

CALENDAR

Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, November 15

Branch Meeting

Evening at the Williams Center
November 14

Board Meeting

Monday, November 6

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2023

Only by not forgetting the past can we be the master of the future.

Ba Jin

Evening at the Williams Center Allentown Symphony Orchestra November 14, 2023



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.

A highlight of the Williams Center program will be the world premiere of an ASO-commissioned work by Composer-in-Residence Clarice Assad. Guitarist Petrit Çeku, a winner of the Schadt String Competition, will perform two of the most popular guitar works in the repertoire: Antonio Vivaldi's *Guitar Concerto in D* and Joaquín Rodrigo's *Fantasia para un gentilhombre*.

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.

Reservation form on page 5.



You Are Invited To Join Us For Our Annual Holiday Party

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, 2023

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.

News You Can Use

Third Annual Girls Recognition Night May 2, 2024

Planning for the third Annual Girls Recognition Night (GRN) is underway. The event will take place on May 2, 2024 at the Nurture Nature Center in Easton, PA.

This part of the planning includes selecting a keynote speaker and three or four panelists who represent STEAM subjects. Please contact the co-chairs with any suggestions or leads.

Members of the AAUW Lehigh University student affiliate will be participating in the planning and execution of GRN and we're looking forward to working with these enthusiastic young women.

We need your help to make this program a success!

Contact Karol D'Huyvetters or Debra Kindervatter through our website.

Important Dates to Remember

November 1 - National Cook for your Pets Day

November 5 - Guy Fawkes Day

November 13 - World Kindness Day

November 14 - Evening at the Williams Center

November 23 - Thanksgiving

November 23 - Fibonacci Day

November 28 - Red Planet 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.

John Kennedy

We send our condolences to Fran Kennedy and her family on the passing of John Kennedy, husband, father and grandfather as well as Easton Branch member. He will be missed.

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 – NOVEMBER 2023

During the pandemic the world saw shortages of many products, but one shortage, in particular, sparked an outcry from women across the United States: TAMPONS!

Subsequently, more critical questions arose. Why are period products still taxed? How is it that eleven million menstruators couldn't afford period products in 2021? Women are missing time at work. Girls are missing school, limiting their education. Proper menstrual hygiene is not only vital for health, but also for dignity and confidence. The issue boils down to the health crisis rarely discussed – PERIOD POVERTY. A 2019 Obstetrics & Gynecology medical journal report found two-thirds of low-income women in St. Louis, Missouri couldn't afford menstrual hygiene products in the past year. Women said they used rags, tissues, toilet paper, sometimes diapers or paper towels, socks, newspapers or T-shirts. Regardless, last year 22 states implemented additional taxes on period products ranging from 4.7% to 10%.

Period Poverty in America is a health crisis that disproportionately affects Black and Latino communities. Government-mandated provision of period products could help break the cycle of period poverty. New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy signed into law last summer legislation mandating free menstrual products to be provided to all school district appropriate bathrooms for grades 6-12 to be paid for by the state.

October 14th was recognized as Period Poverty Action Day across the country as a way of bringing this issue out of the shadows in search of solutions. In September Texas eliminated sales tax on menstrual products. Texas bill S.B.379 also eliminated sales tax on family care items including diapers, baby bottles, baby wipes, maternity clothing and breast milk pump products.

A September editorial by Temple University sophomore Gopiga Dass stated that during the pandemic “the supply chain’s inability to provide this necessity...led to the Pennsylvania House passing H.B.850.” This bill allows food stamps (SNAP) and Women, Infants and Children’s (WIC) benefits to be used to buy menstrual products with those benefits. Two million Pennsylvanians used SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits in September 2022. Presently H.B.850 remains stuck in the PA Senate waiting for approval by Majority Leader Joe Pittman for a vote. **Texts, emails, letters, phone calls and mental telepathy by concerned voters could really help move H.B.850 along right now.**

In Congress H.R.4475, introduced on 7/6/23, would provide “targeted funding for states and other eligible entities through the Social Services Block Grant Program to increase the availability of menstrual products for individuals with limited access to such products.” **More help could be on the way if we decide to talk more often about the importance of menstrual health and actually do something about it.**

Lilly Gioia



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 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.

Evening At The Williams Center

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

Name _____

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

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

Welcome New Members



Christina McFadden attended our September meeting and declared that she wanted to join our Easton Branch. Working in the Department for Financial Aid at NCC, she was inspired by our Branch's efforts to support women and girls in their pursuit of a college degree. Christina is particularly interested in helping to increase funds for scholarships so our Branch can continue to assist qualified students financially. Christina grew up in Edison, NJ and attended Upsala College earning a degree in Business Administration. In her spare time, she enjoys crocheting. She lives in Downtown Easton with her husband Michael, and they have two grown children.



Aaliyah Kee has rejoined our Easton Branch after dropping her membership a few years ago. Aaliyah graduated from Central University in Ohio with a degree in commercial graphics. She is known as a vision artist who specializes in stylized figurative art using acrylics on canvas. You can find her on Facebook and Instagram where she not only sells her art but teaches online art classes. Aside from being a busy artist, Aaliyah also works at Lehigh Valley Adult Services as a caregiver. She resides in Downtown Easton. She has a daughter and twin sons, and two grandchildren living far and near: Italy, New York and Easton. Her son living in Easton is also an artist.

Welcome back Aaliyah.



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



November 20, 2:00 pm
Hostess: Rosemary Baker
Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson

International Relations

Chair: Fran Kennedy



November 28, 2:00 pm
Hostess: Karol D’Huyvetters
Topic: American Opposition to the UN and the Counter Arguments.

Hot Topics

Chair: Randi Blauth



November 1, 1:00 pm
Hostess: Carol Inman, Susan McNamara
Topic: **Book Bans: Obstacles and Opportunities**

Out To Lunch

Chair: Claire Degnan



All members welcome.
November 29, 1:00 pm
Location: Sette Luna
RSVP to Claire by November 24

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



November 13 1:30 p.m.
November 27, 1:30 p.m.
Hostesses: Randi, Toni

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



November 2, 2:30 p.m.
Hostess: Susan McNamara



Walking Group

Chair: Fran Kennedy
Every Friday 9 am
On hiatus

American Association of University Women

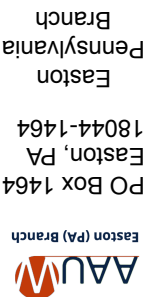
AAUW National	800.326.2289	www.aauw.org
Easton Branch		easton-pa.aauw.net
Co-Presidents	Lisa Spitale, Fran Kennedy	easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/
Membership Team	Carolyn Connors	easton-pa.aauw.net/membership/
Easton Edition	Toni Hoffman	easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/

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.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED