

THE READING BRANCH LINES

Volume 60 No. 03

January/February 2026

Reading, PA



AAUW Reading Branch Victorian Tea
Sunday, January 11, 2026 – 2 – 4 PM (Snow Date Jan.25)
at
Virginia Schulze-Johnson's home

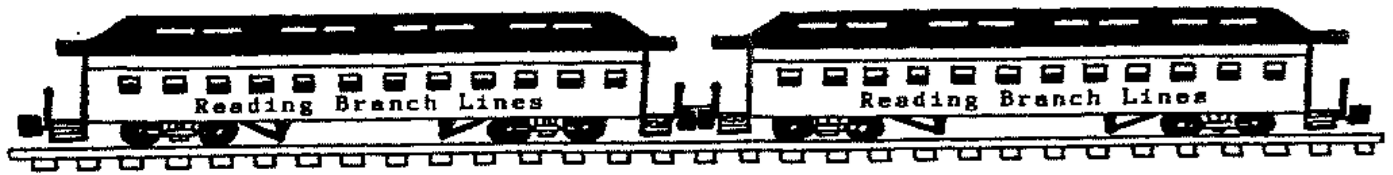
Our January branch meeting this year will be a Holiday Tea. Please bring a seasonal dessert and a picture of you from childhood in a festive setting for a “guess who?” game.

RSVP to Virginia

Community Action Grant

We are going to apply for a Community Action Grant from AAUW to help advance STEM for students locally. Jenn Garrison contacted the Reading Science Center who has recently responded with an interest. The Reading Science Center is a hands-on science museum located at 645 Penn St. Reading. We have been invited to visit one of their programs on Wednesday Feb 4 at 4:30. The focus of the grant is how the program advances gender equity in STEM, community impact and sustainability.

If anyone is interested in attending the Feb 4 program and working on this project, let Karen Parish know. You will NOT be asked to do any grant writing. It will be fun to interact with this project!



January

Cultural Arts
Schedule varies by event
Contact: Ellie Hunt

Home Arts Tuesday, January 27, Noon

Klingers at the Airport

Fine Arts – No meeting scheduled this month
Contact: Donna Weik
Home Arts Tuesday, January 27, Noon

Lit 1 - Monday, January 26, 1:30 PM
Location: Virginia Schulze Johnson's home
Reviewer: Carolyn Smith
Review of My Friends by Fredrik Bachman
Contact – Virginia Schulze-Johnson

February

Cultural Arts –
Schedule varies by event
Contact: Ellie Hunt

Home Arts: - Tuesday, February 24, Noon
Lunch at Lilli's Ranch House
2738 Penn Ave., West Lawn
Contact - Judy Druckenmiller

Fine Arts – No meeting this month
Contact: Donna Weik

Literature I – Monday, February 23, 1:30 PM
Location: Carolyn Smith's home
Reviewer: Karen Parrish
Review of The Briar Club by Kate Quin
Contact – Virginia Schulze-Johnson -

Condolences

Heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Cheryl Moretz on the death of her daughter, Melissa Moretz.

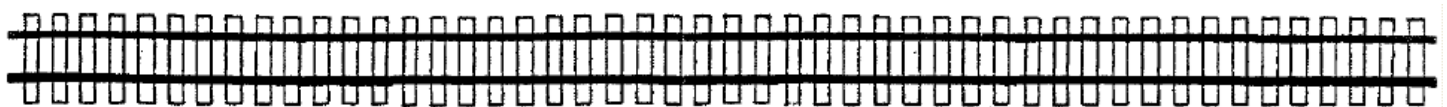
Heartfelt condolences to Jean Gassert and her family and friends on the death of her husband, Jack David Gassert.

Heartfelt condolences to Jenn Garrison and her family and friends on the death of her husband, Jason Tyler Worth.

Heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Dorothy "Dottie" Hill on her death. Services for Dottie will be held Friday, January 23, 2026 at 11 AM in Atonement Lutheran Church, 5 Wyomissing Blvd, Wyomissing PA 19610, with luncheon to follow in Lundin Hall. Friends and relatives are invited to call from 9:30 – 11 AM in the church. Burial will be private. For more information, see the obituary on page 5 of this Branch Lines.

New Member

Welcome to Lisa Ann Meridith-Unrath.



Presidents message:

Happy Holidays to All. It's been a very busy year and I am looking forward to some quiet time over the holidays. I hope you too will find some peace.

On the policy front, AAUW continues on its mission to expand and protect opportunities for women. Carolyn Smith and I participated in AAUW-PA Lobby Day to support Women's Health initiatives. The event was sponsored by AAUW along with a host of other organizations. If you would take a minute, write to your House Representative to support the Healthy Families Act to guarantee all workers the ability to earn paid sick days and family leave. Use this link and AAUW will send out the letters for you: <https://aauw.quorum.us/campaign/148010/> Also, write state representatives to support the Pennsylvania Care Act, a similar legislative initiative.

AAUW's commitment to Education and the fight to ensure educational opportunity continues. The elimination of the Department of Education and how those with forgivable Public Service Loans will be treated are among the many issues. Already the DOE is calling back laid off workers to help process Civil Rights complaints.

AAUW National has joined forces with the League of Women Voters and others for a campaign to encourage, in a nonpartisan way, voter registration and voting. The It's My Vote campaign is being rolled out nation-wide. AAUW focuses on Issues, not candidates. Our issues are economic opportunity, women's health and education. More actions and volunteer opportunities will be announced. Did you happen to notice our branch in the November Keystone? If not, find the Keystone in your in box (or caught in your spam filter) and take a look!

PA Public Policy Priorities update:

This year, our state Public Policy Priorities will be reviewed and updated if desired by our organization. A committee is being formed to review the policies and any recommendations from the field to update these priorities. If you are interested, a sign up form is in the November Keystone.

AAUW Policies and supporting actions are enumerated online at <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/policy/priorities/>

- ☐ To enable members and all citizens to participate fully in a representative democracy and self-governance
- ☐ To support a quality system of public education
- ☐ To improve the economic self-sufficiency of all women
- ☐ To improve the operation and transparency of government

The priority we are focused on at this time is the break up of the Department of Education. This Department is charged with enforcing civil rights and equal access for all students. Already Civil Rights workers previously fired from this Department are being offered their jobs back, temporarily, to respond the present case load. The weakened capacity of the Department or lack of a DOE, will provide fewer safeguards.

Join the Two – Minute activist to send a letter to our Congressional Representatives about this issue.
[AAUW Action Network – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)



AAUW Reading branch members enjoy a buffet lunch at the Inn at Centre Park during the Centre Park Historic District Christmas Tour in December.

Mark Your Calendar

Here are some upcoming events for the next few months that you might want to mark on your calendar. More details about the March and April activities will be in the next Branch Lines.

1. Holiday Tea – Jan. 11 or snow date 25. Please bring a seasonal dish and a childhood photo of yourself for a game of Who is this? 2-4 PM at Virginia's house
2. March 11, Noon – Annual Meeting – Wyomissing Library – bring food items to share; we will have a wrap tray. Speaker on downsizing
3. DAR Women's Tea – April 19 – Contact Carolyn Smith if interested
4. Women's Recognition Brunch – April 26 – More information in the next newsletter

Note from the editor – Eileen Ritz

I have been writing the Branch Lines since 2011. Due to my family circumstance right now I would like to pass this job on to another member at the end of this program year. . If you would be interested in taking over this position please contact me.

Dorothy Jane Hill OBITUARY

Dorothy Jane (Holl) Hill, 98, of Lower Alsace Township, passed away on Sunday, December 21, 2025, in the arms of her children at Phoebe Berks Village where she happily resided for 13 years. Dorothy was truly one of a kind. Her outgoing

nature, quick wit, humility and compassion for others combined to create her unique and friendly disposition ♦ she will be remembered for her unrivaled kindness and thoughtfulness. She was born in Reading on September 15, 1927, to Walter and Kathryn (Cassel) Holl. She was a 1945 graduate of Wyomissing High School and a 1949 graduate of Albright College, where she earned her B.S. in Education and met the love of her life, Neil C. Hill. They enjoyed 60 years of marriage prior to Neil ♦s death in 2010.

Dorothy was a high school English teacher. She began her 25-year career at Penn Bernville High School in 1949, paused to raise her family, and retired from Daniel Boone High School after her tenure there from 1970-1991. In retirement she adored teaching English as a second language to a group of women known as Motivated Moms. A remarkable number of students have remained close and expressed appreciation to her as a friend, influential teacher and role model. She proudly served as President of the American Association of University Women from 1963-65 and dedicated many hours to its Book Bonanza. She was elected to membership in Delta Kappa Gamma Society, an honorary sorority for outstanding women educators, in 1986. She was actively involved in Albright Alumni events, and community affairs. She was a cub scout den mother, served as President of her community Crime Watch, was a member of Friends of the Reading Berks Library, and co-chaired the Peddler ♦s Shop at Phoebe Berks. Dorothy had a devout faith and was a lifelong member of Atonement Lutheran Church. She served as President of Women of Atonement, was a member of the Church Council, sang in the choir, taught Sunday School and relished her favorite role as New Member Coordinator. Many dear friends also served with her in Church Women United. She enjoyed gardening, traveling, puzzles, dessert, good books, watching golf, telling jokes, cheering on the Nittany Lions and the beach ♦especially annual family vacations to Sea Isle City, NJ. ♦Butterfly♦ was her nickname given by Neil during their dating years, thus began one of her greatest lifetime passions. As a very social butterfly, her most enjoyable activities took advantage of her friendliness: welcoming new members at church and mentoring new residents at Phoebe Berks Village. She cherished her friends and cared deeply for and worked hard at maintaining relationships from all the chapters of her long and wonderful life.

Her greatest joy was her family. Her legacy as a strong and loving matriarch will live on for many generations. She will be deeply missed and forever loved by her three surviving children: Margaret, wife of Timothy Hoover of Hilton Head, SC; Curtis, husband of Stephanie Hill, Lower Alsace Township; and Trish, wife of Patrick Boyer, Scottsdale, AZ. Also surviving are six beloved grandchildren: Benjamin and Katelyn Hoover, Matthew Hill, Kevin Diamond, Jamie Greene, and Corinne Wilson; and nine treasured great-grandchildren: Charles, Henry, Caroline, Logan, Connor, Hamilton, Tucker, Wade, Ruby, Taryn, and Ashlyn. Extended family includes three nieces, one nephew, great nieces, great nephews, and numerous cousins. In addition to her parents and husband, Dorothy was preceded in death by her daughter Kathryn H. DeTurck, VMD, PhD, in 2005; daughter Christine M. Diamond in 2019; brother Richard M. Holl in 2013; and sister-in-law Marianne Holl in 2022.

A celebration of Dorothy ♦s life will be held Friday January 23, 2026, at 11am in Atonement Lutheran Church, 5 Wyomissing Blvd., Wyomissing, PA 19610, with luncheon to follow in Lundin Hall. Friends and relatives are invited to call from 9:30-11am in the church. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, Dorothy wished that memorial contributions be made to the Atonement Mission Endowment Fund via <https://atonementwyo.org>. Edward J. Kuhn Funeral Home, Inc. is entrusted with arrangements. Condolences may be offered at www.kuhnfuneralhomes.com.

[Click here to Send Flowers](#) to the family of Dorothy.

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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

Book Bonanza

Currently the Book Bonanza staff is on a winter break. Collecting and sorting books are expected to resume in March after the change to daylight savings time. When we have exact dates and times we will sent out information.

Redner's Register Tapes

Our members have done a great job saving Redner's register tapes. That project helps to support our operating budget. The money helps with publication costs, branch expenses and to obtain guest speakers for our meetings. Thanks to everyone who has donated. It is a great help. Please continue sending those tapes to Ellie. Be sure to send the whole tape and use your bonus card when shopping.

Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Wednesday, February 12, 2026 at 230 PM