



Easton (PA) Branch

The Easton Edition

Easton, PA Branch Newsletter

CALENDAR

Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, June 15

Branch Meeting

Wednesday, May 21, 7 pm

Board Meeting

Monday, May 5, 7 pm

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2025

Learning never exhausts the mind.
Leonardo Da Vinci

Scholarship and Award Dessert

Wednesday, May 21, 7 pm

First Presbyterian Church
333 Spring Garden Street

Meet our Scholarship Recipients
Honor our Branch Awardees

Join us as we present scholarships to deserving young women and honor our branch members for their service to the branch.

Dessert is a choice of strawberry pie OR a fresh fruit dish along with coffee and tea. Cost is \$12.00.



Please RSVP with your name(s) and check payable to Easton Branch AAUW by May 15th. Mail reservation and check to Becky Goldenberg, PO Box 1484, Easton, PA 18042. Be sure to indicate choice of dessert.

If you wish to renew your membership at the same time, you may do so by including a check for \$99 payable to Easton Branch AAUW. You may also renew online at AAUW NATIONAL.

From the Presidents' Pen

Dear Members,

As we welcome the month of May, it's a good time to reflect on the mission that unites us as members of the AAUW Easton Branch: advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. Our work is only possible through the commitment and involvement of every branch member. Whether it's attending programs, supporting scholarships, or volunteering your time and talents, your engagement fuels our impact.

This month, we celebrate two of our most inspiring annual events. On **May 1st**, we host *Girls Recognition Night*, where we honor outstanding young women from local middle schools for their achievements in STEAM subjects. Then, on **May 21st**, we come together for our *Scholarship and Awards Ceremony*, recognizing the hard work and academic excellence of local students. These events reflect the heart of our mission—lifting up the next generation of women leaders.

May also reminds us of the power of civic participation. With upcoming elections, we are called not only to vote ourselves but to encourage others to do the same. Voting is a cornerstone of democracy and a vital way we can advocate for the values and policies that matter to us. Let's continue to show up, speak out, and support each other in creating meaningful change.

Thank you for all you do to keep our mission alive and strong.

Warmest regards,

Lisa Spitale
Co-President
AAUW Easton Branch

"Someone struggled for your right to vote. Use it."
— Susan B. Anthony

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY CONVERSATIONS – MAY 2025

With a firehose of news coming at us every day, some issues that may deeply affect our daily lives can get lost. One of them is a most critical institution: the United States Postal Service. It's been caught up in the furor created by President Trump's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Postmaster General Louis DeJoy informed Congress that he'd signed an agreement with DOGE and the General Services Administration on 3/13/25 to implement reforms, stabilize Postal Service finances and streamline operations. According to a 3/13/25 Government Executive report, DeJoy has been on a crusade since he took office in 2020 to eradicate wasteful layers in the Postal Service's structure and delivery network, while increasing prices and slowing service, to put the agency on firmer financial footing. DeJoy said, "While we have accomplished a great deal, there is much more to be done." DeJoy is in the midst of implementing a controversial plan to consolidate mail processing operations, move mail sorting away from individual post offices and allow mail that would normally get picked up each evening to instead sit overnight for pick up the following morning. He has said his Delivering for America plan would take 10 years to implement, though he has already missed his targets over the past four years to demonstrate profitability. He has received severe complaints about deteriorating service and persistently raising First Class mail and other prices.

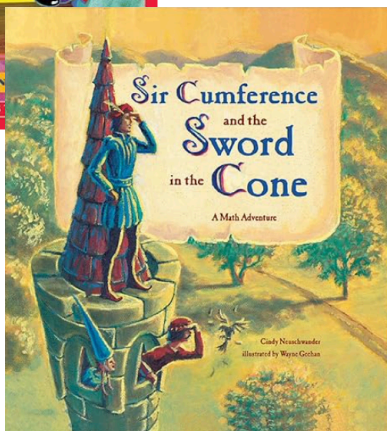
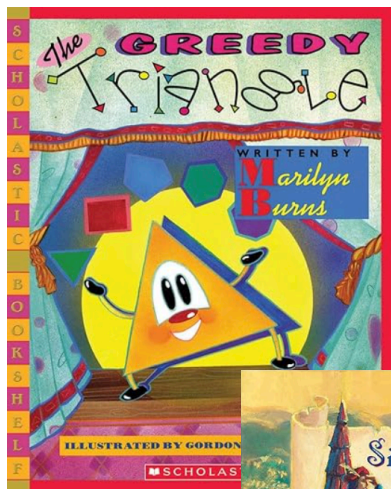
Just months after telling Congress he would remain as Postmaster General "until somebody hauls me out of here," in mid-February, DeJoy announced his decision to step down. This creates an opening for the agency's governing board to fill this position in the midst of implementing sweeping changes to operations. Postmasters General serve no fixed terms and are chosen by the board. President Biden while in office, faced calls to fire DeJoy, who is a Republican mega-donor, though he could only be removed by the board or on his own volition. DeJoy's cost-cutting efforts significantly raised postage rates, created a chorus of criticism from a wide-ranging and bipartisan set of congressional lawmakers, the agency's regulators, its inspector general and stakeholders throughout the mailing community. One executive in the mailing industry speculated DeJoy's timing was not a coincidence. He suggested it "sure feels like" he stepped aside so Trump could "change USPS in some other way." President Trump briefly proposed privatizing the Postal Service in his first term.

Representative Gerry Connolly (D/VA) is the top Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee with jurisdiction over the Postal Service. He quickly criticized the new partnership with DOGE. "The only thing worse for the Postal Service than DeJoy's Delivering for America plan is turning the service over to Elon Musk and DOGE so they can undermine it, privatize it, and then profit off American's loss," Connolly said. "This capitulation will have catastrophic consequences for all Americans—especially those in rural and hard to reach areas—who rely on the Postal Service every day to deliver mail, medications, ballots and more." Prior to taking office this year President Trump stated his interest in privatizing the USPS. More recently Elon Musk himself has suggested USPS should be privatized. Trump was considering signing an executive order to fold USPS into the Commerce Department, the Washington Post reported earlier this year, though that plan never came to fruition. He suggested in January that the Postal Service would continue to exist even if it was no longer a stand-alone agency. USPS independence is written in statute. Any change would likely require congressional action.

Volunteers Needed For Let's Read Math

Branch members had a great time facilitating Let's Read Math™ sessions last summer. We partnered with Easton Library to present Let's Read Math™ lessons and over 50 children participated. The Bethlehem AAUW gave us six complete lessons.

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 on May 21, 2025 at 2:00 pm. See directory for address. If you have any questions, give Karol a call.



Two Members Address Change

Nancy Butow
Wellington at Hersheys Apt 336
1361 Boot Road
West Chester, PA 19380

Marjorie Annette Stoody
Alexandria Manor Rm. 312
7 South New St.
Nazareth, PA 18064

Dates to Remember

May 1	Girls Recognition Night
May 1	May Day
May 5	Cinco de Mayo
May 11	Mother's Day
May 13	Frog Jumping Day
May 20	VOTE
May 21	Scholarship & Award Dessert
May 24	Scavenger Hunt Day
May 26	Memorial Day

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 19, 2:00 pm
Hostess: Rosemary Baker
The Personal Librarian by
Marie Benedict

International Relations

Chair: Fran Kennedy



May 27, 12:00 pm
Hostess: TBD
Topic: Lunch at noon and Planning

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



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

Tapas Dining

Chair: Phyllis Finger



Date: TBD
Hostess: TBD

Stitch and Be

Chair: Toni Hoffman



May 1, 2:30 p.m.
Hostess: Toni Hoffman

Science

Chair: Susan McNamara



Date: May 22, 1:30 pm
Hostess: Nancy Kinzli
Topic: **The Song of the Cell** by
Siddharta Mukherjee
Part 3: Blood = p. 151-225



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 Conners	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
Pennsylvania
Branch
PO Box 1464
Easton, PA
18044-1464

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

