

THE READING BRANCH LINES

Volume 55 No. 01

September/October 2019

Reading, PA

President's Message

"Welcome to the beginning of another AAUW, Reading Branch year, our 96th! And this year's schedule of programs and events looks like it will be a great year with the added Berks Centennial Celebration of Women's Suffrage in 2020! We ended our year with a very successful Book Bonanza this summer that insures our awarding of many scholarships to women in Berks County.

A (bigger) LUNAFEST is being planned for March and will lead into the Berks Centennial Celebration of Women's Suffrage in 2020, along with our branch revival/rewriting of System Shakers, Barrier Breakers: The Suffragists to help celebrate the anniversary. Our Branch will perform at various events and locations and onto the PA AAUW convention in Harrisburg in April. Everyone can find activities that are interesting to attend and participate; check your yearbook and newsletter to follow all that our Program VP's and Board of Directors have planned for us.

Let's begin with our first program Saturday, September 14, 2 pm, at Scoupe de Ville in Birdsboro, which will be an ice cream social that will take you back to the 50's and 60's with décor, music, food, and nostalgia. Come dressed in your poodle skirt, capris, bobby socks, saddle shoes, penny loafers, or whatever takes you back to those years. If you don't have a throwback outfit, come and we'll lend you a neck or hair scarf to put you in the mood. Our board of directors may surprise you!

We look forward to the many great programs and events to share with you!

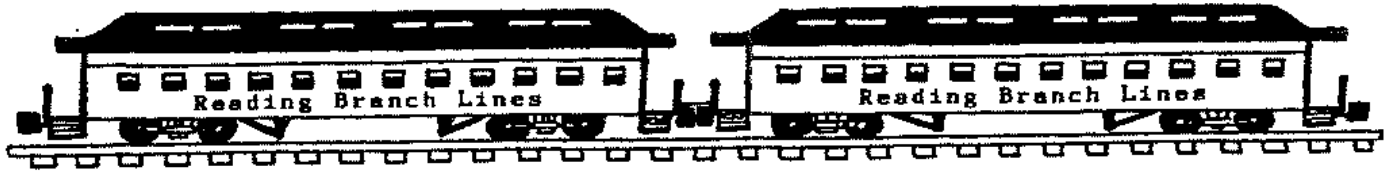
Carol Toomey, President"

Reading Branch General Meeting

Saturday, September 14, 2019 at 2 PM at Scoupe deville Ice Cream Parlor

3365 Main Street, Birdsboro PA 19508 (this address is on route 724 in Gibraltar) 610-582-5259

Welcome to our first general meeting for the year. This meeting will be a social get together at the Scoupe deville Ice Cream Parlor in Gibraltar. Members can purchase food or ice cream at the diner as desired. The diner serves hard and soft ice cream, Italian water ice, gelati, ice cream floats, milk shakes, Sundaes, banana splits, fruit smoothies, parfaits, shimmys (think blizzard), ice cream sodas, beverages, and other foods until 8 PM - hot dogs, Coney burgers, soft pretzels, BBQ, fries, chili, soup, cole slaw, bagged chips, platters, and kids meals. There are over 30 flavors of hard ice cream and many other choices in the other items served. Everyone should be able to find something that you like. Hopefully you will be able to join us for this social activity. If you have any questions please contact Virginia Schulze-Johnson at 484-663-3674. Parking is behind the building. To get to the parking lot behind the building from 724 turn onto Old Gibraltar Rd. and right onto Firehouse Lane or turn onto Firehouse Lane next to the fire company and follow it around the corner to the left until you get to the ice cream parlor.



If anyone has any suggestions for a new interest group please let Carol Toomey or one of our board members know.

September

Culinary Diversity, Wed, September 18 – 6:00 PM
Dinner – Angry Anvil
00 W. 1st Street. Birdsboro PA 19508
(It is in the shopping center with Boyer’s Market – up a hilly driveway) – (610) 401-0862
Contact: Joanne Wrigley – 717-445-3015

Cultural Arts – Activities to be determined and information will be emailed later date . For details about the group contact Ellie Hunt 610-670-1808 or Suzanne Churgai – 610-488-9269

Fine Arts – Wed., September 25, 11:30 AM
Lunch at Penn State Berks cafeteria
Program – Display discussion in the gallery with Marilyn Fox
Contact: Donna Weik 610-478-7610 and Victoria Troutman by email

Home Arts –Wed., Sept. 4 - 6:00 PM – Covered Dish Supper
Location: Evvie Trexler’s home
Program: Fall prevention by Martha Sitler, Berks Encore
Hostess – Evvie Trexler – 610-372-073 – call and let Evvie know what dish you will bring

Literature – Monday, September 23 - 1:30 PM
Program: Review of We Were Orphans by Kazuo Ishiguro
Reviewer: Pat Hummel
Location: The Heritage at Green Hills
Contact : Delite Hawk – 610-775-0535

October

Culinary Diversity – Wednesday, October 16 – 6 PM
Dinner: The White Swan Restaurant
1264 Newport Rd., Lititz, PA 17543
717-626-4444
Contact: Joanne Wrigley – 717-445-3015

Cultural Arts – events to be determined at a later date and emailed to the group
Contact Ellie Hunt 610-670-1808
or Suzanne Churgai - 610-488-9269

Fine Arts – Wednesday, October 23rd
Contact: Donna Weik - 610-478-7610, Victoria Troutman – 610-589-2952

Home Arts – Wednesday, October 2 – 7:00 PM
At the West Lawn/Wyomissing Hills Library
Program: “Beautiful Bats featuring PA Bat Rescue” by Stephanie Stronsick
Hostess: Joan Cook 610-678-7999
Contact: Judy Druckenmiller –610- 678-3508

Literature – Monday, October – 28 – 1:30 PM
Program: Review of Before the Fall by Noah Hawley
Location – Karen Parish’s home
Hostess – Suzanne Churgai - 610-488-9269



AAUW Work Smart Program

AAUW has a program to prepare women to negotiate their salary when seeking and interviewing for a new job. Carol Toomey and I went to see the program presented when it was held in Carlisle, PA this summer. This is a national program being presented throughout the United States. The goal of the program is for women to learn about and negotiate for a competitive salary for the job they job position they are seeking. The skills taught in this workshop will help women advocate for themselves to start eliminating the pay gap between men and women who are doing the same work. The national AAUW website has a computer version of the workshop that women can go to on your computer to learn the salary negotiating skills. Your daughters or granddaughters might be interested in learning these skills. Interested members can also take the online course or attend a nearby program to learn about these skills whether you are working or not. To get to the Work Smart workshops go to salary.aauw.org

AAUW Summer Retreat

Four members of our branch, Carol Toomey, Ellie Hunt, Mary Jane Garbo and I, went to the AAUW-PA Summer Retreat at the Best Western Country Cupboard in Lewisburg this summer. A discussion of the AAUW national budget and decisions made to balance it was presented. There will be no national convention in 2019. There will be a scaled down event in 2020. Strategic Areas of focus were discussed including addressing the barriers and implicit biases that hinder advancement of women, and promoting economic security and equal pay. There was a presentation on the Work Smart Online program and information about holding a local workshop for women to promote equal pay for equal work.

A variety of fundraising events and ideas were discussed so branches have funds to provide programs in their communities. Fair voting districts in PA and support for public education were also discussed. Branches were encouraged to have a strategic plan to reach their goals. We had opportunities to share information about activities of different branches to help develop new ideas and compare successes.

Next year there is an AAUW-PA Convention in Harrisburg, April 24-26, 2020 at the Best Western Central Hotel and Conference Center. Registration is now open for that convention. Convention program information is not available yet.



Book Bonanza

A new Executive Committee with members from AAUW Reading Branch and the Friends of Berks County Public Libraries has been established to lead Book Bonanza as we go forward since Vicki and Pam retired from their leadership positions. Members of the Executive Committee from AAUW are Suzanne Churgai, Sherry Davis and Virginia Schulze-Johnson. Members from the Friends are Andy Ellsworth, Liz Eshelman and Allen Westbrook. The executive committee will establish other committees and subcommittees and appoint their members. Our highest priority right now is to find a site for next year for Book Bonanza. Initial members appointed to the site search committee are Andy Ellsworth, Liz Eshelman, Virginia Schulze-Johnson and Allen Westbrook. If you have any ideas for a site, please reach out to the committee members with suggestions.

The Book Bonanza sale went well and almost all of the unsold items went to other non-profit organizations. Thank you to everyone who helped with the sorting and the sale.

AAUW READING BRANCH
3045 Linda Lane
Reading PA 19608

Diversity Statement

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class. Membership is not by invitation.

Mission Statements

AAUW advances equity for women and girls, through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.
AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.
AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

Branch Lines

Editor – Eileen Ritz 610-582-2421 **Web Site:** reading-pa.aauw.net **Email:** aauwreadingpa@gmail.com

Jewelry Sale

Vintage jewelry is preowned jewelry that is no longer wanted. We have decided to continue collecting jewelry again this year as a fundraiser. If you, family, or friends have jewelry that you/they would like to donate to our fundraiser please call Eileen Ritz at 610-582-2421 or bring it along to a meeting. The jewelry sale supports our branch's operating budget. Rings were especially popular items. We have even sold bags of broken items. People make crafts out of the broken jewelry. In 2019 we sold jewelry at Lunafest, the June branch picnic and in July at Renningers Farmer's and Antique Market flea market in Kutztown. The flea market day was very hot although I didn't mind the heat in the pavilion. At Lunafest we earned \$106 on the jewelry sales and the picnic and flea market sale brought us a total of \$189. Thank you to all who have donated jewelry and helped with these sales events.

Redners Tapes

Ellie Hunt is still collecting Redners grocery store cash register tapes to support our branch operations budget. If you shop at Redners please give the register tapes to Ellie and she will submit them to earn money for our AAUW branch. Thank you to all who have submitted receipts.

Board Meeting

NOTE: The next board meeting is Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 6:00 PM at Carol Toomey's home.