

THE READING BRANCH LINES

Volume 61 No. 01

September/October 2025

Reading, PA

Reading Branch General Meeting



Wednesday, September 10, 2025

High Tea

at Ma Patisserie

113 N. 5th Street

Reading, PA

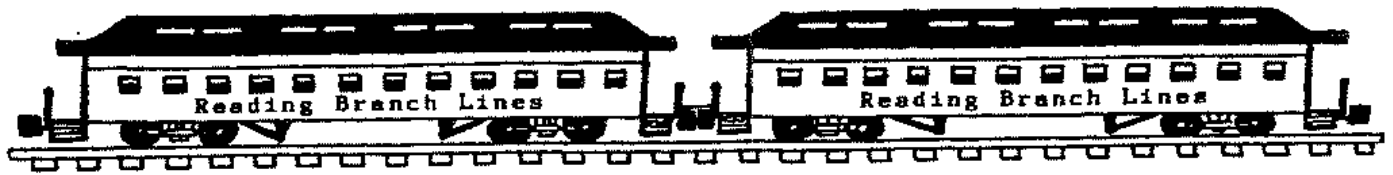
1 - 3 PM – Luncheon Meeting

Welcome to our first general meeting for the year. The menu includes scones, tea sandwiches, pastries, choice of tea, tip and camaraderie with new and old friends. Cost is \$25 and the check can be paid addressed to AAUW Reading Branch and sent to Carol Toomey. Bring a friend! Deadline for reservations is August 27. New yearbooks will be handed out at this event.

The Savannah Sipping Society

The Cultural Arts group will present a play reading on October 16 at 1:30 PM in the community room of West Lawn United Methodist Church, 15 Woodside Ave. , West Lawn Members and their guests are invited to this special event!





If anyone has any suggestions for a new interest group please let our president or one of our board members know.

September

Cultural Arts –Wednesday, Sept. 10, 1:00 PM
Program: Members plan to attend the Branch tea
Location- Ma Patisserie
Contact:Ellie Hunt

Fine Arts – Wednesday, Sept. 17
Lunch – A restaurant in the shopping area
Program – Trip to Skippack
Contact: Victoria Troutman

Home Arts –Tuesday., Sept.23, 12 Noon
Lunch – Wyomissing Family Restaurant and Bakery
1245 Penn Ave., Wyomissing
Contact Judy Druckenmiller

Literature – Monday , Sept.30, 1:30 PM
Program – Review of Horse by Geraldine Brooks
Hostess– Karen Weiss
Reviewer – Virginia Schulze-Johnson
Contact - Virginia Schulze-Johnson

October

Home Arts –Tuesday, October 28
Lunch: Sam's Wyomissing Bistro
1714 State Hill Road, Wyomissing 10610

Contact: Judy Druckenmiller

Cultural Diversity – Tuesday, October 16
Program – Reading of the play "The Savannah Sipping Society"
Location : West Lawn United Methodist Church - community
Room, 15 Woodside Ave., West Lawn 19609
Contact – Ellie Hunt

Fine Arts – Wednesday, October 23 – 11:30 AM
Lunch: Sweet Street Café
Program – Berks History Center -Tour of current
Members free, non members \$5
Contact – Carol Toomey

Literature – Monday, October 27, 1:30 PM
Program: Review of James by Percival Everett
Reviewer: Suzanne Churgai
Hostess: Suzanne Churgai
Contact Virginia Schultz-Johnson

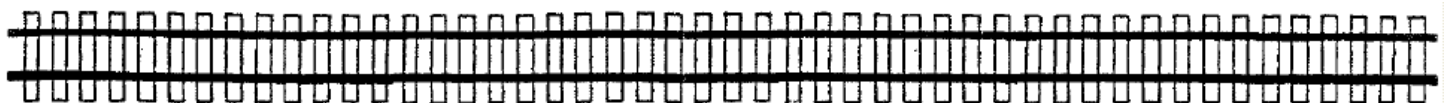
exhibits –

New Members: We want to warmly welcome our new members.

Joanne Gabel

Linda Hodgdon

Ruth Perkins



Graduate Scholarships

The graduate scholarship committee is pleased to announce the scholarship recipients for 2025-26. These scholarships are for full or part time graduate study. The recipients were awarded between \$1500 and \$2000 each.

Mireliz Bermudez
Penn State Dickinson Law School

Juris Doctorate (JD)
Public service & child advocacy

Amanda Flores
Geisinger College of Health Sciences
Master's of Biomedical Sciences

Margaret Gooding
Kutztown University
M.A. Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Pennwest Online
Gabrielle Hardy
Master's Degree/ Public Librarian Certification

Christine Keller
Alvernia University
Clinical Counseling
MACC Post-grad certification

Mireliz Bermudez received both an AAUW scholarship and the Pat Hummel Scholarship. Her goals include serving her community through legislative change and advocacy work. Mirelez's area of concentration in law school is public service and child advocacy. She comes from a single-parent household.

Re-Entry Scholarships

Cristal Falcon – RACC
Tiffany Grandjean – RACC
Leslie Ley - RACC

August 2025

President's message

I attended the State Retreat in June this year. The theme was Collective Action for Positive Outcomes. It was a very dynamic and engaging exercise lead by a motivation expert, Spud Marshall. The challenges that we face in AAUW and indeed in all organizations, is how to: 1. Deepen our engagement with our Mission; 2. Grow and Diversify our membership; and, 3. Build Strong Sustainable leadership for our future. To grow we must engage. Please see the busy activity schedule we have for this fall and participate.

Our mission at AAUW is worth repeating: "AAUW advances gender equity through research, education, and advocacy." We need to put that statement on all our materials and all our communication. We are not a political advocacy group, but we are issue-oriented. We have an obligation to defend programs and policies that promote women; especially in education, health and income equality. We are losing ground. My granddaughters may have fewer options than I had at the start of the Women's movement in the early 1970s. Please sign up for the AAUW advocacy and send your representatives a message about what is important to you.

The PA State branch is taking the lead for the Regional Conference September 25-27, 2026 to be held in Lancaster. This is in our backyard so it's a perfect opportunity to participate in a conference. It will be all hands on deck – looking for volunteers. If you can spare a few minutes between now and then or provide help during the conference, that would be appreciated. I will keep you posted about opportunities!

Saturday, October 11, 12 noon - 1.40 pm Reading Film Festival

hAAUW supports Women Filmmakers at The Goggleworks.

<https://readingfilmfest.com/events/women-filmmakers/>

We hope to see you there as part of our ongoing show of support for women filmmakers. AAUW will host a reception immediately following the Women's Block of Films. If you are interested and available to help on the committee, please contact Carol Toomey, (2610)334-5288, asap. More details will be sent separately.

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 gender equity through research, education, and advocacy.

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:** reading-pa.aauw.net **Email:** aauwreadingpa@gmail.com

Book Bonanza

If you missed the email that was sent out about the success of Book Bonanza, both AAUW and The Friends of the Public Libraries each receives \$40,000 from this year's sale. Collections for next year are expected to begin on September 8th and 9th from 9 am – 12 noon. In March of 2026 Wednesday evening collection and some Saturday collections will be added.

A big thank you to all our members who helped to make this year's Book Bonanza a great success.

Redner's 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. Elli recently submitted tapes from 2022-2025 and we received a nice sized check, \$332.46. Thanks for Ellie's efforts to coordinate that – it wasn't an easy task to assemble all those tapes.

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 she hands them in.

*Next time Ellie will be handing in tapes from 2023, 2024 and 2025.

*If you have any questions, call Ellie Hunt

Board Meeting

NOTE: The next board meeting will be November 13 at 2:30 PM