



# The Easton Edition

## Easton, PA Branch Newsletter

### CALENDAR

**Newsletter Deadline**  
 Sunday, **November 15**

**Branch Meeting**  
 Tuesday, November 17, **7:00 pm**

**Board Meeting**  
 Monday, November 2, 3:30 pm

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## Educational Challenges and Opportunities In The Time of Covid -19: Pre-K to College



**November 17, 2020**  
**7:00 pm**

This year has been very unsettling, full of uncertainties and having to learn new ways to educate our children from Pre K to school age to college. Many educators had to quickly learn new teaching methods and rely more on technology to reach and teach their students. Three prominent educators will discuss the challenges, uncertainties, problems and solutions that arise when trying to teach and run a school facility during this coronavirus pandemic. This Zoom event will focus on these issues. Join us to hear about the problems, solutions and some new opportunities educators faced as they started a new school year in the midst of a pandemic.

Program Participants:

- **Jan Schwarz** – Pre-K for PA
- **Dr. Charlene Symia** - 6th Grade Head Principal, Easton Area Middle School
- **Michelle Geoffrion-Vinci** – Professor of Spanish and Dept.Head, Foreign Languages & Literatures, Lafayette College

Members and Program Participants will be sent a zoom link closer to November 17th.

Please let others know that they can register at [aauweastonprograms@gmail.com](mailto:aauweastonprograms@gmail.com) to receive the link.

## From the Presidents' Pens

*A Woman to Guide Us: Ruth Bader Ginsburg:  
March 15, 1933 – September 18, 2020*



Women of all ages need to have women as role models to respect, model and guide their lives. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a woman who served as a role model for all of us. During her 27 years as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice, she weighed in on many cases that serve to highlight her deep commitment to gender equity and civil rights. AAUW's October 1 webinar, [The Lasting Legacy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#) covered how she weighed in on landmark cases that support AAUW's priority policy issues.

Brief reviews of the six cases are:

United States v. Virginia (1996) – in this case Justice Ginsburg wrote the majority opinion stating that a male-only admissions policy at the Virginia Military Institute denied women an equal-opportunity to full citizenship rights.

Ledbetter v. Good Year Tire & Rubber Co. (2007) – based on her dissent opinion Congress enacted the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 to support women to challenge unequal pay.

Gonzales v. Carhart (2007) – in a 5-4 decision Justice Ginsburg supported the right for women to make decisions on abortions based on health and safety issues.

Shelby County v. Holder (2013) – looked at a provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Justice Ginsburg advocated stopping discrimination in voting procedures.

Obergefell v. Hodges (2015) – Justice Ginsburg with four other justices wrote a landmark ruling that recognized the marriages of same-sex couples with the same rights and responsibilities.

Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores (2014) –this decision ruled out the provision of the Affordable Care Act that allowed for-profit organizations to deny medical expenses for employees based on religious beliefs.

This is a very brief review of Justice Ginsburg's contributions to the advancement of women's rights. She was known as a "cautious jurist" and "moderate." She received numerous awards for her analytical ability to view a problem and her advocacy for her beliefs. Let us study her decisions on the Supreme Court and use them to guide us during this election season.

*"My mother told me to be a lady. And for her, that meant be your own person, be independent."* Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Oyez, [www.oyez.org/justices/ruth\\_bader\\_ginsburg](http://www.oyez.org/justices/ruth_bader_ginsburg). Accessed 7 Oct. 2020.

Karol D'Huyvetters  
Nancy Kinzli

Women belong in all places  
where decisions are being made.  
It shouldn't be that women are the  
exception.

RBG



Dear AAUW Easton (PA) Branch,

I hope this finds you all safe and sheltered in good health. I'm reaching out to inform you that your branch achieved a star for Public Policy & Research in the Five-Star Recognition Program!



Your Five-Star Achievement Badge is attached, you'll be recognized on the [Five-Star webpage](#) as a 4-star branch, and we will further recognize your hard work in our Membership Matters news hub. Your branch has come a long way in the Five-Star program and we look forward to hearing all about the strategies you used to meet your goals, so stay tuned in the coming months for information on drafting your Five-Star success story!

Thank you so much for all that you do for AAUW's mission and to ensure that we have public policies that pave the way for a more just future for women and girls.

We appreciate your participation in the Five-Star Recognition Program and look forward to AAUW Easton achieving its fifth star.

All the best,

**Nichia P. McFarlane**  
**Engagement Associate, Advancement & Partnerships**

## Public Policy Update

### Election Facts

- If you are in line when the polls close, the polling location must allow you to vote. COVID - 19 is not an excuse to deny or discriminate otherwise.
- If you or anyone you know encounters problems while voting, call 866-our-vote (866-687-8683) for Election Protection 2020.

### Pay Equity

- There is good news and bad news about the new pay equity numbers. The good news is that in general salaries increased.
- The median earnings for men in Pennsylvania increased from \$53,269 to \$55,221, an increase of \$1,952 or 4%. Women's median earnings went from \$43,243 to \$43,791, an increase of \$548 or 1%.
- Unfortunately, income in Pennsylvania did not increase as much as in other states or for women compared to men, which means we fell from an earnings ratio of 81% or 21<sup>st</sup> out of all the states last year to 79% or 32<sup>nd</sup> out of all the states and the District of Columbia this year.

### Judicial Gerrymandering

- HB 196 is a proposed constitutional amendment to change how we elect judges to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Commonwealth Court and Superior Court.
- Instead of electing judges statewide, we would elect them in districts created by the General Assembly.
- This would allow legislators to gerrymander districts to give one or another party an advantage in winning judicial elections.
- This might even make it more difficult to put the best-qualified judges on the bench.
- For more information, visit <http://krc-pbpc.org/talking-points-judicial-gerrymandering>

Information taken from AAUW-PA October Highlights

## Getting To Know You

Please welcome **Jane Dell** to our branch. Jane was born in Brooklyn, NY and began her study of fine art at the High School of Music and Art. She continued at the School of Visual Arts and received her BFA from Pratt Institute. She studied textile and fabric arts at Parsons School of Design and began her own hand-painted silk business.

For the past 25 years, Jane has focused on painting, collage and mixed media. Her work has been exhibited and featured in numerous galleries as well as TV shows and movies. Jane has a studio locally at the Banana Factory and her work has been exhibited there as well as the Gallery on Fourth in Easton.

Jane has lived in Easton for two years and loves the variety of arts the Lehigh Valley has to offer. She is excited to join the branch and meet everyone.

**Monica Seligman** has returned to our branch after raising three sons with her husband, Chuck. They love to visit their sons who all settled in Western states and they also enjoy traveling in the beautiful Western states.

Monica is on the Executive Board of the Karl Stirner Arts Trail and chairs the Friends of the Karl Stirner Arts Trail. She loves art and nature and is able to incorporate both through her volunteer work. Monica also began a walking group for the Village of College Hill.

Monica has lived in Easton for thirty-three years and was previously active as PTA president, a ski instructor and as an educator for the Allentown Art Museum. Monica studied Art History at Oberlin.

Finance Report 10/15/20	Credits	Debits
<b>Banking</b>		
Fees		\$8.00
Interest	\$0.18	
<b>Fundraisers</b>		
Donations		
Authors Luncheon		
Poinsettia Sale		
Other Fundraisers	\$90.00	
<b>Membership</b>		
Branch Dues	\$757.50	
Brochures		\$22.72
Yearbook		\$51.10
Newsletter		\$15.70
Other Printing		
Insurance		\$196.00
Mailbox		\$118.00
Postage		\$3.00
Publicity		
Miscellaneous		
<b>Officer Expenses</b>		
Membership		
Presidents		
Finance Officer		
<b>Programs</b>		
Meeting Rooms		\$55.00
Public Policy		
Scholarship		
Speaker Gifts		
Diversity		
Socials		\$19.79
Other Expenses		
Honorariums		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$847.68</b>	<b>\$489.31</b>

## A Chat With The Candidates

Before voting on November 3rd, there was an opportunity to hear from the candidates, grassroots leaders and local providers about issues surrounding Early Childhood Education and child care. Access to high-quality pre-k and child care is shaping up as one of the top issues in the upcoming Pennsylvania general election. In Lehigh County, 68% of children eligible for high-quality, publicly-funded pre-k do not have access. That percentage rises to 74% in Northampton County.

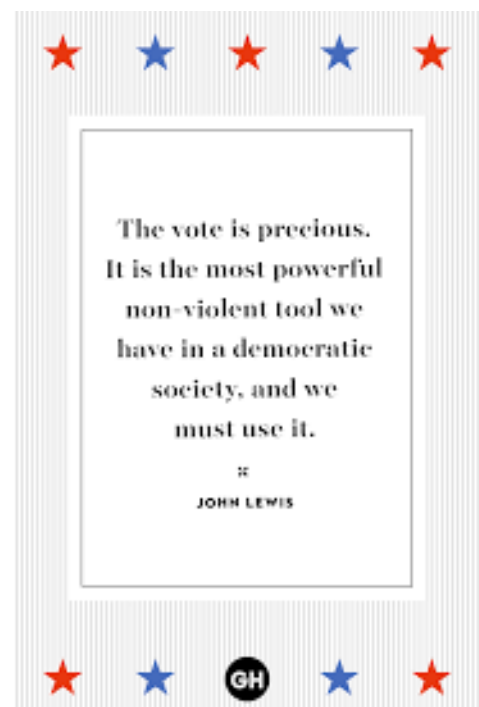
On September 29, 2020, AAUW Easton Branch and The Children Matter ACTION FUND co-hosted a conversation with candidates running for the PA House: Kevin Branco (131<sup>st</sup>) and Tara Zarinski (138<sup>th</sup>). Karol D'Huyvetters, Co-President of AAUW Easton Branch, served as the moderator. It should be noted that candidates from both parties were invited to participate using a Zoom platform. Many of our branch members participated in the Zoom event. Both candidates provided an introduction to platforms and were asked four questions.

Community members, Janet Morgan, incoming president of Kiwanis of Easton and Steve McCorry, parent and business leader, provided opening remarks. Each one supported the need for high quality, affordable childcare services to families.

Two local providers, Anabell Araujo, owner of Learn-N-Play Daycare, Bath, PA. and Michelle McElroy, owner of Cuddle Zone Learning Center, Allentown, PA. discussed the frustrations of a small business providing high quality, affordable childcare during this time of the COVID19 pandemic. They discussed the struggles they face on a day to day basis and the many concerns they have about being able to survive as a childcare provider.

Both candidates recognized and clearly articulated the importance of the benefits of investing in high quality early learning for our children and that their education is so important. They discussed ways to increase funding for these programs and mentioned that it is integral in ensuring a quality life and community for our future generations. Tara Zarinski stated that "We must prioritize investment in early learning for all children and particularly marginalized communities. No-one's zip code should determine whether they are worthy of care and attention. Unmet emotional and educational needs lead to generational poverty, higher rates of unemployment, even sickness. Education is important to so many aspects of society and when we invest wholeheartedly, we see its impacts beyond the walls of Pre-K."

Our branch recognizes and supports that high quality education opportunities for all, beginning at early childhood and continuing through post secondary schooling, is a priority. We welcomed the opportunity to co-host a Candidate Conversation.



## Women's Issues Forum

Our first zoom program of the year, held on September 29th, brought together a knowledgeable and energetic panel of women with expertise in local issues that women face.

Nancy Kinzli, Co-president of the branch, welcomed the panel: Janice Thomas, Director of Homeless Services at Third Street Alliance; Antoinette Cavaliere, Program Director for ProJeCt Easton and Meghan Lago, staff assistant to Pennsylvania State Senator, Lisa Boscola.

Each panelist gave a brief overview of her organization.

*Third Street Alliance* provides a safe and welcoming environment for women and children. The learning center, Pre- K program, free infant and toddler program and an Adult Day Services program with meals are all busy places. Their shelter offers a safe and comfortable place for women and children. Families are assisted in finding affordable housing and employment.

*ProJeCt Easton* offers adult education, GED preparation and English as a second language. They also have a food pantry, an emergency shelter, rental and utility assistance, prescription assistance and more.

*Senator Boscola* has introduced legislation for childcare grants. She is introducing legislation for a Pennsylvania economic stimulus and has introduced legislation to assist victims of domestic violence in telephone contracts. Unfortunately, SB 79, to incrementally raise the minimum wage, has yet to be brought up for a vote. It is a compromise package to raise the minimum wage to \$9.50 an hour by 2022. Pennsylvania's minimum wage continues to be much less than median wage, its lowest point since the last time Pennsylvania raised the minimum wage in 2006.

Janice and Antoinette spoke with great passion about the obstacles and barriers that many of the women face. They spoke enthusiastically about their programs. Many issues such as hunger, homelessness, unemployment, child-rearing, domestic violence, and poverty are being addressed. We are fortunate to have such wonderful organizations right here in our neighborhood.

### ***How can we help?***

- The Third Street Alliance would love cleaning supplies. Information about our cleaning supply drive can be found in this newsletter.
- ProJeCt Easton welcomes volunteers.
- Senator Boscola suggests calling your legislators and informing them of issues that are important to you. You may sign up for her e-newsletters at [SenatorBoscola.com](http://SenatorBoscola.com) and follow her on social media to hear more about the issues being considered in Harrisburg.



# LET'S HELP OUT



Third Street Alliance is in need of cleaning supplies. Our Branch is having a drive to collect cleaning supplies to help out. Please consider donating any of the following items:

cleaning supplies that also sanitize – such as kitchen cleaning supplies, sponges, bathroom cleaning supplies (toilet bowl cleansers, shower cleaners, etc.), dish soap, Brillo pads, brooms and mops.



Cleaning Supply donations can be dropped off at Karol D'Huyvetters house during the week of November 8 - 14. A plastic tub will be on the front porch to collect items. Karol's address is 2116 Gruver Ave., Easton. She will take all donated items to Third Street Alliance.

## **AAUW Easton Branch STEM Scholarship**

2020-2021 Recipient: **Victoria Radomski**

### **Challenges I have overcome along with my successes and accomplishments include:**

I currently deal with quite a few challenges in my life. One of these challenges is having autism. My whole life, I have struggled with the social aspect of things, but I have managed to push through and still succeed at school despite how this condition affects me.

Another challenge I dealt with is being in the foster care system through my childhood and teenage years. Luckily, I was able to live with family instead of jumping from home to home, which a lot of other children in my situation unfortunately have to go through. Even though I have lived with other family members for more than half of my life, it is still difficult not being able to see my own mother as much as I would like to.

One of my successes is being able to pull through the deep depression I fell into in the 7th grade and go from almost having to repeat the 7th grade to coming back as the honor roll student that I have been all my life, and still am.

### **Here are some of the community service, school activities or special interests in which I have participated:**

I have always been a pretty quiet girl, so I do not really speak my mind. When I am really passionate about something, though, I will put my all into it. I am a member of a few of the clubs at NCC, and some of these clubs are Phi Theta Kappa, the Early Childhood Education Association, and THRIVE. I am most active in Phi Theta Kappa, regularly attending meetings and volunteering at their events whenever I am able to. A lot of my interests are technology-related things such as computers and video games, and I know quite a few things about the Internet.

## **AAUW Easton Branch Scholarship Endowment**

2020-2021 Recipient: **Savannah Buday**

### **Challenges I have overcome along with my successes and accomplishments include:**

A major influence as to why I decided to return to college and change careers was because I was diagnosed with Stage II Hodgkin's Lymphoma back in August of 2019. Prior to my diagnosis, I had felt a calling to return back to school to become an RN but I never took the opportunity to apply or look into nursing programs within the area because I was comfortable in my previous career. But the day after I was diagnosed with cancer, I applied to nursing school because I felt empowered and wanted to give myself something to look forward to if I was to be accepted. After 4 months of chemotherapy and, coincidentally, on my first day of radiation therapy, I started the nursing program at NCC. To date, this has been one of my biggest and proudest accomplishments. Although starting nursing school while enduring cancer treatment is not anyone's "ideal" plan, it was my biggest source of encouragement and I believe my experience as a patient and simultaneously being a student nurse, will greatly help me succeed in this career path.

### **Here are some of the community service, school activities, special interests in which I have participated:**

I am currently a Registered Dietitian in the Lehigh Valley Area and I work as a Nutrition Coordinator for a non-profit organization which helps provide nutrition counseling and government food-benefits to low income families in the community. Through my job I provide nutrition counseling, breastfeeding counseling, conduct outreach social networking events, lactation support, provide community health referrals, and health/wellness counseling for families. This current job brings me great satisfaction in being able to provide direct assistance to those in my community and to advocate for improved health and well-being of my clients.

Previously in my undergraduate degree at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, I was a board member on the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority and served as the Standards Chairman for 2 consecutive semesters. This experience greatly improved the way I conducted myself under high-stress situations and how to improve personal connections within an organization.



## Thank You

Dear Ms. Kinzli and Ms. D'Huyvetters,

I wanted to express my sincerest appreciation for awarding me the AAUW Easton Branch Scholarship for the Fall 2020 semester. I am extremely thankful for your help in aiding me to further my education in registered nursing. This scholarship will ease the burden of student loan repayment and allow me to afford necessary items needed for nursing school - scrubs, clinical equipment, school supplies, study tools, etc., which are vital for my success in this program.

I am a recent cancer survivor as of May 2020 which encouraged my dreams of going back to college to become an RN. Currently, I work as a dietitian for a nutrition program that provides food/infant formula benefits and nutrition counseling to underprivileged communities in the Lehigh Valley. I have always had a passion for helping others, similar to what your scholarship foundation is doing for its award recipients.

My plans upon graduation in December 2021 are to take my NCLEX exam to obtain my RN licensure, and then work in a major children's hospital - specializing in either oncology or intensive care. Until graduation, I plan to continue working full-time in my current position to continue helping those in need in my community.

I wanted to thank you again for awarding me this scholarship and allowing me to pursue my dreams.

Savannah Buday

Dear AAUW Easton,

Thank you so much for awarding me with the AAUW Easton Branch STEM Scholarship. I truly appreciate it. With the help of this scholarship, I will be able to continue my education and eventually get into a chemistry-related career of my choice.

I live in Easton, Pennsylvania, but I am originally from New Jersey. I graduated from Wilson Area High School in Easton, Pennsylvania just last year. I have always been academically gifted and, despite the challenges that growing up is giving me, I am still able to keep my grades up. Some clubs at NCC that I am involved with are: Phi Theta Kappa, an honors society, the Early Childhood Education Association, and THRIVE, a group that focuses on mental health on campus.

I honestly chose NCC because going to NCC and then transferring to another college is the cheapest way of getting certified to become a pharmacist. I selected my major which is chemistry, because I believe that it is the best way for me to be prepared for pharmacy school. Some of my career goals are completing pharmacy school, becoming a pharmacist, and gaining more social experience from my job.

Again, thank you very much for awarding me with this scholarship. It really means a lot to me.

Victoria Radomski

Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.

**Abigail Adams**

## Recognizing 50 Year Honorees – Ann Keim

Ann began her career as an RN. She went to Bates College and received her Bachelors Degree. She supervised student nurses at Allentown Hospital. During this time she met and married her husband, Charles. They moved to the Pittsburgh area because of his job. They wasted no time in starting a family. Soon Ann was pregnant and became a stay at home mother for 11 years. Ann loved being around young children and became very involved with her children's activities. She was a Sunday School teacher and Brownie Leader.

Through her involvement in these activities, Ann realized she truly loved working with young children. She decided to return to school at Lehigh University. She achieved her Master's Degree in Elementary Education. Ann taught in the Bethlehem and Bangor School Districts. She watched her principals and felt she could do a better job. So she went back to Lehigh. There she received her Doctorate in Education Administration.

She became Principal in Verona, New Jersey. It was a K-4 building with 1,000 students. She loved every minute of her job. She felt the elementary age was very rewarding. The children love you; the parents love you because you are teaching their children to read. Her bossy nature kept peeking through making her yearn for more.

Ann became Assistant Superintendent in a school district in Lancaster. She was Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and found the job very challenging. In 1987, she finally achieved her dream and became Superintendent for Pequea School District. This was a very small school district but to Ann it was heaven. As Superintendent she was required to live in the district so she bought a house and lived there during the week. On weekends, she would come back to the Lehigh Valley to be with her husband who was busy with his career as President of Easton Hospital. They both enjoyed their weekends together; relaxing and going into New York City.

During the work week, they were busy with meetings and job responsibilities. Ann retired after 19 years as a Superintendent. She still loved her job but felt, as the oldest person in the district, it was time to retire.

Ann and Charles have been married for 61 years. Ann still commutes between the Lehigh Valley and Lancaster. Ann and Charles enjoy their weekends together and have very little time to fight. They have 3 grown children who live in Florida, Connecticut and Colorado. They have seven grandchildren. Ann is very concerned about them having to go through this pandemic. She worries about the long term effects it will have on the younger generation.

Ann joined AAUW in the late 1960's when she was a stay at home mother. AAUW provided her a social outing with women who had similar views and interests. Also, she saw several older women in AAUW who had accomplished careers. AAUW provided her a sisterhood and many role models. Ann, you are a role model for all women!



## 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



November 16, 7:30 pm  
Hostess: Nancy Kinzli  
Book: **The Splendid & The Vile**  
by Erik Larsen

### Rotating Gourmet

**Chair:** Lois Wildrick



Regular dinners will resume after the pandemic.

### Diversity: Deeds and Dialogue

**Chair:** Rosemary Baker



December 9, 7:00 pm  
Hostess: Nancy and Toni  
Topic: **Anti-Racism Daily articles**

### International Relations

**Chair:** Fran Kennedy



November 10, 1:30 p.m.  
Hostess: Fran Kennedy  
Topic: **Water Storage**

### 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.

Regular lunch meetings will resume after the pandemic.

### Mah Jongg

**Chair:** Toni Hoffman



Regular games will resume after the pandemic.

### Tapas Dining

**Chair:** Yvonne Payne



Members (and spouses) explore small plate dining.

No meeting scheduled at this time.

### Stitch and Be

**Chair:** Yvonne Payne



November 5, 2:00 pm  
Hostess: Yvonne Payne

## American Association of University Women

AAUW National	800.326.2289	<a href="http://www.aauw.org">www.aauw.org</a>
Easton Branch		<a href="http://easton-pa.aauw.net">easton-pa.aauw.net</a>
Co-Presidents	Nancy Kinzli, Karol D'Huyvetters	<a href="http://easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/">easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/</a>
Membership	Randi Blauth	<a href="http://easton-pa.aauw.net/membership/">easton-pa.aauw.net/membership/</a>
Easton Edition	Toni Hoffman	<a href="http://easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/">easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/</a>

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.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

