APRIL 2025 the





CONNECTION



HERE IT COMES -AMERICA 250

Our own Dr. Carol Nechemias preps us for a Huge Year!

We are approaching a significant anniversary--the 250th anniversary of American independence. Although the year 2026 represents the apex of celebrations, centering on July 4th, major events focused

on the revolutionary era are already under way, particularly in Boston where reenactments of Paul Revere's ride are among a myriad of programs kicking off this month. Not to be outdone, the city of Philadelphia initiates a full year of commemorative observances this October by marking the birth of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marines. Diverse festivities on the Delaware River, estimated to bring in 300,000 tourists, center around a parade of ships, ship tours, flyovers, concerts, veterans' gatherings, and more. In 2026, sports fans will enjoy a feast of opportunities, as Philadelphia hosts NCAA March Madness games, six World Soccer Cup matches, the All-Star Baseball Game, and a PGA Championship.

What sort of a birthday bash do we want? How do previous anniversary commemorations in 1776, 1926, and 1976 inform us about the choices we make, about pitfalls and successes, about enduring legacies? How do we honor the ideals on which this country was founded? What are the challenges of promoting unity and patriotism in an era of deep partisan divide? What stories from the past will we proudly relate, and which will we downplay or ignore? How wide do we throw the tapestry of America? Do we include images of New Mexican pueblos alongside the Statue of Liberty? What societal elements do we highlight? American innovation and invention? American culture and the arts? Sports? Agricultural and manufacturing prowess? Our Constitutional system?

The issue of who organizes the celebration particularly shows the impact of the partisan divide. At the federal level, President Trump started planning for America 250 in his first administration; that framework got dumped by President Biden, who initiated his own planning, only for that to largely end with Trump's second administration and the resurrection of ideas from his past governance. Unfortunately, the effort smacks of the Abbott and Costello comedy routine, "Who's on First."

At the same time, many states and localities have marshalled resources and fashioned ambitious programs that unleash American creativity. This is occurring especially in the prime locations of revolutionary activity, Philadelphia, Boston, New York, and

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025 sign in at 6:00, speaker at 6:30 pm

at Foundation Hall of the New Cumberland Library 498 9th Street, New Cumberland PA 17070 Co-Chairs: Carol Nechemias & Anita McCarthy



United States Semiguincentennial

The United States Semiquincentennial,[a] also called the Bisesquicentennial, the Sestercentennial, or the Quarter Millennial, will be the 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence.

Charleston, along with their respective states. These localities draw on a bottom up as well as a top-down strategy, encouraging widespread participation from neigh borhoods, museums, corporations, and philanthropic organizations. The commitment of state and local resources in these instances is premised on the expectation that tourism will prove a moneymaker, generating revenues far exceeding investments.

We will especially direct attention to pending events in Philly, many of which you may wish to attend--a block buster exhibit at the Museum of the American Revolution, a TED democracy flagship event, an arts and culture festival, and much more.

- Carol N.

April Message from Our Co-Presidents MaryAnn Daniels and Kathy Seidl

Spring has sprung and what a beautiful world it is! Daffodils are blooming and birds are chirping as the days grow warm and longer. It is fitting in this season of flowering and growth that we celebrate both Earth Day, on April 22nd, and National Arbor Day, on April 25th. Both of these observances promote environmental protection and conservation, policies that are foundational to tackling the critical issue of escalating climate change. The rapidity of negative impacts to our natural world as a direct result of man's destruction of our shared environment is affecting us all. It particularly affects those most economically disadvantaged and marginalized, including women and children, and will increasingly put our planet and very existence in jeopardy.

Therefore, your support and preservation of the environment, our national parks and forests, clean air and water, to name just a few, is crucial to leaving a lasting legacy to future generations. And don't forget to take time to smell the proverbial roses by getting outside to enjoy a walk in one of our many local parks and recreational areas, perhaps even joining our branch's walking group.

MaryAnn and Kathy



The Walking Group made it into the March '25 edition of **the Burg**, p.64. Marcia Nye, Kathy Bard, and Lee Johnson are in the lead.



National Arbor Day is celebrated every year on the last Friday in April, which is the 25th for 2025.

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You Are Invited to Attend the AAUW Harrisburg Annual Spring Luncheon



Since we have had requests from our avid readers, a version of the AAUW fund raiser Book Sale we often have during our holiday tea will be held at the luncheon. You are invited to bring two or three books in good condition with you to be sold at the luncheon. A table will be set up for your contributions, inventory perusal, and purchases.

Event Schedule
Sign In & Social 11:15 am
Seating at 11:45 am
Lunch will be Served promptly at
Noon
Speakers 12:45 pm
Business Meeting with
Branch Honorees
& Installation of Officers - 1:30 pm

CALL LINE OF

Reservation deadline is April 16, 2025.

Please submit form with your check for \$38.00 per reservation, payable to **AAUW HBG Branch** and mail to

Eileen Carson, Finance Officer 1925 Green Street Harrisburg PA 17102-2227

#	of Luncheon Reservations .	Amount Enclosed. I	eel free to bring a friend
Name			
	ber		
Plated Luncl	h - indicate your selection		
Salmo	on with beurre blanc & fresh basil		
Roasto	ed Mushroom Ravioli with creamy	marsala onion sauce	
	both entrees served wit	h a chef's salad and veget	ables; beverages
	dessert - chocolate cake	!	
A cash bar v	vill be available.		

2025-2026 Nominations and Elections

The 2025 Nominating Committee consisting of Christine Zuzack and Jane Pomerantz - Co-Chairs, Kathryn Bard, Lillian Grieco, and Barbara Passeri Warfel, solicited recommendations for individuals who might be interested in serving the Harrisburg Branch as an officer on the Executive Committee for the 2025-2026 program year.

Nominations were secured for every position, with the exception of President-Elect.

The vote of the membership for the election of officers will take place at the annual meeting on

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at the Foundation Hall of the New Cumberland Library at the conclusion of that evening's program.

We thank these members for their willingness to serve in leadership positions to keep our Branch strong and moving forward.

The individual nominees are as follows:

Co-Presidents	MaryAnn Daniels and Kathy Seidl
President-Elect	Open
Program Vice President	Joan Swetz
Finance Officer	Eileen Carson
Membership Co-Vice Presidents	Diane Shoop and Barbara Warfel
Co-Secretaries	Cindy Dlugolecki and Alice Kirchner
2026 Nominating Committee	MaryAnn Daniels and Kathy Seidl - Co-Chair
	Lillian Grieco, Lee Johnson,
	and Erica Voss Meloy





The Nominating Committee Proudly Presents the Executive Committee Slate of Officers for 2025 - 2026

This year's Nominating Committee of Christine Zuzack and Jane Pomerantz, Co-Chairs; Kathryn Bard, Lillian Grieco,

and Barbara Passeri-Warfel, thank this group of Branch members for volunteering their time to lead the Harrisburg Branch in continuing to move forward in the work for equity for women and girls.

Co-Presidents - MaryAnn Daniels and Kathy Seidl Program Vice President - Joan Swetz Membership Co-Vice Presidents - Diane Shoop & Barbara Warfel Finance Officer - Eileen Carson Co-Secretaries - Cindy Dlugolecki & Alice Kirchner

MaryAnn Daniels, one of our returning Co-Presidents, graduated from Elizabethtown College in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Admin-istration. After thirty years of service, she retired in 2016 from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agen¬cvwhere she was Director of the IT Project Management Office. Her many community involvements include being active in her church, singing with the Hummelstown Community Singers, and volunteering as an usher at the Hershey Theater. She enjoys many aspects of the great outdoors - bicycling on rail trails, kayaking, physical fitness classes at her local gym, golfing, and hiking. Her interests also take her traveling in the US and abroad. And, along with many of our members, she enjoys reading. MaryAnn is part of our East Shore contingency, residing in Harrisburg with her husband of 48 years. They share one son.

Joan Swetz - Program Vice President -recalls "my AAUW membership goes back to 1974 when Linda Robertson was President." AAUW member Joan Bowers introduced her to AAUW 50 years ago by inviting her and her then 6-year-old daughter to an AAUW program for children. Joan remembers being very impressed with women who were members. "They were so self-confident, and professional." As a content stay-at-home mother, AAUW membership provided Joan with an intellectually and socially fulfilling outlet. Joan founded Chefs at Home and still serves as the contact person. She has held several positions through the years, and has elected to again head what she praises as "a great committee" as **Program Vice-President.** "I welcome your ideas and suggestions so as to continue the vibrant and informative meetings that are a hallmark of AAUW Harrisburg." Joan has a BS in Nursing from Villanova University. She met her husband, Frank, while serving as a nurse in the Peace Corps in Malaysia during 1964-66. Frank's job teaching at the 2 year old Capital Campus (now PS Hbg) brought them to HarrisburgMy down-sizing efforts have brought me to Messiah Village, in the company of a miniAAUW Branch membership. "I continue to enjoy reading, exploring new experiences and places and trying to make the most of Carpe Diem!!! each day.

PSA: Any and all ideas and suggestions for the 2025-26 program year would be more than welcome. Contact me: jswetz3@yahoo.com

MaryAnn and Kathy represented us at the First AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference: September 27-29, 2024. - seen here with AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell.



Kathy Seidl joins MaryAnn in reprising her role as Co-President. A woman who inspired women Kathy's great Aunt Hilda was a member of AAUW and piqued her interest in the organization many years ago. The second woman who successfully inspired her to join AAUW was our very own, the late Diane Hain. Kathy immediately became active, serving on the Pro-gram Planning Committee and for 2 years as Co-Membership Chair with MaryAnn. She Kathy was employed by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for 20 years. Her employment there began in 1999 after she completed her degree in Public Policy at Penn State University. Kathy's love for the legislature surfaced in her senior year at Penn State when she was accepted into the House Bipartisan Management Committee's legislative fellowship program. Kathy went on to complete her graduate degree at Penn State, very proud to have graduated with a 4.0 while working for a standing committee of the House as a Research Analyst. Kathy retired in November of 2019 but remains involved in politics and currently serves on the Governor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities. Kathy is most proud of her three boys and three grandsons and is spending as much retirement time as possible with them, as well as traveling, bike riding, reading and learning to play the piano!

Joan also opts for the Culture Vultures day trips - here with Rosemary Cahill to her right at Winterthur.

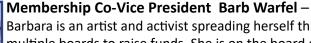


Joan Swetz with Malaysian children circa 1964-66 during her Peace Corps stint.



Barb's mixed media exhibit brought out the crowds. Below she explains a technique to Marcia Nye and Lee Johnson

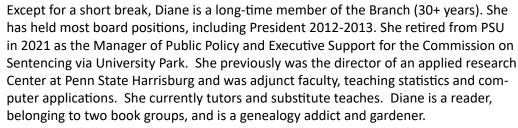




Barbara is an artist and activist spreading herself thin working with multiple boards to raise funds. She is on the board of the Art Association of Harrisburg working towards the spring gala fundraiser in April. She is very active with the Friends of the New Cumberland Library working on a variety of fundraising activities including their fabulous Spring Plant Sale. She is also active with Arts on the Square at Market Square Presbyterian Church. She recently had a large showing of her painting, drawings, and wall hangings calling the exhibit "Eclectic Mix" which was very well received. She has held multiple board positions in AAUW Har-

risburg including Co-President and continues to organize Culture Vulture travel for the Branch since joining in 2000.

Membership Co-Vice President Diane Shoop –

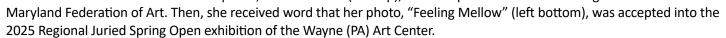


Diane was our go-to person in bringing the Branch into the 21st Century by creating our gmail accounts and the data sheets we use to track and update our membership at our local level - tasks she undertook when she was Dues Chair. Now she plunges head on into tackling the challenges to keep us on track in an Internet world with the changes National has made in our use of our personal accounts at the national level.



Eileen Carson has volunteered to continue as the Branch's Financial Officer. She earned a BS degree from Duquesne University and a Master of Public Management from Carnegie Mellon University. She spent the majority of her working career in Human Services with the

PA Department of Public Welfare, the Dauphin County Area Agency on Aging, and ending with the PA Association of Area Agencies on Aging. Upon retirement, Eileen decided to expand on a previous hobby in photography with courses at HACC, networking with camera clubs, and other educational endeavors in photography. Her photographic images have been accepted in juried exhibitions locally, nationally and internationally including the Art Association of Harrisburg, Lebanon Valley College, Central PA Festival of the Arts, the PA Center for Photography, and the Delaplaine Arts Center. She has exhibited as a one-artist show with the Historic Harrisburg Association as well. Very recently, she received word that her photo, "Self-Portrait" (left top), was accepted into the "Reflecting 2025" exhibition of the





Cindy Dlugolecki- Co-Secretary

Cindy took over welcome duties (as well as play wrighting) at a live reading at Mt.Gretna.

Cindy holds a BS in Education, English & Speech from Shippensburg University and an MA in Creative Writing from Wilkes University. - I grew up in western Pennsylvania, Somerset, snow capital of PA. I met my husband Paul at Shippensburg University when it was still known as Shippensburg State College. We have lived in Mechanicsburg and raised our four daughters here since 1974. Although I'm not a native to Mechanicsburg, the town has become my home and owns my heart. I love the history of the town and have served on the boards of the Mechanicsburg Museum Association and Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg. I'm a retired English and Creative Writing teacher (Trinity High School) and spend a lot of time researching and writing plays. My most recent endeavor is a musical about the Constitutional Convention entitled, QUILL-ADELPHIA.



"I became an AAUW member in 2022, one of the best decisions of my adult life. Another good decision was saying "yes" when I was asked to be co-secretary two years ago. It was a wonderful way to get to know the AAUW women beyond monthly meetings. Friendships have led to shared meals and fun cultural experiences. Please say "yes" to any office or committee opportunity that calls your name!'



Cindy recently posted "Fantastic news! At the invitation of the Parkway Central Library in Philadelphia, my VIOLET OAKLEY UN-VEILED will be performed and the haunting music of Chris Purcell will be heard on Saturday, June 7, at 2 pm. All are welcome to see Stephanie Via reprise her role as Villa Nova's "red rose girl." Violet looks forward to returning to Philly!" We all remember what an exceptional experience it was to have Cindy, Stephanie an Co. present *Violet* for out Branch 100th Anniversary.

Cindy shares her passion for the art of the theater at every chance she gets. This past August, she traveled to NYC with branch members Erica Voss Meloy, Carol Nechemias, Chris Zuzack, and Kathy Seidl to see Suffs on Broadway.





Co-Secretary - 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.

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. I retired for my 2nd (and last) time in June 2022.

Blessed to have had the unexpected and fulfilling experience of my senior living / healthcare phase, I'm focused 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. I'm an active volunteer with Greenlight Operation. I joined AAUW Harrisburg mid-year 2024 and am on the Program Committee and enjoying the Non-Fiction Book Group and am looking forward to serving on the Executive Board as Alice was our liaison for the awe in-Co-Secretary with Cindy.



spiring February tour of the Susquehanna Art Museum.

MaryAnn Daniels Co-President Katherine Seidl Co-President Diane Shoop Membership Co-Vice President Barbara Passeri Warfel Membership Co-Vice President

















Joan Swetz Program Vice President Eileen Carson Finance Officer Cindy Dlugolecki Co-Secretary Alice Kirchner Co-Secretary

Updates & Events With PA and National

Pennsylvania has been asked to host the **2026 Atlantic Regional Conference.** From our work in Richmond, we know this will be a big job, but we are supported by the participating states. We are developing an organizational structure for the conference to avoid an overload on our Pennsylvania volunteers. Stay Tuned!!



Planning Is Underway for AAUW PA's Summer 2025 Retreat

Based on the responses to inquiries to our local branches on specific topics their members would like to see covered, the top topic is *public policy and advocacy*. Many raised concerns about the impact of the recent election on women's issues, how changes in the political climate will impact our advocacy efforts, and how to engage members in political advocacy. Another key topic was *membership*, particularly focusing on strategies to attract young members. A third area of interest was *leadership*, with concerns raised about the workload for leaders, and strategies for attracting new leaders, and leadership succession.

Rest assured, we are designing programming that incorporates this valuable input, focusing on three key objectives for the retreat:

- increasing engagement with mission
- lowering the average age of new members
- identifying the right leaders.

Stay tuned for program details coming soon!

Please keep an eye on the Keystoner newsletter and your email for updates on retreat speakers, programs and activities.



We are looking forward to having good representation from all branches at the retreat!

For now, please mark your calendars to reserve Saturday, June 28, 2025

the retreat will take place at the

Wyndham Garden State College 310 Elks Club Road, Boalsburg PA

16827

- Saturday, June 28, 2025
- it will feature a full program, luncheon, and guest speaker(s);



- a social reception is planned for Friday evening;
- a room block has been arranged at the Wyndham Garden for those arriving on Friday
- there also will be options for post-retreat excursions on

Dear AAUW Pennsylvania Members,

Much of what we value has been shaken by the unrelenting daily attacks on equity and higher education. I want to assure you that AAUW is closely monitoring these assaults and their impact on our mission. Higher education is key to the advancement of women and girls and, as such, it has been a cornerstone of our work though scholarships, fellowships, and leadership conferences.

AAUW and AAUW PA know that our members want to help, and many are looking for greater understanding about ways they can actively support AAUW's efforts. Opportunities have just been launched by AAUW National Please do your best to keep informed about this rapidly changing landscape by attending the

webinars being offered. - see p10..

Consider supporting AAUW's efforts through the new funds detailed on p.10.

If I can answer or seek answers for your questions or you simply wish to pass along a comment or suggestion, please email me. We need our members to stand and support our organization and its mission now more than ever.

With gratitude and pride, for all you do, Cindy Hall President, AAUW Pennsylvania Changing the climate for women and girls

https://aauw-pa.aauw.ne aauwpa.president@gmail.com





from national office

From Meghan Kissell
AAUW National Senior Director,
Policy & Member Advocacy

As you have seen in the news, President Trump signed an Executive Order intended to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education. You can find AAUW's press



release below.* This comes on the heels of a number of attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion, especially in higher education.

- First, National is holding a series of web meetings

 Defending Equity: Strengthening Our Collective
 Impact Series. The goal of the series is to help folks
 cut through the confusion and learn more about
 actionable ways we can effect change in the current
 environment. The dates and registration information
 ae on p.
- Second, we encourage you to share our alert, calling on Congress to oppose any additional attacks on higher education.

AAUW urges Congress to speak out against this move and protect the Department from any further cuts that could hinder enforcement of federal civil rights laws protecting students and preserving access to higher education. The cost of inaction is too high, and the futures of millions of students — especially those from marginalized communities — hang in the balance.

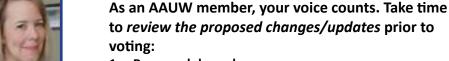
*AAUW Condemns Executive Order to Dismantle the U.S. Department of Education - March 20, 2025

Action Jeopardizes Students' Futures; Congress Should Not Allow Further Cuts and Take Immediate Action to Protect Students

Washington, D.C. — The American Association of University Women (AAUW) unequivocally condemns President Trump's executive order "Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities" dismantling the U.S. Department of Education.

"This reckless and shortsighted action threatens to gut vital protections that ensure equal access to higher education and will have devastating consequences for students — especially women, students of color, and those from low-income backgrounds — who rely on federal oversight for their right to an equitable education," said Gloria L.

Blackwell, CEO of AAUW. "Eliminating the Department of Education would decimate federal civil rights enforcement, slash protections against gender-based discrimination, and roll back decades of progress toward making higher education accessible and affordable. This decision is not about streamlining government; it is about stripping students of their rights and futures."



- 1. Proposed dues changes
- 2. Proposed changes to the AAUW national bylaws
- 3. Proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities

Why it matters: The Board of Directors is considering a change to AAUW member dues to help meet rising costs. AAUW member dues have not kept pace with the cost of supporting AAUW's membership and the Board will consider a \$5 per year increase in dues from 2025-2029. This dues change supports AAUW's commitment to financial sustainability, the financial strength of the national office and our ability to support branches and states.

To review the proposed bylaws amendments, sign in to the national website - aauw.org in order to gain access to and click on individual items under: https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/national-election/

FYI: Under Dues Change Frequently Asked Questions, the current proposed chart of updated dues is

April 1, 2025 - \$77 April 1, 2028 - \$92 April 1, 2026 - \$82 April 1, 2029 - \$97 April 1, 2027 - \$87

If you have questions, please review the FAQ or email me at wolfes@aauw.org.

In solidarity, Shannon Wolfe Managing Director & Chief of Staff



Consequences of this action may include:

- Low-income students may lose vital federal financial aid that makes it possible to earn their degrees;
- Survivors of sexual harassment and assault on campus may see more Title IX cases dismissed and drastically weakened pathways to justice;
- Students with disabilities could be left without critical safeguards to protect and enforce their rights in schools.
- LGBTQ+ students who experience harassment and discrimination could face unsafe environments without their schools being held accountable;
- Student loan borrowers may be more vulnerable to abuse by predatory for-profit colleges and noncompliant servicers while facing unaffordable repayments;

National series of web meetings -

Defending Equity: Strengthening Our Collective Impact Series *8

AAUW Advocacy Strategies for In-District Meetings

April 8 | 7:00 p.m. ET Registration Required:

Face-to-face advocacy can drive real change. This session will guide members on how to set up in-district meetings with members of Congress, maximize town hall participation, and effectively use key talking points during the upcoming April congressional recess. Learn how to make your voice heard.

Funding Futures: Understanding Changes to Sex and Gender-Based Scholarship Programs

April 15 | 7:00 p.m. ET Registration Required:

Navigating legal changes to sex-based scholarships can be complex. This session will provide guidance for AAUW branches on how to administer scholarships in compliance with evolving regulations while staying true to our mission of advancing education for women and girls.

New Funds – Defend Higher Education and Public Policy Fund – both now live on our donation page: https://my.aauw.org/donation-product-detail

4513 - Defend Higher Education

The Defend Higher Education Fund will enable AAUW to elevate the critical higher education issues impacting women; mobilize advocates across the country; provide strategic resources to students, staff, and faculty on campus; and fuel investments in the infrastructure and technology necessary to move our mission forward. Your support ensures AAUW can effectively fight on behalf of women on campuses across the country and ensure that AAUW remains a trusted and powerful voice for equity.

- ** We are waiting for inks to these previously aired webinars:
- Session 1- AAUW: Standing Strong Against Attacks on Equity in Education - from March 26, 2025
- Session 2- Building A Stronger AAUW
 from April 1, 2025

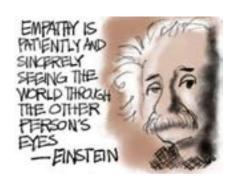
4337- Public Policy Fund

The Public Policy Fund supports the advancement of AAUW's Public Policy Principles and Priorities. AAUW is focused on increasing the impact of our Action Network through growing the number of advocates across the country and providing timely, accurate, and actionable information about our key issues. Supporting this fund ensures we have the critical funding necessary to take swift and strategic action when the rights and freedoms of women and girls are under attack.

Katrina Sun Breese, AAUW National Senior Director of Institutional Advancement







Education Comes in Many Situations
- Just An Uplifting Anecdote to Wrap Up

Women's History

Month

In 1971, 20-year-old Caroline "Cara" Peters was fired just four hours on the job as a wildland firefighter, not because she couldn't do the work, but because the agency noted



they couldn't provide separate accommodations for women on the fireline. Cara was told if she could assemble 12 suitable candidates, they would begin a pilot program to test their strength and endurance. She returned with 23 women, and they became the first all-female firefighting crew with the Bureau of Land Management Fire, fighting fires in Alaska for two years.

Today, women continue to break barriers in fire management, serving across all levels and agencies in wildland fire management.

Thank you to BLM Alaska Fire Service for sharing this story! #WomensHistoryMonth

AAUW Harrisburg Fortuitous Bits & Pieces

AAUW FUNDS CHAIR for the Harrisburg Branch is now open:

Unlike most of our other chair positions, the AAUW Funds Chair's responsibilities follow the calendar year - January through December - with final submissions tallied with the national office at the end of the year. Between local money raising, individual contributions to national in the Harrisburg branch's name, and a lump sum set aside in the budget, we were able to donate a total of \$2,000. this year. Karen Cullings has served us well and we thank her for her time and effort in exploring initiatives to raise monies for our conribution to the national effort as well as local projects. We are now in need of a member interested in exploring creative ideas for our 2025 Funds campaign.

Are you up to the challenge?

Contact Kathy Seidl and MaryAnn Daniels at HarrisburgAAUW@gmail.com

May 28 -May 30, 2025 College Park, Maryland



The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) - what is it? why is it? NCCWSL unites college womxn and gender non-conforming students from across the nation for a transformative experience in leadership development, networking, and inspiration. This event provides a welcoming and empowering space to build leadership skills, connect with peers, and find inspiration to drive change.

Through engaging workshops and hands-on activities, NCCWSL challenges and inspires attendees to make meaningful impacts on their campuses and communities long after the conference ends.

Do you have anyone you would like to recommend?

Here Come the T-Shirts...They will be on display at Upcoming Meetings

Style	Color	Size S/M/L/XL	Sibe XXL/XXXL	Quantity	Unit Price S/M/L/XL	Price XXL	Unit Price XXXII.	Total Amount
crew neck	light blue				\$22.00	\$24.50	\$25.50	
	white	_			\$22.00	\$24.50	\$25.50	
	sport gray	_		-	\$22.00	\$24.50	\$25.50	
Vneck	sport gray	-			\$22.00	\$24.50	\$25.50	
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Bring
cash
or
check made
out to
AAUW
Harrisburg

Some sizes available in crew neck to take home. Orders will be taken for others.

Culture Vultures On the Move

Contact Barb Passeri-Warfel warfelb@yahoo.com

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

Departing September 14, 2025 - Contact Barbara Warfel for more specific details and an

E-mail brochure <u>warfelb@yahoo.com</u>

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. 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.

brochure link is http

https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1277117



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

MONTREAL/QUEBEC AND THE 1000 ISLANDS OF NEW YORK

August 4 -9, 2025

Travel with Wolf's Bus Company on this 6-day tour through the 1000 Islands to Canada's Quebec City. Visit Boldt Castle and Singer Castle, enjoy a guided tour of Quebec City, a scenic cruise, a day on your own in Old Quebec and visit Notre Dame in Montreal.

A valid Passport or Passport Card is Required.









top I-r: Boldt Castle, St.Lawrence sightseeing cruise bottom I-r: Notre-Dame Basilica, Singer Castle

Itinerary in Brief:

Day 1 - Alexandria Bay/Thousand Islands - Boldt Castle

Day 2 - Quebec City, Hotel Palace Royal& self tour of Downtown Quebec

Day 3 - guided tour of Quebec City, sightsee ing cruise on the St. Lawrence River

Day 4 - Old Quebec on your own

Day 5 - self-guided tour of the Notre-Dame Basilica, Montreal; depart - Alexandria Bay, Riveredge Resort of final night. Dinner is included

Day 6 - narrated cruise to Dark Island for tour - Singer Castle. Please Note: Singer Castle is not Handicap Accessible, no walkers are permitted. Back to Alexandria Bay for trip home



https://tourwolf.com/Tour/MontrealQuebec-The-1000-Islands-of-New-York/DepartureDates

Events & Actions With Like Minded Entities

Equal Pay Day March 5, 2025 - Review

Kathy Seidl and Kathy Gates attended the Equal Pay Rally held at the Pennsylvania Capitol on March 17th. They then visited the offices of several representatives of Dauphin, Cumberland and York Counties to obtain their support for House Bills 630 and 560. Rep. Nate Davidson, who represents the 103rd Legislative District, has signed on to the bills as a cosponsor at our request.

We are asking, if you are so inclined, to call your representative to request they also sign on to the bills. The Members we contacted and their responses are as follows:

Nate Davidson, 717-783-9342 He signed on as a cosponsor to both bills. You can call to thank him.

Justin Fleming, 717-772-0674 He is not a cosponsor. We spoke to him briefly. He promised to review the bills. He said he typically signs on to legislation when it is on second consideration. Encourage him to sign on NOW! It shows support.

Dave Madsen, 717-772-2362 We left a letter and cards. Please call to encourage him to sign on to both bills. **Thomas Mehaffie**, 717-787-2684 We left a letter and cards. Please call to encourage him to sign on to both bills. **Sheryl Delozier**, 717-783-5282. We left a letter and cards. Barb Warfel has contacted her to request that she support equal pay legislation. Please continue contacts and request that she sign on to both bills.

Thomas Katz, 717-783-2063. We left a letter and cards. Please contact and ask that he sign on to both bills. Marc Anderson, 717-783-8783 We left a letter and cards. Please contact and ask that he sign on to both bills. Joseph Orsie, 717-705-7167 We left a letter and cards. Please contact and ask that he sign on to both bills If you are not sure who your legislator is, you may go to www.legis.state.pa.us and click on the link

Find My Legislator. Please let MaryAnn Daniels or Kathy Gates know if you have any positive feedback.

Copy of letter left for legislators is on

p.14.





left: Sandra Miller, AAUW PA Public Policy Chair; Ann Pehle, AAUW PA College/University Liaison; Katherine Seidl, AAUW Harrisburg Co-President; Kathy Gates, AAUW Harrisburg Public Policy Chair.

near left: Kathy Gates and Kathy Seidl get ready to visit our legislators.

The *Family Care Coalition is* thrilled the Pennsylvania House Labor & Industry Committee voted in favor on Tuesday, March 18, of moving the Family Care Act: Putting Pennsylvania Families and Small Businesses First (HB200) out of committee.

The Coalition thanks Chairman Jason Dawkins for putting the Family Care



Act up for a vote and legislative champions Rep. Dan Miller (D-Allegheny), Rep. Jennifer O'Mara (D-Delaware), Rep. Lindsay Powell (D-Allegheny), Rep. Natalie Mihalek (R-Allegheny, Washington) and Rep. KC Tomlinson (R-Bucks), for leading the bipartisan effort to bring Pennsylvania one step closer to making paid family and medical leave a reality for people across the Commonwealth. (March 19, 2025)



March 17, 2025

Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly Capitol Complex Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mombers of the Peinnsylvania Constsi Assembly.

I am enting to you on behalf of the American Association of University Vitomen (AAUM), a national nonprofit organization with 170,000 members, including those in the Harristonic branch representing Desphin, York, and Combertant countries. We are reaching out to urge your auggrount for House Bist 500 and 530, which are proofs posses of legislation aimed at promoting equal pay for all Principleshares.

Despite the advancements we have made in various sectors, the issue of equal pay remains a significant challengs. Women in Pennsylvania, especially women of color, continue to earn less than their male counterparts for the sales work. This wage gap not only affects individuals and femilies but also impedes concernic growth and social progress.

House Bit 560 seeks to amend the Equal Pay Law by enhancing penalties for wage discrimination and ensuring that employees can openly discuss their wages without fear of retailation. This transparency is essential in identifying and addressing pay disparties.

House Bill 630 aims to close the wage gap by prohibiting employers from seeking the salary histories of prospective employees. This practice often perpetuates wage inequality by basing new salaries on historically lower wages rather than on the value of the job itself and the qualifications of the candidate.

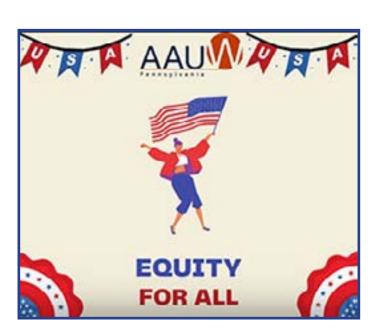
The exactment of these bills would represent a significant step towards achieving pay equity in Pennsylvania. It would send a powerful message that our state values fairness and is committed to providing equal opportunities for all its residents.

We believe that every flerosylvanian deserves equitable compensation for their work, and the passage of HB 550 and HB 501 is outcoid, in making this a reality. We respectfully ask you to support these bills and advocate for their selft passage.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your support in promoting equal pay and advancing the economic security of all Pennaylvanians.

Sincerely

Kathy Seidl & MaryAnn Daniela, Copresidents Kathy Gabes, Public Policy Chair AAUW Harrisburg Branch Email: HarrisburgAAUW@gmail.com





Letter to the Editor: Opposing Cuts to the Federal Department of Education

We are writing to express our profound opposition to the proposed cuts to the federal Department of Education. These reductions will have devastating effects on our nation's education system, particularly impacting enuilal programs under Titles I, II, and III, as well as the individuals with Disabilities Education Art ILDE A.1.

Titles I, II, and III serve as the bedrock of support for low-income students, professional development for trachers, and language instruction for English learners. The proposed budget cut's would severely undermine these programs, stripping away vital resources that help bridge educational disparities and promote equity. Tatle I provides excertial funding to schools serving low-income communities, emuring that all children, regardless of their socioeconomic status, receive a quality education. Curtaling these funds would deepen the achievement gap and hinder the progress made to-date in supporting our most vulnerable students.

Furthermore, we cannot overstate the impact these changes will have on people with disabilities administered through the Disabilities (discation An (J.D.E.A.), L.D.E.A.) guarantees that students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education tailored to their unique needs. Budget cuts would jeopardize the provision of specialized services, accommodations and support, severely limiting the opportunities for students with disabilities to succeed academically and socially.

On the higher education front, the proposed cuts would disatically affect grants, loans, and work-study programs, which are indispensable for millions of students striving to attain a college education. Federal grants, such as the Pell Grant, enable loa-income students to afford college tuition and related expenses. Reducing these grants would place higher education out of reach for many perpetuating cycles of poverty and limiting upward mobility.

Similarly, federal student loan programs are a lifetine for students who rely on them to finance their education. Cuts to these programs would result in higher interest rates and reduced loan availability, burdening students with even greater financial strain. The prospect of insurmountable debt could discourage many from pursuing higher education altogether, depriving our nation of a well-educated and skilled workforce.

Work-study programs provide students with valuable opportunities to gain work experience while earning mones to support their education. Scaling back these programs would not only reduce financia aid but also limit students' ability to develop essential skills and build professional networks, affecting their future employability.

In conclusion, the proposed cuts to the federal Department of Education threaten to dismantle the very foundation of our education system. The repercussions for Titles I, II, and III, I.D.E.A., as well as grants, loans, and work-study programs, would be far-reaching and profound. I urge policywalers to reconsider these cuts and prioritize the inventment in education that is necessary for the prosperity and advancement of our society.

Sincerety,

Sincerety,

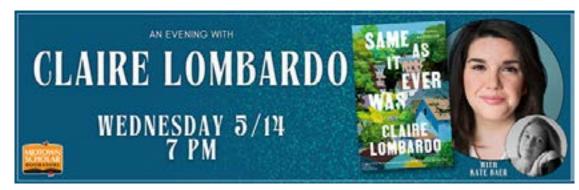
Scientific Science Communication of University Women (AAUM)

Harrisburg Branch





1302 North 3rd Street Harrisburg, PA, 17102

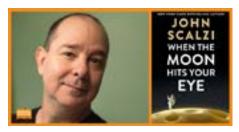


The Midtown Scholar Bookstore is honored to welcome New York Times bestselling author Claire Lombardo to Harrisburg for a conversation and signing on the paperback release of her new novel, SAME AS IT EVER WAS. Lombardo will be in conversation with New York Times bestselling author Kate Baer.

Alex Brubaker at Midtown Scholar has offered AAUW Harrisburg 10 free tickets to see Claire Lombardo on May 14, 2025. ACT NOW!!

Lee Johnson needs to know who wants these tickets by April 18, 2025, **AT THE LATEST**. lee6646@verizon.net See below link for details about the event:

https://www.midtownscholar.com/calendar/2025/5/14/an-evening-with-claire-lombardo-and-kate-baer-same-as-it-ever-was



Thursday, April 3rd at 7pm

New York Times bestselling author John Scalzi flies you to the moon with his most fantastic tale to date: When the Moon Hits Your Eye. Scalzi, one of the most popular science fiction authors of his generation, delivers a kaleidoscopic novel that goes all the places you'd expect, and then to so many places you wouldn't.



AAUW
Harrisburg
members
were
out in
force to
support
Midtown
Scholar
for the
March 19



event with Emma Donoghue. (zoom in at the arrows)

- a bit of a close up with some of the attendees...l-r Lee Johnson, Kathy Bard, Marcia Nye, Kathy Seidl, Chris Zuzack.



Friday, April 4th at 6pm
Browse the stacks to the sounds of
the sax on Friday, April 4th at the
Midtown Scholar Bookstore from
6pm-9pm. We'll have book browsing hours until 9pm, and the
perfect live jazz music to compliment book browsing, conversation,
and community. Jazz up your
bookshelf and support your
neighborhood independent
bookstore!

March 2025 - Special Events

March 20, 2025: Mary Moriarty Brindle - 1845-1910 (Ann Ariano) began the presentations of these icons of Central Pennsylvania history with her recounting of her lifetime efforts to bring Catholicism to its rightful place in area history - culminating in the St.Joseph's Catholic Church complex, Mechanicsburg.



Ida Kast (Patti Uhrich), with her keen eye for the issues of a woman entering the Cumberland County legal community of the late 1800's as well as the role played by the WCTU (Woman's Christian Temperance

Union) reminisced on her journey into the - until then - all male local career with wit, and emphasis to never give up,



especially when you are in the right.

Karen Love finished the evening's experience with her recollections of life with her Mom, Hettie Simmons Love, including a detailed slideshow of the life of the first documented woman - and person of color - to receive

an MBA from the prestigious Wharton School of Business. Hettie



reached the wonderful age of 100, always living life to the fullest as a community activist and life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha while valuing and enriching her role as wife and mother.



Women's Stories

- Women's Songs

Whether you were able to attend Bobbi Carmitchell's International Women's Day Celebration on March 8, or not, she made sure AAUW Harrisburg was well represented.

Both Kathy Seidl and Chris Zu-

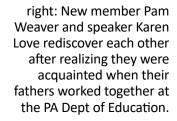
zack were invited on stage to give a little promo for our Branch and she has donated a portion of the proceeds to us for our work for Women's Rights!



Our stellar cast of presenters - I-r: Karen Love, Ann Ariano, and Patti Uhrich; with writer/director - our playwright in residence, Cindy Dlugolecki.



above: Cindy confers with "Ida" - wearing her WCTU banner - before the program begins, while "Mary Brindle" gets into character.





Use the link below to view Bobbi's video "This Shirt" featuring pictures of her many friends, including several of Branch members.

https://youtu.be/BoVGtoFBOb8?feature=shared

Carpe Diem Dept

We have some VERY active Branch members, but we would like to feature YOU. Send us those candids !!!



3.28.2025:

MaryAnn Daniels, Kathy Seidl, Chris Zuzack, and Carol Nechemias attended the Greater Harrisburg Area Habitat for Humanity art auction and couldn't resist the photo booth.



3.5.2025 - Three quarters of our Seize the Day quartet- Kathy Seidl, Carol Nechemias and Chris Zuzack - attended a stunning Philadelphia Flower Show. Ask them to show you their picures!



od Spring at the Capital Area

The Walking Group welcomed Spring at the Capital Area Greenbelt Nature Trails.

left: Grace Huber wants to make sure you see the info board about MLK when you travel the Greenbelt. right: Lee Johnson, Marcia Nye, Grace Huber, and Kathy Bard pause at the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. obelisk, located on the Cameron Parkway East section of the Capital Area Greenbelt.



left: Chris Zuzack hosted (and took the candid) for the February birthdays party for Kathy Seidl, MaryAnn Daniels, and Carol Nechemias. Congratulations, Ladies.



3.26.25: Zonta members, including our dual members (center to right) Kathy Gates, Alice Kirchner, and Grace Huber, visited the Greenlight Operation Restoration home to inventory the kitchen supplies in preparation for its opening this summer. Next step is to provide what is needed.



4.1.2025:

- no, not for April Fool's - As their koi and goldfish swam over to eat the food that Marcia Hajduk was giving them, Alli(gator) was there, too. Alli's job is to protect the fish and frogs from the heron and egret birds, and the mammal mink who've eaten a lot of our fish in the past. FYI: Alli has never bitten Marcia or Tom.

Harrisburg 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

Special Upcoming Trip: *Discover the Canadian Maritimes and Coastal Wonders;* departs September 14, 2025 also see potential day trip - both on p.12

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 on 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.

The next <u>dinner</u> is planned for <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>April 9</u>, <u>2025:5:30 p.m</u>, <u>Hamir's Indian Fusion</u>, <u>24 S George St</u>, <u>York</u>, <u>PA 17401</u>.

We need to limit the attendance to no more than fifteen people.

RSVP to Kathy Silks by noon, Tuesday, April 8. kms107@outlook.com

Please let Carol B. know if you can provide transportation to this event. cmbuskirk@verizon.net

The next lunch will be Wednesday, April 23,2025: 1 p.m. at Chop Shish, 2201 Market Street in Camp Hill 17011.

RSVP to Erica by Monday, April 21. EricaMeloy@comcast.net

*** 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 from 10:00 am to noon.

April 17, 2025 The Women: A Novel By Kristin Hannah. Judy Schmidt reviewing. Pat Riker 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 Currently Meeting - 2nd Thursday from 12:30 - 2:00pm

April 10, 2025 Master, Slave, Husband, Wife by Ilyon Woo. Kathy Krausse reviewing. Chris Zuzack hosting.

Please contact Chris for location.

Walking Group

Contact: Lee Johnson lee6646@verizon.net

If you would enjoy occasional walking excursions with AAUW companions, this group is for you. Anyone

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.



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: April 10, 2025

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

The Connection

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by
Harrisburg Branch AAUW

hbgaauwnewsletter@gmail.com HarrisburgAAUW@gmail.com AAUWHarrisburg.org

> Editor: Carol Stark 717-829-5630

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.