



BRANCHING Out

A Publication of the AAUW Carlisle (PA) Branch - Organized 1924

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

Volume 60, Number 6

February 2024

AAUW Events

Book Club

Monday, February 5 at 1:00 pm
"The Paris Bookseller" by Kerri Maher
Virginia Mauk: 103 North Old Stonehouse Rd.
Future Book selections are [here](#):
RSVP [here](#):

Breakfast Club

Saturday, February 10 at 9:00 am
Sunrise Cafe, 231 N. Hanover St.
RSVP [here](#):

Newsletter Submission Deadline

Tuesday, February 20
Submit [here](#):

Dine Out

Wednesday, February 21 at 6:00 pm
Momma Spriggs, 160 York Rd.
RSVP [here](#):

February Brunch

Thursday, February 22 at 11:00 am
Courtyard Café at Carlisle High School
Find out more [here](#)
Registration [here](#):

March Branch Meeting

Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00 pm
HUB Side Rooms 204 & 205, Dickinson College
Rebecca Whigham, Big Spring FCS teacher
Utilizing Agriculture Education to Enhance the Lives of Ugandan Girls.

Tour Carlisle's Historic Courthouse & Old Public Graveyard

Friday, April 12, 1:30 pm
Find out more [here](#):
RSVP [here](#):

February Brunch

Thursday, February 22, at 11:00 am
Courtyard Café, Carlisle High School
623 W. Penn St.

Our Brunch will feature **Dorene Wilbur** who will speak on "DEI and Government: Embracing Change at the Intersection of Humanity and Public Service."

Dorene Wilbur is a veteran educator who spent 27 years in the field, 20 of which were with the Carlisle Area School District where she taught middle and high school English. Dorene made an indelible impact on 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 Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, introduced students to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), 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 only a little more than a year, she has garnered a partnership with Pennsylvania's own HBCU, Lincoln University; created over 14 original training programs; established employee resource groups; and helped nurture diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in offices across the Commonwealth.

If you haven't already registered for our February Brunch, time is running out! See page 9 to register!

Letter from the President

As I try to thaw out from this cold spell, I am warmed by the many wonderful things our branch is doing.

The **scholarship appeal letters** have been mailed and, thanks to a real push to get the word out, we have ELEVEN candidates who have applied this year! Many thanks to our Scholarship Committee for their dedication to evaluating, interviewing, and selecting the recipients.

We are in search of a **Branch Secretary** whose term would begin on July 1, 2024. This is a great opportunity for one of our newer members to get involved on the Board and learn about AAUW Carlisle, without having any major responsibilities except attending meetings and writing up the minutes. Please reach out if you are interested!

The **Dickinson College Student Organization** is a vibrant group and we are developing a closer working relationship with them. Their Faculty Advisor, Prof. Katie Schweighofer, is looking forward to working with us to develop a hybrid Work Smart Salary Negotiation course for students and also sending a contingent from Dickinson to the AAUW NCCWSL Conference for student leaders in D.C. in May. Several members of the Student Organization will also be participating in our 100th Celebration, as we look to what the future holds for AAUW.

Kate Elkins
President

What's Up in Pennsylvania—News from AAUW PA

The January issue of *The Keystoner* is now available at <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/files/2024/01/2024-January-Keystoner-FINAL.pdf>. This issue is filled with information on plans for the 2024 State Conference! The theme, "Evolution of the Fight: Looking Back to Move Forward," will highlight AAUW's achievements within the broader context of the women's movement.

April 5 -7, 2024
AAUW Pennsylvania Conference

Registration is **OPEN**
<https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/>



The conference secured **outstanding** speakers. Go [here](#) for the complete agenda.

Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH
Secretary

Pennsylvania Department of Human Service

Kimberly S. Adams, PhD

Professor of Political Science, East Stroudsburg University

Board of Directors AAUW National and National Organization for Women (NOW)

Meghan Kissell

Senior Director, Policy and Member Advocacy
AAUW National

Gisele Fetterman

(our most prominent speaker in conference history)

Nonprofit Founder, Hugger, Dreamer
AND, wife of Senator John Fetterman

Ann Pehle
AAUW Pennsylvania Conference Committee Member

News from National— AAUW Update

AAUW is proposing a Bylaw change to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. This is referred to as “open membership.”

You already received an email from Shannon Wolfe, managing director and chief of staff for AAUW, launching the comment period (which ended January 26). Voting will take place April 3-May 15. Most members will receive emails from vote@simplyvoting.com with their unique Elector ID and Password to vote. All members without an email address on file or who have unsubscribed from AAUW national emails will receive a paper ballot by mail. No additional paper ballots will be sent during the voting period.

Resources (2024 proposed bylaws; Open Membership toolkit; AAUW Election FAQ) can be found at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/>. Another resource and information source is <https://openupaauw.org/>.

Ann Pehle
AAUW Pennsylvania Nomination Committee Co-Chair

Report from the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is looking for someone to become **Secretary** for fiscal years 2024-26. Marina Young has accepted the position as Communications Chair as of July 1, 2024, taking over from Patricia Markowski who has served our branch for over nine years. THANKS, Pat, for all the work you have done interviewing new members and making sure AAUW Carlisle Branch programs and projects have been covered by the local media!

Becky Morgenthal
Nominating Committee Chair



Book Group Information

Date	Time	Hostess	Book
Monday, February 5	1:00 pm	Virginia Mauk 103 N. Old Stonehouse Rd.	<i>The Paris Bookseller</i> , by Kerri Maher
Monday, March 4	1:00 pm	Cindy	<i>Horse</i> , by Geraldine Brooks
Monday, April 1	7:00 pm	Patricia M.	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> , by Ray Bradbury
Monday, May 6	7:00 pm	Patricia Y.	<i>Everyone in My Family has Killed Someone</i> , by Benjamin Stevenson
Monday, June 3	6:00 pm	Marcello's	

Public Policy Committee Updates



The Committee met to plan for AAUW's participation in the **Black Cultural Festival** hosted by Hope Station on Saturday, February 24th. We will work with the Membership Committee to host a table with information about AAUW and the work we do.

Please write your legislators to ask them to support the **PA Family Care Act**. See <https://www.familycareact.com/take-action>. The PA Family Care Act addresses a pressing need in our state by providing essential support for families who are caring for their loved ones. Caring for a family member—a child, spouse, parent, or other relative—can be both emotionally and financially challenging. This Act would help by:

- **Offering Paid Family and Medical Leave:** Providing employees with paid time off to care for their own health or the health of a family member ensures that they can prioritize their well-being without facing financial hardship.
- **Supporting Working Caregivers:** Acknowledging the invaluable role that caregivers play in our society, the Act aims to offer job protection and financial assistance to those who need to take time off to provide care.
- **Promoting Economic Stability:** By helping families maintain their financial stability during times of caregiving, the Act contributes to the overall well-being of Pennsylvania's communities.
- **Fostering a Compassionate Society:** The Pennsylvania Family Care Act sends a strong message that our state values compassion, family, and the health and well-being of its citizens.

This is a call to action for PA voters. Write your state Representative and Senator declaring your expectation for passing minimum wage legislation in 2024. Pennsylvania's minimum wage remains at \$7.25 per hour, stagnant since 2009. Five of our neighboring states (Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware) across the country will ring in the new year by raising their minimum wage on Jan. 1, 2024. New York and New Jersey will reach a statewide minimum wage of \$15 on New Year's Day, with Maryland and Delaware reaching \$15 per hour by January 2025. Use your voice and ballot to support issues you believe in.

We have seen in Pennsylvania and across the country **school board directors** considering policies such as book banning, limits on transgender students, curriculum reviews, censorship activity, and discriminatory policies and practices. As our friends in the AAUW Doylestown branch found out, we must pay attention to school boards so we can speak against such extremist policies.

We need your help to monitor school board activity. While most of our members reside in the Carlisle Area School District, we do have members in Cumberland Valley, Big Spring, South Middleton, West Shore, Mechanicsburg, Lebanon, and Northern York County school districts. We would like two or three persons "assigned" to each district to be responsible for monitoring the activity at the school board meetings. This would involve monitoring the district website, board meeting agendas, board meeting minutes, newspaper articles, and attending meetings (as necessary) in person or remotely. 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.

Lastly, the Public Policy Committee would like to invite AAUW members, but in particular our newest members, to reach out to anyone on the PPC to **learn more about what we do and/or 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.

Kathy Gates
AAUW Carlisle Public Policy Chair

Membership Matters

Our first effort was postponed due to a snowy forecast, but the Membership Committee hosted a New Member Kaffee Klatsch on Saturday, January 13 at the home of Cindy Sutton. It was a great time to meet new members, learn more about the branch, and socialize. If you are a new member and were unable to attend, please feel free to attend any of the branch's many planned activities and programs or reach out to any member to learn more. We are excited to have you in the AAUW Carlisle Branch!



If You See a Name Tag Leaf, Greet These New Members

Cindy Sutton
Membership Co-VP

Stephanie Chaplinski-Kane is a Carlisle native, and a graduate of both Carlisle High School and Dickinson College. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Religion in 1991, and had aspirations of being a professor. She enrolled at Lesley College for her Master's degree, but discontinued her studies when she met and married her husband. They now have a grown son and daughter, and live with a 9-year old Staffordshire terrier named Rory.

Today, Stephanie is a Financial Advisor working in banking channels with a wide demographic of clients. Her work with people is satisfying and harkens back to her sociology and spiritual training. She loves hearing her clients' life stories and helping them make good financial decisions and achieve their life goals.

In her spare time, Stephanie loves to cook, read and attend Art and Craft Fairs. She also enjoys hiking and cycling. Her association with the Coalition for Women in Harrisburg enabled her to see how non-profit organizations work, and when Cindy Sutton invited her to the August Social, she was eager to attend. She joined AAUW Carlisle to support women through the many ways the organization advocates for women's issues and supports their advancement.

Kelly Spasic grew up in Brooklyn until her family moved to Long Island when she was 13. After years as a New Yorker, at the age of 35 she moved to Iowa, then returned to Pennsylvania where she has lived ever since. She married in 1998, and had her son in 2000. Her husband has a medical practice in the area, and her son is now finishing his degree in English and Psychology at Penn State.

Kelly has a BS degree in Psychology and Sociology from SUNY Stony Brook. After graduation, she volunteered with an organization dealing with domestic violence, then took her first job in a science lab. Eventually this led to a sales position with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. After her son was born, she was a substitute teacher at South Middleton Middle School. When her son entered high school, Kelly got her real estate license, and enjoys her job, especially interacting with her clients and finding them exactly the home they want, although she admits that the hardest part of the job is selling herself.

Kelly enjoys reading, Pickleball, and all types of community service volunteering. She has helped with meal preparation with Project Share, and the local Real Estate Association's

Thanksgiving food drive and turkey distribution. She met Janet Kascur while working with the Boiling Springs Civic Association, and met Nancy Sigrist at Kiwanis.

When she attended the August Social as Nancy's guest, she found that she liked the women's eclectic interests and the mission of AAUW, and has already attended the Holiday Brunch and New Members' Kaffee Klatsch.

Terri Glueck is currently working in Pittsburgh, but wrapping up her job to retire this month to move permanently to Carlisle. She and her husband-soon-to-be chose Carlisle as their retirement community because it is a progressive, walkable city, located close to an airport and beautiful hiking and cycling trails. She and her Architect fiancé are renovating a Civil War era house.

Terri is the mother of three: her son, a production manager, and middle daughter, a greenhouses manager, reside in the Pittsburgh area. Her second daughter is married and lives in Virginia, and is currently pursuing her PhD at the University of Virginia.

Terri holds a Bachelor's degree in Aesthetics and Art History from Carnegie Mellon. She chose CMU specifically to study drama, but when the program was downsized, she aimed for a career in museum studies, so chose the Aesthetics and Art History curriculum. She never did go into museum work, but used both her acting and communication skills to work for 20 years in economic development for startup technology companies. Translating emerging technology products into language non-tech audiences could easily understand and relate to required her to be both analytical and articulate as she conducted interviews and appeared on radio and television, and developed print products for news outlets and ad campaigns.

In her retirement, Terri is looking forward to opportunities to hike, cycle, and kayak in the area. She is also eager to continue to travel. Even during Covid, she found a way to safely travel internationally, and has visited Scotland, Denmark, Sweden and Italy. She is looking forward to an upcoming trip to Amsterdam and Bruges.

Jenifer Johnson brought her to the CASD School Board Candidates' Forum, after which Terri joined AAUW Carlisle. She hopes to meet women and establish friendships through the organization. She feels the organization is tied to many of the things she cares about, including the education of women.

Karen Kirkham enrolled at Yale University where she studied through successive degree programs, finally earning a Doctorate of Fine Arts degree from the Yale School of Drama in 1997. After graduation, she filled a position as a sabbatical replacement at Dickinson, her first introduction to the College. A year later, a tenured position opened teaching drama at Dickinson, where she has been ever since.

For her first ten years teaching at Dickinson she lived in Mechanicsburg, but moved to Carlisle after marrying. Karen now has three children, two daughters and a son, aged 17, 14 and 11, who add to her busy schedule. Her household also has two dogs, a Golden Retriever named Nova, and a Black Lab named Dacks, a derivative of Adirondack.

Karen's association with the Adirondacks comes from her running a theater there for many years, as well as an outdoor touring Shakespeare program. It was also a favorite place to enjoy her interests in hiking, biking and swimming.

Karen was encouraged to explore AAUW by Katie Perkowski, and she hopes to get to know other women with interests like her own. She is also impressed by the organization's support of women, particularly those who are pursuing higher education. Karen recently attended the New Member Kaffee Klatsch and found that one of her fellow new members is a former student. Small world, indeed.

Pat Markowski
Communications

How Has AAUW Changed Your Life? Stories from Our Membership

In honor of our branch's 100th anniversary, we asked **Beth Bullard**, 1979-80 AAUW Dissertation Fellowship recipient, to talk about the impact AAUW has had on her life. Beth wrote...

In 1976, at age 38, I already knew the subject of research for my dissertation for a doctorate in Music History and Theory from the University of Pennsylvania. My goal was to set right the scanty and faulty information that was being promulgated by music historians about a charmingly illustrated little book printed in 1511 in the city of Basel, Switzerland. To accomplish my goal of bringing to light the actual content of this important historical document, I would have to juggle several identities: being (1) a mother of two teen-age sons, (2) an instructor of Applied Flute, Chamber Music, and courses in Music History at Dickinson College, (3) a performing flutist, and (4) a lover and researcher of a then secondary but eventually a primary subject of my academic interests: Music of India. Some things would have to go.

As I searched for fellowships in order to support my work on the dissertation while I took a break from other pursuits (not including mothering)—lucrative as well as non-paying—I found only a few that might count my life path to date as compatible with their expectations. Most fellowships at that time were largely tailored to the life timelines of men, not women. This is essentially where being awarded an AAUW dissertation fellowship changed my life.

My goals, my dreams, my pursuits, my life stage and trajectory at the time, my then status as a mother as well as a student, my accomplishments to date—all these were taken seriously, even celebrated. It was OK to be me, and it was OK to be a woman! I was so thankful to AAUW that my first act when I again earned a paycheck (though very modest) was to become a life member of the organization that had helped me so very much.

In the 1990s, I was able to pursue my love of Indian music and culture, leading to my earning a second doctorate, this one in Ethnomusicology, with India as my primary field (and Renaissance Europe, organology [study of musical instruments], and music and gender as three secondary fields). I also gave a presentation on my project in India at a Carlisle AAUW meeting. I was honored in 2007 by being selected to serve on the AAUW panel that awards AAUW dissertation fellowships. I was very pleased to be able to give back to the AAUW in this capacity for three years. It was time for me to help other women have their lives profoundly changed and enhanced by the American Association of University Women in the same way that it had done so for me nearly three decades earlier.

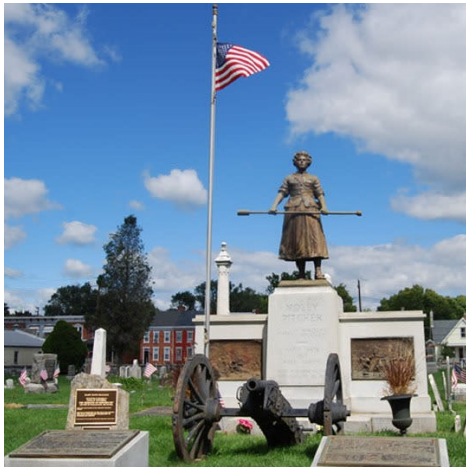
Deborah Sweaney
100th Anniversary Committee

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.

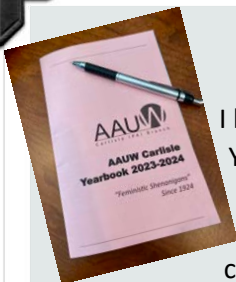


A short walk south lies the Old Public Graveyard, where “Heroine of Monmouth” Molly Pitcher (Mary Hays McCauley), Pennsylvania Impressionist Esther Groom, and other noted Carlisle residents lie beneath a picturesque collection of cemetery art and monuments. History, art, and eternal rest!

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](#) no later than April 1, to ensure we have a minimum group size of thirteen attendees.



AAUW Yearbook Update



I hope you have all been enjoying and using this year’s Yearbook. I am just loving mine and it is so easy to locate with the pink cover! Use your yearbook to keep track of upcoming meetings and other AAUW happenings. You could also use it to get the contact information for an old AAUW friend you haven’t talked to for a while and catch up or contact someone you have just met to get to know them a bit better. If you notice something in your listing needs updating, send me an email at virginia.mauk@gmail.com with the correct information. Keep on the lookout for an email from the branch with an addition to the yearbook that will contain new members and updated member information.

Virginia Mauk
AAUW Yearbook



Like us @AAUWCarlisle
Like us @AAUWPennsylvania



Holiday Brunch Scholarship Fund Results

Our branch continues to support our fundraisers and we keep breaking records! This year’s Holiday Brunch was no exception!! An anonymous donor put a \$100 bill in the jar—**Thank You** to whomever you are!! The final tally brought the funds team a total of \$773. Thanks to everyone who supported 2024’s first fundraiser for the AAUW Carlisle Branch Scholarship Fund.

This is a great beginning for this year’s scholarship fund. Our Scholarship appeal letter was mailed January 20th—please watch your mailbox and give the scholarship fund what you can afford for 2024. You can make payments through PayPal as noted on the letter or send your check by February 25, 2024.

Becky Morgenthal
AAUW Funds Chair



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 am

Arrive early for the best parking spots!
Courtyard Café in the Fowler Building at Carlisle High School

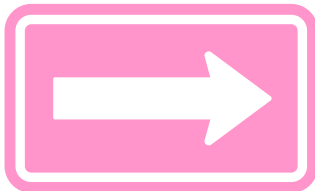
Schedule:

- 11:00 Social
- 11:10 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 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.



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 use PayPal to register by clicking this link:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=UD2824YNQGY9U



Member Name: _____ Dietary Restrictions? _____

Guest Name: _____ Dietary Restrictions? _____

Guest Name: _____ Dietary Restrictions? _____

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 Gore

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

Fundraising

Contact Becky Morgenthal (bhmorgenthal@gmail.com).

Membership

Contact Nancy Sigrist (ncsigrist@gmail.com), or
Cindy Sutton (suttonc3@gmail.com).

Public Policy

Contact Kathy Gates (kgates808@comcast.net).

Program

Contact Deb Sweeney (DLSMO@embarqmail.com) or
Gail D'Urso (gailcdurso@gmail.com)

The **Program Committee** plans speakers for branch meetings, as well as the December brunch, the February luncheon, and the Scholarship Banquet in April.

The Committee meets no later than April to brainstorm topics and possible speakers and to develop a theme for the programs of the year. This year's theme was "Our 100th Anniversary" and last year's was "Right in Our Own Backyard," focusing on local projects that impact women and girls. In the weeks after the initial meeting, committee members contact possible speakers with meeting dates and locations and try to get confirmations to add to the worksheet managed by one of the Program Vice Presidents. Ultimately, this worksheet is submitted for publication in our annual Yearbook.

The Committee member who contacts the speaker and gets confirmation then becomes the Chair of that particular meeting, and will communicate directly with the speaker. About two months before the meeting, the Chair reaches out to the speaker for biographical information for a newsletter article. The Chair will introduce the speaker at the meeting and present a thank you note and gift certificate at the end of the meeting.

Program Vice Presidents coordinate dates, send reminders and requests to Program Chairs, arrange Audio-Visual Equipment, and schedule Hospitality Volunteers.

Strong Program Committees are responsible for AAUW Carlisle's excellent speakers and programs. As the adage goes, "Many hands make light work." Our Program Committees have been the perfect illustration of that idea. We hope you can join us.

Deb Sweaney & Gail D'Urso
Program Vice Presidents