

THE READING BRANCH LINES

Volume 57 No. 03

January/February 2022

Reading, PA



AAUW Reading Branch Next General Meeting

Sunday, January 9, 2022 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm

(Snow date January 16)

AT Carol Toomey's home

6 Royal Court

Shillington, PA 19607

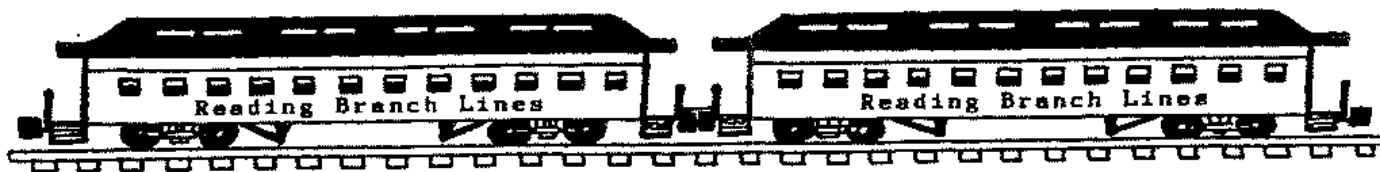
Christmas in January – Tea with Cookies

Bring your own teacup or teapot or tea to show off. Goodies to eat will be available, but those attending may bring cookies if you like.

Albright Science Research Institute

In November I had the pleasure of attending open house at the Albright Science Research Institute. I was able to converse with the high school students doing research at the Institute and the staff working with the students. Adelle Schade, one of our AAUW Reading Branch members, is the Dean, and Pre-College and Summer Programs Director at the Science Research Institute. Last January Adelle presented a virtual AAUW Branch General Meeting for us to introduce the new institute. I have had an interest in STEM programs since 2015 and participated in STEM activities in local schools. I was amazed with the projects the students were working on and their knowledge of the subjects at the Science Research Institute. We are fortunate to have this program available in Reading. Congratulations Adelle on directing this great program and best wishes for continued success.

Eileen Ritz



Interest Groups

January

Culinary Diversity – Wed, January 19 – 11:30 AM
Lunch at Alebrije (in Wyomissing)
2224 State Hill Road, Reading, PA 19610
(610)373-5680
Contact: Joanne Wrigley –(717) 445-3015

Cultural Arts – No events currently planned. If members have ideas for group activities contact Ellie Hunt - (610)670-1808

Fine Arts – Wednesday, Jan. 26, 11:30 AM
Lunch – Restaurant still to be determined
Visit the Goggleworks galleries
Contact: Victoria Troutman - 610-589-2952

Home Arts –First Wednesday
Wednesday, January 5, 12:00 Noon
Lunch at Seasons Café – 15 Village Center Drive
Reading, PA 19607 – (610) 401-0303
Contact: Judy Druckenmiller –(610)678-3508

Literature I – Monday, January 24, 1:30 PM
Program – Review of Klara and the Sun by Katzuo Ishiguro
Reviewer – Virginia Schulze-Johnson
Location - 724 N. 3rd Street, Reading, PA 19601
Contact: Virginia Schulze-Johnson – 484- 663-3674

February

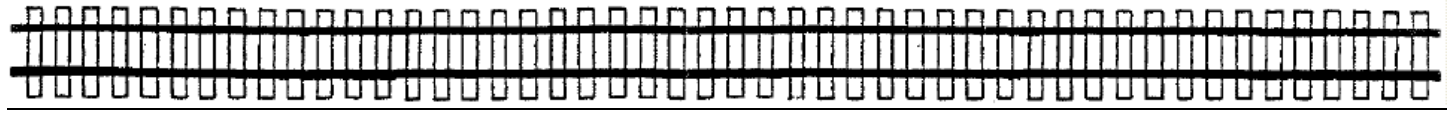
Culinary Diversity –Wed..., February 16 – 11:30 AM
Lunch at Coastal Grille
2713 N. Meridian Blvd., Wyomissing, PA 19610
(610) 743-4006
Contact – Joanne Wrigley – 717-445-3015

Cultural Arts – No events currently planned
Contact: Ellie Hunt – (610)670-1808

Fine Arts – Wednesday, February 23
No events currently planned Snow date if needed for the January event
Contact – Victoria Troutman – 610-589-2952

Home Arts – First Wednesday, Feb. 2 - 12:00 Noon
Location to be announced in January
Contact - Judy Druckenmiller – 610-678-3508

Literature I – Monday, February 28, 1:30 PM
Review of Sea Wife by Amity Gage
Reviewer – Kate Hoh
Location - 1921 Sturbridge Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610
Contact – Virginia Schulze-Johnson – 484- 663-3674



For publication in the January 2022 Branch Lines

It's Personal

By Judith Kraines, Public Policy Chair

Did you read the AAUW Washington Update? In the past year AAUW published influential research on a variety of topics, including reports documenting the disproportionate health and economic impact of COVID-19 on women and people of color. And AAUW disseminated hundreds of thousands of dollars to our Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) plaintiffs to support cases that advance equity.

But AAUW says our work for the year is not quite done. We need to take action on several longtime AAUW issues. The next three weeks are pivotal.

Our local newspaper has run articles on the unavailability and unaffordability of child care. That is a big reason that women have not returned to work during the pandemic.

The Child Tax Credit must pass by December 28 or payments to families will stop when they are needed most. Families use that money to pay for child care.

The House of Representatives passed provisions for paid leave and child care in November. But we need to convince the Senate to keep these policies in the bill and invest in care-related infrastructure measures if women are to return to the work place.

There is another issue that I am concerned about: voting rights. I have lived and voted in six states: in each the rules were different. But election management, once considered a sacred trust, is now partisan fodder. Yesterday I listened to a live-streamed court case where the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan group like AAUW, is petitioning the Court to protect our right to privacy when we register and vote.

A committee of our PA Senate wants the records of all nine million registered voters with our names, addresses, driver's license numbers, and the last four digits of our social security numbers. The risk of hacking is huge. And the group overseeing the company which will handle the data is a political party caucus, a partisan group.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has no rules for drawing legislative and Congressional districts. Under Democrats and under Republicans, we have been one of the most severely gerrymandered states in the union.

These issues would be resolved if we had a federal standard for holding elections. Two bills that have passed the House of Representatives would protect our right to fair districts and to vote securely. They are the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. Both are stalled in the Senate which has refused to even discuss them.

If any of these issue concerns you, before the year is over, please contact:

Senator Casey: <https://www.casey.senate.gov/contact>

Senator Toomey: <https://www.toomey.senate.gov/contact/email-senator-toomey>.

AAUW READING BRANCH
1171 Schoffers Road
Birdsboro, PA 19508

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.

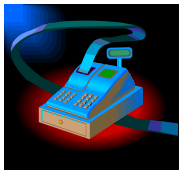
Branch Lines

Editor – Eileen Ritz 610-582-2421 **Web Site:** <http://reading-pa.aauw.net> **email** – aauwreadingpa@gmail.com

Jewelry Sale

I am still collecting vintage jewelry to sell to supplement our branch program budget, We were able to sell jewelry at LunaFest in 2021 and hopefully will have more opportunities in 2022 to sell it at other places too. If you need to contact me about the jewelry sale I can be reached at 610-582-2421 or by email at eileen@ritz.ws

Redner's Register Tapes



Our members have done a great job saving Redner's register tapes. That project helps to support our operating budget. The money helps with publication costs, branch expenses and to obtain guest speakers for our meetings. Thanks to everyone who has donated. It is a great help. They require the entire sales receipt. They will only take receipts or tapes from 3 years back from the day Ellie hands them in. Next time she will be handing in tapes from 2020, 2021, 2022, and maybe 2023, depending on whether she receive more 2020 tapes. She hopes to hand in the next submission in 2022 Please continue sending those tapes to Ellie.

Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 4:00 PM on ZOOM. Contact Judith Kraines to attend.