



The Easton Edition

Easton, PA Branch Newsletter

CALENDAR

Newsletter Deadline

Monday, February 15

Branch Meeting

Tuesday, February 16, 7:00 pm

Board Meeting

Monday, February 1, 1:30 pm

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2021

CHOCOLATE ANYONE?



February is the perfect time for chocolate. Join us at our branch meeting on **February 16th at 7 pm** for a zoom chocolate tasting with Patrick Messman, owner of Lehigh Valley Chocolate Works.

RSVP to Nancy Kinzli by February 12th to order your box of 5 delicious truffles for \$7.00. Contact Nancy using our Yearbook or through our website at <https://easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/> and fill out the form and check "General Information."

Your chocolates will be delivered to you before the meeting.

Chocolate is happiness that you can eat.
taken from Flamingo Hyper Market

From the Presidents' Pens

Take Two

Congratulations! We made it to 2021! As we enter this new year, it's time to look forward. There's a long standing tradition of making New Year's Resolutions and these resolutions can be an excellent opportunity to self reflect and identify an area for personal growth in the coming year. This year, more than ever we need to "Take Two" and become a **Two Minute Activist**.

AAUW has the resources to promote advocacy for all members. Our organization takes pride in its advocacy arm that focuses on issues that affect women. We can take that same action as individuals and AAUW's website makes it easy. Once you sign up to be a Two Minute Activist, action is just a click away.

AAUW's website provides the tools you need to contact your elected representatives. There is an updated briefing on issues that are important to women. In two minutes, you can let your legislator know your views on civil rights issues, workplace and economic equity and equity in education. It's easy as 1, 2, 3:

1. Details – provides the facts and key components
2. Message – a form to complete with personal information that presents your view to your legislator
3. Confirmation – a contact through email or text (you choose) that lets you know your email was received

"As a voter, you hold an incredible amount of power over your elected officials. You're their boss and they have to take your opinions into account. When a whole bunch of constituents focus their voices collectively on an issue, we can really shape the conversation. That's the power of AAUW's Two-Minute Activist Network — we'll notify you when your voice is needed the most and help you harness your power to make change."

Kate Nielson, AAUW Director of Public Policy & Legal Advocacy

Nancy Kinzli and Karol D'Huyvetters
Co-Presidents
Easton Branch

Are You Aware?

AAUW membership offers many intangible benefits. But...there are tangible benefits as well.

Office Max Discount

Your AAUW membership can save you up to 80% at OfficeMax and Office Depot. You're able to shop in person or online, pre-pandemic, and to be safe, online now. To find out more and shop online, visit <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/discounts-and-perks/>

"I've used this benefit several times when I had to print so many copies that it was faster and cheaper to use OfficeMax than my own printer. I've also used this discount when buying office supplies." Toni Hoffman

Other perks include:

- Discounts on UPS shipments
- A free prescription savings card
- Discounts on Constant Contact use
- Car rental discounts
- Cruise and tour discounts
- Discounts on pet insurance
- Car insurance discounts
- Long term care insurance discounts

All these discounts can be found at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/discounts-and-perks/>

PLEASE NOTE

- Susan McNamara has changed her email address. Please update your address books.
- Please call her for the new address.

DDD: Diversity Deeds and Dialogue
Did you know....?

In Publishing

- The publishing industry is predominantly white. Editors are 85% white, sales representatives are 81% white, agents are 80% white, and book reviewers are 80% white
- It's important for us to read books by Black writers and writers of color not only when we want to read about racism or want to be educated, but also for leisure—mysteries, romance, thrillers, literary fiction, etc.
- The publishing industry promotes books about Black pain and trauma more than books by Black writers on other topics or in other genres, like fantasy and romance

In Life

- 1 in every 1,000 black men can expect to be killed by police
- The Minneapolis police use force against Black people at 7x the rate of white people
- Policing in southern slave-holding states had roots in slave patrols – groups of white volunteers empowered to use vigilante tactics to enforce laws related to slavery



Finance Report 1/15/21	Credits	Debits
Banking		
Fees		\$8.00
Interest	\$0.37	
Fundraisers		
Donations		
Authors Luncheon		
Poinsettia Sale	\$499.00	\$212.25
Other Fundraisers	\$90.00	
Membership		
Branch Dues	\$772.50	
Brochures		\$22.72
Yearbook		\$51.10
Newsletter		\$33.12
Other Printing		
Insurance		\$196.00
Mailbox		\$118.00
Postage		\$3.00
Publicity		
Miscellaneous		
Officer Expenses		
Membership		
Presidents		
Finance Officer		
Programs		
Meeting Rooms		\$55.00
Public Policy		
Scholarship		
Speaker Gifts		
Diversity		
Socials		\$19.79
Other Expenses		
Honorariums		
Totals	\$1,361.87	\$718.98

A CHAT WITH THE AUTHORS



WHO:

Dr. Donald Miller – received the prestigious Fletcher Pratt Award by the Civil War Round Table. He is the John Henry MacCracken Professor of History Emeritus at Lafayette College and author of ten books that include *Vicksburg*, and *Masters of the Air*, which is currently being made into a television series by Tom Hanks. He has hosted, coproduced, or served as a historical consultant for more than thirty television documentaries and has written for The New York Times, The Washington Post and other publications.

Elvira Woodruff – well known children’s author of time travel series. She has published picture books, historical fiction, and fantasy novels for middle grade readers, as well as a knitting book for adults, *To Knit or Not To Knit*. Her work has won many awards and honors. Elvira’s presentations on creative writing have taken her across the country, speaking at schools and conferences alike. She currently lives in Martins Creek, Pa.

Kate Racculia – upcoming novelist living in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She is the author of the novels *This Must Be the Place* and *Bellweather Rhapsody*, winner of the American Library Association’s Alex Award. Her third novel, *Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts*, was published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in October 2019. In a life of many jobs and occupations, she currently teaches online for Boston’s nonprofit writing community Grub Street, works at the Bethlehem Area Public Library, and sings in the Bach Choir of Bethlehem.

WHAT:

The AAUW Easton Branch is excited to present our eighth fundraising Authors’ Event. The format will change to a Zoom event. The three authors will present on their experience as a writer and answer questions. Since this is our main fundraiser and due to the change in format, we are suggesting a donation of \$10.00 to our Scholarship Fund. Come and hear these local authors discuss their writing process.

WHEN:

April 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

WHERE:

On Zoom

JOIN US

Honoring our 50 Year Members

Patricia Thornton Bradt

Pat grew up in Philadelphia. She graduated from Cornell University in June 1952. She would like to tell you in her own words of her activities since leaving Cornell.

In our senior year at Cornell, the women administrators told us that we had a responsibility as Cornell educated women. They said the two most influential women's organizations were AAUW and the League of Women Voters. I never forgot those words!

My husband and I married after my graduation. As a zoology major, I thought I wanted to be a laboratory technician and cure cancer (!?!). After marriage we lived in Ithaca while my husband finished his 5 year degree. I worked in a chemistry lab analyzing fertilizers.

We moved to New Haven, CT, where my husband started a job with a manufacturing firm. I started work at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Yale School of Medicine as a laboratory technician in the endocrine lab. Marvelous experience due to a wonderful MD supervisor who taught me so much about how to do research.

We landed in Easton, via Vermont, where I attended my first AAUW meeting. When our three children were still very young I attended AAUW meetings in Easton, serving as treasurer.

I wondered what was next after our youngest started second grade. With shaking knees I started graduate school in biology at Lehigh University, eventually earning a Master's and Doctorate. My research focused on the biology of a local stream, Bushkill Creek.

Then teaching part time at Lehigh, Lafayette, Kutztown and DeSales, no tenure track positions available. My doctoral advisor and I wrote a text book – on nonvascular plants. In the early '80's I received a grant to study the effects of acid precipitation on the biology of Pocono lakes. Those studies lasted for almost ten years and included several publications, conferences and speaking engagements.

I then took a position at Muhlenberg College as an environmental scientist to head up a new program. I had many gifted and enthusiastic students. I retired officially 12 years ago but I continue to teach as an emerita professor. I am still enjoying it!

In Memoriam

Carol Cochran, 91, died November 27, 2020 at Country Meadows, Forks Township. She was the wife of John M. Cochran who died in 2016. They were married for 65 years. Carol graduated from Easton High School in 1947 and from Cedar Crest College with a B.A. in Chemistry on June 1, 1951 and married John the following day. She worked for J.T. Baker Chemical Co. for 17 years before retiring in 1991. Carol was a member of AAUW Easton, the Gourmet Group and Bridge Club. She enjoyed reading and crossword puzzles. She is survived by her children: Peter Cochran of Easton and his wife Peggy; Thomas Cochran of Antrim, NH and his wife Nancy; Catherine Walters of Easton and her husband Scott; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Carolyn Conners has this to add:

Carol was an avid gardener and very proud of her vegetables. She was a 69 year member of our branch and found her very best friends there. She was adventurous - rode piggy back on a motorcycle, with her nephew, from Easton to Tennessee to visit relatives. She and her husband loved classical music and often attended local musical events.

AAUW Easton Branch sends condolences to **Janice Lupackino** on the passing of her mother and to **Marge Coughlin** on the passing of her husband Tom.

Where lives pass, memories carry on forever.

Public Policy and You

A New Year, A New Legislative Session

As we look ahead and think about Public Policy advocacy in 2021, an obvious starting point is to acknowledge that our state's legislative body certainly captured nation-wide notoriety for the role of many House members in post-election actions. Closer to home, this reminds us writ large that the legislature in Harrisburg is as polarized as is the nation. In practice, this means that bill after bill after bill garnering sponsorship of many legislators will be sent to the appropriate committee for review but never come to the floor for a vote.

For example, HB 22, the House bill about a constitutional amendment for redistricting reform was referred to the State Government Committee on April 11, 2019. It's still there. SB 1022, the Senate bill about the need for a redistricting reform constitutional amendment was referred to the State Government Committee on January 31, 2020. It's still there too.

A minimum wage bill, HB1027, was referred to the Labor and Industry Committee on April 29, 2019. There has been no movement on that bill. A similar bill in the Senate, SB 503, has languished in the Labor and Industry Committee since April 3, 2019.

These bills, and many more, will have to be reintroduced in the new legislative session which began on January 4, 2021.

So, what can we do? We can pay attention to the bills on issues that are important to us and call, email and write to the committee chairs and each committee member, voicing our support for, or objections to, said bill. We can also contact our own legislators - Representatives Bob Freeman, Joe Emrick, Ann Flood and Zack Mako and Senators Lisa Boscola and Mario Scavello,

We can tweet, we can post on social media, we can write letters to the editor, all to bring as much pressure as possible on our legislators. We can also harness the power of the purse - we can boycott companies that give contributions to politicians who don't listen to their constituents and use social media to magnify our efforts.

Some of the issues that affect us, our daughters and granddaughters include:

- **The gender pay gap:** women make 82% of what men earn
- **Workplace sexual harassment:** 34% of female employees say they have been sexually harassed by a colleague.
- **The motherhood penalty:** 41% of women are the sole or primary breadwinner in U.S. households with children. Women have only 70% of the overall retirement income that men have
- **Women and student debt:** Women hold 2/3 of the nation's student debt
- **Gender bias in schools:** Teachers were paid 21.4.% less in weekly wages than similar college graduates in 2018
- **The STEM gap;** Women constitute 58% of the workers at highest risk of losing their jobs to technology

These statistics taken from aauw.org point out why these issues are important and need to be addressed. **As committed AAUW members, we must make our voices heard!**

If you are interested in being a member of the public policy committee, following a bill through the legislative process and reporting back to the committee and the branch, let me know. That's one way we can increase our advocacy efforts.

Toni Hoffman
Public Policy Chair

Attention: College and University Women

NCCWSL (referred to as 'nickwhistle') stands for the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. Its goal is to help women realize their potential as leaders. The conference is normally two and a half days and is designed to enhance leadership skills on campus and in the community. This year's conference would have been May 26-29th in person and is usually held at the University of Maryland in College Park. **Due to the pandemic, NCCWCL will be fully virtual Tuesday, May 25 and Wednesday, May 26, 2021.**

AAUW PA will award four grants for college women to attend. The grant application can be found at [NCCWSL PA GRANT APPLICATION 2021](#). For more information about NCCWSL go to www.nccwsl.org. The application is due February 13th by email. It covers tuition and most meals and lodging. Winners will be notified by March 15, 2021.



Save the Date for our March Program

An Intro to Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction
Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 7pm

Padma Fanning is an accredited mindfulness teacher. She has taught mindfulness for 20 years in the UK and the US. She is currently the Mindfulness Coordinator for St. Luke's Health Network.

Call for Nominations

We need you!! Our board works hard year-round to make us a vibrant branch. This includes monthly programs, events, scholarships for young women, investment in public policy, service to community, multiple interest groups, a newsletter, a yearbook, recruiting new members, and the important mission of advancing gender equity.

We can't do it alone. We need to fill the elected positions of **President, Membership Vice-President, and Finance Officer**. The current board works well together and would help in the transition process. If you would be interested in any of these positions or would like to nominate someone, please send your suggestions to Nancy Kinzli at nancykinzli@gmail.com or Karol D'Huyvetters at geebie65pa@gmail.com.

AAUW Diversity News

Our AAUW PA Diversity and Inclusion Chair is Jordan Glover. She has contacted branches to share the following information:

AAUW National Webinars

While there are no webinars currently scheduled into the New Year, this might be a good time to check back and watch any that you may have missed earlier in 2020! AAUW has their entire collection available here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/events/equity-network/events/>. This is also the page you want to bookmark to keep an eye on upcoming events!

AAUW D&I Toolkit & Implementation

I hope you have had a chance to review AAUW's brand new Diversity & Inclusion Toolkit. I, along with other state D&I chairs, was able to hear from some staff at nationals and members of the Inclusion & Equity committee about a week before they made the announcement out to all AAUW members. So, the content is still quite new to me but I've found that the toolkit has a lot of information, and a lot of potential. You can view the toolkit here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/>

On December 10th, AAUW hosted a webinar to walk members through the toolkit and what you can find there. If you weren't able to make it to the webinar (I wasn't), you can view a recording on YouTube here: https://youtu.be/UQ_K0j1yR5s. Right now I think the biggest question mark surrounding the toolkit is - what can branches do? There is a lot of info, almost an overwhelming amount of info, with no clear starting point. In our call with nationals, everyone seemed to agree that direction was important, but to an extent the toolkit creators were looking for feedback from branches. If you have feedback or ideas, feel free to send them along to me in an email, or we can set up a time to call or zoom. I'd love to pass anything on. Additionally, it sounds

like there will be more updates and content coming from national in the near-ish future, although I don't have much detail right now.

So here's the ask - I am looking to create an implementation committee for Pennsylvania as a whole. We have many branches without a D&I chair, so if we can provide some ideas and goals for taking all this information and working it into existing structures, I think that would be helpful to share broadly. And, many of us may need to brainstorm ideas for our own branches after reviewing the toolkit, so we can use this for a working group for ourselves as well. If you are interested in being on the committee, please fill out the doodle poll below (and use your full name!) to "sign up". If you can't commit to a committee, or have a member in your branch that you think would be great for this type of work, you can definitely send along someone else. I serve as the D&I chair for State College but am going to have one of our new members join in place of me to represent our branch. The more the merrier.

Doodle Poll: https://doodle.com/poll/w74i9tsa8igy9g6d?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link

If you have any questions, or would like to chat, please don't hesitate to reach out!

--

Jordan Glover, M.Ed

Diversity & Inclusion Chair

Pronouns: she, her, hers (Why

Pronouns? <https://www.mypronouns.org/>

AAUW Pennsylvania State Board

aauwpadiversity@gmail.com

Judicial Gerrymandering

HB 38 is legislation to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to change the way Pennsylvania elects appellate court judges. Specifically, this legislation would divide the Commonwealth into nine (9) Commonwealth Court districts, fifteen (15) Superior Court districts, and seven (7) Supreme Court districts.

This is **judicial gerrymandering**. One of our members, Lilly Gioia, put together talking points so that we could be in touch with our legislators in Harrisburg and tell them to vote **NO** on this bill. No Democrat is in favor of this bill.

CALL, WRITE or FAX:

Easton State Reps Joe Emrick
137th District
610-588-8011
(fax) 610-746-5093
717-260-6159 (Harrisburg)
717-782-2905 (fax)

House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff
Harrisburg - 717-783-1918
District Office: 717-667-1175

H.B.38 should NOT be brought up for a vote without due diligence or transparent public hearings!

TALKING POINTS

#1 The Judicial District Constitutional Amendment is **OPPOSED** by:

The Pennsylvania League of Women Voters	Pennsylvania Bar Association
The Committee of Seventy	PA Common Cause
Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts	Fair Districts PA
PA Budget & Policy Center	Brennan Center for Justice

#2 Courts whose decisions affect the entire state should be **ELECTED** statewide. There is no Lehigh County or Northampton County way to interpret statutes or the Pennsylvania Constitution.

#3 The Judicial Districts bill was initially passed by **ONE VOTE** in the Senate & House **without expert testimony, without transparency or public hearings in one hour.**

#4 Electing judges by Districts can make it difficult to put the best-qualified judges on the bench.

#5 This Amendment undermines the independence of the courts required by the Constitutional separation of powers. It gives the General Assembly **TOO MUCH INFLUENCE** over the courts and can prevent current judges from running in retention elections.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON PROPOSED JUDICIAL GERRYMANDERING AMENDMENT

According to the Legislative Director of the Fair Districts PA, "It now appears voters may be the only ones who can stop an expansion of gerrymandering to our courts." This bill already passed in the last legislative session, needs only to be passed in 2021 to appear on a Pennsylvania ballot, most likely the May 2021 Primary Ballot.

On January 13, 2021 it passed out of Committee and now awaits Majority Leader Benninghoff placing it on the House Floor for a final vote. THE PENNSYLVANIA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS said only two states currently have regional high court districts: Illinois & Louisiana, well-known for corruption among elected officials. Is that the direction Pennsylvanians want to go, they ask? While the PA League of Women voters strongly supports “merit selection” of judges as previously supported by House Speaker Bryan Cutler, they urged him to use his significant influence to prevent this “dubious amendment” from moving forward.

In early December 2020 a Capital Star opinion piece commented on a Republican announcement to reintroduce their proposed Constitutional amendment that would require Supreme Court justices and judges of the Superior and Commonwealth courts to run for election in regional districts statewide. Under the Amendment, the legislature would be able to carve the state into 31 districts of varying size, but the proposed amendment does not guarantee that all voters will have an equal opportunity to elect their preferred jurists.

To kick off 2021, AAUW Easton Branch had a DIY (Do It Yourself) Art program. Raphael Salazar, a retired Art teacher from Bethlehem Area School District, showed members how to create snowmen made from paint stirrers. Participants picked up bags with all materials needed to create the project.

Fourteen members and one guest joined the zoom DIY program. Using a paint stirrer, white paint, markers, ribbon, buttons and glue, each participant made a decorative snowman. No two snowmen looked alike – some had fringe, some had big noses and others had lopsided mouths. Everyone enjoyed being creative. Ralph showed us how he uses his snowmen to decorate his potted plants. Thank you to Ralph for guiding us through this DIY and teaching us we have a creative side!



Ralph Salazar with a pot of snowmen

Branch members with their snowmen



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



February 15, 7:30 pm
Hostess: Susan McNamara
Book: The Beauty of Their Youth
by Joyce Hinnefeld
The Member of the Wedding by
Carson McCullers

Rotating Gourmet

Chair: Lois Wildrick



Regular dinners will resume after the pandemic.

Diversity: Deeds and Dialogue

Chair: Rosemary Baker



February 24, 7:00 pm
Hostess:
Topic: **Anti-Racism Daily articles**

International Relations

Chair: Fran Kennedy



February 9, 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: Fran Kennedy
Topic: **Mitigation**

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.

February 20, 5:00 pm
Zoom

Stitch and Be

Chair: Yvonne Payne



February 4, 3:00 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.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

