
the CONNECTION

december
2024



Our Annual Holiday Gathering

Saturday

December 14, 2024

beginning at 11:30 am

the Hostetter Enrichment Center at
Messiah Lifeways
100 Mt Allen Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



Special Guest,
Renaissance
Woman -
Bobbi
Carmitchell



Co-Chairs: Joan Swetz and Marcia Nye

details on pp. 2 - 3

All the Details for Our Annual Holiday Gathering

Please bring your favorite Sweet or Savory in sample sizes to share, and any gift (unwrapped) you wish to donate to the Harrisburg YWCA. The gift list is on page 3.

These will be transported to the “Y” after the event. The “Y” volunteers advise they need wrapping paper and bags, as well.

Beth Klein, our YWCA liaison, is in charge.

Please also bring serving utensils as appropriate. The Branch will provide plates, cutlery, etc., beverages, and seasonal decorations.

A Bit About Bobbi -

Local folksinger-songwriter Bobbi Carmitchell, familiar to many of us, will entertain, engage, and enlighten with songs from the Women’s Movement and perhaps a few seasonal tunes. Bobbi Carmitchell has played an active role in the women’s community of Central PA for over 45 years. Starting out in 1980, Bobbi was a member of the popular musical trio Wind and Wood, which had the honor of being the area’s first all women musical group. They quickly developed a large, loyal following which still to this day has deep roots in local social activism.

In the late 80’s, Bobbi set out on a successful solo career, and toured extensively throughout the United States and Canada up until the early 2000’s. With 7 recordings to her credit, her songwriting has been chosen for many compilations and has received airplay on countless occasions.

Around that time, Bobbi became interested in a different kind of writing, historical fiction, and is currently in the early draft stages of her first novel, *The Swim Lesson*. Through her extensive research for her book, she has uncovered many stories and songs of the early Feminist pioneers and is passionate about sharing what she has learned with anyone who will listen!



Directions to Hostetter Enrichment Center at Messiah/Lifeways

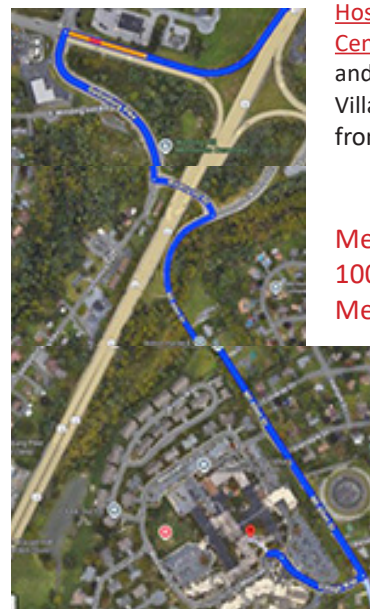
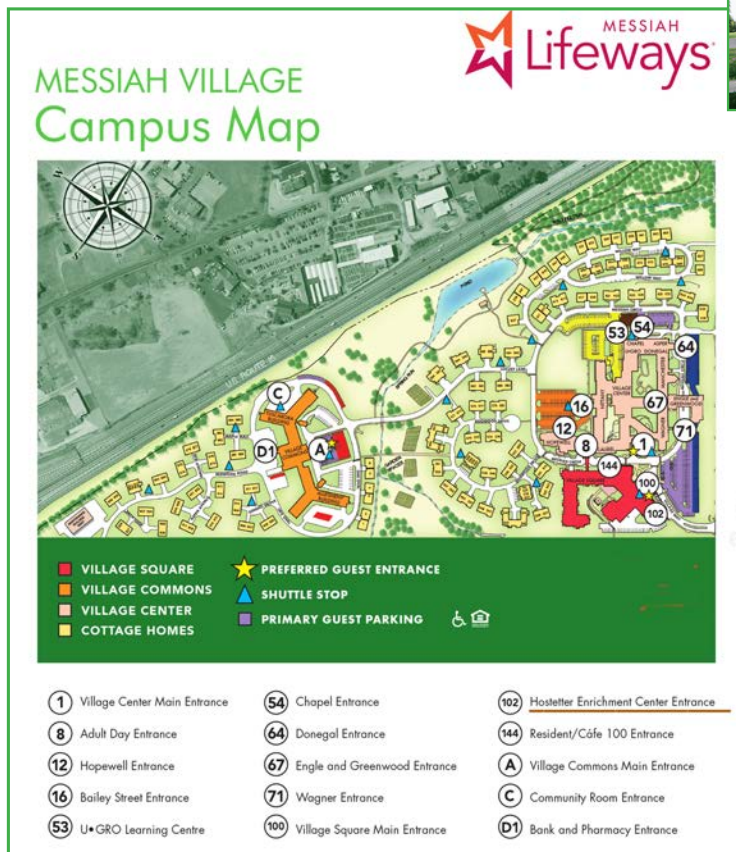
US-15 south toward Gettysburg
Take the Cumberland Pkwy exit toward Winding Hill Road for 449 ft
Turn left onto Gettysburg Pike - 0.2 mi
Turn left onto Winding Hill Rd - in 463 ft
Turn right onto Mt Allen Drive in 0.5 mi
Turn right onto Village Way - Continue straight

Destination will be on the right



Hostetter Enrichment Center, Lesh Atrium and Main Entrance to Village Square - view from parking.

Messiah Lifeways
100 Mt Allen Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



“artist’s rendering” - the blue line - of the swirl about of turns to get to Mt. Allen Road

The YWCA is requesting that the gifts be new, unopened, and not wrapped. They asked that we include gift bags with tissue paper, or gift wrapping, for each gift. At this special season, please consider a generous donation to this worthy cause.



YWCA Holiday Giving General Wish List

Bath

- Towels
- Washcloths

Clothing

- Underwear & socks (adults and children's sizes)
- Winter Coats

Cooking

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

Bedding

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

Grocery & Other

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

Day Care/Kids

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

Baby

- Diapers
- Wipes
- Diaper cream
- Baby food

Toiletries

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

Veterans

- Men's underwear
- Socks
- Shoes and work boots
- Coats
- Thermal long underwear
- Flashlights

Transport

- Bus passes
- Gas cards

Dining

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

Life Skills

- Notebooks & journals



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

Well, it's that time of year again when everyone is rushing to and fro in preparation for holiday gatherings with family and friends. Your AAUW branch members are also busy bustling about as they arrange for our annual holiday tea, when we fellowship with treasured friends, make new friends, share delicious dishes, and offer much needed, and appreciated, gifts to women at our local YWCA.

Our members have also been Involved with planning next year's January fireside chat at the lovely home of Marcia Hajduk to hear newer member, Connie Doebele, discuss the impact of reading on our lives, a subject near and dear to our hearts.

We are very blessed with so many brilliant, hard-working women who freely give of their time and talent for both our enrichment and for the benefit of others. So please make time to come out and support your AAUW friends - you won't be disappointed!

We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a new year filled with good health, peace, and happiness!
- MaryAnn & Kathy

PROMOTING OURSELVES

When we help another organization with an event - like the Midtown Scholar book sales or a voter registration - we have the opportunity to do some promoting for AAUW!

We have come up with a simple but direct design for t-shirts that could be worn to proudly show our vision of empowering women in all that we do, regardless of place.

As a beginning, we will have a limited supply of T-shirts available for sale at our December Gathering, emblazoned with the AAUW logo. The price of the shirts begins at \$22, depending on style and size. The V neck is available in greyed heather, and the crew neck comes



in white or blue (not shown), so bring your checkbook! If we run out, no worries as we will be placing an additional order in the near future!

Picture yourself in one of these! (another artist's rendering) So, come see the real thing!

Harrisburg Branch Donation Suggestions for 2024 - 2025

Beverly J. Smith Memorial Scholarship
AAUW Harrisburg Branch Members Memorial Scholarship
Sally C. Chamberlain Scholarship
STEM Scholarships offered by the Branch
AAUW Harrisburg Funds (for local initiatives)

Please annotate your check for the fund(s) intended and send to

AAUW Harrisburg Branch
c/o Eileen Carson, Finance Officer
1925 Green Street
Harrisburg pA 17102-2227

Each contribution helps us keep our initiatives on track toward meeting our philanthropic goals.

Culture Vultures Are On the Move

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.



11 Days 16 Meals

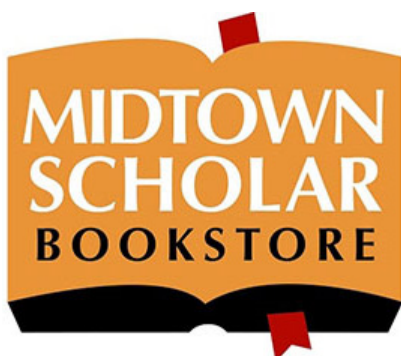


From the nautical beauty of Peggy's Cove to the rugged splendor of the Cabot Trail, the Maritimes will enchant you. Choose how you explore Lunenburg – at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic or on a locally guided walking tour. Partake in a PEI tradition with a supper of fresh lobster and mussels. Visit 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. Don't miss the rugged beaches, picturesque fishing villages, and rich seafaring history of Canada's amazing Maritime Provinces.

Essential Experiences

Explore interesting inventions at the Alexander Graham Bell Museum.

Learn a few handy Gaelic phrases and join in the fun of a "milling frolic."



A one-night-only holiday jazz performance

Friday, December 13th from 6pm-8:30pm.

Holiday Jazz Night returns to the Midtown Scholar this December, featuring Kirk Reese (piano) and Rick Hirsch (saxophone)! Join the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz at the Midtown Scholar Bookstore.

We'll have book browsing hours until 8:30pm, and the perfect live jazz music to compliment your holiday shopping.

This event is free and open to the public, and is in partnership with the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz.

January / February Event Meetings to Perk Up Our Winter

January 14, 2025 (Tuesday): 2:00 pm

weather date January, 16 (Thursday) 2:00 pm

Co-Chairs: Lee Johnson and Marcia Hajduk
Marcia Hajduk's home
4608 Custer Drive, Harrisburg PA 17110-3208

A Winter Fireside Chat—in the Afternoon!

Speaker: **Connie Doebele**

- The Impact of Reading on Our Lives



Every person has a different relationship with reading during their life.. But all of us are impacted in some way. Former C-SPAN BookTV Senior Executive Producer Connie Doebele talks about authors she has interviewed, the power of books in her life, and how that impact continues in her retired life in Harrisburg. Come with thoughts about books that changed your life, places that influenced your reading life, and authors who make reading informative and enjoyable for you.

February 23, 2025 (Sunday) 2:00 pm

Co-Chairs: Alice Kirchner and Lee Johnson
Susquehanna Art Museum
1401 North 3rd Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102

Speaker: **Alice Ann Schwab**

A Tour and Chat with Executive Director, Alice Anne Schwab



Susquehanna Art Museum turns 35 as an organization in 2024; The Marty and Tom Philips Art Center, the Museum's first permanent home, turns 10 in 2025. Come hear a bit of the Museum's history and see an exquisite exhibition of quilts from The American Folk Art Museum along with large-scale cross-stitch art by contemporary Palestinian artist Jordan Nassar.

Museum Executive Director, Alice Anne Schwab, looks forward to guiding you through this experience.

Note: An ever rotating eclectic set of exhibits recently featured pieces from the collection of Harrisburg Branch member Patricia L. Murray who served as one of the founders of the Susquehanna Art Museum (SAM).

And a Functional Request from the Board

It was decided at our November Board meeting to develop [an Advocacy Bag](#).

The purpose of an advocacy bag would be to have materials at the ready for members when representing AAUW in any public forum, such as rallies, tabling events with other organizations, etc.

As such, we are calling on members who may have [lanyards, pins, buttons, stickers identifying us as AAUW members](#) and would be willing to donate them to the cause. ***Please bring them to the Holiday Tea or give them to Kathy Gates as Public Policy VP, or any Board member.***

Opportunities To Dig Deeper Into Relevant Issues



Securing the Future: A Post-Election Conversation on Women's Economic Security

On **November 19, 2024**, AAUW sponsored a webinar on the path forward for women's economic security under the incoming Trump administration and the 119th Congress.

As the nation navigates a new political landscape, the webinar explored key issues such as workplace equity, reproductive rights, affordable childcare and paid family leave. Our expert panel discussed policy solutions to address these pressing challenges and analyzed the political outlook for advancing women's overall economic well-being in the coming years.

By the end of the recording, you will understand the impact of the changing political and economic landscape, how they impact your life and how you can build a stronger, more equitable future for women nationwide. Don't miss it!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ku1D3t6g1Lg>

The United States continues to experience the highest maternity mortality rate in the developed world. The House has passed the bipartisan H.R. 3838 bill! **We need the companion - Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2023 (S. 2415) to pass in the Senate before January 25, 2025.**



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, most deaths (58%) occur in women aged 25-34, and women aged 40-44 had the highest pregnancy-associated mortality ratio (PAMR). There were about 19 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births. The CDC, however, estimates that at least 80% of mater-

nal mortalities are preventable. Additionally, persistent disparities exist across key maternal and infant health indicators. Black and Native American women are 62% more likely to give birth prematurely, and their babies have a mortality rate double that of the white population.

The bipartisan Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2023 (S. 2415) would reauthorize federal support for state-based maternal mortality review committees, which review pregnancy-related deaths to identify causes and make recommendations to prevent future mortalities. The legislation would also require the CDC to work with the Health Resources and Services Administration to disseminate best practices to prevent maternal mortality to hospitals and other health care providers. **Please urge your senators and representative to co-sponsor and support the Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2023.**



M A R Y L A N D

Including the fully ratified ERA in the constitution would be a HUGE step in protecting everyone in this country. We've only got 55 days to make this happen during the current administration. **AAUW Maryland** would like to invite you to view the engaging 90-minute documentary **"Ratified"** - **December 1, 2024, at 2 pm.**

This movie shares the story of where we've been on the journey to ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and what we need to do moving forward. You'll learn the details of the work accomplished in Virginia, the last state to ratify in 2020. Sign up today for a free Kinema account, and then register to attend the **RATIFIED screening for AAUW**. The documentary will be followed by a brief panel discussion with Tonja Roberts-Brooks, Co-Founder and Outreach Director of Vote Equality, and Judy Carbone, President, AAUW Garrett, Maryland Branch (who is also a member of the Maryland Commission for Women). The panelists will help clarify the next steps in remaining days of this administration.



November 12, 2024 - AAUW Harrisburg members, some with dual membership, joined Harrisburg-Hershey Zonta at noon in the Capitol Rotunda for their "Zonta says 'NO'" to Violence Against Women campaign assemblage to show support for the initiative in protecting women's rights. This year's theme is *bringing awareness for the need for increasing cost and time served for violating PFA orders*. left - right Wanda Gabler, Carol Nechemias, Kathy Seidl, Lillian Grieco, Kathy Gates.

Carpe
Dieming
Around
Central PA

Now in its 57th year, the *Art of the State* exhibition is an annual juried exhibition held at The State Museum of Pennsylvania in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation. This year's panel of expert jurors reviewed and selected the 96 top-scoring works to be exhibited from more than 2,200 entries submitted by more than 600 artists from 28 counties across the State. It "offers a captivating glimpse into the Commonwealth's rich artistic heritage, featuring works that span painting, photography/digital media, craft, sculpture, and works on paper."

"Art of the State" is scheduled to be open to the public through Sunday, January 5, 2025.

We are excited to share that Branch member **Eileen Carson**'s digital photograph composite work "**Feeling Mellow**" is one of those selected for the exhibit. In case you can't get to the Museum, an excellent view of the print can be seen online at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/patrailsofhistory/53908735931/in/album-72177720319376645>



State Library Tour Moments - more on page 9



After tour dinner at El Sol. l-r: Kathy Seidl, Carol Buskirk, Dorothy Brown, Phyllis Skok, Beth Klein, Barb Warfel and her guest, Carol Nechemias, Chris Zuzack, and Cindy Dlugolecki.



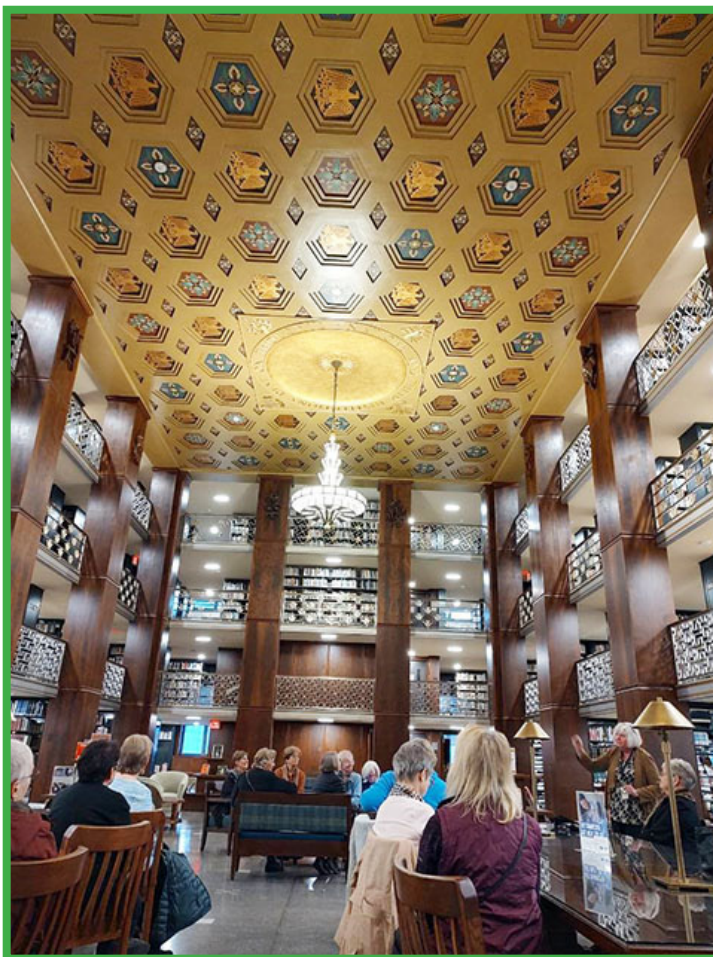
... and here they are, two per table in the main reading room!



Kate Elkins of the Carlisle branch worked on restoring some of the lamps that are in the State Library of Pennsylvania. If any of the visitors with the Harrisburg branch tour of 11.14.24 took other photos where these lamps were displayed, please send them to Kathy Seidl at kseidl1627@gmail.com to forward them on to Katy for her collection. Above is a copy of the lamp, but they have a real shine to them on those tables.

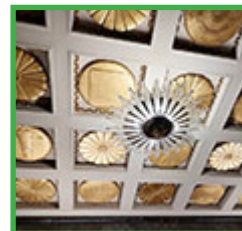
Excellent work, Katy!

“Your State Library of Pennsylvania: Your Stories” Our Private Tour - November 14, 2024



Kathy Hale, the Supervisor for Public Services and U.S. Government Documents Librarian, started our tour in the beautifully restored multilevel reading room. As she wowed our substantial turn out of members and guests with some of the innumerable little known facts about the library, she pointed to the stunning ceiling detail and the different railing designs on each level of the stacks.

Even the ceiling of the foyer was meticulously cleaned and restored.



Rare Collections

Librarian Michael Lear (right) took us through the lower level exhibits of rare books and molds for the exterior of the building (found during restoration), ending in the rare collections viewing room area where he had laid out a display of unique books and early typing equipment. In honor of Benjamin Franklin, for



establishing the first lending library in America, a series of stained glass faux windows reflecting Ben's life highlights were commissioned to bank the far wall of the area. Guests were able to spend the rest of the tour time perusing the unique holdings array- complete with magnifying glasses.

Ellen Shenk, (left) the Community Engagement Librarian, assisted with all parts of the tour, answering questions as needed. Here with Kathy Bard, Erica Meloy, Kathleen

Gorak. and Marcia Nye. Chris Zuzack and Cindy Dlugolecki in the background discuss one of the displays.



Carolyn Byron and guest and Wanda Gabler are intent on deciphering a text.



Elevator door detail.



Right: Michael Lear discusses procurement strategies with Marcia Nye, Phyllis Skok, Carol Nechemias, Lee Johnson and Jane Pomerantz



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

Dine Around

Contact: **Carol Buskirk** cmbuskirk@verizon.net

The 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 for the second Wednesday and lunches on the fourth Wednesday. Members take turns hosting, which involves contacting members by e-mail, making reservations with a restaurant (your choice or one suggested by the group), and being there.

*** 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.

There is not a meeting planned for December.

January 16, 2025 *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan . Hosted and reviewed by Helen Khanzhina

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 .

There is not a meeting planned for December.

January 9, 2025 *Breaking Through* by Katalin Kariko , Hosted and reviewed by Lee Johnson

Please contact Chris for location information.

Walking Group

Contact: **Lee Johnson** lee6646@verizon.net

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.

Exploring Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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.

This group is currently on hiatus. If you are interested in exploring these issues, please contact the branch board at

HarrisburgAAUW@gmail.com

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: **January 9, 2025**

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

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by

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hbgaauwnewsletter@gmail.com
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:

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.