

## CALENDAR

### Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, February 15

### Branch Meeting

**Mental Health and Teens:  
What We Should Know**

February 21, 7 pm on Zoom

### Board Meeting

Monday, February 6

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*2023*

What you do makes a difference,  
and you have to decide what kind of  
difference you want to make.

Jane Goodall

## Mental Health and Teens: What We Should Know

Tuesday, February 21, 7 pm- Zoom

### SPEAKERS:



**Dr. Dana Milakovic** serves as the Mental Wellness and Trauma Specialist for the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). Dr. Milakovic also supports PA in moving forward as a trauma-informed state by participating on the leadership team for HEAL PA, as well as serving as the co-chair of the educational committee for HEAL PA. Dr. Milakovic is a mental health and trauma specialist with experience in school mental health, community mental health, pediatric neuro-psychology, school administration, and school psychology.

**Joseph Welsh** is a Founder and Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Justice Institute. Prior to the Institute, he has spent the last 15 years as a civil rights attorney litigating police misconduct and prison condition cases. For the past six years, Mr. Welsh has served on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania ACLU. In 2012, he received the prestigious ACLU-PA Torchbearer Award for his work fighting voter suppression efforts.

Mr. Welsh spent decades managing political and social justice campaigns in several states. He has also served as a consultant to state and local governments.

## From the Leadership Team

### *It's Black History Month!*

How did it come about?

Born to enslaved parents, Dr. Carter Woodson, was motivated by the release of the racist film, *Birth of a Nation*. He believed that the contributions of black Americans were being 'left out' of history. He paid dues to the American Historical Association, but wasn't allowed to attend conferences. His mission was to right what he saw as an unacceptable wrong – the glaring omission of formalized Negro History. In 1916 he began publishing *The Journal of Negro History*. His hope was that understanding would create better relations in the US between blacks and whites.

Ten years later in 1926 he had another idea – there should be a week of activities devoted to Black American history. He chose a week in February because it was close to the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. By the 1960's the week evolved into Black History Month and was officially recognized in 1976, the year of the bicentennial, by President Gerald Ford.

As President Obama said in 2016, "It's about the lived, shared, experience of all African Americans, high and low, famous and obscure, and how those experiences have shaped and challenged and ultimately strengthened America. It's about taking an unvarnished look at the past so we can create a better future."

This year's theme is Black Resistance. It's a time to remember the many ways that African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression in all forms for years. As Booker T Washington stated, "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to be saved."

What can we do? Visit black historic museums and sites, read books about and by black authors, support black restaurants and businesses, explore how music and dance have been influenced by black artists, watch films by and about black issues.

Empathy, understanding, and change begin with education and action, no matter how small.

Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other's eye for an instant?  
Henry David Thoreau





Easton (PA) Branch

## Mental Health and Teens: What We Should Know

Join us to learn what teens are facing and what can be done.



Tuesday, February 21  
7:00 pm Zoom

**RSVP** to  
[aauweastonprograms@gmail.com](mailto:aauweastonprograms@gmail.com)  
to receive the Zoom link

[Easton-pa.aauw.net](http://Easton-pa.aauw.net)

### Speakers:

**Dana Milakovic**  
Mental Wellness and  
Trauma Specialist

**Joseph Welsh**  
Executive Director  
LV Justice Institute



There is a mental health crisis in our country, among teens as well as the larger community. Join us to learn more about this topic. Tell your family and friends and encourage them to RSVP and Zoom in.

This program is open to community members. Spread the word and **RSVP** to [aauweastonprograms@gmail.com](mailto:aauweastonprograms@gmail.com) for the zoom link.

**WE NEED YOU!**

**Girls Recognition Night** received rave reviews from the students, parents, staff of the Nurture Nature Center and branch members who volunteered their time. Be a part of this exciting event and volunteer for the upcoming event.

Volunteer your time for our second Girls Recognition Night being held on May 4th this year. The volunteer duties consist of attending the event, helping to seat the girls and their parents, handing out programs and name tags, helping with refreshments and clean up.

To volunteer, contact Susan McNamara or Toni Hoffman.

**Holiday Party Full of Cheer and Friendship**

On December 11, 2022, members and spouses gathered at the home of Lois and Ken Wildrick to celebrate the holiday season. A light lunch of various finger foods and cookies was served to guests. Lois treated guests to a mulled cider punch that warmed everyone up. Members and spouses enjoyed lively conversations and just catching up on each other’s lives. Lois had decorated the house with many of her antique and favorite holiday decorations including a tree with tinsel. Adding to the festive atmosphere, the weather cooperated by providing a light, fluffy snow!

January 18, 2023	Income	Cost
<b>Banking</b>		
Fees		
Interest	\$1.02	
<b>Fundraisers</b>		
Donations	\$64.00	
Lunafest	\$250.00	\$308.76
Poinsettia Sale	\$700.00	\$426.00
Other Fundraisers	\$700.00	\$380.00
<b>Membership</b>		
Branch Dues	\$705.00	
Postcards/Brochures		\$26.50
Yearbook		
Newsletter		\$36.71
Other Printing		\$19.68
Insurance		\$200.00
Mailbox		\$182.00
Postage		
Publicity		
Miscellaneous		
<b>Officer Expenses</b>		
Membership		
Leadership Team		
Finance Officer		
<b>Programs</b>		
Meeting Rooms		
Public Policy		
Scholarship		
Honorariums/Speaker Gifts		\$50.00
Diversity		
Socials/Holiday Party		\$306.01
Other Expenses-GRN		
Member Assistance		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,420.02</b>	<b>\$1,935.66</b>

PRESENTS

# LUNA FEST<sup>®</sup>



**FILMS BY AND ABOUT WOMEN**  
**JOIN US IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY**

TO LEARN MORE AND PURCHASE TICKETS: [lunafest.org/screenings](https://lunafest.org/screenings)

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



BENEFITING:



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New in 2023! LUNAFEST® joins AAUW-Easton’s rich roster of fundraising events that add to our scholarship fund which provides scholarships for local high school women headed off to college. The LUNAFEST AAUW-Easton 2023 event will be held **Sunday, March 19, 2023, 1 pm**, at Buck Hall, Landis Cinema, Lafayette College, 219 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Easton, PA, 18042. LUNAFEST is a series of short internationally-produced films by and about women. It’s always a good time to think and talk about women’s challenges and strengths, especially in Pennsylvania 2023! The Landis Center for Community Engagement at Lafayette College is our gracious co-host and partner.

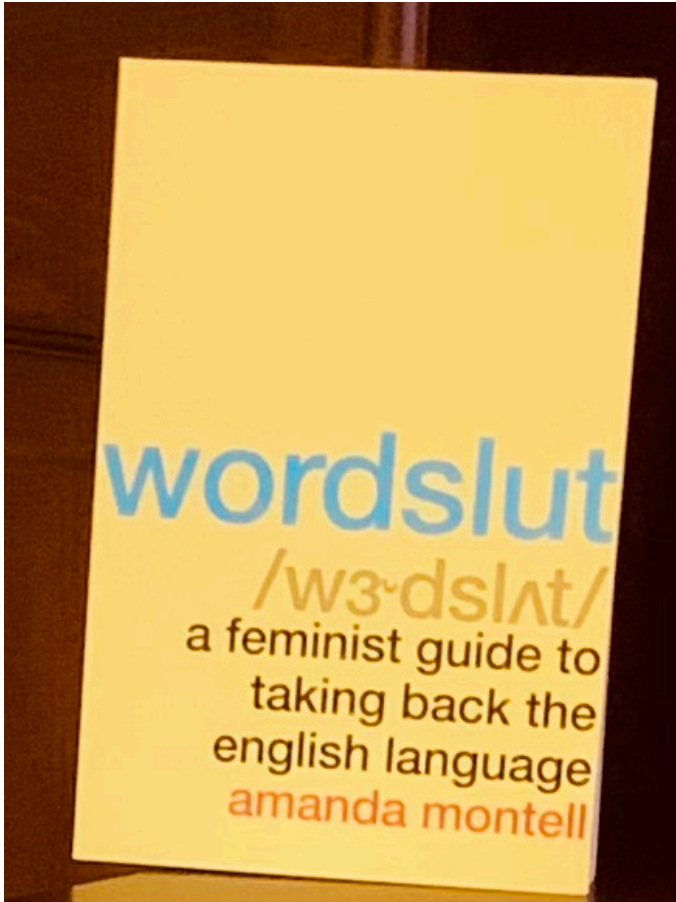
Theater Doors open at 1 pm for light refreshments, networking, and posting your contribution to our free jewelry exchange (bring one, get one: it’s fun!). Seating starts at 1:40 for a 1:50 pm welcome, and the 90-minute series of LUNAFEST films starts at 2 pm sharp. We’ll finish with a short optional discussion of the films and then adjourn to the lobby to get our new bling along with a free LUNABAR. Tickets to the event are \$25.00; order them online at **[lunafest.org/screenings](https://lunafest.org/screenings)** (look for the March 19<sup>th</sup> date). The registration fee was donated so all proceeds go to the scholarship fund. Parking is free. Recommended for ages 13+. **THEATER SEATING IS LIMITED! SIGN UP EARLY!**

At the same link above, there’s also a \$10 option for students and folks who’d prefer to see the films at home (virtual screening is available for 48 hours after the event at Buck Hall). Want to increase your gift to our scholarship fund? You can select “donate” on <https://easton-pa.aauw.net/> or make a check out to “AAUW-Easton Branch” and send directly to our Finance Officer: Fran Kennedy, PO Box 1464, Easton, PA 18044-1464.

Covid Notes: Masks are encouraged but optional. This event was intentionally scheduled at the end of Lafayette’s Spring Break so the environment is as virus-free as it can be.

## What's On Your Mind?

## Out To Lunch



The **Out To Lunch** Interest Group is meeting on February 23 at 12:30 pm at the Blue Grillehouse.

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.

## Community One Read

Have you ever wondered why there are so many words in the English language that are derogatory to women? And how these words came to mean what they do today?

Read **Wordslut** and join us for our March 21st program, 6:30 pm, at the Palmer Library to find out the answers to these questions and more.

**Bring your friends!**

## 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.

## Public Policy

AAUW has always been concerned with education and no more so than now. Public education and current curricula are under attack by school boards and parents across the country. First it was charter schools and inequitable funding, now it's book banning. Book banning is the latest attempt to influence what our children are learning. According to PEN America, more books are banned in more school districts in more states, and more students are losing access to literature.

“More” is the operative word for this report (Banned in the USA: The Growing Movement to Censor Books in Schools) on school book bans, which offers the first comprehensive look at banned books throughout the 2021–22 school year. This report offers an update on the count in PEN America's previous report, *Banned in the USA: Rising School Book Bans Threaten Free Expression and Students' First Amendment Rights (April 2022)*, which covered the first nine months of the school year (July 2021 to March 2022). It also sheds light on the role of organized efforts to drive many of the bans.

Many Americans may conceive of challenges to books in schools in terms of reactive parents, or those simply concerned after thumbing through a paperback in their child's knapsack or hearing a surprising question about a novel raised by their child at the dinner table.

However, the **large majority** of book bans underway today are **not spontaneous, organic expressions of citizen concern**. Rather, they reflect the work of a growing number of advocacy organizations that have made demanding censorship of certain books and ideas in schools part of their mission.”

Sandra Miller, our branch member and AAUW-PA Public Policy Chair, spoke at our January 15th Zoom discussion on banning books. Her comment about Moms for Liberty, a well financed organization that has branches across the country and here in Northampton County as well, should be a wake up call for us.

From Media Matters - “Moms for Liberty, a nonprofit claiming to advocate for “parental rights,” appears to be using parents as pawns to advance a far-right agenda.”

### What Can We Do?

Education Voters of PA is one organization that is trying to fight back against the mis and dis information surrounding this issue.

Check out organizations such as PEN America, Red Wine and Blue and the Education Law Center for more information on this topic.



## 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



February 20, 7:00 pm  
Hostess: Susan McNamara  
Book: **Atonement**  
by Ian McEwan

### International Relations

**Chair:** Fran Kennedy



February 28, 2:00 p.m.  
Hostess: TBD  
Topic: Physical Health Care

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging

**Chair:** Rosemary Baker



February 2, 2:30 pm  
Hostess: Toni Hoffman  
Topic: Robin Wall Kimmerer talk: We the People, Expanding the Circle of Citizenship

### Out To Lunch

**Chair:** Claire Degnan



All members welcome.  
Thursday, February 23, 12:30 pm  
**Blue Grillhouse**  
RSVP to Claire by 2/20.

### Bridge

**Chair:** Rosemary Baker



Contact Rosemary for date and time. New members welcome.

### Tapas Dining

**Chair:**



Date and hostess to be determined.

### Mah Jongg

**Chair:** Becky Goldenberg



February 13, 1:30 pm  
February 27, 1:30 pm  
Hostess: Randi, Susan

### Women & Science

**Chair:** Susan McNamara



Date: Thursday, March 30  
Topic: **Beaverland** by Leila Philip  
Read through chapter 5  
Zoom at 7 pm

### Stitch and Be

**Chair:** Toni Hoffman



February 2, 2:30 pm  
Hostess: Vera Cosgrove

### Walking Group

**Chair:** Fran Kennedy

Every Friday 9 am.  
Call Fran for details.

## American Association of University Women

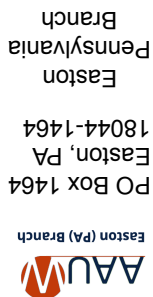
AAUW National	800.326.2289	<a href="http://www.aauw.org">www.aauw.org</a>
Easton Branch		<a href="http://easton-pa.aauw.net">easton-pa.aauw.net</a>
Leadership Team	Rosemary, Karol, Fran	<a href="http://easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/">easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/</a>
Membership	Randi Blauth	<a href="http://easton-pa.aauw.net/membership/">easton-pa.aauw.net/membership/</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, 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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