



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 62, Number 3

October 2025

Upcoming AAUW Events

"Nunsense"

October 5 performance at Messiah University
More information on page 3

Book Club

Monday, October 6; 7 pm
"The Mystery of Mrs. Christie" by Marie Benedict
Cherry France; 77 Presidents Drive; Mechanicsburg
RSVP to Wendy Armour Dickinson [here](#)
Preview remaining Book Selections on page 5

Wine and a Mystery at the Long Shot Farm

Tuesday, October 7; 5:30- 8 pm
More information on page 5

YWCA Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Tuesday, October 7
Contact Cherry France [here](#) to be part of the team!
More information on page 2.

Voter Education Program

In collaboration with Dickinson College AAUW
Thursday, October 16; 7 pm
Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium
More information on page 2

Breakfast Club

Saturday, October 18; 9 am
Cracked Pot (36 N. Hanover St., Carlisle)
RSVP to Wendy Armour Dickinson [here](#)

Submit to the November Branching Out By

Monday, October 20
Submit to Peggy Jennings [here](#)

October Membership Meeting

Tuesday, October 28; 7 pm
"Challenging Global Gender Violence at the Local Level"
Susan D Rose, Professor Emerita, Dickinson College
Dickinson College HUB; Side Rooms 204-205

Junior Achievement Volunteers Needed

October 28 or 29, Carlisle High School
More information on page 3

Advocacy Day at the State Capitol

Wednesday, October 29; noon
State Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg
More information on page 4

No membership meeting in November

Mark your calendar for
The Holiday Brunch December 6 at 10 am.

October Membership Meeting

Challenging Global Gender Violence at the Local Level

Susan Rose

Dickinson College Charles A. Dana Professor Emerita,
Sociology

Tuesday, October 28; 7 pm

Dickinson College HUB Side Rooms 204-205

The Global Clothesline Project (GCP):

Bearing Witness to Violence Against

Women invites women to create T-

shirts that express the violence and healing they have experienced. The effectiveness of the project lies in the

work done at individual and small

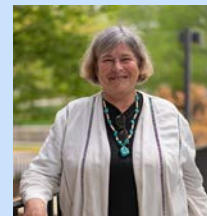
group therapeutic levels, as well as at the community and

societal levels, through the public display of shirts that expose the violence and healing that have taken place

within a particular community – whether on a university campus, an NGO, or a local community. It empowers

survivors and allies to come together to not only express individual stories but also to collectively challenge human

rights violations that are often constructed and dismissed as traditional cultural practices.



Susan Rose, Professor Emerita of Dickinson College, will focus on the Central Pennsylvania Clothesline Projects and interviews with women about the making and the meaning of their shirts, and what they want to tell their abusers and the public at large.

NOTE ALSO that we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Domestic Violence Shelter at the meeting. More information is on page 2.



Letter from the President

We were recently notified by AAUW National that we have been designated a **FIVE-STAR BRANCH!** What does this recognition mean? In the words of Tremayne Parquet, Deputy Director of Advancement:



THE AAUW 5 STAR PROGRAM

“This distinction reflects exemplary leadership and impact across **Advancement, Public Policy & Advocacy, Governance & Sustainability, Programming, and Communications & External Relations.** Your branch has set a powerful example of mission-aligned, sustainable work that strengthens your community and AAUW nationwide. Thank you for your dedication . . . you truly embody the spirit of AAUW’s mission.”

I have always been proud of the work we do and the spirit of camaraderie we share, but to be recognized first at the State Retreat and then from National is something very special. Well done ladies (and Don)!!!

But we cannot rest on our laurels. We must continue to do the work, join hands with other community organizations, make an impact locally, and feel the strength of our common purpose. Let’s take on this new year with renewed energy. Together we are a force!

Kate Elkins
President

CONSIDER THIS!

AAUW PA is seeking candidates to stand for election in the spring for

- President
- Program Vice President
- Marketing & Communications Vice President

Being on the AAUW PA board is rewarding and energizing. You work with other interesting people devoted to the mission and provide vision and leadership for branches. It’s also fun.

Enhance work on our mission by taking on a state leadership role!

Nominate a strong candidate in your branch OR throw your hat into the ring yourself. Get more info or the form [here](#):



We love self-nominations! Don’t hide your light under a bushel!

Public Policy Updates and Activities

This month, we have a lot happening!

Dickinson AAUW Collaboration Program

We are excited to share a meaningful collaboration between AAUW members and the Dickinson College community. Kate Elkins, Ann Pehle, and Kelly Spasic recently met with Katie Schweighofer and the Executive Committee of the AAUW Dickinson Chapter to plan a joint program aimed at educating voters ahead of the upcoming judicial retention election on November 4. **A Voter Education Program** will be held at Dickinson College on October 16 at 7 pm at Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium (ATS), focusing on the importance of voting in the judicial retention election and the critical role of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

The program will be non-partisan in nature. Our goal is to provide valuable information to help voters make informed decisions at the polls. In collaboration with Dickinson Votes, a student-run, non-partisan voter engagement group, students will also have the opportunity to register or update their voter registration ahead of Pennsylvania’s October 20 deadline. Stay tuned for more information!

Make Your Voice Heard

At the October Branch Meeting, join us for a postcard-writing activity in support of Paid Leave Day at the Capitol on November 18.

Public Policy Service Project

In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, our branch will support the Carlisle Domestic Violence Shelter with a food drive. We are collecting non-perishable items such as Hormel Compleats and ramen cups. Donations will be accepted at the October 28 Branch Meeting. If you are unable to attend, please contact Kelly Spasic, who will make arrangements for you to drop them off with her.

YWCA Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Join [Cherry France](#) on October 7 for the annual YWCA Walk a Mile in Her Shoes. She is organizing a team for anyone interested in participating in this event, which raises awareness about gender-based violence. Be part of this meaningful walk and show your support!

Theresa Rice and Kelly Spasic
Public Policy Co-Chairs



Community Activities Updates

Let's Dance!!!

Get out your dancing shoes (in this case your sneakers) and join us for a "Dancercise" class on Friday, November 7 at 10:30 am. New member Karen Casamassa will lead us in a time of "just pure fun" with no experience necessary. Wear comfortable clothes and come to the Stuart Community Center, 415 Franklin St., Carlisle where we have rented one of the multi-purpose rooms. There is plenty of parking in the lot of the center.



Update on Amish Dinner: There were not enough who expressed interest in the Amish Dinner for us to schedule it right now. We will try again in the future.



To continue the fun we will enjoy lunch afterwards at Rustic Tavern, 823 Newville Rd., Carlisle which is just a short drive from the Center. Please let Cindy Sutton know that you will be there [here](#). Please do not use the AAUW general email to RSVP.

As always, guests are very welcome to join us.

Membership Updates

AAUW Carlisle welcomes new member Leigh Espy to the branch and hopes to meet her soon at one of the meetings, events, or interest group outings.

Membership renewal reminder emails will arrive from AAUW National a few months prior to your renewal date. If you are unsure of your renewal month, contact one of the membership Co-VPs.

Janet Kacsur
Terri Glueck
Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Nunsense

You are invited to enjoy an afternoon of musical theater as AAUW travels to Messiah University for the student production of "**Nunsense**," a musical comedy that premiered off-Broadway in 1985. The performance will be in Messiah's Poorman Black Box Theater on **Sunday, October 5, 2025, at 3:00 pm** If you would like to join the group, please contact Cindy Sutton [here](#).

2025-26 AAUW Yearbook Now Available

This year's copy of the AAUW Yearbook is designed, printed, and ready for distribution to all AAUW Carlisle Members! Yearbooks were distributed at the August Social and at the September 23 Branch meeting. For those who have not picked up their Yearbook by that date, it will be mailed.



Virginia Mauk
Yearbook

Volunteers Wanted

Support the Branch's STEM initiative through volunteer opportunities with Junior Achievement's STEM program. Volunteers lead detailed, scripted activities with a small group of ninth-grade students for about 30-minute periods during the school day. The day consists of multiple rotations for the activity. Additionally, volunteers can access videos explaining and modeling the actual activity prior to the actual day. Also, hands-on training is provided before the students arrive. Background knowledge is NOT needed, rather a willingness to work with a group of students who find the day as a break from the routine.

Current opportunities for volunteers are: October 28 or 29 at Carlisle High School. As a thank you to volunteers, breakfast and lunch are provided. If you have questions or want to volunteer email either Lillian Wong [here](#) or Barb Attivo [here](#).



What's Up in Pennsylvania News from AAUW Pennsylvania

I wouldn't be true to my passions if I didn't mention opportunities to support AAUW priorities to Pennsylvania elected officials. When our Public Policy Co-Chairs, Theresa Rice and Kelly Spasic, put out a call to attend an advocacy event in Harrisburg, (it's October 29 at noon!) AAUW Carlisle members need to show up.

Calendar conflicts are understandable. Reasons such as—I am not political OR I don't know where to go OR I don't know what to do. . . . aren't. If you want to take the plunge into a fun morning, call me at 401-644-6488 and I will answer all your questions.

AAUW Pennsylvania is **not** holding a conference/convention in the Spring nor a Summer Retreat in 2026. The **ONLY** event to gather with AAUW members across Pennsylvania is the Atlantic States Regional Conference. The conference's inaugural event in Richmond, VA, was so successful in September 2024 that the 13 states of the Atlantic Region are planning the [2026 Atlantic States Regional Conference](#) to be held at [Lancaster County Convention Center & Marriott Hotel in Lancaster, PA](#). AAUW Pennsylvania is hosting—you know the conference will be FANTASTIC. Committees have been planning for several months now under the direction of Cindy Hall and Ajla Laussegger, Conference Co-Chairs.

This will be a memorable event you won't want to miss. Put September 25-27, 2026, on your calendar NOW.

Ann Pehle
Retired AAUW Pennsylvania Board

News from National AAUW

The AAUW Fall Member Gathering held via Zoom on Thursday, September 18, included updates from AAUW staff and the Board on the work proceeding to ensure AAUW and members are making their voices heard.

The special event:

- Recognized outstanding supporters and branches,
- Updated you on our **Strategic Plan's 3 key priorities**,
- Shared the results of **AAUW's FY25 Branch Survey**, and
- Provided members with the information needed to answer our 5 Calls to Action!

While watching, I was reminded of the wise words of a mentor – “Just because you didn't know, doesn't mean it isn't happening.”

As an AAUW member, it is important to understand AAUW's Strategic Priorities at the national level so we can launch and support activities at the state and branch level. Go here <https://www.aauw.org/about/strategic-plan-2025/> for all the information and tools.

You aren't receiving AAUW emails? Check your SPAM and/or JUNK folders. Trust the sender to ensure delivery to your inbox. If you continue to experience issues receiving AAUW emails, please work with Janet Kacsur and Terri Glueck, AAUW Carlisle Membership VPs, to investigate and resolve the problem with your AAUW account.

WE EMPOWER POTENTIAL

Ann Pehle
AAUW Carlisle member

UNFINISHED REVOLUTION: TOGETHER WE STAND



2026 AAUW Atlantic States Regional Conference
September 25-27, 2026
Lancaster County Convention Center
Lancaster, PA

Mark your calendar NOW for the Atlantic States Regional Conference to be held in Lancaster in 2026.

Join members from 13 states for a weekend of leadership, equity, and inspiration, plus workshops, networking, and celebrations you won't want to miss.

Hotel room block opens soon!

Find out more here:

[ARC2026 Video Promotion.mp4](#)

Strengthen
Our
Pathway
Forward –
TOGETHER!



2025-26 Book Club Calendar—Start Reading Now!



Date	Time	Hostess	Book
Mon, Oct 6	7 pm	Cherry France	The Mystery of Mrs. Christie by Marie Benedict
Mon, Nov 3	1 pm	Cindy Sutton	Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men by Caroline Criado Perez
Mon, Jan 5	1 pm	Wendy Armour Dickinson	Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
Mon, Feb 2	1 pm	Kathy Weigl	The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate
Mon, Mar 2	1 pm	Virginia Mauk	A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy who Helped Win World War II by Sonia Parnell
Mon, April 6	7 pm	Patricia Markowski	The Briar Club by Kate Quinn
Mon, May 4	7 pm	Darlis Simonton	When Women Ran Fifth Avenue by Julie Satow
Mon, Jun 1	6 pm	1794 Whiskey Rebellion	Dinner to select books for the coming year

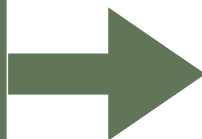
Jewelry Sale Update:



The final sale of donated jewelry has earned the Carlisle branch an additional \$2,337. This brings the total for the jewelry fundraiser to \$4,362, made possible by the generosity and efforts of members, families and friends. Many thanks to all!

WINE AND A MYSTERY?

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7
5:30-8:00 pm
The Winery at the Long Shot Farm
1925 McClure's Gap Road
Carlisle, PA



Join us on a beautiful fall 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 Social time; 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 to Patty Stibitz [HERE](#) or Gail D'Urso [HERE](#). (Do NOT use the general AAUW Carlisle address to respond.)

AAUW Carlisle 2025-2026 Board Members

Elected Officers

President: Kate Elkins

Vice President: Nancy Sigrist

Membership VPs: Janet Kacsur, Terri Glueck

Program VPs: Jeanna Som, Grace Nguyen

Finance Officers: Molly Shane, Barb Attivo

Secretary: Meta Bowman

Appointed Committee Chairs

AAUW Funds: Mary Bloser Berwick

Communications: Marina Young

Community Activities: Gail D'Urso & Virginia Mauk

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: Ann Pehle

Appointed Coordinators

Newsletter: Peggy Jennings

Social Media: Kate Elkins

Trailblazers: Gail D'Urso, Cherry France

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.



Like us @AAUWCarlisle

Like us @AAUW Pennsylvania

From the September Membership Meeting



John Sigle from Braver Angels



Jeanna Som

"She rose higher not just because she believed in herself,
But because her circle did too.
Women who speak life into each other don't just change rooms
They change worlds.

She didn't just find support. She found fire."

Cyndi Stuart

Author, Creator, Founder of the The No Fear Collection™