



The Easton Edition

Easton, PA Branch Newsletter

CALENDAR

Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, April 15

Branch Meeting

Saturday, April 17, 10:00 am

Board Meeting

Monday, April 5, 1:30 pm

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2021



AUTHORS' ZOOM CHAT TAKES THE PLACE OF OUR ANNUAL AUTHORS' LUNCHEON

Do you like Civil War history? Children's books? Mystery novels? Dr. Donald Miller, Elvira Woodruff and Kate Racculia, three prominent, award winning authors, will be speaking to us on April 17th, 2021 at 10 am at our online Authors' Chat.

There will be a free book drawing for all participants! Every participant's name will be entered into the drawing. After each author's presentation, the name of one lucky attendee will be drawn and that person will win a current book from that author. Three authors, three chances to win a book!

Funds raised from this event will go toward scholarships for deserving local young women. Throughout this pandemic year where many events are being canceled, we are continuing to have programs and events such as this Authors' Chat. This year, many organizations have canceled their scholarship awards. We are pleased and proud that we have found a way to help young women continue their education.

Suggested donation \$10.00. All members will be sent the zoom link to the event.

Please share this information with your friends and family and join us for an always interesting, informative event.

From the Presidents' Pens

Long awaited, spring time is just around the corner. The flowers will start blooming, there will be buds on the trees and robins will arrive in our yards. Springtime is considered a time of growth and rebirth. AAUW is proposing an opportunity for the organization to experience rebirth and growth – by changing the bylaws to remove the degree requirement for membership. AAUW is proposing this change to make our organization more inclusive while continuing to promote equity for women in education and the workplace.

We all know women that, for one reason or another, did not obtain a degree but stand right along with us to promote equity for women and girls. They support pay equity, equity in the workforce and increased opportunities for women. They should have the equal opportunity to join and experience the benefits that are offered through AAUW. As we know, AAUW offers a wide variety of programs to increase awareness of many social issues, has public policy priorities, advocates for equity, and supports research, fellowships, scholarships and grants. We need to be inclusive and work with all women to advance gender equity together.

This opportunity will continue to advance AAUW's mission. To allow for open enrollment in AAUW, membership criteria will be in line with its mission of gender equity and empowerment of **all** women. We encourage all members to participate in the Town Hall meeting on March 30. AAUW has carefully thought out this proposal and has articulated many valid reasons why this change will benefit our organization. Come, listen and consider the proposal for open enrollment.

"A bend in the road is not the end of the road,, Unless you fail to make the turn."

Helen Keller

Karol D'Huyvetters and Nancy Kinzli
Co-Presidents



Bylaw Change

Our Easton branch board supports the AAUW bylaw change to eliminate the education requirement for membership. You will be receiving information about this from PA State AAUW. If you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to attend a zoom Town Hall where both sides of the issues will be addressed. **The AAUW Pennsylvania Open Membership Town Hall will take place on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm.** Please mark your calendars. More information to come.

Election of AAUW-PA Officers

If you haven't voted yet for the slate of officers proposed by AAUW Pennsylvania ...there's still time...

TO VOTE: [click here](#)

DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31



Tuesday, March 30th Town Hall, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Join Dot McLane, AAUW Past President and former AAUW national board member to learn about this change, and the reasons it is being proposed. At this event, attendees will be able to break out into smaller groups to have more intimate conversation with other members. This event is open to all AAUW members in the state of Pennsylvania. The event will run from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM on Tuesday, March 30th, 2021. Advance registration is required. Click [here](#) to register.

April Small Groups

If you want to have further conversation with other members about the change, or have questions, register for a small group session during the month of April, conducted by Jordan Glover, AAUW-PA Diversity & Inclusion Chair. These sessions will be small and interactive, and require advance registration.

Tuesday, April 13th 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM ([registration link](#))

Friday, April 16th 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM ([registration link](#))

Monday, April 19th 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM ([registration link](#))

Wednesday, April 21st 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM ([registration link](#))

AAUW PA State Meeting

The AAUW Pennsylvania 2021 Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 10, 2021 from 10:00 am - 11 am via Zoom.**

Register in advance for this meeting by clicking the link below:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pc--qrzwwGt3SVJ6ya9r93F_EpzirM6Em

AAUW-PA Summer Retreat

I will start with the end of the story. We are holding the AAUW Pennsylvania Summer Retreat via Zoom (not in-person) on Saturday, July 24. The detailed agenda and registration details will be sent directly to all AAUW members in Pennsylvania via email beginning in May.

Our reasoning:

- There is no guarantee everyone will have access to a vaccine (many members aren't eligible until Phase 2 and many members have children at home who aren't going to be eligible until the Fall).
- While masking and social distancing would be required and practiced, we feel many members won't be comfortable attending an indoor event as early as late July.
- Dr. Fauci and persons we trust are telling us that while cases are declining, positivity has plateaued at too high of a level, causing concern for another spike. On Sunday, it was reported in the news that Italy is closed effective March 15 because of a new spike.
- President Biden hopes small family gatherings would be OK for July 4. Our meeting is neither small nor family. We don't want to be a super spreader event.
- Spending money to hold an in-person event and have it canceled at the last minute and/or not well attended is a huge cost financially and to our reputation.
- Making the decision now provides ample time for the committee to focus the planning on one type of event.

We appreciate your support during these unprecedented times. And, hope for a huge turn-out on July 24th.

Ann Pehle

President

AAUW Pennsylvania

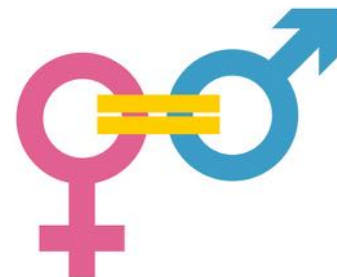
Dear Ms. Karel D'Huyvetters and Ms. Nancy Kinzli,

Thank you for your support! I have been able to focus more on my studies and experience less financial stress because of this scholarship. COVID has made this semester hard for me and everyone else, but I managed to pull through and pass all my classes. This semester, I joined the Science Club, which I became the Treasurer of. I look forward to making next semester better no matter what happens.

Sincerely, Victoria Hadomshi

Below are all the Equal Pay Days for 2021 with the national pay gap numbers for every dollar paid to white men across the country.

- **March 9, Asian American and Pacific Islander Women’s Equal Day** (85 cents)
- **March 24, All Women’s Equal Pay Day** – (82 cents) Pennsylvania is 79 cents.
- **June 4, Mother’s Equal Pay Day** (70 cents)
- **August 3, Black Women’s Equal Pay Day** (63 cents)
- **September 8, Native American Women’s Equal Pay Day** (60 cents)
- **October 21, Latina’s Equal Pay Day** (55 cents)



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

Raise the Minimum Wage

- The minimum wage has not increased with the cost of living. The federal minimum wage has remained stagnant at \$7.25 an hour since 2009, while the cost of living has risen by 20%.
- Black workers are overrepresented in the tipped employee workforce, which has a federal minimum wage of only \$2.13 an hour. Tipped employees are more likely to live in poverty, and there have been studies indicating racial discrimination in tipping practices by consumers.
- Black people are less likely to be homeowners, and Black borrowers who do own homes pay more for their mortgages than white borrowers.
- Employers of disabled workers, such as sheltered workshops, are not required to pay a minimum wage at all, and Black people experience disability at a higher rate than white people.

Stop White Centering

- The School Library Journal released an off-putting cover in February that centers the need for diversity in children's media for the benefit of white students.
- This is an example of how white centered diversity efforts only perpetuate white supremacy.
- The publishing industry is notoriously white, and often only celebrates diverse stories when they seem to have a benefit for white readers.

Finance Report 3/15/21	Credits	Debits
Banking		
Fees		\$8.00
Interest	\$0.49	
Fundraisers		
Donations	\$132.00	
Authors Luncheon	\$74.55	
Poinsettia Sale	\$499.00	\$212.25
Other Fundraisers	\$94.60	
Membership		
Branch Dues	\$772.50	
Brochures		\$22.72
Yearbook		\$51.10
Newsletter		\$50.69
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	\$1,573.14	\$736.55

The Making of 20/20 Vision: Eyes On Hunger

Members learned about the production of the video 20/20 Vision: Eyes On Hunger during the Gateway To Equity Award Presentation on March 8, 2021. Nancy Walters, Founder of Easton Hunger Coalition spoke on the process to gather local teenage artists and teach them to use their artistic abilities to speak on the social justice issue of hunger. Other speakers included Emmarose Biason, student artist and Keri Maxfield, Art Director, Nurture Nature Center. They spoke about the collaborative process between the student artists and local artists; each learning from each other.

A brief video of the student’s statement about their art work and their representing picture was shown to illustrate the portrayal of the student’s vision of hunger and its affect on people. Nancy had students learn about the 12 self evident truths on hunger and chose one to illustrate. Keri and local artist mentors worked with the students to learn that art can be used to express emotions, feelings, beliefs, social statements and ideas. The collaborative meetings had to stop because of the pandemic but the students were so invested in this project that they continued to work on their artistic creations. Keri and Nancy worked to create the video to share with the community to increase awareness that hunger is a reality in way too many households.

Karol D’Huyvetters, Co-President, presented the Gateway To Equity Award Certificates to Nancy Walters, Emmarose Biason, and Keri Maxfield for their collaborative efforts to create **20/20 VISION: Eyes on Hunger**, a creative response to the social justice issue of hunger in Easton and the Greater Lehigh Valley.

News You Can Use

The **Out To Lunch** Group would like to begin meeting again. If you feel you are ready to venture out to a restaurant, please call Claire Degnan at by May 3rd. If she receives enough calls she will schedule a lunch at the Marblehead Grill for May 12th.


Put May 12th on your calendar now and call Claire to let her know you’ll attend.

A Mindful Evening

On Tuesday, March 16th, members of our branch experienced a relaxing and informative evening learning about Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction from expert Collette Fanning of St. Lukes University Network. We participated in exercises to learn how ‘to be’, how to steer away from the ‘background noise’ and to be more aware of ourselves. As Collette stated, “ You only have this moment.”

Did you know we only pay attention about half of the time? Research has shown that our brains can learn to be open and accepting and learn to respond wisely to what’s here right now. If you would like to learn more or participate in an 8 week course, contact Colette at Collette.Fanning@sluhn.org.





When you renew your AAUW dues this year, you'll notice that the national dues have increased to \$62.
 After careful consideration, the AAUW Board of Directors made the difficult decision to increase individual Member dues for the next three years.

For Fiscal Year 2022, the dues will increase by \$3 to \$62;
 For Fiscal Year 2023, the dues will increase by \$5 to \$67;
 For Fiscal Year 2024, the dues will increase by \$5 to \$72.

Member dues support the National staff whose work is so important in helping AAUW achieve its advocacy goals. Did you know that dues cover only 15-20% of AAUW's operating budget?

- 30,000 people attended free webinars featuring career tips, advice on activism, and other educational offerings.
- 62,400 letters were sent to elected officials urging action on AAUW public policy priorities.
- 180,167 women were trained in salary-negotiation skills through Work Smart and Start Smart programs.

**Without your dues, we can't accomplish this work!
 AND all but \$3 of your national dues is tax deductible!**

AAUW DUES
 March 15 – June 30th

You may **pay on-line** using the Member Services Database or send your **check** payable to AAUW Easton branch with the form below to:
 AAUW Easton branch P.O. Box 1464 Easton, PA 18044-1464

TOTAL OF \$87.00 includes National \$62., PA State \$10 and Easton Branch \$15.
 Additional contributions welcome to The Greatest Needs Fund or fund of your choice.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Life Members and college/university representatives pay state and branch only (\$25.)
 A Life Membership is \$1,180.00.
 Undergraduate affiliates from a C/U partner pay no dues.
 Undergraduate affiliates from a non-C/U partner pay \$18.81
 Honorary Life members pay no dues.

Public Policy Update

Minimum Wage Legislation

Sen. Christine Tartaglione reintroduced SB12, **Comprehensive Modernization of the Minimum Wage**. It was referred to the Senate Labor and Industry Committee, on February 22, 2021. This bill would immediately raise Pennsylvania's minimum wage to \$12 per hour for all Pennsylvania workers with a pathway to \$15/hour by 2027.

It modernizes protections and enforcement standards in the law by:

- Eliminating the preemption on municipal wage ordinances, which ties the hands of our local governments.
- Guards against wage theft by ensuring that the Department of Labor & Industry may recover wages and penalties for all violations of the act, not only when a complaint is filed.
- Brings enforcement in line with the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act by allowing workers to receive damages, in addition to wages.
- Requires the Department of Human Services to calculate and publish the impact of a minimum wage increase on its programs, and mandates that savings be used to increase childcare and home and community-based services to ensure that these providers are able to pay the increased minimum wage.

Representatives Patty Kim and Stephen Kinsey intend to present a companion bill to SB12, **One Fair Wage**, on March 15, 2021.

Paid Leave Legislation

The **Family Care Act** will soon be introduced in both the House and the Senate.

The FCA will establish a paid family leave insurance program that working Pennsylvanians can access when they face a health crisis and need to take time off work. As the ongoing pandemic makes painfully clear, at some point, we will ALL need to take time to care for a family member or ourselves when serious health conditions arise.



Redistricting Legislation

From our friends at Fair Districts -

The transparency bills, [House Bill 22](#) and [Senate Bill 222](#), also called the [Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Act \(LACRA\)](#), are now officially introduced with co-sponsors from both parties. It's time to invite more co-sponsors and ask support for a vote.

Fair Districts has launched a *March toward Transparency*: a campaign to talk with every PA state legislator about the need to pass LACRA quickly. Latest events and updates can be found at <https://www.fairdistrictspa.com/>

Information from AAUW-PA Public Policy Highlights

The AAUW-PA Public Policy Chairs are asking each member to contact her/his state representative and send the letter below. It's past time for equal pay for equal work.

If you don't know who represents you in Harrisburg, you can find your legislator [here](#).



Letter for State Representatives in Harrisburg

As your constituent, I join with the American Association of University Women PA to ask you to support Modernizing Pennsylvania's Equal Pay Law. Despite federal and state equal pay laws, gender and racial pay gaps persist, and earnings lost to these gaps are exacerbating the financial effects of COVID-19, falling particularly heavily on women of color and the families who depend on their income.

The most recent data available indicates that the pay gap for women in Pennsylvania is 79 cents for every dollar a man earns ranking our state 32nd among all the states and the District of Columbia.

Representatives Simms and Davis recently introduced HB 819 to address this issue. I urge you to become a cosponsor of that legislation as we mark Equal Pay Day for all women on March 24, and to support this legislation going forward.

This bill will cover all employees, offer protection to employees who discuss their wages, ban salary history in hiring, clarify employer defenses, and establish strong legal procedures and remedies.

The gender pay gap exists for every age group, in nearly every profession, and widens over a woman's lifetime. It even follows women into retirement, due to lower retirement savings and pension benefits. Lost earnings due the wage gap not only leave women without a financial cushion to weather the current crisis, but also make it harder for them to build wealth, contributing to racial and gender wealth gaps and creating barriers to families' economic prosperity.

Modernizing Pennsylvania's Equal Pay Law will not only help women and their families, but it will contribute to the economic growth of our state. Please become a cosponsor today.

What You Need To Know About Zoom

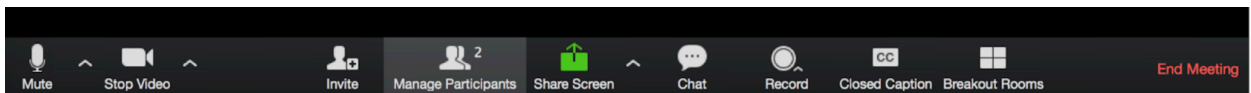
We've had to learn many new things during this pandemic year, not the least of which is how to Zoom. You can Zoom on desktop computers, laptop computers, tablets, iPads, Android and iPhones. Each device has a slightly different look on the Zoom desktop and sometimes, slightly different operating controls. It's not difficult to Zoom, and perhaps this column should have been written and published earlier. We hope that those members who feel anxious about using Zoom will use these directions to join in future Zoom meetings, webinars, and programs.

General Zoom observations

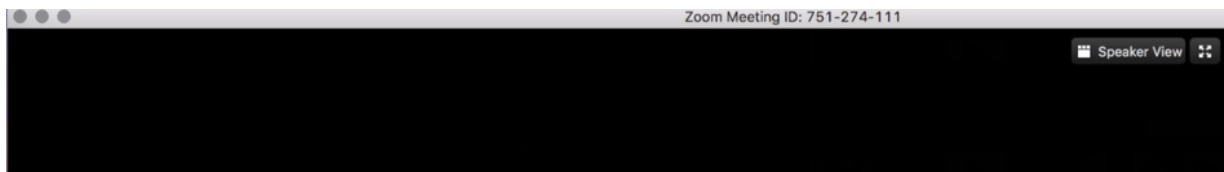
- The host of the meeting sends the zoom invite via email or text
- Write down the meeting ID and password
- For any meeting, click or press the **“join Zoom meeting” link** in the body of the email
- Enter the meeting ID and/or password if requested and click or press join
- Depending on how the zoom invite is set up, you may or may not need the meeting ID and password.
- If this is your first time using the app, you may be asked to agree to the terms of service
- You may be in a waiting room until the host lets you into the room.

On a computer

- Once you enter the meeting ID, if requested, click join and you will be taken to the meeting
- If you are given the option, allow audio and video access
- On the bottom of the Zoom screen, there is a menu bar with audio, video, chat, and other options



- You can control your audio and video options by clicking on the Mute and Video icon



- On the top right of the Zoom screen, there are options for “Gallery” or “Speaker” view.

On a tablet or iPad or mobile phone

- Find the zoom cloud meeting app in your play store (android) or app store (iPhone)
- Install and then press “Open”
- The “join a meeting” screen will appear
- Enter the meeting ID and password if requested
- Click “join”
- Allow audio and video access

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



April 19, 7:30 pm
Hostess: Randi Blauth
Book: The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

Rotating Gourmet

Chair: Lois Wildrick



Regular dinners will resume after the pandemic.

Diversity: Deeds and Dialogue

Chair: Rosemary Baker



April 28, 7:00 pm
Hostess: Kathleen Morgan and Susan McNamara
Topic: **Anti-Racism Daily**

International Relations

Chair: Fran Kennedy



April 13, 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: Fran Kennedy
Topic: **How To Avoid A Climate Disaster** by Bill Gates

Tuesday Afternoon Bridge

Chair: Rosemary Baker



Regular games will resume post pandemic

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.

April 18, 5:00 pm
Zoom event

Stitch and Be

Chair: Yvonne Payne



April 1, 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

