

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

Volume 59 No. 04

March/April 2025

Reading, PA

**Reading Branch Annual Business Meeting  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 10:00 AM – 12 Noon  
The Cultural Center at the Highlands  
2000 Cambridge Ave, Wyomissing, PA 19610**

Please join us for our branch annual business meeting at the Highlands. Come and join us from 10–11 AM for tea. The program will start at 11A M The program will be a portrayal of the life of Emily Dickenson presented by Margaret Yevics. Please notify Virginia Schulze-Johnson or Karen Parish.

We will need a count for the Tea and look forward to welcoming you and a guest for the program.

### **AAUW READING VOTING – Board and By-Laws**

The ballot for the Board of Directors for the AAUW Branch is attached to this newsletter email. If you can't make it to the March meeting at the Highlands March 12 at noon, please return your ballot to Karen Parish. The Budget for the coming year is also attached to this email for your review.

**AAUW Recognition of Women Breakfast  
Saturday, April 26. 2025 – 9 -11 AMu  
McGlinn Conference Center  
Alvernia University**



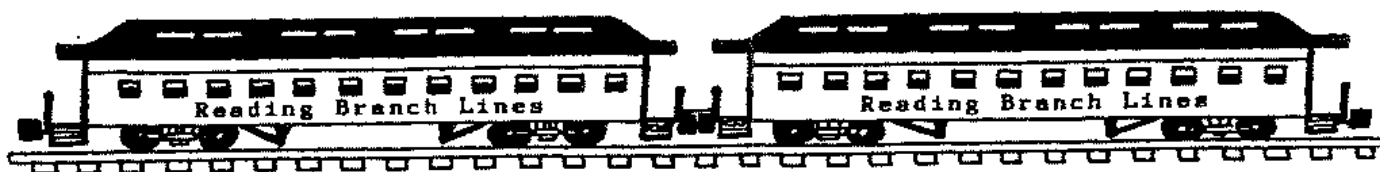
The Recognition of Women Breakfast is back this year. It is a time for our branch to show the importance we place on education for women and their achievements. Each senior high school girl and two of her guests will be invited as well as Scholarship recipients from the past year. We would love to have all our members in attendance. Guests are welcome.

Lucine Sihelnik, President & CEO of the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance, will be the speaker. Lucine is a leader in Community and Economic Development and

has spent the last twenty years working to bring sustainability to Berks County, least of all through her newest business venture Great American Creamery.

The breakfast buffet (subject to change) includes scrambled eggs, bacon, home fries, roasted vegetable quiche, fruit tray, and cookies, bread basket, coffee, and juice.

To sign up please complete the form on page 5 of this newsletter and return it to Denise Meister by April 11..



## Interest Groups

### March

Cultural Arts – March

No information submitted for March

Schedule varies by event.

Contact: Ellie Hunt

Home Arts – Wednesday, March 12. 12:00 Noon

Lunch: Contact Judy for location

Contact – Judy Druckenmiller

Fine Arts – Wednesday, March 26 - 11:30 AM

Wednesday, March 26, 11:30 AM

Lunch: Location TBD

Program: Self guided tour of the Juried Art Show at the Goggleworks

Coordinator: Carol Toomey

Literature – Monday, March 30, 1:30 PM

Location - Not listed

Review of – The Great Alone by Kristen Hannah

Reviewer – Virginia Schulze-Johnson

Contact: Virginia Schulze-Johnson

### April

Cultural Arts – April

No information submitted for April

Schedule varies by event.

Contact: Ellie Hunt

Home Arts – April 9

Lunch TBD

Contact – Judy Druckenmiller

Fine Arts – Wednesday, April 23, 11:30 AM

Lunch: Morning Fuel, West Lawn (formerly Friendly's)

Program – self-guided tour of the current exhibit in the

Holleran Gallery at the Yocum Institute for Arts

Education in West Lawn

Coordinator: Carolyn Smith

Literature – Monday, April 28

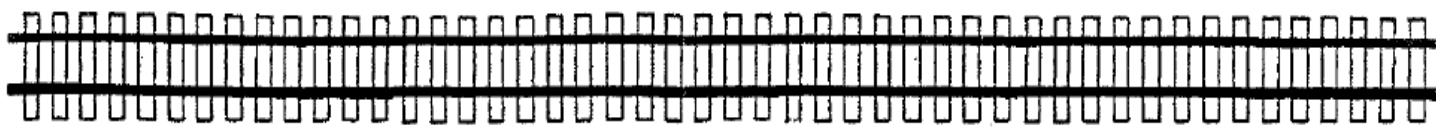
No information provided for April

Contact: Virginia Schulze-Johnson

### **Cultural Arts – Note**

It's coming....May 14.... The Savannah Sipping Society, a play reading by members of the Cultural Arts Interest Group. You are invited to attend. Stay tuned for updates in future newsletters.

Condolences to the friends and family of Janice Bauer. Her AAUW friends will miss her.



President's message:

The year 2025 is proving to be a challenging one for all of us on so many levels. Several members have been ill or had a spouse that was ill, one member, Janice Bauer, has passed and the world looks like an unstable place. I hope you are indulging in self-care to ward off the worst effects. We each need to pick our lane and stay focused on a cause otherwise the volume of the noise and confusion will overwhelm us. I want to highlight the areas that AAUW is focused on.

The work done at the national level on these issues is why we pay our dues. At the National level, the Policy Principles for 2025-2027 include several directives aimed at Public Education, Economic Independence, Social Justice and Voting Rights. The Action Priorities, chosen in an area where AAUW can make a difference, **"...support equitable access to higher education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and to address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls, AAUW advocates for: (summarized) Title IX directives, inclusivity free from political intervention, reducing barriers to postsecondary success, and support working women in pursuit of higher education.**

At the state level, the policy priorities focus on Equal Pay and Family Care as well as Public Education.

If you would like to be included as one who will send letters or make calls to state and national legislators on these issues, please let me know. Taking 5 minutes a few times a week to do this could make the world of difference.

On a more local note, our Board elections will take place at the March 12 meeting at 10 am at The Highlands. Please come see Margaret Yevic present Emily Dickinson. On April 26 we will celebrate the success of young women at the Women's Recognition Breakfast at Alvernia. More information is in this newsletter.

At the branch level we will continue to be active. The Holiday Tea was a warm and welcoming affair at Ann Wenrich's beautifully decorated home. And our interest groups continue to be engaging as well. Cultural Arts spent an afternoon touring Hershey Theatre in early January before the historic theatre closed during 2025 for extensive renovations. In mid-February several members will attend the Ukraine's State Ballet's performance of Swan Lake. Currently the group is preparing a play reading for a possible spring performance. Fine Arts is planning a Goggleworks trip in March and a visit to Yocum Institute in April. Lit I has been meeting regularly and is meeting in February and March to review the latest selections. We are planning the summer theater outings at Desales University. If you want to join in please contact Carol Toomey or me.

I look forward to seeing you at these events!



**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.

**Carolyn Smith** is recognized for her contribution to the Branch including Membership Chair, Webmaster and email monitor and as a member of the League, Carolyn attends the Naturalization ceremonies held by the county.



□ **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

**Denise Meister**– Denise has revived the Senior Girls Recognition Breakfast and rebranded it as the Women's' Recognition Breakfast honoring the highest ranked High School Senior girl at our 19 school districts as well as our Scholarship recipients and the High School Science Fair winner.



□ **Named Gift Honoree** recognizes an individual who make donations to national throughout the calendar year.

**Suzanne Kirk** – This past year 10 women contributed financially to AAUW totaling \$800. Sue Kirk was one of those women. She donates her time as well to our Scholarship program where she organizes the Non-Traditional Scholarship award process



□ **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.

### **Girls on the Run**

Girls on the Run of Berks County was established in 2013 offering fun, evidence-based programs designed to inspire girls of all abilities to recognize and embrace their inner strength and to make meaningful connections with others. Focused on girls in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades, our programs inspire participants to recognize their inner strength, increase their level of physical activity, imagine their possibilities and confidently stand up for themselves and others.

Over 6000 girls in over 80 schools & community sites across Berks & Schuylkill counties have participated in Girls on the Run programming. Our programs (Girls on the Run for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grades and Heart & Sole for 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades) take place over 8-10 weeks in Fall and in Spring, with teams meeting twice weekly throughout the season. Teams are led by trained, volunteer "coaches" who deliver lessons that blend physical activity with life skills such as managing emotions, forming friendships and giving back to our communities. Each season culminates in a celebratory 5K that gives participants a tangible sense of accomplishment.

To learn more about Girls on the Run of Berks County and their upcoming events, go to <https://www.gotrberks.org/>



**Women's Recognition Breakfast - April 26, 2025 (Sat)**

The Women's Recognition Breakfast (formerly HS Senior Girls Recognition) is back this year! Each senior high school girl and two of her guests will be invited as well as Scholarship recipients from the past year. We would love to have all our members in attendance. Guests are welcome.

Lucine Sihelnik, President & CEO of the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance, will be the speaker. Lucine is a leader in Community and Economic Development and has spent the last twenty years working to bring sustainability to Berks County, least of all through her newest business venture Great American Creamery.

The breakfast buffet (subject to change) includes scrambled eggs, bacon, home fries, roasted vegetable quiche, fruit tray, and cookies, bread basket, coffee, and juice.

<u>Date</u>	<b>Saturday, April 26, 2025</b>
<u>Time</u>	<b>9am-11am</b>
<u>Place</u>	<b>McGlinn Conference Center Alvernia University</b>
<u>Cost for Breakfast</u>	<b>\$15/member. Includes tax and gratuity</b>
<u>Parking</u>	<b>There is ample parking at the center.  There is an elevator to the second floor.</b>
<u>Ride Sharing</u>	<b>Please contact Virginia Shulze-Johnson who can arrange for ride sharing.</b>
<u>Check Made Out To</u>	<b>AAUW Reading Branch</b>
<u>Check Mailed To</u>	<b>Denise Meister</b>
<u>Check Needs to be Received by:</u>	<b>April 11, 2025</b>
<u>Questions?</u>	<b>Please contact Denise Meister</b>

---

**Complete, Detach and Mail with Check by April 11, 2025**

<b>AAUW Member Name (will be on your name tag). Please PRINT ALL CAPS</b>	
<b>Guest Name(s) (if you are bringing someone)</b>	
<b>Cellphone Number for text messages</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Total \$ Amount Included</b>	
<b>Total Number of People Attending</b>	

**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)

## **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. Our Book Bonanza funds are restricted to our scholarship awards programs. However 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. If you know of a good location to sell jewelry contact Karen Parish or Eileen Ritz..

## **Redner’s Register Tapes**

Ellie Hunt is still collecting cash register tapes from Redner’s Market. This is another small fundraiser to support our branch projects. If you shop at Redner’s, please save **your** tapes and send or give them to Ellie. She turns them in to Redner’s to get money for our AAUW branch. Thank you to all those members who have donated to this fundraiser.

## **Book Bonanza**

**Books are currently being collected Monday and Tuesday mornings from 9:00 AM – Noon (weather permitting)**

## **Board Meeting**

**The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2025. Contact Karen Parish for meeting location.**