

THE READING BRANCH LINES

Volume 56 No. 01

September/October 2020

Reading, PA

President's Report - Socializing in the time of COVID

By Judith Kraines, co-president

I belong to several large sewing guilds. We can't meet in person. But small groups are meeting on Zoom. We laugh, joke, tell stories, and sometimes get some sewing done.

Past-president Carol Toomey, holds Zoom teas. Literature I - which usually doesn't meet over the summer - is holding a Zoom meeting each month.

Zoom has become our way of socializing.

Our AAUW board, at its July meeting, discussed the use of small groups using Zoom to socialize. Most of us are of a certain age. Isolation is not good for our health. We want all our members to have contact with other AAUW members. Small Zoom chats is one way to engage with each other.

We encourage everyone with a smartphone, tablet, or computer to invite a few other AAUW members for a Zoom chat. Go to zoom.us and sign up for the free account. The website has tutorials. If you have difficulty, please contact me and I will walk you through it.

It's up to you whether you want to focus on an interest or a topic or just chat. Pat Hummel would like to do a game group - maybe Scrabble. Anyone interested please contact Pat.

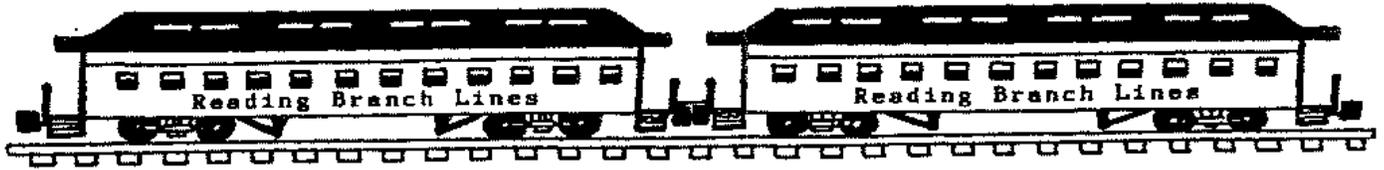
Remember your guests do not need to be technically literate to join your Zoom chat. They just need to click a link. Even those without a "device" can listen on a land-line (though they cannot be seen or heard). Please include one member you don't know. We don't want anyone left out.

Please let me or Karen Parish know about your group. We will do our best to make sure every member is connected.

**Reading Branch General Meeting
Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 4 PM
at Happy Hollow Playground
1100 Wayne Ave, Wyomissing, PA 19610**

Welcome to our first general meeting for the year. This meeting will be an in-person social get together. Due to the COVID pandemic, please bring a picnic supper and lawn chair for yourself. If anyone would like a ride or has any other questions, please call Virginia Schulze-Johnson at 484-663-3674. Here are directions to the park.

Travel time to Happy Hollow Playground, Wyomissing, from various locations in Berks County (including Berks County Courthouse, Albright College, Mohnton, Sinking Spring, and Exeter Twp.) is about 15 minutes. From the RT 222 S/RT 422 W bypass, take the State Hill Road exit. At the traffic light, continue driving straight ahead onto Wyomissing Boulevard until you reach a traffic circle, where you will merge left onto Reading Boulevard. Follow Reading Boulevard for about two blocks until it intersects with Wayne Avenue. Turn left on Wayne Avenue, and as soon as you reach Trent Avenue, you will be at the park. I suggest that we park along Wayne or Trent Avenues (at the eastern end of the playground). There are two large, open-air pavilions (with benches and tables) in the park. However, due to Covid-19 concerns, you may want to bring your own folding chairs. The park restrooms will not be open for use. The playground generally forms a rectangle and is bound by Wayne, Lynne, Terrace, and Trent Avenues. If you are using a GPS, the street address for the playground is 1100 Wayne Avenue.



If anyone has any suggestions for a new interest group please let Karen Parish or Judith Kraines know.

September

Culinary Diversity
No meetings are currently scheduled
Contact: Joanne Wrigley

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

Fine Arts – No meetings currently scheduled

Contact: Donna Weik , Victoria Troutman

Home Arts – No meetings planned at this time

Literature – Monday, September 28 - 1:30 PM
Program: Review of The Hummingbird's Daughter by Luis Aberto Urrea
Reviewer: Pat Hummel
Location: The Heritage at Green Hills or Zoom
Contact : Delite Hawk

October

Culinary Diversity – No meetings currently scheduled
Contact: Joanne Wrigley

Cultural Arts – events to be determined at a later date and emailed to the group
Contact Ellie Hunt
or Suzanne Churgai

Fine Arts – No meetings currently scheduled
Contact: Donna Weik , Victoria Troutman

Home Arts – No meetings planned at this time

Literature – Monday, October 26 – 1:30 PM
Review of Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese
Reviewer – Virginia Schulze-Johnson
Location: The Heritage or Zoom
Contact: Delite Hawk

A few members have been meeting informally on Tuesday afternoons In Zoom meetings at 2 pm with Carol Toomey to enjoy face to face conversation during our CoVid crisis. If you are interested and would like to join us, here is the zoom link:

Carol Toomey is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting

Topic: Tea with Toomey

Time: Aug. 11, 2020 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Tue, until Aug 25, 2020, 7 occurrence(s)

Aug 11, 2020 02:00 PM

Aug 18, 2020 02:00 PM

Aug 25, 2020 02:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/89711769447?pwd=dGdERnlXclhhdUV3b2N5bGw3Qy8xdz09>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89711769447?pwd=dGdERnlXclhhdUV3b2N5bGw3Qy8xdz09>

Meeting ID: 897 1176 9447

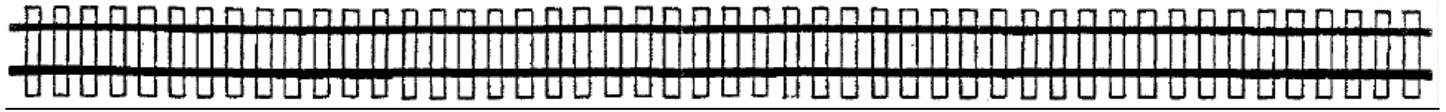
Password: 397393

Dear Branch Members,

My husband's passing (Donald L. Troutman) was not expected on June 26, 2020. I sincerely thank the many of you, and Branch, who sent cards and made phone calls of condolence and cheer to me.

Thank you for your care and concern.

Victoria E. Troutman



It's Personal

by Judith Kraines, Public Policy Chair

I was not yet a member of AAUW when Title IX was signed into law in June, 1972. (Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in education.) I joined soon after and learned how involved AAUW members had been in getting it through Congress.

Nearly 50 years later, AAUW says:

"From sexual harassment to disparities in STEM education, students are still experiencing discrimination in school. In addition, since the passage of this landmark civil rights law, opponents have sought to weaken it; currently, the U.S. Department of Education is working to systematically dismantle Title IX protections. We must provide schools with the resources they need to fully realize Title IX's promise of equity in education." We can do that with the Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act (GEAA) of 2019. Our foremothers hand-wrote letters, visited Congress in person and orchestrated campaigns; we can be two-minute activists.

Actually, once you are signed up it takes less than two minutes to send a letter to your Congressional Representative and Senators. AAUW will send you an action alert. If it's an issue you care about, click the link. It takes you to a secure website and a pre-written (well-written) letter on the topic. You may edit the letter however you like. When you hit submit, you may need to certify you are not a robot and give your address so the official knows you live in their district. Done.

This is how you sign up: Go to AAUW.org. Go to the "search" magnifying glass at the top right of the page. Type in "Two-Minute Activist." In the search results, click on "Two-Minute-Activist." It will take you to the page with all the issues AAUW lobbies on. Scroll to the end of the list and you will find the dialogue box to sign up for the action alerts. You only need to give your email address and your zip code (so they can place you in the correct Congressional District).

We don't have to work as hard as our foremothers. But we can make a big difference for our grandchildren and their children. It only takes two minutes.

Berks Women's History Alliance Announces "Curbside" Celebration of the 100th Year Anniversary of Women's Suffrage

Reading, PA – The nonpartisan Berks Women's History Alliance (BWAHA) has announced a drive-through celebration of the 100th year anniversary of women achieving the right to vote in America. The event, scheduled from 5:00 to 7:00p.m. (rain or shine) on Women's Equality Day August 26, 2020, will be held at the Berks History Center parking lot located next to the Berks History Center's Henry Janssen Library at 160 Spring St., 19601.

All are welcome to drive-through and pick up a free 100th Women's Suffrage Anniversary commemorative tote bag filled with information and items celebrating this historic milestone. One of the items inside the bag will be a video showcasing local suffragist reenactors who will be on hand to meet people and distribute the bags. The video also will air at 9:00p.m. that night, August 26, on BCTV.

All interested individuals and institutions are welcome to attend the outdoor, curbside celebration and receive a tote bag. Quantities are limited; one free tote bag per vehicle. Keeping with current state guidelines, everyone is asked to maintain social distance and wear masks.

"I'm proud that the creative and determined members of the Berks Women's History Alliance refused to allow the COVID-19 crisis to destroy our plans to acknowledge the 100th Anniversary of Women earning the right to vote in America," said Penny Guido, one of the leaders of the Berks Women's History Alliance. "Our curbside celebration may be a bit unorthodox but it offers the public a safe way to participate and learn about the 72-year fight for women's right to vote."

The Berks Women's History Alliance canceled the Berks Suffrage 2020 Centennial Dinner originally planned for August 26 due to concerns regarding the health and safety of attendees due to concerns around COVID-19.

In anticipation of the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in America, a group of nonprofits, educational institutions and individuals formed the Berks Women's History Alliance to provide a framework for Berks County's celebration of 100 years of women having the right to vote.

Under the banner The Berks Suffrage 2020 Centennial, the Alliance promotes activities and exhibits of its member groups, encourages widespread community participation, and provides networking opportunities for interested organizations and individuals.

To learn more about Women's Suffrage and The Berks Suffrage 2020 Centennial go to www.berkssuffrage2020centennial.org. Also you can check out the women's suffrage articles on our face book page at: www.facebook.com/BerksWHA.

###The Berks Women's History Alliance
The Berks History Center

940 Centre Avenue, Reading, PA 19601 / E: womenshistoryalliance@gmail.com www.berkssuffrage2020centennial.org

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 **Web Site:** reading-pa.aauw.net **Email:** aauwreadingpa@gmail.com



Branch Treasurer Needed

Job would entail maintaining check register and writing checks as the primary duty. Must try to attend the 4 annual board meetings (currently held on Zoom) and give a report on the expenses for the period. Maintain good records of receipts, check register and bank statements for internal audit each fall. Additional duties could include setting up annual budget and tracking expenses against budget but this is a luxury item we can afford to overlook in the interest of having a Treasurer! If you are able to help our branch by doing this important job, please contact Karen Parish at 619-944-9091.



Book Bonanza News

We are not currently collecting books from the public due to COVID – 19. Book Bonanza plans to be staying in our current location through July 2021. We have not yet scheduled a book sale. Sorters are waiting for information on when we will be sorting books brought in from libraries.

Jewelry Sale

Vintage jewelry is pre-owned 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. We will schedule the next sale as safety permits. While waiting for an appropriate sale time jewelry can be priced and prepared for sale.

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 Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 4:00 PM on Zoom unless otherwise announced.