

THE READING BRANCH LINES

Volume 59 No. 03

January/February 2024

Reading, PA



AAUW Reading Branch Next General Meeting

Holiday Tea

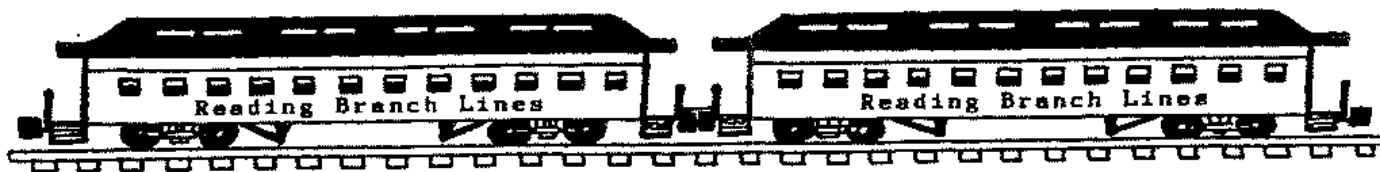
Sunday, January 7, 2024 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm

(Snow date January 14)

At: Virginia Schulze-Johnson's Home

We hope our branch members will be able to join us for our first general meeting in 2024. This year Virginia Schulze-Johnson has invited members to her home for our Holiday Tea. The theme of the meeting will be Polish Holiday Traditions. Polish delicacies will be served on Polish Pottery. Carol Toomey and Barbara Balsbough will talk about Polish Holiday Traditions. You are welcome to share your holiday traditions too. There is plenty of parking available near Virginia's house on Sunday

Please contact Virginia Schulze-Johnson if you plan to attend



Interest Groups

January

Culinary Diversity – Wed, January 17 – 11:30 AM
 Lunch at Van's Café (Pho Vietnamese)
 506 Penn Ave., Reading, PA 19611
 (610)741-6466
 Contact: Joanne Wrigley

Cultural Arts – No events currently planned. If members have ideas for group activities contact Ellie Hunt

Fine Arts – Wed., January 24
 Lunch – Berkshire Family Restaurant – 1714 State Hill Rd., Wyomissing, 19610 - (610) 370-7743
 Program: From the Heart Consignment Shop – Wardrobe Tips
 Contact: Victoria Troutman -

Home Arts – Wednesday, **January 24, 12:00 Noon**
 For this meeting our group will be combined with the Fine Arts Group
 Lunch at Berkshire Family Restaurant
 Program: From the Heart Consignment Shop – Wardrobe Tips
 Contact: Judy Druckenmiller

Literature I – Monday, January 29, 1:30 PM
 Program – Review of Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See
 Reviewer: Virginia Schulze-Johnson
 Contact: Virginia Schulze-Johnson –

February

Culinary Diversity –Wed., February 14 – 11:30 AM
 Lunch at Thaiwat
 1145 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing, PA 19610
 (610)898-9191
 Contact – Joanne Wrigley

Cultural Arts – No events currently planned
 Contact: Ellie Hunt

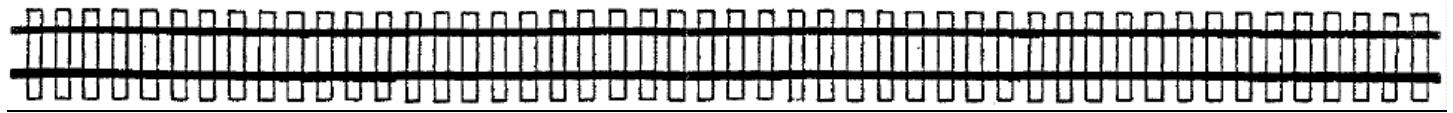
Fine Arts – Wed., February 28, 12 Noon
 (Meeting combined with Home Arts group)
 Lunch at Berkshire Family Restaurant
 Program: Missy Lengel from Keystone Villa at Douglassville.
 Contact – Victoria Troutman

Home Arts –Wed, **Feb.28 - 12:00 Noon**
 Lunch at Berkshire Family Restaurant
 Program – Missy Lengel from Keystone Villa at Douglassville
 Contact - Judy Druckenmiller



100th Anniversary Celebration Committee

Literature I – Monday, February 26, 1:30 PM
 Review of Trust by Herman Diaz
 Reviewer – Pat Hummel
 Hostess Janet Neel
 Contact – Virginia Schulze-Johnson



It's Personal

by Judith Kraines, Public Policy Chair

A recent email from the National Organization for Women alerted me to a fact I did not know: **Only half of US states require sex education in their schools. Of those, only 13 states require sex education to be medically accurate.**

Sex education is an education in reproductive health care. It includes anatomy, pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/Aids, and healthy models of dating and relationships as a way to combat domestic violence. Research shows that when sex education is all-inclusive, young people feel better suited to make informed decisions with better outcomes – such as fewer unplanned pregnancies and better protection against STIs.

I went to the AAUW website: it has lots of information on gender discrimination in schools, but nothing on this.

Looking at PA government websites I learned that schools in Pennsylvania are not required to teach sex education. (It is up to the local school board.) However, Pennsylvania Constitutional Statutes Title 22 § 4.29 require primary, intermediate, middle, and high schools to teach sexually transmitted disease (STD), including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), education.

Centers for Disease Control, had statistics:

- 74% of secondary schools in PA provided those who teach sexual health education with strategies that are age-appropriate, relevant, and actively engage students in learning
- 94% of secondary schools taught how HIV and other STDs are transmitted in a required course during grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.

As to high school student behavior, the CDC says:

- 10% had sexual intercourse with 4 or more partners
- 19% drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse
- 63% used a condom during last sexual intercourse.

According to the CDC in a classroom of 30 high school students in PA

- 8 are currently sexually active
- 3 have had sex but are not currently sexually active
- 19 never had sex.

Do you know if your school district provides comprehensive reproductive health education? Do you know if your school district provides medically accurate information? We pay for public education; we should know.

BCTV 100th Anniversary presentation. Anyone who missed it or would like to see it again can go to this website:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqNe476LZD4&t=110s>

Generous Donation from the Berks Women's History Alliance

The promised final check from Berks Women's History Alliance arrived in December to add to the Branch's scholarship funds --\$3000, sent through the Berks History Center. BWHA was formed only to help celebrate Readings 275th anniversary and has now disbanded. A big thank you to Penny Guido and the Berks Women's History Alliance!

Save the Date – DAR Famous Ladies Tea – April 20, 2024 at the Double Tree by Hilton. A flyer, with registration information will be sent in mid February 2024, so be on the lookout for it ... and get your registration in early. If there is enough interest we can get an AAUW Table. If interested, contact Karen Parish.

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> **email** – aauwreadingpa@gmail.com

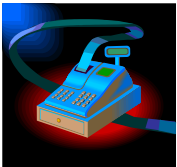
Jewelry Sale

I am still collecting vintage jewelry to sell to supplement our branch program budget, We were able to sell jewelry at LunaFest in 2023 and hopefully will have more opportunities in 2024 to sell it at other places too.

Book Bonanza

The latest information is that we are expected to be able to get into the new location in the county's new building in April of this year.

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 2022, 2023, 2024. Purchases on the tapes must be made with a Redner's Reward Card. She hopes to hand in the next submission in 2024. Please continue sending those tapes to Ellie.

Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Tuesday, January 23. The meeting can be on Zoom if desired

AAUW TRIVIA QUIZ FOR 100th ANNIVERSARY

MATCHING: Select response from column on right

Questions

1. _____ Who conducted literacy programs at the Camp Hill Prison from 1982-1984?
2. _____ What AAUW sponsored program promoted appreciation and acceptance of all grade school children.
3. _____ Who was the first president of Reading Branch in 1923 – 1924?
4. _____ What member was active in Children's Theatre and went on to start an acting program for children.
5. _____ Which past president is named as part of Reading Branch's American Fellowship Endowment?
6. _____ The first Re-Entry Scholarships were offered in what year?
7. _____ What year did the Book Sale (later called Book Bonanza) begin?
8. _____ What food program did AAUW initiate in the Reading area during the years 1975 – 77?
9. _____ Who painted the watercolor "Goldenrod in Snow" that was reproduced on note cards?
10. _____ What project did Reading Branch sponsor involving 10th grade girls and professional women of Berks County?
11. _____ Name the group that participated in the Bi-Centennial celebration with music?
12. _____ What member and actress directed and performed as Cleopatra in a play at a General Meeting?
13. _____ What is the name of the play referenced in Question 12?
14. _____ What script originated by the Reading Branch was performed at the PA State Convention?
15. _____ Who was the incoming president of AAUW when Reading Branch celebrated its 50th Anniversary?
16. _____ What Reading Branch member was elected to oversee the fiscal operations of Berks County?
17. _____ Prior to 1924, what was AAUW Reading Branch called?
18. _____ What is our branch's newsletter called?

Answers

- A. June Parsons
- B. Waste No Food
- C. Pat Hummel
- D. Ethel Wadlinger
- E. "When Shakespeare's Ladies Meet"
- F. The Reading Branch Lbines
- G. Carol Toomey
- H. Judith Kraines
- I. "System Shakers and Barrier Breakers"
- J. S. Helen Ahrens
- K. Mrs. Ruth Sternbergh (Mrs. David)
- L. 1974
- M. 1982
- N. The Song Spinners
- O. Career Day
- P. Ginger Gouger Miller
- Q. Green Circle
- R. College Club

The answer key for the Trivia Quiz

2 K
3 J
4 M
5 L
6 B
7 P
8 O
9 N
10 A
11 E
12 I
13 C
14 H
15 R
16 Q
17 G
18 F