

## Upcoming AAUW Events

### Book Club

Monday, March 3; 1 pm  
*Dinners with Ruth*; Nina Totenberg  
Panera; 40 Noble Blvd, Carlisle  
RSVP to Wendy Armour Dickinson [here](#)  
Preview remaining Book Selections on page 4

### Trailblazer Girls' Recognition Event

Wednesday, March 12; 1:00 pm  
Carlisle High School Fowler Building  
RSVP by March 7 to [Gail D'Urso](#).  
More information on Page 3

### Breakfast Club

Saturday, March 15; 9 am  
Cracked Pot (36 N. Hanover St., Carlisle)  
RSVP to Wendy Armour Dickinson [here](#)

### Submit to the April Branching Out Before

Thursday, March 20  
Submit to Peggy Jennings [here](#)

### March Membership Meeting

#### Marcia Drozdowski, CEO of Carlisle YMCA

Tuesday, March 25; 7 pm  
HUB Side Rooms 204 & 205  
More Information [HERE](#)

Preview future Membership Meetings on page 6

## March Membership Meeting

### Trailblazing the World of Female Executive Leadership

Tuesday, March 25, 7 pm, HUB Side Rooms  
Marcia Drozdowski, CEO of Carlisle YMCA

During the month of March, AAUW Carlisle proudly celebrates female students in Career and Technical Education Programs of Study at Carlisle Area High School. We honor these young women as Trailblazers, recognizing their boldness in pursuing careers in traditionally male-dominated fields—an effort that aligns with AAUW's mission of advancing gender equity.

At our monthly AAUW meeting on Tuesday, March 25, we extend this celebration beyond students to highlight women who have paved the way in their own careers. Join us as we welcome Marcia Drozdowski, the first female Executive Director of the YMCA, who will share her journey of breaking barriers and navigating the nonprofit leadership world as the only woman in the room. Her story serves as a powerful reminder of the progress made and the work that remains in our mission to advance equity for women and girls. We hope to see you there!



## AAUW Carlisle Cares...

Do you know a member who is dealing with a family loss, injury, or illness? If so, please send [Nancy Sigrist](#) a "greeting card" alert.



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

We are all trying to process the onslaught of news coming out of D.C.. Concerned that we weren't hearing a strong enough response from AAUW National, our Pennsylvania Board, along with Branch Presidents and Public Policy Chairs, composed the following letter to Gloria Blackwell. We will continue to focus our efforts locally on those issues we can influence, from finally passing Paid Leave, to protecting equitable and inclusive public education. I am grateful to stand in this fight together with all of you!

Kate

Dear CEO Gloria Blackwell,

As AAUW faces the escalating assaults on equity, please know the membership of AAUW Pennsylvania stands ready for an unrelenting fight.

AAUW Chair Cheryl Sorokin stated emphatically that we are a leader in equity for women and girls and need to ACT: "We're going to need to engage in advocacy at all levels. Speaking out against injustice and working to advance policies that support and empower women and girls."

Historically, AAUW stood strong for the right to vote, for expanding equity initiatives nationally, and for endorsing strong measures embodied in the Biden Administration Title IX regulations. All of these victories are under attack. Our members are looking to AAUW National for the path to push back on these concerted efforts to eliminate the progress women and girls have made.

AAUW Pennsylvania supports moving boldly forward, recognizing the risk, and knowing the risk of doing nothing is even greater.

Respectfully,  
Cindy Hall, President  
Sandra Miller, Public Policy Chair  
AAUW PA State Board

Dear Cindy and AAUW PA Leaders:

Thank you so much for your support. I admit that I was very moved when I read it. The nightmare that we are currently experiencing is unreal and we appreciate you all having our backs. We know how much our members' tireless efforts have helped to move our mission forward and these days it will be needed more than ever.

Our National Staff are navigating this whirlwind, recommending action and helping us keep our issues front and center to continue the fight for equity and access to higher education for women. We are not backing down and appreciate your resolve to stand with us!

Onward,  
~Gloria

Cindy & Sandra,

My apologies for the delayed response, I'm catching up on email after being out of the office for a few days. I appreciate the continued encouragement to be bold and steadfast in pushing back on efforts to reverse our progress. AAUW Pennsylvania members are some of our strongest advocates and a great example of engaging in advocacy at all levels.

From a policy perspective, we're paying close attention to the attacks on Title IX, higher education, and the Department of Education itself. If you ever think we're being too quiet, let me know! It's likely we're evaluating the most impactful issues and ways for our members to engage. The policy team is committed to making sure even more of our members are well-informed about what National is up to and how members can get involved.

As Gloria said, it's been quite a month!

Meghan [Kissel]  
Senior Dir. of Policy and Member Advocacy

## **Got Gems?**

In lieu of a Yard Sale this year, AAUW Carlisle branch is launching a new fundraising activity--collecting your unwanted jewelry for sale, the proceeds to be used for branch activities.

Marjorie's Gems accepts bulk lots of jewelry, and the branch has had success in prior years, earning as much as \$1500 from the sale of donated jewelry. This is a low-effort, high-yield fundraising activity and requires only that members look at their jewelry collections and donate those pieces they no longer find useful or favored. Ask your friends and relatives, too. The more jewelry collected the more money we'll make!



Acceptable donations should be:

- Costume or Fashion Jewelry in good condition, with no broken clasps or missing parts.
- Fine Jewelry, suitable for wearing, with no missing stones, beads or clasps.
- Gold or Silver Jewelry (solid, not plated) either intact or that may be missing a clasp, broken chains, single earrings, rings missing a stone. Gold jewelry will be marked 14k or 18k. Silver jewelry will be marked Sterling or 950. Anything marked "gold filled" or "gold electroplated" is not solid gold.

Your jewelry donations will be collected at the March 25 program meeting and the April 29 Scholarship Banquet. If you have questions, please contact Pat Markowski who is coordinating this fundraising effort.

## ***AAUW Carlisle Branch Higher Education Scholarship Update***

The scholarship committee interviewed 14 qualified women after receiving over 25 applications. We were impressed with the range of interests and the quality of the applicants.

Thank you, Carlisle Branch, for your generous support as we select the number of final applicants to present at the March Board meeting.

We are excited for the future generation of women!

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



TrailBlazers!

## ***Trailblazer Girls' Recognition Event***

Join us on Wednesday, March 12 at 1:00 for our seventh annual Trailblazer Girls' Recognition Event. Plan to arrive a little early to allow time to park and to get to the Large Group Instruction room in the Fowler Building at Carlisle High School. RSVP to [Gail D'Urso](#) or [Barb Attivo](#) by March 7 to be sure your badge will be waiting for you at the security desk.

We will honor 14 students in Automotive Technology, Carpentry, Communications, Culinary Arts, Engineering, Health Careers, Marketing, and Work Force Development. We are excited to introduce them to you at the event.

Our panel for the event will include:

**Amber Clark**, Catering Manager at Dickinson College Dining Services. Amber plans and organizes all of our meal meetings at the HUB.

**Brittany Kennedy**, a Carlisle High School CTE student, 2012 graduate, and current Specialty Beauty Advisor for Ulta Beauty Hanover.

**Catherine Myers**, 2021 Trailblazer honoree and current Assistant Service Manager at Fred Beans Auto Group.

Chef Ehly, Chef Seras, and the Culinary students will be providing light refreshments in the Courtyard Café following the event. We hope you can attend this joyful celebration!

The Trailblazer Committee  
Barb, Gail, Cherry, Carolyn and Lillian

**Book Group**

| Date           | Time    | Hostess | Book  |
|----------------|---------|---------|---|
| 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                        |

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

I know you like to plan so please mark your calendar--the **AAUW Pennsylvania 2025 Summer Retreat on June 27-28, 2025**. You don't want to schedule a vacation and have to miss this event inadvertently! 😊 While the details are not yet finalized, I can tell you the following.



- Location:** Wyndham Hotel—State College Area (Boalsburg, PA)
- Friday:** Reception (meet and greet) 6:30pm-8:30pm
- Saturday:** A different look/feel than past Summer meetings

Here is another item for your calendar. The **2026 Atlantic States Regional Conference** hosted by AAUW Pennsylvania. Please plan to join your friends and AAUW colleagues from 13 states at the **Lancaster County Convention Center & Marriott Hotel in Lancaster, PA**, on September 25-27, 2026. If you attended the inaugural event in Richmond, VA in September 2024, you won't want to miss this one.

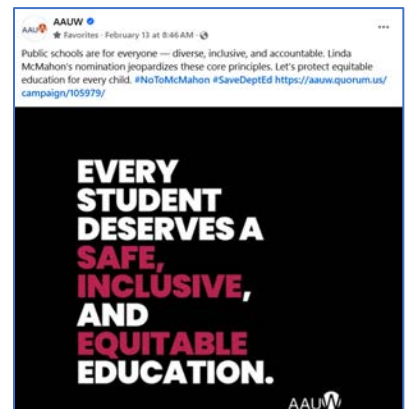
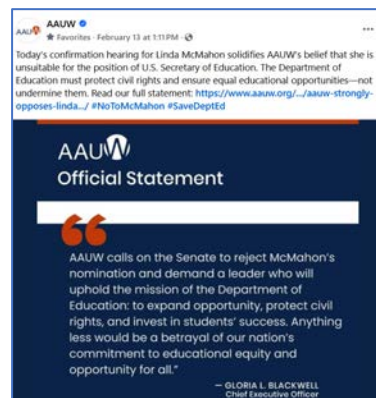
Don't miss AAUW Pennsylvania *Keystoner*. Go [here](#) to read January and March.

Ann Pehle  
AAUW Pennsylvania College/University Liaison  
AAUW Pennsylvania Nominating & Elections Co-Chair

**News from National AAUW**



Just in case you missed AAUW's recent Facebook posts. The AAUW mission is being tested and we are holding firm to our beliefs.



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Please welcome new member **Maureen Cantwell** to the branch. Maureen was our featured speaker in January and also attended the most recent Topic Talk. We are delighted that she is joining us!

As a reminder to those whose membership is due to renew, please do so when you receive a notice from AAUW national. Memberships may be renewed online or by sending a check to the branch's post office box: PO Box 815, Carlisle, PA 17015.

If you are unsure about your renewal date, please contact [Cindy Sutton](#) or [Janet Kacsur](#), Membership Co-Vice Presidents.



Julie Manta, Patty Stibitz, Cindy Sutton, Gail D'Urso, Janet Kacsur & Virginia Mauk

## Coldest Night of the Year Walk

AAUW Carlisle's team doubled their goal, raising \$800 for Community Cares. It was a lively walk, and we were treated to delicious soup and salad at the end. A big shoutout to our walkers, Team Captain Jenifer Johnson, Marina Young, Kate Elkins, Kelly Spasic, and her friends. And a huge thank you to our generous donors!



Kelly Spasic, Kate Elkins, Jenifer Johnson, Marina Young, and Kelly's friend Jane brave the cold!

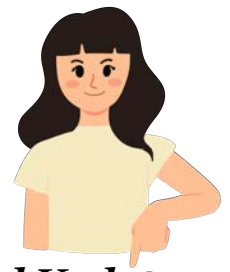


Marina Young, Kate Elkins, Kelly Spasic, her friend Bobbi, & Jenifer Johnson

## AAUW Members "Just Wanna Have Fun!"

Gail D'Urso and Virginia Mauk and the Community Activities committee of Janet Kacsur, Cindy Sutton, Julie Manta and Patty Stibitz held their first meeting in February. The group had so many fun ideas and suggestions for activities for branch members to include day trips and local outings. The committee is now gathering information and working on dates for suggested activities. If YOU have a suggestion for the committee, contact Gail or Virginia with your idea. Be sure to stay tuned for more information so you can attend these community activities, and get to know other branch members and have FUN!

Gail D'Urso & Virginia Mauk  
Community Activities Chairs



## Scholarship Appeal Fund Update

We are excited to report that as of February 12, we have \$10,209 available for the 2025 scholarships! In addition to \$1,637 carried over from last year and interest earned on the money market account, we have raised \$8,952 for this year's Scholarship Appeal Fund. The record donation at this time of the year was due in part to the May 2024 Yard Sale profit of \$1,474.21 and the Jewelry Sale profit of \$1,561. We want to thank Yard Sale coordinators Kathleen Gorak, Carole DeWall, and Pat Markowski, Jewelry coordinator, for their hard work and dedication to the Scholarship Fund.

Becky Morgenthal  
AAUW Fund Chair

## ***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**

**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, 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**