

CALENDAR

Newsletter Deadline

Monday, January 15

Branch Meeting

Holiday Party December 10

Board Meeting

Monday, January 8

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2023 - 2024

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

Marcel Proust



Party Time



Annual AAUW Holiday Party
December 10, 2023

Claire and Paul Degnan have graciously offered to host the Annual AAUW Holiday Party.

Date: December 10, 2023

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: 825 Paxinosa Ave.

Easton, PA 18042

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

Light lunch with cookies will be provided. A variety of non-alcoholic beverages will be available. You are welcome to bring a bottle of wine to enjoy.



From the Presidents' Pen



Everything old is new again!

This year, our AAUW branch is regrouping on several fronts – new board members, new committees and now, a tried and true fundraising initiative to raise funds for our scholarship fund which provides scholarships to graduating high school seniors and women returning to higher education. Unfortunately, LunaFest has shuttered its program nationally which means this year, we're returning to an annual appeal for cash donations from our members.

You know all the great stuff our branch does – but our generous scholarship program is our most valued and visible contribution to promising women in the community. Last year, we were able to give three \$5000 individual scholarships as well as a \$1000 gift for a STEM scholarship at Northampton Community College. In one case, our AAUW branch scholarship filled the final funding gap and enabled a young woman to pursue her dreams. AAUW-Easton Branch scholarships are very much in demand because they're a substantial amount of money. On an average, we get more than twenty worthy scholarship applicants a year.

We cannot help these young women achieve their goals without your help! Please give generously - the more you give, the more we can benefit women in need. It is important that every member donate to our scholarship fund; it's our hallmark program! You will be publicly thanked in our monthly newsletter. It's your small way to made a big difference.

Each year in January, the scholarship committee begins reviewing applications and planning our awards, so, giving by the end of the year is much appreciated. Let's go for 100% participation!

There are two ways to donate: Look for the yellow DONATE button on our website or simply send a check payable to AAUW-Easton Branch to:

AAUW-Easton Branch
P.O. Box 1464
Easton, PA 18044-1464

We cannot thank you enough for your commitment, your passion, and support of women who have a drive to achieve!

Gratefully,

Fran Kennedy and Lisa Spitale
Co-presidents

News You

HUMAN TRAFFICKING 101



The Reverend Richard Molica spoke to AAUW members about Human Trafficking during the October 17, 2023, program. He gave a precise definition of Human Trafficking as:

- Any sexual exploitation of a minor. Children are victims, not prostitutes.
- Any situation where force, coercion, manipulation, or “Bait and switch,” is utilized as an initial or eventual aspect of sex work.
- Any exploitation of persons with diminished capacity
- Threats of withholding basic human needs to leverage sex.

He explained that Human Trafficking is very prevalent and active in local neighborhoods. There is an average of 5.4 victims of trafficking for every 1,000 people. He explained that there are 25 unique types of trafficking. He provided resources such as agencies, books, films, apps, and websites.

The presentation was eye opening and provided information we did not know. We now have an increased knowledge and awareness of Human Trafficking.

Important Dates to Remember

December 1 - Eat a Red Apple Day

December 8 - Official Lost and Found Day

December 10 - AAUW Holiday Party

December 16 - Chocolate Covered Anything Day

January 1 - Polar Bear Plunge Day

January 9 - Word Nerd Day

January 24 - Compliment 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 – DECEMBER 2023

With holiday traditions and family gatherings at hand, it's appropriate as we approach the year's ending, to think about our gratitude for whatever we and other feminists have accomplished together in these uncertain and challenging times. Someone celebrating a great honor in 2023 is Nobel Economics Prize winner Dr. Claudia Goldin. Her phenomenal research on the importance of women in the American economy is a great gift to all of us.

According to Stanford professor Dr. Jennifer Burns, Dr. Claudia Goldin's recognition is both a "vindication" and a "reminder" of how male-dominated economics remains. Even since the early 1970's when women first entered the field in significant numbers, they have faced discouragement, discrimination and harassment. In 2002 Harvard Economics Professor Claudia Goldin published her transformative research titled, "The Power of the Pill: Oral Contraceptives and Women's Career and Marriage Decisions." With scant male interest, few economists studied women's labor market outcomes or the potential impacts of rising female employment on growth and G.D.P. 2008 Nobel Economics prize-winner Paul Krugman noted how Claudia Goldin's critical research proved that rising U.S. female employment had an impact equal to the effect of globalization on economic growth. With increasing access to contraception in the 1970's there was a "quiet revolution" in the economic role of women as they began to view work much the same way that men did, Dr. Goldin found. Her profound 200 year historical overview revealed how women began delaying marriage, and were more likely to remain employed after marriage. Women have outpaced men in education, poured into the labor force and found meaning in their work.

In a working paper published the day she won the Nobel, titled "Why Women Won," Professor Goldin noted that the period between 1963 and 1973 was crucial. It included the passage of the Equal Pay Act, strongly advocated by AAUW. The Roe v. Wade decision and admission of women into many Ivy League schools were other factors. Women began keeping their birth names and divorcing more often. Today Dr. Goldin has shown that women are more likely than those in previous generations to work throughout their lives. Women have invested in their careers and increasingly work past retirement age. Professor Goldin is 77 and still working. She received her doctorate in 1972 and was the first woman to be offered tenure in Harvard's economics department in 1989. Dr. Goldin's work is disproving the conventional wisdom that women are paid less because they CHOOSE lower-paying careers by showing that the pay gap is larger within occupations. The largest gaps are in the highest earning professions, like medicine and law.

Paul Krugman wonders after reviewing Goldin's work, whether women's victories "are in danger." "In the current political environment, I think we should also be worried about retrogression," he writes. With strong advocates like Dr. Claudia Goldin, let us begin a new year armed with facts and ready to keep standing up for ALL women's rights.

Happy Holidays!
Lilly Gioia

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 7.

Pick up or delivery on Saturday, December 16.



AAUW POINSETTIA SALE

ORDER DEADLINE
Thursday, 12/7/2023

DETAILS

Size	Price
4" Single Bloom	\$6
6" Multi Bloom	\$12.50
7 1/2" Multi Bloom	\$18

Red, Pink, or White available in all sizes.

Pickup or Delivery Available
Delivery Date: Saturday, 12/16/2023
Or call for Pick Up arrangements (610) 751-9531

AAUW EASTON BRANCH - POINSETTIA ORDER FORM ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT AAUW SCHOLARSHIP FUND. Checks payable to: AAUW Easton Pa
Mail this form with your payment to: Janice Lupackino, 26 Clairmont Ave, Easton, PA 18045

NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

ADDRESS _____

SIZE	QUANTITY	COLOR	PRICE

Check# _____

Total \$ _____

HOT TOPICS

BOOK BANS AND MORE: HOW CAN WE HELP?

The Hot Topics group met on November 1, 2023 at the Bethlehem Public Library. Our review of the survey information gathered on book banning in our local communities and beyond moved to a discussion of issues underlying the rise in challenges to libraries and schools not only about books but also curriculum, LGBT policies, board policies and procedures. The role of established organizational networks and offshoots such as Moms4Liberty, White Christian Nationalism, opposition to public schools, funding for schools and libraries, and partisan politics were just some of the factors raised during the meeting. It was agreed that we would work on a plan of action to aid school and public libraries in mitigating the impacts of book bans and censorship in PreK-12 education.

Getting off to a quick start, AAUW Easton and AAUW Bethlehem members met on Thursday, November 16th with directors/staff from local libraries to talk about the challenges, brainstorm ideas, identify resources, and make connections. Hosted by the Easton Area Public Library at the invitation of its director, Jennifer Long, the exchange of perspectives, insights, and resources on a range of issues from library policies and procedures, public library and school library relations, the role of librarian in the community, library funding, public understanding of the role of a public library and challenges faced was stimulating! The group closed the dialogue with a proposal to create “Allyships” between AAUW members and the libraries and agreed to move forward with the development of “matches-ups” and ideas for fostering and enabling these relationships.

We know that such a project can be potentially a large undertaking whose success lies in the presence of many hands. At this time then, we will be engaged with ally building and are looking to assess interest in participation from Bethlehem and Easton branch members. In short, if this “hot topic” concerns you, if you want to help-- in communications, networking, ally building, news tracking, strategic planning come join us and others such as the Stop Moms for Liberty, BASD Proud Parents, our state senators and representatives, media outlets (social and news organizations) as well as partners in schools and libraries themselves.

Want to sign up to help?
Need more information?

Let Carol and Susan know.

Carol Inman and Susan McNamara



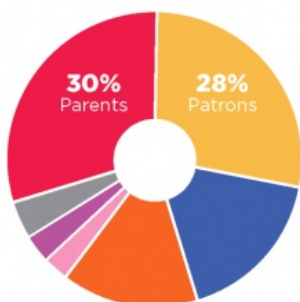
CENSORSHIP

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2022, the American Library Association tracked the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling data about censorship in libraries more than 20 years ago; 2,571 unique titles were challenged last year, up from 1,858 in 2021. [Learn more at ala.org/bbooks](https://www.ala.org/bbooks)



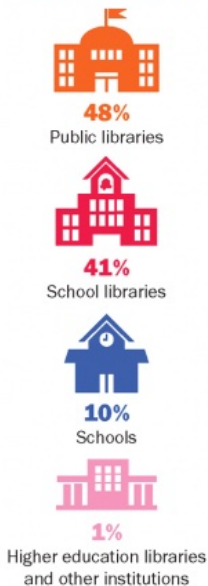
WHO INITIATES CHALLENGES?



- 17%** Political/religious groups
- 15%** Board/administration
- 3%** Librarians/teachers
- 3%** Elected officials
- 4%** Other
(Includes non-custodial relatives, nonresidents, community members without library cards, etc.)

Statistics based on 1,207 cases with known initiators.

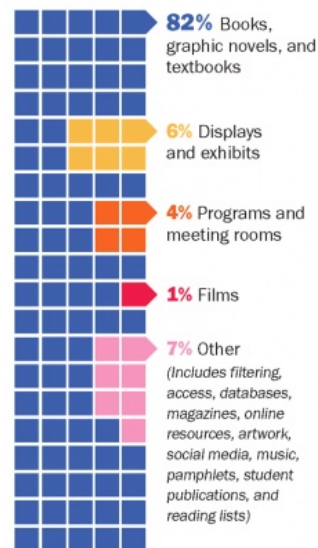
WHERE DO CHALLENGES TAKE PLACE?



Statistics based on 1,264 cases with known locations.

BOOKS AND BEYOND

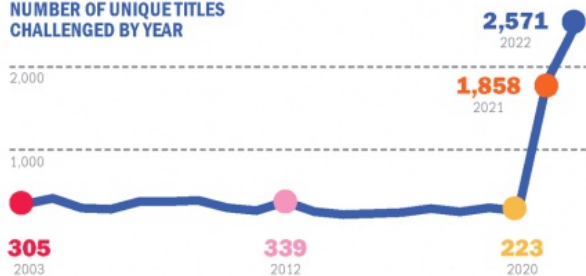
ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked **1,269** challenges in 2022. Here's the breakdown:



CENSORSHIP ON THE RISE

The unparalleled number of reported book challenges in 2022 nearly doubled the number reported in 2021. The number of unique titles targeted marked a 38% increase over 2021.

NUMBER OF UNIQUE TITLES CHALLENGED BY YEAR



CENSORSHIP STATISTICS COMPILED BY: OFFICE FOR Intellectual Freedom American Library Association

In Memoriam



John Calvin Kennedy, 80 of Easton, PA died Monday, October 16, 2023. Born February 9, 1943 in Lumberton, NC, he was the son of the late Harold and Burnis (McKinstry) Kennedy. He was a graduate of Cullowhee High School, Ohio Northern University and the University of Illinois. John joined the Peace Corps in 1965 where his primary job was to teach mathematics at a secondary school in Peki, Ghana. While there, he met his future wife in Kumasi, Ghana. They frequently traveled 10+ hours to see one another before and after they married in Peki, Ghana in 1968.

They then traveled through Europe on their way home to meet one another's in-laws and to teach in Washington, DC. Two years later they moved to Charlotte, North Carolina where John taught math at a junior high, the first year Mecklenburg County integrated. John then obtained

his masters at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana before moving to Puerto Rico in 1975 to teach math at Antilles High School. He was an educator for the U.S Dept. of Defense at the ACSS for more than 25 years. John and Fran returned to Ghana three times since 2004, meeting former colleagues and students and volunteering for Global Mamas. John is the author of the novel Last Lorry to Mbordo which takes place in a fictional West African country based on Ghana, Sierra Leone and Nigeria during the Biafran war.

Twenty years ago, John and Fran moved to the Lehigh Valley to be near their children and grandchildren. John was especially known for his kind and thoughtful nature, and his love and dedication to his family, friends and students. He was always quick to share a dry, witty joke or story. John was passionate about helping people, both locally and worldwide. Some of his activities included tutoring local high school students in math, assisting local refugee action groups, and funding a solar project to promote green energy. Locally, he was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lehigh Valley; the AAUW Easton Branch; a past president of the Easton Kiwanis Club; and the Village on College Hill group's drumming circle. John was also an avid pickleball player for over 10 years.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Frances (Healing) Kennedy; his daughter: Christina Angela Kennedy (husband Jeffrey Allan Porter); his son: Michael Kwame Kennedy (fiancé Sherry Lynn Hartman); 4 grandchildren: Calvin Fox Kennedy, Jacob Kennedy Porter, Timothy Dante Kennedy and Skye Kennedy Porter. He was predeceased by his sister: Janet (Kennedy) Bixel.

Memorial contributions may be made to AAUW Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 1464, Easton, PA 18044 or UUCLV (note Social Action in memory of John Kennedy), 1633 West Elm St., Allentown, PA 18102, or a charity of your choice. Offer online condolences at www.AshtonFuneralHome.com.

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



December 18 2:00 pm

Hostess: Nancy Berry

Son of Hamas by Moses Hassan Yousef

January 15, 2:00 pm

Hostess: Carol Inman

The Optimist's Daughter by Eudora Welty

International Relations

Chair: Fran Kennedy



January 23, 2:00 pm

Hostess: TBD

Topic: TBD

Hot Topics

Chair: Randi Blauth



January 3, 1:00 pm

Location: Palmer Library

Topic: **Book Bans: Obstacles and Opportunities**

Out To Lunch

Chair: Claire Degnan



All members welcome.

No meeting in December or January. Stay tuned for February location and date.

Bridge

Chair: Rosemary Baker



Contact Rosemary for date and time. New members welcome.

Tapas Dining

Chair: Phyllis Finger



Date: TBD

Hostess TBD

Mah Jongg

Chair: Becky Goldenberg



December 11, 1:30 p.m.

January 8, 1:30 p.m.

January 22, 1:30 pm

Hostesses: Lois, Toni, Susan

Women & Science

Chair: Susan McNamara



Date: January 18, 1:30 pm

Hostess: Susan McNamara

Topic: **An Immense World** by Ed Yong, Ch.4-7

Stitch and Be

Chair: Toni Hoffman



December 7, 2:30 p.m.

Hostess: Susan McNamara



Walking Group

Chair: Fran Kennedy

Every Friday 9 am

On hiatus

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.


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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED