

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

Volume 60 No. 02

November/December 2024

Reading, PA



### Presidents' message

FY 2024-2025 is off to a roaring start. Thanks for all our members who volunteered at this year's Book Bonanza! Book Bonanza 2024 was billed as a mini sale since it was held over 3 days instead of 5 but it was anything but mini! Donations poured in and sorting work was intense. Many of our members invested time over several months to see it through. Thanks to our AAUW members who serve on the Book Bonanza Board: Sherry Davis, Suzanne Churgai and Virginia Schulz-Johnson. We won't hear about funds that will be used for Scholarships for a few more months but it was a successful sale by all accounts. A new year of collections starts January!

Events abound in the fall. Our annual meeting was a huge amount of fun! We learned about historical fashions from Gabby Evans and had a great luncheon with an accompanying flutist – a student of Virginia's who played several lively numbers for us. We also kicked off our first Cultural Arts group with a planning meeting and events for November and December. The Lit I group, Home Arts and Fine Arts groups continued to hold their monthly meetings. Please join us for more activities moving into November and December.

Of course Nov. 5 is Election Day. Please cast your vote and help your friends, family and neighbors do the same. This will be an historic election, however it turns out, and you will want to be part of it. AAUW supports legislative initiatives that support women, diversity and inclusion in Higher Education, pay equity, paid family and sick leave, voting rights and reproductive rights. Let's not forget the final push to get the Equal Rights Amendment back in front of Congress this next session as well! The Voters Issues Guide is at : <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/get-involved-in-elections/> Another election resource to study your candidate choices is Vote411.org. Your vote is your wish for the future you want to see.

### **AAUW Reading Branch Next General Meeting**

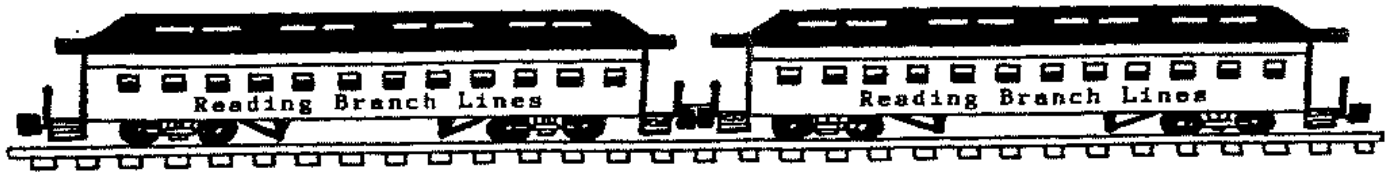
Our next general meeting will not be held until January 2025, but I'm including information now because it takes place early in January.

#### **Holiday Tea**

**Sunday, January 5, 2025 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

(Snow date January 12)

**At: Ann Wenrich's home**



## Interest Groups

### November

Cultural Arts – Tuesday, November 19, 4:30 PM  
Program - Presentation and dinner at GO FISH  
Contact: Karen Parish

Fine Arts – No program planned for this month  
Happy Thanksgiving  
Group Contact: Donna Weik

Home Arts – Tuesday, November 12, 12 Noon  
The Crooked Hen  
2233 Lancaster Pike, Shillington  
(484)577-4904  
Reservations by November 8

Contact – Judy Druckenmiller for

Literature – Monday, November 18, 1:30 PM  
Location: Suzanne Churgai's home,  
Reviewer – Karen Weiss  
Review of: The Only Woman in the Room by Maria  
Benedict  
Contact: Virginia Schulze-Johnson

### December

Cultural Arts – Sunday, December 8, 11AM – 5 PM  
Program: Christmas House Tour, Center Park, Reading  
Contact: Carol Toomey

Sat., December 21, 1-3 PM or Sun. Dec.22, 2-4 PM  
Program: The Nutcracker, Berks Ballet Theatre at  
Schaeffer Auditorium, Kutztown, PA  
Cost :\$43  
Contact - Virginia Schulze-Johnson -

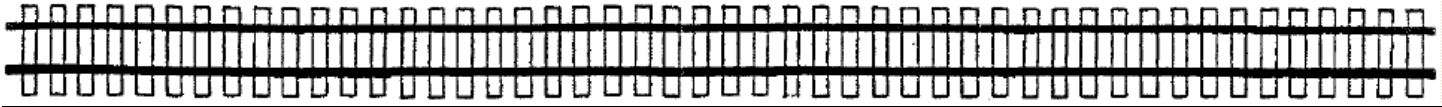
Fine Arts – Thursday, December 5, 12 Noon  
(Please note date and time change)  
Christmas Lunch – Berks YR Club  
1029 Thrush Road, Wyonissing, PA 19610  
(610) 376-1303

Group Contact: Donna Weik

Home Arts – Thursday, December 5 – 12 Noon  
Christmas Lunch - Berks Y R Club  
1029 Thrush Road, Wyonissing, PA 19610  
(610) 376-1303  
Contact - Judy Druckenmiller

Literature – Monday, December 9  
Holiday Gathering – Lunch at Coastal Grille  
2713 N. Meridian Blvd., Wyomissing PA 19610  
Contact - Virginia Schulze-Johnson for reservations

**With the holiday approaching our interest group meetings sometimes vary from the regularly scheduled day and/or time of the month. If you want to attend these activities, please check the dates and times scheduled carefully. I hope many of you will be able to participate in these activities. If anyone has an idea for another interest group, please contact one of our board members and we will try to help you start a new group.**



*Berks Book Bonanza*

**2024 SALE**



**A big thank you to all our members and everyone else who helped to make Book Bonanza a success this year.**

It is great to have a place to go back to again next year. Here is a collage of pictures of some of our AAUW members hard at work. I restocked tables the first day of the sale and was busy all afternoon filling in empty spaces with more books as people selected books to purchase.

We have not been given totals yet of how much money was made. The executive committee still has bills that need to be paid before we will receive that information, but everyone indicates that the sale was good.

Plans are to start collecting books again in January 2025 for next year's sale. As soon as I receive confirmation about dates and times the collections will be I will let you know. I'm already packing boxes of my books to prepare for the next sale.

These sales provide our AAUW Branch with funds to provide senior high school girl awards and graduate and non-traditional scholarships to Berks County women.

## Interest Groups

Our interest groups started meeting again in September. There are a variety of activities available for branch members to participate in. Schedules of activities vary widely by the activity. Whether members just want to go out to lunch or dinner, go to lunch followed by an activity such as visiting an art exhibit, review books with other members or travel in the area to shows or presentations there are a good variety of activities to choose from. All members are welcome to participate in any interest group. If you would like to get involved in our groups, please call the group contact and let them know that you would like to attend. It is nice to get together with members that have similar interests.

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>



Election Day is Tuesday, November 5.

**Be sure to exercise your right to vote. There are also still a lot of women’s issues to consider at this time when voting.**

**Board Meeting**

The next board meeting is Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 2:30 PM. .

**AAUW Reading Branch Website**

Be sure to check out our branch website if you haven’t looked at it lately. The website address is <http://reading-pa.aauw.net>



**Redner’s Register Tapes**

Ellie Hunt is still collecting Redner’s cash register tapes. That project also helps to support our operating budget. Thanks to everyone who has donated. It is a great help. Please continue sending those tapes to Ellie. Remember, she needs the entire tapes.

**Jewelry Sale**

If anyone knows of a good place to sell our vintage jewelry please let Eileen Ritz or Karen Parish know.