

THE READING BRANCH LINES

Volume 57 No. 5

May/June 2022

Reading, PA



**Branch Annual June Picnic
Wednesday, June 8, 2022, 4:00 PM
Red Bridge Recreation Area
2141 Tulpehocken Road
Wyomissing, PA 19610**

The branch is again planning to get together for a June picnic as our last meeting for this program year. Members are asked to bring a sandwich or entrée for themselves to eat. Beverages and dessert will be provided so please let Virginia know if you will be attending. Bathrooms and parking are available at the park. Please contact Virginia Schulze-Johnson. Virginia will arrange rides for anyone that needs one.

Directions – From route 222 take the Broadcasting Road Exit. Turn toward Penn State Berks Campus. Drive to the end of the road. Turn left. Red Bridge Recreation Area will be on your right (.4 mi.) just past the Grings Mill Recreation Area.

New Branch Officers – Members voted for these new officers for 2022-2024 at the March General Meeting

: Co Presidents: Karen Parish and Judith Kraines
Secretary: Ellie Hunt
Program VP: Virginia Schulze-Johnson
Communication VP: Eileen Ritz

Branch Honorees

1. Outstanding Woman – Judith Kraines
2. Achievement Award – Ellie Hunt for “making a difference”
3. Gateway to Equity - Awarded to Berks County Commission For Women

LUNAFEST: We are planning another LUNAFEST in conjunction with the Reading FilmFest this October. If members would like to help plan this event, please contact Carol Toomey

Interest Groups

May

Culinary Arts: Wednesday, May 18
Tokyo Hibachi and Bar
960 Woodland Rd., Wyomissing, PA 19610
(610)685-2888
Contact: Joanne Wrigley

Fine Arts – Wednesday, May 23, 11:30 AM
Berkshire Country Club
1637 Bernville Road, Reading, PA 19601
(610)374-8244 – Planning Meeting
Contact: Victoria Troutman

Cultural Arts: No events planned
Contact: Ellie Hunt

Literature – Wednesday, May 25
Lunch at Seasons Café, 15 Village Center Drive (Rt. 10)
Reading, PA 19607
Planning meeting
Contact: Virginia Schulze-Johnson

Home Arts: Wednesday, May 4 – Noon
Ganly's Irish Pub & Restaurant (610)678-2000
500 Brownsville Rd, Sinking Spring, PA 19608
Contact: Judy Druckenmiller

June

Culinary Diversity – Wednesday, June 15 – 6 PM
Tlacuani Mexican Restaurant Bar & Grill
5005 Kutztown Rd., Temple 19560
Planning Meeting
Contact – Joanne Wrigley

Currently there are no other interest group meetings scheduled at this time.



AAUW Reading Branch 2022 Senior High School Honorees

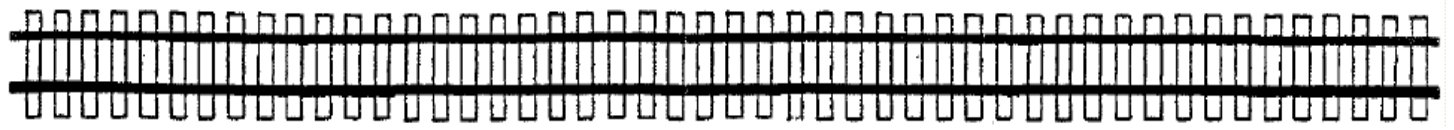
Antietam: Cassandra Keene
Berks Catholic: Madeleine Piersol
Boyertown: Rachael Moser
Brandywine Heights: Lauren Conrad
Conrad Weiser: Caroline Riegel
Daniel Boone: Kiley McEntee
Exeter: Kira Marr
Fleetwood: Celeste Cook
Governor Mifflin: Elisa Fiore

Hamburg: Kamryn Smith
Kutztown: Kelly Leiby
Muhlenberg: Kayley Hart
Oley Valley: Gretchen Kimmel
Reading: Mariana Vasquez
Schuylkill Valley: Sara Motz
Tulpehocken: Mackenzi Sowers
Twin Valley: Arden Wo;fe
Wilson: Corey Beougher
Wyomissing: Elizabeth Harenza

AAUW 2022 Science Fair Award Recipients:

Grand Champion: SriGouri Oruganty, Muhlenberg High School: Let's Pulverize PFOA.

8th Grade Champion: Rowan Rice, Conrad Weiser Middle School: Plastic Pollution in Precipitation.



It's personal...

By Judith Kraines

AAUW adopts public policy at the state and national levels. At our state convention June 3 – 5 in Harrisburg, we will be voting on the policy below. Please let Karen or me know how you feel about these issues. Thanks.

Proposed Public Policy Priorities 2022-2024

AAUW PA's public policy goals are to educate citizens about the impact of public policies on women and girls and to advocate for policies that will advance equity for women and girls. In Pennsylvania, AAUW actively endorses the national [AAUW Public Policy Program](#). AAUW Pennsylvania supports good governance, an informed citizenry, and community dialogue on critical issues. Biennial priorities are intended to complement national priorities and to be a focus for active educational and advocacy efforts by members in the state.

To enable members and all citizens to participate fully in a representative democracy and self-governance, AAUW PA advocates

- Awareness of issues so that members may be fully informed and empowered voters
- Opposition to measures likely to suppress voting rights
- Support for efforts to increase civil discourse and compromise between those with opposing views
- Efforts to Get Out the Vote, including voter registration and use of social media to promote voting

To support a quality system of public education, AAUW PA advocates

- Opposition to the diversion of public funds to non-public elementary and secondary education, charter and cyber charter schools
- Support for a fair and adequately funded system of public education
- Strengthening secondary and post-secondary programs that provide women with education, vocational training, and support for success in the workforce, including non-traditional occupations
- Policies promoting inclusion, diversity, equity and justice in our schools

To improve the economic self-sufficiency of all women, AAUW PA advocates

- Pay equity and fairness in compensation and benefits
- Raising the minimum wage and tipped minimum wage to an amount that would provide a meaningful boost to family incomes in Pennsylvania and help grow the state's economy
- Vigorous enforcement of employment anti-discrimination statutes
- Creating family-friendly workplace environments, including flexible workplace policies, paid leave for personal and family illness, and quality child-care facilities available to all parents regardless of their circumstances
- Improving retirement security
- Reducing the unprecedented level of student debt and the record high cost of college

To improve the operation and transparency of government, AAUW PA advocates

- Measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government that can improve the well-being of women
- Efforts to end the practice of partisan redistricting, gerrymandering in Pennsylvania.

AAUW National Election .

Online voting for the AAUW National Election is open until May 16.

Best Wishes: Wishing Carolyn Smith a speedy and successful recovery from her broken ankle.

Membership Renewal

Membership renewal takes place each year in the months of April through June. Those members who do not receive email will be sent paper membership forms inside their newsletters. Checks should be made payable to AAUW Reading Branch and mailed to Pat Hummel, our treasurer this year. [If you have any questions about membership you can contact Karen Parish.](#) **A branch dues form is attached as an extra page at the end of this newsletter. Please return membership forms by June 30.**

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 **Web Site:** <http://reading-pa.aauw.net>

Book Bonanza

If anyone has not yet heard the news, Book Bonanza has been cancelled for 2022 due to lack of a suitable location. We expect to be located in the county building in Mohnton after renovations are completed.

Vintage Jewelry Sale

We are still collecting “vintage”, unwanted, jewelry items to sell to support our program and operating budget. Members sold jewelry at the Lunafest last fall. I plan to sell again at another flea market when possible again to support our operating budget. I did not go to flea markets during the pandemic. I do plan to go this summer. Thank you to everyone who has donated items to our cause. If you have any unwanted items please bring them to a meeting or call Eileen Ritz at to arrange for someone to pick them up.

Redner’s tapes

Redner’s register tapes are also still being collected by our branch to support our operating budget. If you have any to contribute please bring them to a meeting or call Ellie Hunt about register tapes so we can arrange to get the tapes. Remember that we must submit the entire tape to Redner’s. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed tapes.

Board Meeting

The next branch board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 4:00 on Zoom. If any members are interested in attending contact Judith Kraines at for a link.



DUES 2022-2023

Please check appropriate category or categories:

_____ I am applying as a new AAUW Reading Branch member*. Dues are \$90 I was a member of another branch within the past five years yes___ no___

_____ I am an annual member. Dues are \$90.

(National - \$67, Pennsylvania - \$10, Reading Branch - \$13)

Note: \$64 of the \$67 for national dues is tax deductible

_____ I am a paid life member. Dues are \$23.

(National - \$0, Pennsylvania - \$10, Reading Branch - \$13)

_____ Students \$18.81; Affiliate college students: \$0; e-student affiliates pay 0

_____ I am an honorary (50 year) life member. No dues required

_____ I would like to support the National AAUW Educational Foundation Contribution (OPTIONAL)

Amount: \$_____

_____ I would like to support the Reading Branch, Educational Scholarship Fund (OPTIONAL)

Amount: \$_____

TOTAL CHECK AMOUNT: Amount \$_____

_____ I would like the newsletter mailed (If not checked and an email address is provided, it will be emailed)

Please complete all information (information provided will be published in membership book):

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email _____ (If none, please write none on the line.)

This completed form and a check payable to AAUW Reading Branch should be mailed by June 30 to:

AAUW Reading Branch

1606 Olive St.

Reading PA 19604-1730