

CALENDAR

Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, August 15

Branch Meeting

Board Meeting

Monday, August 21

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2023

Rather than love, than money, than fame,
give me truth

Henry David Thoreau

Women's Health Issues

Speaker: Karen Snowden, PT, DPT

Tuesday, September 19th, 7 pm
Palmer Library



Dr. Karen Snowden is a Doctor of Physical Therapy, board certified in women's health and holds specialty certifications through the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) in pelvic floor dysfunction and pregnancy / postpartum issues.

She has been a practicing physical therapist for more than 25 years, currently specializing in women's and men's health. She is known for her comprehensive approach to helping patients achieve their personal goals, using a holistic approach.

Dr. Snowden graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy degree from Northeastern University and her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Widener University. She specializes in the treatment of pelvic health in all genders including pain, bladder, bowel, and sexual dysfunction, pregnancy-related disorders, and women's issues throughout the lifespan, including menopause.

Join us at this first branch meeting of the new AAUW year to find out more about this topic to which we can all relate.

From the Presidents' Pen

Welcome Back. Summer is nearly over. Where did it go? Lisa and I hope you enjoyed the time off and are ready to begin a new year. Some members have been very busy over the summer. We have a program committee which has been busy planning interesting programs for all. We also have a new membership committee that has been meeting, learning from Randi Blauth's wisdom, learning about the Community Hub, and planning recruitment efforts. We have a new Finance officer also in the learning phase.

Lisa and I are looking forward to working together and learning from one another.

From Lisa:

"For those of you who I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, my name is Lisa Spitale and I am excited to be partnering with Fran as a co-leader of this branch. I live in Forks Township with my husband, son and our 2 dogs and am an attorney with an office in Easton. I look forward to getting to know and working with each of you throughout this year. "

There are still many opportunities for more members to become involved, in two areas in particular - fundraising and in chairing Girls' Recognition Night. Perhaps YOU are interested in one of these areas. Please let Fran and Lisa know if you are. If we don't hear from you, you may be receiving a phone call asking you to volunteer.

Consider this inspiring quote "I can promise you that women working together – linked, informed and educated – can bring peace and prosperity to this forsaken planet."

Isabelle Allende

Fran & Lisa

Presenting 2023-25 Branch Board

Elected Officers

Co-Presidents

Fran Kennedy

Lisa Spitale

Membership Vice President

Kathleen Morgan

Finance Officer

Becky Goldenberg

Appointed Officers/Positions

Secretary

Rosemary Baker

Newsletter

Toni Hoffman

Public Policy

Lilly Gioia

Historian

Nancy Butow

Program

Margaret Skaarup

Scholarship

Nancy Berry

Website/FB Administrator

Toni Hoffman

Event Coordinators

Evening at the Williams Center

Rosemary Baker

Poinsettia Sale

Janice Lupackino

Let's Read Math™

Karol D'Huyvetters

Branch Programs

Tuesday, September 19, 7 p.m.
Women’s Health Issues
 Karen Snowden PT, DPT. WCS
 Palmer Library

Tuesday, October 11, 7 p.m.
Human Trafficking
 Rev. Richard Mollica
 Palmer Library

Tuesday, November 14, 8 p.m.
An Evening at the Williams Center
 The Allentown Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, December 10, 2 p.m.
Holiday Party
 Home of Claire Degnan
 825 Paxinosa Ave.

Saturday, February 10, 1 p.m.
One Read
Elderhood by Louise Aronson
 Palmer Library

Tuesday, March 19, 7 p.m.
International Aid Organizations
 Patricia Price
 Palmer Library

Saturday, April 20, 10:30 am
Science on a Sphere
 Nurture Nature Center

Tuesday, May 21, 7 p.m.
Scholarship and Award Ceremony
 First Presbyterian Church of Easton
 333 Spring Garden Street

| 2023-2024 Budget | Budgeted Income | Budgeted Cost |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Banking | | |
| Fees | | \$24.00 |
| Interest | \$1.00 | |
| Fundraisers | | |
| Donations | \$200.00 | |
| Films | \$400.00 | \$100.00 |
| Poinsettia Sale | \$300.00 | \$150.00\$150426 |
| Other Fundraisers | \$700.00 | \$380.00 |
| Membership | | |
| Branch Dues | \$675.00 | |
| Postcards/Brochures | | \$75.00 |
| Yearbook | | \$75.00 |
| Newsletter | | \$100 |
| Other Printing | | \$200.00 |
| Insurance | | \$600.00 |
| Mailbox | | \$194.00 |
| Postage | | \$50 |
| Publicity | | \$100.00 |
| Miscellaneous | | \$200.00 |
| Officer Expenses | | |
| Conference Travel | | \$300.00 |
| Membership | | \$25.00 |
| Co-Presidents | | \$100.00 |
| Finance Officer | | \$100.00 |
| Programs | | |
| Meeting Rooms | | \$150.00 |
| Public Policy | | \$50.00 |
| Scholarship | | \$160.00 |
| Honorariums/Speaker Gifts | | \$200.00 |
| Diversity | | \$100.00 |
| Socials/Holiday Party | \$250.00 | \$350.00 |
| Other Expenses/GRN | | \$350.00 |
| Member Assistance | \$100.00 | \$100.00 |
| Totals | \$1,926.00 | \$4,059 |

Let's Read Math™ Is Back

Eight branch members, several community partners (including one scholarship recipient), two libraries, and nine stories helped 50 local children learn that math is fun and has everyday uses. Let's Read Math™ had a positive re-introduction this summer. AAUW Easton Branch partnered with Easton and Palmer Libraries to present nine sessions of Let's Read Math lessons. The libraries included LRM in their summer programming. The Branch volunteers planned and taught the lessons.

The children learned geometry concepts from The Greedy Triangle. Each child had an opportunity to make several shapes with toothpicks and marshmallows. Wanda's Roses and Math-terpieces taught and reinforced addition and mapping. The participants really enjoyed learning to make tissue paper roses. After Grandfather Tang's Story, the children made pictures out of tangrams. The hundreds chart with mystery letters from The King's Commissioner motivated all to learn to count by 2's, 5's and 10's. How Big Is A Foot? taught the children the importance of standard measurement through the story.

The children who participated in LRM enjoyed all the stories. They were very motivated to complete the hands-on experiences. After each lesson, several children thanked us for the experience. Some of the children participated in several different sessions. All the volunteers enjoyed this opportunity to interact with the children and had very positive experiences.



Let's Read Math!



AN AAUW-EASTON BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP INVITATION

Members of the Book Group invite you to join us as we journey through readings and discussion of nine novels selected for this year. These books, each initially recommended by a single member, on first glance seem wide ranging in theme, character, plot, time, and settings. And they are. However, as we move through them, it is very likely we will enjoy finding that, by coincidence and despite significant differences, they have much in common. They will begin to “talk to one another”—to reveal any number of unexpected connections and themes for discussion.

In September we start off in a Moscow Hotel following the 1917 Revolution (**A Gentleman in Moscow** by Amor Towles) where we meet an adventurous nine-year-old and a hotel-confined Count. October will take us to the realities of NYC and beyond during the Pandemic (Jodi Picoult's **Wish You Were Here**). Two estranged siblings take on the challenges of unraveling their mother's deeply buried, secret history in **Black Cake** by Charmaine Wilkerson for November. **Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret** by Judy Blume in December will prompt discussion of targeted topics in the banned book debate. Eudora Welty's **The Optimist's Daughter** moves us in January to the deep South and the experiences of a WWII widow about to lose her father and childhood home as well. Stories of a record breaking, race horse and his enslaved groom beginning in 1850, a 19th century oil painting, and a Smithsonian scientist in 2019 are woven together together in **Horse** by Gwendolyn Brooks for February. In March, Asha Lemmie's novel **Fifty Words for Rain** charts the coming of age of an eight-year-old, biracial girl born into prejudice and condemnation of Post WWII Koyto, Japan. In this, our second Perveen Mistry mystery, our female, Bombay lawyer charged to settle a stalemate over the education of a future Maharaja of Satapur, quickly becomes suspicious of foul play related to the deaths of two family members in Sujata Massey's **The Satapur Moonstone**. In our last novel **The Chrysalids** by John Hyndham, we enter a post apocalyptic community, rural and religious, in which the inhabitants commit to the preservation of absolute normality—even in the face of inevitable challenges.

If you are interested in any one, some, or all these books, come—whether you've read the book or not. We meet at 2:00 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month, usually at a member's home. On September 18th, we will be meeting at Green Harvest Emporium. Debra Kindervatter will lead the discussion. Any Questions? Contact Susan.



News You Can Use

Membership News

AAUW National has awarded the Easton Branch three one year memberships to prospective members in recognition of our new member increase this past year. A “new member” is someone who is entirely new to AAUW or an individual who rejoins after two or more years of lapsed membership. The memberships must be offered by September 30. The membership committee has offered these three free memberships to prospective members, but one has declined, and we are waiting to hear from the other two. Now is the perfect time to ask your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers and any other acquaintances an opportunity to learn more about our Branch. Remember, anyone holding an associate or equivalent (RN), baccalaureate, or higher degree from an accredited college or university is eligible to join AAUW. For more information, please contact Kathleen Morgan or Carolyn Conners.

Please Join Us New Inter-Branch Study Group **Hot Topics**

Using various media, the inter-branch **Hot Topics** Group will examine current issues from multiple perspectives. The group will meet on the first Wednesday of the month from 1:00-2:30 p.m. beginning September 6th. Members will chose topics and information used for discussion. Contact Randi Blauth for more information and to receive your readings. Join us for lifelong learning, meaningful discussion, and camaraderie!

Important Dates to Remember

September 2 - International Bacon Day
September 4 - Labor Day
September 5 - Read A Book Day
September 10 - Swap Ideas Day
September 17 - Working Parents Day

September 19 - Women’s Health Program

September 21 - International Peace Day
September 24 - National Cherries Jubilee Day
September 28 - Ask A Stupid Question Day

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.

Fundraising Quandary

As wonderful as Lunafest was, the sponsoring company decided to discontinue the event. That leaves our branch without a fundraiser going forward.

Let's form a brainstorming task force to come up with new ideas! A packet of information containing other branches fundraising ideas exists and we can review it for new ideas that could work in Easton and the Lehigh Valley.

Monies raised from our fundraisers go to our scholarship fund which allows us to give scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Some of the funds raised supplement our branch budget as our operating expenses have increased over time. Examples include our PO Box as well as our branch insurance.

Do we want to put on another Authors' Luncheon? Are there better ideas out there?

Please come and brainstorm with us. Contact me (Fran Kennedy) and say YES.

I know you can come up with good workable ideas.



Girls Recognition Night

Looking forward to YEAR THREE of our amazingly successful Girls Recognition Night at the Nurture Nature Center, it is time to take the first steps!

Susan McNamara and Toni Hoffman have found both the planning and execution of this event exceptionally rewarding. All the volunteers who helped us make the event possible would agree.

The purpose of the event, of course, is to encourage 7th girls to continue studying and excelling in the STEAM fields. By many measures the program is proving very welcomed and successful. Even though it requires some additional work, principals and teachers have embraced this opportunity to recognize the STEAM achievers among the girls in their classes. Teachers from YEAR ONE were eager for YEAR TWO! Panelists and keynoters have been enthusiastic and pleased to accept invitations to speak. Parents willingly rearranged schedules and drove distances to attend the program. Each Recognition event brought a near Standing Room Only audience. In their Surveys the girls described the entire program as "AWESOME!"

Each girl received in-person and certificate recognition for excellence in STEAM while parents beamed. The girls received a small gift, certificates of excellence from AAUW Easton Branch as well as Representative Susan Wild's office.

All of which is to say that, Susan and Toni know it is time for us to turn GRN over to a new team. Please give consideration to stepping up. Volunteer! Don't wait: to make YEAR THREE happen, planning does need to begin soon! Don't let this program die!

PS Susan and Toni are available if needed. There are two hard copies and a digital copy of all GRN documents ready for the new team.

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY CONVERSATIONS

An AAUW panel recognizing August 15th as Equal Pay Day for Working Moms was yet another reminder that post-pandemic, Congress must act on the “Mom Economy.” When half of American families with children under age 18 have a working mom making at least 40 percent of household income, the “Mom Economy” urgently needs attention. Newly introduced Senate and House Resolutions to level the playing field for working mothers need to be a high priority for Congress in future Washington policy-making.

Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tammy Duckworth and U.S. Representative Grace Meng in July introduced the “EMPOWERING WORKING MOTHERS” Resolution. S.Res. 306 and H.Res. 605 provide a vital and necessary roadmap after COVID-19 losses. Coping with the immediate pandemic burden of childcare and remote learning was a major reality check for the entire nation. Maternal employment fell by 15.7% while paternal employment fell by 9.6% due to the pandemic. 1,800,000 men left the workforce compared to 2,500,000 women in just the first year.

The record-breaking impact on working moms was and is particularly hard when women hold close to two-thirds of federal minimum wage jobs still paying \$7.25 an hour or a few dollars above it. Additionally, mothers are more than three times as likely as fathers to be responsible for most of the housework and caregiving at home. For U.S. families if even 1 percent of mothers leave the workforce, the result is an estimated \$8.7 Billion economic loss. Not only are strong investments in childcare essential for the full employment of women, the ability to increase Gross Domestic Product is affected as the U.S. competes with China.

The 21st Century Mom Economy House and Senate Resolutions promote important innovations to address paid parental leave, maternity and paternity leave, robust funding for Head Start and Early Head Start programs, expansion of child poverty programs, address America’s maternal mortality crisis and address women’s health issues further by providing paid leave for workers experiencing debilitating menstrual or menopause symptoms.

The cost to U.S. industry of ignoring the Mom Economy was painfully obvious in the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. childcare crisis costs \$122 Billion annually, with an estimated \$78 Billion in lost earnings. \$23 Billion is lost in workforce productivity and \$21 Billion in tax revenue, according to Resolution sponsors. We ignore the Mom Economy and childcare crisis at our economic peril.

Lilly Gioia

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.

Book Discussion

Chair: Susan McNamara



September 18, 2:00 pm
 Hostess: Debra Kindervatter
A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles
 Meet at Green Harvest Food Emporium

International Relations

Chair: Fran Kennedy



September 26, 2 pm
 Hostess: Fran Kennedy
 Topic: **Gun Violence** - How it is handled in some Asian countries.

Hot Topics

Chair: Randi Blauth



September 6, 1 pm
 Hostess: Randi Blauth
 Topic: **Book Banning**

Out To Lunch

Chair: Claire Degnan



All members welcome.
 Thursday, September 21, 1 pm
 Location: **Mesa**
 RSVP to Claire by 9/19.

Bridge

Chair: Rosemary Baker



Contact Rosemary for date and time. New members welcome.

Tapas Dining

Chair: Phyllis Finger



Date and time TBD

Mah Jongg

Chair: Becky Goldenberg



September 11, 1:30 p.m.
 September 25, 1:30 p.m.
 Hostesses Randi, Rosemary

Women & Science

Chair: Susan McNamara



Date: October 19, 1:30 pm
 Hostess: Nancy Kinzli
 Topic: TBD

Stitch and Be

Chair: Toni Hoffman



September 7, 2:30 p.m.
 Hostess: Susan McNamara

Walking Group

Chair: Fran Kennedy
 Every Friday 9 am
 On hiatus for awhile



American Association of University Women

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--|
| AAUW National | 800.326.2289 | www.aauw.org |
| Easton Branch | | easton-pa.aauw.net |
| Co-Presidents | Lisa Spitale, Fran Kennedy | easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/ |
| Membership Team | Carolyn Connors | 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.

AAUW
Easton (PA) Branch

PO Box 1464
Easton, PA
18044-1464

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED