

Celebrating Members, Thanking Leaders and Installing New Officers

May's AAUW Carlisle Branch Meeting provided attendees a comprehensive program wherein they were first delighted by Bonnie Berk, RN, MS, CCM and a Board-Certified Holistic Registered Nurse and Certified Clinical Musician. Within her presentation, she led a mindful meditation practice using her harp so we could experience, first hand, the power of Healing Harp Meditation.

Also, outgoing President Kathleen Gorak offered reflections and praise for the work, generosity and accomplishments of the branch, the board and individual members whom she recognized during our annual presentation of Member Awards. Receiving the **Outstanding Woman Award** for 2022 – 2023, was Nancy Sigrist, an active member with the Public Policy Committee, the DEIB Committee and co-editor of the AAUW Carlisle Newsletter. This award honors a member who exemplifies the ideals of AAUW, shows commitment to the community, and is an inspiration and role model for Branch members.

The **Members Making a Difference** recognition went to Carole DeWall and Virginia Mauk. This award honors Branch members for outstanding service during the past year. Carole hosted and co-produced the first ever Annual Branch Yard Sale, tirelessly preparing and doing everything that was needed to make this fundraiser a huge success and one that we adopted for a second year. Virginia did an excellent job as Membership Vice President, one of the most demanding board positions, and successfully ran it solo even though the expectation is for two Co-Vice Presidents to be in place.



Left to right – Tracy Rossi (daughter of Linkey Green), Mary Berwick, Gail D'Urso, Kate Elkins, Nancy Sigrist, Carole DeWall, Virginia Mauk and Molly Shane.

Named Gift Honorees are recognized for their service to the Branch through leadership, commitment or innovative support by a \$500 Branch donation to AAUW Funds in their name. This year, the Carlisle Branch honored ten members with this award: Mary Berwick, Linda Brunski, Gail D'Urso, Kate Elkins, Cherry France, Stacey Gatch, Linkey Green (posthumously), Janet Kascur, Loretta Maddox and Molly Shane.



Kathleen Gorak congratulates incoming President Kate Elkins.

For additional details about each of these award recipients, please refer to the original announcement in our [April edition](#).

New Board members Kate Elkins (President) and Cindy Sutton (Membership Vice President) were sworn in by Kathleen who will officially relinquish the position of president to Kate at the end of June, which is a month of transition. Non-returning Board Members include Mary Berwick (Secretary) and Virginia Mauk (Membership VP). Kathleen thanked them for their contributions and gifted each an AAUW mug in appreciation.



Kathleen Gorak thanks outgoing board members, Virginia Mauk and Mary Berwick.

From the (Outgoing) President

Our hardworking Board gathered last month for its last meeting of the programming year and passed one motion - to fund Branch activities at current budget levels through the summer until the 2023-2024 Budget is approved by the membership at the September Branch Meeting. In essence, this is a continuing resolution. The rest of our hour long meeting was devoted to a discussion of the 2023-2024 Budget, with attention equally divided between the "General Expense" column line items and those under the "General Income" heading. Further discussion and adjustments will undoubtedly be on the Agenda for the upcoming June Planning Meeting with our newly elected officers joining the other officers and chairs who will remain on the Board.

Words of Wisdom

"Each of us carry different pressures and responsibilities in our lives that may impact how we serve— there is no one way to support AAUW's mission. As we look for members who can continue our leadership tradition, perhaps we should leave our expectations at the door recognizing that there are many ways to serve effectively and guide AAUW PA into the future."

**Cindy Hall (State College)
President, AAUW Pennsylvania**

June is the same period in which I step down as Branch President and turn over operations to the indomitable Kate Elkins who will enthusiastically lead us all into our 100th anniversary year as an AAUW affiliate. I look forward to enjoying all of the interesting programs and activities planned during this celebratory year. Our Branch is very fortunate to have so many skillful volunteers willing to step up and lead when asked. During the six years I served on the Board; I had the pleasure of getting to know so many wonderful women – and one wonderful man – who gave their time, expertise and no small amount of their opinions "for the good of the order." And AAUW Carlisle is *nothing* if not a shining example of a whole lotta good order!

My heartfelt thanks go out to the other members of our Executive Committee who are rolling off the Board this month - Membership Vice President Virginia Mauk,

Program Co-Vice President Janet Kacsur and Secretary Mary Berwick - as well as Public Policy Chair Marybeth Ulrich and Historian Kathleen Brennan*. I also extend my thanks to all who served on the Board during my tenure as President and to our membership as a whole. I appreciated your support and good cheer, and I especially appreciated your forbearance on more than one occasion. I am also grateful for the opportunity to have led this wonderfully busy Branch and join the long list of Past Presidents who each in her own way left a small mark on the historical record of AAUW Carlisle. I am so very proud to be a member of this Branch!

Alas, words escape me to adequately express my feelings at this juncture as I step down as President. This made me wonder if artificial intelligence might, in fact, do a better job at this farewell business than I can. So, I signed up for ChatGPT - just to test the AI waters - and I typed in the prompt "compose a farewell address for an AAUW President." Well! I was astonished at how much it knew about AAUW, but I thought the finished product lacked personality. So then I challenged it to compose the farewell address with distinctive literary voices, such as Virginia Wolfe's (but it was too maudlin) and Ernest Hemingway's (which was too terse). After testing many prompts with various authors, I finally found the one that made me smile and it was the one which Theodor S. Geisel would have written:

"Oh, hello there, AAUW members dear!
It's your President here, spreading some cheer!
I've got news to share, so lend me your ear,
And let's celebrate all that we hold near.

We've had quite a year, with challenges galore,
But we've come together like never before.
We've supported women in higher ed,
And helped them soar to success instead.

We've advocated for justice and equity,
And fought for policies that promote parity.
We've made some progress, that's plain to see,
But there's more work to do, you and me.

So, let's continue to lend our voice,
And let's continue to make the right choice.
Let's stand tall, let's be brave,
For a better world, let's pave the way!

With that, I bid you adieu,
But know that we'll continue to fight for you.
We'll work together, we'll make a fuss,
For the future of women and all of us.

Thanks for all that you do,
And always remember, we're in this together, me and you!"

Thank you, dear Branch, for being friendly and fun, game companions on the high speed, wild ride of the last two years!

With affectionate regards!

Kathleen Gorak
Outgoing President

**These are the only two chairs whose departure is confirmed at the time this message was composed. Please forgive any unintended omissions.*

From the (Incoming) President

First and foremost, I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks to our indomitable President, Kathleen Gorak, for her tireless leadership during these past two years! You guided the branch during the transition from pandemic challenges to in-person activities, with your signature sense of humor and enthusiasm. We are grateful!

Six years ago, when I became a member of AAUW Carlisle, I could not have anticipated what an important and meaningful part of my life it would become. We moved to Pennsylvania not knowing a soul and you all have become not just colleagues in our advocacy work, but friends. I venture to say that there isn't a more passionate, intelligent, and fun group of women — and Don Mowery 😊 — that I'd rather be associated with!

I am honored to have been chosen as President and look forward to working with all of you to grow the branch and continue our terrific work!

The team that will work over the summer to plan and prepare another year of rich programming and opportunities for engagement are:

Elected Officers:

Gail D'Urso and Deborah Sweaney, Program Vice Presidents
Cindy Sutton, Membership Vice President
Cherry France and Molly Shane, Finance Officers
Linda Brunski, Secretary
Kathleen Gorak, Past President

Committee Chairs:

Becky Morgenthal, AAUW Funds
Pat Markowski, Communications
Jenifer Johnson, Community Activities
Beth McKinley, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
Historian TBD
Wendy Armour Dickinson, Interest Groups
Stacey Gatch and Sharon Heller, Newsletter
Kathy Gates, Public Policy
Lillian Wong, Scholarship
Kate Elkins, Social Media
Barb Attivo and Lillian Wong, STEM
Gail D'Urso, Trailblazers
Stacey Gatch and Sharon Heller, Webmaster
Virginia Mauk, Yearbook
Stacey Gatch, Zoommaster

Notable Anniversaries

June 10th, the 60th Anniversary of
the Equal Pay Act

June 23rd, the 51st Anniversary of
Title IX

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
Incoming President

New Officers "Get Oriented"

New Officer Orientation at Kathleen Gorak's house in April with Kate Elkins, Incoming President; Deborah Sweaney, Incoming Program Co-Vice President; Janet Kacsur, Outgoing Program Co-Vice President; Cindy Sutton, Incoming Membership Vice President; Molly Shane, Co-Finance Officer; and Mary Brunski, Vice President.





AAUW Carlisle Member Honored by Huntington Branch

Kathy Gates lets no grass grow under her feet. Not only is she an active member in the Carlisle Branch, but Kathy also has membership in the Harrisburg and Huntington Branches of AAUW.

Most recently, she was recognized for her contributions in the Huntington Branch by receiving the “Members Making a Difference Award”. Huntington President Deb Roney is shown with Kathy holding her award certificate.

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
June 5	6:00 pm	Book Club Selection <i>Dinner at Fiddler's</i>	RSVP here	Page 10
June 13	6:30 pm	Board Meeting		
June 17	9:00 am	Breakfast Club at Sunrise Café	RSVP here	Page 10
June 19		First Day of SPY Summer Camp	Volunteer here Buy Classroom supplies here Donate kitchen items here	Page 8
June 21	6:00 pm	Dine Out at Marcello's Ristarante	RSVP here	Page 10
July 15		Final Day to Pay Dues		Page 11
July 20		Newsletter Submission Deadline	Submit to staceygatch@yahoo.com and hellers@pa.net	
July 28 - 29		AAUW PA Summer Retreat in Gettysburg		Page 6
Aug 22	6:00 pm	August Welcome Social		Page 11

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

Save the Dates!

2024 AAUW PA Convention

April 5-7, 2024

AAUW Carlisle 100th Anniversary Celebration,

May 10, 2024

Branch Presents Outgoing President Kathleen Gorak with Book for Bosler

At the May 23rd branch meeting, AAUW Carlisle members presented Kathleen Gorak with a tribute book given in her honor to Bosler Memorial Library as a token of appreciation for her leadership of the branch during the last two years.

The book is ***Women and Leadership: Real Lives, Real Lessons*** by Julia Gillard and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (2020). Julia Gillard was the 27th Prime Minister of Australia, serving from 2010 to 2013. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is the Director General of the World Trade Organization, the first woman and first African to hold the position.

This book is "A powerful reminder that there is no limit to what women can accomplish when we have the chance."
- Madeleine Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State



Mary Brunski (lt.) and Molly Shane (rt.), present Kathleen Gorak with a tribute copy of ***Women and Leadership: Real Lives, Real Lessons***.

Molly Shane
Co-Finance Officer

News about the Dickinson College AAUW Student Organization



Outgoing President Kathleen Gorak and Incoming President Kate Elkins recently met with the Dickinson College AAUW Student Organization Executive Committee to learn more about their plans for the new school year and ways for our two groups to work together on shared initiatives, such as registering voters at Harvest for the Arts. They are impressive students individually, to be sure, but collectively, this group is dynamite - full of enthusiasm, creativity and determination to make a difference on campus and in the wider community!

Pictured here are Matt Smith, Treasurer, Maggie Cassano, Social Media Chair, Sophia Perrone, President and Tayyaba Jadoon, Vice President in front of a table they painted for a project with Hope Station.

Kathleen Gorak
President

What's Up in Pennsylvania? News from AAUW Pennsylvania

It always feels weird that the AAUW program year is winding to a close during the second quarter of the calendar year when Spring is everywhere.

All efforts are toward a successful Summer Retreat. Make sure you attend to support the success of our public policy efforts. Members involved in the planning and execution of The Beyond Suffrage and Civics 9-1-1 are presenting their amazing work in a workshop at the AAUW Pennsylvania Summer Retreat.



REGISTRATION and DETAILS

<https://aauw-pa.aauw.net>

FRIDAY JULY 28 & SATURDAY JULY 29

Gettysburg College Campus • 300 N. Washington St., Gettysburg
LODGING: Wyndham Hotel, 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg

Fundraising

Becky Morgenthal, AAUW Funds Chair

Scholarship Banquet Fund Update

The Fund Committee is happy to report that we started the 2024 Scholarship Fund Appeal at the 2023 Scholarship Banquet. This year we asked for donations and provided tickets to everyone who attended the banquet. Those tickets gave you an opportunity to win a Door Prize. The lovely centerpieces were created by Cathy Seras, owner of K & D Florals. The centerpieces were donated by AAUW Past Presidents, Kathleen Brennan, Becky Morgenthal, Marjorie Mowery, Wendy Armour Dickinson, Cindy Sutton and Ann Pehle.

In our last newsletter we asked everyone to help us raise more than the \$500 which is the amount we collected at the 2022 banquet; which was a record! Thanks to everyone who donated. This year we raised \$628 to start the 2024 Scholarship Fund; another record! Can't wait to see what we do for the 2025 Scholarship Fund. Our membership is very generous and thank you all who participated.

Our next fundraiser will be the yard sale in May. Kathleen will give you the details. Enjoy the summer!

Becky Morgenthal
AAUW Fund Chair

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Cindy Sutton, Community Activities Chair

The Wonder of Hillwood Estate

What a lovely day! Forty-five branch members and guests traveled to Washington, D.C. to visit Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens. One of the wealthiest women of her time, Marjorie Merriweather Post made provisions to bequeath her beloved home, Hillwood, and its extensive collections of French and Russian art for the enjoyment and education of future generations. With the help of docent volunteers, we were able to view not only the home but enjoyed the twenty-five acres of magnificent, landscaped gardens and natural woodlands. A dinner stop in Frederick, MD fortified us for the safe drive back to Carlisle.

It has been a pleasure planning and enjoying a variety of activities with the branch during my two year time as chair of Community Activities. Members can look forward to more events as Jenifer Johnson assumes this position.

***Cindy Sutton Community
Activities Chair***



Our Community Activities trip to Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens in Washington, D.C. was enjoyed by AAUW members and friends! It was wonderful to have our sisters at AAUW Harrisburg attend along with a number of member guests. *From the Harrisburg Branch... and the Carlisle Branch....*

And we just couldn't leave out (or leave behind) Lillian!



Scholarship

Lillian Wong, AAUW Scholarship Chair

Once again, AAUW Carlisle furthered the education of young women in our area by issuing four scholarships for the 2023 Scholarship season. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Scholarship Fund, making this possible. Additionally, special thanks to Becky Morgenthal and her Fund Committee members for their efforts to raise scholarship dollars for these young women and to my committee members who took seriously the job of scholarship recipient selection.

*Lillian Wong
Scholarship Chair*

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 – Monday, June 5 Book Selection Dinner at 6:00 pm at Fiddler's Bar & Grill (1 Mayapple Drive, Carlisle)

Breakfast Club – Saturday, June 17 at 9:00 am at Sunrise Cafe (231 North Hanover Street, Carlisle)

Dine Out – Wednesday, June 21 at 6:00 pm at Marcello's Ristorante (900 Calvary Road, Carlisle)

*Wendy Armour Dickinson
Interest Group Chair*

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Virginia Mauk, Membership VP

Growth Through Membership

In this season of renewal, AAUW Carlisle is celebrating the membership of three **new** members! Sharon Heller, Kathleen Weigl, and Carol Weishaar have joined the branch in the past month. You can learn all about these three new members in their Member Bios and by introducing yourself to them at upcoming events.

Growth is our goal and both new members and renewals are crucial to that effort. Thank you to those of you who have already renewed. If you have not renewed your membership, please go online to [AAUW National](https://www.aauwnet.org), sign in and renew your membership prior to July 15. If you have any questions or would like a paper membership form to pay by check, please contact me at 240.338.2862 or email virginia.mauk@gmail.com.

New members and renewals are growth for the Carlisle Branch but, just as important, growth for the AAUW mission of gender equity for all women!

*Virginia Mauk
Membership Chair*

Save the Date!

What: August Social Event
When: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.
Where: Second Presbyterian Church

Plan to bring a guest to this special dinner event that will be the start of our new programming year. Watch for an invitation with details in the August newsletter.

Cindy Sutton
Incoming Membership Vice President

Thoughts from a Member of the Board

I am about to complete my fifth year on the Board of AAUW Carlisle and thought that this would be a good time to share some of my thoughts.

I joined AAUW in 2015 and I didn't know a soul. At that time, Linkey Green was Branch President. She warmly welcomed me into the branch and it didn't take too long before I joined the Membership Committee under the leadership of Carolyn Freberg and Sue Royer. In 2017, I was asked if I would consider becoming a Membership Co-Vice President. I had just retired and decided that I would have time fill the role that Carolyn was about to exit. My responsibilities were clearly defined in my "Job Description" as were the responsibilities of our Co VP, Sue Royer. Sue and I did much of our work via email or telephone or on our computers. We actually had quite a few laughs and shared the work fairly. Membership responsibilities didn't consume more than an hour or two of my time most weeks.



When Sue's term expired, Virginia Mauk joined me as Co VP. We worked well together and membership continued to increase. I agreed to stay on for a second term. Much of the next two years were dominated by Covid-19 and Virginia and I did some fancy footwork to maintain membership through challenging times. After many meetings on Zoom, when we were able to resume in-person meetings, we followed public health protocols in order to assure members that we were doing what we could to minimize risk. Two of our most recent August Socials were catered so that there was no sharing of food. Social distancing was practiced in table set ups. Masks were available at monthly meetings. And we didn't lose many members. When my term expired, the nomination committee was unable to find a replacement. So, Virginia did a whole year of Membership by herself. Thankfully, Cindy Sutton is joining her for the next year.

In 2022 - 23, I was asked to serve as a Program Co VP. I had the pleasure of working with Co-VP Janet Kacsur and a Committee of dedicated, hardworking members. We planned a dynamic 2022 -23 Program Year as our country moved toward a post-Covid normalcy. Again, the work load was fairly divided. We communicated frequently so we wouldn't overlook anything our speakers or members needed. This next year, Deb Sweeney has stepped into Janet's role as Program Co VP and the Program Committee is already well on the way to planning a dynamic schedule of meetings to reflect our 100th Anniversary.

So, why am I telling you all of this? Well, I think that, sometimes, people are reluctant to take on Board responsibilities because they think it will be an overwhelming amount of work. I'm here to tell you that it isn't! I admit that I am a pretty organized person. I make lists and schedules. And I meet deadlines and honor commitments. There are some busy times for both Membership and Programs but I had been given enough information to know when those busy times would occur. And I planned for that. The payback for this work for me is that I have gotten to know so many of our members better than I would have if I hadn't taken on these roles. And when I have needed help, these members have been supportive, encouraging, and they have stepped right up to help. (See Trailblazers 2022 when I got pneumonia!!!). So, what I am suggesting is that you consider taking on a Board position in the future. I think you'll be glad you did!

Gail D'Urso
Programs Co-VP

SPY Summer Program – Can You Help?

On Monday, June 19th, 167 elementary-aged students will start their SPY summer camp experience and enjoy an unforgettable 6-weeks of academic enrichment and personal growth. For 91 percent of these children, who live in economically-disadvantaged households, this is the opportunity of a lifetime. Because of SPY, they are given access to the same educationally supportive resources their more affluent peers benefit from, that they otherwise would not be able to afford. Resources, and relationships, that could transform their future.

For the mothers of these students, SPY means so much more. SPY's free program is affordable childcare during the summer months, keeping their children safe and nourished so they can continue to work and provide for their families. SPY is a supportive partner as they face a myriad of mothering challenges, so they don't have to feel that they are alone.

Last summer 150 students were enrolled. As you can see, once again SPY has grown. Elementary School Counselors continue to recognize an increased number of students who are in need of a program like SPY. And though enrollment for this summer is full, referrals keep coming in. I think you will agree, this is a critical need!

Community support makes SPY possible. We are looking for volunteers, 15 every day, to help prepare, deliver and serve food. Donations of classroom and kitchen items help ensure a quality, effective, nurturing program for deserving children in our community. Contributions of any form are greatly appreciated!

Interested in volunteering? Click here: <https://www.timetosignup.com/spy2023/> Interested in helping by purchasing classroom supplies? Click [here](#)

Interested in helping by purchasing kitchen items? Click [here](#)

The members of AAUW have generously supported SPY's program in the past and, as the Director, I am so grateful for this support! More importantly, SPY mothers are especially appreciative. Time and again I am told, "I don't know what I would do without your program". Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of theirs, for making a difference!

Jeanna Som
SPY Executive Director

AAUW Carlisle 2022-2023 Board Members

Elected Officers

President – Kathleen Gorak

Vice President – Mary Brunski

Membership VPs – Virginia Mauk, Co-VP open

Program VPs – Janet Kascur, Gail D’Urso

Finance Officers – Cherry France, Molly Shane

Secretary – Mary Berwick

Past President – Ann Pehle

Appointed Committee Chairs

AAUW Funds – Becky Morgenthal

Communications – Pat Markowski

Community Activities – Cindy Sutton

Interest Groups – Wendy Armour Dickinson

Public Policy – Marybeth Ulrich, 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 – Kathleen Brennan

Appointed Ad Hoc Committee Chairs

100th Anniversary – Jean Foschi, Jeanna Som

Appointed Coordinators

Newsletter Editors – Nancy Sigrist, Stacey Gatch

Social Media – Kate Elkins

Trailblazers – Gail D’Urso, Barb Attivo

Webmaster – Stacey Gatch

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

Committees seeking members*

Fundraising

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

Membership

Contact Virginia Mauk (virginia.mauk@gmail.com) for more information and to discuss your interest.

Public Policy

Contact Marybeth Ulrich or ulrichm@pa.net

**Note: See Kate Elkins message from the incoming president on page 3-4 for the names of Committee Chairs for the upcoming 2023 – 2024 fiscal year.*

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



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Like us @AAUW Pennsylvania