

CALENDAR

Newsletter Deadline
Thursday, February 15

Branch Meeting
Saturday, February 10

Board Meeting
Monday, February. 5

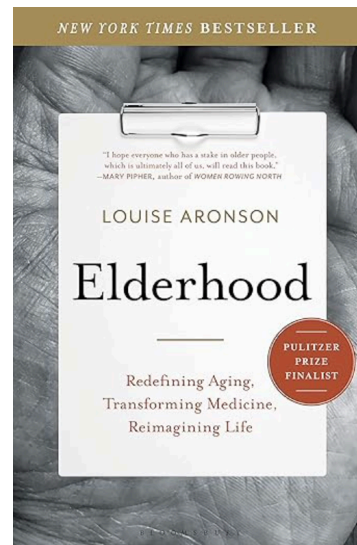
IN THIS ISSUE

One Read	1
Presidents' Pen	2
Finance Report	3
Public Policy	4
A Slice of Black History	5
Coffee Anyone?	5
Hot Topics	6
Girls Recognition Night	7
Holiday Party Review	7
Interest Groups	8

2024

Won't it be wonderful when Black history and Native American history and Jewish history and all of U.S. history is taught from one book. Just U.S. history.

One Read
Saturday, February 10, 1 p.m.
Palmer Library



Whether or not you have had a chance to read this book by February 10, you are welcome to join the discussion. "As Louise Aronson says, 'Life offers just two possibilities: die young or grow old.' This searing, luminous book is for everyone who hopes to accomplish the latter and remain fully human as they do. It will challenge your assumptions and open your mind--and it just might change your life."--Lucy Kalanithi, MD, editor of *When Breath Becomes Air*.

We look forward to seeing and hearing from you and sharing tea and goodies.

From the Presidents' Pen

Happy February! I hope this new year has started out well for you. I have been working to learn the “ins and outs” of this group and I appreciate your patience as I learn.

Our members have been very busy over the past few weeks making sure the AAUW message is being spread. The Board met on January 8th to discuss upcoming events and to explore ways to promote the AAUW and its mission. The program committee has selected the book **Elderhood** by Louise Aronson for the One Read program this month. The scholarship committee has been working to identify young women deserving of scholarships to assist them in furthering their education. On May 2nd we will be hosting our annual Girls Recognition Night, an event when 7th grade female students from local school districts are recognized for their interest and achievement in STEAM. I urge each of you to attend this event, if you are able, as it is so encouraging to see young women succeeding in STEAM classes.

Fundraising is difficult for any service organization, and AAUW is no different. Fundraising is especially important for our group, as it allows us to continue to fund scholarships to deserving young women. Thank you to everyone who donated to our Scholarship Fund at the dinner celebrating Fran Kennedy's birthday.

As always, there are many ways for you to become more involved with AAUW, whether it be through joining one of our interest groups, fundraising, or contacting Fran, Kathleen Morgan or me with any ideas you may have to increase our membership.

As February is Black History month, I will close this President's Pen with a quote from Maya Angelou which I find inspirational.

“Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women.”

Lisa Spitale

Financial Report February 2024

Checking Account

Balance 7/1/23	\$12,833.95
Balance 12/31/23	\$13,329.13
Fundraising	
Evening at the Williams Center	\$390.00
Poinsettia Sale	\$ 75.70
Holiday Party	\$321.00

In January of 2024, the balance due on one scholarship of \$2500 will be paid, the funds to come out of the checking account.

Three scholarships of \$5000 will be awarded to deserving recipients. The STEM Scholarship will also be funded.

Acknowledgement letters for donations will be sent going forward.

Let's amp up our fundraising for scholarships!

Becky Goldenberg, Finance Officer

Important Dates to Remember

Black History Month

February 2 - Day of the Crepe

February 5 - Chocolate Fondue Day

February 10 - One Read

February 14 - Library Lovers Day

February 22 - Be Humble Day

February 27 - No Brainer 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

Despite making up more than half of the population, women have been understudied and underrepresented in health research for far too long. Research on women's health is drastically underfunded, leading to significant research gaps, with serious consequences. This lack of investment limits our understanding of conditions that are specific to women, predominantly affect women, or affect women differently. In order to give women and their health care providers the tools and information they need to more effectively prevent, diagnose, and treat these conditions – from rheumatoid arthritis to menopause to Alzheimer's disease to cardiovascular disease to endometriosis – our nation must fundamentally change how we approach and fund women's health research. With this statement the White House announced President Biden's first-ever Initiative on Women's Health Research. The effort will be led by First Lady Jill Biden and the White House Gender Policy Council.

"I have always believed in the power of research to save lives and to ensure that Americans get the high-quality health care they need," President Biden said. "We have to be bold. That's why today, we're establishing a new White House Initiative on Women's Health Research so that my Administration does everything we can to drive innovation in women's health and close research gaps." The White House announcement noted that one half the nation's people are suffering from poorly understood, debilitating conditions like endometriosis, fibroids, as well as being diagnosed or treated incorrectly for autoimmune disorders. The ground-breaking Initiative will mobilize the federal government, private sector and philanthropic organizations to enhance women's health research.

Within 45 days Initiative members will recommend concrete actions the Biden-Harris administration can take to improve how research on women's health is conducted to maximize results. Why are women twice as likely to experience an anxiety disorder or depression as men? Why are nearly 80% of people diagnosed with an autoimmune disease like lupus, female? Why may women experience heart attack symptoms differently than men which can delay appropriate treatment in an emergency room?

The National Institutes of Health 2020 scientific studies budget earmarked only 10.8% for women's health research. Henceforth, Executive departments and agencies across the Federal government including the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Defense and Veterans Affairs, the White House Office of Management and Budget, and Office of Science and Technology Policy will all be required to participate.

"Every woman I know has a story about leaving her doctor's office with more questions than answers. Not because our doctors are withholding information, but because there's just not enough research yet on how to best manage and treat even common women's health conditions. In 2023, that is unacceptable," said First Lady Dr. Jill Biden. Dr. Carolyn Mazure, respected leader in the field of women's health research, will chair this effort. Dr. Mazure comes to the White House from the Yale School of Medicine where she's served as Professor in Women's Health Research and Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology. She created Women's Health Research at Yale to study a wide breadth of topics from cardiovascular disease to cancers. Dr. Mazure holds a Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University with post-doctoral work at Yale School of Medicine. As a New Year begins, let us celebrate the good news that our government is FINALLY recognizing serious health care disparities that have for so long been ignored. Happy New Year!

Lilly Gioia
Public Policy Chair

An Ongoing Fundraiser

If you are looking for a hostess gift, birthday gift, housewarming gift, or any gift, look no further.

Looking for something to warm up the cold, winter mornings? We are excited to announce our scholarship fundraiser with Someday Coffee! Someday Coffee roasts high-quality and organic coffee beans with 100% solar energy locally in Riegelsville, PA.

Ready to take that first sip? Contact Fran Kennedy if you have any questions or visit our website at [SomedayCoffee.com](https://www.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. Or, if you prefer direct shipping, it can show up at your door for \$8. For those who prefer not to order online, send Fran a check and she will place the order for you. You'll have your coffee in a week or less!

Coffee prices are:

\$12.85 for 12 oz

\$29.00 for 2 lb

\$68.00 for 5 lb



Coffee available in medium and dark roast, beans or ground.

A Slice of Black History

The National Museum of African American History and Culture celebrates Black History Month 2024 by highlighting the 'art of resistance' and the artists who used their crafts to uplift the race, speak truth to power and inspire a nation.



Carter G. Woodson is an American historian who first opened the long-neglected field of [Black](#) studies to scholars and popularized the field in schools and colleges across the [United States](#). He established, in 1926, what became [Black History Month](#), and he came to be known as the "father of Black history."

Carter G. Woodson developed the idea for Negro History Week to promote the history, culture and achievements of African Americans and other people of color worldwide.

Designed to coincide with Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass' celebratory birthdays, Woodson launched Negro History Week in February of 1926 as a coordinated effort to develop lessons and encourage the teaching of Black history across the nation's communities and public schools. Woodson, the son of former slaves who became the second African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University, recognized the importance of establishing an initiative that could be celebrated annually.

Buy Some Today!

HOT TOPICS

The first Hot Topics meeting of 2024 was held January 3 at the Palmer Library.

Susan McNamara and Carol Inman led the discussion and Carol reported on the meeting our group had with many of the public library directors in the local area. Carol noted that our Hot Topics group was well-represented at the meeting. The library directors most wanted our help with forming representative - area library support should they need it. This would mainly require us to support our own libraries by going to board meetings (MFL {Mothers For Liberty} members are known to just show up at these meetings unannounced) and alert our group as a whole to issues in that local area. The library directors would be given our names and we would make ourselves available for support when and if needed. **Please let us know which library you will support. The more members who are allies, the more comfortable we are and the more effective we become.**

Other discussion topics included: educating the public to what libraries offer in the community, libraries are a conduit to equal access, and libraries provide help in various ways.

Other notes:

-Check out booklooks.org online. This is a site that MFL uses when considering whether or not to ban a book.

-Also, check out unitedagainstbookbans.org for supportive materials.

-Become familiar with Praeger University and Hillsdale College-they are providing information and curriculum that is misleading under the guise of wholesomeness to school districts.

Among ideas discussed were having a Book Ban table at Bethlehem's book sale (This will be discussed with the chairs of the book sale), educating the community at local bar/grills with banned book discussion (done in CA when problems are imminent).

See the attached article on Senator Lisa Boscola's position on a banned book law for PA. **Call her office and let her know that her support for this law leads to "government censorship of books" as Carol Inman has stated.** Let Lisa know how you feel. She is an AAUW member.

-Contact Carol, Susan, or Randi re which library you will support so we can form our list and let library directors know.

-If you are interested in joining this group, the next meeting will be held on **March 6th at the Palmer Library.**

Third Annual Girls Recognition Night

Planning for the Third Annual Girls Recognition Night event is well underway. The year's event will take place May 2, 2024 at the Nurture Nature Center in Easton, PA.

At this time we have five panelists with interests ranging from bio-chemistry to landscape architecture. They are:

- Oriana Fisher from Lehigh University has a bio-chemistry background.
- Karen Ruggles from DeSales University has a computer science background.
- Natasha Woods at Moravian University has a background in Biology.
- Alison Testa is with a private firm.
- Laura Stedenfeld, is owner of Omnes, an all women landscape firm located in Easton, PA. The firm has done work with the Nurture Nature Center who recommended her.

We reached out to Susan Wild to be keynote speaker but have not heard back. We need to start thinking of other potential keynote speakers. Any thoughts?

Students at Lehigh University are developing the brochure for the event and will be volunteering that evening as well. Their work is greatly appreciated.

Right now, we're starting to put together a list of volunteers. Responsibilities range from set-up to clean-up, refreshments, directing people and a membership table. If you're interested, please contact Nancy Berry at 610-252-3332 or berry.nancy61@gmail.com Nancy will be in touch with you directly.

To become more involved with GRN, contact:

Karol D'Huyvetters Debra Kindervatter

Holiday Party Recap



Cheers to a warm and wonderful Holiday Party hosted by Claire and Paul Degnan. Despite threats of a severe rainstorm, members of the branch came out for our annual Holiday Party. Luckily the rain held off until after the party, so members were able to enjoy friendship and lively conversations with other members and their spouses. Claire and Paul have collected many unique antique pieces of furniture and they shared fascinating stories of how they restored the pieces to their former glory..

Thank you Claire and Paul.



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



February 19, 2:00 pm
Hostess: Susan McNamara
Horse by Geraldine Brooks

International Relations

Chair: Fran Kennedy



February 27, 2:00 pm
Hostess: Margaret Skaarup or Zoom
Topic: History of Israel and Its Relationship to the Palestinians and World Efforts of Peace

Hot Topics

Chair: Randi Blauth



March 6, 1:00 pm
Location: Palmer Library
Topic: **Book Ban Discussion Continued**

Out To Lunch

Chair: Claire Degnan



All members welcome.
Location: Prime Restaurant
February 21, 12:30 pm.
RSVP to Claire at 610-923-6570 by 2/19.

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



February 12 1:30 p.m.
February 26, 1:30 pm
Hostesses: Randi, Rosemary

Women & Science

Chair: Susan McNamara



Date: March 21, 1:30 pm
Hostess: Magaret Skaarup
Topic: **An Immense World** by Ed Yong, Ch.8-10

Stitch and Be

Chair: Toni Hoffman



February 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
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED