

# **The Easton Edition**

Easton, PA Branch Newsletter

### **CALENDAR**

### Newsletter Deadline Saturday January 15

## **Branch Meeting**

Holiday party

December 11, 1 - 4 pm

### **Board Meeting**

Tuesday, January 4

#### IN THIS ISSUE

Holiday Party	1
Presidents' Pen	2
Poinsettia Sale	3
Shopping	4
Finance	5
What Are You Reading?	5
Girls Recognition	6
What's On Your Mind?	7
LunaFest	7
Thank You Notes	8
Public Policy	9
Interest Groups	10

2022

Mind is a flexible mirror, adjust it to see a better world

Amit Ray



Party Time



Lois and Ken Wildrick have graciously offered to host the:

## **Annual AAUW Holiday Party.**

Date: December 11, 2022 Time: 1:00p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: 79 Central Drive, Easton, PA.

Join branch members and spouses, companions, and friends as they celebrate the holiday season and toast the coming new year. A light lunch with cookies will be provided. A variety of non-alcoholic beverages will be available. It's BYOB if you'd like a glass of wine with your meal.

**R.S.V.P.:** Karol D'Huyvetters by December 2, 2022



# From the Leadership Team

### **Reflections on AAUW**

As the holidays approach, we begin to reflect on what we are thankful for. I know one thing I am thankful for is that the election is over and, at least in PA, there were no problems at the polls and, for the most part, no accusations of voter fraud. Congratulations to Josh Shapiro, John Fetterman, and Susan Wild. We do still have to continue the fight for our AAUW priorities including but not limited to pay equity, early gender bias, and sexual misconduct in schools, as the margin in legislatures that supports these priorities is so small. Fighting for our issues is a part of our mission.

While we continue to work on our priorities, we also look forward to gathering with our fellow members for good times and friendship. AAUW gives us a sense of purpose and fun. As we look toward the holidays and the New Year, not only do we reflect on what we are thankful for, but also how we want to go forward in 2023. Each of AAUW's issues gives us several avenues to pursue as we continue to support the mission and each other.

#### Items to Remember

Join us at our Holiday Party hosted by Lois and Ken Wildrick

Think about joining one of our interest groups - they help keep us connected

Support us at our new fundraiser - LunaFest

Come to the One Read in March

Volunteer to help out at our Girls Recognition Night in May

Celebrate high school seniors at our Scholarship and Award Ceremony

Rosemary Baker Leadership Team



### What's your favorite Christmas Flower? Did someone say POINSETTIA?

It's that time year - time to place your poinsettia order with Janice Lupackino who has graciously consented to coordinate our sale once again this year. Print the order form below, fill it out and mail to Janice with your payment by December 9.

Pick up or delivery on Friday, December 16.



### **Global Mamas Back for the Holidays**

Home decor products include:

- Trivets
- Table runners
- Pot holders
- Button Baskets
- Velcro baskets
- · Batik reversible aprons, Child and Adult

### Other products to consider:

- Eco products
- · Water hyacinth items
- Jewelry and ornaments from recycled glass
- · Skin care products and soap
- Batik dresses for girls sizes 2-8
- · Onesies and shirts for babies and kids
- Accessories including scarves, scrunchies and headbands.

Give Fran Kennedy a call, and come pick out a special item for friends, family, or yourself. You will be helping to support women in Ghana to send their children to school at the same time. Ten percent of all proceeds will go to AAUW.





### **Chameleon Blue**







Looking for that perfect gift? Look no further than Chameleon Blue, a Fair Trade store in Clinton, NJ. There are always new items from around the world to choose from and old favorites as well:

- Gnomes from Nepal
- · Coffee from Nicaragua
- · Votive candle holder from Egypt
- · Bird mug from Guatemala
- · Wooden tray from Kenya
- Woven basket from Colombia
- Beaded necklace from Nepal

#### Two favorites:

- · Upcycled sari dishtowels from India
- Necklaces fashioned from Tagua nuts

#### WHAT ARE YOU READING?

... a question members of the Easton Branch Book Group never stop asking. In short, we are always on the lookout for books that others have enjoyed: fiction and non-fiction; old familiars worth a reread as well as hot off the press releases; a best seller or one with mixed reviews but that promises a great discussion.

While we keep our eyes on the lookout for published reviews, we know that often nothing is quite as reliable as recommendations from the voices close to home whom we trust. And obviously who better than the members of Easton AAUW? So, we reach out to YOU to respond to our question and do so with an added incentive: the promise of a complete list of recommended titles for all branch members. Please send title(s) with author names to Susan (check the Yearbook for email) by December 30, 2022. Help us make this happen!

At the same time, we also would be pleased to have YOU join us in our monthly meetings. On January 16, 2023, the Book Group is looking forward to conversations about Min Jin Lee's *Pachinko followed by* Ian McEwan's *Atonement* on February 20, 2023. Both books were first published some years ago. For some of us, this means a reread; for others a new experience. Whether you "always meant to read", "really liked but never had a chance to talk about" or never considered either or both of these books, the new year might be a great time to treat yourself. We would be pleased to have you join us for either or both meetings.

If you have questions about the meeting or would like to attend, please contact Susan (check Yearbook for email)

We look forward to your participation!

Susan McNamara

November 15, 2022	Income	Cost
Banking		
Fees		
Interest	\$0.35	
Fundraisers		
Donations	\$64.00	
Lunafest	\$250.00	
Poinsettia Sale		
Other Fundraisers	\$700.00	\$380.00
Membership		
Branch Dues	\$675.00	
Postcards/Brochures		\$26.50
Yearbook		
Newsletter		\$25.11
Other Printing		\$19.68
Insurance		\$200.00
Mailbox		\$182.00
Postage		
Publicity		
Miscellaneous		
Officer Expenses		
Membership		
Leadership Team		
Finance Officer		
Programs		
Meeting Rooms		
Public Policy		
Scholarship		
Honorariums/Speaker Gifts		
Diversity		
Socials		\$71.77
Other Expenses-GRN		
Member Assistance		
Totals	\$1,689.35	\$905.06

It's time to consider volunteering for the Girls Recognition Night committee. Tasks that need to be done include contacting the area middle schools, keeping track of the selected students, putting together the program, making the award certificates, and helping out on May 4th.

Please contact Susan McNamara or Toni Hoffman to volunteer. Phone numbers and email addresses in the Yearbook or use the "Contact Us" tab on the website.



#### What's On Your Mind?

It can be invigorating, interesting and even enlightening to engage in lively conversations about timely topics.

There is no formal branch meeting in January so we're going to try something new - small groups meeting to discuss one topic each time.

On Tuesday, January 10th at 7:30 pm, we will meet to discuss body image. What a perfect topic to discuss after all the holiday eating we've done!

On Sunday, January 15th at 2:00 pm, we will meet to discuss book banning. How do you feel about it? Is there ever a good reason to ban a book?

And, on Friday, January 27th, we'll meet to discuss a topic of your choosing!

Given the cold weather and lack of daylight, these meetings will most probably be via Zoom.

### So, let Toni know of your interest soon!

New in 2023: AAUW Easton's inaugural year of LUNAFEST.

Films By and About Women. March 19th 1-4 PM.

In partnership with Landis Center for Community Engagement, Lafayette College. LUNAFEST 2023 replaces the Authors' Luncheon and supports our scholarships to the area's outstanding college-bound high school women.

Mark your calendars: Sunday 3/19 1-4PM. LUNAFEST at Buck Hall, Landis Cinema, 3rd and Snyder, Easton.

\$25. Free Parking! Jewelry Exchange! Discussions! Refreshments!

#### Out To Lunch

The **Out To Lunch** Interest Group is meeting on December 2nd at 12:30 pm at the Marblehead Chowderhouse.

Claire Degnan, the chair of the group, is looking for suggestions of where to dine in the coming months. Maybe there's a place in Nazareth that you've wanted to try - this is your opportunity! Think outside the box and give Claire a call.



#### **Newsletter Information**

Wouldn't you like to learn how to put a newsletter together or just use WORD for all the articles? 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.

### **Thank You Letters**



AAUW Easton Branch STEM Scholarship C/O Northampton Community College Scholarship Office 3835 Green Pond Road Bethlehem, PA 18020

Dear AAUW Easton Branch,

My name is Mya Maldonado and I am honored that you have chosen me as the recipient for the AAUW Easton Branch STEM Scholarship. I would like to thank you for giving me a better opportunity to pursue a major in Biological Sciences. Thank you for your donations to help me continue my education at Northampton Community College.

I am currently in the freshman year of my Associate's Degree. My dedication and passion for my Associate's Degree has allowed me to excel at school. In addition to my academic pursuits, I have also been involved in numerous volunteering clubs in high school which I hope to continue in college.

Throughout my decision making process a major in Biological Sciences was the best choice for me at Northampton Community College in order to take my future to the next step. After graduating I also aspire to be a Pediatric Oncologist in hopes to help children with cancer.

My education would not be possible without your generous donation to AAUW Easton Branch STEM Scholarship. Thank you for supporting me towards reaching my fullest personal and professional potential.

Sincerely,

Mya Maldonado





3835 Green Pond Roa Bethlehem, PA 18020



American Association of University Women (AAUW)-Easton Branch Scholarship AAUW Easton Branch Scholarship Endowment C/O Northampton Community College Scholarship Office 3835 Green Proud Road Bethlehem, PA 18020

Dear AAUW Members,

I am humbly thankful that you have chosen me for the AAUW Eastern Branch scholarship endowment award. It will greatly help me on my journey.

This is the beginning of many steps that will help me towards my future in becoming a nurse. I have been striving for this for so long, that I am very excited as I will be making many steps closer to reaching my goal. Although, I have been through many ups and downs, twists and urns I have stayed positive and remained humble. There are times in life where many others may not even get the opportunity to attend college, yet I have the opportunity in many people with many resources to help me along the way. I am so grateful that this opportunity has come my way and that I was chosen, I will not take this for granted as this will be the steps that will lead me to my path of my journey for success.

I want to be the best nurse that I can be by belping others for my remaining time on this earth. I have always felt destined to be great in the field of nursing, it is my passion, it comes from my heart and it is my reality. I am so excited for what is to come, but I know that I have to be patient and time will take its course.

Thank you again for this amazing scholarship.

Best Regards,

Whitney Frazier

Whitney Frazier

### **Public Policy**

We were bombarded with misinformation and Read past the headline: You know how tabloids disinformation during the run up to the elections post scandalous headlines and follow them with but it doesn't stop now that Election Day is past. articles that are relatively mundane? It's important to make the distinction between mis Unfortunately, political outlets do that too. It's easy and dis information and know how to manage it.

Misinformation: inadvertently sharing false is. information without the intent to harm

Ex. Your sister says that the latest local bill will raise taxes because that's what she heard from a trusted friend.

information with the intent to harm

Ex. Your sister lies that the latest local bill will raise taxes because she knows that's the only way you won't support it.

While disinformation may seem like the worse of the two, it's frighteningly easy to spread misinformation. Remember the game "telephone" and how it shows that our messages get distorted over time? Every day, we play telephone in our face-to-face conversations, over social media, and more, with important political information.

#### How can you spot Mis and Dis information?

Research the source: Who's sharing this information? If it's online, does the website sound familiar or have any political affiliations? If it's inperson, is this individual a frequent exaggerator, or do they have a job/experience that would give them insider info?

**Check the date:** t's easy to get incensed over an article on Twitter...only to realize it was published years ago and no longer applies.

Cross check: Are reliable news sources reporting the same information? If not, it's unlikely that your smaller source just happened to get a superexclusive, juicy scoop.

to take a snippet out of context to make an article look like it will be more dramatic than it actually

Question emotionally charged content: Is the person or outlet sharing this information using emotionally manipulative language to get you upset or excited? That's a red flag. Reliable Disinformation: intentionally sharing false sources let the facts fuel your response, not emotional language.

#### **How to Stop Mis/Dis information**

**Don't engage**: It may be tempting to comment on an inaccurate Facebook post about how wrong it is, or to click on it to read all of the writer's claims, but don't! Every like, click, share, and comment contributes to the piece's rate of engagement, which tells whatever website you're on that it's good content that they should show to more people. Many outlets take advantage of this, posting headlines that they know will have you firing back a response - because good or bad, that response will promote their piece.

Share correct information: For every incorrect piece of info you see or hear, try to share one that's correct. Instead of creating further discourse around something you don't want people to hear, get people talking about what you do want them to hear.

Report when needed: Whenever you see disinformation online, report it to the company, to the social media platform it's on or to the appropriate source.

### **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: Susan McNamara



January 16, 2:00 pm Hostess: Janice Lupackino

Book: **Pachinko** by Min Jin Lee

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging

Chair: Rosemary Baker



January 5, 7:00 pm Hostess: Meet on Zoom

Topic: Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings

of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer- Section 4

**Bridge** 

Chair: Rosemary Baker



Contact Rosemary for date and time. New members welcome.

#### Mah Jongg

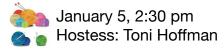
Chair: Becky Goldenberg



January 9 1:30 pm January 23 1:30 pm Hostess: Rosemary, Toni

#### Stitch and Be

Chair: Toni Hoffman



### **International Relations**

Chair: Fran Kennedy



January 24, 1:30 p.m. Hostess: Margaret Skaarup Topic: Crime/Drugs/Guns/human

Trafficking

### **Out To Lunch**

Chair: Claire Degnan



All members welcome. Friday, December 2, 12:30 pm Marblehead Chowderhouse RSVP to Claire by 11/28

# Tapas Dining Chair:



Date and hostess to be determined.

#### Women & Science

Chair: Susan McNamara



Date: January

Topic: **Braiding Sweetgrass** Hostess: Susan McNamara

#### Walking Group

**Chair**: Fran Kennedy Every Friday 9 am. Call Fran for details.

### **American Association of University Women**

AAUW National 800.326.2289 www.aauw.org

Easton Branch easton-pa.aauw.net

Leadership Team Rosemary, Karol, Fran 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, 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 Pennsylvania Branch

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PO Box 1464 Easton, PA 18044-1464

