

BRIDGES TO EQUITY

American Association of University Women (AAUW)
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Valley Forge Branch Newsletter
November 2023



MISSION STATEMENT: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, research and philanthropy.

**Valley Forge AAUW Branch Meeting
Saturday, November 11th @ 10:15 a.m.
at Easttown Library, Berwyn**

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Presented by Jodi Wendl

Jodi Wendl, whose presentations we've enjoyed before, believes in lifelong learning and makes presentations on a variety of interesting topics.

On the 11th we'll learn about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil rights leader, activist, pastor and scholar, Dr. King was one of the most influential figures of the twentieth century. This presentation will examine his extraordinary life, background, and impact on America.



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

A tremendous THANK YOU to all who helped with the Book Sale! Eleanor Erskine and Karen Wellin did a phenomenal job organizing and running our first in eight years fund raising event! Nancy Charkes was instrumental in signing workers for shifts. Norma Winther and Elly Warren helped organize the books then joined Maria Brooks, Nancy Charkes, Nancy Hagelgans, Marcia Irvin, Janice Keyser and Carol Roden in checking out buyers. It was fun to chat with each other and to connect with the buyers!

Mt Zion AME Church was an excellent location with a bright welcoming room, easy ramp access and flat parking. Church members came to the event and were pleased to make some extra money with the sale of their homemade aprons and Christmas ornaments. They were also happy that some of their neighbors were fascinated to know the church’s history and were visiting the church for the first time.

Some of our AAUW members were not able to attend, so we are thinking about next October. Would you like to have another Book Sale? Please let Eleanor, Karen or myself know your thoughts.

See you at our next branch meeting on November 11th!

Susan

BOOK SALE

Eleanor Erskine

Thanks to all of the members who donated books or helped with set-up, selling and phone calls. We grossed almost \$1,000.00, with about a week’s work. We’ll use these funds for outreach. Already the children’s books that were left were donated to Orion in Phoenixville and many paperback books were picked up by a woman who donates books to a prison. The sale also increased our visibility.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Saturday, November 18, 10:00 a.m. Anne Odenweller will host.



PUBLIC POLICY

Debbie Talbot Snyder

I recently attended a state Public Policy meeting and I have a few updates for you ...

As we approach the November election, it is also important to be knowledgeable about the candidates running for school board positions in terms of if their views may be contrary to AAUW’s policies for women and girls.

There are still issues in terms of funding for public education. Currently there is a state committee of 12 individuals who working on how the funding should be allocated. You can learn more about these issues at ...

<https://edvoterspa.org/>

There are still bills that are trying to be passed in terms of raising the minimum wage with a goal of \$15.00 per hour by 2026.

The ERA issues that I mentioned in the September newsletter are still persistent. You will see updates in the next “Keystoner,” but we are still without the 60 votes needed to move the bill along.

It is now time to review and update the PA public policy priorities. The current priorities will expire in 2024 so you can submit suggestions through January 5th. The details about this update will be in the next “Keystoner” as well.

MEMBERSHIP

Debbie Snyder

I have some good news to share about our membership numbers! Statewide the numbers are increasing a bit, which is always good news, since we have recently seen branches closing throughout the state. In Beaver County, the branch is having an increase in the number of younger women – apparently they are graduating from college/university, staying in the area, and then joining the branch. This also means that the Beaver Branch is changing their programs to have more at night (wine tastings, art classes, etc.). It would be wonderful if we could also increase our number of younger members (especially since we also have many colleges in the area). Again, please try to invite friends and neighbors to our programs so we can increase our membership numbers too.

Remember to look at our branch website: www.aauwvalleyforge.org

INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON LITERATURE

Connie Kirker 215-840-3907

Susan Norris 610-246-8496

We will meet on Wednesday, November 8, at 1:30 p.m. Eleanor Erskine will host and lead the discussion of The Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell.

December's book is The Reading List by Sarah Nisha Adams.

New members are always welcome!



CURRENT EVENTS

Susan Norris 610-246-8496

We'll meet on Wednesday, November 15, at 1:30 p.m. Charlotte Rowland will host. Bring an article that you think would interest the group. Please let Charlotte know that you will be there.

We welcome new members!



LIVING THEATER

Karen Wellin 610-551-5070

Living Theater – A Fun Way to Spend an Afternoon!

Living Theater will meet on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. at either Eleanor Erskine's or at Mary Carr's. We will send an email by November 9 that will say the location of the meeting. We continue reading Act 2 in "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller. It would be helpful to grab a copy of the play and read Act 1 before the meeting. The play is in many libraries and bookstores, and it can also be ordered on-line. Please call Karen Wellin @610-551-5070 with any questions. Welcome all newcomers!



New Yorker group will meet at 1:30 p.m. on November 20th at my home. As usual, people can contact me for the articles we'll discuss.



NOVEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

8	Afternoon Lit.	1:30 p.m.
11	Branch meeting	10:15 a.m.
15	Current Events	1:30 p.m.
16	Living Theatre	1:30 p.m.
18	Board meeting	10:00 a.m.
20	New Yorker	1:30 p.m.

