

THE READING BRANCH LINES

Volume 59 No. 5

May/June 2025

Reading, PA



**Branch Annual June Picnic
Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 4:30 PM
Red Bridge Recreation Area pavillion
2141 Tulpehocken Road
Wyomissing, PA 19610**



We hope you can join us for our annual June meeting this year. Please bring entrée for yourself and a dish to share and join us for this enjoyable, special event. Please contact Virginia Schulze-Johnson and let them know if you plan to attend, so we have an idea of the number attending. There are bathrooms and parking at the pavillion.

Savannah Sipping Society Play Reading

On Wednesday, May 14th (rain date Thursday May 15th) at 1:30 PM at Carol Toomey's house, 6 Royal Court, 19607, four members of the Cultural Arts Interest Group (with suggested costumes, props and scenes, but with scripts in hand) will present a play reading of The Savannah Sipping Society by Hope Jones Wooten. This comedy is about four "mature" women who meet y chance at a yoga class and continue to meet for fun, conversation and adventures.

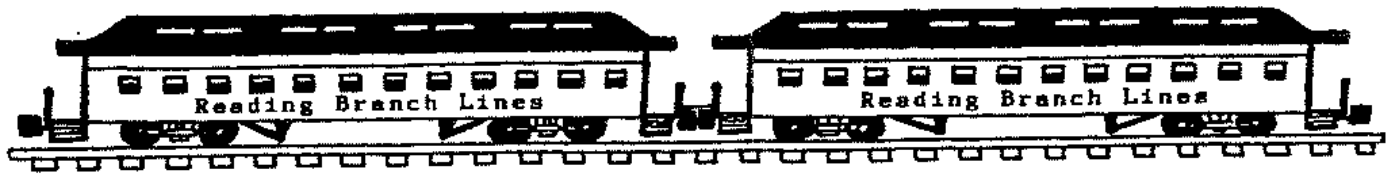
The actors found the play laugh-filled ut also relatable to experiences at our age. So please join our laughter and fun and even join in the "Sipping" our during intermission. Bring a chair or call and reserve one of Carol's lawn chairs for a pleasant afternoon with your fellow AAUW ladies.

AAUW Membership Renewal.

Attached to the email with this newsletter is our annual dues renewal form. National has raised their dues from \$72.00 to \$74.00 this year. Please note: the entire amount is now tax deductible. Dues will remain at \$100.00; the Board having decided to reduce branch dues by \$2.00 to \$14.00. State dues remain at \$12.00. We invite honorary members who receive their newsletter by mail to consider a contribution towards mailing costs, suggested \$5.00.

Completed form and a check payable to AAUW Reading Branch should be mailed by June 30, 2025 to:

AAUW Membership
1921 Sturbridge Drive
Wyomissing, PA 19610



Interest Groups

May

Cultural Arts – Wed. May 14, 1:30 PM
(rain date – Thurs. May 15)
Play presentation-Savannah Sipping Society
Location – Carol Toomey's house
Contact: Carol Toomey

Fine Arts – Wednesday, May 28, 11:30AM
Lunch – Berkshire Country Club 610-374-8244
1637 Bernville Road, Reading PA 19601
Program: Planning Meeting for 2025-26
Coordinator - Donna Weik

Home Arts – Tuesday, May 27
Program –Planning meeting
Location: TBD
Contact - Judy Druckenmiller for information

Literature I – Monday, May 19, Noon
Program: Planning meeting for 2025 - 2026
Location: Karen Parish's House
Contact: Karen Parish

June

There are no other interest group meetings scheduled in June. I hope you are able to join us for our branch picnic on June 6.



Our Branch Efforts Do Matter

Karen was a note from a person who was volunteering at the book drop off at book bonanza who wanted to share this with her:

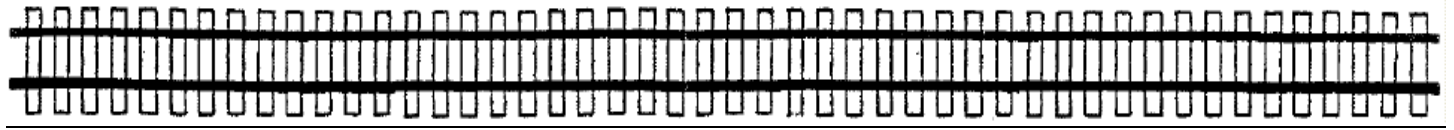
Good news! Someone dropping off books and said Thank you to AAUW!

Her Daughter received a scholarship for grad school (U of Penn?) and is now getting her PhD at Stanford in genetics. 😊

AAUW Rading Branch 20 Senior High School Honorees

Antietam: Kaitlyn McDaniel
Berks Catholic: Isabella Logozzo
Boyertown: Angelina Laire
Brandywine Heights: Hayley Reeser
Conrad Weiser: Madeline Shade
Daniel Boone: McCartney Woulard
Exeter: Kayla Schafer
Fleetwood: Sydney Guida
Governor Mifflin: Gianna Marie DiPasquale

Hamburg: Hailey Quinn
Kutztown: Sadie Berger
Muhlenberg: Quinn Wagner
Oley Valley: Arabella Smith
Reading: Janna Castro
Schuylkill Valley: Caitlyn Reali
Tulpehocken: Sophia Joy
Twin Valley: Ashley Siv
Wilson: Paige Hinkle
Wyomissing: Samantha Dasika



President's message:

Let's Talk About The Mission

Why do you belong to AAUW? For many it's the mission – AAUW advances gender equity through research, education, and advocacy.

All members are encouraged to be involved through the Two-Minute Activist and other opportunities that promote the AAUW positions on pressing social issues. **AAUW positions are shaped by our commitment to equity by being nonpartisan, evidence-based, experience-driven, inclusive, and intersectional.** AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination.

As Edmond Burke stated: "**The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.**" Branches that engage in today's political environment through non-partisan efforts are growing. AAUW supports issues – it is not candidate nor party aligned. AAUW PA and National have been very active in responding to the actions that threaten the position of women in education, the economy and voting. To see the various issues that AAUW National has worked on, go to:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/documents/> and the Two-Minute Activist – aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist

AAUW President Gloria Blackwell issued a statement on the termination of the Department of Education that I encourage you to read. It can be found in this newsletter.

AAUW PA has been very active as well. <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/policy/> The Equal Pay and Paid Leave legislation pushed by AAUW have moved out of committee and will now move to the full House for consideration.

I urge you to respond when an Urgent request is sent out to membership asking you to contact your state or federal legislators. Every voice counts. Sign up for the Two-Minute Activist – it only takes that long to send a prepared email through their portal. Better still, call their offices and leave a message that states your position on the issues. Your children and your grandchildren's future depend on your willingness to take a stand now.

March Annual Branch Business Meeting Program



Margaret Yevic as Emily Dickenson

If you didn't attend our March Business Meeting at The Highlands, I'm sorry to report that you missed an informative and entertaining program. As Emily Dickinson, Margaret Yevics portrayed and presented Emily's life, poetry, and her garden's seasonal flowers. Members and the Highland guests enjoyed Margaret's program, accompanied with tea and cookies

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>

Vintage Jewelry Sale

Volunteers Needed for Jewelry Sale

We will be setting up shop to sell Jewelry at the Oley Fair Grounds from 3 pm to 8 pm on **Friday June 6** and 8 am to 3 pm on **Saturday June 7**. We could really use the help! We had a great time last year and did really well. I hope you will come join us for whatever time you can. Let me know!

Karen Parish

Redner's tapes

Redner's register tapes are also still being collected by our branch to support our operating budget. If you have any to contribute please bring them to a meeting or call Ellie Hunt about register tapes so we can arrange to get the tapes. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed tapes.

AAUW National Elections

AAUW national elections are now being held. If you want your voice heard in determining the leadership and national public policies of AAUW now is the time to vote. There are no national bylaws changes this year. Online voting is still open until May 13. If you need more information go to the national website www.aauw.org

The next branch board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, 2025 at 2:30 PM at Carolyn Smith's house.