

The Year Ahead: Creating New Paths and Solutions

The programming committee is pleased to begin the 2021-2022 year with the September branch meeting, IN REAL LIFE!

Please join us on September 28th to welcome Beth Kempf, Executive Director of Community CARES. Beth will share the mission of Community Cares to serve and strengthen the community by providing emergency shelter, resources, and supportive services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, through the pandemic and beyond.

Beth is the 2021 recipient of the AAUW-Carlisle Gateway to Equity Award.

If you are interested in assisting Community CARES with an ongoing need we will collect gift cards for Giant, Weis, and Walmart on the 28th. Please put your gift card in an envelope and place it in the provided box.

Janet Kacsur
Program Vice President



AAUW Carlisle members Kathleen Gorak, Missy Breckinridge, Katie Perkowski, and Gail D'Urso with the assistance of Virginia and John Mauk, welcomed incoming War College students and their families at the Welcome Expo on August 11th at the Carlisle Barracks from 9:00 to 1:00.

Meeting Location

For those who have been members for a while, join us back in our old haunt, the HUB side rooms at Dickinson.

If you haven't been to a meeting yet, in real life, then you are in for a treat!

Meetings are held in one of the side rooms at the **Dickinson Holland Union Building (HUB), 28 N College St. in Carlisle**. There is a parking lot around the corner on Louther Street. From there, you will enter the rear of the HUB, walk around the cafeteria and find the side rooms after the lobby.

From the President

For many of us, September kicks off with a warm, long weekend, courtesy of the Federal Government. For too many women, however, there's little rest for the weary as they take this Labor Day weekend opportunity to catch up with their second shift - childcare, home keeping, and parental caregiving - that is unless they're headed to their second jobs to try to make ends meet.

This past year, the pandemic has burdened us all, though there is clear evidence that this burden has not been equitably shared. AAUW's March webinar, "Two Steps Back: The Impact of Covid on Women Entrepreneurs," pointed out that while access to capital is important to all entrepreneurs, childcare is an even greater need for women entrepreneurs.

“Let's be part of the solution to help women stay in the workforce and regain the economic ground they lost during the past year.”

During the pandemic, as childcare options and schools shut down, so did a disproportionate number of women-owned businesses. PA State Representative Melissa Shusterman stated in February that the number of women in the workforce after almost one year into the pandemic had fallen to 1980's levels. A May 23rd New York Times article, "What Women Lost," by Claire Cain Miller, revealed that for women who had to leave their jobs, "the absence of a paycheck has been a blow not just to their finances, but also to their identities."

Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, in a recent PBS Newshour interview, admitted that women are saying no to promotions because they cannot take on both the responsibilities at work and at home with their children, so they have to drop out, or scale down, in their careers. The negative cascading effect of all of this on us is not difficult to game out. With fewer women in the workforce, there will be fewer women reaching the tops of their professions or at the helms of businesses. Fewer women at the top means there will be fewer professional role models or mentors for the young women that come behind them.

Many of us in AAUW understand the great challenge of trying to launch a business or a career while juggling parental responsibilities. We also know that to do so successfully is usually only a result of having outside help - the support of extended family, friends or after school programs. Let's commit ourselves this year to look for opportunities to be part of the support network women need so they may do the hard work of launching their businesses or taking on the added responsibilities of promotions or just staying in the workforce. We can volunteer in after school programs or mentor girls in conjunction with the YWCA. We can make a point of supporting women owned businesses and shop locally. We can offer our help in countless ways to any working mom we know. Let's be part of the solution to help women stay in the workforce and regain the economic ground they lost during the past year. YOUR BRANCH NEEDS YOU!

Date to Remember

September 8th, 2021
Native American Women's Equal Pay Day.
 Native American Women earn 60 cents for every dollar that men earn for the same work

Kathleen Gorak
President

Upcoming Events

To make it easier to read about and register for your favorite events, we have made some improvements to the calendar below. We hope you like the changes! Let us know if you have suggestions to improve the newsletter. They are always welcome!

- New larger font
- When possible, direct links from the calendar to the registration or RSVP for each event
- Direct links to the Newsletter Article for more details

Nancy Sigrist and Stacey Gatch
Newsletter Editors

AAUW Events				
Date	Time	Event	Venue and registration links	Link to Article
Sept 2	1:00 pm	Public Policy Committee Meeting	At Katie Perkowski's House, RSVP here	
Sept 14	7:00 pm	Board Meeting at Bosler Memorial Library	RSVP to Kathleen Gorak	
Sept 18	9:00 am	Breakfast Club at Helena's Chocolate Café & Creperie	RSVP here	Article on page 7
Sept 21	7:00 pm	Listening Circles – Dismantling Ageism	Zoom, Register here	Article on page 5
Sept 21	Noon to 1:30 pm	Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation	Zoom, Watch for email from AAUW PA to register	Article on page 4
Sept 23	4:00 pm	Local author J.M. West at Castlerigg Wine Shop	RSVP here	Article on page 7
Sept 25	Starts 10:00 am	Harvest of the Arts – Get Out the Vote	Sign up here to volunteer	Article on page 9
Sept 28	7:00 pm	Branch Meeting - Beth Kempf, Carlisle Cares at Dickinson College HUB		Article on page 1
Sept 29	7:00 pm	Gender Pay Equity and Intimate Partner Violence	Zoom, Watch for email from AAUW PA to register	Article on page 4
Oct 7	1:30 – 4:00 pm	The Bower: Native Garden and Sculpture	RSVP here	Article on page 7

WATCH for EMAILS from auwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com for updates on ALL events

What's Up in Pennsylvania?

Ann Pehle, AAUW Carlisle Past President, AAUW PA President

AAUW PA is pleased to announce virtual programs on a wide variety of topics. Zoom makes it possible to offer more programs to all members, in addition to the once a year in-person events. Watch for invitations and registration information emails from aauwpainfo@gmail.com. In the meantime, mark your calendar for these two opportunities.

Racial Wealth Gap, Tuesday, September 21st from Noon – 1:30pm. This is a simulation, a role-playing game in which each participant gets involved in the action, presented by the YWCA of Bucks County. Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation is an interactive tool that helps people understand racial inequality at the structural level and how it connects with social justice issues, like ending hunger and poverty. The purpose of this learning simulation is to help participants understand the role of racial inequity in policies and their implementation. Participants will learn how federal policies created structural inequalities in many areas, e.g., property ownership, and education, and how these policies increase hunger and poverty in communities of color. The simulation guides participants to an understanding of why racial equity is so important to ending hunger and poverty in the United States.

Gender Pay Equity and Intimate Partner Violence, September 29th from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm. The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence received a grant from the CDC to look at risk factors for Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). They have just published a report <https://www.pcadv.org/resources/pay-equity-report-fact-sheet/> that found that pay inequity impacts these risk factors which increases the likelihood that violence can and will occur among individuals or within relationships, communities, and society. Attend this Zoom webinar to learn more about their findings.

AAUW Pennsylvania has consistently supported fair funding of Pennsylvania public schools. You may have attended the Zoom webinar -- The PA School Funding Lawsuit – on May 18th and learned about the lawsuit. Two updates to share.

- The trial date in Commonwealth Court in Harrisburg has moved from September 9th to October 12th.
- Education Voters PA asked organizations and individuals to indicate their support for the petitioners by passing a resolution (or signing on as an individual to the Ed Voters). AAUW Pennsylvania passed the resolution on August 17th and delivered to state level respondents. For more information and the resolution template, go [here](#). Passing such a resolution demonstrates support for a statewide solution to Pennsylvania's failure to meet its constitutional mandate to ensure quality public education.

News from National

Ann Pehle, AAUW Carlisle Past President, AAUW PA President

Regarding the [AAUW national election](#), we now have the voting statistics by state and branch. **34.74%** of the AAUW members in Pennsylvania voted. **47.37%** of AAUW Carlisle members cast a vote. While above the state average, I am curious to understand why the Carlisle percentage isn't higher. I am confident you voted in the November general election. Please share with me, in confidence, why you didn't cast a vote by email (apehle@outlook.com) or phone/text (401-644-6488) so we can better understand and improve future election processes.

Exploring Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

Beth McKinley, Chair



Plan to Attend the Next Listening Circles Topic: Dismantling Ageism

Thank you to all who participated in our first Listening Circles program, “Do You Hear What I Feel” with special guest presenter, Sonya Brown. We had a wonderful turnout and look forward to next month’s topic: *Dismantling Ageism* on Tuesday, September 21st at 7:00pm via Zoom. Register [here](#).

We live in a society that often views aging as only impairment and decline. We automatically use words and phrases that project negativity on growing older. This is ageism.

Ageism is still an accepted form of social prejudice that affects everyone and impacts everything.

Join us for an interactive session with our special guest, Cathy Bollinger, Managing Director of Embracing Aging. During our program, Cathy will help us learn how to disrupt negative thinking about aging, reframe the narrative about older adults, and learn tips to help ensure our communities are great places in which to grow up and grow older.



Dismantling Ageism: To Increase Longevity and Create Livable Communities Where All Ages Thrive

September 21st at 7:00pm on Zoom

Click here to register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAud-GppzspHtQZdcXGkKu8svcyjKjIjfoZ>

INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES

Wendy Armour Dickinson, Interest Group Chair

Carlisle Branch AAUW has wonderful monthly programs. There is programming focused on AAUW's public policy advocacy as well as diversity. For me, an important part of membership in AAUW is interaction with fellow branch members. These activities bring depth to your AAUW membership.

To further enrich your AAUW experience, may I suggest participating in one of our interest groups?

- **Book Group:** Meets nearly monthly in members' homes from September through May with a book selection supper in June. We read a diverse select of books - classic, mystery, diversity, biography/memoir, women's history.
- **Breakfast Club:** Usually meets monthly for breakfast on the third Saturday at 9 am.
- **Dine Out:** Members gather at a local restaurant at a mutually agreed upon time and date.
- One of our goals is to increase our interest group portfolio. May I suggest two groups that we would like to form.
- **Dine In** - Members cooking and gathering at their convenience
- **Lunch Bunch** - Members gathering for lunch during the week at members' convenience.

If you are interested in joining one of these groups or starting one for another activity, please contact Wendy Armour Dickinson (717-514-3322 for phone or text OR warmourdickinson@hotmail.com).

BREAKFAST CLUB

Join us for a great way to start your day!

Where: Breakfast Club at Helena's Chocolate Café & Creperie

When: September 18th at 9am.

Please RSVP to Wendy by September 10th - 717-514-3322 or
warmourdickinson@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Cindy Sutton, Community Activities Chair

Participating in community activities is a great way to get to know the members of AAUW Carlisle Branch as well as enjoy what our local community has to offer. We hope you will be able to join us! Please RSVP for all events to Cindy Sutton at suttonc3@gmail.com or 717-385-0242. As always, guests are welcome!

Thursday, September 23, 2021, 4:00 P.M.

Castlerigg Wine Shop 110 South Hanover St. Carlisle

Local author J.M. West will discuss her research and answer questions about her latest book, “Madam Bessie Jones: Her Life and Times.” In this book Jones emerges from the shadows of Carlisle history running her brothel from the Roaring Twenties through the chaotic sixties until her murder in 1972. It deals with racism, misogyny, poverty and all things conspiring to form a house of ill repute. The book can be purchased at History on High, Amazon, The Bookery at Bosler Library, or Sunbury Press. Ms. West will gladly sign her book if you bring it with you, but feel free to enjoy this activity even if you have not read the book.

The wine shop will be open to purchase beverages and snacks.

Thursday, October 7, 2021, 1:30 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

The Bower: Native Garden and Sculpture Park 1190 Bower Rd. Shermans Dale, PA

Spend the afternoon exploring this private project that just opened to the public this spring. Featuring woodlands, naturalized landscape, gardens and large scale sculpture and land art, the six acre meadow is surrounded by thirty acres of woodlands so there is plenty to see. Our group is limited to fifteen people and we will carpool once we know who is going. Dress comfortably and bring a snack. To learn more about this venue check the website:

www.thegardenbower.com

Here are some photos from August’s visit to the Cumberland County Historical Society to see the special exhibit “A Woman’s Place: The Changing Role of Women in Cumberland County.”



AAUW Carlisle Members attending event



Shoes on display donated by Mary Brandt

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Gail D'Urso and Virginia Mauk, Membership VP

A Great Kick Off to the 2021-2022 AAUW Membership Year!

The food was delicious, the conversation lively and the Silent Auction profitable! The AAUW August Social reaffirmed our adaptability to circumstances. We successfully PIVOTED demonstrating our RESILIENCE. It was so important to socialize and come together for the good of women and girls everywhere, especially Carlisle. We accepted things might not be the same as they were at the beginning of 2020, but we did what was necessary to keep each other safe and healthy so we might gather safely as an organization. The new AAUW year will be filled with programs, activities, activism, and fun. Read your newsletters, see what speaks to you and participate! It is going to be another great year!



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

Katie Perkowski, Public Policy Chair

HARVEST OF THE ARTS – Get Out the Vote on Saturday, September 25

If you haven't had the opportunity to help educate voters and register newcomers to vote, I highly recommend you join us at the AAUW table on Saturday, September 25 for the Harvest of the Arts in downtown Carlisle, 10 to 5 p.m.!



We'll sign up volunteers in two-hour increments (though if you only have an hour to give, let me know - we can make it work!) It's always such a good time to chat together and meet folks as they come through the festival, and then enjoy some time exploring the artist booths yourself!

You can sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A44AAAC28A2F94-harvest> or by emailing or calling Katie Perkowski at kperkowski@gmail.com or 334-202-0366

Topic Walk - SAVE THE DATE - October 14 or 16

Our next Topic Walk will address The Digital Divide. Lack of access to computers and high-speed internet is creating a digital divide between more affluent, urban students and low income, minority, and rural students. Two efforts to address this problem will be discussed – the expansion of rural broadband in PA and a partnership in Philadelphia between business leaders, educators, and non-profits called PHLConnectD, which is working to get computers into the hands of low-income students and to provide technical assistance to use this tool effectively

We'll send out a small article to read prior to the walk date. This is not a fitness walk, it's more of a gentle amble. We'll start out with a bit of a topic introduction, and then pair and share with a walking partner - then stop again as a group and share interesting points. You'll have two opportunities to join us on this walk - Thursday afternoon, October 14th, or Saturday afternoon, October 16th. Save the date! Your choice!

STEM

Barbara Attivo and Lillian Wong – STEM Chairs

AAUW Carlisle Making a Difference in STEM: A Volunteer Opportunity

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SOUTH CENTRAL PA is back in action at the Carlisle High School this fall.

Volunteers are needed for the STEM Summit program which is being held 2 days on October 26 and 27, 2021.

Several of our branch members have volunteered in Biology, Chemistry and Math. In previous years, Robotics and Automotive were offered too. No previous experience is necessary! On the job training is available on site!

If you are interested and have questions or want to volunteer for an enjoyable and rewarding experience, please contact Barbara Attivo at rbattivo@sbcglobal.net or Lillian Wong at wongtooth@comcast.net as soon as you can!

Camp Invention Scholarship Recipient Shares Her Experience

For the past several years, the branch has supported a scholarship to Camp Invention. This is awarded to a female from an elementary school in Carlisle. This year due to the pandemic students were not able to attend the camp in person, rather they receive a package with parts, instruction and support. Below is the experience our awardee in her own words.

STEM Chairs, Barbara Attivo and Lillian Wong



“It was a very interesting and entertaining week. Truly, human beings can build great things for the benefit of humanity. Thank you.”



June 25, 2021

Dear Scholarship Sponsor:

Camp Invention!!!, how amazing is it every year? Technology is very interesting and very complex. The mind of the human being is very complex. How many things can people create on just a little imagination? Wow that's great!!!

During this week we were creating and studying different things and knowing how they work. The first one was the microphone. It has different buttons that you can use to record, talk using your normal voice or changing your tone of voice and joint. You can connect it to blue tooth and listen to music or do karaoke. For me it was the most interesting of all.

The second one was a cricket, which uses solar energy to operate. Can you believe it? It feels strange when you place a cricket in your hand and it starts to move through the solar energy. It was amazing!!!

Another one was the vehicle that uses a fan operated by a battery which makes the engine drive it to move from place to place. After this we have the slim shot that works using two straws, a measuring paper, tape, rubber band, a clip and a rubber "ducky". We use it to throw the duckling or any light object at an angle to determine the distance it travels. Very interesting!!! The last one was the Kitchen Robot which uses arms to operate and capture insects.

It was a very entertaining and interesting week. Truly, human beings can build great things for the benefit of humanity. Thank you, Mr. Burgess to you and all the sponsors of the Annual Camp Invention event, for the opportunity to make it possible for so many children and young people to be a part of it.

God bless you all!!!

Sincerely,

Maria

Bellaire Elementary School (CVA – Carlisle, PA)

4th. Grade

**AAUW Carlisle
2021-2022 Board Members**

Elected Officers

President – Kathleen Gorak

Membership VPs – Gail D’Urso, Virginia Mauk

Program VPs – Judy Wheaton, Janet Kacsur

Finance Officers – Linda Brunski, Mary France

Secretary – Angelica Mishra

Past President – Ann Pehle

Appointed Committee Chairs

AAUW Funds – Becky Morgenthal

Communications – Pat Markowski

Community Activities – Cindy Sutton

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging – Beth McKinley

Historian – Kathleen Brennan

Interest Groups – Wendy Armour Dickinson

Newsletter – Nancy Sigrist

Public Policy – Katie Perkowski

Scholarship – Lillian Wong

Social Media – Kate Elkins

STEM – Barb Attivo, Lillian Wong

Trailblazers – Gail D’Urso

Webmaster – Ann Pehle

Yearbook – Mary Brunski

Zoommaster – Stacey Gatch

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

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

Like us on Facebook: @AAUWCarlisle

The Board welcomes questions:

aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com

Get Active

Program Hosts Needed

The 2021-2022 Programs Committee is asking for your help. We need hosts to support our meetings for the coming year. Please consider sponsoring these wonderful events as we begin in-person meetings again at Dickinson College. Thank you for your continued support.

Please contact Janet Kacsur (jkacsur@hotmail.com) or Judy Wheaton (judywheaton@gmail.com).

Committees seeking members

Fundraising

Contact Becky Morgenthal (bhmorgenthal@gmail.com) to learn more.

Membership

Contact Gail D’Urso (gailcdurso@gmail.com) or Virginia Mauk (virginia.mauk@gmail.com) for more information and to discuss your interest.

Public Policy

Contact Katie Perkowski kperkowski@gmail.com

Not receiving branch information?

Make sure emails from

aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com

aren’t going into your junk or spam folder.



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