



Easton (PA) Branch

The Easton Edition

Easton, PA Branch Newsletter

CALENDAR

Newsletter Deadline

Monday, April 15

Branch Meeting

Tuesday, May 21

Board Meeting

Monday, May 6

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2024

Optimism is a happiness magnet. If you stay positive, good things and good people will be drawn to you.

Mary Lou Retton

Scholarship and Award Dessert



- WHEN:** Tuesday, May 21 at 7 pm
- WHERE:** First Presbyterian Church
333 Spring Garden Street, Easton
- WHAT:** Meet our Scholarship Recipients
Honor our Branch Awardees
- COST:** \$15 (choice of three small profiteroles filled with various ice creams topped with a little chocolate sauce and a garnish of mint and berries OR a fresh fruit dish along with coffee and tea.

Please RSVP with your name(s) and check payable to **Easton Branch AAUW** by **May 15th**. Mail check to **Becky Goldenberg PO Box 1464 Easton, PA 18040**. Please indicate choice of dessert.

If you wish to renew your membership at this time, you may do so at the same time. You may renew online at AAUW National or write a check payable to Easton Branch AAUW for \$99.00

From the Presidents' Pen

"April Showers bring forth May Flowers." I must say I am anxious to end the showers, and colder temperatures. May has many special days. Among them are National Water a Flower Day, Plant Something Day, several days focused on National Mental Health Awareness Month, and of course Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day, and school and college graduations.

For AAUW Easton the celebrations are for Girls Recognition Night on May 2 at the Nurture Nature Center and our Scholarship Dessert and Awards Night which recognizes our members. I hope you will be able to attend these celebratory events and meet both our scholarship recipients and the seventh-grade girls from area Middle Schools recognized by their teachers for their achievements in STEAM.

In addition, **from April 3 until May 15** we have the opportunity to break our own barrier and vote for open membership. 30% of our membership have already voted. **"Are we defined by college degree requirements or the fight for gender equity???"**

For me the work AAUW does to advance equity and the inclusiveness that it requires is most important. I have always found it to be embarrassing and wrong to have to ask a woman or a man who is interested in joining whether or not they have a college degree. Let's celebrate diversity and equality and a passion for our mission.

See the graphic on the next page to vote. If you need help, please ask a board member or I would be happy to help.

Fran

Your Vote Is Your Voice

AAUW-PA: Voting on Open Membership

Get out & vote. Make her-story.



E-Mail

Check your e-mail on April 3, 2024, for a communication from vote@simplyvoting.com

START

Review Details

Review the "simplyvoting" e-mail for key data points needed to cast your vote (i.e. special code, etc.).

Follow Links

Follow voting links provided in the "simplyvoting" e-mail to the proper website to cast your vote.



Open Ballot

Access your ballot and review content to be voted on.



Make Your Selections

Determine how you want to vote and make the proper selections.



Submit

Make your voice heard and submit your vote. Be the change.

FINISH

More information
AAUW is in a transformative state and is working to evolve the organization to be representative and reflective of the populations for which we advocate on behalf of.

Now, more than ever, AAUW is in need of our strength in numbers to enact change that is long overdue. AAUW-PA, in alignment with AAUW National, encourages you to vote "YES" to opening AAUW membership.

For more information on this topic, please contact Ann Pehle or Aja Laussegger. Voting kicks off April 3, 2024. Get out and vote!

Ann Pehle
apehle@outlook.com

Aja Laussegger
Aja.Glavasevic@quakerhoughton.com



Let's Read Math™

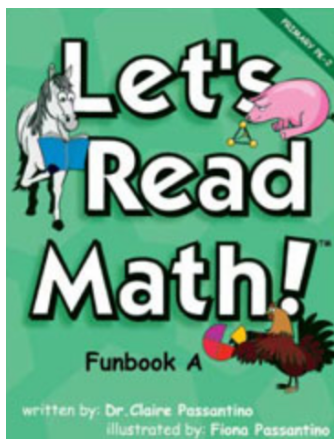
Volunteers Needed For

Let's Read Math™

Let's Read Math™ had quite a comeback last summer. We partnered with Easton and Palmer Libraries to present nine sessions of Let's Read Math™ lessons and over 50 children participated.

We are exploring partnering with local agencies that offer summer programs for children. We need volunteers to either teach or assist with teaching the lessons. Come learn how you can volunteer and engage elementary children in learning about math through literature. There will be a meeting at Karol D'Huyvetters' house, see directory for contact information or use the "Contact Us" tab on our website.

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



Important Dates to Remember

May 1 - Discuss Your Wage Day

May 5 - Cinco de Mayo

May 11 - Westminster Dog Show Begins

May 12 - Mother's Day

May 21- Scholarship and Award Dessert

May 24 - Morse Code Day

May 27 - Memorial 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 – MAY 2024

It's all in the small print. Sign on the dotted line, even if you don't know what you're signing. Often job applicants must sign a pre-hiring agreement to accept binding arbitration for any work-related issues that might occur. When families make hard decisions about placing a loved one in a nursing home, admitting forms include a clause mandating arbitration as the sole means of settling any future dispute. Under our Constitution, we have the right to jury trials, but the explosion of forced arbitration, often with non-disclosure clauses to enforce secrecy, slam the court door shut on millions with valid, serious grievances.

Testifying at an April 9, 2024 Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Forced Arbitration, the National Association of Consumer Advocates said: "Forced arbitration clauses, hidden in fine-print corporate contracts, block consumers, workers and small businesses from seeking justice in open court and give corporations the power to force legitimate complaints into secretive and biased arbitration proceedings. Corporations write the arbitration rules, including choosing the arbitration firm and location. Arbitrators' decisions are rarely appealable, even when arbitrators make clear and egregious errors."

Particularly heinous forced arbitration clauses prevent individuals from joining their claims together to seek accountability for wrongful corporate actions that cause widespread harm. In the justice system class and collective actions are a critical tool for American consumers, workers and small businesses to seek remedies when ripped off or exploited by sophisticated bad actors. How did we get here? The 1925 Federal Arbitration Act (FAA) was passed to ensure that certain corporations with equal bargaining power could use arbitration to resolve complex legal matters. This law was not originally envisioned to allow corporations to force arbitration and remove consumers' and workers' ability to choose how to get their complaints heard.

The FORCED ARBITRATION INJUSTICE REPEAL ACT [F.A.I.R. Act],--S.1376/H.R.2953, prohibits pre-dispute arbitration agreements with forced arbitration of employment, consumer, anti-trust or civil rights disputes. It also prohibits agreements and practices that interfere with the right of individuals, workers and small businesses to participate in a joint class or collective action.

Former Fox News anchor Gretchen Carlson was among those testifying in support of the F.A.I.R. Act. Thanks to her tireless advocacy, two years ago Congress prohibited use of forced arbitrations and non-disclosure clauses that kept secret cases of sexual assault or harassment at the workplace. Carlson fought Fox News Corporation and won after the sexual harassment she endured, but she was silenced by a non-disclosure agreement. "Watching the President sign the Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act into law was one of the proudest moments of my life," Carlson testified. She noted how forced arbitration has enabled discrimination against older workers and race discrimination in employment, naming Tesla as a serious offender. Countless families whose loved ones died of horrific abuse and neglect in nursing homes were deprived of the dignity of being able to file a case in court, Carlson stressed. The time is long past due to provide aggrieved Americans with a true choice to either file a lawsuit and not be silenced by non-disclosure clauses, or voluntarily choose binding arbitration if that is their preference.

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



May 20, 2:00 pm
Hostess: Susan McNamara
The Chrysalids by John Wyndham

International Relations

Chair: Fran Kennedy



May 28, 2:00 pm
Hostess: TBD
Topic: Planning Meeting

Hot Topics

Chair: Randi Blauth



May 1, 1:00 pm
Location: Bethlehem Public Library
Topic: **Book Ban Discussion Continued**

Out To Lunch

Chair: Claire Degnan



All members welcome.
Date: TBD
Location: TBD

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



May 13, 1:30 p.m.
Hostesses: Randi

Science

Chair: Susan McNamara



Date: May 16, 1:30 pm
Hostess: Nancy Kinzli
Topic: **An Immense World** by Ed Yong, Ch.11-13

Stitch and Be

Chair: Toni Hoffman



June 6, 2:30 p.m.
Hostess: Toni Hoffman



Walking Group

Chair: Fran Kennedy
Every Friday 9 am
On hiatus

NOTES

American Association of University Women

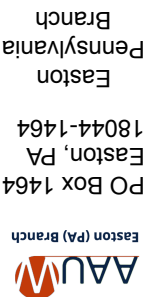
AAUW National	800.326.2289	www.aauw.org
Easton Branch		easton-pa.aauw.net
Co-Presidents	Lisa Spitale, Fran Kennedy	easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/
Membership Team	Carolyn Connors	easton-pa.aauw.net/membership/
Easton Edition	Toni Hoffman	easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/

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