OCTOBER





the CONNECTION

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 6:30pm

- come at 6:00pm for Meet & Greet

1230 North 3rd Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102

Historic Harrisburg Association

"Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy"

Jean Spooner Handley, Dauphin County Coordinator for Fair Districts PA

Jean Spooner Handley was born in Pittsburgh, Pa. and has lived in various areas of Pennsylvania all her life. She received her BA from Gettysburg College and an M Ed with a concentration in secondary school counseling from Kutztown University. Her initial career was as a middle and high school guidance counselor. However, her love of airplanes and flying redirected her career to the airlines where she was a pilot and ground instructor. She eventually retired as a Captain from US Airways Express.

She became involved with Fair Districts PA redistricting in February of 2017 and has been the Dauphin County Coordinator since April of 2017. She is a member of the Fair Districts Speakers Bureau and has given presentations to many organizations and groups and testified before state legislative committees during the 2021 redistricting process.

Jean Handley, and Amy Widestrom, will Director of the League of address for us issues related to empower-Women Voters of PA ing voters and defending democracy. These include redistricting reform and promoting

measures that reduce hurdles and thereby boost access to the ballot box and confidence In voting integrity. Among many issues, the

League supports pre-canvassing of mail-in ballots, drop boxes, open primaries (Pennsylvania remains one of nine states with closed primaries), and the abolition of the

Electoral College, with the President elected by the national popular vote. Fair Districts PA is an all-volunteer, grassroots coalition of Pennsylvania citizens dedicated to reform of Pennsylvania's redistricting processes for both

congressional and state legislative redistricting.

The 2024 U.S. election will have a major impact on gender equity in education, women's nomic security, and reproductive and civil rights. The good news? When women vote, we change the conversation. https://www. aauw.org/resources/policy/getinvolved-in-elections/

For more information on these groups see: https://www.palwv.org/

https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-pennsylvania-capital-region? https://fairdistrictspa.com/ and https://fairdistrictspa.com/local-groups Amy Widestrom, Executive



Dr. Amy Widestrom holds a BA in Theater and English from Oberlin College and an MA and PhD in Political Science from Syracuse University. In addition to teaching American politics at the college level for 15 years, she been the recipient of several awards, including the American Political Science Association's Clarence Stone Scholar Award, a Brookings Institution Research Fellowship, and an American Political Association Congressional Fellowship, which gave her the opportunity to work for the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs. Before joining the League, Amy was a faculty member at Arcadia University just outside of Philadelphia and Chair of the Dept of Historical and Political Studies.

October 2024 Message from Our Co-Presidents MaryAnn Daniels and Kathy Seidl

AAUWHarrisburg.org AAUWHarrisburg.org AAUWHarrisburg.org AAUWHarrisburg.org

AAUW Harrisburg sisters, we had a well-attended and enlightening program at our fall luncheon in September at the Hershey Italian Lodge. Many thanks to our hard-working Program Committee and everyone involved for a very successful kick-off to our 2024/2025 branch year! We look forward to seeing everyone again at our next branch program on Tuesday, October 15, at 6:30 PM at Historic Harrisburg Association for another timely program on voting and our democracy.

In the meantime, we sincerely hope that everyone will look for opportunities to get out the vote to fulfill our basic civic duty to vote in our elections and to

ensure the continuation of our sacred democracy! Remember, when we vote, we change the world!

- MaryAnn and Kathy

Scholarship Recipients Emily Blymire and Sherlyn Martinez were able to attend the luncheon.



AAUWHarrisburg



Fall Luncheon Leading Ladies

I-r: Connie Doebele gave speaker introduction; Lee Johnson, event Co-Chair, Dr.Alison Dagnes, luncheon speaker; MaryAnn Daniels, Co-President; Kathy Seidl, Co-President; Marcia Hajduk, event Co-Chair.







burg.org

Dr.Dagnes was surprised and delighted that one of her students, Sherlyn Martinez, was receiving one of he scholarships.

In this issue:

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AAUW Pennsylvania and AAUW National Events and Updates Available this Month



Voter Registration Training with When We All Vote

The above webinar from 07/24/24 is available on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THQcRFWt8GQ

1 hour; 42 minutes

National AAUW provides a wealth of tools for members to engage in all aspects of the upcoming 2024 election. On YouTube are recordings of the following informative webinars under the

It's My Vote theme.

It's My Vote: 2024 Voter Engagement Campaign

- from 03/20/24 - 42 minutes

It's My Vote: AAUW Priorities in the 2024 Election

- from 04/22/24 - 43 minutes Voter Registration Webinar

- from 07/24/24 - 1 hr, 5 minutes

Know Before You Vote: The Importance of the Well-In-

formed Voter

- from 10/31/22- 45 minutes

Given where we are in this election year, it's important we prepare for the fights ahead. How do we do that? By registering ourselves and our communities to vote.

We discuss everything you need to know to conduct local voter registration. We dive into the ins and outs of AAUW's voter registration portal, provide insights, and share practices for maximizing your voter registration efforts — equipping you with the right tools to make a meaningful impact. When We All Vote's Managing Director of National



Organizing Amanda Hollowell, shares some tips and tricks on holding voter registration events in the above sited YouTube recording of

"It's My Vote Voting Registration
Training" With When We All Vote

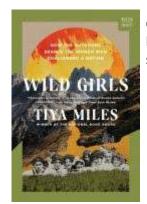
Staying Nonpartisan

As a nonpartisan organization, any activities or statements conducted under AAUW's name must not show support or opposition to a partisan candidate or political party. This election season, make sure to follow our guidelines for election activities.

See our 3 page instructional GUIDELINES FOR ELECTION ACTIVITIES https://www.aauw.org/app/up-loads/2024/07/AAUW-Guidelines-for-Election-Activities.pdf?

Katrina Sun Breese Senior Director of Institutional Advancement

CEO Gloria L. Blackwell in conversation with AAUW Community Action Grantee, Tiya Miles. Ph.D., about her book *Wild Girls: How the Outdoors Shaped Women Who Challenged a Nation*.



Gloria and Dr. Miles discuss her latest work that puts girls of all races — and the landscapes they loved — at center stage and reveals the impact of the outdoors on women's independence, resourcefulness, and vision. It focuses on trailblazing women of the nineteenth and early twentieth



centuries—from Harriet Tubman to Louisa May Alcott to Dolores Huerta. Navigating the woods, following the stars, playing sports, and taking to the streets in peaceful protest were not only joyful pursuits, but also techniques to resist assimilation, racism, and sexism. Wild Girls evokes landscapes as richly as the girls who roamed in them—and argues for equal access to outdoor spaces for young women of every race and class today.

Watch the Sptember 5, 2024, video on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GK6qTJRUDCA

AAUWHarrisburg.org AAUWHarrisburg.org AAUWHarrisburg.org AAUWHarrisburg.org

TAKE ACTION

Two-Minute Activist

https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/

Become a Two-Minute Activist

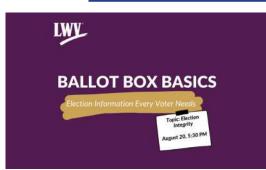
Members of AAUW's Action Network receive urgent e-mail notices and text messages when their advocacy is needed most. With our online Two-Minute Activist tool, it takes just minutes and an internet connection to make your voice heard on issues impacting women

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





The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania is pleased to present Ballot Box Basics: Information Every Voter Needs, a free webinar series open to the public. These monthly webinars will discuss important topics like registering to vote, voting integrity, your polling place, voter ID requirements, election security, constitutional amendments, and Pennsylvania government.



Ballot Box Basics: Safety at the Polls

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

Our September program featured Veronica Degraffenreid, Senior Manager of Strategic Partnerships with the Brennan Center for Justice, for a conversation on safety at the polls ahead of the general election.

To view the Zoom recording, go to https://www.palwv.org/ballot-box-basics and click the link.

Ballot Box Basics Vote with Ease and Confidence!

OCTOBER 1, 2024

5:30 PM

Our October program will feature Krystle Knight of Vote Riders and Jeff Greenburg of the Committee of Seventy for a discussion on preparing to vote on November 5th.

Register at this Zoom site:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN 1Bh-v6fbRxSgcnqmqLrNbA#/registration

Advocacy Training for Individuals and Organizations with Tony Crocomo

OCTOBER 10, 2024

7:00 PM - 8:15

Join us on Zoom to hear from someone experienced at discussing difficult topics without rancor. Learn how to lobby your legislator in a non-confrontational, values-based, team approach. Seek to create a working relationship with legislators regardless of their politics. Today's political discourse has become polarized, and fraught; political discussions can quickly become unpleasant. This program will give you the tools needed to make every lobby visit effective, respectful, and productive. Tony Crocamo is a volunteer with Fair Districts PA (FDPA) Register at this Zoom site:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctf-mtqDltGtbBzDx0GRLm83zBLE-FOeRL#/registration



Know Before You Vote! And share information with others

The League of Women Voters' Vote411.org Voters' Guide provides a wealth of information, including important dates, notice of candidate forums, and a sample ballot with your own local candidate information, plus responses from candidates on a handful of important policy guestions. Please share that resource with friends and neighbors who need more election information.

Fair Districts PA's Know Before You Vote webpage provides information regarding candidates' positions on key redistricting reforms.

Check your own voter registration and encourage others to check theirs. All this can be done online at votespa.com.



The Zonta Club of Harrisburg-Hershey and

Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland & Perry Counties

cordially invite you to join us for

"Zonta says 'No' to Lenient PFA Consequences"

with a focus on increasing the cost and time served for violating PFA (Protection from Abuse) Orders.

When: Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 12 noon Where: Main Rotunda of the Capitol





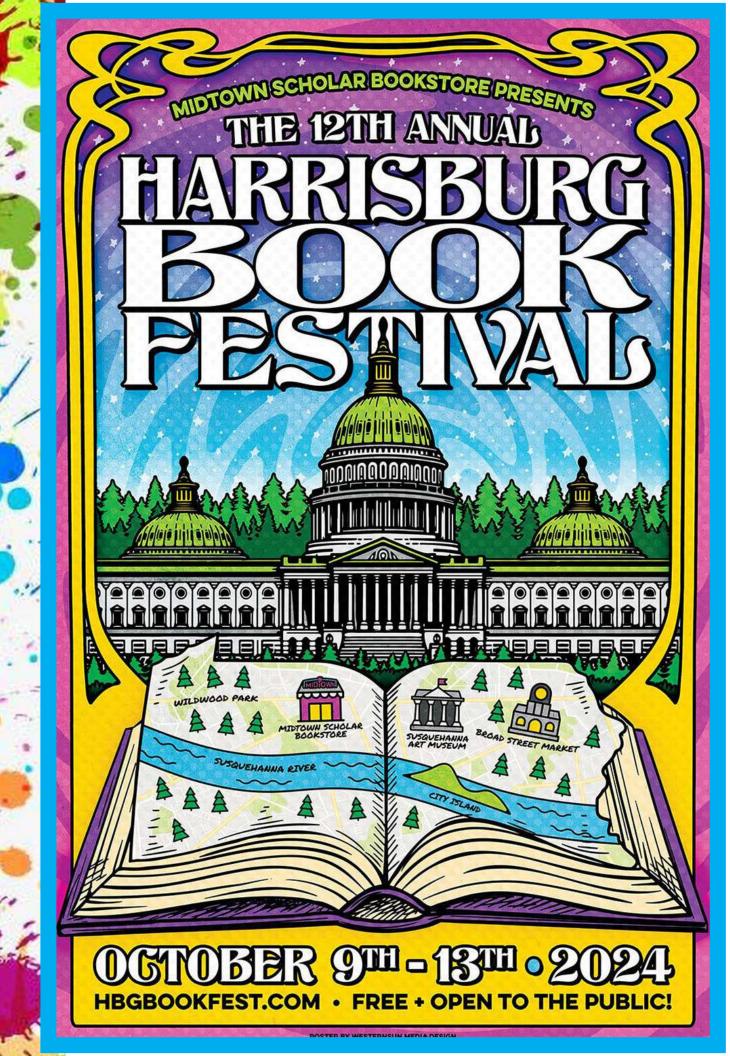
The Zonta Club of Harrisburg-Hershey Foundation and Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland & Perry Counties are 501(c) 3 organizations.

www.zontaharrisburghershey.org

Facebook: Zonta Club of Harrisburg-Hershey

www.dvscp.org

Facebook: DVSCP



AAUW Harrisburg proudly joins the Midtown Scholar Bookstore in presenting.

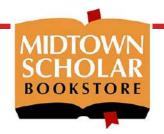
The 12th Annual Harrisburg Book Festival

celebrates the written word and its power to inspire, provoke, and delight. Featuring an outdoor tent sale, award-winning authors, children's day programming, and dog day Sunday, the Harrisburg Book Festival promotes a culture of reading and community in the heart of Pennsylvania's state capital — all while surrounded by thousands of books at one of the nation's leading independent bookstores.

For a complete list and schedule of events, refer to: https://www.hbgbookfest.com/

The poster on the previous page can be printed and distributed.

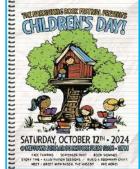
1302 N 3rd Street Harrisburg, PA 17102 (717) 236-1680



shop @ midtownscholar.com https://www.midtownscholar.com/

Children's Day at the Harrisburg Book Festival is back and better than ever! On Saturday, October 12th, visit the Midtown Scholar Bookstore for an afternoon of family-friendly pro-

gramming. Featuring author signings, story time sessions, live illustration demonstrations, face-painting, arts & crafts, and our beloved bookstore scavenger hunt (with exciting prizes!), there will be something for the whole family in Harrisburg! Hosted by Harrisburg's own, Corey Dupree!





On the final day of the Harrisburg Book Festival, and it wouldn't be a paw-ty without a visit from our friends at

Nirvana Animal Rescue and Tex's Barbecue! We'll have adoptable dogs and puppies on-site, along with homemade doggie treats from Doggie Delights. Swing by Tex's Barbecue pop-up stand for authentic Texas barbecue, brisket, sliders, and more.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

for tent sale, greeters, Info booth, Author signing line,Set-up/tear down for main stage events. Tap on or copy link for sign-up form:

https://forms.gle/aasz9kRiU5rhkfcf7



There's Something for Everyone!

Culture Vultures Are On the Move

INFORMATION MEETING Tuesday, October 8th at 1:00 PM.
at 619 Haldeman Blvd, New Cumberland PA 17070 717-774-5559
Contact Barb Passeri-Warfel by Oct 1 to reserve your seat warfelb@yahoo.com
Zoom link will be available brochure link is https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1277117

American Association of University Women- Harrisburg presents: Discover the Canadian Maritimes and Coastal Wonders

Departing September 14, 2025

Contact Barbara Warfel for details and an E-mail brochure warfelb@yahoo.



From the nautical beauty of Peggy's Cove to the rugged splendor of the Cabot Trail, the Maritimes will enchant you. Choose how you explore Lunenburg – at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic or on a locally guided walking tour. Partake in a PEI tradition with a supper of fresh lobster and mussels. Visit the Anne of Green Gables Museum and learn about potato farming. See the 4-story high Hopewell Rocks. Savor a traditional Maritimes seafood feast beside the Bay of Fundy, where some of the world's highest tides are recorded. Explore interesting inventions at the Alexander Graham Bell Museum. Learn a few handy Gaelic phrases and join in the fun of a "milling frolic." Take a ferry ride to Prince Edward Island, the "Land Cradled on the Waves Don't miss the rugged beaches, picturesque fishing villages, and rich seafaring history of Canada's amazing Maritime Provinces.



11 Days 16 Meals

Itinerary in Brief:

Days 1 - 4 spent in Halifax, Nova Scotia and region

Days 5 - 8 Baddeck - Cabot Trail,
Prince Edward Island

Days 9 - 10 Saint John

Day 11 - return to Halifax



HARRISBURG BRANCH MEMBERSHIP UPDATES OCTOBER 2024

Spotlight on New Member Wanda Bauer Gabler

I grew up in St. Marys PA, a little town in Northwest PA, and have lived in Camp Hill for over 35 years. I graduated from Gannon College, now University, in 1975 with a BS in Mental Health Counseling and Theology, and earned my MEd at Penn State Harrisburg in Health Education in 2003. My career has been quite varied with several years as a counsellor, program director at Big Brothers and Sisters of the Capital Region, nearly 30 years teaching in the Childbirth Education Department at UPMC, many years as a doula, and about 20 years at Trinity High School teaching Social Justice. As a mother of 7, because of my education, I was able to pursue professional opportunities that I could incorporate into my busy life while not pursuing a full time career. I was very active in AAUW in St Marys PA from 1977 through 1984. It was really the only place for women to share important issues in that very rural area. I love to read and have belonged to the same book club since 2000. I am a very good cook, I sew for my home, I love to travel, I belong to the church choir, and I am compiling a cookbook for my family and writing stories of my life. Recently, I began seeing FB posts from Harrisburg AAUW and thought it looked like fun so I reached out to join.

Spotlight on New Member Alice Kirchner

Born and raised in Lancaster, PA, I have found Central PA to be a marvelous region to experience life! Expecting to teach kindergarten, I received my EE degree from Millersville College (now University).

Opportunities came along which altered that path, and I spent several years with small organizations in Harrisburg before my 30-year career with IBM began. I was in sales, technical support, management, business re-engineering and information technology transformation with only 1 re-location but many different organizations within IBM.

Following what proved to be my 1st retirement, I entered the world of healthcare as a volunteer with Homeland Hospice. Along that journey, I worked with patients and families, obtained my certificate in thanatology (study of death and dying), began part time work, and ultimately found a very fulfilling 2nd full-time career leading the strategic planning and IT for Homeland Center. The care services grew to include many community-based health services (home health, home care, palliative care) along with the care provided in the 'home' in uptown Harrisburg (personal care, short term rehab and skilled nursing).

I retired for my 2nd (and last) time in June 2022. Blessed to have had the unexpected experience of my senior living phase, I set out to focus on purpose, connections, selfcare and travel. As a long-time member of the Zonta Club of Harrisburg-Hershey, I've been committed to issues of women empowerment, equity and safety. Kathy Gates introduced me to the Harrisburg Branch of AAUW and I attended several events last year and offi-

cially joined in 2024. I'm on the Program Committee and joined the Non-Fiction Book Group.

Membership Update

The Branch has reached 84 members! As a reminder, please alert Membership of any changes to your contact information.

Please update Alane Balchunas zip code to 17053-9751.

Please welcome our newest members to the Branch: Michele Hood Emerson, Wanda Bauer Gabler, Alice Kirchner, and Beth Persun. See separate email for contact information.

Alice was given a great retirement send off from her Homelend Hospice 2nd career.



Kathy Bard and Carol Nechemias enjoyed the grand views In the Yorkshire Dales in England with WITF travelers. The tour included visiting sites associated with "All Creatures Great and Small."

Carpe Diem Dept



Harrisburg Branch Friends will be Recognized at the 2024 PA Historic Preservation
Honor Awards on October 24
at the Zembo Shrine

at the Zembo Shrine

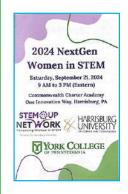
The F. Otto Haas Award for outstanding achievements in historic preservation will be presented to Barbara Barksdale of Dauphin County, in recognition of her extraordinary efforts to protect, preserve and promote the Mid-

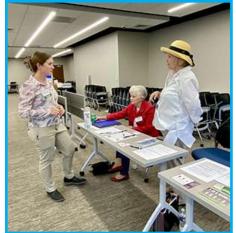
land Cemetery in Harrisburg and for co-founding the Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds nonprofit organization, which has created a strong statewide network for stewards of African American cemeteries.

This year's Chairperson's Award for demonstrated leadership in historic preservation will recognize the Zembo Shriners, Gina M. Douty Historic Preservation Consulting, LLC, and **Historic Harrisburg Association** for their stewardship of the historic 1929 Moorish Revival building in Harrisburg, Dauphin County.

Dine Around SIG enjoyed a late September meal at Hellenic Kouzina in Mechanicsburg.

I-r. Phyllis Skok, Barbara Whetstone, Kathy Seidl, Christine Zuzack, Erica Meloy, Mary Kratzer, Carol Buskirk, Kathleen Gorak, Joan Swetz, Beth Klein.





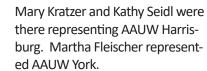
Saturday, September 21, 2024, The 2024 NexGen Women in STEM

conference was held at the Commonwealth Charter Academy in Harrisburg. Representing AAUW Harrisburg at this STEM Symposium sponsored by Harrisburg University of Science and Technology, and York College of Pennsylvania gave us a great

opportunity to network with young women leaders of the (near) future. The attendees we met were interesting, interested, and motivated students eager to learn ways in which women can aspire in STEM fields. Purposes of the conference included

- Connect with soon-to-be and recent STEM women graduates from different institutions.
- Network and explore opportunities with STEM organizations and businesses.

As AAUW women, we were able to share our scholarship information and National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) scholarship opportunities with them. The students were very excited to hear about these programs.





September Moments

9.29.24 - Barb Warfel proudly welcomes guests to her "An Eclectic Mix" one woman show at Market Square Presbyterian Church. On view through December 9. Call church for times.

Scholarship recipient Elizabeth Blymire brought her +1 - her Mom to the luncheon!







Some of Our
Scholarship
Team Members
pause at the luncheon for some
recognition,
I-r Carol Staz,
Mary Kratzer,
Leigh Ann Chow.
Chair, Christine
Persun.

Alison Dagnes, our luncheon speaker, and Connie Doebele, who introduced her, compare notes on their respective days working at C-SPAN.

The Hershey Italian Lodge provided a bountiful meal with endless desserts and a fresh atmosphere.



Meanwhile, Elsewhere...





9.29.24
Carol Buskirk and daughter Mattie highly recommend the Strasburg scooter tours for some fresh Fall air.

9.14.24 -the Starks continue their tradition of Fall luncheon together. I-r Allison, Carol, Violet Pursell and her Mom, Erika.

Branch Special Interest Groups

With the exception of the book groups and Culture Vultures, all of whose meetings require planning and preparation before attending, all our SIG's meet through the suggestions of group members and are of somewhat an impromptu nature which does not usually fit into *the Connection*'s publishing timeframes. **To get involved:**

Email the *Contact* for a group that interests you and be added to their eblast list for coming events.

and refer to https://harrisburg-pa.aauw.net/special-interest-groups/

Chefs at Home

Contact: Joan Swetz jswetz3@yahoo.com

This group plans and prepares gourmet meals in each other's homes.

Culture Vultures

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

Upcoming Trips: *Discover the Canadian Maritimes and Coastal Wonders;* departs September 14, 2025 *Renwick Gallery* and *the National Gallery of Art:* Sunday, October 13, 2024

Dine Around

Contact: Carol Buskirk cmbuskirk@verizon.net

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 planned potentially on the second Wednesday; lunches on the fourth Wednesday.

*** All group members receive email notices of venues and dates.***

Fine Film Group

Contact Erica Voss Meloy ericameloy@comcast.net

The group meets approximately once a month, usually at the Midtown Cinema, usually for a matinee - for the movie, coffee, and conversation.

Morning Paperback Book Group

Contact: Dorothy Brown dorothymb4ever@gmail.com Meets - 3rd Thursday. 10:00 am to noon.

October 17, 2024 North Woods: A Novel by Daniel Mason will be reviewed by Lee Johnson (Hosting)

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

Nonfiction Book Group

Contact: Chris Zuzack czuzack@hotmail.com Meets - 2nd Thursday beginning at 1 pm .

October 10, 2024 Animals in Translation by Temple Grandin: Marcia Nye (Hosting)

Please contact Chris for location.

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.

Future SIG possibility:

Exploring Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Group members would meet monthly (in person and via *Zoom*) to build deeper awareness, understanding, and cultural competence. Projected activities could include book and media resource reviews, topical discussions, and shared experiences. *This group is currently on hiatus*. If you are interested in exploring these issues, please contact the branch board

at <u>HarrisburgAAUW@gmail.com</u>

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 MaryAnn Daniels & Kathy Seidl; and Membership Co-Vice Presidents Diane Shoop & Barbara Warfel 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.

2024-2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Co-Presidents - MaryAnn Daniels & Kathy Seidl Program Vice President - Joan Swetz Membership Co-Vice Presidents -Diane Shoop & Barbara Warfel Finance Officer - Eileen Carson Co-Secretaries - Cindy Dlugolecki & Margaret Gingrich Nominating Committee - Christine Zuzack & Jane Pomerantz, co-chairs. Kathryn Bard, Lillian Grieco, and Barbara Passeri Warfel

Please "Like" us on FaceBook!



AAUW Harrisburg

2024/2025 Board Meetings

will be held live at Perkins Restaurant, 7 Erford Rd, Lemoyne, or via Zoom, on the second Thursday of each month from 3:00 - 4:30 pm

next meeting: October 10, 2024

MaryAnn Daniels or Kathy Seidl will send the meeting agenda and information to all Board members

The Connection

is published monthly September-May with supplements as appropriate bv Harrisburg Branch AAUW hbgaauwnewsletter@gmail.com HarrisburgAAUW@gmail.com

> Editor: Carol Stark

AAUWHarrisburg.org

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,

hbgaauwnewsletter@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.