

THE READING BRANCH LINES

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Reading, PA



AAUW milestone! Reading Branch Turns 100!

By Karen Parish and Judith Kraines, Co-Presidents

This year our Branch celebrates our 100th Anniversary. I am amazed by what we contributed to our community in that 100 years. How we have flourished! You will not want to miss our September 30th luncheon celebration at Albright College on September 30th.

The 100th committee has been hard at work to make this celebration special. They read newsletters and annual reports from the past 100 years. Committee members interviewed those involved in our projects currently and prior. And they found pictures most of us did not know existed. You will see it all at the luncheon.

How vital to the health of the Reading community AAUW has been! Thanks to your work this branch thrived and was active in community education, philanthropy and political topics with far-ranging impacts. Fund-raising fueled many community undertakings including our college scholarships for non-traditional students and graduate students.

Times have changed. We have grown older: Reading has the largest number of Honorary Life Members (50 years in AAUW) of any branch in Pennsylvania. It's been said young women don't join such groups as they are wrapped up in career and family; still, I believe AAUW has a role going forward.

National and State leadership has envisioned an organization more reliant on technology to unite women around the region to promote significant legislation addressing women's issues: paycheck fairness, gender equity in education, college affordability and student debt, and healthy families.

Locally we can partner with other organizations to promote these issues and those that address the lives of women locally. We can lend our accumulated wisdom to other groups while we continue to educate ourselves on topics of interest. And most importantly, we must continue to socialize, to meet with our friends, to support one another and to live our best lives. I look forward to the next decades with AAUW and to seeing all of you soon.

I hope to see you all at Albright on September 30 for our 100th Anniversary luncheon. Invitations have been mailed. Please note your RSVP must be returned by September 15th so we can guarantee you a place at the table. One of AAUW's goals is to make sure women always have a place at the table. And you won't want to miss the good news we are sharing about you and your AAUW friends.

100th Anniversary Celebration!

Saturday, September 30, 2023, 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

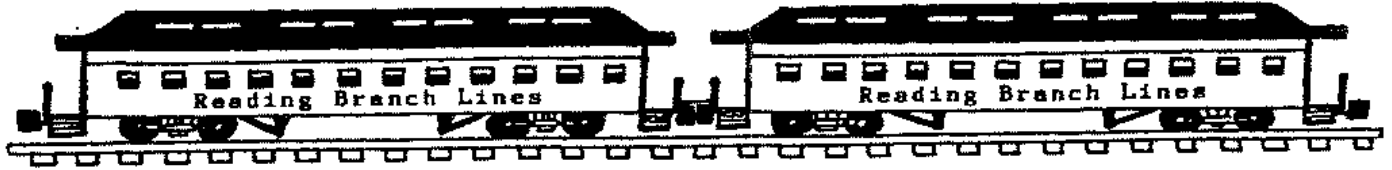
Albright's South Lounge *Student Center*

Luncheon \$ 25

Albright will provide a luncheon while we entertain you with stories of the past.

The celebration includes an historical review of our first 100 years including models from the Fashion Department of Albright College displaying the fashion trends of the day.

If you have not received an invitation call Carol Toomey. You don't want to miss this celebration!



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

September

Culinary Diversity, Wed, September 19, 12 Noon
 Lunch at Annamarie's on Main
 339 Main Street, Birdsboro, PA 19508
 (610) 404-8316 (in shopping center across from post office)
 Contact: Joanne Wrigley

Cultural Arts/Theater – Tues., September 19, 2 PM
 Planning meeting.
 Location: Ellie Hunt's home
 Contact: Ellie Hunt

Fine Arts – Wed., September 6, 12 Noon
 Lunch: covered dish luncheon with the Home Arts group
 Location: Elaine Wynosky's home
 Contact: Judy Druckenmiller to let her know if you will

attend and what to bring

Home Arts –Wed., Sept.6, 12 Noon
 Covered dish luncheon
 Location: Elaine Wynosky's home
 Contact – Judy Druckenmiller to let her know if you will
 attend and what to bring

Literature – Monday, Sept.18, 1:30 PM
 Program – Review of Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
 Reviewer – Carolyn Smith
 Location –
 Hostess – Ellie Hunt –

October

Culinary Diversity – Wednesday, October 18 – 12 Noon
 Lunch at Castaneds's Mexican Restaurant
 323 Main Street, Denver, PA 17517
 (717)336-0044
 Contact: Joanne Wrigley

Cultural Arts/ Theater – Plans to be determined at Sept. meeting
 Contact – Ellie Hunt

Fine Arts – Wednesday, October 25 – 11:30 AM
 Lunch: Lisa's Café, 600 E. Main St., Palmyra
 (717)832-9855
 Program: Visit Schoolhouse Antiques, Palmyra
 Contact: Victoria Troutman

Home Arts – Wednesday, October 4
 Lunch at Berkshire Family Restaurant
 Program: American Coins presented by Roy Bates
 Contact: Judy Druckenmiller

Literature – Monday, October 24, 1:30 PM
Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict
 Reviewer - Kate Hoh
 Location –
 Hostess: Karen Weiss

Condolences

Sincere sympathy to Barbara Balsbough and her family and friends on the death of her husband, Larry. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

New Members:

Jennifer Garrison, Fleetwood. Welcome to the AAUW Reading Branch. We hope to meet you at some of our branch activities.



It's personal

By Judith Kraines, Public Policy Chair

Today I'd like to focus on a crucial AAUW goal: women's autonomy. This AAUW policy is firmly rooted in the fact that women have brains and morality and can make decisions for themselves and their families.

Ohio Constitution: Ohio voters (57% to 43%) rejected a constitutional amendment to require 60% of voters to support a change to the Ohio constitution. This amendment was written to thwart an amendment on the November ballot that seeks to protect the abortion rights currently in the Ohio constitution.

Equal Rights Amendment: I attended a national AAUW Zoom on ways the Equal Rights Amendment could – in our lifetimes – become law. (I learned about and joined AAUW while working to ratify the amendment in Oklahoma 47 years ago.)

AAUW supports three current strategies but is focusing on the third.

One is a prior House Resolution updated to show all needed ratifications have occurred. It passed the House, but is unlikely to pass the Senate where it would need 60 votes.

Second is a new Resolution that calls on the archivist to certify and publish the ERA. The archivist, according to opinions on the Zoom call, has not acted so as not to create controversy while the Legislature has the ability to act.

Third is House Joint Resolution 25. It provides that the Equal Rights Amendment, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, was ratified by three-fourths of the states and is therefore a valid constitutional amendment, regardless of any time limit in the preamble to the original proposal. It was noted that states voted to ratify the actual language of the amendment and not the time limit, which has been changed by Congress before.

HJ R25 was assigned to a committee whose chairman will not put it on the agenda. A discharge petition is needed to get it out of committee and to the House floor. Berks County's Rep. Dean and Houlihan and on are board; Rep. Meuser is not. If you live in his district, please contact him to say you want the ERA in your lifetime. You can email from his website. If you have relatives in other states, AAUW urges you to contact them to encourage them to ask their Congressional representatives to support the discharge petition for HJ R25. meuser.house.gov/address_authentication (you have to go through an address verification first so he'll only take email from his constituents.)

Reading's 275th Anniversary

On Sunday, October 1, the city of Reading will celebrate their 275th anniversary with a community parade from RAAC to City Park at 10 am. Since it's our 100th Anniversary of AAUW, Reading Branch, we will join the parade with members walking and/or riding in 2 cars: Toomey's 1930 Model A, and their 2013 Pontiac Convertible, bearing banners with our AAUW 100th Anniversary logo. There's minimal room to ride, but the first 5-6 members who would like to participate in the parade can indicate they would like to ride the mile, instead of walking. We'd like to wear white blouses, like the suffragists did 100 years ago. Anyone who can walk the mile is warmly welcomed and appreciated. Please let Carol Toomey know if you are interested.

Reading FilmFest

Although our LunaFest, held in May was last minute (due to Cliff Bars pulling their support of LunaFest after May 31), we had a supportive audience enjoying the films and dessert and Luna Bars on May 30th. We are disappointed that there are no plans at this time for Cliff to continue this LunaFest by and about women, but our branch will be supporting a Women's block of films, including 4 of those LunaFest films, at the ReadingFilmFest on Saturday, October 28, at 7:30 pm, at the Reading IMax. We will be holding our jewelry sale at the IMax from 12-3pm and 6-7:30 pm on that day also. From 3-6 pm, the ReadingFilmFest is showing the original Wizard of Oz, with the movie's historian, John Fricke, as special guest and workshop presenter. We hope you will be interested to join us at the movies, so get your tickets online at readingfilmfest.com. Stay for the entire day and volunteer to help sell the jewelry. Call Carol Toomey or Eileen Ritz

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



Book Bonanza

Unfortunately, Due to the amount of renovations needed before Book Bonanza can be held in the county building, the area of the building that Book Bonanza will use was not be ready for 2023. We will let everyone know when there is more information.

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 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. We plan to sell jewelry again this year at Reading FilmFest.

Redner's Tapes

Ellie Hunt is still collecting cash register tapes from Redner's Market. This is another fundraiser to support our branch projects. If you shop at Redner's, please save your tapes and send or give them to Ellie. Please note the following requirements when handing in Redner's TAPES They require the entire sales receipt. Bonus card must be used for the purchase. They will only take receipts or tapes from 3 years back from the day she hands them in. Next time Ellie will be handing in tapes from 2022, 2023 and maybe 2024 . If you have any questions, call Ellie Hunt.

Board Meeting

NOTE: The next board meeting is Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 2:30 PM at Ellie Hunt's home