



Easton (PA) Branch

# The Easton Edition

Easton, PA Branch Newsletter

## CALENDAR

### Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, October 15

### Branch Meeting

Tuesday, October 8

### Board Meeting

Monday, October 7, 7 pm

## IN THIS ISSUE

Importance of Food and Diet	1
Presidents' Pen	2
Public Policy	3
Branch Minutes	4
Membership	6
In Memoriam	7
Interest Groups	8

2024

It always seems impossible until it's done.

Nelson Mandela



### Karen Pritchett-Neuman

#### Natures Way Market

143 Northampton Street

Tuesday, October 8, 4 pm

Join us for 4 o'clock tea with goodies followed by owner, Karen Pritchett-Neuman, presenting a program on the importance of high quality food and diet, with a special emphasis on the needs of women.

Although Karen is a Pennsylvania native and a graduate of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, she spent most of her professional career in New York City, as a professor of art at the Fashion Institute of Technology (37 years), and also taught concurrently for a good many years at Parsons and Pratt. Her husband, Shalom Tomas Neuman, is a Czech-American multi-sensory and multidisciplinary artist, and the force behind "fusionism." In 2016, when Shalom bought Churchman's Business School and founded the FusionArts Museum on 4th St., Karen bought Natures Way from the Harders, who had been operating it since 1975, and wanted to retire.

Karen has embraced life in the Easton area and has learned a lot about nutrition from attending a variety of symposiums and study. Karen will share the story of her journey, including some of the things she has learned, and there will time for questions.

Parking will be available in the lot behind Natures Way, and also on Northampton St.

## From the Presidents' Pen

I hope everyone has settled into the return to routine that typically occurs once Summer is over and the world transitions into Fall. Fall represents the harvest time of year, a time to acknowledge growth and expansion as a natural evolution of our organic being. It is the time our organization enjoys a return to regularly scheduled meetings as we aspire to expand our minds as well as hopefully expanding the membership of the AAUW. I encourage each of you to attend meetings and enjoy our upcoming programs. I look forward to seeing you at a future event.

Growth of the AAUW, specifically the Easton branch, remains a focus of the membership committee. If you have any ideas for ways we can reach out to potential new members, please contact Lisa or Fran. In addition to membership growth, many opportunities for increased participation in the AAUW are present in our branch. For example, we are looking for assistance with Girls' Recognition Night, an event which I believe encapsulates the goal of our organization. Please let Lisa or Fran know if you would like more information on this or any of our other committees.

*"October's crisp air reminds us to embrace change like the falling leaves gracefully surrender to the ground." – Linda J. Wolff, "October Embrace"*

Lisa



**Easton (PA) Branch**

## AAUW PUBLIC POLICY CONVERSATIONS – OCTOBER 2024

It's all in the small print. As House Republicans battle with one another over a Continuing Resolution to fund the government, it's helpful to know exactly what's being proposed in the federal budget offered by House Speaker Mike Johnson.

President Joe Biden's budget proposal increases investment in caregivers and improving caregiving jobs by creating a national program to guarantee 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave for all workers. The White House Budget invests in access to affordable childcare for millions of families. It adds a \$300 million increase for Labor Department enforcement of EQUAL PAY and includes a \$3 million investment solely for the U.S. Womens Bureau's task of helping states expand paid leave benefits.

The Republican **Labor Department Budget eliminates the U.S. Womens Bureau**, the only government department tasked with decreasing the wage gap. The Republican plan guts **funding for enforcing labor laws**, including the Equal Pay Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. According to a 7/24/24 Government Executive report, the proposed Republican spending bill would **cut the Labor Department Budget by 22%**. That includes a nearly **12% cut to the Occupational Safety & Health Administration**, tasked with enforcing worker safety regulations. The Labor Department cuts amount to \$3 billion less than current funding levels.

The White House Budget invests nearly \$400 million in the Title X Family Planning Program and another \$375 million in the White House Blueprint for addressing America's Maternal Health crisis.

In opposition, Republicans propose **cutting the Health & Human Services (HHS) budget by 6%** which is \$7.5 billion from current levels. Of that **\$280 million are cuts to Title X's Family Planning Program** intended to provide access to contraception, pregnancy testing and sexually transmitted infection services for those with low-incomes or who are uninsured. The Republican cuts target Title X's funding for reproductive care clinics including Planned Parenthood. The Republican legislation also cuts **Centers for Disease Control & Prevention spending by \$1.8 billion**. This eliminates funding for research focused on suicide prevention, firearms injury and deaths, and opioid overdose prevention. Republicans want big cuts in family-supporting programs like the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid and Medicare**.

**Education Department funding would get a 14% decrease, or \$8.6 billion**. Title I grants, which provide federal funding for schools with students from low-income backgrounds, would face a **\$4.7 billion decrease**. That drop accounts for more than half of the \$8.6 billion cut to all K-12 education, including special education programs. **Another major Education cut decreases school mental health services by \$124 million**.

Representative Robert Aderholt (R/AL), chairman of the House Labor, Health & Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, called the proposed budget cuts "common sense reforms," that would "ultimately save taxpayer dollars." House Appropriations Chairman Tom Cole, (R.OK), said in a statement that the legislation would protect Americans from policies championed by President Joe Biden, which are largely opposed by congressional Republicans. "Importantly, the bill reins in the Biden Administration's burdensome overreach and divisive policy agenda," Cole said.

Lilly Gioia

### **AAUW Easton Branch Meeting**

September 17, 2024 at the Palmer Library

Fran Kennedy, Co-President, called the meeting to order at 6:45pm. She welcomed everyone. There were 9 members and 5 guests present.

Fran presented the schedule of branch programs for the upcoming year. A hostess is needed for the Holiday Party.

Members of the interest groups - Book, Bridge, International Relations, Mahjongg, and Science, presented information about the groups and invited anyone who wishes to join them.

Volunteers are needed for Girls Recognition Night, the membership committee and a Historian.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

Phyllis introduced our speaker, Donna Murphy who presented an informative program on Brooches: Ornaments of Panache and Political Intrigue.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Rosemary Baker

### **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.



### Chameleon Blue

Chameleon Blue, a retail store, in Clinton, New Jersey, that carries only fair trade items from developing countries around the world, is relocating to another area of the country. Everything in the store is 20% off and some items are reduced even more. This is your chance to find one of a kind items and start your holiday shopping early. The last day for business is October 27, 2024.



### 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.



**“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied...”**

**Fight for Women and Girls >**

## Welcome Back Returning Member Donna Murphy



Twenty years ago, Donna became a member of AAUW Easton. During her membership, Donna led a career forum and presented a talk on “Women with a Voice”. Although her membership lapsed due to life commitments, in September of this year Donna was reintroduced to the AAUW. Asked to be a guest speaker, she presented a visual presentation on “Brooches: Ornaments of Panache and Political Intrigue. Being back with passionate, educated women who are committed to the mission of the AAUW, prompted Donna to re-join AAUW Easton. She said she is thrilled to be back!

A business professional with over 25 years of experience in the antique & estate jewelry industry, Donna Pulese-Murphy was the Director of Communications for a prominent estate jewelry company in NYC for most of her career. She held various other positions including Estate Jewelry Buyer, Merchandising Manager, Brand Development, and Blog Writer. Donna is also the owner of her own estate jewelry and objets d’art business, Chelsea Estate Collection.

Donna had a dual career as an independent writer and columnist. Her articles spanned many disciplines - art & design, profile pieces (on prominent writers, activists, and designers), and advocacy/human rights. Her published works appeared in numerous publications including Art & Antiques, Jewelers Quarterly, Modernism Magazine, Victorian Homes, The UN Chronicle and Meaningful Influence Lifestyles Magazine.

Donna’s volunteer activity included being a communications & social media consultant for the Ronald McDonald House in Jacksonville, FL; participating in NYU’s Child Life art therapy program; a reading facilitator/mentor for incoming Lehigh University students; and an advocacy/human rights writer for various international non-profit organizations.

### **Donna Pulese Murphy, MA**

Decorative Arts historian, educator, writer

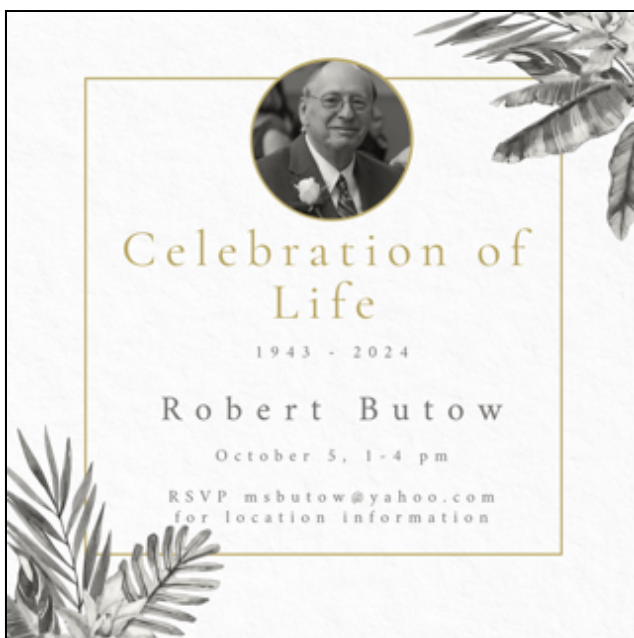
## In Memoriam

Janet A. (Huxel) Heffner, 89, of Easton, died Monday, September 9, 2024 at Lehigh Valley Hospital - Hazleton. She is the wife of the late William G. Heffner, who died April 4, 2002. Janet was born in Brooklyn, NY on April 24, 1935 to the late Albert and Doris (Proctor) Huxel. She was an educator at the Easton School District for 40 years until retiring. She is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Easton, where she was a former Sunday School Teacher. Janet was a former secretary of AAUW, member of the Teacher's Union and an advocate for Adult Literacy after her retiring. She enjoyed reading, gardening and was a pianist.

Janet is survived by her loving children: Susan K. (Richard) Clarkson of NYC, NY, William G. Heffner Jr. of Phillipsburg, NJ, Tracey A. Lewis of Ft. Meyers, FL; 7 grandchildren: Olivia, Victoria Clarkson, William, Rachel, Edward Heffner, Katie, Elizabeth Lewis. Predeceased by siblings: Albert and Doreen Paynton.

Janet requested her services to be private on Saturday at the Heintzelman Funeral Home, Inc. 326 Main Street – Hellertown. The interment will conclude services at Northampton Memorial Shrine, Palmer Twp. To share an expression of sympathy with this family, please visit [www.heintzelmancares.com](http://www.heintzelmancares.com).

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Janet's name to the Special Olympics, American Heart Assoc. and or an animal rescue of your choice.



There will be a Celebration of Life for Robert Butow, beloved husband of Nancy Butow, on Saturday, October 5th from 1-4 pm at 1701 Chain Dam Road, Easton. It will be a casual gathering for a sharing of memories, food and community.

Please RSVP to Megan Butow at [msbutow@yahoo.com](mailto:msbutow@yahoo.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



October 21 2:00 pm  
Hostess: Rosemary Baker  
**James** by Percival Everett

### International Relations

**Chair:** Fran Kennedy



October 22, 2:00 pm  
Hostess: Karol D'Huyvetters  
Topic: Foreign Coverage of United States Elections

### 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



October 14 1:30 p.m.  
October 28, 1:30 pm  
Hostesses. Randi, Rosemary

### Tapas Dining

**Chair:** Phyllis Finger



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

### Stitch and Be

**Chair:** Toni Hoffman



October 3, 2:30 p.m.  
Hostess: Toni Hoffman

### 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	<a href="http://www.aauw.org">www.aauw.org</a>
Easton Branch		<a href="http://easton-pa.aauw.net">easton-pa.aauw.net</a>
Co-Presidents	Lisa Spitale, Fran Kennedy	<a href="http://easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/">easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/</a>
Membership Team	Carolyn Connors	<a href="http://easton-pa.aauw.net/membership/">easton-pa.aauw.net/membership/</a>
Easton Edition	Toni Hoffman	<a href="http://easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/">easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/</a>

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