

## ***THE READING BRANCH LINES***

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March/April 2024

Reading, PA



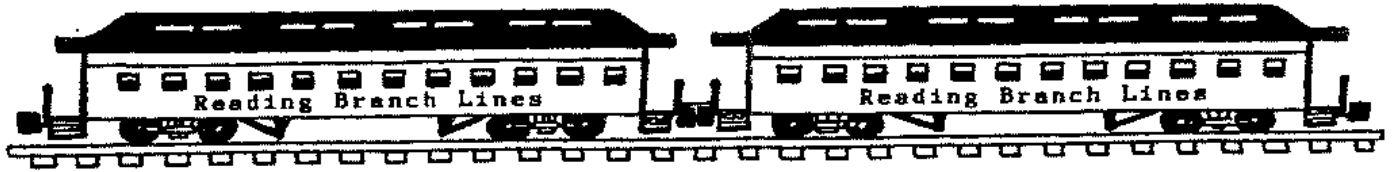
**Reading Branch Annual Business Meeting  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 12:00 Noon  
At Wyomissing Public Library  
9 Reading Boulevard  
Wyomissing, PA 19610**

**Please contact Virginia Schulze-Johnson by March 10 to let her know you are if you plan to attend so she can make an accurate reservation.**

From the President:

Our next annual meeting will be March 13 at noon at the Wyomissing Library. It will be a pot luck luncheon but don't feel obligated to bring anything. Your participation is more important! **Branch Member Doris Turkes will present a women's history presentation titled "America's Women: Constantly Evolving Roles"**, but first, we will have our business meeting. There are a few heavy items on the business meeting agenda for March including a vote for the Officers for 2024 including: President, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary and two Directors. It pains me to announce that Judith will not stand for re-election as either Co-President nor Public Policy Director so we are in need of volunteers! Another matter is updated by-laws. Several items were changed to align with the state and national changes and some items were simplified given our declining membership roster. The bylaws are available on our website for your review or you can request a paper copy from me. Finally, voting for AAUW Pennsylvania officers will commence in early February and continue until the end of March. Specific voting instructions will be emailed to each member and branch Presidents. We will do a branch vote at the meeting in March. I do hope you will attend!

February program change for Home Arts & Fine Arts - Funny or Crafty – Members should bring a joke or an Easter craft item to show the group.



## Interest Groups

### March

Culinary Diversity – Wednesday, March 20 - 12 Noon  
Lunch at Origen Latin Fusion  
3998 Penn Ave, Sinking Spring, PA 19608  
(610) 750-6255  
Contact: – Joanne Wrigley

Cultural Arts – No group activity planned  
Information Contact: Ellie Hunt – 610-670-1808

Fine Arts – Wednesday, March 27 -11:30 AM  
Lunch - TBD  
Program – The Goggleworks tour  
Contact – Victoria Troutman

Home Arts – Wednesday, March 27,  
Lunch: TBD  
The Group will join the Fine Arts Group for lunch and a  
tour of the Goggleworks  
Contact – Judy Druckenmiller -

Literature – Monday, March 25, 1:30 PM  
Book: TBD:  
Contact: Virginia Schulze-Johnson

### April

Culinary Diversity- Wednesday, April 17, 12 Noon  
No information provided  
Contact – Joanne Wrigley –

Cultural Arts –  
No group activity planned  
Information Contact: Ellie Hunt

Fine Arts – Wednesday, April 24, 11:30 AM  
Lunch at Say Cheese  
600 Penn Ave, W. Reading - .( 610) 406-5390  
Program: Art Plus Gallery – **Spring Has Hung** – All-  
member show followed by West Reading Mural Tour –  
Self guided tour starting at Cherry & Fourth Ave.  
Contact: Carolyn Smith

Home Arts – April 24, 11:30  
Lunch: at Say Cheese  
600 Penn Ave, W. Reading - .( 610) 406-5390  
Program – (See Fine Arts group above)  
Contact – Judy Druckenmiller –

Literature – Monday, April 29, 1:30 PM  
Hostess Kate Hoh  
Reviewer – Suzanne Churgai  
Review of The Maid's Diary  
Contact – Virginia Schullze-Johnson



AAUW Branch January Tea was held at the home of Virginia Schulze-Johnson on January 14. The inspiration for this was my collection of Polish Pottery. Along with this I asked Carol Toomey and Barbara Barsbaugh to join me in celebrating with stories of Polish Holiday traditions and Barbara added name tags of the participants in Polish. It was a fun gathering. Thank you to all who joined us.



It's Personal

By Judith Kraines, Public Policy Chair

March 12<sup>th</sup> is Equal Pay Day 2024. It's the date white women, working 62 weeks, earn the same amount as men, in the same job, earn working 52 weeks. For Black, Brown, and other women, Equal Pay Days come later in the year. The following information from AAUW shows how difficult it is to earn what we deserve. The differences begin in grade school.

*The intersection of race and gender K-12 and college:*

Inequities persist. Black students are punished more harshly and more frequently than white students for similar offenses. US Department of Education data shows Black girls are much more likely to be suspended or receive referrals to law enforcement than are White girls.

AAUW supports policies like the [Counseling Not Criminalization Act](#), which provide money and resources to schools, and that increase the presence of mental and behavioral health personnel in schools. These steps have been shown to improve educational outcomes, increase attendance and graduation rates, and lower the rates of suspension.

Black women take on more student loan debt to acquire a degree. And they face a pay gap that is wider than for other women. Thus it is harder for them to pay off that debt, and the inequity persists through retirement.

AAUW supports closing the gender, ethnic, and racial gaps in education and employment.

*A small step toward equal pay:*

Fifteen years after passage of the [Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act](#), women are still paid less than men in comparable jobs. The White House recently made one small improvement. It banned the use of current or past pay when determining the salaries of **new** federal employees. It won't help women already working in the federal government, but if you know a woman in the job market, please share this news with her.

The White House has proposed this rule be extended to federal contractors. That will give it broader reach. We will wait and see.

#### **Congratulations to our awardees for the AAUW State Awards:**

- **Outstanding Woman**

Awarded to a member of the branch for meritorious service to the branch and to the community. A one sentence summary is requested.

**Joan Cook** is recognized for her years' long work on the Book Sale and recognition of senior girls. She was also a member of the Berks Co. Family and Consumer Science Association.

- **Member Making a Difference**

The Member Making a Difference Award is given to a branch member who has made a big difference in something important to the branch within the last year. The branch selects this recipient because she (or he) exemplifies the spirit of AAUW

**Carol Toomey** – Carol did so much for the branch in this past year. As Chair of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee, she pulled together the luncheon, prepared the slides and made the presentation at the luncheon and for posterity at BCTV. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqNe476LZD4&t=110s>. Carol chaired our participation in two events which brought recognition to the Branch: the LunaFest and the City of Readings 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade. She's involved in many other local organizations • Gateway to Equity awards

\*The AAUW Pennsylvania Gateway to Equity Award honors an individual, group or organization that has shown by action and philosophy the promotion of the AAUW mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through **research, education, and advocacy**. It celebrates International Women's Day which is held annually on March 8.

**Women2Women of the Berks County Chamber Alliance** has been nominated for this award. Women2Women offers a forum for women to create connections, gain knowledge, and build strategic alliances to foster their personal potential and career advancement. W2W is a catalyst for developing women leaders and connecting women from diverse backgrounds to learn, share ideas, and mentor each other. In 2023 we hosted events connecting future female leaders to professional women, including a networking event to learn about other organizations. And, in 2024 we are hosting three events in Spanish called De Mujer a Mujer which is the next step to reaching more women.

- **Named Gift Honoree** recognizes an individual who make donations to national throughout the calendar year. Our thanks to **Ann Wenrich** for her continued support of AAUW throughout the year.

## 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](mailto:aauwreadingpa@gmail.com)

## AAUW READING VOTING – Board and By-Laws

The ballot for the Board of Directors for the AAUW Branch is enclosed in this newsletter. If you can't make it to the March meeting at the Wyomissing library March 13 at noon, please return your ballot to Pat Hummel, In addition to voting for officers, there are new proposed by-laws.

## Jewelry Sale

The sale of "vintage" jewelry (unwanted jewelry from members and friends) began 3 years ago to provide funds for our AAUW Branch Operating Budget. To provide other activities, program costs, and services such as printing and mailing to our branch we need money for those services. The vintage jewelry sale was started to raise some of that money. Contact Eileen Ritz about the jewelry sale Thank you to all those members who have donated to this fundraiser and those who helped before with the pricing and selling of the jewelry.

## Redner's Register 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 I hand them in.

Next time I will be handing in tapes from 2021,2022, 2023, 2024 , depending on whether I receive more 2021 tapes.

I hope to hand in the next submission in 2024..

If you have any questions, call Ellie Hunt

## Book Bonanza

We hope to be in the county building in Mohnton in April if renovations are finished as planned. We will keep you posted when we have more information.

The Board meeting is next Wednesday – Feb 14. We'll be brief to get home to celebrate with our loved ones! 2:30 – Roesner Hall at Albright 2<sup>nd</sup> floor – room 216.

# AAUW VOTING 2024

**Please vote for branch officer positions. Voting will be at the Annual Meeting on March 13, 2024 at 12:00 Noon. The meeting will be held at Wyomissing library and include a pot luck lunch. Doris Turkes will be making a presentation on Women's History.**

**If you cannot attend, please return the ballot to Pat Hummel, 1606 Olive St. Reading PA 19604-1703. Ballots must be received by March 9th .**

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**I accept the Nominating committee's recommendation:**

**Nominating committee –**

- President Karen Parish**
- Secretary Ellie Hunt**
- Assist Treasurer Sue Rimmel**
- Director At-large Carol Toomey**
- Director At-large Eileen Ritz**

**Write-ins:**

- I vote for:** \_\_\_\_\_ **for** \_\_\_\_\_
- I vote for:** \_\_\_\_\_ **for** \_\_\_\_\_

**Budget:**

- I accept the budget as presented.**
- I do not approve the budget as presented.**

**I recommend the following changes:**

**By laws:**

- I accept the bylaws as presented.**
- I do not approve the bylaws as presented.**

**I recommend the following changes:**