

CALENDAR

Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, May 15

Branch Meeting

No branch meeting in May

Board Meeting

Monday, May 4 at 1:30 pm
Virtual Meeting

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2020

Here's to strong women, may we know
them, may we be them, may we raise them



The Dessert and Scholarship Awards event scheduled for May 19th, 2020 has been **postponed**. It is our hope that we will be able to have the event on July 28th. This is a tentative date. When we know more we will get back to you.

From the Presidents' Pens

Connections

As we experience this unforgettable time, we find ourselves in our own private spaces. When we do occasionally venture out to a grocery store or to go for walk, we enter a surreal world where each person is seen as a threat. Keep your distance, wear a mask, wash your hands - all reminders of a new normal. It is not just in our homes and neighborhoods; it is in every home and every neighborhood around the world. This spectacularly contagious virus is a poignant reminder that we are all connected.

Through it all, we become more aware of what matters to us most whether friends, family, or relationships. It is important to care, and to be cared for.

Our hearts go out to those answering the pull to do what is good and accept discomfort to protect someone else. That includes all of you in your efforts to take social distancing seriously.

A **special thanks** to front line workers who have committed themselves to difficult work that daily puts them at risk of infection knowing hundreds have died. Thanks to all medical personnel, grocery store workers, delivery personnel, those in food plants, packaging plants, mail service, garbage collection, transportation and volunteers. There have been over 30,000 Go Fund Me Fundraisers to distribute meals and people are giving to local food banks. Firefighters and others are lining up daily to cheer on medical staff.

There are communal outbursts of neighbors clapping together, singing together, banging pots, and blowing conch shells around the world in places like New York, Italy, India, and Spain all coming together worldwide. We are strengthened by caring for and supporting others.

And then there are the unexpected bright spots. After 21 days in lockdown, residents in Punjab had a magnificent view of the Himalayan mountain range that hadn't been seen in 30 years. Swans have returned to Venice and orcas are moving further into Vancouver's inlets. This cleaner air has led to a resurgence of animal populations.

It may be optimistic but what if all the inadequacies and inequalities in our system that are coming to the forefront during this time might be a catalyst to rethink the system and change how we think and act for the better.

So continue to watch movies, read books, catch up on projects, spend extra time with those you live with, enjoy social networking, exercise, go for walks and zoom with others. Hopefully before too long we will meet again.

All the best and stay safe.
Nancy Kinzli and Karol D'Huyvetters
Co-Presidents

*We are waves of the same sea, leaves of the same tree, flowers of the same garden.
Seneca (on packages from China containing protective masks)*

It's That Time of Year!!!

AAUW Dues June 2020 - June 2021

Annual dues: National	\$59.00 (\$56. is tax deductible)
PA State	\$10.00
Easton Branch	\$15.00
TOTAL	\$ 84.00

You may **pay on-line by clicking on the link in the email you will be receiving by May 1.**

If you prefer to **pay by check** please make payable to AAUW Easton Branch and mail to AAUW Easton Branch P.O. Box 1464 Easton, PA 18044-1464

Online you will have the option of making an **additional contribution** to:

- Area where most needed
- Economic Security for Women
- Leadership Initiatives for Women
- Education and Training for Women
- Governance and Sustainability

If you pay by check and would like to contribute to any of these areas, please specify which area and add that amount to your check.

If you would like to donate to our Easton Branch Scholarship Fund, please specify that and add that amount to your check.

If you prefer to donate to our branch (scholarship fund or operating) online, use the "Donate" button on our website.

If there are any **changes or corrections** in your name or address please let us know below or email your changes to Nancy Kinzli.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

Email: _____

Life members and college university representatives pay state and branch dues	\$25.
Life Membership	\$1180.00
Undergraduate affiliates from a C/U partner	No dues
Undergraduate affiliates from a non C/U partner	\$18.81
Honorary Life Members	No dues

Public Policy News

I urge everyone to apply for a mail in ballot. I don't know if I'll be ready to stand in line to vote in June and I certainly don't know where the country will be in terms of Covid-19 in November. Will there be a resurgence? Maybe.

It's easy to apply for the mail in ballot online at [Votespa.com](https://www.votespa.com)

I think everyone reading this newsletter is registered to vote, but you may know someone who wants and needs to register. Online voter registration is easy and can be done at [Vote.org](https://www.vote.org)

Have you completed your census form yet? That can be done at 2020census.gov

AAUW-PA Public Policy Co-Chairs April Highlights

Health Insurance

You may have seen news items about calls to open enrollment in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). That was considered in the federal legislation that recently passed to address Covid-19. However, it did not make it into the final bill, and the President has indicated that he does not want to open enrollment in the ACA. However, the ACA law clearly states that anyone can apply at any time when there is a change in circumstance such as losing a job and thereby losing health insurance.

If you or someone you know has lost your employment-based health insurance as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, you do not need to wait for an open enrollment period to sign up for insurance through the ACA. Visit www.insurance.pa.gov for more information. In fact, coverage through the ACA may be an affordable alternative to COBRA for many people who have lost employer-sponsored coverage, especially in the event that a consumer is eligible for tax subsidies, which can significantly lower the monthly cost of coverage.

Sick Leave and Paid Leave

This is another confusing area as to what is available as a result of the federal legislation that was passed. In several conference calls this week with the Family Care Act Coalition and the Campaign for Women's Health that AAUW-PA works with, we were able to get some clarification. While it is good news that sick leave and paid leave were addressed in the federal legislation, it is only for the period of time dealing with Covid-19.

Details of how this applies and to whom in very clear language has been provided by Marianne Bellesorte of Pathways PA, a former AAUW-PA Gateway to Equity Award winner.



Coronavirus Federal Legislation that Aids Workers

Two major laws passed in March 2020 to support workers affected by the COVID-19 public health emergency. The first mandated paid sick days and paid family leave in some COVID-19 related situations; the second mandates significant unemployment benefits for workers.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act

Congress passed an emergency law on March 18, 2020, that included paid sick time and paid family leave for some workers. Effective Date is April 1, 2020; provisions sunset on December 31, 2020.

Paid Sick Time for Public Health Emergencies

Purposes

- To obtain a medical diagnosis or care if experiencing symptoms
- To self-quarantine due to COVID-19 concerns under the advice of a health care provider
- To comply with a federal, state, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19
- To comply with a recommendation from a public health official
- To care for an individual who is self-isolating because of diagnosis or symptoms
 - When taken for this purpose, rate of pay is reduced to 2/3
- To care for a child if school or place of care is closed
 - When taken for this purpose, rate of pay is reduced to 2/3

Eligibility

- Applies to public employers of all sizes and private employers with fewer than 500 employees; no exceptions for nonprofit organizations
- Businesses with fewer than 50 employees may qualify for exemptions for time due to school or childcare closing
- Under the Act, special rules apply for Health Care Providers and Emergency Responders.
- Employers (including self-employed and gig economy workers) will receive reimbursement from the federal government for wages through a quarterly tax credit

Hours and Rate of Pay

- Employer required to provide a total of 80 hours of paid sick time related to COVID-19
- Maximum payment
 - \$511 per day/\$5,110 total for self-care
 - \$200 per day/\$2,000 total for family care
- Part-time workers receive the average number of hours worked over a two-week period.
 - If their schedule varies, workers receive the average hours scheduled per day over the prior six months. Otherwise the employee receives the amount they expected to work when hired.

Impact on Existing Policies

- Sick time under the bill must be *in addition to* any employer provided leave
- Employer cannot require an employee to use accrued time before emergency time
- Employer cannot require an employee to find replacement workers

Contact Family Values @ Work for more information. Visit our website to share your story
familyvaluesatwork.org

Last updated: March 31, 2020

MEMBER MAKING A DIFFERENCE



The Member Making a Difference Award is given to a member who has had a tremendous impact on the branch. It is an achievement award given by AAUW Pennsylvania. Therefore, the recipient is recognized not only at the local level but throughout the state. This person is selected because she exemplifies the spirit of AAUW. She is often an unsung hero but today we are changing that by recognizing her.

Once a year, we take the opportunity to acknowledge and recognize the contributions of our members. Many of our members have shared their talents with our branch in such a way to further the work of AAUW in our community.

Our recipient of this award is described as a “Bright light, bringing energy and new life to our branch as the Membership Chair”. Congratulations to Randi Blauth for her achievements toward furthering the membership of our organization.

Randi has been married to her husband David for 41 years. Together, they have two daughters and two granddaughters. Randi worked for 16 years as an ESL Instructor at Fowler Literacy Center. She was fortunate to truly love her job.

She joined AAUW Bethlehem Branch about 18 years ago. She is a past president of that branch. Randi is well known for her work with the Diversity, Deeds and Dialogue Interest Group. She was one of the founders of this inter-branch group. She served on the AAUW National Diversity Task Force for 2 years and helped at the National Convention in Washington, D.C. She has given several presentations at state and local conferences. She continues to co-chair this interest group.

She has dedicated an abundance of energy and time into bringing new life to our membership. Randi and her membership committee developed a plan to increase membership and community awareness of our branch. With her encouragement, the committee set a goal of 10 new members for the year. The committee is at work on a branch trifold to highlight our branch activities that will be displayed at meetings and conferences. In the spring of 2020, she hosted a “new member” tea which introduced new members to the Easton Branch and encouraged three new members to join.

OUTSTANDING WOMAN OF THE YEAR



Marlou Belyea has been a member of AAUW since 1970. She has belonged to the Easton branch since she moved here in 1998. Marlou has truly broken “glass ceilings” in what she has accomplished growing up in an era when women had very traditional roles and rarely moved beyond them. Marlou grew up in the California desert on a ranch, attended Scripps College, Claremont, Cal. and married her husband Bob shortly after graduation from college. They moved East for her husband’s family business , Belyea Electrical company which still exists today here in Easton, Pa. They moved to Pequannock Township , New Jersey in the 1950s, raising their three daughters while her husband managed his business in Jersey City.

Marlou became involved in politics in the 1970s successfully running for Town Council in 1976 and being appointed as Mayor in 1980. She considers one of her biggest accomplishments at that time successfully lobbying for the re-engineering of the new highway 287 to reroute around their township as well as establishing Senior Citizen Housing. Marlou has also been an active member of the League of Women Voters since 1951 and served in leadership positions in that organization including State board in New Jersey. She considers her greatest accomplishments her family and her marriage of almost 65 years to husband Bob who passed away a few years ago. Her move to Easton in 1998 was not voluntary and she left behind a historically renovated house in New Jersey on 16 acres but she became active right away in different organizations. This is true to her life philosophy of “Living Life to the Fullest” and “Always saying yes”!

A life is not important, except in the impact it has on other lives.

Jackie Robinson
Ballplayer, civil rights icon, business executive

Meet Shellie Hashem

The AAUW mission attracted Shellie to our branch. Its values are very important to her and discrimination against any minority she finds abhorrent. Shellie lived in Egypt for a number of years and has seen how women are treated there. She states that the culture was challenging, but her experience was also educational and rewarding. She knows that we women must keep fighting for equality. Although things are changing, Shellie feels that we are still in a struggle that we must continue to pursue.

Michele, who goes by Shellie, is a retired nurse. She worked in a Family Practice office for twenty years and before that worked in hospitals and nursing homes. She regrets that her age prevents her from being actively involved in caring for coronavirus patients, but will find other ways to help.

Shellie has three children, five grandchildren and lives in Bethlehem.

Welcome Shellie

Ways to keep our planet healthy

- Unplug appliances when off
- Put back unused napkins
- Learn to love weeds
- Support local farmers
- Take shorter showers
- Donate used books

Time To Celebrate

- May
- 1 - International Tuba Day
- 2 - Free Comic Book Day
- 4 - Star Wars Day
- 5 - Cinco de Mayo
- 10 - Clean Up Your Room Day
- 12 - Limerick Day
- 13 - Frog Jumping Day
- 15 - Chocolate Chip Day
- 18 - No Dirty Dishes Day
- 22 - Buy A Musical Instrument Day
- 25 - Sing Out Day
- 28 - Hamburger Day
- 231- Macaroon Day

■ Every day is **STAY HEALTHY and KEEP YOUR DISTANCE** day!

THANK YOU



Dear Members,

Although we were saddened to cancel the Authors' Luncheon this year, through your generosity our branch was able to raise \$1,184.00 for the scholarship fund. Many members donated their ticket cost or donated monies for the scholarship funds. We appreciate and are thankful for your donation. This will enable the branch to continue our mission of giving young women scholarships.

The Scholarship Committee is busy connecting with high schools and community resources to identify eligible young women as recipients of our annual scholarships. The recipients will be announced in July, 2020.

Karol D'Huyvetters
Nancy Kinzli
Co-Presidents

"TO MOVE FORWARD, YOU HAVE TO GIVE BACK"
Oprah Winfrey

Branch Election Results

Thank you for your cooperation and voting on-line for the 2020-2022 term for Co-President.

Nancy Kinzli and Karol D'Huyvetters won by a landslide and will be officially sworn in this July. They will serve a one year term.

The board will be exploring the possibility of a leadership team to govern the branch during the second year of their term.

In Memoriam

Pat Aretz (1924-2020)

We were saddened to hear of the loss of Pat Aretz on March 14, 2020. Pat was a 65 year member of AAUW. She received her RN from Columbia Presbyterian School of Nursing and a BA from NYU. She worked as an office manager for an orthodontic practice. She loved to golf, do crossword puzzles, play bridge, read, and travel. Her husband died in 1981. Sincere condolences to her sons Robert, David, and Michael, their families and her grandchildren Taylor, Brian, and Allison. A memorial service will be held at a later time.

Newsletter Information

Wouldn't you like to learn how to do a newsletter or just use WORD and put the articles together? It is a great learning opportunity and would help tremendously. If this is you, please let Toni Hoffman know.

If any member has information that she wishes to have published in the newsletter, please e-mail the information to **Toni Hoffman**. This would include births, deaths, marriages, happenings at cultural institutions. We also encourage submissions of photos of events and anything that you think may be of interest to other members.

Please note, however, that **submissions must be in by the 15th** of the current month to be included in the following month's newsletter. Otherwise it will be in the newsletter after that.

Newsletter Ads

Do you have a business or service that you would like to promote? The charge for including an ad is only \$5 for each issue. Ads should be no larger than business card size and must come from members. Payment for ads should be made to the finance officer and she will notify the newsletter editor that the ad is ready to be placed.

Interest Groups

The Easton Branch has several interest groups created to stimulate discussions, encourage networking and support the community. If you have ideas for additional groups, let us know. Every group looks forward to new participants. Call if you are interested in joining a group
All meetings contingent on control of the Coronavirus pandemic and may be held virtually.

Book Discussion

Chair: Toni Hoffman



May 18, 1:30 pm
 Hostess: Randi Blauth
 Book: **The Great Alone** by
 Kristin Hannah

Rotating Gourmet

Chair: Lois Wildrick



Members will be contacted when
 menus are ready.

Diversity: Deeds and Dialogue

Chair: Rosemary Baker



May 27, 4:00 pm
 Hostess: Randi Blauth
 Topic: **Dramatic Monologues
 for Women**

International Relations

Chair: Fran Kennedy



May 26, 1:30 p.m.
 Hostess: Margaret Skaarup
 Topic: TBD

Tuesday Afternoon Bridge

Chair: Rosemary Baker



Call Rosemary for time and place

Out To Lunch

Chair: Claire Degnan



Members meet for lunch.
 All members welcome.

Mah Jongg

Chair: Toni Hoffman



Nothing scheduled at this time.

Tapas Dining

Chair: Yvonne Payne



Members (and spouses) explore
 small plate dining.

No gathering planned at this
 time.

Stitch and Be

Chair: Yvonne Payne



May 7, 2:00 pm
 Hostess: Yvonne Payne

American Association of University Women

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

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.



Easton (PA) Branch

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Easton, PA

18044-1464

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Easton

Pennsylvania

Branch