



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 61, Number 9

May 2025

Upcoming AAUW Events

Book Club

Monday, May 5; 7 pm

Within Arm's Reach; Ann Napolitano

Darlis Simonton; 1218 White Birch Ln; Carlisle

RSVP to Wendy Armour Dickinson [here](#)

Preview remaining Book Club Meeting on pg 6

Breakfast Club

Saturday, May 10; 9 am

Cracked Pot (36 N. Hanover St., Carlisle)

RSVP to Wendy Armour Dickinson [here](#)

Submit to the June/July Branching Out Before

Tuesday, May 20

Submit to Peggy Jennings [here](#)

May Membership Meeting

Tuesday, May 27; 7 pm

Emily Schmidt; Aging Out of the Foster System

Dickinson College Stern Center Great Room

Note change in venue!

[More Information Here](#)

June Events

Wine and a Mystery

Tuesday, June 24; 5:30 pm

[More Information on page 4](#)

AAUW PA Summer Retreat

June 27-28; State College, PA

[More Information on page 5](#)



May Membership Meeting

Tuesday, May 27; 7 pm.

Emily Schmidt

Founder of The Cracked Pot
“Aging Out of the Foster System”

Dickinson College Stern Center Great Room

Street Parking available on Louthier and West Streets, or use the faculty/staff lot behind Old West and west of Stern accessed off Louthier St.

NOTE THE LOCATION OF THIS PROGRAM IS DIFFERENT THAN WHAT APPEARS IN OUR YEARBOOK!

This month, AAUW Carlisle is honored to welcome Emily Schmidt, Founder and Director of Missions and owner of The Cracked Pot, a faith-based, non-profit coffee shop.

At a young age, Emily dreamed of opening a coffee shop. That dream stayed with her as she married and raised three children. While she and her husband considered adoption, Emily was deeply moved by the staggering number of young adults aging out of the foster care system without a permanent family or a future plan.

After much prayer, planning, and patience, Emily opened The Cracked Pot—a unique coffee shop that serves more than just coffee. It partners with foster youth transitioning out of the system, offering them a place of stability, purpose, and hope. Emily’s presentation will highlight the challenges faced by young people aging out of foster care, and how communities like ours can come together to support them in meaningful ways. Her story is one of faith, compassion, and action—and promises to inspire.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this engaging and important program.



Letter from the Vice President

It always amazes me to look at the accomplishments and actions of our membership! Month after month, in our newsletter, during committee meetings and at our Branch and Board Meetings, I read and hear about the things we are doing. It makes me more than proud!

Last month was no exception! Here are just a few examples.

AAUW Carlisle celebrated seven recipients of our Higher Education Scholarships with each recipient receiving \$2,000 to further her education. Many thanks to each and every one of you who contributed to this record-breaking scholarship year and to the Scholarship Committee members who worked so hard to make it happen!

We also continue to strengthen our relationship with the Dickinson College AAUW Student Organization, which has flourished under the recent leadership of their current President, Sofia Perrone. On April 13 at the students' Spring Potluck Lunch, we had such a fun time sharing our own college experiences as students shared theirs. For those of you who were unable to make it, you missed a wonderful "bonding" time with these accomplished young AAUW student members!

On May 1, we continued our Branch tradition and presented graduation cords in recognition of each of the ten graduating senior members of the Dickinson AAUW Student Organization. I think everyone felt pride and excitement for these accomplished students, and we all look forward to what they will do next!

So, how do we continue to be such a significant contributor in the world of AAUW? When I reflect on that question, I believe it is obvious! We are fortunate to have a vibrant and growing membership of dedicated and talented women who believe in our mission of advocating and improving the lives of women and girls. Our members make it happen!

And I was so happy to see that we have newer members amongst us willing to step up to leadership roles! This will add "new blood" to our Board, bringing in new ideas and perspectives which will help our organization stay fresh and relevant to the times. Of course, our seasoned elected leaders will bring to the table historical knowledge and experience to keep us grounded in our traditions and past successes. Congratulations to our newest elected officers: Kate Elkins, President; Barb Attivo, Co-Finance Officer; Terri Glueck, Co-Membership VP; Grace Nguyen, Co-Programs VP and Meta Bowman, Secretary. We wish them well as they begin their terms for the 2025-2026 fiscal year!

Can't wait to see what is coming up in the future!

Nancy Sigrist
Vice President

AAUW Funds Update

The 2026 Scholarship Fundraiser started at the May 2025 Scholarship Banquet. The "Opportunities" raised \$730 to start the 2026 Scholarship Fund. Congratulations on another great start to next year's Scholarship Fund. I want to thank Lillian for purchasing "opportunities" for all the scholarship recipients. That was very kind of our Scholarship Chair.



From the Scholarship Banquet



Lillian Wong



Sharon Heller



Cherry France

Scholarship Banquet 2025

On Tuesday, April 29, AAUW members gathered to honor seven Higher Education Scholarship recipients and welcomed their guests at a celebratory banquet in the Holland Union Building on the Dickinson College campus. Members of the Scholarship Committee introduced the recipients who, in turn, addressed the group, thanking the membership for their generous support of their educational pursuits. Each recipient discussed her plans for the future. A common theme emerged as each of the students expressed her gratitude, not only for financial support, but for a sense of validation and belonging that AAUW scholarship recognition represents.

Leah Allewelt attends Penn State University where she majors in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences. Leah hopes to become a veterinarian. She received the dedicated scholarship awarded to a resident of Perry County underwritten by an AAUW member who lives in Perry County.

Dinela Dedic is a student at Dickinson College where she majors in Environmental Science with a concentration in Food Studies and a minor in Art. Dinela is committed to being part of the Carlisle community's peaceful, secure, and colorful future. She is committed to the goals of energy sovereignty and climate action.

Parmilla Dhimal is a student at Penn State Harrisburg, majoring in Bio-Behavioral Health with plans to continue her studies in Public Health and, ultimately, attend Medical School. Parmilla currently serves in the US Army Reserves in order to help the country that has offered her so many opportunities for success.

Morgan Koch attends Penn State Erie where she majors in Computer Science. She has faced unexpected skepticism in the male-dominated field of Information Technology. Morgan has a keen interest in Artificial Intelligence and hopes to set an example for other women as a leader in this field.

Lydia Kramer was the recipient of the **Marjorie M. Mowery Scholarship**. Lydia is studying Early Childhood Education with a minor in English as a Second Language at Millersville University. She hopes to become a teacher, a reading specialist, or a school librarian.

Amy Orner was awarded the **Boytim-Rambo Scholarship**. Amy is a graduate student at Penn State University and plans to become a professor of Art and Architectural History. Her dissertation study focuses on the development of Edinburgh, Scotland, from its medieval Old Town origins to the planned streets of the New Town.

Arisha Tariq is a student at Penn State College of Medicine. She learned firsthand about the importance of clean water and safe food while studying in Ghana with the Penn State Global Health Program. She hopes to practice medicine locally and have an impact on access to healthcare in Central Pennsylvania, particularly in Women's Health.



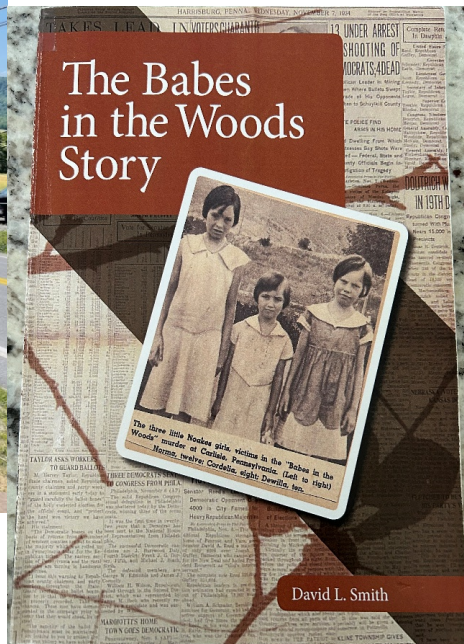
Front: Parmilla Dhimal, Dinela Dedic, Morgan Koch, Arisha Tariq
Back: Lydia Kramer, Amy Orner, Leah Allewelt



The **Marjorie M. Mowery Scholarship** honors Marjie's longtime involvement and leadership in AAUW both locally and statewide. A member for nearly forty years, Marjie served three two-year terms as President, was Finance Officer, and published our Branching Out newsletter. In the Carlisle community, Marjie was active with the Bosler Library, the Carlisle YWCA, the United Way, the First United Church of Christ, and the League of Women Voters.

The **Boytim-Rambo Scholarship** is named first for Joan Boytim, internationally acclaimed vocal instructor who received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Teachers of Singers and an Outstanding Alumna award from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The Scholarship is also named for Sylvia Rambo, a lawyer and federal judge, named to the Middle District of Pennsylvania by Jimmy Carter. She was honored when the federal courthouse in Harrisburg was named for her. Both these exceptional women were devoted to mentoring students.

Floral centerpieces were designed by Cathy Seras of K & D Florals and donated by Col. Julie T. Manta and Dr. Peggy Jennings. Scholarship Committee: Lillian Wong & Gail D'Urso, Co-Chairs; Terri Glueck, Sharon Heller, Rose Smith, and Cindy Sutton.



WINE AND A MYSTERY?

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

5:30-8:00 pm

The Winery at the Long Shot Farm
1925 McClure's Gap Road
Carlisle, PA

Join us on a beautiful summer evening at a lovely setting in the Cumberland Valley to enjoy a glass of wine and learn about an event that shocked our community almost 100 years ago.

Mark your calendar and join Carlisle AAUW members and friends at The Winery at Long Shot Farm for this special event! Spouses and partners are welcome to join us.

5:30 - 7:00 Wine tasting; wine will be available for purchase

7:00 - 8:00 David Smith, a local historian and author, will share his research, a PowerPoint Presentation, and the book, *The Babes in the Woods*.

In 1934, a family's hopeful journey becomes one of desperation, ending in tragedy in Cumberland County.

RSVP by June 15 to Patty Stibitz [HERE](#) or Gail D'Urso [HERE](#). (Do NOT use the general AAUWCarlisle address to respond.)

Tickets are not necessary, but we need to let Long Shot Farms know how many people to expect.



Like us @AAUWCarlisle

Like us @AAUW Pennsylvania

What's Up in Pennsylvania? News from AAUW Pennsylvania

AAUW Pennsylvania 2025 Summer Retreat June 27-28, 2025

Not already registered for the AAUW Pennsylvania 2025 Summer Retreat? What are you waiting for?
You'll find all the info you need to register here:

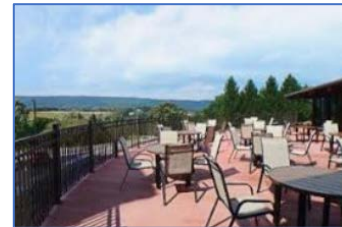
<https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/>

Location: Wyndham Hotel—Boalsburg, PA
(Just south of State College, PA)

Friday: Casual reception on the Patio sponsored by AAUW Pennsylvania for those who want to get to know other AAUW members from across the state or catch up with life-long friends

Saturday: A different look/feel than past Summer meetings. 10:00am – 3:00pm will be an interactive day focused on topics that members have registered as priorities for branches.

Watch this [video](#) for an introduction from our facilitator about the day.



THANK YOU AAUW CARLISLE

For the generous gift of \$585 to fund a grant allowing AAUW Pennsylvania to award four grants to first-time attendees of the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.
(NCCWSL—affectionately pronounced nick-whistle)
Read about the recipients in the May [Keystoner](#).

News from National AAUW

AAUW National Elections 2025 April 14 – May 13

If you haven't voted yet, what are you waiting for?

Members received electronic ballot reminders with their unique voting credentials from AAUW's third-party voting service vote@simplyvoting.com. Members without email addresses were mailed paper ballots.

Eligible voters are those who were members as of March 14, 2025.

Voting closes on May 13, 5pm ET.

For voting help, email connect@aauw.org with your name and email.

Strategic Plan Launch

Tuesday, May 13 at 7 p.m. ET

Learn how members, branches, and states can align with our future vision.

[Register here.](#)



Ann Pehle

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

Honoring AAUW Trailblazer Students

AAUW Carlisle held its 7th annual Trailblazers Girls' Recognition event on Wednesday, March 12, to honor students pursuing career and technical education fields of study. Trailblazer honorees are selected by their CTE teachers based on good citizenship at school, enthusiasm for their CTE program, and GPA.

The Trailblazer Award celebrates high school girls who choose vocational or technical fields of study. AAUW Carlisle created the Trailblazer Award in 2019 because the organization recognizes that girls who are interested in these pathways in high school may not otherwise receive positive support or recognition.

Following opening remarks by Mary France and Gail D'Urso, the honorees were introduced by members of the Trailblazer Committee: Barb Attivo, Gail D'Urso, Mary France, and Lillian Wong. Committee member Carolyn Freberg was unable to attend. Our honorees for 2025 are:

Alexis Bahn and Cheyenne Minich – Automotive Technology
 Sophia Cisneros -- Carpentry
 Riley Brooker and Erica Gobin -- Communications
 Ariadna Perez Ramos -- Culinary Arts
 Aubrey Mackey -- Engineering
 Belma Becirovic, Kaylee Morris, Anna Belle Stoermer and Neha Thapa -- Health Careers
 Emily Fry and Vanessa Grady -- Marketing
 Makayla Morgan-McMillen -- Workforce Development

Each honoree was presented with a Trailblazer Certificate and a stadium blanket embroidered with *Trailblazer* and the AAUW Carlisle branch logo. A special \$500 award, initiated as part of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Carlisle branch, will be awarded to one honoree at the Career and Technical Education Awards night in the spring. That student will be chosen by the Trailblazer Committee closer to the Awards night.

The program featured a panel of local women who have pursued non-traditional careers. Our panelists this year were Amber Clark, Catering Manager at Dickinson College Dining Services; Catherine Bartholomew, Assistant Service Manager at Fred Beans Hyundai, and Brittany Kennedy, Clinique Consultant for Ulta Beauty in Hanover. Culinary Arts instructors Chef Carey Ehly and Chef Bill Seras and the Culinary Arts students provided refreshments at the reception for AAUW members, students' families, and friends following the event. Flower bouquets for the honorees were donated by Cathy Seras of K & D Florals, Newville. This recognition and award event is coordinated each year with Dr. Albert Parrillo, Director of Career & Technology Education for Carlisle Area School District.



Standing in the Back Row: Makayla Morgan-McMillan, Belma Becirovic, Kaylee Morris, Neha Thapa,
 Ariadna Perez Ramos, Cheyenne Minch, Vanessa Grady
 Standing in the front row: Erica Gobin, Sofia Cisneros, Anna Belle Stoermer, Aubrey Mackey, Alexis Bahn,
 Riley Brooker, Emily Fry.
 Seated: Featured Panel: Brittany Kennedy, Amber Clark, Catherine Bartholomew

A New Tradition Begins!

AAUW Dickinson and AAUW Carlisle celebrated the ten graduating Seniors during a delightful, festive evening on May 1.

With the enthusiastic leadership of Senior President, Sofia Perrone and her executive team, the Dickinson Student Organization has grown both in numbers and impact.

The evening began with remarks from Sofia, Faculty Sponsor and AAUW Carlisle Liaison Katie Schweighofer, and Carlisle President, Kate Elkins.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of our AAUW graduation cords to each Senior by Carlisle Vice President, Nancy Sigrist. Each student told us about their areas of study and focus at Dickinson and their plans for the future. What impressive and caring young people who should make every AAUW member proud. Sofia will even be studying at Oxford University!

The fun and festive evening continued with Sofia presenting her executive team with themed 'Paper Plate Awards' and all of us screen printing our own AAUW Dickinson T-shirts.

We will dearly miss these amazing young women and men and can't wait to collaborate with the new leadership team!



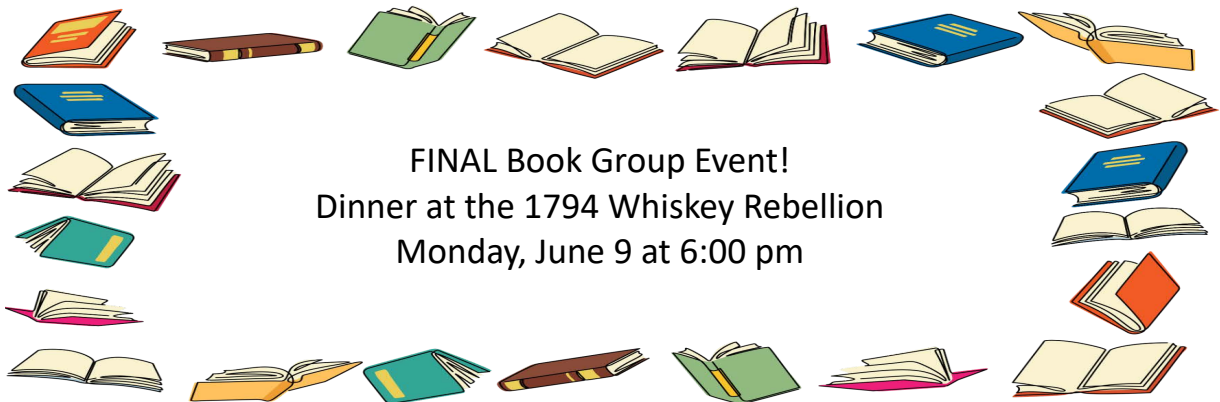
Graduating Seniors

Kate Elkins



Front row: Julie Manta, Nancy Sigrist, Kate Elkins, Mary Bloser Berwick, Terri Glueck, Gail D'Urso, and Cherry France
Far Right, Back Row Faculty Sponsor & Branch Liaison Katie Schweighofer

Book Group



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

Not receiving branch information?

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

August Membership Meeting includes our Annual Auction

AAUW Branch Members, as we prepare to take our June & July break, I just want to remind everyone that our August membership meeting includes our annual Auction. As you travel through the summer, you might find some items that would fit the Auction.

Just to refresh your memory, I have listed the criteria below for auction items:

- Limit donations to one per person, or team up with another member to create a multi-item donation.
- All items must be unused, clean, and have all parts included
- Wine, jams, jellies, art, decorative and garden-related items are best sellers, as well as gift cards to local businesses and restaurants.

Enjoy the summer break,

Becky Morgenthal,
Chair Fund Committee

