

April AAUW Events

AAUW Pennsylvania Annual Conference

April 5-7

Find out more [here](#):

Book Club

Monday, April 8 at 7:00 pm

"Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury

Home of Patricia Yerkes

150 Independence Way, Mechanicsburg

Future Book selections [here](#):

RSVP [here](#):

Tour Carlisle's Historic Courthouse & Old Public Graveyard

Friday, April 12, at 1:30 pm

Find out more and RSVP [here](#):

Dine Out

Wednesday, April 17 at 6:00 pm

Grand Illusion, 26 W. High St., Carlisle

RSVP [here](#):

Breakfast Club

Saturday, April 20 at 9:00 am

Sunrise Cafe, 231 N. Hanover St., Carlisle

RSVP [here](#):

Newsletter Submission Deadline

Saturday, April 20

Submit [here](#):

Scholarship Banquet

Tuesday, April 23, at 6:00 pm

Find out more and RSVP [here](#):

AAUW Carlisle 100th Anniversary

Friday, May 10

Find out more and RSVP [here](#):

Branch Yard Sale

Friday, May 24 & Saturday, May 25

Find out more [here](#):

AAUW Carlisle Higher Education Scholarship Banquet

Tuesday, April 23, 6:00 pm

This year we celebrate with our scholarship recipients on the Dickinson College campus at a festive banquet with friends, family and food. We are awarding five scholarships to exceptional women who have proven their academic achievements as well as being excellent representatives of the future of women!

In 2024, we expanded our offering to include Perry County. We are proud to have a recipient join the prestigious group who claim Cumberland County as their home.

The recipients of \$2000 scholarships include previous awardees:

Lily Bistline (Loyola University Maryland-Psychology)

Lauren Stroup (Wilson College-Nursing)

We Welcome New Recipients

Rebekah Becker (Marywood University-Nutrition & Dietetics)

Colleen Leshar (Liberty University-Ed.D Education & Educational Psychology) and

Iman Muhammad (HACC-Nursing).

We will learn more about each of these accomplished women at the April 23 Scholarship Banquet. **Please RSVP by April 11 to be included in the celebration.**

A huge thank you to our membership for continuing to donate towards the future of women and girls. An additional thank you to committee members Gail D'Urso, Carolyn Freburg, Kathleen Gorak, Sharon Heller, Rose Smith, and Cindy Sutton for their time, flexibility, expertise and dedication.



Please join us at 6:00 pm for social time followed by dinner at 6:30 pm. A brief business meeting precedes the scholarship presentation.

We invite all of our members to join for this joyous occasion. Please see page 8 for dinner menu and RSVP instructions.

Lillian Wong
Chair, Scholarship Committee

Letter from the President



Beginning on April 3, we will all be asked to vote to change the AAUW Bylaws to remove the degree requirement for membership. This is referred to as “Open Membership.” This is a VERY important vote to demonstrate that we are faithful

to the mission of AAUW. We say we advocate for ALL women and girls, yet we exclude so many. It is high time that we walk the walk and open our ranks to everyone who values women’s equity and wants to join us in our advocacy.

Your State and National organizations have endorsed this change and your Carlisle Board unanimously joins them. In 2021, 63% of members who voted nationwide approved the change. We were SO CLOSE to the 66.7% required. But only 25% of members even took the time to vote. This year MUST be different!

Many of us have had the awkward experience of meeting wonderful and motivated women who want to join and having to ask if they have a degree. That just strikes me as elitist. I have to think of my own mother who didn’t have a degree but was one of the smartest and talented persons I have known. Why would we continue to say no to someone like her???

Please join Ann Pehle, AAUW PA Past President and Ajla Glavasevic Lausegger, State Board Member for a Special Zoom Meeting on April 1 at 7 pm to discuss the proposed change and to ask any questions you might have. Link to ZOOM meeting [here](#):

Voting will take place April 3-May 15.

To understand the open membership issue in the context of how AAUW’s Policies and Practices promote inclusion, watch the **Inclusion in practice: How AAUW’s Policies and Practices Promote Inclusion** [webinar](#).

Resources (2024 proposed bylaws; Open Membership toolkit; AAUW Election FAQ) can be found [here](#). Another resource and information source is [here](#).

Kate Elkins
President

2025 Scholarship Fundraising starts at the Scholarship Banquet

We just closed a very successful 2024 Scholarship Appeal fundraiser and now it’s time to begin the 2025 Scholarship Fundraising at the Scholarship Banquet. As we have done in the past, we will be offering “opportunities” to all who attend the banquet.

Please bring your \$20 bills (or whatever you can afford) to start our best and most popular fundraiser of all time. The Springtime centerpieces will be designed by Cathy Seras of K & D Florals.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the banquet.

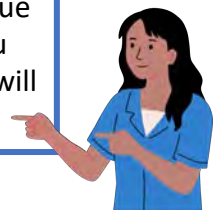
Becky Morgenthal
AAUW Fund Chair



Support “Open Up AAUW”
openupaauw.org

YOUR VOICE COUNTS

Watch for an email from vote@simplyvoting.com with your unique Elector ID and Password. That is all you need. Before closing the email, **VOTE**. It will take you about 90 seconds.



AAUW Carlisle Holds Sixth Annual Trailblazers Girls' Recognition Event

On March 12, AAUW Carlisle honored five high school girls in Career and Technical Education courses at Carlisle High School with the Trailblazer Award. AAUW Carlisle created the Trailblazer Award in 2019, recognizing that many high school students face pressure to attend four-year colleges, and sometimes girls who are interested in non-traditional tracks in high school, like health care, culinary arts, or automotive technology, may not receive positive support or recognition. Each honoree received a certificate of recognition and a stadium blanket embroidered with the AAUW Carlisle logo and Trailblazers 2024.

The 2024 honorees have been selected based on good citizenship, enthusiasm for their CTE program, and academic competence.

Cassie Diehl's interest in the business world informed her decision to enroll in the Business Academy program and the Ship Start program ensuring that she earned college credit while in high school. She will enter Shippensburg University as a sophomore.

Raquel Kennedy plans to pursue a career in medicine. She enrolled in CTE classes in medical terminology and careers in medicine. After high school, she intends to study nursing.

Samantha Kennedy enrolled in the Business Academy program and developed her leadership skills through managing the Bison Corner school store. She intends to attend HACC and then study Social Media Marketing at Shippensburg University.

Kailini Nelson's initial interest in Graphic Arts and Design has expanded to include Architecture, Engineering, and Medical Terminology. After graduation, she will pursue her studies at Central Penn College.

Rylee Diodato particularly enjoyed the Marketing program with the Business Academy, and plans a career in the marketing field.

In keeping with special events planned to mark AAUW Carlisle's anniversary year, one of this year's Trailblazer honorees will receive a \$500 award, announced at Carlisle High School's Senior Awards Night.

This recognition event is coordinated each year with Dr. Albert Parrillo, Director of Careers & Technology for Carlisle Area School District, and Leigh Hamilton, Secretary to the Director. Culinary Arts program Chef Carey Ehly, Chef Bill Seras, and the Culinary Arts students provided refreshments following the recognition.

Gail D'Urso



Kailani Nelson, Raquel Kennedy, Cassie Diehl, Rylee Diodato, Samantha Kennedy

Trailblazer!

AAUW Carlisle Branch Officer Slate for 2024-2026

**Vice President
Nancy Sigrist**

**Finance Officer
Molly Shane**

**Membership VP
Janet Kacsur**

**Program VP
Jeanna Som**



Tour Carlisle’s Historic Courthouse & Old Public Graveyard ***“High Above and Six Feet Under?”*** **Friday, April 12, 1:30 pm**

When Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart demanded the surrender of Federal troops in Carlisle on July 1, 1863, Union General William Smith replied, “Shell and be damned!” You’ll be relieved the shells aren’t still flying as we visit the restored courtroom of Cumberland County’s 1846 Old Courthouse and (if you wish!) climb up to enjoy the view from the bell tower.



A short walk south lies the Old Public Graveyard, where “Heroine of Monmouth” Molly Pitcher (Mary Hays McCauley), Pennsylvania Impressionist Esther Groom, and other noted Carlisle residents lie beneath a picturesque collection of cemetery art and monuments. History, art, and eternal rest!

We’ll once again be guided by Matt March of the Cumberland County Historical Society. A CCHS fee of \$10 cash per attendee will be collected before the tour. Please RSVP to [Jenifer Johnson](#), to ensure we have a minimum group size. **If you gave a verbal RSVP in Jenifer at a recent meeting, please confirm by email.**

100 Year Birthday Celebration Will Be Here Soon!

Mark your calendars and watch the mail for an invitation to not one, but two celebratory events both taking place on **Friday, May 10.**

At 10:00 am a bronze plaque commemorating the founding of the AAUW Carlisle Branch will be unveiled in Old West on the Dickinson College campus. This is the very building where the inaugural meeting of the branch took place, and we are honored to have the current college president, John E. Jones III, offering remarks. Be a part of this short, but historic ceremony. Seating will be available.

The celebration continues at 6:00 pm at Cumberland County Historical Society. Light hors d’oeuvres prepared by Carlisle High School culinary arts students will be served along with wine and other beverages. Music, flowers, photos and a time to socialize with other members and guests will be followed by a reflective and inspiring program. AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell will be a guest speaker!

The 100th Anniversary Committee has been working diligently to organize events and hopes to have all members attend. It is a remarkable achievement to reach this 100 year milestone... be sure to be a part of the celebration!

100 Year Anniversary Committee

Book Group Information

Date	Time	Hostess	Book
Monday, April 8	7:00 pm	Pat Y.	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> , by Ray Bradbury
Monday, May 6	7:00 pm	Pat M.	<i>Everyone in My Family has Killed Someone</i> , by Benjamin Stevenson
Monday, June 3	6:00 pm	Marcello’s	

What's Up in Pennsylvania? News from AAUW PA

April is voting season for AAUW Pennsylvania

Voting for **AAUW Pennsylvania elected officers** for the 2024-2026 term is summarized [here](#). The annual election for AAUW Pennsylvania began on February 23, 2024 and continues until 11:59 pm April 30. This term, positions up for election are: President, Program Vice President, and Marketing & Communication Vice President.

If you haven't already voted online or by paper or in the March 26 branch meeting, you still have time to cast your ballot here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024_Officer_Election.

The votes will be announced and ratified at the affiliate's annual meeting on May 4, 2024.

Changes to the **AAUW Pennsylvania Bylaws** summarized [here](#). Voting is April 3 until 11:59pm April 30. You will receive an email with the SurveyMonkey link shortly before April 3. You may choose to vote for groups of changes or for each individual change. Votes will be ratified at the May 4th annual meeting.

Ann Pehle

AAUW Pennsylvania Nomination & Elections Co-Chair

AAUW PA Conference

As you are reading this, over fifteen AAUW Carlisle members are attending the AAUW Pennsylvania conference in Harrisburg.

The theme, "Evolution of the Fight: Looking Back to Move Forward" highlighted AAUW's achievements within the broader context of the women's movement. AAUW's history of advocating for women's rights is rich. As time created changes in the world, AAUW's mission held firm.

Ann Pehle

AAUW PA Conference Committee Member



New AAUW Carlisle Members to Welcome

Aimee Confer is a Connecticut native, but met her husband at Dickinson College. When he got a job in Carlisle 16 years ago, they moved back to Carlisle. Their children, son James, a junior, and daughter, Emma, a freshman, are enrolled at Carlisle High School. The family also has a little grey cat named Stella.

Aimee was always interested in history, and earned a B.A. in History from Dickinson College. But her heart called her to teaching, and she went back to school to earn a Masters degree in Elementary Education from Quinnipiac University in 2002. She taught in elementary school for four years until her first child was born. Since then, she has home schooled her own children, and now, at her church develops programs and teaches children aged from third graders through high school. This includes Children's Chapel, Youth Group, Confirmation classes, and programs for families.

Aimee enjoys exercise, including walking, yoga, and strength training. She also enjoys traveling with her family. They make an annual trip to Stone Harbor, NJ, and last year made a trip to England.

The AAUW Carlisle programs that have to do with education are of particular interest to Aimee. She was impressed with the CASD School Board Candidates' Forum and the Trailblazers program. She likes the organization's message about education as a way to secure gender equity, and would like to participate in a committee focused on education at some future date when her schedule allows.

Another New Member on the Next Page!

Public Policy News



The PP Committee hosted a Topic Talk Program on Wednesday, March 20. Thanks to Public Policy member Ann Pehle for leading the discussion on “Public Policy 101: Learning about key priorities, programs, and volunteer opportunities” and to Theresa Rice for hosting the meeting.

We continue to need your help to monitor school board activity. We are asking members who reside in the Carlisle Area School District, Cumberland Valley, Big Spring, South Middleton, West Shore, Mechanicsburg, Lebanon, and Northern York County school districts to volunteer. We would like two or three persons “assigned” to each district to be responsible for monitoring the district website, board meeting agendas, board meeting minutes, newspaper articles, and attending meetings (as necessary) in person or remotely.



Topic Talk attendees Ann Pehle, Kathy Gates, Theresa Rice, Kelly Spasic, Kate Elkins, Nancy Sigris, Cherry France

AAUW Pennsylvania is working with a new coalition, Pennsylvanians for Welcoming and Inclusive Schools (PAWInS), to create effective strategies to challenge extremist use of school board power and legislative policies. If you become aware of an issue in your school district, we will reach out to this organization and AAUW Pennsylvania for guidance on our advocacy efforts. If you are interested, please contact Ann Pehle (apehle@outlook.com, call or text 401-644-6488) for more information.

Thanks to Kate Elkins, Cindy Sutton and Beth McKinley for attending the Big Springs School Board on March 18.

Have you read the March issue of the AAUW PA Keystoner? Included are updates on Equal Pay, the Child Tax Credit, Paid Leave, Minimum Wage, and Early Childhood Education. Please take a few minutes to read it.

We welcome new members to the Public Policy Committee. We meet via Zoom on the 1st Thursday of the month at 2:00 pm. We look forward to your participation.

Kathy Gates
AAUW Carlisle Public Policy Chair

New Members to Welcome

Erin Markan and her family arrived in Carlisle in 2021 during the COVID 19 Pandemic. Born and raised in Carlisle, she moved to Pittsburgh for college and then to Louisiana when she married.

At the University of Pittsburgh, she earned a degree in Communications and Photo Journalism. She had always loved photography, and as a child took photography courses at Dickinson and had a darkroom at home. She “fell” into Journalism because her roommate encouraged her to work with her on the school newspaper. She had never liked writing because she is dyslexic, but with modern technology was able to overcome this obstacle and came to enjoy writing.

After graduation she joined AmeriCorps, and then became a Vista volunteer for three years doing community organizing for an association spearheading a watershed project. She later got a job with the Franklin and Fulton Counties Mental Health Association. Later, in Louisiana, she worked with Habitat for Humanity after Hurricane Katrina, helping to rebuild homes damaged by the storm.

After her children were born, Erin became a stay at home mom. Her sons are 15 and 12, and she finds herself at a new stage in her life, with her children gaining their own independent interests. This year, she joined the Fire Police (and persuaded her mother to join as well) and enjoys traffic and crowd control duties.

In her leisure time, she enjoys photography, writing letters to the editor, gardening, and hiking the Appalachian Trail. With her dog Edison she hiked the trail from the North Mountain to the South Mountain. Erin was a guest at the Holiday Brunch, and very much enjoyed the program. She likes the Calendar of Events AAUW Carlisle provides, reads the books on the Book Group list, and would like to engage in the activities provided by the Public Policy Committee. She would like to make connections with women who hold the same strong beliefs she does. As she transitions into her new life, she seeks to become her own person, and is looking for role models she can respect and emulate.

Pat Markowski
Communications Chair



AAUW CARLISLE BRANCH

100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024

JOIN US FOR TWO CELEBRATORY EVENTS!



Commemorative Plaque Unveiling

10:00-10:30 am

Old West Building/Dickinson College
230 West Louthier Street, Carlisle, PA

Use entrance facing North College Street (not ADA accessible)
Seating available for the event

100th Anniversary Celebration

6:00-8:00 pm

Cumberland County Historical Society
21 North Pitt Street, Carlisle, PA

Light hors d'oeuvres and beverages



RSVP to one or both by April 14, 2024

Call, text or email Cindy Sutton
717-385-0242 or suttonc3@gmail.com

2024 AAUW Higher Education Scholarship Banquet

Join us as we celebrate the achievements of our scholarship recipients!

Tuesday, April 23, 6:00 pm
HUB Social Hall, Dickinson College
RSVP by Thursday, April 11



Buffet Dinner

Spinach Mandarin Salad
Honey Balsamic Glazed Chicken
Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Vegetable du Jour
Dinner Rolls with Butter
Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee,
Tea, Ice Water
Carrot Cake with
Cream Cheese Frosting

\$25 per person (\$26.25 if paid through PayPal)

Check (payable to AAUW Carlisle)
can be mailed to Gail D'Urso/25 Alters Rd./Carlisle, PA 17015
OR
Pay by credit card through PayPal at

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=7U9VTG6MDS45G

Please complete and return the form below **ONLY** if you are bringing guests or have dietary preferences or concerns.
Mail form to Gail D'Urso at the address above.



Please note any dietary preferences or concerns:

Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

Total Attending (@\$25): _____

____ I am enclosing a check payable to AAUW Carlisle

____ I have made payment through PayPal.

BRANCH YARD SALE

Spring cleaning is upon us, fellow Branch members...and so are preparations for our Third Annual Yard Sale! So, go ahead and start cleaning out all your nooks and crannies, and box up your unwanted stuff to donate to our May fundraising initiative. Knowing your donations will contribute to raising money to help fund our Higher Education Scholarship, registration fees for the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), and Camp Invention is all the motivation needed to tackle those overstuffed closets and cupboards!



The sale will be held in conjunction with the widely attended Chapel Hill Neighborhood Yard Sale on Saturday, May 25th. Once again, Carole DeWall has graciously offered her prime real estate garage and driveway at 330 Acre Dr., Carlisle and is sharing her expertise to make this a very successful fundraiser.

The DeWall's garage will be ready to receive your donations Wednesday, May 22, and Thursday, May 23 between 9 am and 8 pm. Additionally, we need folding tables—these should be dropped off on Sunday May 19 between 1 pm and 6 pm.

Donations should be ready to sell—clean, polished, unbroken and in workable condition as yard sale helpers will not have time to attend to such needs. Please do not pre-price your donations. While all donations will be priced to sell, we will want to set up an internally consistent scale of pricing. Unsold items may be picked up by donors at the end of the sale at 3 pm on Saturday, otherwise all unsold items will be boxed up and taken to other local organizations accepting donations.

If possible, please drop off jewelry donations on Sunday, as well, so these items may be accessed for sale at Marjorie's Jewelry Shop before the actual Yard Sale date. Last year, we earned more money selling some of the donated jewelry at Marjorie's than we would have at the Yard Sale.

Anyone interested in helping with this fundraiser or any questions, please contact Kathleen Gorak by phone or text 717-386-7466 or email kg1562@gmail.com AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

We especially need people to sell on Friday morning, May 24th from 7 am to noon, and Saturday, May 25th from 6:30 am till 3pm. Clean up will be on Saturday from 2 pm - 3 pm.

Thank you, in advance, for your anticipated generosity!

Kathleen Gorak

Good Items to Donate				Please Do Not Donate	
Baskets	Bicycles	Books	Children's Clothing	Adult Clothing	Car Seats
Crafting Materials	Decorative Objects	DVDs	Fabrics/Yarn	Electronics	Encyclopedias
Games	Garden Stuff	Holiday Decorations	Jewelry	Hats	Magazines
Kitchenware	Lamps	Mirrors	Office Accessories	Shoes	Stuffed Animals
Pet Carriers	Picture Frames	Plants/Seedlings	Plant Pots	Textbooks	Upholstered Furniture
Purses	Sports Equipment	Small Furniture			

AAUW Members in the Community Doing AAUW Things...



Chip and Janet Kacsur, Kate Elkins, and Ann Pehle at the "Coldest Night of the Year" Community Cares Walk



AAUW - Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research



A promotional poster designed by Nancy Sigrist for use at community events.



Ann Pehle speaking at the State Capitol for Equal Pay Day



Presenting AAUW Graduation Cords to Dickinson College Student Organization Seniors
Dickinson SO President Sofia Peronne, Kate Elkins, Seniors Roberta Akron and Taytum Robinson-Covert, Mary Brunski



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, Lilian Wong

Appointed Off Board Committee Chairs

College Liaison: Elizabeth White-Hurst

Historian: Mary Bloser Berwick

Appointed Ad Hoc Committee Chairs

100th Anniversary: Jean Foschi, Jeanna Som

Appointed Coordinators

Newsletter Editor: Peggy Jennings

Social Media: Kate Elkins

Trailblazers: Gail D'Urso, Barb Attivo

Webpages: Stacey Gatch, Sharon Heller

Yearbook: Virginia Mauk

Zoom Coordinator: 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

Not receiving branch information?

Make sure emails from aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com aren't going into your junk or spam folder.

Get Active! Committees seeking members



Join the Program Committee!

Do you know an individual or organization doing impactful work that AAUW members should hear about?

Do you want to learn more about topics related to AAUW initiatives?

Join our program planning committee!

The Program Committee for the 2024-25 year is forming now. We would like to have as many members involved with this process as possible to ensure a selection of diverse and engaging programs next year.

Contact Deb Sweaney
dlsmo@embarqmail.com
Gail D'Urso
gailcdurso@gmail.com

Join the Public Policy Committee!

The Public Policy Committee would like to invite AAUW members, but in particular our newest members, to join our team. You are welcome to attend one of our PPC Zoom meetings on the 1st Thursday of the month at 2:00 pm or volunteer at any of the events. We look forward to your participation.

Contact Kathy Gates
kgates808@comcast.net

Join the Membership Committee!

Contact Nancy Sigrist
ncsigrist@gmail.com
Cindy Sutton
suttonc3@gmail.com



Like us @AAUWCarlisle

Like us @AAUW Pennsylvania