

## CALENDAR

### Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, October 15

### Branch Meeting

Tuesday, October 17

### Board Meeting

Monday, October 2

### IN THIS ISSUE

October Program	1
GRN Save the Date	2
Girls Recognition	3
Hot Topics Update	4
MFL Information	5
Membership	6
News You Can Use	6
Public Policy	7
Coffee Anyone	8
Evening at the Williams Center	9
Interest Groups	10

*2023*

The fact that a great many people believe in something is no guarantee of its truth.

Somerset Maugham

## Is Human Trafficking In Your Neighborhood

**Tuesday, October 17th, 7 pm**  
**Palmer Library**



Come, listen, and learn how Human Trafficking has become both a local and international issue. The Reverend Richard Mollica, MTS. who has extensive knowledge about this issue, has important information to share with you. He has actively pursued finding ways that Human Trafficking has become a major issue for your local

community and the children known to you and your family. He will discuss businesses that are commonly associated with trafficking and how the internet is used to groom and extort children of all ages. He will give you strategies and ways that you as an individual can advocate for change.

Rev. Mollica is the Senior Pastor at St. John's UCC Church in Bethlehem, Pa. He is also a therapist with over 20 years of experience working with addiction, trauma, the criminal justice and child protection systems, an expert witness in court of law in issues regarding substance use and Provider of Professional Addiction, Mental Health, and Human Trafficking Training/ Supervision.



**STEAM**

**AAUW Easton Branch  
Girls Recognition Night**

**May 2, 2024**

**SAVE THE DATE**



Join us to honor 7th grade girls  
who excel in STEAM classes

<https://easton-pa.aauw.net>

**Save the Date!**  
**Third Annual Girls Recognition Night**  
**May 2, 2024**

The Third Annual Girls Recognition Night (GRN) has been set for May 2, 2024. The event will take place at the Nurture Nature Center in Easton, PA.

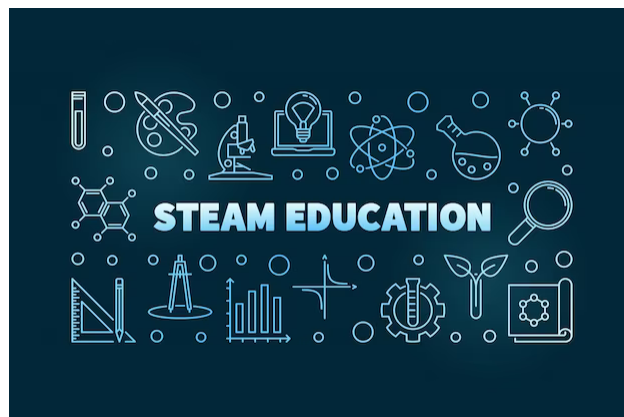
The event recognizes 7<sup>th</sup> graders who are excelling in STEAM subjects: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. They are nominated by their teachers. Last year 17 girls were recognized from area middle schools. They include Bangor Area Middle School, Easton Area Middle School, Nazareth Area Middle School, Wind Gap Middle School (includes Pen Argyl) and Wilson Area Intermediate School.

The night consists of a keynote speaker and a panel comprised of women from different STEAM areas. The girls are able to have time alone with the panelists for a more personal experience. This allows them to ask any questions they might have. Last year the girls opened up during this part of the evening.

Volunteers are still needed on this committee. Panelists need to be selected, and other tasks such as updating the letters and contacting the schools in January need to be done. Additionally, volunteers for the night of the event will be needed. Please contact Fran or Debra for more information.

Fran Kennedy

Debra Kindervatter



## HOT TOPICS ON THE MOVE!

The first meeting of the new inter-branch study group, Hot Topics, was a huge success! Members have determined that the group will continue to focus on book bans for now and will develop a survey to bring to local public libraries and school districts to determine what the problems may be and how we can help and provide support. The group brainstormed questions for our survey, which will be developed by Carol Inman, Easton, and Susan McNamara, dual member. The ALA (American Library Association) list of the top 100 banned books was distributed and discussed (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/decade2019> ) as well as other books presently being considered by school boards and other groups across the country.

Our inter-branch study group facilitation will be led by two group members each time. The group will meet on the first Wednesday of the month - November 1, 2023, January 3, 2024, March 6, 2024 and May 1, 2024 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. We are in the process of finding a location to meet, which will be announced soon.

Some topic suggestions for future meetings include: making healthcare decisions, abortion, Christian Nationalism, and youth reading skills.

### AAUW Easton Branch Meeting

September 19, 2023 at the Palmer Library

Lisa Spitale, Co-President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. She welcomed everyone. There were 14 members, 2 guests and 4 Lehigh University students from Lehigh's Student Affiliate branch present.

The minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Lisa presented the schedule of branch programs for the upcoming year. Rosemary was asked to speak about the Evening at the Williams Center which is a social outing and a fundraiser for our scholarship fund.

Lisa announced newsletter contributions are welcomed. The timeline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for the next months' newsletter. Submit contributions to Toni Hoffman.

Phyllis announced that she is hosting Tapas on Sunday September 24 at 5:30 pm. The International Relations Interest group will be meeting at Phyllis's home on Tuesday, September 26 at 2:00pm.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Lisa introduced our speaker, Dr. Karen Snowden who presented an informative program on Women's Health Issues.

Respectfully Submitted:

Rosemary Baker



## Chapter Bylaws

### Moms for Liberty - Northampton County, PA

#### Article I: Name & Purpose

**Section 1** --- Name: The name of this organization shall be Moms for Liberty - Northampton County, PA, an affiliated chapter of Moms for Liberty, Inc.

**Section 2** --- Purpose: The purpose of Moms for Liberty, Inc. and its affiliated chapters is to fight for the survival of America by unifying, educating and empowering parents to defend their parental rights at all levels of government.

The Moms for Liberty - Northampton County, PA chapter is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization operating within Northampton County, PA, dedicated to promoting the ideals of liberty, individual rights, limited government and parental rights:

- A. We hold decision makers accountable or we work to replace them with liberty-minded individuals.
- B. We spread awareness and an understanding of the limited role of government.
- C. We stand together against government overreach and intimidation tactics.
- D. We promote teaching the principles of liberty in our homes and community.
- E. We engage our communities and elected leaders on key issues impacting our families.
- F. We activate liberty-minded leaders to serve in elected positions.

#### Article II: Membership

Any person of good moral and ethical character who subscribes to the above values who is a member of Moms for Liberty, Inc. and attends Moms for Liberty chapter meetings in Northampton County, PA may be a member of the Moms for Liberty - Northampton County, PA chapter.

**Section 1** --- Categories of membership: There shall be two categories of membership: Associate and Regular.

If this doesn't give you pause or scare you, look again. **Moms for Liberty** groups are spreading across the country and causing havoc in schools, libraries, and elections. Please pay attention. There are local candidates running for our school boards who do not have the best interests of **ALL** children on their minds.

“Moms for Liberty is an American conservative political organization that advocates against school curricula that mention LGBT rights, race and ethnicity, critical race theory, and discrimination. Multiple chapters have also campaigned to ban books that address gender and sexuality from school libraries.” Wikipedia

Please do a search for “Moms for Liberty Northampton County” or substitute Lehigh County to see what they are up to in your area. **Be aware! Spread the word!**

## News You Can Use



Congrats to our member, Dr. Mary Armstrong for her article "[Introduction to the Lafayette College Queer Archives Project](#)," for [outhistory.org](http://outhistory.org). [Read more about the Queer Archives Project at Lafayette](#) -- a project jointly led by the [College Archives](#), Skillman Library's [Digital Scholarship Services](#) and the [Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies](#) program.

### Welcome New Member John Cosgrove

John Cosgrove is an engineer with a BS from Lehigh and also a teacher with an MA in Teaching from Lehigh. He worked in industry for a few years before becoming a teacher and taught high school science for 31 years before retiring.

Current interests/activities:

- Docent at Nurture Nature Center in Easton.
- Member Bushkill Stream Conservancy and water quality monitor.
- Recently ended a writing project at Northampton County Juvenile Justice Center due to closures and staff shortages there.

John enjoys reading and writing poetry, hiking, biking, and nurturing his sense of awe for nature.

Welcome John, we'll enjoy getting to know you.

### Important Dates to Remember

October 1 - National Homemade Cookie Day

October 5 - World Teacher Day

October 11 - It's My Party Day

October 16 - Dictionary Day

**October 17 - Branch Program on Trafficking**

October 22 - National Nut Day

October 25 - Punk for a Day 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.

## AAUW PUBLIC POLICY CONVERSATIONS – OCTOBER 2023

Since 1981 October is **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**, but based on media reporting, who could really notice?

It seems little notice is taken of the severe increase in domestic violence that rose during the pandemic and never declined. Last February a Philadelphia Inquirer Editorial identified domestic violence as an “immense problem” in Pennsylvania. They noted that out of seven main Department of Human Services program offices, none is exclusively devoted to domestic violence. Pennsylvania does not follow the nationally recognized model implemented by Maryland that requires law enforcement to adopt a program specifically focused on decreasing domestic violence homicides.

Creating a single office devoted to combating domestic violence would enable government to coordinate its response to this problem and help prevent it, the Inquirer editorial stressed. Governor Shapiro could break this stalemate by creating a new Office of Domestic Violence and empowering its director to implement a more robust state-based system for collecting and sharing data. He could mandate that first responders follow Maryland’s program to determine if someone’s life may be a risk as a result of domestic violence.

Since the 2022 Supreme Court ruling greatly expanding gun rights, domestic abusers with Protective Orders that forced them to surrender their firearms, are suing to have them returned. The 2022 ruling in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* has already successfully been used in Kentucky and Texas to give guns back to violent abusers. This month the Supreme Court will hear arguments in a Texas case challenging the Second Amendment rights of abusers vs. the right to life of those they threaten.

In July Brenda Bowersox, 55, was shot in the head and chest in the driveway of her Lancaster home by her husband Steven. When she sought a Protective Order in the Court of Common Pleas, Judge Michael Flannelly denied Brenda Bowersox despite her pleading that she was afraid of her husband. Judge Flannelly denied the Order saying he was “unconvinced” and that Mrs. Bowersox failed to prove the protection was necessary, according to a Penn Live report. Denied the Protective Order, Mrs. Bowersox filed for a divorce and within two weeks was dead. Pennsylvania must do better.

Roughly twelve million people are affected each year by domestic violence. In July P.B.S. reported a significant increase in domestic violence in the year since the Dobbs decision overturned abortion rights. The Domestic Violence Hotline reports a 100% increase in calls involving control and isolation of victims by abusers, and loss of access to nearby abortion. Hotlines report more than 3,000 calls per day on average, the highest volume of calls since hotlines were established in 1996. Evidence points to Dobbs making things worse. An increase in “reproductive coercion,” a form a domestic violence, is reported more often after Dobbs. The Hotlines reported more than 20,000 calls related to non-consensual sex. The National Domestic Abuse Hotline number is 800-799-7233 (SAFE).



## Fueling Your Morning, Fueling Dreams

What gets you out of bed in the morning? Is it the warmth of family, the promise of a fun-filled day, or the desire to make a positive impact in your community? For many of us, it's all of the above, complemented by the invigorating aroma of a freshly brewed cup of coffee.

We are excited to announce our scholarship fundraiser with **Someday Coffee!** Someday Coffee roasts high-quality and organic coffee beans locally in Riegelsville, PA.

What makes them even more special? Their 100% solar-powered roaster, made possible through the generous donation of John and Fran Kennedy, embodies their commitment to environmental responsibility.

When you order Someday Coffee, you're not just getting a bag of coffee; you're helping us fuel dreams. A portion of every purchase will support our scholarship program, empowering individuals to pursue their educational goals.

Give the gift of great coffee and the gift of education. With Someday Coffee, every cup you enjoy makes a difference.

**Coffee prices are:**  
**\$12.85 for 12 oz**  
**\$29.00 for 2 lb**  
**\$68.00 for 5 lb**

Ready to take that first sip? Contact Fran Kennedy if you have any questions or visit our website at [SomedayCoffee.com](http://SomedayCoffee.com) to place your order today. Make sure to use the coupon code **AAUW** at checkout so that we know your order is supporting the AAUW Scholarship fund.

Join us in brewing a brighter future, one cup at a time.

Coffee can be picked up at the home of Fran Kennedy.

For those who prefer not to order online, send Fran a check and she will place the order for you.

## Welcome New and Returning Members

The membership committee is pleased to announce that our branch has three new or returning members.

**John Cosgrove**

**Christina McFadden**

**Aaliyah O. Kee**

Welcome - we look forward to meeting you and/or seeing you again.





With passion and finesse, the Allentown Symphony Orchestra (ASO) plays time-honored masterworks, newly commissioned premieres by prominent composers, and unusual and intriguing repertoire. Among the ASO's honors is the American Prize in Orchestral Performance.

Tickets are \$30. A portion of each AAUW ticket goes towards local scholarships. Spouses and friends are welcome. Please reserve tickets by October 31st.

Please send reservations by October 31st to: Rosemary Baker.

Make checks payable to: AAUW Easton Branch

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Order Form: Evening at the Williams Center November 14, 2023

Name

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\_\_\_\_\_ Tickets for Allentown Symphony \_\_\_\_\_ (qty) @ \$30. Each

Total of check enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to AAUW Easton Branch)

## 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



October 16 2:00 pm  
 Hostess: Karol D'Huyvetters  
**Wish You Were Here** by Jodi Picoult

### International Relations

**Chair:** Fran Kennedy



October 24, 2 pm  
 Hostess: Fran Kennedy  
 Topic: **Gun Violence** - Treatment in European Countries

### Hot Topics

**Chair:** Randi Blauth



November 1, 1:00 pm  
 Hostess: TBD  
 Topic: **Book Banning**

### Out To Lunch

**Chair:** Claire Degnan



All members welcome.  
 October 24, 1:00 pm  
 Location: **Sette Luna**  
 RSVP to Claire by October 20

### Bridge

**Chair:** Rosemary Baker



Contact Rosemary for date and time. New members welcome.

### Tapas Dining

**Chair:** Phyllis Finger



October 8, 5:00 pm  
 Hostess: Phyllis Finger

### Mah Jongg

**Chair:** Becky Goldenberg



October 9, 1:30 p.m.  
 October 23, 1:30 p.m.  
 Hostesses: Susan, Lois

### Women & Science

**Chair:** Susan McNamara



Date: October 19, 1:30 pm  
 Hostess: Nancy Kinzli  
 Topic: **An Immense World** by Ed Yong, Introduction & Ch. 1-3

### Stitch and Be

**Chair:** Toni Hoffman



October 5, 2:30 p.m.  
 Hostess: Susan McNamara



### Walking Group

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

# NOTES

# 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>
Co-Presidents	Lisa Spitale, Fran Kennedy	<a href="http://easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/">easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/</a>
Membership Team	Carolyn Connors	<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.

  
Easton (PA) Branch  
PO Box 1464  
Easton, PA  
18044-1464

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED