thank you from the co-presidents for the lovely fair trade necklace and scarf that we each received at the May Dessert. We appreciate the thought and time that went into picking the items and will wear them with delight in the coming years.

Fran & Nancy

Condolences

Jean Riker died Tuesday, July 3 at home. Jean was a past president, special honoree, and outstanding woman of the AAUW Easton branch. She was also a past president of the Scranton and Greensburg branches before moving to Easton. I know she was very active with Turning Point, the Sigle museum, sewing to repair historical costumes, and her church at Presbyterian on College Hill. I learned that she was involved in many other activities also. I will miss her leadership at the International Relations interest group meetings and her help with the Let's Read Math program. I remember Jean as the member of the branch who welcomed me and even convinced me to agree to be secretary when I first joined.

We wish our deepest condolences to her husband Pete, her daughters Ann, Susan, and Mary and their husbands as well as her eleven grandchildren.

Erik Benson. We also wish our deepest condolences to Sharon Trimble and Craig Benson on the loss of their son Erik, on May 20 after a two year battle with leukemia.



Reviving a traditional Luncheon of incoming presidents and past presidents

Please Note: This is the summer newsletter. September's will follow soon.

American Association of University Women

AAUW National	800.326.2289	www.aauw.org
Easton Branch		easton-pa.aauw.net
Co-Presidents	Karol D'Huyvetters, Nancy Kinzli	easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/
Membership	Toni Hoffman, Rosemary Baker	easton-pa.aauw.net/membership/
Easton Edition	Fran Kennedy	easton-pa.aauw.net/newsletter/

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to members to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national orientation, disability, or class.

The AAUW funds include the Educational Opportunities Funds (formerly a part of the AAUW Educational Foundation) which help us to advance equity for women and girls through programs such as American and International fellowships and Community Action grants.

AAUW Funds also include the Legal Advocacy Fund which provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sexual discrimination, the Leadership Programs Fund (formerly the AAUW Leadership and Training Institute), the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, and the Public Policy Fund.