

## Resilience: Better together

Is anyone else ready to put 2020 behind us? It has been a year like no other and our resilience has definitely been tested. It looks like 2021 is not going to be the easiest 12 months to live through either, but together we are better, stronger and absolutely more fun! Let's start the year out right with some great programs that will continue our work from October 2020 to build the financial resilience of our members and guests. Again, we are planning multiple programs throughout the month and you are encouraged to invite guests and help spread the wisdom of solid financial practices for women!



**Watch your emails for invitations** to the programs in January. If you haven't filled out the [survey](#) on the January programs yet, do it today! The survey remains open until December 5<sup>th</sup>.

*Stacey Gatch and Judy Wheaton  
Program Vice Presidents*

**Just in case you missed the previous emails or procrastinated to the last minute. . . .**

## *Holiday Zoombration*

*December 5*

*10:00 am to 11:30 am*

*Registration Required*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtdO-rqDopHtwAX0ENhjScvulDklsm1hU>

**After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.**

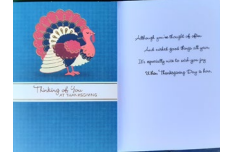
**We want to talk, share, laugh, and enjoy each other's company—albeit virtually. So, make your Zoom video view as festive as you can – through clothes and décor. And bring a snack and/or beverage to enjoy.**

WATCH for EMAILS from <a href="mailto:aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com">aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com</a> for updates on ALL events			
December 3	1:00 pm	Public Policy Committee	Contact Kate Elkins for Zoom link
December 5	10:00 am	Holiday Zoombration	Page 1
January 4	1:00 pm	Book Group	See page 7
January 7	1:00 pm	Public Policy Committee	Contact Kate Elkins for Zoom link
January 14	TBD	New Member Gathering on Zoom	See page 3
January 26	7:00 pm	Branch Meeting	Watch for emails with details.

## From the President

Here we are in December 2020. It has been one of the most interesting and difficult years of my memory. The November 3<sup>rd</sup> general election consumed energy and tested perseverance and patience. The COVID pandemic made the simplest so very challenging and upset all norms and routines, requiring us to tap into our creativity and resilience. The holiday season is full of rituals and anticipated cherished events. COVID is requiring us to pause the “we’ve always done it this way” tape in our brain and find new ways to celebrate. This can be the year to create what will become a new anticipated cherished event.

Continuing a custom started in 2017, the AAUW Carlisle Board sent Thanksgiving cards to persons/organizations in the community that make it possible for us to be successful. Instead of signing the cards at our November board meeting, we met on a Saturday morning in Letort Park to distribute cards to board members in charge of the relationship with the receiving person/organization. While not as many signatures or personal notes of thanks (as in past years), the important aspect was retained – to express our sincere gratitude to those that support our work and make us successful advocating for women and girls.



Because of the year-end holidays, we suspend our regular fourth Tuesday branch meeting in November and December and replace it with a Holiday Brunch. Speaking of creativity – I am looking forward to our December 5<sup>th</sup> **Holiday Zoombration**. Hope to “see” you there. And, the newsletter takes a break too. This issue covers December and January. Look for the next issue early February. While our January gatherings aren’t fully baked, you will have several opportunities to meet. Watch for emails with details.

You are well aware of the Board’s commitment to diversity and inclusion. I am thrilled to announce the AAUW Carlisle Diversity & Inclusion Chair position is finally filled. Please welcome Beth McKinley to this position. I am so excited for the vision and passion Beth brings to this role. Want to join her efforts? See page 7.

Every year, the President appoints a Nomination Chair. I am pleased to announce that Pat Markowski is the Nomination Chair for the 2021-2023 slate. See page 3 for more information on the process and how you can participate.

Holiday wishes to you and your family. May you enjoy the season, albeit differently this year. Remember to be good to yourself.

**Ann Pehle**  
**President**

## What’s Up in Pennsylvania? News from AAUW Pennsylvania

It’s not too early to mark you calendar for the Summer Retreat. Friday night is an informal meet and greet for persons traveling from out of town. Saturday, beginning at 10:00 am, will be a mix of affiliate business, updates and the luncheon keynote speaker. More information to come as details are finalized.

### 2021 Summer Retreat

July 23 @ 6:00 pm to July 24 @ 3:00 pm  
Central Hotel and Conference Center  
Harrisburg or virtual

Thank you to Nancy Sigrist for serving on the AAUW Pennsylvania 2021-2023 Nominating Committee. The superb slate of candidates is featured in the December Keystoner and elections are in March.

Speaking of the December Keystoner. . . watch for delivery from [aauwpainfo@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpainfo@gmail.com). Our voter registration work is highlighted.

## News from National AAUW Update

During this season of giving, consider a donation to AAUW. Easy to donate online at <https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/>.

## Membership Engagement

### New Members, mark your calendar!

Thursday, January 14, 2021 New Member Virtual Social

Discussion topic is yet to be determined but stay tuned for more information.

#### Is social media and technology your thing?

AAUW Carlisle Branch is looking for a dedicated person to help with the posting and managing the social media for our branch on:

Facebook  
Twitter  
Instagram

You are already a member of AAUW for a reason- you care about the mission for women and girls. The branch can use your skills to further this message. Thanks for considering volunteering.

For further information and to answer any questions please contact Ann Pehle @ [apehle@outlook.com](mailto:apehle@outlook.com)

#### ANNOUNCEMENT!

#### THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE IS COMPLETE!

##### New members:

Carolyn Freberg 2020-2023  
Kathleen Gorak 2020-2023

##### Current members:

Stefanie D'Amore  
Gail D'Urso  
Rose Smith  
Cindy Sutton

Thank you everyone and looking forward to another exciting year!

*Lillian Wong*  
*Scholarship Chair*

## 2021--2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE FORMING

The AAUW Carlisle Board is comprised of 6 elective offices: President, Program Vice President, Membership Vice President, Finance Officer and Secretary. The immediate Past President serves on the board for a two-year term to provide consultation and continuity.

While the President, Secretary and Past Presidents serve individually for their two-year term, Program Vice-Presidents, Membership Vice Presidents, and Finance Officers serve in tandem for staggered two-year terms, so there is always one experienced and one new officer in each of these positions.

For the 2021--2023 membership year, the offices of President, Program Vice President, Membership Vice President, Finance Officer and Secretary are up for re-election.

It is customary to engage a Nominating Committee to evaluate the skills, experiences and qualifications of members of the Carlisle branch to develop a slate of candidates to fill these offices. This slate of candidates will be approved by the current Board members in March, and presented to the membership for a vote at the April branch meeting. Newly elected officers begin their terms of service immediately following the April election, and participate with current board members as a transition board until the new membership year beginning in August.

Pat Markowski has been tasked with convening a Nominating Committee for this election cycle. The time commitment for service on the committee is fairly concentrated. In December, committee members will receive job descriptions for each of the open offices. In January the committee will meet to review a list of possible candidates. Once the list is compiled, committee members will contact the selected individuals to determine their willingness to serve. By the end of February, a slate of candidates will be formalized for consideration and a vote by the current board. This will conclude the business of the 2021--2023 Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact Pat by December 10<sup>th</sup> at 717-458-8591 or [pmarks11@comcast.net](mailto:pmarks11@comcast.net).

## New Members

**Pat Markowski, Communications Chair**

### **Chelsea Hranica**

Welcome Chelsea Hranica, our newest member! Originally from Pittsburgh, Chelsea came to the Carlisle area as a middle-schooler in 1999 when her father posted to the Army War College. While her family has since moved back to Pittsburgh, Chelsea remained in the area, where she lives with her husband and their two rescue “children”, Capone, a Rottweiler-Lab mix, and Marco, a very mixed-mostly-Pug.

Intending to pursue a career as a lawyer, she majored in Public Administration at Shippensburg University where she graduated with a B.S. in that discipline in 2008. Her first job out of college was with AIG. She later worked in finance with the firm Plant Site Logistics. While there, she also pursued and attained her accounting certification.

Chelsea is no novice to service and volunteerism. She has volunteered with United Way, Project Share, Carlisle YWCA’s Rape Crisis Center, Boiling Springs Civic Association, and Friends of Kings Gap. Having grown up in the military, she has lived in many different places, and has great appreciation for the diversity of people and cultures she has been exposed to. But she also values a place to call home, and feels it is important to be involved in her community, to be of service.

It’s not all nose to the grindstone for Chelsea and her husband. They enjoy travel and a variety of outdoor activities: hiking, skiing, and boating. She also enjoys cooking.

Chelsea became interested in AAUW as an organization whose ideals align with her own, an organization that she can “grow up in.” she is particularly interested in politics and public service. She hopes to expand her reach in the Carlisle branch, meet people with the same interests and passion, and keep on top of current events and politics. As she grows into the organization, she hopes to volunteer and serve on an AAUW committee.

## Trailblazers Girls’ Recognition – You’re Invited!

Plan to attend our third annual Trailblazers Girls’ Recognition

**Monday, March 26 at 1 o’clock**

Fowler Auditorium at Carlisle High School

Watch for more information as date approaches

Don’t know what Trailblazers is all about? Read about the project and previous two events at  
<https://carlisle-pa.aauw.net/trailblazers/>

## PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

Kate Elkins and Katie Perkowski, Public Policy Co-Chairs

### Congressional Voting Records

AAUW and its members have a long history of lobbying Congress and holding legislators accountable for how they vote on AAUW priorities. To that end, AAUW has analyzed the voting records of our representatives and we should hold their feet to the fire for their actions — or inactions — on issues important to women and their families. Below are our representatives and how often they supported our issues.

SENATE		VOTING CHARTS						
	BE HEARD Act	FAMILY Act	Paycheck Fairness Act	Raise the Wage Act	Equality Act	Voting Rights Advancement Act	College Transparency Act	Score (%)
PENNSYLVANIA								
Casey (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Toomey (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	14

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES		VOTING CHARTS						
	BE HEARD Act	FAMILY Act	Paycheck Fairness Act	Raise the Wage Act	Equality Act	Voting Rights Advancement Act	FUTURE Act	Score (%)
PENNSYLVANIA								
Joyce (R-13)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Perry (R-10)	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	14

### Paid Leave Update

Karen Showalter of MomsRising hosted a November 17 Zoom Paid Leave interactive meeting. She expressed gratitude for partnership with AAUW and other groups working to ensure that everyone has a right to paid leave.

What can we do? Share our powerful stories with our legislators about the consequences of either having or NOT having paid leave in order to compel them to vote for proposed bills. There is now bipartisan support for some versions of paid leave. NOW is the time to move the ball in the new session. We can learn from state programs to guide a federal plan. The policy must be accessible (have the highest rate of wage reimbursement), meaningful (for a reasonable length of time), affordable (expense shared by the employee & employer), and inclusive (with a broad definition of “family”). Contact Senators Casey and Toomey and urge their support.

The current national focus is on the HEROES bill passed in the House of Representatives. It needs to go a step up. The Covid-19 related CARES Act expires in December, and needs to be extended for as long as possible.

At the PA state level, the “Family Care Act” bill would provide longer coverage than that of the federal “Family Act”. PA Senate Lead Sponsors are Collette and Laughlin. PA House Lead Sponsors are Thomas and Miller.

Karen encourages us to contact her ([karen@momsrising.org](mailto:karen@momsrising.org)) as a resource for information with talking points that show employers that paid leave increases productivity, employee health and loyalty, attracts the best new employees, and costs less than rehiring and training replacement employees can be very persuasive in seeing that this is a win-win for all.

With bi-partisan support, there is a real opportunity to advance this legislation in Harrisburg. Your Public Policy Committee will be coordinating emails to legislators and lobbying efforts and ask that AAUW Carlisle members contact their state senators and representatives in support of paid leave.

*Joan Rockwell*  
Public Policy Committee member

## Branch Programs

Stacey Gatch and Judy Wheaton, Program Vice Presidents

**2021, Here we come!**

**Check out some updates on the great programs coming up. So far, it will all be from the comfort of your own home. Let's kick this pandemic so we can see each other's shiny happy faces again. Please wear a mask!**



**December 5, 2020** 10am Holiday Brunch  
Challenges for College Women – Single Parent Scholarship Program at Wilson College.

**Holiday Zoombration included so bring your holiday cheer to your Zoom square! Register [here](#).**

**January 26, 2021** 7pm (plus more!)  
Financial Workshop #2: After 4 workshops in October, there is still more to learn! So, join other members and guests for financial discussions specific to women.

**February 23, 2021** 11am  
Close to home: Business recovery in Carlisle. More details to come.

**March 23, 2021** 7pm  
Women supporting Women: Our own members speak. A panel of AAUW Carlisle members will speak of their experiences with AAUW and beyond. This is a great chance to get to know each other better and share our stories.

**April 27, 2021** 6pm  
The Scholarship Banquet to celebrate the recipients of the Higher Education Scholarship.

**May 25, 2021** 7pm  
Garrison Commander; USAG Carlisle Barracks; Colonel Courtney A. Short. Colonel Short is expected to speak about her responsibilities, changes she sees for Carlisle Barracks in the future, and how those changes may affect the Carlisle community.



As we move forward, we often look back and pay tribute to those who have had much influence on who we are today. As we celebrated AAUW Carlisle Branch's 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in May 2019, we gathered tributes. A few will be shared in each newsletter December/January through May 2020.

We are thankful!

*To my parents, Olga & Ted Gorak, for giving me loads of grit, -  
and- to my sister, Yvonne, for showing me the way to  
University ....Kathleen Gorak*

*To my mom, Angelina Bruno Mahon, who taught me about  
feminism before we even knew that word! ...Gail Mahon  
D'Urso*

*Frances Myers Smith, my mother. She had a varied career –  
dietitian and Justice of the Peace! ...Rose Smith*

## INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES

Wendy Armour Dickinson, Interest Group Chair

Breakfast Club and Dine Out are on a COVID break.

### BOOK GROUP

Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, September – May. We will meet by Zoom until meeting inside is safe. If you are interested in joining a discussion, please contact Wendy Dickinson so that she can provide to you the zoom information to join. She can be contacted by phone 717-514-3322 or email to: [warmourdickinson@hotmail.com](mailto:warmourdickinson@hotmail.com)  
The book descriptions are in Goodreads. See website for current and past reading lists. <https://carlisle-pa.aauw.net/book-group/>

<b>January 4</b> <b>Chances Are</b> <i>Richard Russo</i> Zoom Meeting	<b>1 pm</b>	<b>March 1</b> <b>Born a Crime</b> <i>Trevor Noah</i> Zoom Meeting	<b>1 pm</b>	<b>May 3</b> <b>American Dirt</b> <i>Jeanine Cummins</i> Zoom Meeting	<b>7 pm</b>
<b>February 1</b> <b>The Moment of Lift</b> <i>Melinda Gates</i> Zoom Meeting	<b>1 pm</b>	<b>April 5</b> <b>Rebecca</b> <i>Daphne du Maurer</i> Zoom Meeting	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>June 7</b> <b>Year-end dinner and select books for 2021 – 2022</b> Fiddler's at Mayapple	<b>6 pm</b>

## Exploring DIVERSITY and INCLUSION

Beth McKinley, Chair

### Diversity and Inclusion Involves Us All

Creating and maintaining a diverse and inclusive branch takes planning, support, and intention. As we embark on diversity and inclusion work as a branch, we need persons who are experienced and knowledgeable in other areas of their life as well as passionate and willing to challenge us to grow in our understanding and practices. If this sounds like you, we would love to have you participate in this critical initiative.

Please contact Beth McKinley at [bethmckinley4610@yahoo.com](mailto:bethmckinley4610@yahoo.com) or 717-968-2368 to join the committee or inquire about participating.

#### About our Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair

Beth McKinley has been a member of the Carlisle Branch since 2018, when she opened her own financial services practice at Thrivent. She is active in the community locally and regionally in social justice work via volunteering on the Lower Susquehanna Synod LGBTQ+ Taskforce, as a member of the Development Committees for Project Share and Emmaus Village, and as a leader of the Thrivent Pride Network. She regularly partners with local non-profits like Maranatha Carlisle, YWCA Carlisle, and Bosler Memorial Library to provide meaningful educational resources and support.

**AAUW Carlisle****2020-2021 Board Members****Elected Officers****President** – Ann Pehle**Membership VPs** –Virginia Mauk, Gail D’Urso**Program VPs** –Stacey Gatch, Judy Wheaton**Finance Officers** – Barb Attivo, Linda Brunski**Secretary** – Angelica Mishra**Past President** – Linkey Green**Appointed Committee Chairs****AAUW Funds** – Becky Morgenthal**Communications** – Pat Markowski**College/University Liaison** - **OPEN****Community Activities** – **OPEN****Diversity and Inclusion** – Beth McKinley**Historian** – Rosemary Smith**Interest Groups** – Wendy Armour Dickinson**Newsletter** – Shirley Gehringer**Public Policy** –Kate Elkins, Katie Perkowski**Scholarship** – Lillian Wong**Social Media** – **OPEN****STEM** – Barb Attivo, Lillian Wong**Yearbook** – Carmen Eiserman

**Branching Out** is published August to June by the AAUW Carlisle (PA) Branch.

Articles and photos should be submitted to Shirley Gehringer at [shirleygehringer@gmail.com](mailto:shirleygehringer@gmail.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Include the word newsletter and month in the email subject.

Branch website is: <http://carlisle-pa.aauw.net/>

Like us on Facebook: @AAUWCarlisle

The Board welcomes questions:

[aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com](mailto:aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com)

## Get Active

### Open Board positions

Board members are responsible for a function and are the go-to person for all matters pertaining to that area of responsibility. The officer or appointed Chair (ideally) will form a branch member committee to implement.

The Board meets on the second Tuesday of September, November, January, March, May and June.

#### College/University Liaison

Branch liaison with Dickinson College and AAUW Dickinson. Promotes AAUW to surrounding colleges and universities.

#### Community Activities

Coordinates the social activities for branch members to enjoy each other’s company and share new experiences.

#### Social Media

Manage branch’s Facebook page. Twitter and Instagram too, if interested.

Contact me ([apehle@outlook.com](mailto:apehle@outlook.com) or 401-644-6488) for more information and to discuss your interest. It would be great to have you join the leadership team of AAUW Carlisle.

### Committees seeking members

#### Fundraising

Contact Becky Morgenthal ([bhmorgenthal@gmail.com](mailto:bhmorgenthal@gmail.com)) to learn more.

#### Membership

Contact Virginia Maul ([virginia.mauk@gmail.com](mailto:virginia.mauk@gmail.com)) or Gail D’Urso ([gailcURSO@gmail.com](mailto:gailcURSO@gmail.com)) for more information and to discuss your interest.



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