

Summer Retreat

AAUW Pennsylvania Honors Carlisle Beyond Suffrage Project Team

Sixteen AAUW Carlisle members made the trip to Gettysburg to support our *Beyond Suffrage* project team as they received the AAUW Pennsylvania 2023 Gateway to Equity Award on July 29th.



The Gateway to Equity Award honors an individual, group or organization that has shown by action and philosophy promotion of the AAUW mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. It is for their vision, persistence, advocacy and leadership that the *Beyond Suffrage* team has been honored by the state organization, with special recognition to Kate Elkins, Project Chair; Gail D’Urso, Mary (Cherry) France, and Nancy Sigrist.

Built on the success of the Women’s Rally on the Square in 2019, the AAUW Carlisle Public Policy Committee joined with community partners to host a community forum to take a deeper dive into the workplace and societal issues that continue to present barriers to women achieving true economic equity and security.

Invitations for this forum were sent to elected officials, candidates, civic leaders, AAUW branch members and community organizations. The forum comprised two sessions: *Social Bias and Barriers* and *Workplace Challenges Magnified*. Each session included a keynote speaker, a panel discussion with local experts, and small group discussions with attendees to share individual experiences and elicit ideas for action that could result in positive impact. The goal was to develop a White Paper setting forth the overarching issues facing women, and suggestions for action that would be presented to state legislators in Harrisburg.



The team had significant barriers to overcome to make this forum a reality. Originally scheduled for March 2020, the COVID Pandemic forced postponement and rescheduling. The forum was held two years later in May 2022.

AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell (second from right) with awardees Cherry France, Kate Elkins, Gail D'Urso, and Nancy Sigrist



Gini Woy Photography

The significant effects of COVID also magnified the challenges facing women competing in an altered economy, and much of the content of the forum was revised and rebranded. Quilt squares were annotated by forum participants and sewn into an Equity Quilt by project team member Gail D'Urso.

The resulting White Paper: *Beyond Suffrage: Reclaiming Our Future* was presented to Representative Patty Kim and the Pennsylvania General Assembly in the Capitol rotunda on September 21, 2022, and the Equity Quilt was on display for public viewing.

The AAUW Carlisle Public Policy Committee continues to work with the AAUW Pennsylvania Public Policy Committee to get the *Beyond Suffrage: Reclaiming Our Future* White Paper into the hands of newly elected legislators to the Pennsylvania General Assembly and strategizing to continue the conversation to removing roadblocks to equality for women in the state.

Pat Markowski - Communications

Public Policy Members Present at AAUW PA Summer Retreat

Public Policy members Marybeth Ulrich, Kate Elkins, Nancy Sigrist and Cherry France presented an overview of the *Civics 9-1-1 Series: Programs to Promote Informed, Engaged Citizens* at the AAUW PA Summer Retreat on July 29th.

The Plenary Session at 11:15 a.m. featured the how and way of the three-part series presented earlier this year at the Bosler Memorial Library. The program was AAUW Carlisle's answer to partisan bickering, gridlock, disinformation and a lack of civil discourse. The program series explored U.S. Constitutional foundations and long-held democratic norms, discussed how to constructively share ideas and separate facts from disinformation, and presented factual information about the election system and how citizens can become engaged in their community.

The feedback from other members across the state who attended was very complimentary, even asking if we would be repeating the series. They were pleased to hear that we recorded the sessions and that they were available on our website.



From the President

Welcome to a new year of excellent programs, impactful advocacy and great fellowship! We hope to see all of you at our August Social kickoff on August 22. Your generous contributions to the Silent Auction have gone a long way to support our operating budget over the years and provides the financial foundation that allows us to do the many community activities that we support.

One of the priorities I've set is to spread the word on the good work we do and the many opportunities we offer to become involved and make a difference in the community, not to mention having a considerable amount of fun while doing so.

We already have a great start with five new members! Please reach out to any new faces and help make them feel welcome.

The committee planning our 100th Anniversary has been hard at work coordinating the events leading up to the big celebration on May 10 of 2024. Please note the fun T-Shirt fundraiser which will go live at the August Social.

So, mark your calendars for the Welcome Social on August 22nd and join us in person to kick off a wonderful AAUW year!

Kate Elkins
President

Save the Dates!

August Social Event, August 22, 2023

2024 AAUW PA Convention, April 5-7, 2024

AAUW Carlisle 100th Anniversary Celebration,
May 10, 2024

What's Up in Pennsylvania? News from AAUW Pennsylvania

When you read this newsletter, the AAUW Pennsylvania Summer Retreat will be in the history books. AAUW Carlisle made a name for itself. . . .

- With 16 members registered to attend—only surpassed by State College's 18.
- Two of our successful Public Priority programs were featured in small group presentations—Beyond Suffrage and CIVICS 9-1-1.
- We were awarded the AAUW Pennsylvania Gateway to Equity Award for the entire Beyond Suffrage project. "At the recommendation of the AAUW Pennsylvania Public Policy Chair/s, the AAUW Pennsylvania Board may designate a Gateway to Equity Award to an individual or organization that has contributed to advancing gender equity across the entire Commonwealth. First time a branch was recognized with this award!

Cindy Hall begins the second year of her President AAUW Pennsylvania term. Read her message and review the changes in the AAUW Pennsylvania board in the next Keystoner.

Ann Pehle

News from National AAUW Update

There are two topics I want to bring to your attention.

The AAUW Public Policy Committee held a webinar on June 22, 2023 to clarify the origin of the national Public Policy Priorities and how they relate to the work at the state and branch level. It was so good, the content was delivered at the AAUW Pennsylvania Summer Retreat. I will provide the link when the recording is posted.

ERA is still an issue we must advocate for. Since gender is not specifically mentioned in the US Constitution, all the gains you experienced in your life are accomplished with one bill at a time—a painfully slow process. Go [here](#) to read AAUW's position. And, if you didn't respond to the mid-July Two Minute Activist go [here](#) right now. It only takes two minutes.



Ann Pehle

Notable Anniversaries

Aug. 13th, Women's rights pioneer
Lucy Stone (1818-1893) born today

Aug. 18th, Ratification of 19th
Amendment-Women's right to
vote

Fundraising

Becky Morgenthal, Funds Chair

Membership Social/Silent Auction Update

AAUW Branch Members, it is August and time to get ready for the annual membership social and silent auction.

Because the silent auction is one of the top fundraisers of the year, members wishing to donate an item are asked to adhere to the following guidelines.

- Limit donations to one per person, or team up with another member to create a multi-item donation.
- All items must be unused, clean, and have all parts included
- Wine, jams, jellies, art, decorative and garden related items are best sellers, as well as gift cards to local businesses and restaurants.
- To register* a donation, email your item description to a funds committee member. This year, to Pat Markowski, pmarks11@comcast.net or call 717-458-8591. Include the value of the donation, and a suggested starting bid. Registration will be accepted through August 21st.

Following these guidelines, last year earned a generous \$1649 on 26 items sold. This year, the Finance Officers have asked that everyone pay by checks to make it easier to track items and payment. Payments will be collected by the Finance Officers directly after the member social.

See details and reservation information in the [flyer](#).

****To avoid confusion at the meeting site, please do not bring an item for auction that has not been pre-registered.***

***Becky Morgenthal
AAUW Fund Chair***

100th Anniversary Fund Update



As we look forward to our 100th Anniversary Celebration, the Planning and Funds Committees are organizing a memorable fundraiser.

Back in 1924, our branch was founded with the considerable support of Dickinson President J.H. Morgan. Although very much a proponent of co-education, Dr. Morgan felt compelled to warn the women, "you must constantly remember that the good of the college always comes before any feministic shenanigans!"

It is only fitting that we immortalize his words on our 100th Anniversary T-Shirt! We will kick off the campaign at our August Social, where we will have sample t-shirts in various sizes to help you know which size you'd like to order. The price will be \$25/each.

Many thanks to Peggy Jennings for the design!

***Kate Elkins
President***

100th Anniversary

Jean Foschi and Jeanna Som, Committee Co-Chairs

This year Kate Elkins is being installed as the fifty-third President of the Carlisle branch of the American Association of University Women. She joins some incredible women who have served in this role. As we celebrate our 100th anniversary this year, we not only will be looking back at our accomplishments but we will also tell the stories of the women who have led our efforts. Kate stands on their shoulders.

Our first two Presidents, Mary Curran Morgan and Josephine Meredith, worked tirelessly from 1915 – 1924 to create our branch. Women did not yet have the right to vote when they began to petition the national AAUW to organize a branch at Dickinson college. It was not easy. These two women first had to change the culture at Dickinson to meet the required AAUW standards.

It was not until May 10, 1924, that Josephine Meredith, the Dean of Women at Dickinson, gathered 54 women together on the Dickinson campus for our branch charter meeting. Mary Morgan was elected the first Branch President.

This year we will learn more about Josephine and Mary and the other early leaders of our AAUW chapter. You will be inspired.

Deborah Sweaney
Program VP

Public Policy

Kathy Gates, AAUW Public Policy Chair

Greetings from the Public Policy Committee members. I have agreed to serve as Chair of this committee but all of us on the committee work hard to keep you informed of the latest public policy issues, and there are many of them. The latest Public Policy highlights from AAUW PA can be found here <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/files/2023/07/July-2023-Public-Policy-Highlights.pdf>.

We are all watching to see what is included in the PA Budget about funding for school vouchers. From Susan Spicka at Education Voters of PA on July 13th - "Thanks to House Democrats with a promise from Gov. Shapiro, school vouchers will NOT be part of the 2023-2024 state budget. House Bill [HB 1422](#) passed by a vote of 122-81, is now with the Senate, where it is waiting for a vote there. Given the budget impasse and the fact that the House and Senate are not scheduled to return to Harrisburg until September, we are not focusing on advocacy around HB 1422 at this moment." For more information see <https://edvoterspa.org>.

League of Women Voters (LWV) – The Harrisburg & Carlisle branches have merged together to better serve the areas. For both organizations, the merger holds the promise of a fresh start, filled with energy, determination and a renewed commitment to the work of protecting our democratic electoral process. Together as they move forward, they will be known as **The League of Women Voters of the PA Capital Region (LWVPACAPREG)**. See their new website at www.lwvpacapreg.org. Interested in joining? You can do that on the website.

Kathy Gates
Public Policy Chair

Upcoming Events

Please look over our calendar of events to be sure you mark your calendars and complete any RSVP or sign-up that may be needed. Use the "Link to Article" section to easily find event details.

AAUW Events				
Date	Time	Event	Registration links	Link to Article
Aug. 12	9:00 am	Breakfast Club at Sunrise Café 231 North Hanover Street. Carlisle	RSVP here	Page 9
Aug. 20		Newsletter Submission Deadline	Submit to staceygatch@yahoo.com and hellers@pa.net	
Aug 22	6:00 pm	August Welcome Social	RSVP here	Page 5
Sept. 11	7:00 pm	Book Club-Darlis Hostess-Georgia O'Keeffe, A Life by Roxana Robinson	RSVP here	Page 9

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

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Nancy Sigrist and Cindy Sutton, Membership VPs

THANK YOU to all who have renewed your membership! Now more than ever it is important to support AAUW in its mission to advance equity for women and girls. The committee has been working hard to be sure all memberships are current and contact information is accurate so that we can have an updated yearbook ready for you. If you have not yet renewed your membership please know you can do so on the national website (www.aauw.org) or by sending a check for \$104 to AAUW Carlisle Branch, PO Box 815, Carlisle, PA 17013.

This is an important year for our branch as we kick off our 100th year anniversary celebration with our **August social event on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at Second Presbyterian Church.** What better opportunity to invite a guest as we renew friendships with other members, learn about what exciting programs are planned and participate in our annual silent auction? See details and reservation information in the [flyer](#) included in this newsletter.

Lastly, the Membership Committee welcomes you to join us not only in recruiting new members to our organization, but in helping us with the hands-on work of the committee. Our immediate need is with assistance in setting up/cleaning up for the social or serving as a mentor to new members. Let us know if you can help with either of these tasks by contacting Nancy at ncsigrist@gmail.com or Cindy at suttonc3@gmail.com.

See you soon!

Nancy Sigrist and Cindy Sutton
Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Meet Our New Members!

Deborah Sweaney moved to Carlisle in 2006 from Washington, D.C. She grew up in a small town in Northern Missouri, her father an old fashioned country doctor, the only one in the county. Because he died young, her mother raised four children as a single mother.

Deborah holds a B.A. in American History from Drake University, and spent a semester of her senior year at American University in Washington, D.C. She attended Graduate School at Catholic University, earning a MLS in Library and Information Science in 1978. Her graduate thesis researched the topic of who actually owns Presidential papers, a hot topic today.

Through contact with her congressman, she went to work on Capitol Hill doing research on the Capital Library System. She worked in the Planning Office for the Nixon Presidential Library, and spent an incredible summer identifying people in pictures with President Nixon. Her career spanned 30 years in Washington, D.C. working in the White House Office of Records management.

Deborah's interests comprise American history and genealogy. She has researched her own family history, and has written three books about her family's story. She is now writing her 2nd children's book.

She is interested in working to support children who need adults to represent them, through such organizations as SPY and Rotary. She is also interested in educational issues and has served on the Carlisle School Board. She is attracted to AAUW Carlisle because the branch supports education for women through annual scholarships and the Trailblazers awards program. She has also joined the Carlisle Branch Board as Program Vice President.

Kathy Weigl and her husband moved to the Carlisle area in 1986 when he retired from the Air Force. He ran Cold Fish Anglers for 15 years.

Originally from Virginia, Kathy's family moved to Naples, Florida, where she graduated from Naples High School. At Florida Southern University, Kathy majored in Spanish and History, with a minor in Mathematics. She thought she would be a teacher, but while student teaching, found that it did not appeal to her. She spent two years as a social worker in Fort Meyers, then took a position as a program analyst for the Labor Department in welfare planning. In 1974 the Energy Administration was formed, where she worked as a Black Lung Benefits Accountant for the Department of Energy.

Kathy is a member of the 10,000 member Embroiderer's Guild of America, and is finishing her three-year term as National By-Laws Director. Certified by the guild as a master craftsman, she is a member of the local Molly Pitcher Stitchers. She is also co-President of the Garden Club.

She has always wondered about AAUW, and likes that the organization takes on advocacy for woman's issues without being political or partisan. She hopes to meet more women and benefit from program participation.

Carol Weishaar grew up in Gettysburg, and attended Shippensburg University where she earned a B.S. in French in 1974. She settled in Cumberland County, and lives in the North Mountains where her four cats, Momma, Grayson, Robert and Rascal are good company.

She pursued additional education, and with a graduate assistantship at Shippensburg, she earned an M.A. in English. She began her teaching career in Lower Dauphin County, and when the school district needed someone to develop a reading program, she returned to Shippensburg to earn a Reading Specialist M.Ed. She spent 20 years teaching English in West Perry, serving as Department Chair for 14 years.

Carol is an avid sports enthusiast. She plays tennis, loves skiing, cycling, hiking, and has tried and has been “humbled” by golf. She is also an organic gardener.

Carol was a political activist in the 1970’s and 1980’s, but her activity waned with family obligations. She now has time to resume her activism, and attended the August Social with her friend Darlis Simonton to get a better idea about how AAUW Carlisle advocates for equity for women and girls .

Marina Young is a Penn State graduate, with a B. A. degree in Speech Communication Broadcasting. She is recently widowed and moved from the Gulf Coast of Florida to Carlisle in 2023 to be closer to her daughter and son-in-law who teaches at the War College. Her daughter is Cyber Security ID Director for Humana, and her son who lives in New Jersey is an electrical engineer. She has a grandson, Sawyer, and a granddaughter Claire.

Marina worked in radio in Sayre, PA, and then moved to the local newspaper, The Evening Times. She wrote for the community page, reporting on food, lifestyle, and theater. Her most exciting theater interviews were with Fanny Flagg and Cloris Leachman appearing at the Corning Summer Theater.

She then took a position in constituent services for her local State Representative, a job she held for 10 years. When a friend opened a real estate office, she earned her license and spent 15 years as a realtor until she retired in 2012.

Marina loves the outdoors, pickle ball, kayaking, and recreational photography. She plays piano and violin, and took up the ukulele during COVID.

Marina is not new to AAUW. While at Penn State, she was familiar with the AAUW State College branch Book Sale, and in 1983 joined the Sayre-Athens branch. She served as President, Program Vice President, and ran the branch book sale. She hopes to meet like-minded women in the Carlisle branch, and promote the organization’s goal of equity for women and girls.

Sharon Heller was born in Bryn Mawr and grew up in Valley Forge, PA. After graduating high school, she lived in West Virginia for a time, but returned to PA and attended an accredited computer education institution. She also took computer courses at Villanova. Sharon has a son and daughter and two grandchildren, and lives in Perry County.

She started her career at Vanguard, then took a job at Shared Medical Systems after school where she worked for several years. She also worked for USERS (credit union software), Atlantic Financial Systems, and a contracting company for 2 years. Later in her career she moved on to Geisinger Health, and PHEAA (Pennsylvania Health Education Assistance Agency).

In addition to enjoying travel, Sharon has worked at the PA Renaissance Faire, and enjoys reading, sewing, knitting and crocheting. She also buys and sells antiques, which is how she met Kate Elkins and was introduced to AAUW.

Sharon and her husband have been seeking an organization through which they can fund a scholarship that will support women. AAUW seems to be a perfect fit. Sharon is definitely committed to giving her talents to the Carlisle branch, and is now co-editor of this very newsletter!

Pat Markowski
Communications

INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES

Wendy Armour Dickinson, Interest Group Chair

Upcoming Interest Group Schedule

Please RSVP to Wendy (warmourdickinson@hotmail.com or 717-514-3322.

Book Group – Here's a look at the great line-up of interesting reads starting in September. Join us for the fun!

Date	Time	Hostess	Book
9/11	7:00 PM	Darlis	<i>Georgia O'Keeffe, A Life</i> by Roxana Robinson
10/2	7:00 PM	Wendy	<i>Kindred</i> by Octavia Butler
11/6	1:00 PM	Cherry	<i>Begin Again: James Baldwin's American</i> by Eddie S. Glaude, Jr.
1/8/24	1:00 PM	Kathleen G.	<i>Museum of Innocence</i> by Orhan Pamuk
2/5/24	1:00 PM	Virginia	<i>The Paris Bookseller</i> by Kerri Maher
3/4/24	1:00 PM	Cindy	<i>Horse</i> by Geraldine Brooks
4/1/24	7:00 PM	Patricia M.	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury
5/6/24	7:00 PM	Patricia Y.	<i>Everyone in My Family has Killed Someone</i> by Benjamin Stevenson

Breakfast Club – Saturday August 12th at 9:00 am at Sunrise Cafe (231 North Hanover Street, Carlisle)

Wendy Armour Dickinson
Interest Group Chair

2023

Membership Social & Silent Auction

Tuesday, August 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Second Presbyterian Church

528 Garland Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013

As our 100th anniversary approaches, it is a good time to not only look back at 10 decades wherein AAUW Carlisle made a difference in the lives of women and girls, but it is a time to look ahead for new opportunities to grow our membership, enhance our programs and to build our resources in support of our mission.

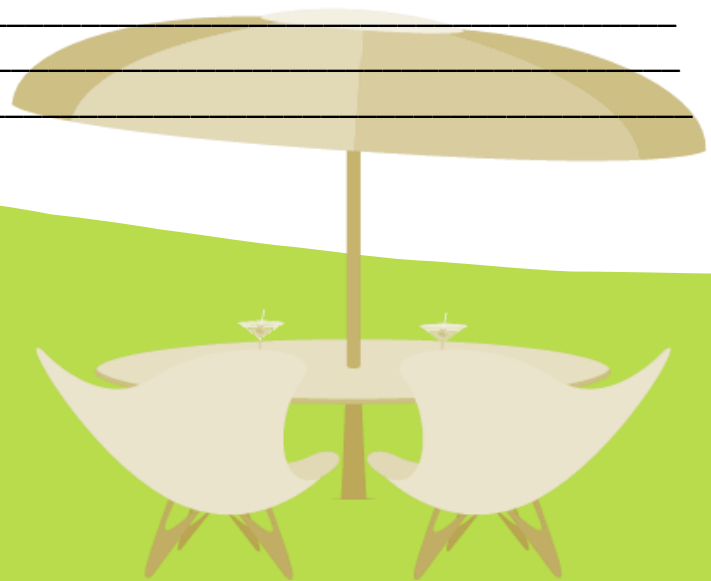
Please join us and bring a friend (or more!) to meet us and to hear more about the wonderful things AAUW Carlisle does for our community and our mission. Enjoy a light summer supper, bid on our wonderful member donated auction items and share in a good time with members and guests!

RSVP by August 15th to Cindy Sutton at sutton3@gmail.com or by sending your information along with your check made out to AAUW Carlisle in the amount of \$12.00 per person to Cindy Sutton, 1 Briar Oak Lane, Carlisle, PA 17015.

Name _____

Guest(s) Name(s) _____

Please note any dietary restrictions _____



**AAUW Carlisle
2023-2024 Board Members**

Elected Officers

President – Kate Elkins

Vice President – Mary Brunski

Membership VPs – Nancy Sigrist, Cindy Sutton

Program VPs –Gail D’Urso, Deborah Sweaney

Finance Officers – Cherry France, Molly Shane

Secretary – Linda Brunski

Past President – Kathleen Gorak

Appointed Committee Chairs

AAUW Funds – Becky Morgenthal

Communications – Pat Markowski

Community Activities – Jenifer Johnson

Interest Groups – Wendy Armour Dickinson

Public Policy –Kathy Gates

Scholarship – Lillian Wong

STEM – Barb Attivo, Lillian Wong

Appointed Off Board Committee Chairs

College Liaison – Elizabeth White-Hurst

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging – Beth McKinley

Historian – Mary Bloser Berwick

Appointed Ad Hoc Committee Chairs

100th Anniversary – Jean Foschi, Jeanna Som

Appointed Coordinators

Newsletter Editors – Stacey Gatch, Sharon Heller

Social Media – Kate Elkins

Trailblazers – Gail D’Urso, Barb Attivo

Webmaster – Stacey Gatch

Yearbook – Virginia Mauk

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

Committees seeking members*

Fundraising

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

Membership

Contact Nancy Sigrist (ncsigrist@gmail.com) or Cindy Sutton (suttonc3@gmail.com) for more information and to discuss your interest.

Public Policy

Contact Kathy Gates kgates808@comcast.net for more information.

**Not receiving branch information?
Make sure emails from
aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com
aren't going into your junk or spam folder.**



Like us @AAUWCarlisle

Like us @AAUW Pennsylvania