

BRIDGES TO EQUITY

American Association of University Women (AAUW)
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Valley Forge Branch Newsletter
December 2024/January 2025



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

VALLEY FORGE BRANCH HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Tis the season....to celebrate the holiday season with AAUW friends.

Date: Saturday, December 14th at noon

Place: Charlotte's Restaurant, 3207 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square

Menu: Soup, salad, entree of chicken piccata, salmon or mushroom ravioli, and chocolate mousse

Program: Seasonal tunes played by Ivan Stiles, autoharpist, and a staff member of Laurel House on happenings there

Cost: \$33.00, Checks to be sent to Jean Givey.
Make checks out to: Valley Forge Branch AAUW
Cost is \$33 for each member or for a guest.

Friends and family are welcome.

NB: Please send your checks before December 7th, since mail can be slow at this time of year and the restaurant needs a head count.



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Questions about the policy changes and future of all organizations run rampant this autumn as do questions about the weather. Will it rain some time in Eastern Pennsylvania? Will our support of public schools help in our state legislature? There are many things we don't know. What we do know is that a wonderful Holiday Get Together is planned for Saturday, December 14th at Noon at Charlottes' Restaurant, 3207 Westchester Pike, Newtown Square. I hope you will come and bring friends and family!

Our AAUW Valley Forge Branch has some open board positions I hope you will consider:

- Bylaws Chair – update our Bylaws once a year as required by National
- College/University Coordinator – contact any local college or university already in contact with National to keep them apprised of our existence and programs
- Public Information/Publicity – post the meeting information once a month on The Patch
- Webmaster – send our newsletter once a month to our web coordinator to keep our website current

Please consider taking on one or more of these positions. Contact me for more info or to sign up! Sn4768@gmail.com Thank you.

Have a Wonderful Holiday Season!
Susan

LAUREL HOUSE

For years Valley Forge Branch has collected funds for Laurel House during the holiday season. This year we'll have a speaker from the Laurel House at our holiday luncheon, who will update us on the services the organization provides to those suffering from domestic violence. These include emergency housing, a 24-hour hotline, transitional housing, a children's program, individual and group counseling, medical advocacy, and legal representation. Laurel House also reaches out to the community to raise awareness of domestic abuse; a program for teen-age girls is especially important. As a comprehensive domestic violence agency, Laurel House is a god-send for people seeking violence-free lives for themselves and their children.

If you're coming to the luncheon you can bring gift cards, checks or cash to help this important organization. If you can't join us, you can send a check or gift card to Eleanor Erskine. Checks should be made out to Laurel House. Gift cards for at least \$25.00 for Target, Walmart, Master Card and American Express are preferred.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Saturday, January 25, 10:15 a.m. via Zoom. Deb Snyder will send the link on Thursday of that week.

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MEMBERSHIP

Debbie Snyder

This is just a reminder that our yearly membership dues cycle is not strict in terms of when a new member can join – they can join at any time during the year. Since we have lost members in recent years, we would like to increase our numbers. Please remember that, during this season of seeing family and friends, going to social events, to keep AAUW in mind in terms of mentioning it to others. We have had guests attend recent events who wanted to learn more about AAUW. Please try to invite friends and family members to our programs.

PUBLIC POLICY

Many of our members may think that AAUW’s public policy actions may not be as needed or relevant now that the recent election is over, but that is not the case. With a new government coming to place (and power) in January, AAUW needs to stay focused on its goal of equity for women. In the coming months we may see challenges to our support for the ERA, to women’s health issues, and to fairness in educational policies (not just with regard to Title IX, but also in terms of family income, race, and gender identity). An important part of this is to understand how the U.S. government will be changing next year. Below is a link that outlines the changes to female representation in the government after the November elections...

[Number of women who are state law makers inches up to a record high \(msn.com\)](#)

So, while there may be more female representatives in government now, this does not mean that policies will become more favorable to women. It is still important to keep up with contemporary issues and be vocal about concerns. As you may have noted in our November *Keystoner*, Title IX and the ERA are still very much at the forefront with regard to AAUW’s legal concerns. Please continue to check AAUW National and Pennsylvania to follow updates to such issues.



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

INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON LITERATURE

Connie Kirker
Susan Norris

No December meeting. We will meet on Wednesday, January 8 at 1:30 p.m. Deb Snyder will lead our discussion of Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See.



CURRENT EVENTS

Susan Norris

No meeting in December. We'll meet on Wednesday, January 15 @ 1:30 p.m. Charlotte Rowland will host. Bring an article that you think would interest the group. Please let Mary Carr know that you will be there. We welcome newcomers!



LIVING THEATRE

Karen Wellin

Living Theater – A Fun Way to Spend an Afternoon!

Living Theater will meet on Monday, January 6, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. Eleanor Erskine will serve as hostess for the meeting. We will read a one-act play, “The Undercurrent” by Fay Ehlert. Copies of the play will be available. Please let Eleanor know that you’ll attend. Please call Karen with any questions or comments. Welcome all newcomers!



NEW YORKER GROUP

Eleanor Erskine

The New Yorker group will meet at the home of Erlis Wickersham at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, January 20th. Please let Erlis know that you will be there and contact Eleanor about the articles to be discussed.



THE NEW YORKER

