

THE READING BRANCH LINES


AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

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Jan/Feb 2010

Reading, PA

Hope your holidays were happy and filled with good cheer amongst family and friends. As we start 2010 (already!) let us pray for peace everywhere, especially in the Middle East.

And the beginning of a new year brings us to our Annual Business Meeting in March. This year the meeting will be held at the Mifflin Community Library instead of the Wyomissing Library. Start time is 6:45 PM, Wednesday March 17. Following the business meeting we will have a program presented by Dr. Doris Turkes, "A New Century of Women – How Things Have Changed!" Refreshments will be provided by the Home Arts interest group.

It's especially important that you attend the Annual Business meeting to both vote on a budget for the upcoming year as well as elect some new officers.

Finding a new president is always a daunting task. Members are already busy with commitments, and many don't want the responsibility. Unless there is a nomination from the floor, I'm the nominee for president for another year or two. It's not terribly time consuming – maybe about five hours a month, maximum.

There are two other positions that need to be filled – Program Vice President and Recording Secretary. Carol Toomey has graciously been filling the last year of a vacated spot as Program Vice President and has agreed to continue on for another two years – lucky for us, with her fabulous programs. Also Women's Recognition Breakfast Chair, Carol has served as Children's Theatre Chair and Membership Vice President in the past. She is a full time instructor of Public Speaking at Penn State Berks and is active on their Theatre Advisory Council. For 18 years, she has continued directing plays and teaching acting workshops with Rainbow Theatre; and is also active as a volunteer and lector in her church.

The other open spot, Recording Secretary, is currently filled by Christy Eisenbise, one of our newer members. Christy has agreed to continue for another two years as Recording Secretary – and does a great job at it. Christy has an undergraduate degree in Accounting and an MBA from Kutztown University. After college, she worked as an

Internal Auditor, then an Accounting Supervisor for Penske Truck Leasing. Currently, she is the Internal Audit Manager for Met-Pro Corporation (a publicly traded company) located in Harleysville, PA, where she has been for the last two and a half years. She is currently pursuing her Certified Public Accountant license. In addition to being a member of AAUW, she is a member of the Greater Reading Young Professionals organization.

So that's the ticket – we only need for you to be at the meeting!

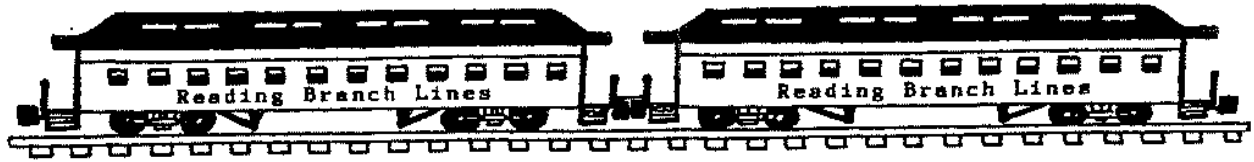
Public Policy

Why Students Leave College

According to [Inside Higher Ed](#), young adults who leave college cite the need to work and make money, rather than the price of college, as the principle cause of leaving. Results from a survey released in December by Public Agenda and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation indicate that, to get students to go back to college, schools should focus on flexible scheduling, financial aid for part-time students, and cutting tuition prices. More than one-third of students who left college but have the desire to return stated they would not be able to afford to, even if scholarships covered their tuitions and books. The stated goal of the survey was to give students a voice, as discussions surrounding college access are usually dominated by higher education officials and policy makers.

As AAUW continues our longstanding work of making the dream of higher education a reality for women, we pledge to work with Congress and the Obama administration to modernize programs under the Higher Education Act so that they reflect and meet the needs of today's student body. For more information, read our [higher education policy recommendations](#) submitted to the House and Senate.

Kathleen Shannon Koehn



Albright Connection

We all know that the future of AAUW depends on our young women. It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome our reconnect with the students at Albright College.

Sarah Bruno, English Major, has been chosen the President of the group that has Freshman thought Senior representation. At this time there are 22 members. This representation allows the group to grow as the younger students are mentored by their senior counterparts.

Denise Greenwood of the Albright English Department is the faculty advisor and will be the liaison between the students and the Branch. Barbara Balsbough VP of AAUW membership will be the Branch representative providing Branch support for the college affiliate.

The group has several activities in the planning stage. These include community service projects and interaction with High School Students in an effort to encourage their interest in pursuing a college education.

This is a wonderful opportunity to develop the students interest in the Mission of AAUW. These young women are the future for AAUW and society. We are happy to renew this college affiliation.

Our fall programs have been interesting, educational, and entertaining! For those of you who've missed them, I encourage you to not be sorry about missing any more and put the March meeting on your calendar now! Here's what's coming to celebrate Women's History month:

March 17 - 7 pm – Mifflin Community Library “A New Century of Women – How things have changed! - Where we’ve come from and where we might be headed.” Celebrate Women’s History Month AAUW member, Doris Turkes, Professor of Women’s Studies. She was inspired by Gail Collins’ book, America’s Women: Four Hundred Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates, and Heroines, and you will be too, so you won’t want to miss this one! Home Arts will host with refreshments! The annual business meeting will begin at 6:45 pm, so come early!

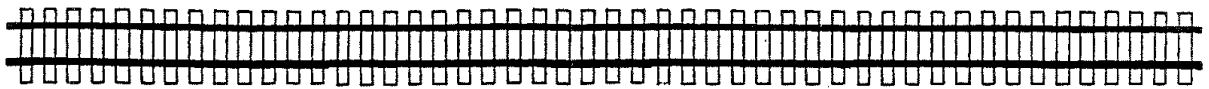
Yearbook Corrections

Annadora Shirk’s email address is no longer valid and I do not have a new one so cross it off.

Doris Turkes email address is also incorrect or invalid.

Evelyn Trexler’s email address is incorrect. It should read: trexlev1@verizon.net

Please make these deletions or corrections.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 2010

Theater:

Jan 30 – 2PM

Fulton Opera House – Play “Driving Miss Daisy

Contact: Ellie Hunt

Book Discussion Group:

Feb 1 – 7PM

Medicus by Ruth Downie

Hostess: Donna Weik

Cultural Diversity:

Jan 20 – 6PM

Toscani Wood Fire Grill - Wyomissing

Contact: Joanne Wrigley

Lit II:

Jan 11 – 1PM

Guernsey Literacy Potato Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer

Hostess: Grace Slotterback

Reviewer: Grace Slotterback

Fine Arts:

Jan 27

Lunch at Judy’s on Cherry, followed by a tour of the featured art at the GoggleWorks.

Coordinator: Florence Glander 610-927-8781

Home Arts:

Feb 3 – 7PM

“Digital Daydreams” – Albright speaker at the WLWH Library

Hostess: Margaret Fuoco

Co-Hostess: Mary Eckton

Lit I:

Jan 25 – 7PM

Lust for Life (A Novel about Vincent Van Gogh) by Irving Stone

Hostess: Janet Neel

Co-Hostess: Janet Neel

Reviewer: Fran Malley

Feb 2010

Lit II:

Feb 8 – 1PM

The Commoner by Frank Schwartz

Hostess: Helen Roberts

Reviewer: Helen Roberts

Book Discussion Group

March 1 – 7PM

Stones Into Schools by Greg Mortenson

Hostess: Margaret Fuoco

Fine Arts:

Snow date for January program

Cultural Diversity:

Feb 17 – 6PM

Ethnic Dinner – Member’s Home

Contact: Joanne Wrigley

Home Arts:

Mar 3 – 7PM

Celtic Harp: History and Music by Cathleen Sauber at the WLWH Library sponsored by the Sinking Spring Library

Hostess: Ann Wenrich

Co-Hostess: Carolyn Seidel

Lit I:

Feb 22 – 7PM

What are you reading?

Hostess: Margaret Fuoco

Co-Hostess: Ann Myers

Theater:

Feb 9 – 7PM

Reader’s theater Reading – “System Shakers Barrier Breakers”

Contact: Margaret Fuoco

AAUW READING BRANCH
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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.

Branchlines

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Circulation Editor – Nancy Poole

Holiday Party Following the November Meeting

by Ellie Hunt

On Saturday, November 14, 2009, the Reading Branch meeting was a tour of Gene London's collection of Hollywood gowns and costumes at the Reading Museum. It is a fantastic exhibit. We had a nice turnout and enjoyed the program immensely.

Following our guided tour, we traveled to Penn State's Janssen Center for an hors d'oeuvre reception. A young man played lovely background/ holiday music for our enjoyment. The branch is trying to restart a holiday get together for members and their spouses.

We were sorry not to have a better turnout for such a lovely party. At the October meeting we circulated a form to find out who was interested in attending the exhibit or just the get together or both. (We knew some members had already seen the exhibit). We encouraged you all to come just for the social part of the evening. A few of us enjoyed the socializing and food and still got to the symphony later that night!

The food was delicious and we who were there had a really delightful time. I enjoyed talking to some members from the Kutztown Interest Group.

We were trying to recapture some of the enjoyment of holiday parties of yore. Those of us who attended had a really good time. Hope to see more of you at our next meeting!