



The Keystoner

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research

From Our President

June 30th marks the end of FY22. The ending of one fiscal year and the beginning of another is a time of celebration and transition. Branches announce member awards to recognize those who contributed to branch success, thank departing elected officers while transitioning responsibilities to the successor, and start planning for the new fiscal year. Thank you to every outgoing branch officer and committee chair for your dedication and contribution. And, we must thank the incoming officers and chairs for your enthusiasm, vision, and dedication.

This is also AAUW membership renewal time. I hope you will renew your membership because you continue to support the AAUW mission and believe that the work of your branch and AAUW Pennsylvania exemplifies that mission. The process isn't as smooth as in the past, so follow the instructions from national and AAUW Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your support during my four years as President. The future of AAUW Pennsylvania is in very good hands.

Ann Pehle (Carlisle)
President

women of color. I listened to Julie, thinking how fortunate I and my immediate family was, and realized that many of us in the audience may not know anyone who experienced such difficulties. It was valuable to hear direct quotes and personal stories gathered during the research.

I offer a huge shout-out and thank you to Loretto Bellicini, Pamela Schleif, and Carol Toomey for sharing an innovative idea implemented by their branches in the Saturday afternoon concurrent branch presentations. We often are so insulated and isolated in our own branches that we forget there are members like us across Pennsylvania working diligently to bring alive the AAUW mission in their communities.

Saturday evening was a celebration of the AAUW Pennsylvania Gateway to Equity Award recipient – the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Kristen Herman, Director of Prevention, accepted the award and spoke about the importance of PCADV's relationship with AAUW Pennsylvania in pursuing common initiatives for the women of Pennsylvania. You can see the September 29, 2021 virtual meeting in which PCADV spoke about pay equity and intimate domestic violence, one finding of their March 2021 report.

On Sunday morning, we welcomed Peg Pennepacker for a conversation about Title IX and trans people in sports. Many will remember Peg from the 2016 convention. We asked Peg to provide a celebration of Title IX and discuss the emerging transgender issues. She delivered and the audience was so engaged, we allowed Peg's time to expand. Her remarks were thoughtful and an insightful presentation of the facts. No one will think Title IX is passé after hearing her presentation. I sat there thinking how fortunate we—women in general, not AAUW specifically—are to have an advocate fighting every day for Title IX. Many pay no attention to this law and don't realize how foundational it is to gender equity, Peg's dedication and expertise will be celebrated in December when she is inducted into the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Hall of Fame. And, I was thinking how fortunate we are to have Peg as an ally and friend of AAUW.

Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO, joined us via Zoom to provide a recap of AAUW's recent work and successes. The morning concluded with the installation of new officers, Lori Woods, Program Vice President and Cindy Hall, President.

The convention wasn't all about the speakers. It was about meeting new people and sharing stories and learnings. It was about laughing and smiling and discovering a new aspect of AAUW's work. We socialized and bid on silent auction baskets and celebrated Cathy Kotanchick's winning AAUW elevator pitch (see page 2) and donated money to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund and wrote postcards urging House committee to hold a hearing on the paid leave legislation.

All in all, it was a very fulfilling weekend. Hope to see you at the 2023 Summer Retreat and 2024 State Convention.

Ann Pehle (Carlisle)
AAUW Pennsylvania President

Disruption as Opportunity . . . It's a Woman's World



AAUW Pennsylvania's 2022 Convention June 3-5, 2022

By all anecdotes and evaluations, you missed a good one! Members who attended raved about the speakers, enjoyed seeing friends, made new friends, and gathered ideas for how they and their branch can make AAUW's mission real in their community. Below is a summary of the convention—my recollections and thoughts. Go here for convention content and extras.

The convention planners wanted to feature a local company in the opening keynote. Alicia Petross, Hershey Company Chief Diversity Officer didn't disappoint. We learned that for Hershey, diversity and inclusion is a business strategy for the purpose of creating an accepting and inclusive work environment for Hershey employees around the world. Measurable goals, willingness to be vulnerable, unafraid to end business relationships that are not furthering the goals and make new ones with true partners, candid conversations, and focused leaders are ingredients of Hershey's success.

Saturday morning began with a presentation from two recipients of AAUW Community Action Grants for STEM projects. The passion for excellence and determination to make an impact on young girls was inspiring. Both programs were successful in their mission. AAUW awarded \$10,000 to each of these Pennsylvania programs. You can be proud of AAUW's commitment and work with a project in your community.

Saturday's luncheon speaker offered a perspective on the pandemic probably not felt by many of us in the audience. Julie Vogtman, Director of Job Quality and Senior Counsel for National Women's Law Center delivered a review of their March 2022 research *Resilient but Not Recovered: After Two Years of the COVID-19 Crisis, Women Are Still Struggling*. 40% of women say their family's financial situation is worse today than before the pandemic. The recovering but tumultuous economy, persistent caregiving demands, lack of daycare options, and no paid sick leave all contribute to the pandemic's impact on women, particularly

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

BETHLEHEM BRANCH MEMBER WINS ELEVATOR PITCH CONTEST

Cathy Kotanchik pitched a winner!

Have you ever tried to explain all that AAUW is in a quick, interesting, succinct fashion? It's difficult because we're SO MANY THINGS!

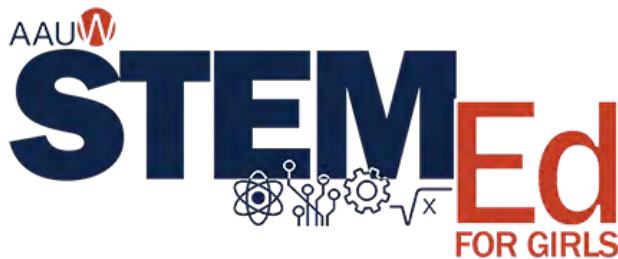
Well, here it is!

Your new AAUW PA Elevator Pitch gives you that precise, meaningful, quick way to say it all! Feel free to use it all or use parts from it to invite friends, neighbors, family to your branch!

Thank you to the runners up: Fran Bogos from North Hills Pittsburgh and Cindy Hall from State College! And, thank you to all who entered the contest. AAUW PA appreciates your participation.



I belong to an organization that fights for an equal playing field for women and girls, be it on the playground, in the classroom, in the lab, in the office, in the boardroom, all the way to Capitol Hill. AAUW gives voice to the fight for women's equality. AAUW creates programs that encourage all women to ask for what they deserve. AAUW funds fellowships, research, and legal defense for women struggling against the barriers of inequality. AAUW lobbies state and national government, keeping women's issues in front of legislators. Come join me at our next AAUW program and see how you can be part of our battle for equal rights for women.



We are pleased to announce that our STEMEd for Girls is returning for the summer of 2022! This exciting new program is created for girls in middle and high school—with a particular focus on girls of color. Whether you're just starting to explore your interest in science and math, or you've already decided to major in STEM in college, this program will help you along the way. A bonus offering: Special sessions for parents, guardians and caregivers who are eager to provide the support and encouragement that girls need! Go to this link for registration: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/stemed-for-girls/>

AAUW-PA BOARD MEMBERS

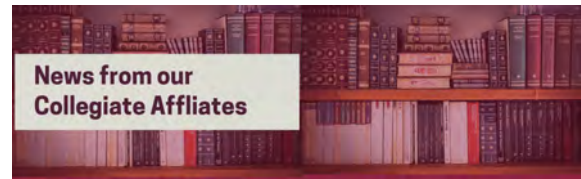
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National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

AAUW Pennsylvania Grant Recipients

May 24, 25, and May 26, 2022 fully virtual

We are pleased to announce the PA grant recipients for 2022 NCCWSL. This annual conference focuses on building leadership skills and career development for college women. AAUW Pennsylvania awarded two undergraduate grants. We appreciate donations to fund grants from the Carlisle Branch and the York Branch. Funds remaining from these donations will be carried forward to assist funding grants for 2023. If a branch sponsored a student to attend NCCWSL, please contact Peggy Schmiedecke, C/U Liaison at AAUWPACU@gmail.com



2021-2022 Student Mini-Impact Grant Fund

Congratulations to the two recipients.

Period Project - Menstruation Equality

Megan Curtis, (she/her/hers), Economics Major, Theory Track at Moravian University ('24), and AAUW Student Group Treasurer and MAC Representative, requested funds to continue the Period Project (\$250). Weekly baskets are restocked with menstruation products in 15 bathrooms across campus. The goal is to also expand the reach of the program and increase the number of bathrooms. The grant will provide funds to offer free period products to assist in creating menstruation equality.

Megan stated, "With the funding from this grant, we will be able to purchase approximately 1,500 menstrual products (pads and tampons). This provides great support to students across campus who may not have adequate access to menstrual products or simply forgot to carry a tampon or pad with them." The grant report, stated that this past semester, they noticed that some baskets in heavily used restrooms ran out within a day or two. We are in the process of designing and printing signs to encourage students to only take one product at a time and point them to other resources on campus where they can find a more permanent access to these products.

This project is the result of collaboration efforts between Moravian AAUW Student Group, Spectrum – LGBTQ+ Organization, USG - Moravian United Student Government and AAUW Bethlehem Branch.

Undergraduate Students		
Name	College	Major
Sofia Perrone	Dickinson College	Anthropology and German
Haleigh Keyser	University of Pittsburgh—Johnstown	Nursing

Sister-to-Sister Summit

Julia Wedeking, (she/her/hers) Social Work POE Major at Juniata College ('24), AAUW at JC and Fatou Barrow, International Business Major at Juniata College ('22) applied for a grant to assist in funding the annual Sister-to-Sister Summit (\$400) held at Juniata College. The one-day event was planned over three months. With the help of the grant, they were able to invite three middle schools and had 30 girls/feminine-aligned identities students attend who had a chance to discuss topics of their choosing related to problems that they were facing in organized dialogue activities. Participants held conversations on topics such as, but not limited to, identities, relationships, how social issues affect academics, future goals, family, self-care, and more.

Julia & Emma said, "This immersive bonding experience resulted in the empowerment and validation of these young women. Their reactions at the end of the day and their visible excitement demonstrated that something had been achieved. Many of the participants and their counselors approached the volunteers and officers to show gratitude for the experience." The report stated, the experience as a whole could not have been possible without the generous grant that they received.

It is hosted by the AAUW at Juniata Student Organization, in collaboration with the Social Work Service Club, Community Engagement Office, Women in Physics, Instructors of the Future, PLEXUS, JC Menstrual Movement and the AAUW Huntingdon Branch.



AAUW FUNDS

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the following branches for their generous donations of creative baskets of goods for the silent auction at convention: Carlisle, Doylestown, Easton, Fox Chapel Area, Harrisburg, Huntingdon, Johnstown, North Hills-Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh (2 baskets), Reading, State College, West Chester-Chester County, and York.



Bidding was lively and strategic, and, because of the great interest these baskets received, AAUW PA was able to make a donation of \$1172 to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund from these baskets.

Thanks to donors and winners alike!

During our joyful return to in-person gatherings, the convention envelope donation opportunity at Saturday's luncheon raised a whopping \$1870! Thank you to the many generous members who made a donation in this way. The breakdown of donations was \$1520 to the Greatest Needs Fund, \$150 to the Economic Security Fund, \$140 to the Education and Training Fund, and \$60 to the Leadership Fund. As with the money raised by the silent auction, these donations will be credited to the individuals who made them, to their branches, and to AAUW PA.

Thank you so very much!

So here we are in June wrapping up our AAUW membership and program year but finding ourselves only midway through our giving year. Yes, it's a bit confusing at first but is not that hard to get used to.

As I hand over the reins of AAUW Funds to the next state chair, Sally Kalin, I want to thank the hundreds of generous AAUW members across the Commonwealth for parting with their hard-earned cash over the past four years in order to benefit the mission and programs of AAUW. We have accomplished a lot in that time, having raised \$327,198 for AAUW Funds from July 1, 2018, through June 8, 2022. This is an incomplete total because the 2022 numbers are missing state and branch donations and our convention donations. Still, WOO!!

Whether you give because, as Shelby Lemons, VISTA National Development Coordinator, has [described](#), you believe in the mission, you think your gift will make a difference, you "[experience] personal satisfaction from giving," you were asked to donate, you want the tax benefits, you have volunteered and seen the results of the donations, or some combination of all of these reasons, your contributions are happily received and valued. You advance the mission of AAUW with every minute of your involvement and with every penny you donate, and we thank you. Keep up the great work!

Deb Roney (Huntingdon)
AAUW Funds Chair



KAREN J. GRAZIANO OF HAZLETON BRANCH PASSES AWAY

AAUW PA is sad to announce that Karen Graziano, president of the Hazleton branch, has passed away. Karen has been a member of AAUW for over 40 years having served in many positions within the Hazleton branch. She has served as president for the past 21 years. Although the branch was small, she kept all together to celebrate women and preserve the many friendships made through AAUW.

Prior to her retirement, Karen was an elementary school teacher in the Hazleton Area School District. People who knew Karen speak of her love for reading and education and her concern for others. She was always willing to lend a hand when needed. Karen will be missed by her AAUW sisters.



Have you renewed your membership?

AAUW PA members are strongly encouraged to renew your membership online using a credit card.

Go to my.aauw.org and follow the instructions to reset your password so you can access the new member portal. You don't need to create a new account; doing so will prevent you from logging in, and will need to be corrected by National.

Once you have accessed your Personal Snapshot, you can click the "Renew" button, add your branch, and state membership and pay your dues.

Thank you for your continued support of equity for women and girls and for AAUW PA!

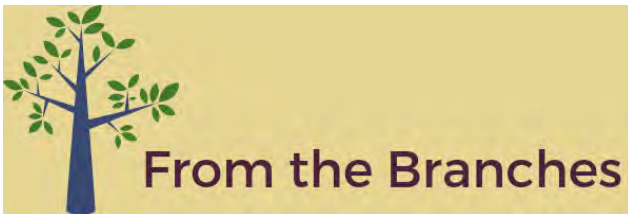




What's inside the 2022 Yearbook?

The 2022 Yearbook was printed for state convention attendees. View online [here](#) to discover the highlights of fiscal year 2022.

- President letter
- Branch and membership data
- Branch awards
- AAUW Pennsylvania Special Honoree Sue Zitnick.
- Members awarded Outstanding Woman, Member Making a Difference, Named Gift Honoree.
- AAUW Pennsylvania Gateway to Equity award recipient
- Branch Gateway to Equity award recipients
- Public Policy Priorities 2022-2024
- AAUW Pennsylvania financials and historic data
- Minutes of the 93rd Annual Meeting held virtually on April 23, 2022
- College and University update
- AAUW Pennsylvania Bylaws adopted April 23, 2022



Reading Branch: System Shakers & Barrier Breakers

Members of AAUW Reading joined with the Berks Women's History Alliance to write and produce System Shakers, Barrier Breakers: The Suffragists. Plans were to present the play at the Berks History Center and other venues for the centennial celebration of women's right to vote. However the pandemic canceled live performances, and the play was filmed with the CD's distributed to libraries, schools, and in the Berks community. Watch a video [here](#).



MORE Branch news and activities
On pages 6 and 7!

The Other Side of Public Policy



Branch presidents and public policy chairs hear from the Public Policy Co-Chairs, Jacqui Rogers and Barbara Price on a bi-monthly basis through the public policy newsletter, Highlights. Branch PPCs also have the opportunity to participate in Zoom calls in the months that Highlights isn't published. If you signed up for AAUW Action Alerts, you may also hear from them asking you to contact your legislator about a specific bill. However, that is not all the Co-Chairs do. This past year both Jacqui and Barbara have been speakers at a number of events at the request of other groups and branches.

Jacqui has been busy spreading the word about the need for a livable wage in Pennsylvania. She was the speaker at Keeping It Brief, a mid-week, mid-day gathering on Zoom sponsored by the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition (BCWAC) as an opportunity to get a quick update on a current issue followed by an op ed on the issue in the Intelligencer. The Bucks County YWCA sponsored a Stand Against Racism Panel Discussion where Jacqui discussed the need for a living wage specifically focused on women of color. She also spoke at a Legislative Virtual Forum—Understanding the Issues through Individuals with Lived Experience—that BCWAC co-hosted with the Bucks-Mont Collaborative. The purpose was to let legislators hear from individuals about challenges they faced in housing, mental health, recovery services, childcare and education, and the need for a living wage.

Barbara was the keynote speaker for the Girls Exploring Engineering Event sponsored by Women in Manufacturing Western PA Chapter and BotsIQ of the Pittsburgh Chapter National Tooling & Machining Foundation where she discussed Pay Equity and women in STEM. Barbara participated in a webinar on Facebook about Black Women and Student Loan Debt sponsored by the PA Legislative Black Caucus Sub-Committee on Women and Girls of Color. Most recently Barbara presented information on pay equity at the Carlisle Branch Beyond Suffrage: Reclaiming the Future event.

AAUW PA continues to follow the Fair School Funding court case and recently signed onto an amicus brief in the case. This was an opportunity to focus the Court on the importance of all students graduating from high school "college and career ready"—having the skills and knowledge they need to enter post-secondary education or undertake meaningful employment and participate as informed citizens in democracy.

Public Policy isn't only advocacy. It is also efforts to offer community education in order to have more informed citizens, especially in an election year when it is so important to know the issues.

MORE Branch news and activities!

Carlisle Branch: Beyond Suffrage: Reclaiming the Future

After three years of planning and delayed by the pandemic, AAUW Carlisle, partnered with ten community partners to host Beyond Suffrage: Reclaiming the Future.

The Women’s Economic Security Forum held May 5 was a huge success. Two panels of experts helped attendees better understand important issues that impact the economic security of women. The evening featured two panels: one on Social Barriers and Bias and one on Workplace Challenges Magnified (to include the effects of the pandemic on women), each followed with small group discussions.

The event was only the beginning. Our objective is to compile community feedback from the evening in a white paper which will be presented to our Pennsylvania legislators as they consider several bills that will impact women’s economic security, including equal pay, paid leave, and the minimum wage.

We will also be creating an Equity Quilt. Participants were given a fabric square and asked to depict examples of how they have experienced inequities in their lives that have hindered them from economic success.

And, all attendees were encouraged to tell candidates and incumbents their perspective on economic security issues and to sign up for Two Minute Activist to be alerted to action on our issues by the Pennsylvania legislature.



Kate Elkins (Carlisle)

Carlisle Branch: Trailblazers Recognition

After two years of “virtual” celebrations, AAUW Carlisle held its fourth Trailblazer Recognition Event IN PERSON on Monday, April 11 at Carlisle High School. We are very grateful to Dr. Albert Parrillo, Director of Careers & Technology, and to Leigh Hamilton, at Carlisle High School for their help and support of our Trailblazer Girls’ Recognition event.

The Trailblazer Award is given by AAUW Carlisle in keeping with the AAUW mission of supporting women and girls, and celebrates high school girls who choose vocational or technical fields of study. AAUW Carlisle created the Trailblazer Award in 2019 because we recognize that many high school students face pressure to attend four-year colleges, and girls who are interested in non-traditional tracks in high school may not receive positive support or recognition. The combined impact of these influences may persuade some young women to pursue four-year degrees, often accumulating significant college debt, when a vocational diploma or later study at a community college or trade school better suits their career goals. Student honorees are selected based on criteria of good citizenship at school, enthusiasm for their program of study, and academic competence with passing grades in all courses.

We were very proud to celebrate the accomplishments of our ten honorees representing Automotive Technology, Business & Marketing, Childcare, Culinary Arts, and Health Careers programs.

Light refreshments were provided by Chef Ehly and his Culinary Arts students in the Courtyard Café at a reception following the event.

Gail D’Urso (Carlisle)
Trailblazer Chair

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of AAUW Harrisburg

The Harrisburg Branch was founded in 1921 as the country was coming out of the great pandemic known as the Spanish flu. When the AAUW Harrisburg’s 100th Anniversary planning committee began meeting in 2019, no one had any idea that the United States would soon be facing another pandemic—COVID 19. Planning celebratory events required creativity, flexibility, and adaptation. Technology proved to be a great asset for holding a variety of events throughout 2021.

On January 26, 2021, we kicked off AAUW Harrisburg’s 100th year by hosting Dr. Lisa Tetrault in a Zoom program in partnership with the Midtown Scholar Bookstore in Harrisburg. Dr. Tetrault’s timely and outstanding presentation was entitled “When Women Won the Right to Vote: A History Unfinished”. While we think of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution as women having “won” the right to vote in 1920, Dr. Tetrault explained how that was only the middle of a struggle to ensure voting rights, a struggle that is today unfinished and ongoing. Dr. Tetrault, an Associate Professor of History at Carnegie Mellon University, was a consultant for 19th Amendment projects initiated by the National Constitution Center and other organizations, as well as the PBS documentary *The Vote*.

On Sunday September 5, 2021, the celebration continued with local singer-songwriter Bobbi Carmitchell presenting a concert to our Branch. She sang songs from the women’s movement and told stories of women’s struggle for the right to vote. Originally slated to be held at a pavilion at Ft. Hunter in Harrisburg, the threatening weather forced the concert indoors. Our 100th Anniversary Committee Chair Marcia Hajduk graciously offered to host in her spacious home. Ms. Carmitchell performed the concert on Zoom from her home so members and guests could enjoy the concert from Marcia’s home (with many precautions in place) or from their own homes.

Sunday, November 14, 2021, AAUW Harrisburg Branch culminated a year of events commemorating its hundred years’ endurance as a force for women in the greater Harrisburg area with a private presentation of the play *Voice of One: Violet Oakley Unveiled* written by local playwright Cindy Dlugolecki. The one-woman play was performed at Open Stage in Harrisburg. Stephanie Via was outstanding as Violet Oakley. A woman inspired by deep spiritual convictions, Violet Oakley rose to become one of America’s most important twentieth-century artists. Breaking down barriers to women in her field, she received a commission to create many of the murals that adorn the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg. A lovely brunch followed, allowing members to reflect and rejoice in the accomplishments of AAUW Harrisburg Branch. Having experienced the play, *Voice of One: Violet Oakley Unveiled*, AAUW Harrisburg members revisited this remarkable woman and her spectacular art with a tour of the Pennsylvania State Capitol on January 9, 2022. Oakley not only painted history, she made it.

Each of the events commemorating our 100th year celebrated the challenges and accomplishments of remarkable women over the last century. It remains the mission of AAUW Harrisburg Branch to promote equity and to break down barriers. With 100 members strong, we march into our second century of supporting women’s issues.

Mary Kratzer (Harrisburg)



Easton Branch: Girls Recognition Night

AAUW Easton held an inaugural Girls Recognition Night on May 5, 2022 at the Nurture Nature Center in Easton. In a Certificate ceremony, AAUW members, parents, teachers, and guests celebrated eight 7th grade girls from four area school districts (Easton, Nazareth, Wilson and Bangor) for their outstanding work in science, math and art.



Panelists Katie Bahnck, Louisa Durkin, Melissa Benzinger McGlynn and Natasha Woods shared their stories of STEAM interests, studies, and career pursuits. Keynote speaker, Dr. Farah Bennani, Dean of STEM at Northampton Community College, described her path from Morocco to Colorado and finally to the Lehigh Valley as she studied and taught Microbiology, advocated for underrepresented students, and advanced the use of technology in laboratory sciences.



AAUW research has shown that programs like this which provide role models for girls, can have a positive influence on the future of women in STEAM as well as providing information that parents find helpful.

Susan McNamara and Toni Hoffman, co-chairs of the event, thank principals and teachers, the staff at the Nurture Nature Center, the panelists and keynote speaker and their committee members for making the evening possible.

Toni Hoffman (Easton)

Johnstown Branch & the Cambria County Library celebrate Women's History Month

AAUW Johnstown donated nine books that focus on notable women in history. From left: Leah Johncola (Library Youth Services Coordinator), Esther Vorhauer (Library Head of Reference), Ashley Flynn (Library Director), Dr. Valerie Grash (AAUW Member) and Joyce Homan (Library Reference/Teen Librarian).



Johnstown Facebook Blitz to Spotlight Women Owned Businesses

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Pa. (WJAC) by Nicole Fuschino

The women of AAUW's Johnstown Branch have a mission: to "advance equity" for women and girls through research, advocacy, and education. "When all of us are working together, and all of us are able to achieve our potential, it's better for everyone," said the organization's Co-President Kathy Howanek. "We always say women's issues are everyone's issues."

March's Women's History Month—held each year—celebrates the role of women in history, culture, and society. Every March, AAUW members host programs to promote all things female empowerment. "It's to emphasize the importance of women who hold up half the sky. That's what we're about. March is a special month for us for sure," Kathy told 6 News.

This year, AAUW members decided to have a "Facebook Blitz." During the month of March, they used their social media platform to promote local women-owned businesses in Cambria County.

It's been so well received," Kathy said. Facebook friends from around the state are saying, "Oh, I want to go to that business the next time I'm in Johnstown."

Deanna Haddle (Johnstown)
Communications Chair

Lansdale Branch Successfully Pivots Fundraiser to Online

AAUW Lansdale has used an auction as our fundraiser for scholarships, community programs, and AAUW National Funds since 2009, when, serendipitously, a local civic association in which we had a member in common was looking for a partner to help with their annual live auction. By 2015, the Scholarship and Community Outreach Auction was all ours.

Working with auction software for cataloguing, check out, and so forth has enabled us to capture all data, with easy access to whatever information we needed from year to year. With members who solicit items, gift cards, and sponsorships from local businesses as well as some solicitation by mail, we were very successful in our live March auction for several years, until all came to a halt in 2020.



With everything ready to go, we waited ... until finally we decided to go online. The software we use has that option, and, thankfully, one of our technically adept committee members was able to complete the adjustments.

Holding the on-line auction in November of 2020, we made more money than ever. A bit nervous about how solicitation would go for our 2021 auction, we ended up doing well. We plan to continue reaching out to a greater audience with our new, on-line version.

Pam Daveler and Laurie Friedman (Lansdale)
Co-chairs

Murraysville Branch: The 1918 Influenza Pandemic in Western PA

Thomas Soltis, PhD, Westmoreland County Community College
January 13, 2022

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the world at large, following the pattern of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic. While the true number of deaths from the 1918 pandemic is unknowable, the most commonly accepted estimates range between 20-40 million victims. By the autumn of 1918 the disease arrived in Pennsylvania with a vengeance. There were over 500,000 Pennsylvanians infected by the disease, with over 50,000 deaths in western Pennsylvania alone. Dr. Soltis' presentation summarized the arrival, spread and impact of the 1918 pandemic in western Pennsylvania, identified the lessons from 1918, and discussed how those can be applied to COVID-19.

Through Westmoreland County Community College, and in cooperation with local community partners, Dr. Soltis designed a series of events commemorating the impact of the 1918 pandemic in Westmoreland County and surrounding areas. Over the past four years, Tom has presented this topic to numerous schools, social clubs, community groups, libraries, historical societies and civic groups.

Dr. Soltis, professor of sociology and anthropology at the Westmoreland County Community College since 1990, won the Westmoreland County Community College "Outstanding Teacher Award" in 2001 and again in 2016. His book, *An Unwelcome Visit From the Spanish Lady: The 1918 Influenza Pandemic in Western Pennsylvania* was published in 2019.



Susan Greenberg (Murraysville)
Public Information Chair

Website Submissions

Please send news for the AAUW PA website to aauwpaad@gmail.com

Address Changes

E-News Subscribers:

Send e-mail address changes and additions to the branch person who manages the e-mail list.

Paper Subscribers:

Branches, please send an updated address list for paper subscribers when they occur to: aauwpaad@gmail.com

We're always looking for news from AAUW branches! The best submissions will be between 100-250 words and include a photo (well-focused and at high resolution, please!)

Deadlines for submissions are:

November 1 (for the December issue)

February 1 (for the March issue)

May 1 (for the June issue)

August 1 (for the September issue)

Send to the Keystoner editor at

aauwpakeystoner@gmail.com

Please put "For the Keystoner" in the Subject line!

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