

## Upcoming AAUW Events

### Book Club

Monday, November 4; 1 pm  
*The Frozen River*; Ariel Lawson  
Kathy Weigl;

13 N Letort Drive, Carlisle

RSVP to Wendy Armour Dickinson [here](#)  
Preview 2024-25 Book Selections on page 4

### VOTE! Tuesday, November 5

#### Breakfast Club


Saturday, November 16, 9 am  
Sunrise Cafe (231 N. Hanover Street).  
RSVP to Wendy Armour Dickinson [here](#)

### Submit to the December Branching Out Before

Wednesday, November 20  
Submit to Peggy Jennings [here](#)

### December Holiday Brunch

Saturday, December 7, 10 am  
Dickinson Social Hall East  
*Enjoy Brunch & a Festive Performance by  
Cantate Carlisle!*

More Information here:   
Reservation form (**Due November 22**)  
on page 5


Preview future Membership Meetings on  
page 6



## Tis the Season



Festive Holiday Brunch featuring Cantate Carlisle  
Saturday, December 7; 10 am  
Dickinson Social Hall East



Begin the holiday season this year by attending the Holiday Brunch and be entertained with seasonal music by select singers from Cantate Carlisle. An auditioned adult choir of 40-50 members, Cantate typically performs two concerts per year while also enjoying community collaborations with the West Shore Symphony Orchestra and Dickinson College. Cantate has also assisted with choir camp activities at the Summer Program for Youth (SPY) and hosted an intern through the Carlisle Chamber of Commerce. The organization has expanded to include a youth choir and a children's choir.

Cantate is led by artistic director Michelle Trefren, who has been a church musician since middle school. A graduate of Syracuse University with a degree in piano performance and Westminster Choir College with a degree in conducting, Michelle has taught music at Yokohama International Music School and directed the Tokyo International Children's Choir. She currently serves as music director at Second Presbyterian Church and teaches private piano and voice lessons.

On page 5, you will find a reservation form (**Due November 22!**) and instructions for payment options. Guests are always welcome, and any guest who joins the branch at this meeting will be eligible for reduced national dues through the Shape the Future program. Invite your friends!

Please note that this branch meeting is a community outreach opportunity; the branch is collecting toilet paper to donate to Community Cares. Attendees will also have the chance to win beautifully decorated centerpieces as we kick off the higher education scholarship drive with the sale of ticket opportunities.

## ***Letter from the President***

It is hard to believe that the next time I write this letter, the most consequential election of our lifetimes will have been decided. I know I don't have to urge you all to cast your votes, because I know you will. You are members of AAUW because you want to make a difference and the most fundamental job of a concerned citizen is to do your part to elect representatives who support the issues that we do.

So many of the issues we care so much about are on the line and our anxiety about the outcome can sometimes feel overwhelming. Please take time for some self care and rest assured that, regardless of the outcome, we are in this fight together, no matter what. I take comfort and strength from this amazing group and I hope you do, too.

May you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with your families and friends!



Kate Elkins

## ***Public Policy***

On Thursday, September 19th, Katherine DiCrocco graciously hosted our Topic Talk on Paid Family Leave, and Kate Elkins led us in an educational discussion on this very important subject. We appreciate your interest in learning how the Pennsylvania Family Care Act positively affects us all and should be supported by our General Assembly.

Unlike many other developed countries, the U.S. has no guarantee of paid vacation, sick days, or family and parental leave. This really strains working families, making it harder to balance responsibilities, stay productive, and recover from illness or injury. If you're among the millions without paid sick days, you might be forced to choose between your job and caring for a sick loved one. We will revisit this very important topic again in the new year.

Election day is almost here and your vote matters. If you are able, please consider offering car pool services to those who may need rides to the polls.

Lastly, we encourage all members to sign up for the Two-Minute Activist. This platform empowers you to have your voices heard. All the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress, or to contact your state legislators about pressing issues will be provided. It only takes two minutes to register!

**Two-Minute Activist:**

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

Kelly Spasic and Theresa Rice  
Public Policy Co-Chairs



**Cantate Carlisle will perform Handel's "Messiah" at 3 pm on both Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8 at Second Presbyterian Church. Tickets (\$25) will be available at the door.**

## **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

Please welcome new member **Stacy Foy** to the branch! Stacy attended the September branch meeting as a guest of Kate Elkins and decided to join us. We look forward to getting to know Stacy and helping her become a part of the branch. Additionally, we also welcome new member **Amy Steinbugler** to the branch.

Membership renewals continue each month as individuals now renew according to their date of joining. Please follow up when you receive notification from National that your yearly membership renewal is due and renew promptly, either online or by sending a check to the branch post office box. If you are uncertain when your renewal is due, please contact Cindy Sutton or Janet Kacsur, who will help you with the process.

Our branch membership grows when current members bring guests to our meetings and events. If you bring a guest to a meeting and that guest ultimately joins the branch, your name may be entered into a drawing for a free national membership. Last year we awarded three such free memberships. We hope to do the same this year.

Janet Kacsur  
Cindy Sutton  
Membership Co-Vice Presidents

## **WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS OF CLOTHING**

(Coats, Layers, Gloves, Winterwear, and Professional Wear!)

As you may know, the Dickinson Free xChange aims to

- 1) reduce waste and promote reuse,
- 2) provide a safe and equitable space for the exchange of second-hand clothing on campus that is accessible to every Dickinsonian, and
- 3) create awareness of the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the global fashion industry.

This campus resource is for ALL students, staff and faculty, and their families.

The space has received overwhelming demand this fall, with hundreds of check-ins! More items are leaving than being donated, so gather your unwanted items, clean out those closets, and donate!

Our need for clean and well-kept donations of clothing for the space is urgent. Specifically, we need winter clothing and accessories like coats, hats, gloves, thermals, sweaters, etc.

We have lots of new and international students who may be embarking on their first winter, and these items go quickly when in stock! We welcome T-shirts, layers, flannels, business wear, reusable tote bags, hangers, pants, shorts, sweats, sports gear, costumes, etc.

People don't need to donate items to take; the space is accessible 24/7, provides a safe space for inclusion, and has served many students and employees in times of need. Help us keep it thriving. Donations can be placed in the Free xChange (lower level of the HUB- inside the old mailboxes) or at the Center for Sustainability Education (Kaufman 190) or contact Katie [Schweighofer](#) (click name to connect to email) for a special pick up.

Save, Swap, and Share: Visit the Free xChange and consider donating today.

<https://www.dickinson.edu/freexchange>



Katie Schweighofer  
Dickinson College Liaison



# Book Group

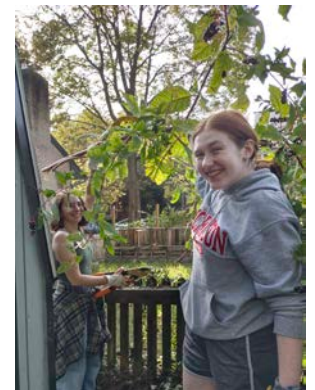
Date	Time	Hostess	Book
Monday, Jan 6	1:00 pm	Panera	<i>The Women</i> ; Kristin Hannah
Monday, Feb 3	1:00 pm	Pat M	<i>James</i> ; Percival Everett
Monday, Mar 3	1:00 pm	Panera	<i>Dinners with Ruth</i> ; Nina Totenberg
Monday, Apr 7	7:00 pm	Janet	<i>Lives of Girls and Women</i> ; Alice Munro
Monday, May 5	7:00 pm	Darlis	<i>Within Arm's Reach</i> ; Ann Napolitano
Monday, June 9	6:00 pm	DINNER	1794 Whiskey Rebellion

## SILENT AUCTION BEAUTIFIES CARLISLE! **BREAKING NEWS:**

Mountains of ivy and bushels of walnuts were removed from the yard of lucky "Two Hours of Yard Work" winners Jenifer and George Johnson of Carlisle on October 4th. A small army of strong and energetic AAUW Dickinson Branch students wielded tools, stuffed bins, consumed snacks, and rescued earthworms (spotted lantern flies were not so lucky). The teary-eyed, grey-haired homeowners gratefully expressed their appreciation: "We're overwhelmed by the volume of work accomplished! This would have taken us WEEKS on our own!"

The Johnsons presented a thank you card and additional donation to the Dickinson Branch at their subsequent Open House on campus. The ivy-free beneficiaries of this service strongly encourage AAUW Carlisle members to bid heavily on this item at future Silent Auctions!

**"It's FUN and WORTH EVERY DOLLAR!"**



# Holiday Brunch

Saturday, December 7; 10 am  
Dickinson Social Hall East

Brunch 10:15 ❄️ Cantate Carlisle Performance 11:00 ❄️ Business Meeting 11:30 ❄️ Adjourn

Menu  
Classic Frittata  
Bacon  
Hash Browns  
Fruit Salad  
Sticky Buns  
Coffee, Tea, Juice, Water

Please Make Your Reservation by Friday  
**November 22!**

Mail Reservation & Check using form below  
OR

Pay by PayPal using this link:

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=TRS7AB2AFQ62S](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=TRS7AB2AFQ62S)

AND

Email your information to [Jeanna Som](#)

Opportunities to win our centerpieces will be available:

\$20 for 12 tickets

\$10 for 6 tickets

\$ 5 for 3 tickets

\$ 2 for 1 ticket

AND



We will be collecting toilet paper for donation to Community Cares

Send Reservation form with check payable to AAUW Carlisle for \$25 per person to Jeanna Som; 106 Crest View; Carlisle, PA 17013

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Specify any dietary needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Specify any dietary needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Specify any dietary needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Total Payment Enclosed (\$25 per person): \_\_\_\_\_



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

The 2024-2025 AAUW Pennsylvania Student Impact Mini-Grants launched in October. This is one of the most rewarding state programs, and I am thrilled to manage it this year. Go [here](#) for all the information you need to share with a student organization on a Pennsylvania college or university campus.

Interested in contributing your time and talents at the AAUW state level? Personally, I have found it very rewarding. The AAUW Pennsylvania Nominating & Elections Committee seeks nominations for Finance Officer, Secretary, and Vice President Membership. The two-year term is July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027. Go [here](#) for job overview, board meeting dates, how to apply, and how to nominate someone (from whom you received their permission). Application submission closes on November 15, 2024.

Because I know you would like to plan and mark your calendar, the AAUW Pennsylvania 2025 Summer Retreat will be held on June 27-28, 2025, in the State College area. You don't want to inadvertently schedule a vacation and have to miss this event! 😊 Details will be shared as they are finalized.

Ann Pehle

AAUW Pennsylvania College/University Liaison  
AAUW Pennsylvania Nomination & Elections Co-Chair

### Scholarship Committee

Committee members are looking forward to another robust and energized season! Welcome new members Peggy Jennings and Terri Glueck, and thank you to current members Sharon Heller, Rose Smith, and Cindy Sutton.

Advertising and applications for the \$2,000 scholarships will start November 1. This year, postings will include the electric billboard on Ritner Highway, the Sentinel, flyers, and email notifications to schools and organizations in our area.

Lillian Wong and Gail D'Urso  
Co-Chairs, Scholarship Committee

## News from National AAUW

### MISSION & ACTION

AAUW's newsletter

The best summary of AAUW happenings is in the monthly newsletter from Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW CEO. If you are a member, you received this email—so look in SPAM or JUNK or another folder your smarty computer files for emails from [memberinfo@email.aauw.org](mailto:memberinfo@email.aauw.org).

PRESS RELEASES

### — Today's Gender Pay Gap Data Shows Decline in Progress Towards Equity

Maybe not a surprise—but shocking anyway. Read the [September 10, 2024 press release](#) announcing AAUW's identification of the gender pay gap decline.

### WE STILL HAVE WORK TO DO

The Gloria Blackwell quote is powerful and outlines our actions.

*"These inequities are not perpetuated due to individual women's choices," said Blackwell. "They stem from policies that fail to support working women, including the lack of paid leave, affordable childcare, and comprehensive pay equity laws and practices. It's time we have a serious conversation about how to fix this."*

*"We cannot allow these disparities to continue unchecked," Ms. Blackwell said. "AAUW recognizes this is a systemic problem, and we won't stop fighting until all women are paid fairly and have the support they need to build secure, equitable futures for themselves and their families."*

Ann Pehle

AAUW Pennsylvania College/University Liaison  
AAUW Pennsylvania Nomination & Elections Co-Chair



## Branch Outing to Meadowbrooke Gourds

A group of 29 AAUW members, friends, and families enjoyed an outing to Meadowbrooke Gourds in October, and also raised over \$400 to support the TrailBlazers awards to students at Carlisle High School!



Cindy Sutton and her grandson



Nancy Sigrist and Cherry France



Carolyn Freberg and her guest



Julie Manta





## **AAUW Carlisle 2024-2025 Board Members**

### **Elected Officers**

**President: Kate Elkins**

**Vice President: Nancy Sigrist**

**Membership VPs: Cindy Sutton, Janet Kacsur**

**Program VPs: Deborah Sweaney, Jeanna Som**

**Finance Officers: Cherry France, Molly Shane**

**Secretary: Marina Young**

### **Appointed Committee Chairs**

**AAUW Funds: Becky Morgenthal**

**Communications: Pat Markowski**

**Community Activities:**

**Interest Groups: Wendy Armour Dickinson**

**Public Policy: Theresa Rice, Kathy Spasic**

**Scholarship: Lillian Wong, Gail D’Urso**

**STEM: Barb Attivo, Lilian Wong**

### **Appointed Off Board Committee Chairs**

**College Liaison: Katie Schweighofer**

**Historian: Mary Bloser Berwick**

### **Appointed Coordinators**

**Newsletter Editor: Peggy Jennings**

**Social Media: Kate Elkins**

**Trailblazers: Gail D’Urso, Barb Attivo**

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

### **Not receiving branch information?**

Make sure emails from  
[aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com](mailto:aauwcarlisleinfo@gmail.com)  
aren’t going into your junk or spam folder.

## **Preview this year’s Membership Meetings!**

Tuesday, January 28, 7 pm HUB Side Rooms  
Maureen Cantwell, PSU Master Gardener, Cumberland County  
*Vegetable Gardening*

Thursday, February 25, 7 pm, HUB Side Rooms  
Lisa Kessler-Peters  
*Life and Redemption after Experience in the Justice System*

Tuesday, March 25, 7 pm, HUB Side Rooms  
Marcia Drozdowski, CEO of Carlisle YMCA  
*Trailblazing the World of Female Executive Leadership*

Tuesday, April 29, 6 pm HUB Social Hall  
*Scholarship Banquet*

Tuesday, May 27, 7 pm, HUB Side Rooms  
Emily Schmidt  
*Cracked Pot—Aging Out of the Foster Care System*

### ***A Note About Member Contact Information***

Because our newsletter is posted to our public website, for privacy reasons, we will no longer include personal email addresses or phone numbers as text in the newsletter. We will include only a “clickable” link with the embedded email address. If that function doesn’t work on your computer, please consult the branch Yearbook for member emails and phone numbers.



**Like us @AAUWCarlisle**

**Like us @AAUW Pennsylvania**

