



Easton (PA) Branch

The Easton Edition

Easton, PA Branch Newsletter

CALENDAR

Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, August 15

Branch Meeting

Tuesday, September 17

Board Meeting

Monday, October 7, 7 pm

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2024

It always seems impossible until it's done.

Nelson Mandela

Brooches: Ornaments of Panache and Political Intrigue

Speaker: Donna Murphy

Tuesday, September 17, 6:30 pm
Palmer Library

Madeleine Albright, our country's 64th Secretary of State, wrote in her 2009 book, *Read My Pins: Stories from a Diplomat's Jewel Box*,

"On good days, I wore flowers and butterflies and balloons, and on bad days, all kinds of bugs and carnivorous animals. I saw it as an additional way of expressing what I was saying, a visual way to deliver a message."

Having spent most of her professional career in the antique and estate jewelry industry, Donna remembers when this book first came out and the excitement it generated. What struck her was how potent these jewels are in their visual imagery and message- designed not only to bedazzle (think Hollywood glam) but also as hidden communicators.

This program, however, will shine a spotlight on the wearing of brooches in our 20th-21st century modern times for a myriad of reasons. From Cartier's "Bird in a Cage" brooch symbolic of the 1940s Nazi invasion of Paris, to the bravado of American women leaders & British royalty wearing brooches with hidden political messages, to who's donning brooches today and why.

Used as metaphors for social commentary, philanthropic causes, political positions, and surprising gender "red carpet" statements, the presentation will dispel the notion that brooches are just another pretty face. It will become apparent that the "Power of the Pin" cannot be denied!

See [Page 4](#) for more details.

From the Presidents' Pen

Welcome Back. Summer is almost over, and I am sure we can agree it always goes much too fast. I hope each of you enjoyed a little down time and took the opportunity to relax and have fun. Our members have been busy making plans to keep our AAUW Branch moving forward. As students and teachers are beginning what will hopefully be a rewarding new school year, our organization will resume our regular meetings. Our program committee has been busy planning interesting programs for the upcoming months. Our other committee members continue to work toward increasing community awareness of our organization and increasing our membership. We hope to see you on September 17th at the Palmer Library for the first meeting of the AAUW Easton Branch.

There are still many opportunities for more members to become involved. We are particularly in need of individuals to chair the Membership Committee, Scholarship Committee and Girls Recognition Night. Perhaps YOU are ready to step up in one of these areas and willing to volunteer your time and talents. Please let Fran and Lisa know if you are.

I am closing with a quote I found inspiring.

“Any woman who understands the problems of running a home will be nearer to understanding the problems of running a country.”– Margaret Thatcher

Lisa and Fran



Easton (PA) Branch

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY CONVERSATIONS – SEPTEMBER 2024

In Chicago on August 6th the American Bar Association’s (ABA) House of Delegates adopted a Resolution declaring the EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT **fully ratified as the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution.** With a membership of 400,000 lawyers this Resolution empowers the ABA to speak out to answer the claims of ERA opponents in Congress, in the Executive branch and the courts. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D/NY) stated:

“The American Bar Association is the premier association of legal minds in the United States and their endorsement of the Equal Rights Amendment as having met the Article V threshold is incredibly important. It shows that constitutional law experts believe the ERA has satisfied all the constitutional requirements to be certified and published. Such a step would enshrine freedom and equality for American women and girls into the Constitution and be the most effective rebuttal available to the disastrous Dobbs decision.”

In 2023 Senator Gillibrand introduced the ERA Now Resolution, which directs the archivist of the United States, Coleen Shogan, to affirm the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution, certify the state ratifications and publish it in the Federal Register. The resolution determines that the ERA has met all the requirements of Article V of the Constitution passage by more than two-thirds of Congress in 1972 and ratification by three-quarters of the states.

According to Ms. Magazine (8/15/24), the 15-page ABA report accompanying and supporting the Resolution makes the case for the importance of the ERA, especially today with a Supreme Court embracing a theory of “originalism” that would erase many hard-won rights of women. The report explained that “existing federal and state laws prohibiting sex discrimination are – at best - a “patchwork” because Congress can amend or repeal anti-discrimination laws and the Supreme Court can interpret them narrowly based on social or political bias, “stripping them of much of their force and effectiveness. Statutory provisions thus lack the permanence and authority that constitutional protection of the equality of the sexes would afford.”

“The American Bar Association prides itself as the largest voluntary association of lawyers in the world and the national voice of the legal profession.” “Particularly in the momentous Presidential election year, with women’s rights on the ballot, the ABA must be prepared to speak on the procedural issues that continue to be raised as to the recognition of the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution,” an ABA statement emphasized.

Lacking formal opposition, the Resolution passed by acclamation with ONE lone male voice voting against it out of 546 delegates. Several supporters worried that the current Supreme Court might overturn a long-standing precedent that the 14th Amendment Equal Protection Clause provides certain equality protections to women. ABA President Mary Smith said, it is “foundational to democracy that women have equal rights to fully participate in our democracy. We make up half of the population, but unfortunately, we’re lagging in so many areas like equal pay and equal representation in the legal profession.” ERA advocates plan to send the ABA Resolution and supporting report to members of Congress, writing letters urging the national archivist to certify and publish the ERA as the 28th Amendment and filing briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court and Courts of Appeals. Backers of the Resolution believe that the ABA will act on the Resolution, urging bar associations to audit federal and state laws for compliance with the ERA.

Finance Report

This year has been a learning curve for me, so please bear with me.

Our checking account balance was \$5770.32 on July 31, the end of our fiscal year 23-24.

- This includes payment of scholarship to Valente.
- It does not include the \$1000.00 scholarship payment to NCC.

The balance in the Janney investment account as of 7/31/24 - \$ 74,562.66.

- This includes the refund for the Lovett scholarship for last year - \$5,000.
- Scholarship donation \$2,336.00
- Gonsalez scholarship - paid \$5,000
- When some CD's came due, we put monies in a short term CD. I am discussing strategy with Janey to keep our funds in the highest return possible while being conservative.

Income report for fiscal year 23-24 \$ 11,248.01.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| • general donations | 1724.73 |
| • scholarship donations | 2780.00 |
| • refund for scholarship 22-23 | 5000.00 |
| • dessert contributions | 345.00 |
| • dues | 1401.00 |
| • from national | 195.00 |

Expenses

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| • Holiday Party | 321 |
| • Mail box | 194 |
| • Insurance | 348 |
| • Girls Recognition Night | 319 |
| • Scholarship Dessert | 498 |
| • Movie fundraiser | 360 |
| • Printing to Lafayette | |

Scholarship Report

One of the recipients from two years ago, Lovett, did not go to Texas A&M for health reasons. She enrolled for the 23-24 year but returned home for ongoing medical reasons. Our \$5,000 contribution was returned to us and put back in the Janney account. We heard she was enrolling on line for the 24-25 year but have not heard from her or her family.

For the 24-25 academic year we awarded three scholarships. There was a change in how scholarship monies were allocated by the schools and government and two \$5000 awards were made. The 3rd recipient had some issues with allocation and we agreed to work with them to make the award beneficial to the student and not to the university. I contacted the parent at least 3 times and never had follow-up from her so we still have those funds available. A \$1000 grant was made to our scholarship fund at NCC for two \$500 scholarships. We received letters from the recipients who were most grateful. A \$2500 payment was made for the balance of a 23-24 scholarship to Penn state for Koehler.

Continued on Page 10

Let's Read Math™

Fun time! Learning Time!

This summer, our branch brought learning to the children at Easton Public Library through our Let's Read Math™ programs. Eight volunteers plus one of our scholarship recipients presented Let's Read Math™ lessons. Each lesson included a story with a math concept, hands on activities to teach the concept and follow up worksheets. The stories included : The Greedy Triangle, The Kings Commissioners, Grandfather Tang, and Wanda's Roses. Groups of participants ranged from six to twelve children. Six sessions were planned but only four were done (children did not sign up for 2 lessons).



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.



Our first program meeting of the year will be on Tuesday, Sept. 17th, at Palmer Library. Come at 6:30 for a special ice cream treat dessert. The program will feature Donna Murphy, an entertaining & charismatic speaker, who will begin at 7 pm.

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.

BRANCH PROGRAMS

Tuesday, September 17, 6:30 pm

Welcome Back Ice Cream Social

Donna Murphy, Brooches: Ornaments of Panache and Political Intrigue

Palmer Library

Tuesday, October 8, 4 pm

Tea and conversation with Karen Pritchett-Newman, owner

Nature's Way Market <https://natureswayeaston.com/>

143 Northampton St. Easton PA

Tuesday, November 19, 7 pm

Sound Meditation

Meg Green <https://www.musicalchemistry.org/>

Palmer Library

December

Holiday Party

Saturday, February 1, 1 pm

One Read: The Genius of Judy, by Rachelle Bergstein

Palmer Library

Saturday, March 28, 5:30 pm and 8:00 pm

Tapas at the Fingers' home and An Evening at the Williams Center

Flamenco Vivo

May 1, 5 pm

Girls Recognition Night

Nurture Nature Center

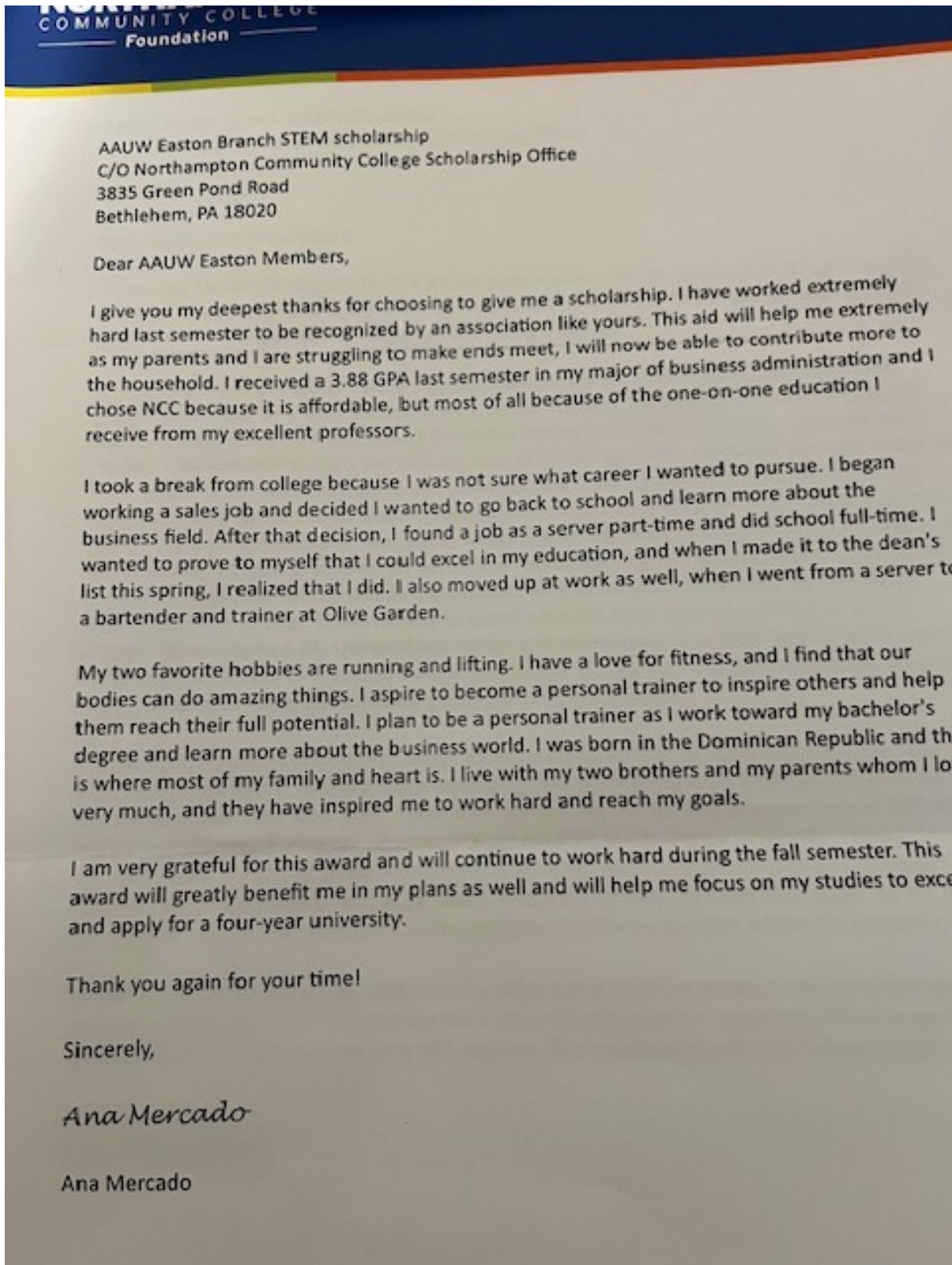
Tuesday, May 20, 7 pm

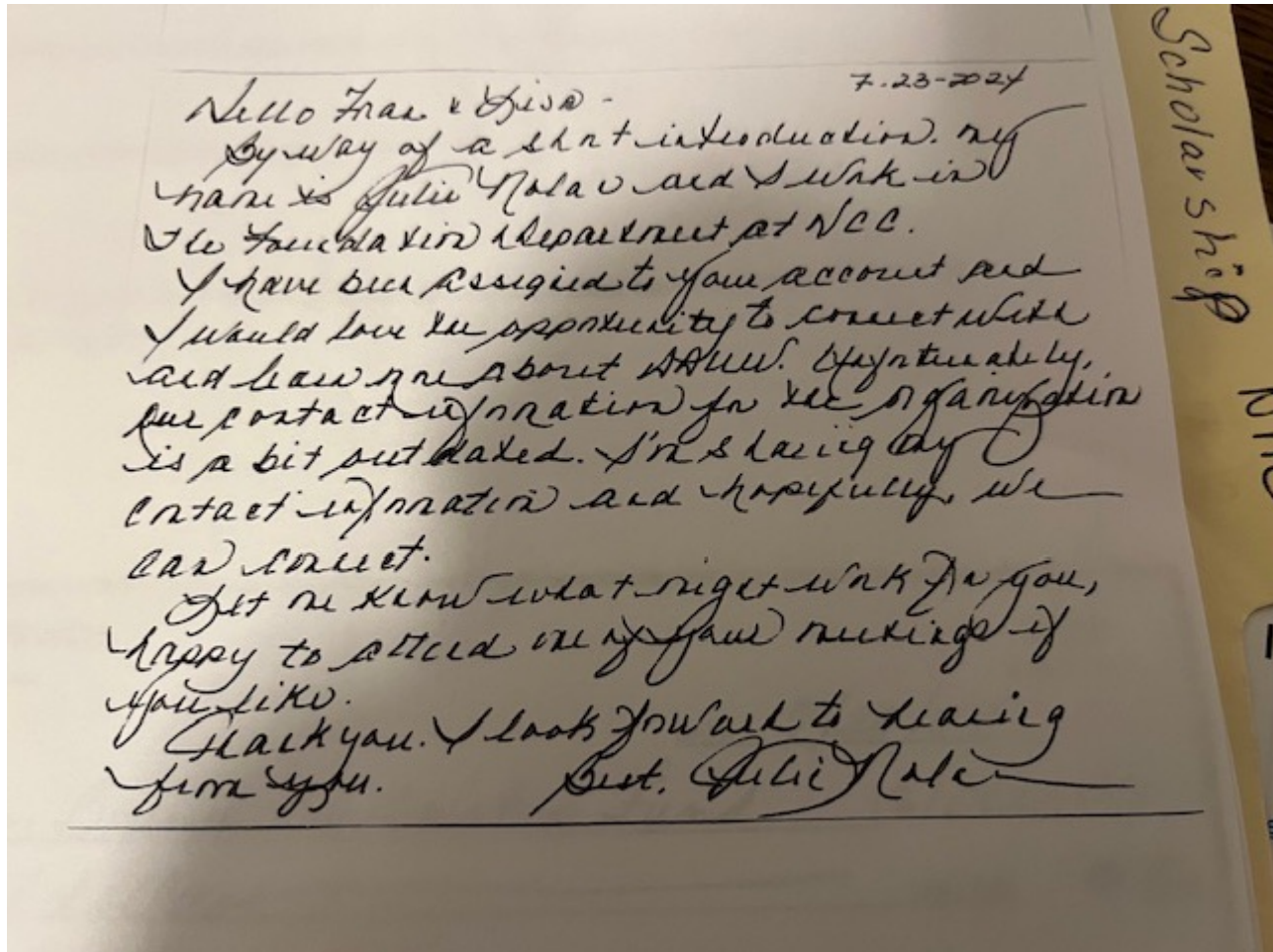
Scholarship and Award Ceremony

First Presbyterian Church

333 Spring Garden Street, Easton, PA

Thank you notes from our scholarship recipients





Hostess Needed for Holiday Party

We are starting to plan for our Annual Holiday Party. We are looking forward to having a member host the party at their house with the branch providing finger foods and cookies. The Holiday Party is held in December.

The Hostess responsibilities include tables/chairs, providing coffee and tea. On average 15 members with spouses attend the Holiday Party. The hostess usually chooses the date and it is generally in the beginning of December.

The Branch will provide paper products, trays of finger sandwiches, appetizers, and cookies. The Leadership Team will coordinate the menu with the Hostess.

If you are interested, please contact Karol D'Huyvetters.

In Memoriam



Eleanor "Elle" Hospodor Conti, 91, of Bethlehem, passed away on January 19th, 2023. She was the loving wife of Robert "Bob" Conti with whom she shared over 70 years of marriage. Born on March 14, 1931, in [Hazleton, PA](#) and raised in [Endicott, NY](#), she was the daughter of the late Andrew and Verna (Yurick) Hospodor.

Elle received both her undergraduate and master's degrees from Cornell University. While studying for her master's Elle worked as a teaching assistant and completed her wedding gown as her final project. She was a talented clothing designer and seamstress, a life-long love she passed on to her daughters. Elle and Bob raised their four children in [Easton, PA](#) where Elle was very involved in her community. She was a Girl Scout leader, a softball coach, avid synchronized swimmer and coach, an active

member of AAUW (American Association of University Women), and a Eucharistic Minister for St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church.

Elle's professional life included work with the Homemaker Home Health Aide Services, and as Executive Director for the Visiting Nurse Association in Bethlehem. Elle was the Director of Community Relations at Easton Hospital for many years until she retired. Volunteer work centered on Elle's love of the arts, most notably as a docent first at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum and later at the Allentown Art Museum.

Elle had a tremendous love for travel with her husband and family. Their trips took them all over the world from England to Egypt, China to The Czech Republic, and Mexico to Malta. Elle also loved traveling in the United States and organized full family trips to both Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks. Some of Elle's favorite vacations were spent closer to home on Long Beach Island, NJ over the span of 30 years watching the family grow to thirty people spanning four generations.

Elle will be lovingly remembered by her husband Bob; children, Richard Conti and fiancée Shawn Klein of [Orinda, CA](#), Amy Davies and husband Mark of [Scotch Plains, NJ](#), Ellen Bullion and husband Jim of Hanover, NH, and Julie Langenbacher and husband Paul of [Ithaca, NY](#); brother, Robert Hospodor and wife Juliana of Easton, MD; 12 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by brothers Andrew and David Hospodor.

Easton Branch Book Group

2024-2025 Easton AAUW Book Group Calendar of Meetings

Meeting Dates and Readings

Hostess and Discussion Leader

September 16, 2024 at 2:00pm
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
 by Mark Twain

Rosemary Baker

October 21, 2024 at 2:00pm
James by Percival Everett

Rosemary Baker

November 18, 2024 at 2:00pm
The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell
 by Robert Durgoni

Karol D'Huyvetters

December 16, 2024 at 2:00pm
Death Comes to the Archbishop
 by Willa Cather

Carol Inman

Financial Report Continued-

As Finance Officer, I served on the scholarship committee. I suggest that going forward the scholarship committee revise the application. Receiving tax returns from applications posed privacy issues for the student and parents so there should be a line item for net income from the tax returns and notification that if they were being considered for the scholarship, they would need to provide tax returns. There should be more clarity concerning other scholarships the applicant has applied for and/or received when considering need. We also need to understand the new financial guidelines provided to students. This year everything from the government was provided late so it was difficult for everyone. We could also consider providing a student AAUW membership to recipients and provide the recipients with each others contact info and do a follow up to see how they did and provide some support if needed.

Membership.

Some members renewed on line and some sent checks to me. I'm still learning this process. Everyone renewed although some are included in our next fiscal year.

The yearly liability insurance and post office box fees have been paid. I am trying to keep a notebook on procedures so there is not so much of a learning curve for future treasurers.

Submitted by Becky Goldenberg, Finance Officer

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



September 16, 2:00 pm
 Hostess: Rosemary Baker
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

International Relations

Chair: Fran Kennedy



September 24, 2:00 pm
 Hostess: Phyllis Finger
 Topic: The International Court of Justice

Bridge

Chair: Rosemary Baker



Contact Rosemary for date and time. New members welcome.

Out To Lunch

Chair: Claire Degnan



All members welcome.
 Date: TBD
 Location: TBD

Mah Jongg

Chair: Randi Blauth



September 9, 1:30 p.m.
 September 23, 1:30 pm
 Hostesses: Toni, Susan

Tapas Dining

Chair: Phyllis Finger



Date: March 28, 5:30 pm
 Hostess: Phyllis Finger

Stitch and Be

Chair: Toni Hoffman



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

Science

Chair: Susan McNamara



Date: October 17, 1:30 pm
 Host: Margaret Skaarup
 Topic: **The Light Eaters** by Zoe Schlanger - Ch. 5-8



Walking Group

Chair: Fran Kennedy
 Every Friday 9 am

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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Easton, PA
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED