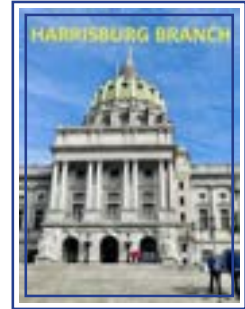


AAUW the CONNECTION

empowering women since 1881

American Association of University Women
HARRISBURG BRANCH

October
2025



AAUWHarrisburg.org

"Current Color: A Year on the Susquehanna River"

*- An Evening with
Diana Thomas : Reflections
on Her Life and Her Art*

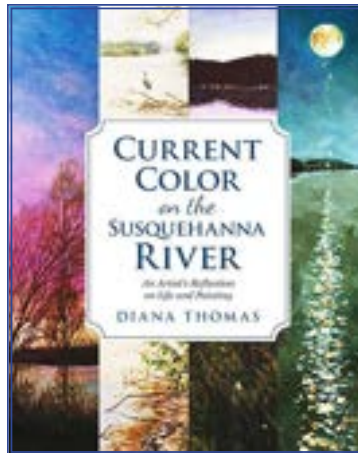


Columbia, PA artist, Diana Thomas, a graduate of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, has worked for more than 40 years as an illustrator, drawing instructor, needle craft and greeting card designer. Today she predominantly creates fine art pieces in acrylic and watercolor.

Diana's best known work currently is a series of fifty-three paintings of the Susquehanna River. *Current Color* documents her experience through art, journal entries, and poems during a year of painting the Susquehanna River once a week, capturing its changing moods and colors. A river can be a force of power, and it can be a haven of peace. The Susquehanna River's landscapes are a never-ending source of inspiration, healing and hope. With a goal of painting a river scene every week for at least a year, Diana embarked upon a project that

plunged her from the joy of art to the grief of losing her daughter as well as her son-in-law to heroine addiction

during that year of painting. Diana credits this unusual work with being instrumental in helping her navigate these troubled waters. Everything about her presentation is applicable in our lives, from her painting technique, to how she sees things, setting goals, commitment, riding the rapids of life, and the peace-giving continuity of the river's flow.



Diana Thomas has spent a lifetime exploring, documenting, and painting the beauty of God's creations. She's known to view the wonders of nature through both her heart and eyes of Christian faith. She lives in this picturesque area with her husband and loves being close to family.

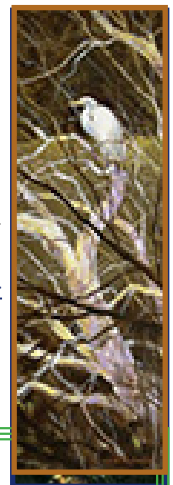
Diana will bring a few of the original paintings as well as copies of her book, *Current Color on the Susquehanna River*

You can also purchase her books at

<https://bookshop.org/>

And, you can also contact Diana at
Diana Thomas
39 N. 7th Street
Columbia, PA 17512
717 917-2058 or
thmsdzynz@com-cast.net

Co-Chairs: Alice Kirchner
& Carol Pennington



October 23, 2025 (Thursday)

doors open at 6:30; with speaker at 7:00 pm
Richard D. Rife Center at Bethany Village
325 Wesley Circle
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
- see map on p.2

Watch Diana's live interviews on Berks Community Television at:

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

<https://www.bctv.org/video/diana-thomas-part-2-current-color-poets-pause/>



It's October. Fall Is Here and Opportunities Abound - Time to Get Involved!



From the 15 South use exit Rossmoyne R/Wesley Drive, turn in right at Bethany Towers. Follow Wesley Circle, continue as it becomes Bethany Drive. Parking and Rife Center will be on right as you round the first curve. If coming from Simpson Ferry Road through Shiremanstown, turn left onto Wesley Drive and then left at the Main Entrance to East Campus at the light and take a left at Bethany Drive to Rife Center on the right.



In this time of
Exceptional Activism
including
live demonstrations,

Please See

PP. 7 - 8

regarding

"AAUW Guidance for Public
Demonstrations:

Taking Action Safely
and Strategically"

Hi, to Our Harrisburg PA Branch,
As Vice Chair of the AAUW Advancement Committee,
I recently received the list of branches that earned
stars in the FY25 Five-Star program.



Congratulations to the Harrisburg Branch on achieving the **Public Policy, Governance, Communications, and Advancement** stars!

Stars are not easy to achieve. You are to be commended on this achievement, especially since you doubled the number of stars you had earned last year! Well done!

Relatedly, I want to thank you for submitting the Survey. We understand that it takes a real commitment of time from your busy schedule to do so, but it provides National with a lot of useful information that will be used to promote our mission and our organization.

Delightedly,
Deb
Deb Roney

SIGNIFICANT DATES
- OCTOBER 2025

OCTOBER 23, 2025

- Branch Meeting at Bethany
Village

October 15 thru 19, 2025

- Midtown Scholar Bookfest

October 30, 2025 - PA DEIB

zoom book club meeting; p.3

*Thank you to all the
kind members of
Harrisburg AAUW
for their messages
of condolence.*

*Mary Linn Faries
& Carol Stark*

In this issue:

- pp. 1 -2 - October meeting details
- p. 3 - Branch Involvement Opportunities
- p. 4 - 5 Scholarship Recipients
- pp. 6 - 8 - PA & National Opportunities
- pp. 9 - 10 Culture Vultures Maritimes Trip
- pp. 11 - 12 - Safety Info for Demonstrations
- pp. 13 - 14 - Area Opportunities
- pp. 15 - 17 Midtown Scholar Bookfest
- p. 17 - Culture Vultures upcoming trip
- p. 18 - Membership News and More
- p. 19 - YWCA Christmas Wish List
- p. 20 - Special Interest Groups

HELP WANTED/NEEDED

- A Little Can Go A Long Way



Position: AAUW FUNDS CHAIR for the Harrisburg Branch

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 contribution 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?

Position: PRESIDENT ELECT for the Harrisburg Branch

The President Elect assists the President in her duties in any way needed, and prepares for a term as President, and shall act in the absence or disability of the President. She will serve on the Executive Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee and collaborate in preparing the branch budget for the upcoming year in conjunction with the President, Immediate Past-President, Finance Officer, Dues Treasurer, and Finance Chairperson.

Position: DEIB CHAIR for the Harrisburg Branch

The DEI CHAIR (DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION and BELONGING). AAUW advocates vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights for all people — across race, ethnicity, age, socio-economic status, religious beliefs, disability, gender identity and sexual orientation, and geographic location. The DEI Chair would facilitate study of the history of and current state of these rights in any manner available to branch members interested in becoming more educated and informed - from zoom book reviews; to keeping apprised of local, regional, and state situations regarding these rights, to compiling a "scrapbook" or files of information collected - and overseeing the group's discussions. For details and materials for building DEIB awareness, see <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/dei-b/>

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/dei-toolkit/>

For more Information
- or *Throwing Your Hat
in the Ring* -
for any of these positions,
Contact Kathy Seidl
and MaryAnn Daniels
at
HarrisburgAAUW@gmail.com

Whether you are just getting yourself started truly understanding the diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging issue details; or you want to do a personal deep dive, there are some easy ways to get started with self-education! AAUW National and AAUW-PA have put together resources that you can use to learn more about DEI&B (diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging) - and then lead our Branch in investigating this topic so significant in today's "climate".

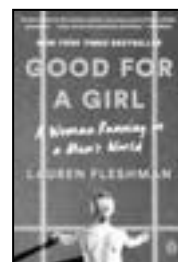
AAUW PA Continues its 2025 DEIB Book Series !

October 30, 2025

December 4, 2025

Other Titles Considered:

- The Girls Who Went Away, Ann Fessler
- You're the Only One I've Told, Dr. Meera Shah
- A Woman in Berlin, Anonymous
- S. A Novel About the Balkans, Slavenka Drakulic
- Women We Buried, Women We Burned, Rachel Louise Snyder
- Pachinko, Min Jin Lee
- The Distance Between Us, Reyna Grande
- They Called Us Exceptional and Other Lies that Raised Us, Prachi Gupta
- Mad Honey, Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan
- Invisible Women, Caroline Criado Perez
- The Fight for Privacy, Danielle Keats Citron
- Stamped from the Beginning, Ibram X. Kendi



- Master Slave Husband Wife, Ilyon Woo
- What Made Maddy Run, Kate Fagan
- Strong Like Water, Aundi Kolber
- Algorithms of Oppression, Safiya Umoia Nobel
- Don't Ask the Blind Guy for Directions, John Samuel
- The Boy Who was Raised as a Dog, Bruce Perry and Maia Szalavitz

The Harrisburg Branch Recognized Our 2025-2026 Scholarship Winners at Our Fall Kick Off Luncheon

Congratulations To These Outstanding Young Women

Sally C. Chamberlain Scholarship:

Junior, **Jessica Hallman**, studying Accounting at Elizabethtown College

Beverly J. Smith Memorial Scholarship:

Senior, **Sara Farheen**, studying Biobehavioral Health at Penn State Harrisburg

Ronald and Kathleen Krausse STEM Scholarship:

Sophomore, **Eliana Roof**, studying Construction Management at Drexel University

Member Memorial Scholarship (two this year):

Senior, **Paige Miller**, studying Anthropological Sciences at Penn State University

Anita Chimariya



Several recipients were able to attend. l-r: Leigh Ann Chow and Carol Staz, Scholarship Committee. Eliana Roof, Sara Farheen, and Jessica Hallman. Mary Kratzer, Scholarship Committee. Paige Miller and Anita Chimariya were unable to attend due to academic commitments.



Jessica Hallman

I am pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting at Elizabethtown College. I enjoy working as the HR and Financial Services Manager for Associated Pennsylvania Constructors, a non-profit corporation that advocates for funding of Pennsylvania's roads and bridges. This degree will create opportunities for advancement in my career and allow me to better serve the community. Growing up, my parents taught me the importance of serving others and being generous. Now, as a 30-year-old single mother of two little girls, I plan to teach my kids these same virtues. When I am not working, studying, or parenting, I enjoy playing soccer with friends. I am honored to receive the Sally C. Chamberlain Scholarship and look forward to a bright future together.

Sara Farheen

I am currently a senior at Penn State Harrisburg majoring in Biobehavioral Health with a minor in Biology, aspiring to become a Physician Assistant. My passion for medicine grew from caring for my grandmother when she lost her ability to be autonomous a few years ago. Certainly, there are many pleasures in life, but for me, none is greater than that which we find in the healing touch of another. I want to be the voice for those who can no longer speak, the caregiver for the forgotten, and the healing hands for those in pain—just as I have tried to be for my grandmother.

I was born and raised in Harrisburg, PA, and I am a first-generation college student. My parents moved here from Pakistan 26 years ago and have worked tirelessly to get me where I am today. Outside of academics, I immerse myself in creative and cultural pursuits that recharge my mind and enrich my perspective. I love cooking and baking, especially trying new recipes that bring family and friends together. I also find peace in nature and enjoy traveling, particularly to state parks with waterfalls and scenic views. In addition, I practice Arabic calligraphy, painting Qur'anic verses as a form of both spiritual reflection and artistry.

I also run Sara's Artistry, a small home-based henna business that allows me to share my cultural heritage and artistic passion. Looking ahead, I am working towards selling medical scrubs for Muslim women pursuing careers in medicine. Ultimately, I hope to grow my business into a non-profit organization that serves underprivileged communities around the world—starting with my own home country, Pakistan. Thank you very much for this opportunity!



Eliana Roof



I am in my 2nd year at Drexel University studying construction management. This year, I am part of the Guatemala Project as Lead representing Drexel in the Engineers Without Borders program. Previously, on a Mission Trip to Puerto Rico, I remember “I taped and finished drywall at a home in Ponce, Puerto Rico. I was able to finish as much work as possible very quickly because I have so much experience in this area. As a result, the other members of my group were able to tie up all the other projects in the home while I completed our drywall work.”

Eliana was recognized with the Humanity Rising Ambassador Program Inspiration Award for 15+ hours contributed to Humanity Rising programs where she helped organize the storeroom and then pack backpacks and duffle bags for Backpacks for Hope. The charity helps prepare first-night bags for children in foster care across Central Pennsylvania. She also helped pack bags to fill an

order from a local county and refill their stockpile. Eliana helped catalog prisoner cards from Buchenwald concentration camp. The data collected from the project will be used to create a memorial for the victims of National Socialism. Keystone Contractors Association (KCA), in support of the next generation of industry leaders, selected Eliana as one of their two 2025 scholarship awardees for her academic excellence, commitment to the industry, and leadership potential.

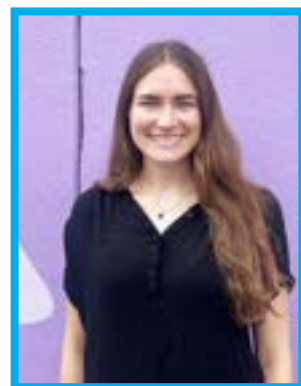
In her “spare time”, she has worked as a referee, an assistant dance teacher, a construction laborer, and an assistant project manager. Aliana lives in Marcia Hajduk’s neighborhood (so Marcia was recused from judging) with her parents, Sharon and Christopher Roof, Brother, Gabriel, Cats Clifford & Easter, Maggie the dog, and 2 Axolotls!

Paige Miller

I am a fourth-year Anthropological Science Major with a Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies minor at Penn State. As a third-year Paterno Fellow and Schreyer Honors Scholar majoring in Anthropological Science, she spent the spring semester studying the history, culture, and archaeology of Greece through an interdisciplinary program offered by @psuabroad and @bucknellcams! You can follow along with her for a day in her life studying abroad in Athens, Greece on Instagram at

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DGdrDbBpP3E/>

“I want to thank the AAUW Harrisburg Branch for their generous scholarship that they have provided for me this year. Community scholarships like these have helped me in reaching my goal of graduating with little to no debt. Although I am unable to be present at the Fall Luncheon, I hope to join for another event soon! It is an honor to have received a scholarship from AAUW. “Thank you again.



Anita Chimariya

I am writing to sincerely thank you for selecting me as the recipient of the Member Memorial Scholarship. I am truly honored and grateful for this opportunity. Again, thank you for this generous opportunity. I deeply appreciate your support.

right: Eliana Roof brought her very proud Mom, Sharon, as her +1.



below: Eliana is in architectural skills mode.



Recipients and their guests share smiles to celebrate impressive accomplishments and honors.



right: Sara Farheen was able to bring her whole family to enjoy the day.



Guy Bass helped Jessica Hallman mark achieving life goals.

PA and National Events and Initiatives - On-Going and "Coming Soon"

Membership Renewal **UPDATES***

Membership Renewal is in full swing for Harrisburg Branch members. Those memberships under the 'old' system run from July 1 to June 30. "**Newer**" members' terms run from one year of the date of joining.

While National will email reminders, we also want to encourage you to rejoin our Branch for another year of wonderful programs, opportunities to volunteer, supporting public policy initiatives, and enjoying special interest group activities.

You may renew online at <https://www.aauw.org>. Click Log in (upper right) with email and password. Please make sure you also renew state and branch membership online when renewing national. (It is not automatic). Contact Diane Shoop, Co-VP for Membership if you would like detailed instructions or have questions. You may also use a paper application from the Branch website to renew (<https://harrisburg-pa.aauw.net>). National dues are \$74, state \$12, and branch \$26.

Thank you,

Diane Shoop & Barbara Passeri-Warfel, Membership Co-Vice Presidents

***SPECIAL OFFER!!! SHAPE THE FUTURE Campaign - 50% off national dues when prospective and renewing members pay and join AAUW at an event or meeting.** Participants are invited to join on the spot to receive 50% off national dues plus state and branch dues in total to the branch finance officer. . Remember: All national dues are tax deductible. Branches also earn one free national membership for every two new members they recruit, with a maximum of three free memberships annually.

For decades, women have been breaking into science, — but persistent barriers continue to block technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields the path to equity.



You can also donate to the
AAUW Harrisburg STEM scholarship
through our
**Ronald D. and Kathleen A. Krausse STEM
Scholarship** fund.

AAUW is standing firm.

- AAUW branches support STEM by organizing hands-on programs, funding scholarships, and advocating for equity in STEM education, innovation, and careers.
 - AAUW's public policy priorities in STEM focus on closing the gender gap in education and expanding women's access to technical and vocational training that leads to high-paying careers.
 - AAUW provides direct funding for women from under-resourced communities and those entering fields where women remain un-
- Up to 73% of AAUW fellows and grantees are working in STEM disciplines. These women are pushing boundaries, conducting groundbreaking research, and reshaping industries. But, they cannot do it alone. Press the button at aauw.org to help.

AAUW's strategic plan
powers potential for
women: opportunity,
leadership, and equity.

In addition to awarding \$5.3 million to 228 scholars and projects, AAUW and our members are advocating for policies that ensure equitable access to higher education — **making it more affordable and reducing barriers to postsecondary success.**

When women lose access to education, they lose opportunity, economic security, and equity. These challenges are even greater for women from marginalized backgrounds, which is why we are so proud of AAUW's support of these communities.

We are also supporting our national network of branches and affiliates in delivering mission-based programming that advances this work in communities across the country.

DONATE

Press the
button at
aauw.org
to help.

You can also donate to the
AAUW Harrisburg scholar-
ships through our
**The Sally C. Chamberlain
Scholarship** for women
seeking to resume or renew
academic work for credit to-
wards career employment
or advancement.



67%
Fellows are
women of
color



54%
International
Fellows are
women of color



65%
Identify as
single parents

CONSIDER THIS!

AAUW PA is seeking candidates to stand for election in the spring for

- president
- program vice president
- marketing and communications vice president

Being on the AAUW PA board is rewarding and energizing. You work with other interesting people devoted to the mission and provide vision and leadership for branches. It's also fun.

Enhance work on our mission by taking on a state leadership role! Nominate a strong candidate in your branch OR throw your hat into the ring yourself. [Get more info or the form.](#)



We love self-nominations—
**DON'T HIDE YOUR
LIGHT UNDER A
BUSHEL.**



Three elected officers' positions are opening on July 1, 2026

WILL YOU STEP UP TO CARRY ON THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF OUR PENNSYLVANIA BOARD?



Why serve on the AAUW PA state board?

- Advance Gender Equity: Contribute to AAUW's mission of empowering women and girls.
- Leadership Growth: Gain valuable experience in governance and decision-making.
- Impactful Work: Shape programs and policies that make a difference statewide.
- Networking: Connect with like-minded leaders and professionals.
- Personal Development: Enhance your skills through collaboration and advocacy.
- Policy Influence: Drive initiatives focused on key issues like pay equity and education.
- Support Branches: Help local branches grow and strengthen their impact.
- Preserve History: Ensure AAUW's legacy through document preservation.
- Shape the Future: Be part of strategic decisions that guide the organization's direction.

The AAUW PA board consists of elected and appointed officers.

The elected officers or co-officers are :

President

Program VP

Membership VP

Marketing & Communications VP

Secretary

Finance Officer.

These officers comprise the voting members of the Executive Committee.

The appointed officers fulfill the functions of administrative director, public policy, social media, and such other functions as deemed necessary by the President and the other members of the Executive Committee.

Open positions for 2026-2028

President: The president is specifically responsible for directing, coordinating, and overseeing the work of the state and for remaining in close contact with PA branches.

Program Vice-President: The program VP is specifically responsible for leading the planning of the biennial convention program in 2028 and the program for the biennial summer retreat in 2027 and for planning, coordinating, implementing, and reporting other mission-based programming

Marketing and Communications Vice-President: The marketing and communications VP works closely with the board to develop strategy and manage state communications to members and the public, to ensure that the brand image is consistently upheld, and to enhance visibility across the state.

For more details regarding these roles, please review the

<https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/files/2021/01/AAUW-PA-Board-Handbook-with-Appendices.pdf>

★ Save the Date! AAUW
Atlantic Regional
Conference 2026 ★



Mark your calendars! 📅 Join your AAUW colleagues and friends from 13 states at the Lancaster County Convention Center & Marriott Hotel in Lancaster, PA on September 25-27, 2026!

📍 Why Lancaster? Lancaster is one of America's oldest inland cities, rich in history and culture!

Explore:

- 🍴 Amazing restaurants & coffee shops
- 🛍️ Unique boutiques & Central Market
- 🍷 Wineries & breweries
- 🍁 Fall festivals happening throughout the city!

✈️ Getting There:

- 🚆 Amtrak station in Lancaster
- ✈️ Harrisburg International Airport (30 miles away)

More details on the conference
and travel options coming soon!
Stay tuned! 🔥



Culture Vultures In the Canadian Maritimes

Harrisburg AAUW Members and Friends, Led by Barbara Passeri-Warfel

Discovered the Canadian Maritimes from September 21 through October 1, 2025



From Halifax, Nova Scotia, through the Cabot Trail, Cape Breton and Prince Edward Islands, our team of travelers - AAUW members and friends

- explored everything within reach - Titanic graves, Alexander Graham Bell's, Ann of Green Gables' house and Hopewell Rocks, a New Brunswick icon at the Bay of Fundy, lots of walking trails and museum stops. And, oh yes, great food and drink!



above: b/w of the lighthouse at the Halifax waterfront.

top left: Barb P-W and Chris Zuzack with Mahone Bay, Halifax, in background.

left: Erica Voss Meloy learns the art of potato farming at Prince Edward Island.

Lobster dinner on Prince Edward Island
l-r: Barb Passeri-Warfel, Kathy Seidl, Chris Zuzack, Grace Huber, Erica Meloy and David Meloy.



left:
Chris Zuzack, Kathy Seidl, and David Meloy at the unusual rock formations carved by the tides at the Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick.



above: Grace Huber, Chris Zuzack, Erica Meloy and Kathy Seidl pose before exploring the beautifully landscaped Public Gardens at Halifax, NS.

left: 9/26 - a "rain" (and wind) day, Chris Z, Grace H., Kathy S. and Barb P-W traveled to Prince Edward Island and visited the Alexander Graham Bell Museum.

One Page Was Not Enough

- more of the AAUW Canadian Maritimes Experience



above: Chris Zuzack captured the beauty in the every day with these colorful stacked lobster traps.

below: Kathy Seidl, Erica and David Meloy could not resist the urge to feel the salt waves at Prince Edward Island.



left: Chris Zuzack got her requisite portrait with the famous Halifax lighthouse.



A cemetery for many who perished on the Titanic sits along the Halifax waterfront.



There were a number of demonstrations to enjoy and learn from. far left - clog dancing, left - kilt folding. below - David and Erica Meloy, Grace Huber, and Kathy Seidl get ready for Cielidh, a gathering for fellowship, song, and dance at St. Michael's Parish hall in Baddeck, Nova Scotia.

below: Kathy S. made sure to capture many shots of the intricate local architecture in Halifax, as well as later in the town of Lunenburg, a UNESCO World Heritage site.



"We visited the Alexander Graham Bell Museum on Prince Edward Island. (Did not know he was into aviation!" - per Kathy Seidl)



AAUW Guidance for Public Demonstrations: Taking Action Safely and Strategically

Taking to the streets can be a powerful expression of solidarity and a way to create real, lasting change. For many, public demonstrations are not only a response to injustice but also a reminder of the strength we have when we act together.

Demonstrations can be energizing and transformative. They serve as a source of motivation and resolve to keep pushing for equity. AAUW members have long turned passion into purposeful, collective action—even when political forces attempt to reverse progress. But it's also important to acknowledge that while everyone has the right to public assembly—not everyone can or wants to protest in person.

If you are willing and able, this guide is here to help you show up strategically, safely, and in alignment with AAUW's mission.



Before You Go

- **Understand the purpose.** Ask: *What is this event trying to achieve?* Is it focused on raising awareness about a specific policy issue or injustice? Is it a response to a current event or part of a long-term advocacy campaign? Protests are most impactful when they clearly communicate what their goal is. Knowing the purpose will help you determine whether and how to participate meaningfully.
- **Research the organizers.** Ensure the demonstration is nonpartisan and aligned with AAUW's mission, values, and public policy principles. Look for events that center the voices of those most impacted and are committed to nonviolence and safety.
- **Evaluate alignment.** Do you feel comfortable supporting the demands or messaging of the event? Do the organizers have a track record of inclusive, nonviolent & respectful action?

Note for AAUW Branches and State Affiliates:

- Review AAUW's [Civility Matters](#) statement and help foster a respectful, inclusive environment as we advance gender equity through research, education, and advocacy.
- AAUW Branches and Affiliates should not endorse any activities or act in a manner that could imply AAUW approval or disapproval of a campaign candidate in a partisan election.
- Individuals attending partisan events must do so in a personal capacity—not as representatives of AAUW.

Preparing to Participate

- **Dress for comfort and weather.** Wear comfortable shoes—you may be walking or standing for long periods. Bring layers, sunscreen, or rain gear as needed.
- **Pack essentials.** Carry water, snacks, and a small first aid kit if possible.
- **Charge your phone.** Make sure it's fully charged, and bring a portable charger if you have one. Have emergency contacts written down in case your phone battery dies.
- **Bring your AAUW pride.** For nonpartisan demonstrations aligned with AAUW's mission, values, and public policy principles, you're encouraged to show your affiliation through signs, AAUW shirts or buttons. Send us your pictures at advocacy@aauw.org.
- **Respect others privacy.** Taking photos and videos at a demonstration can help spread a movement's message. But it's important to protect the privacy of fellow demonstrators by refraining from posting photos or videos in which others can be identified.

Safety and Civility

- **Understand the risks.** Even peaceful demonstrations can become unpredictable. Your safety is your responsibility. AAUW is not liable for any consequences arising from participation.
- **Do not engage with counter-protesters.** Maintain distance and vigilance. If needed, alert event marshals or law enforcement to any threats.
- **Know your surroundings.** Identify exit routes, stay with a buddy, and have emergency contacts accessible.

Keep the Momentum Going!

Demonstrating is one step on the path to change—but sustained progress takes long-term commitment. The fight for gender equity in education needs all of us, and there's always more you can do to deepen your impact.

- **Act.** Follow up with elected officials. Let them know why you showed up and what you want them to do. Use AAUW's Action Network to write, call, or attend local meetings. Your voice matters—keep using it.
- **Share.** Talk to friends, neighbors, and fellow members about the issues that moved you to act. Post on social media, write a letter to the editor, or host a community discussion. Change spreads when we speak out.
- **Join.** Become an active member of AAUW's Action Network. Sign up for an advocacy training as an individual or a branch to build your skills and confidence in becoming a more effective advocate and connect with other action-takers. Our trainings help members build skills—from storytelling to legislative strategy—that can strengthen their advocacy for years to come.
- **Give.** Your support fuels the work. Consider donating to AAUW's Public Policy Fund or our Defending Higher Education Fund to ensure we can keep training advocates, mobilizing members, and defending equity in every state and every classroom.

Together, we are building the long-term power it takes to defend and expand women's access to education and opportunity. Whether you march, organize, lobby, or give—every action helps move us forward.



Kathy Seidl makes great use of a GREAT SIGN!



Ann Pehle takes the mic.



Area Challenges For Our Members



We are being give opportunities to practice locally those skills you just read about.

Important dates Coming Up at the PA State Capitol

October 29th - Family Care Act - Press conference *at noon in main rotunda*, table in East Wing

November 17th - Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women Press Conference focused on Food Insecurity *at noon in the rotunda*.

November 18th - Advocacy Day AAUW : Our Health, Our Lobby Day

This is an all-day event that will provide members the opportunity to meet with their legislators, participate in a rally on the steps, and join in education sessions and a rage room with other advocates from a wide range of organizations. A lunch voucher will be included for use in the cafeteria.

While we wait for time confirmations, please complete the registration form (see link below) so we can start the scheduling process and the management of lunch and tours.

Be sure to answer - Name, Address, email & phone # ; Tee-shirt Size ; Do you have any accessibility needs that would make this day a success for you?; Would you like to meet with your state representatives?

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeptp2jc8XUVS3D67WY3fDaZTSDCp8VQQWEoNsAR9OvQReALg/viewform>

October 5, 2025, PA 10th District Network Panel Discussion

Everyone has a stake in our public schools. We all want to make sure that our children are getting the education they need to succeed in the future. On October 5th, the PA 10th District Network is sponsoring a panel discussion to explore the issues that citizens say concern them the most such as:

- Societal and Cultural Issues
- Bullying and Mental Health
- School Board Dynamics
- School Safety

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS: WHAT VOTERS NEED TO KNOW

Our GUEST PANELISTS will discuss and answer questions about funding challenges, societal & cultural issues, bullying & mental health, school board dynamics, and school safety. We hope this forum will assist voters in casting their votes for school directors in their district.

DR. NANCY SNYDER - Ret. Asst. Superintendent and Director of Curriculum, West Perry SD

CAROL VANITY - NEA, Board of Directors & PSA member

JANELLE KAYLA CROSSLEY - Advocate Against School Violence in Central PA


LAURI LERO - Journalist/Author: "The Devil in Doreen: An Insider's Story of Dogma v. Dilemma in Small-town America"

HEATH COPELAND - Advocate for Gun Safety Regulations

LILLIAN TOMMASELLI - Student, West Shore SD

GUEST MODERATOR: GEORGE SCOTT

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. KHALID MUMIN




FORMER PA SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
Current Superintendent, Reading School District, Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year (2021), National Superintendent of the Year Finalist (2021)

Sunday, October 5

3:30-5:30pm

Central Penn College
600 Valley Road
Enola, PA 17025

REGISTER TODAY!



<https://mibrandy.com/ds/10>

Sponsored by PA 10th District Network

Our panelists will use their expertise to delve into the issues surrounding public schools such as these topics..

The event will be at **Central Penn Conference Center on Sunday, October 5, from 3:30 to 5:30** with doors opening at 3:00 for a time to mingle, a Question and Answer period from 5:00 to 5:30 , and closing time until 6:00. If you want to make sure you have a guaranteed seat at the event, please register using the attached Mobilize Link. We look forward to discussing ways to better help the children in our local school systems.

<https://www.mobilize.us/indivisible/event/847742/>



EDUCATION VOTERS
of Pennsylvania

Time: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 12 – 1pm EDT

Location : Virtual event - Join from anywhere

During the one-hour virtual webinar, we will explore:

- How court rulings shape our lives
- What's at stake in this year's judicial elections
- How you can make sure your voice is heard.

https://www.mobilize.us/edvoterspa/event/846782/?force_banner=true&share_context=event_details&share_medium=copy_link

**What is at stake
with the
Nov. 4 judicial
retention?**



WHY COURTS MATTER 101

WITH EDUCATION VOTERS OF PA
and
KADIDA KENNER FROM
THE NEW PENNSYLVANIA PROJECT EDUCATION FUND



EDUCATION VOTERS
of Pennsylvania



**NEW PA
PROJECT
EDUCATION FUND**
Empowering Pennsylvanians to Engage Our Communities

OCT, 7TH AT 12 PM
REGISTER TODAY

Every day, Pennsylvania's judges make decisions that impact children and families.

And on November 4th, Pennsylvanians will have an opportunity to vote for judges from the Supreme Court down to Municipal Courts. The outcomes of these elections will directly affect our children's futures.

To help voters understand what's at stake, we are delighted that Kadida Kenner, the founding CEO of the New Pennsylvania Project and co-chair of Why Courts Matter – Pennsylvania, a non-partisan advocacy campaign of the New PA Project Education Fund, will be joining us to present Why Courts Matter 101 — a virtual webinar on Tuesday, October 7 at noon.

Learn more about the status of HB31 and SB131, the bills Fair Districts supports that would create an independent citizen redistricting commission for Pennsylvania.

We hope you will join us for a meeting of concerned citizens and interested volunteers from PA's southcentral counties .

We plan to discuss the legislative outreach to the region's legislators to date, what efforts are upcoming and how you can participate. We will also touch on the November judicial retention elections and the importance of the courts on redistricting decisions.

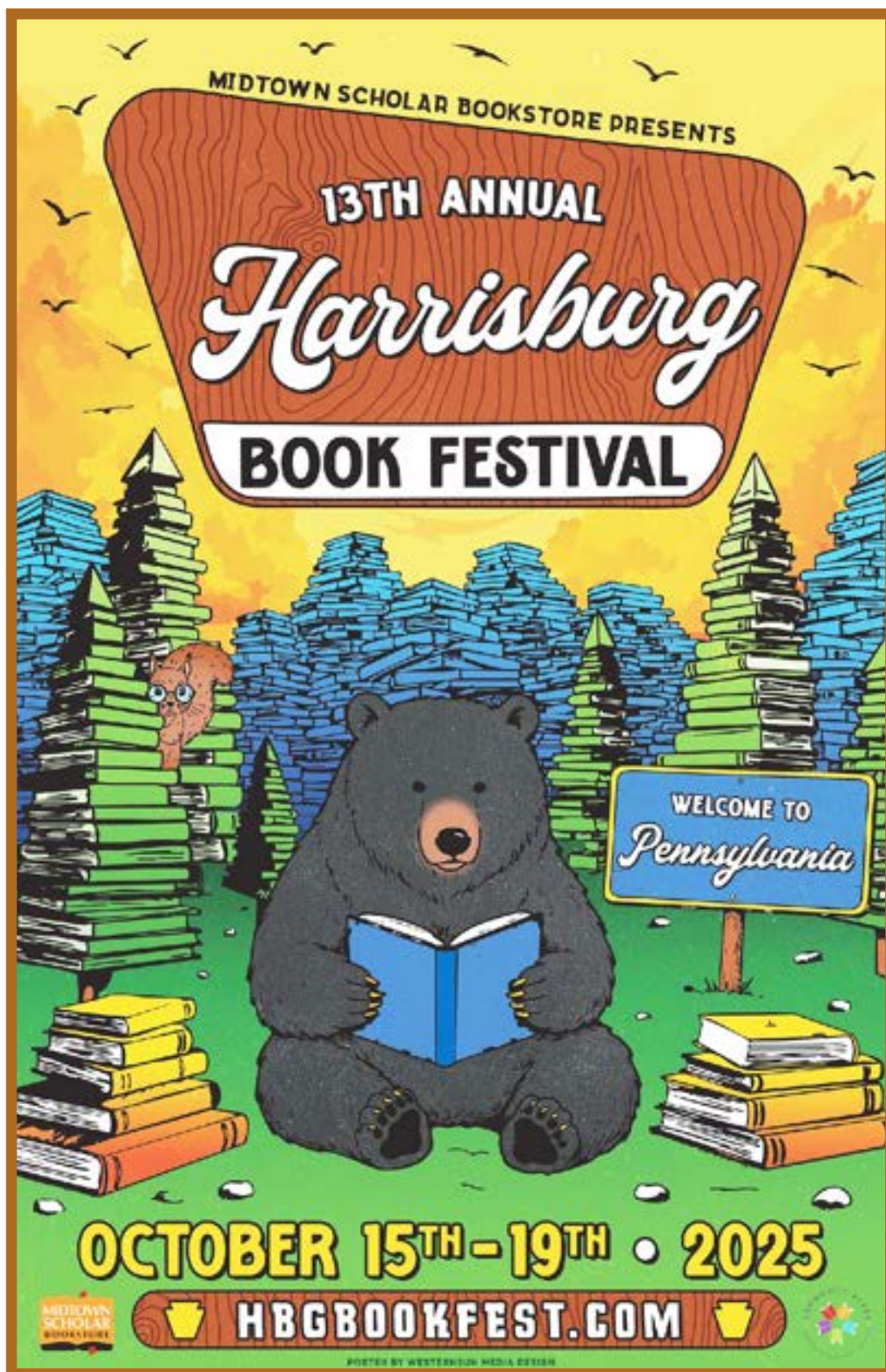
Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Jean Handley dauphin.fdpa@gmail.com & Lori Mitzel sc.fdpa@gmail.com



The zoom meeting will take place on **Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 7 pm.**

Register on the Fair Districts PA website under **South Central Region Zoom Call**

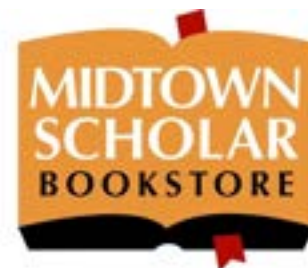


Hours:

Tues - Fri + Sun:

10am - 6pm

Sat: 9am - 7pm



1302 North 3rd Street |
Harrisburg, PA 17102

It's back — and bigger than ever. The Harrisburg Book Festival is proud to host

our annual outdoor tent sale

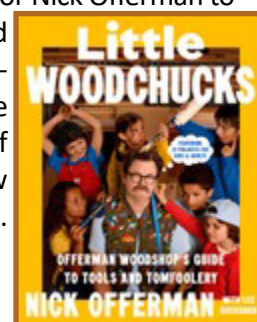
with over 30,000 used books priced at \$1, \$2, and \$3.

The book sale will take place on Verbeke Street in front of the Broad Street Market, and adjacent to the book store, throughout the entire Festival -

- Rain or shine!

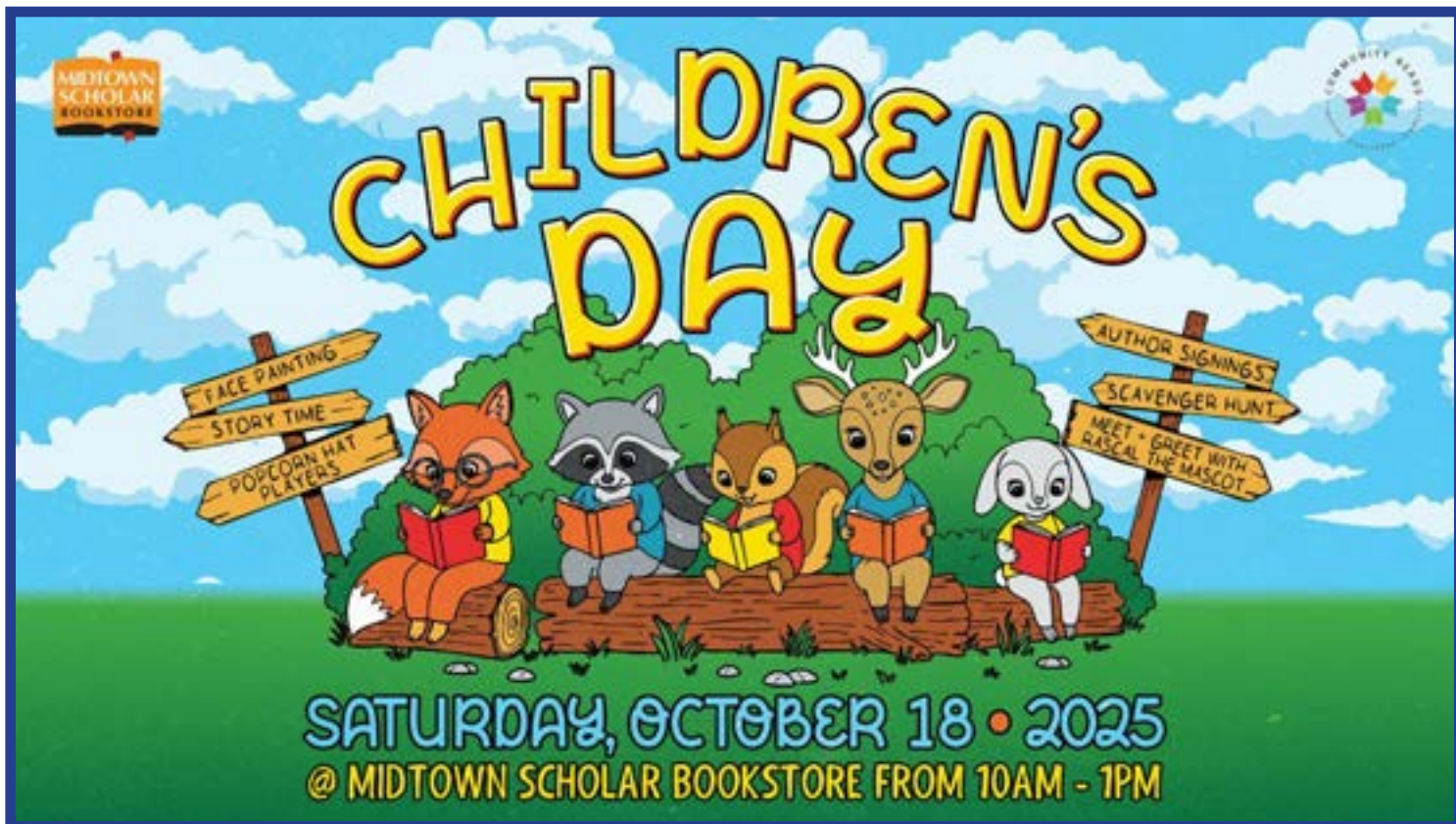
BOOK RELEASE EVENT

Welcome actor, comedian, and New York Times bestselling author Nick Offerman to FNB Field to celebrate the release of his new book.



Proudly presented by the Midtown Scholar Bookstore and Community Reads, the Harrisburg Book Festival celebrates the written word and its power to inspire, provoke, and delight. Featuring an outdoor tent sale, award-winning authors, and children's day programming, 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.

Date: Wednesday, October 15
Doors Open: 6pm; Event Starts: 7pm
Tickets: All tickets are GA.



Children's Day at the Harrisburg Book Festival is back! On Saturday, October 18th, visit the Midtown Scholar Bookstore for family-friendly programming. Featuring author signings, story time sessions, the Popcorn Hat Players, 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.

Featured Activities:

Bookstore Scavenger Hunt
Gamut Theatre's Popcorn Hat Players
Face-Painting
Story Time + Live Illustration Sessions
Book Signings
Build-a-Bookmark Craft
Meet & Greet with Rascal the Mascot

Story Time Sessions

10:00am: Popcorn Hat Players Present Aesop's Fables
10:45am: Story Time with Erin Frankel:
Mary Oliver, Holding on to Wonder
11:30am: Story Time with Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow:
Together We Are Sunshine
12:15pm: Story Time with John Patrick Green:
Investigators: Case Files
1:00pm: Popcorn Hat Players Present Aesop's Fables

Featured Authors



Erin Frankel



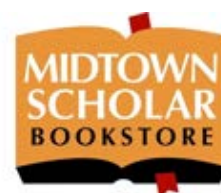
Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow



John Patrick Green

You can still sign up to help as store and tent greeters on Saturday, October 18. Slots cover 9:00am - 5:00pm. Contact Carol Nechemias

c4n@psu.edu





**FRIDAY
OCTOBER
17TH AT
7PM
MIDTOWN
SCHOLAR
BOOKSTORE**

Browse the stacks to the sounds of the sax on Friday, October 17th 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 at the 13th Annual Harrisburg Book Festival!

In addition to live jazz, we'll have a pop-up Tröegs Brewery tasting station, extended outdoor tent sale hours until 9pm, food, and books, books, books!

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

Culture Vultures On the Move

Contact Barb Passeri-Warfel warfelb@yahoo.com

American Association of University Women- Harrisburg presents:
Mediterranean Coastal Journey : Mediterranean Spain, France & Italy

April 25, 2026 - May 10, 2026 - Contact Barbara Warfel for more specific details and an
16 Days 24 Meals E-mail brochure warfelb@yahoo.com

Explore the glittering Mediterranean coast on an immersive journey connecting the Spanish, French and Italian Rivas. Taste your way along the Mediterranean coast sampling traditional Catalan specialties in a 17th-century farmhouse, flavorful Provençal cuisine in Marseille, and traditional focaccia in Genoa. Enjoy the iconic must-sees and venture to gems off the beaten path, like the rolling hills of the Tuscan countryside. Take a step into the culture and meet the locals. From chameleonic Barcelona to sun-kissed Nice; from glamorous Monaco to the rolling hills of the Chianti countryside, to Barcelona Cathedral, find your dream Mediterranean journey

Basic Tour completes on May 10, 2026.



Marseille beachfront

Itinerary in Brief:

Days 1 - 4 spent in Barcelona
Days 5 - 6 Costa Brava
Days 7 - 8 Marseille
Days 9 -10 Nice
Days 11 - 13 Italian Riviera
Days 14 - 16 Tuscany & Countryside
- post - tour overnight stay at Hotel Borgo di Cortefreda as an extension



brochure link is

<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1328392>



Pieces of Our Life Quilt

Barbara Whetstone, Mary Kratzer, Carol Nechemias, Kathy Seidl, Erica Meloy, Kathy Bard, and Mary Kratzer (again) made a special Fine Film Group venture to the West Shore Theatre for the *Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale* full length film.

PSA from Marcia Nye:

I want to remind everyone that I have lots of cups, napkins and disposable spoons, etc. for any event and I'll make it easy for anyone to collect some or just come see what is here.



A Little Portent of the Treat Coming for Our October Meeting - stay tuned...

David Biser, historian, re-enactor, local pastor, author presents

- *An Evening with John Harris, Jr.*

(Thursday) November 20, 2025

New Cumberland Library Foundation House,
498 Ninth Street, New Cumberland.PA



9 Life Lessons From Jane Goodall As She Turned 90

- from the archives of her 2024 British Vogue interview

Work hard
Find common ground
Have empathy
Be a supportive parent
Don't be afraid to change your mind
Everyone can have an impact
Be true to yourself
Everything happens for a reason
If you're feeling helpless, do something

"For me, it's about taking action; doing something. And of course, as I travel, I meet so many other amazing people who are doing, doing, doing. I get a lot of energy [from that]."

Her organisation's Roots & Shoots programme, an initiative designed to inspire young people across the globe, that keeps her going. "[It] is giving young people the energy and the commitment, and they are

truly making a difference," she says. "It's my major hope for the future. And so I will carry on as long as I live, trying to grow roots and shoots in more and more places."

Goodall died peacefully in her sleep of natural causes while in California on a speaking tour of the United States.

She never stopped speaking out, communicating, "I've been working on trying to make this a better world for animals, people, and the environment, flat out, since 1986, and one of my greatest reasons for hope in this battered world is the youth."



YWCA Holiday Giving General Wish List

Bath

- Towels
- Washcloths
- Shower curtains/liners

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
- Ethnic hair care products

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 (Olive Garden, Red Robin, etc.)

Life Skills

- Notebooks & journals

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 Trips:

International tour of the Mediterranean Spain, France and Italy Coast , April 25 to May 10, 2026 p.14

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 Lunch will be **Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.**, at the **Hershey 1933 Restaurant**, 100 Hotel Road, Hotel Hershey. *RSVP by October 15 to Dianne Baumgardner* dianne.baumgardner@verizon.net
or 717-991-5077

*** There is No Dinner planned at this time.***

*** 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.

Fiction Book Group

Contact: **Patricia Riker** pmriker@gmail.com 717-761-2259 Meets - 3rd Thursday from 10:00 am to noon.

October 16, 2025 *The Little Red Chairs* by Edna O'Brien, reviewed and hosted by Lee Johnson

Please contact Lee to verify if you plan to attend as sometimes capacity is limited. lee6646@verizon.net

The 2025 - 2026 Schedule is now available on our website under -

<https://harrisburg-pa.aauw.net/files/2025/07/FictionBookGroup2025-26.pdf>

Nonfiction Book Group

Contact: **Chris Zuzack** czuzack@hotmail.com Currently Meeting - 2nd Thursday from 12:30 - 2:00pm

October 9, 2025 *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu* by Joshua Hammer, reviewed and hosted by Marcia Nye

The 2025 - 2026 Schedule is now available on our website under -

<https://harrisburg-pa.aauw.net/files/2025/05/Non-FictionBooks1015-26.pdf>

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.

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*.

2025-2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Co-Presidents - MaryAnn Daniels
& Kathy Seidl

Program Vice President - Joan Swetz

Membership Co-Vice Presidents -

Diane Shoop & Barbara Passeri-Warfel

Finance Officer - Eileen Carson

Co-Secretaries - Cindy Dlugolecki
& Alice Kirchner

2026 Nominating Committee -

MaryAnn Daniels & Kathy Seidl

- Co-Chairs

Lillian Grieco, Lee Johnson,

Erica Voss Meloy

Please
"Like" us
on FaceBook!



AAUW Harrisburg

2025/2026 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 9, 2025**

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
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.