

## From the President

'Tis the season to take stock in all we have and take the time to express our gratitude — for our families, our health, good friends and all of you in AAUW Carlisle. Your varied backgrounds and depth of your experience add such richness to our common cause fighting for equity for women and girls. As I looked around the room at our recent board meeting, I felt blessed to be in the company of such dedicated women, who give of their time and manage to do it all with a great sense of humor. I hope that some of you newer members will consider serving on the board at some point. You won't regret it!

Our work is vital and can seem a serious undertaking, but we should never take ourselves too seriously. Remember to celebrate our progress, no matter how small it may seem sometimes. We ARE making a difference in the community and, sometimes, even beyond that.

Thank you all for being on this mission with me. I appreciate each and every one of you! May you enjoy a safe and wonderful holiday season with those you love!!

**Kate Elkins**  
*President*

## AAUW Carlisle 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

### ***A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words***

The 100th Anniversary Committee seeks photos of AAUW events, particularly photos taken prior to 2014. These pictures may be part of a slide show, the 100th Anniversary History booklet, or a display at the event. Please look through your photos and see what you may have in your collection that the Committee might be able to use. Photos can be emailed to Jeanna Som at [Jeanna1975@yahoo.com](mailto:Jeanna1975@yahoo.com) or by [clicking here](#) to upload them directly to a designated google drive. Thank you!

**Jeanna Som**

### PLAN TO ATTEND!

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee continues to plan for the branch's birthday bash on Friday, May 10, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Cumberland County Historical Society. You won't want to miss the great food and drink, music and a program that features a speaker from our national AAUW organization. **SAVE THE DATE!**

## Public Policy



**Education Voters of PA** - Public Policy Chair Kathy Gates and friends attended the Rally at the Capitol on Tuesday, November 14th to support a call on the Basic Education Funding Commission to issue a report that will include a plan that will ensure public education is adequately, equitably, and **constitutionally** funded in Pennsylvania, in accordance with the recent Commonwealth Court decision AND to include

a reasonable timeline for the implementation of this plan. This was an AAUW-supported event.

See <https://edvoterspa.org/2023/11/pas-beautiful-movement-to-fund-public-schools/>



**Family Care Act** - Kate Elkins sent an e-mail on November 18th asking for members to sign their name to a letter that will be sent to all PA Legislators to encourage them to pass the Family Care Act. This bill aims to establish a statewide fund to support PA workers who are recuperating from a serious illness or medical emergency. The Fund will also enable new parents and caregivers to provide care to their children and loved ones without jeopardizing their employment and financial well-being. Please consider supporting this action. See [www.familycareact.com/take-action](http://www.familycareact.com/take-action).

**Kathy Gates**  
AAUW Carlisle Public Policy Committee Chair

## Your Membership Matters!

### *New Members! Mark Your Calendars!*

Each year the membership committee hosts a New Member Social. If you are part of the "New Member Class of 2023", mark your calendars! A Kaffee Klatsch is planned for Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Invitations with complete information will be out soon!

A fun morning is planned where everyone will have a chance to better know each other and a few of our Board members and Committee Chairs in a small group setting. New members will also learn more about our branch, projects and activities and various opportunities to become more involved.

**Cindy Sutton & Nancy Sigrist**  
Membership Co-Vice Presidents

## Get to Know Our New Members!

Those of us who have been a branch member in Carlisle for a while have been blessed with deep and enduring friendships. We want our newest members to have that same experience. Please reach out to someone you don't yet know and welcome them to our group. Introduce them to others and answer their questions as they learn about the many activities, programs and projects at our branch. Invite them to join you at one of our branch activities such as Breakfast Club, Dining Out or Community Activities, just to name a few.

Tip: At our branch meetings, new members are easy to spot. Look for the small leaf on their nametags which signifies newer members who may not yet know everyone.

## *Meet Our New Members!*

**Gwendolyn Conway** moved to Carlisle from Philadelphia three years ago. Her move was prompted by her wanting to be closer to her daughter, who happens to be Danielle Conway, Dean of the Law School. After some shuffling of houses, she is now resident on College Street.

Gwendolyn raised three sons and a daughter, working for the City of Philadelphia's tax revenue department. At the same time, she attended Temple University Law School, and slowly, over a period of 23 years, earned her J.D. degree. With this degree in hand, she clerked for the Judge of Common Pleas, subsequently working with the legal division of the City Workers Union, District Council 33. She also engaged in some private practice from her home. She then ran for Judge of Municipal Court at the age of 58, and after 12 years on the bench, retired at the age of 70.

She encouraged all of her children to pursue college educations. Her oldest son retired from the Air Force, and worked in the Aerospace industry.

Gwendolyn didn't have much time to pursue hobbies, but once in a while went to Atlantic City to enjoy playing the machines at the casinos. Now she is feeling her way slowly in this new community. The pace is different from Philadelphia, and she wants to meet some people and get a sense of belonging.

She was the guest of Linda Figueroa at the August Social, and enjoyed the program and the women she met enough to become a member of AAUW Carlisle.

**Rachael Andreoli** is a native of the Carlisle area. She has been married for 20 years, a self-described "stay at home" mom. But when her son, 18, graduated, she decided she needed to birth a "new baby." So a year ago she started a new business, "Interior Intuition." As a homemaker for over 20 years, she learned a lot about creating an intentional home, and her business now helps others design living spaces that contribute to the calm, intentional function of interior and psychological home environments.

Rachel earned a B.A. in speech communications from Shippensburg University. She was only 16 when she entered college, and had no idea what she wanted to do with her life. So she chose her major based on the fact that it required zero statistics courses. More importantly, it was a liberal arts course of study that would be a basis for doing almost anything in the future.

She is a book nerd, and loves animals. Two rescue mutts, Ruger and Otto, enrich the family's lives. She is also "obsessed" with all things local--government, news media, and farmers' market. She volunteers with the Boiling Springs Civic Association, and under the umbrella of Mission Central, volunteers for diaper wrapping into bundles that are distributed to local charities.

Rachel had attended an AAUW Carlisle meeting last spring as a guest of Mary Brunski, and then attended the August Social as Cindy Sutton's guest. She immediately felt that "these were my people." She hopes to serve the branch in the future once she knows more about the opportunities available.

**Amy Mangelsdorf** is military in a big way. Although she has a B.A. in International Relations from American University and had the goal of a career in the State Department, because the Army paid for her education, she served four years active duty as a Signal Officer.

She met her husband at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky where they were both posted, and they were married at Dunbar Caves State Park where they had gone on a hike. After hitting the four year mark with the Army, it became too difficult for two officers to be posted in the same location, and she dropped out to follow her husband to his assignments, moving 13 times including postings in Korea and Germany.

Amy tried her hand at teaching in Korea with teaching assignments ranging from pre-school to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. She realized she did not have the patience good teachers require, so turned to a life of volunteer service. She volunteered with the Red Cross, served on her son's school advisory council, was a Girl Scout Leader (even though she had no daughter), led an adult education group (Army Family Team Building), coached a track team, and chaired a variety of charity events. Somehow, she also had time to raise a son who is now grown and works for Lockheed Martin.

In 2015, Amy and her husband settled in Carlisle after returning from Germany. He finished his Army career here, and they loved the area so decided to stay. They adopted two cats, Klaus and Milady, who now share their home. She is an avid reader, and describes herself as a "History Nerd." She also drives frequently between Pennsylvania and Ohio to check on their elderly parents.

Any is not a stranger to AAUW. While at their 5<sup>th</sup> duty station in Leavenworth, Kansas, a member of the Spouses Club there introduced her to AAUW and she joined. Her goal in re-joining in Carlisle is to meet women she can relate to, and to enjoy some of the activities and programs the branch provides.

**Patricia Markowski**  
*AAUW Carlisle Branch Communications*

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

### *Looking Back to Move Forward: Evolution of the Fight*

OK, in past newsletters, I know you pass over this announcement without a thought. Well, now 2024 is here, or nearly here. So, mark your calendar and start making plans to attend.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**April 5 -7, 2024**

**AAUW Pennsylvania Convention**  
Central Hotel and Conference Center  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

**Ann Pehle**

*AAUW Pennsylvania Nomination Committee Co-Chair*

## News from National AAUW Update

Missed recent AAUW webinars—no worries. Get inspired by listening to either or both of the following.

**Youth Voices for Global Gender Equity** <https://youtu.be/CWkSBV3mBwQ> is a conversation with AAUW's United Nations Youth Representatives. AAUW United Nations youth representatives Zahra Hassan and Kyra Szabo and Elena Reiss, Assistant Director of Fellowship Advising and UN Programs at Lehigh University, joined CEO Gloria Blackwell for an informative discussion on the AAUW UN youth representative program and the importance of youth voices in the future of global gender equity.

**2023 Alumnae Recognition Award** <https://youtu.be/6sM5svoSSlo>, celebrates the 135th anniversary of AAUW's pioneering American Fellowship Program! Tune into this fireside chat with this year's Alumnae Recognition Award honoree, Barbara Smith — Black feminist pioneer, activist, author, publisher, co-founder of Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, and AAUW American Fellowship alumna.

Being a woman shouldn't be scary. But despite the progress we've made towards gender and racial equity, some frightening facts remain.

1. A calculation comparing all women with earnings last year (including part-time and seasonal workers) found women were paid a mere 78% of men's wages in 2022.
2. Two-thirds of student loan debt is carried by women, and Black and Brown women take on the most debt, due to pay discrimination, systemic racism and wealth gaps.
3. When you factor in the costs of housing, transportation and child care, student debt makes it nearly impossible for many women to afford basic living expenses.
4. A typical STEM worker earns two-thirds more than those employed in other fields. Yet women make up only 34% of the STEM workforce.
5. According to a 2022 report by AAUW and the Eos Foundation, women comprise just 22% of the presidents of our nation's top universities, and only 5% are women of color.

This is why AAUW members are vigilant and work on these issues at the federal, state, and local levels.

- Push Congress to finally pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would close loopholes that have weakened the Equal Pay Act over time and prohibit employers from relying on salary history to set wages—a practice shown to perpetuate discrimination.
- Support family caregivers through much-needed legislation like the FAMILY Act, which would create a national self-funding paid family and medical leave insurance program.
- Keep fighting for student-debt relief, which disproportionately affects women and people of color. We can't let this year's setbacks get in the way of historic progress toward this key equity issue!

Be on alert for legislation and write your Pennsylvania Representative and Senator and U.S. Congressional Representative and Senators. No matter which political party, they need to know you support gender equity for women and girls.

**Ann Pehle**  
AAUW Pennsylvania Nomination Committee Co-Chair

**Interest Groups and Upcoming Events**  
*Upcoming Interest Group Schedule*

**Book Group—Here's a look at the great line-up of interesting reads! Join us for the fun!**


Date	Time	Hostess	Book
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
6/3/24	6:00 pm	Marcellos	

AAUW Events				
Date	Time	Event	Registration links	Link to Article
Dec. 10	11:30 am	Millworks Brunch and PA Governor's Residence Holiday Open House	RSVP <a href="#">here</a>	<a href="#">Page 7</a>
Jan. 6	10:00 am	Kaffee Klatsch		<a href="#">Page 2</a>
Jan. 8	1:00 pm	Book Club-Kathleen G. Hostess- <i>Museum of Innocence</i> by Orhan Pamuk	RSVP <a href="#">here</a>	<a href="#">Page 6</a>
Jan. 13	9:00 am	Breakfast Club at Sunrise Café - North Hanover St. Carlisle	RSVP <a href="#">here</a>	
Jan. 20		Newsletter Submission Deadline	Submit to <a href="mailto:hellers@pa.net">hellers@pa.net</a> & <a href="mailto:peggy@drj4college.com">peggy@drj4college.com</a>	
Jan. 23		Branch Meeting		<a href="#">Page 8</a>
Feb. 22	11:00 am	Feb Brunch-Courtyard Cafe at Carlisle High School		<a href="#">Page 7</a>



## *PA Governor's Residence Holiday Open House*

### *Sunday, December 10, 2023*

 If you've not already replied, polish your jingle bells and join us for a festive free trip to the Governor's Residence Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 10th, 1-5 pm! Double your fun by meeting beforehand for brunch at The Millworks (340 Verbeke Street, Harrisburg) at 11:30 am.

<https://millworksharrisburg.com/menu/#>

After enjoying delicious food, we'll caravan over to the historic Governor's Residence, to enjoy holiday decor, special exhibits, and musical entertainment! Street parking is available in the 2000 block of North Second Street (both sides). Residence visitors use the Second Street gate on the west side of the street. Please travel light -- no backpacks or large totes. Bags and purses will be inspected.

For those attending both activities, we'll set up a couple of carpool rendezvous points, meeting approximately 10:50 am. If attending only one, please meet us at the Millworks at 11:30, or at the Second Street gate at 1:00. In either case, RSVP to [jipackard56@gmail.com](mailto:jipackard56@gmail.com), so we know when and where to find you! Please provide a phone number, so you can be notified in case of itinerary delays.

See you on December 10th!



**Jenifer Johnson**  
AAUW Carlisle Community Activities  
[717-776-9499](tel:717-776-9499)

## *February Brunch*

### *Saturday, February 10, 2024*

Our brunch will include an illustrious speaker, Dorene Wilbur, DEI and Government: Embracing Change at the Intersection of Humanity and Public Service



Bio: Dorene Wilbur is a veteran educator who spent 27 years in the field. Twenty of those years were with the Carlisle Area School District where she taught middle and high school English. During her tenure at CASD, Dorene made an indelible impact upon her students by exposing them to diverse perspectives and literature. Furthermore, she created CASD's first Black Student Union, took students on field trips to the African American Smithsonian, exposed students to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and mentored many students and teachers.

As Dorene concluded her career in education, she accepted a position as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Specialist with the PA Office of Attorney General. Although she has been there a little more than a year, she has garnered a partnership with Pennsylvania's own HBCU, Lincoln University, created over 14 original trainings, created employee resource groups, and helped nurture diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in our 13 offices across the Commonwealth.

## AAUW Supports STEM

The Branch has been a long-time supporter of Camp Invention and our sponsorship of a scholarship has had an impact on campers over the years. Adelaide Reys now a high school junior who received our sponsorship in grades 4-6 became a Leadership Intern and continues her interest in science.

If you missed the article from the Sentinel about the program, you can also view the article at the link below.

[https://cumberlink.com/news/local/education/students-learn-at-camp-invention/article\\_9eab0aec-19ab-11ee-82e6-4f9c2960a4d8.html](https://cumberlink.com/news/local/education/students-learn-at-camp-invention/article_9eab0aec-19ab-11ee-82e6-4f9c2960a4d8.html)

## Branch Meeting – January 2024

Our January 23<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature Mary Reinhard, Executive Vice President of Junior Achievement (JA) of Southcentral PA. This will be a unique presentation as we explore STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. We will have an opportunity to participate in hands-on-experience or if you prefer to view the fun we will have as we actually participate in an activity from JA's STEM curriculum. In addition, Mary will share many of the myriad of programs and volunteer opportunities that exist. Branch members will have opportunities to volunteer as early as January 31, February 1 and 2 at Cumberland Valley. This presentation is an opportunity to see how easy volunteering is as the Branch supports STEM and increases its visibility in the community.

**SAVE THE DATE**

May 10, 2024  
AAUW Carlisle 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration



## Nominations!

### **Nominating Committee Seeking 2024--2026 Board Position Candidates**

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

While the President, Secretary and Past Presidents serve individually for their terms, 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 2024--2026 membership year, the offices of Vice President, Program Vice President, Membership Vice President, and Finance Officer 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.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Becky Morgenthal, is now actively looking for members to serve on the AAUW Carlisle Board of Directors in these elected positions. If, as an AAUW Carlisle member, you are interested in placing your name in nomination, or if you wish to nominate another member for an elective office, please step forward by mid-December and let Becky know. Serving in a board position is a wonderful way to advance the mission of AAUW, and to get to know branch members and their amazing breadth of skills and interests.

## ***JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL AAUW FEBRUARY BRUNCH!***

February is Heart Health, Cancer Prevention,  
and Celebration of Chocolate Month



**Thursday**, February 22, 2024 at 11 a.m. Arrive early for best parking spots!  
Courtyard Café in the Fowler Building at Carlisle High School

### **Schedule:**

11:00 Social

11:10 Speaker: Dorene Wilbur, DEI Specialist at PA Office of Attorney General:  
“DEI and Government: Embracing Change at the Intersection of  
Humanity and Public Service”

11:50 Buffet Served

12:45 Brief Business Meeting

1:00 Adjourn

### **BRUNCH MENU:**

***Cream of Broccoli Soup***

***Herbed Potato Roll***

***Chicken Marsala***

***Baked Boston Scrod***

***Winter Rice Blend***

***Seasoned Vegetable Medley***

***Chef's Dessert Selections***

***Beverages: Iced Tea, Water, & Coffee***

**Brunch cost per member or guest is \$ 22.00.**

*A tip jar will be available to show our appreciation to Chef Ehly, Chef Seras and their students and to support their trips to Bedford Springs and Hotel Hershey.*

**Brunch cost per member or guest is \$ 22.00.**

Please mail your check made payable to **AAUW Carlisle** to:

**Gail D’Urso, 25 Alters Road, Carlisle, PA 17015 by February 12, 2024.**

THIS FIRM DEADLINE IS NECESSARY DUE TO THE PRESIDENT’S DAY LONG HOLIDAY WEEKEND AND THE COURTYARD CAFÉ’S FOOD AVAILABILITY AND PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE

You only need to send the registration form if you will be bringing guests or have dietary restrictions.

**And now you can choose to use PayPal to register by clicking this link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=UD2824YNQGY9U](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=UD2824YNQGY9U)

Dietary  
Restrictions?

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Total Check Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**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** – Marina Young

**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**

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Jean Foschi, Jeanna Som

**Appointed Coordinators**

**Newsletter Editors** – Sharon Heller, Peggy Jennings

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

## Get Active

### Committees seeking members\*

**Fundraising**

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

**Membership**

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

**Public Policy**

Contact Kathy Gates ([kgates808@comcast.net](mailto:kgates808@comcast.net)) for more information.

**Nominating**

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

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



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