



empowering women since 1881

AAUWHarrisburg.org



American Association
of University Women



You Are Invited

December 2023

the CONNECTION

On December 2nd, 2023,
the Harrisburg Branch of AAUW
Invites All Members & Friends
to **EAT, DRINK &**
be
merry

We will join together at 11:30 am
At the Faith Immanuel Presbyterian Church Social Hall
for *A Royal Tea*
with special guests
Aurora Hocus Pocus' Winifred
Cinderella Little Red Riding Hood
Goldilocks Rapunzel
 & Fairy Godmother

Please Bring With You
Your Favorite Sweet or Savory to Share,
One or Two Gently Used, Giftable Books
for the AAUW Funds Book Sale,
And Any Gift You Wish to Donate to
the Harrisburg YWCA

more
details
on
pp. 3 & 4

December 2023 Message from Our Co-Presidents Christine Zuzack and Jane Pomerantz

The holidays are fast upon us with all of the traditions and activities that surround the season. But a few may ask “to which holiday are you referring?” The way in which we celebrate the holidays are grounded in our heritage, upbringing, religion, and family values. Many individuals view the season within the confines of this world view with little attention or regard for the numerous other holidays that others celebrate. A recent post on social media caught my eye and is quite insightful in this regard .

“When someone says, ‘Happy Holidays’ instead of ‘Merry Christmas,’ remember, they are not doing it because of political correctness. They do it out of respect. From the 20th of November to January 24th, there are at least 14 different religious holidays. So, when someone says “Happy Holidays” to you, thank them. Because they don’t know what you believe in. It’s called respect, not a war on Christmas.”

Tolerance and an appreciation for diversity serves us all well in a world currently fraught with turmoil and war. So hopefully, Peace on Earth is something we can all agree upon.

Happy Holidays to all of you!!
from Chris & Jane



Jane and Richard took in the holiday decorations in Washington D.C.

Chris, Grace & Sammie started their holiday season with Lancaster’s American Music Theater 2023 Christmas Show “The First Noel”.



Let There Be Peace on Earth

Words & Music: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson
Copyright © 1955 by Jan-Lee Music

On December 2nd, We Will Deck the Halls - Here Are All the Details



This Year We Will Attend A Royal Tea

The princesses and Little Red Riding Hood of fairy tales have gathered for a tea, which turns into a support group of women wondering what happened to their happily ever afters. The leader of the group informs them that their Fairy Godmother is retiring. The ladies lament their fate without their Godmother's magic. She shows up and defends her plans, explaining the magic was ... ???

You must come and find out what knowledge Fairy Godmother imparts to the ladies about female empowerment as she departs for a well-deserved idle life.

Cindy Dlugolecki, creator of this intimate look at what those "perfect women" might really have been thinking, is in charge of directing the debut performance of ***the Harrisburg AAUW Players***.



Join In The Giving & Sharing

Bring your favorite holiday food creation to share - sample size servings work best
- the Branch is in charge of supplying beverages, plates, etc, and decorations

Bring one or two "nearly new" books (that would perhaps be giftable) for the AAUW Funds book sale table (and bring cash to purchase ones that catch your eye).
All books will be priced at \$5.00. Judy Daniels will be on hand to oversee the browsing and buying.

Review the YWCA Wish List on the next page and bring an unwrapped gift for the YWCA's distribution. All gifts will be collected at the end of our event and transported to the YWCA in bulk. Beth Klein, our YWCA liaison, is in charge.



**Location for Our Annual Holiday Gathering is
Faith Immanuel Presbyterian Church
1801 Colonial Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112**

***That's Saturday, December 2, 2023
beginning at 11:30 am***

Co-Chairs: MaryAnn Daniels & Lillian Grieco

Holiday Giving General Wish List

Bedding

- Twin sheets
- Pillows
- Pillowcases
- Blankets
- Bed-in-a-bag

Bath

- Towels
- Washcloths

Toiletries

- Hygiene & beauty supplies
- Soap
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste

Baby

- Diapers
- Wipes
- Diaper Cream
- Baby Food

Clothing

- Underwear & socks
{adults/children all sizes}
- Winter coats

Grocery & Other

- Gift cards to Giant, Weis, Walmart, etc.
- Canned goods for our food pantry
- Visa or Amazon Gift Cards

Transport

- Bus passes
- Gas cards

Dining

- Gift cards to local restaurants
{Applebee's, Olive Garden, Red Robin, etc.}

Life Skills

- Notebooks & journals

Cooking

- Pots and pans with lids
- Silverware
- Plastic storage bins

Day Care/Kids

- White drawing paper
- Crayola washable markers/crayons
- Play money
- Fat crayons
- Art easel
- Puzzles (24-150 pcs)

Veterans

- Men's underwear
- Socks
- Shoes
- Coats
- Thermal long underwear
- Flashlights
- Various size work boots (men's 8-13)

To Educate and Enrich Us All: Our Constant Goal

The November 6, 2023, meeting was hosted by Members 1st Federal Credit Union at their new Members 1st Administrative Headquarters at 5000 Marketplace Way in Enola.

Trust - Communication - Caring



Dr. Nikole Hollins-Sims was our key speaker on "Student Needs Today". Nikole emphasized the power of connection, of belonging, that relationships shape the child.



Dr. Alexis Wertz, Principal at Tri-Community Elementary School, joined the discussion and emphasized Dr.Hollins-Sims' concepts and how they work "on the ground."

The goal of the interactive information session was opening our eyes and broadening our understanding of current challenges experienced by students as they navigate learning and life, by educators as they provide support to the children in their care, and by communities with diverse opinions about school roles in determining what and how students learn.

Through the presentations and Q&A, participants felt they were leaving the evening enlightened; with a much greater empathy for today's educators and students and the challenges of the system in general; and encouraged to become involved in our local schools - whether just by volunteering to read to elementary students, or getting involved in mentoring situations. And, of course, educating ourselves about voting issues within our districts as school board elections become a major issue in many communities.



Sharice Johnson (left), our 2019 Community Woman of the Year, and lifelong educator, joined in the discussion, here with Kathy Seidl.



right: With Elections the very next day, Kathy Gates delivered relevant updates, and reminders of upcoming events.

Lynn Stickler, VP of Relationship Management at Members 1st Corporate was our hostess / concierge for the evening. She took the opportunity to caution us of the many and complex hacking situations out there today, and precautions we need to take to safeguard our funds. Her assistants at M1 in making the evening happen were Mary Rhem and Denise Lashley.



The event was well attended, owing in part to the location central to attendees, the well lighted and ample parking, and the spacious conference room. Great planning by co-chairs Kathy Silks and Mary Kratzer. Thank you.

Above: a portion of those participants, front l-r: Dr.Wertz, Dr.Hollins-Sims, Kathy Silks, Jane Pomerantz, Barb Warfel, Barb Whetstone, Sharice Johnson. Row 2: Mary Kratzer, Carol Staz, Kathleen O'Malley, Carol Buskirk, Cindy Dlugolecki. Kathy Gates.

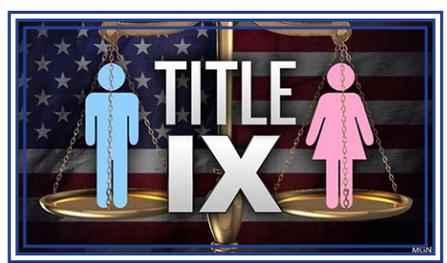
Back Row: Marcia Nye, woman in red, Lillian Grieco, Kathy Bard, and Carol Stark's hair.

Public Policy Updates, Links, and Events with Public Policy Chair, Kathy Gates

On Wednesday, November 15, 2023, Branch members Kathy Gates (front - left of Zonta banner), and Christine Zuzack and Kathy Seidl (center back with orange signs) joined Zonta and Greenlight Operation in their annual "Zonta says 'No' to Human Trafficking" rally in the PA Capitol rotunda. Also pictured - Jordan Pine, Founder and CEO of Greenlight Operation (behind Kathy Gates) and bill sponsor Rep. Joe Webster of District 150, Montgomery County (2nd from right) and Suzanne Estrella from the PA Victim Advocate office (far right).



On Tuesday, November 14, 2023, Kathy and Jim Gates joined the rally of concerned citizens organized by Education Voters PA at the Capitol steps to press Governor Shapiro and members of the Basic Education Funding Commission (BEFC) that their final report **must** include a clear and thorough calculation of how much each school district needs to meet the constitutional obligation to our students (known as adequacy targets).



Peg Pennepacker, our September luncheon speaker, sent us an update that the new Title IX regulations that she spoke about in September during her presentation have been delayed **again**. The anticipated release is now Spring 2024. Per the article by senior reporter Naaz Moan in **K-12 DIVE** published Oct. 31, 2023

“Final Title IX rules delayed once more as Ed Dept misses deadline”

DIVE Brief:

- The U.S. Department of Education missed its October deadline to finalize two long-awaited sets of Title IX regulations, delaying their release once more. The department has not announced a new date of expected release.
- As of Tuesday, the Office of Management and Budget, which reviews any rule before it's finalized, hadn't reviewed either of the rules, one on athletics and the other containing broader Title IX guidance, according to the agency's website. OMB reviews can take up to 90 days.
- The delay comes as nearly 130 civil rights, gender justice, and survivor advocacy organizations urged "immediate action" and said the administration's decision to keep the Trump administration-era rule in place is "a worrying and dangerous trend." Read more at <https://www.k12dive.com/news/final-title-ix-rules-delayed-again/698406/>

Our Members Immerse Themselves In Diverse Opportunities

On **Wednesday, November 8, 2023**, our Dine Around special interest group traveled to **Hamir's Indian Fusion** at 24 South George Street in York, PA, to sample their unique combining of ingredients from around the World with authentic Indian cuisine. The restaurant receives numerous rave reviews across media for its atmosphere, owner, chef, and staff - and the food!! The desserts look fabulous, ladies.



hamirs.com



left to right around the table: Kathy Seidl, Jane Pomerantz, Anita McCarthy, Marcia Hajduk, Christine Zuzack, Dorothy Brown, and Kathy Silks.

Cindy Dlugolecki is Unleashing her Theatrical Skills just like Michelle Yeoh : 'Everything Everywhere All at Once'

... in Wisconsin...

... in the Jenkintown/Philadelphia area...

On Cindy's Facebook page on November 22, 2023, Cindy Dlugolecki and Chris Purcell announced exciting news. **QUILL-ADELPHIA**, the musical formerly known as **THE HAND THAT HOLDS THE QUILL**, has been invited to be part of a festival to showcase new musicals. The festival, organized by **Theatre on the Verge**, will be in March in Jenkintown outside Philadelphia. This unique opportunity includes rehearsal time in a sound studio or the Abington Art Center; a band or piano accompanist; an invitation to attend all master classes, workshops, and social events *for free*; a video recording of the performance to use as they desire; assistance with publicity promotional materials for the duration of the three-day festival.

QUILL is one of ten or so finalists, chosen from 75 submissions.

Cindy says that the musical has been edited quite a bit since QUILL's first production in September 2021 at Capital BlueCross Theatre at Central Penn College. Encouraged by Janet Bixler, who oversaw QUILL's first production, and her belief in the project, Chris and Cindy kept writing and re-writing. And now QUILL will be close to Philadelphia, where it belongs! **INDEED!**



To read details of the evolving play, refer to <https://the-burgnews.com/culture/a-scribes-life-a-local-playwright-sets-her-creative-eye-on-a-long-lost-ancestor>

Special Interest Groups Keep Re-Energizing

Culture Vultures

Contact: Barb Warfel warfelb@yahoo.com 717-774-5559

Upcoming Trip: see listed pages for more details and sign up sheets

EXPLORE SWITZERLAND, AUSRIA & BAVARIA (p. 10)

May 8-17, 2024 : complete brochure at <https://harrisburg-pa.aauw.net/files/2023/06/2024-travel.pdf>

Dine Around

Contact: Kathy Silks kms107@outlook.com 717-315-5440

This group meets once or twice monthly to enjoy great meals and lively conversation at a wide variety of local and regional restaurants, with dinners on the second Wednesday and lunches on the fourth Wednesday. All group members receive email notices of venues and dates.

Morning Paperback Book Group

Contact: Dorothy Brown dorothyb4ever@gmail.com

Meeting - 10:00 am to noon.

Please contact Dorothy to verify if you plan to attend as sometimes capacity is limited.

No meeting on the schedule for December, 2023

Nonfiction Book Group

Contact: Chris Zuzack czuzack@hotmail.com

Meetings - begin at 1 pm . Contact Chris for location.

Thursday, December 14, 2023. **Poverty, By America** by Matthew Desmond

will be reviewed by Lee Johnson

Walking Group

Contact: Lee Johnson lee6646@verizon.net

The Walking Group has been especially active during these good weather months. If you would enjoy occasional walking excursions with AAUW companions, this group is for you. Anyone may propose a walk (or even a hike) and we'll see who would like to go along.

*****Please Welcome Out Newest Group*****

Exploring Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Contact: Kathy Silks, DEI chair kms107@outlook.com 717-315-5440

Group members meet monthly (in person and via Zoom) to build deeper awareness, understanding, and cultural competence. Activities include book and media resource reviews, topical discussions, and shared experiences.

- Participation is limited to twelve members for ease of discussion.

To see details and contact information about other Special Interest Groups and upcoming SIG events, click on the group that interests you on our website : <https://harrisburg-pa.aauw.net/special-interest-groups/>

2024 AAUW PA Conference
April 5-7, 2024, at the Central Hotel
Harrisburg, PA

American Assoc. of University Women- Harrisburg presents...

Explore Switzerland, Austria & Bavaria

with Optional 3-Night Vienna Post Tour Extension

May 8 – 17, 2024



Upgrade to Elite Airfare! see inside for details

SPECIAL TRAVEL ZOOM PRESENTATION

Date: Monday, September 11, 2023 Time: 1:30 PM

Join us for a ZOOM presentation!

For more information contact

Barbara Warfel

American Assoc. of University Women- Harrisburg

(717) 774-5559

warfelb@yahoo.com

The complete brochure is viewable and available for download at:

<https://harrisburg-pa.aauw.net/files/2023/06/2024-travel.pdf>

AAUW HARRISBURG DIVERSITY STATEMENT

AAUW Harrisburg condemns racism. We are committed to building a more just society where everyone, no matter the color of their skin, can live without fear, pursue their life goals, and thrive. Systemic racism is firmly rooted in the U.S., and today's injustices mirror our shameful history — from police brutality to inequality in educational opportunities to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color. Our country needs healing. That healing will only come with justice.

AAUW Harrisburg is committed to fighting for justice and long-term and lasting change and will collaborate with government officials, educators, and community organizations to address systemic racism and inequality in our community. To make a change, we must ACT, identifying ways in which each of us can optimize our recognition, acceptance and inclusion of all diverse groups and our roll in achieving equality in all its aspects in our community and our country, from patronizing minority owned businesses to contacting our government leaders. AAUW Harrisburg's Co-Presidents Christine Zuzack and Jane Pomerantz; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Chair Kathy Silks; and Membership Co-Vice Presidents MaryAnn Daniels and Kathy Seidl are leading this important effort.



OUR MISSION

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

OUR VALUES

Nonpartisan. Fact-based.
Principled. Inclusive and
Intersectional with *Equity for All*.

2023-2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Co-Presidents - Christine Zuzack
& Jane Pomerantz
Program Co-Vice Presidents - Carol Nechemias
& Lee Johnson
Membership Co-Vice Presidents -
MaryAnn Daniels & Kathy Seidl
Finance Officer - Eileen Carson
Co-Secretaries - Cindy Dlugolecki
& Margaret Gingrich
Nominating Committee - Marcia Hajduk
& Erica Voss Meloy, co-chairs.
Kathy Seidl, Kathy Silks, & Barbara Warfel

Please
"Like" us
on FaceBook!



AAUW Harrisburg

2023/2024 Board meetings

will be held live or via *Zoom* on the second Thursday of
each month from **3:00 - 4:30pm**
next meeting: **Thursday, December 14, 2023**
the Board's Holiday Gathering will be Hosted
at the home of Christine Zuzack

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by

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HarrisburgAAUW@gmail.com
AAUWHarrisburg.org

Editor:
Carol Stark

Newsletter Contributions

Any members who wish to contribute an article, upcoming event notice,
or news item to the newsletter may do so by emailing them in the form
of a Word document no later than the twentieth of the preceding month,
to:

hbgauwnewsletter@gmail.com

Pictures Welcome!

Pictures of any AAUW events, or branch members taking part in any
other relevant community events, may be sent in as well.

Picture submissions should be in jpeg format.

Thank you! *Carol S*