



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 4

November 2025

Upcoming AAUW Events

Book Club

Monday, November 3; 1 pm
Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men
by Caroline Criado Perez
Cindy Sutton; 1 Briar Oak Lane
RSVP to Wendy Armour Dickinson [here](#)
Preview remaining Book Selections on page 6

VOTE!

Tuesday, November 4

Dancercize

Friday, November 7; 10:30 am
Stuart Community Center
More details on page 4

Breakfast Club

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

Advocacy Day at the State Capitol

Tuesday, November 18; 9 am-3 pm
More details on page 2

Submit to the Dec/Jan Branching Out By

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

No membership meeting in November

Mark your calendar for
The Holiday Brunch December 6 at 10 am.
Deadline to RSVP and reserve your spot is **November 21**
See page 3 for details



Holiday Brunch

Saturday, December 6; 10 am
Allison Community Room; Dickinson College
99 Mooreland Avenue

We are delighted to welcome Cantate Carlisle back to our Christmas Brunch this year to help us celebrate the season with their inspiring performance.

An auditioned adult choir of 40–50 members, Cantate Carlisle is known for its exceptional artistry and dedication to the choral tradition. United by a passion for fine choral repertoire and the power of music to renew the soul and bring people together, Cantate presents a thoughtful and eclectic range of works, from masterworks with orchestra and a cappella contemporary classics to folk songs, Broadway selections, spirituals, and original commissioned pieces.

Under the direction of Michelle Trefren, Cantate continues to enrich the cultural life of our community through performances and collaborations with local organizations such as the West Shore Symphony Orchestra and Dickinson College. The group also supports the next generation of musicians through its youth and children's choirs, as well as through community engagement and educational programs.

We are honored to have select singers from Cantate Carlisle share their time and talent with us once again. Their music embodies the spirit of the holidays, inspiring joy, connection, and the warmth of community that this season represents.

NOTE the location of the brunch this year is at the Allison Community Room on the Dickinson campus at 99 Mooreland Avenue.



Letter from the Vice-President

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is fast approaching to kick off the holiday season! Our fall has been a whirlwind of activity, causing time to fly by! I'll highlight a couple.



Most recently, a number of us joined other concerned citizens on the town square to raise our signs and show our love of country at the "No Kings" event in Carlisle (and some in Harrisburg, as well!). It was a positive atmosphere with a huge number in attendance. Passersby blew their horns and waved with shouts of support. Patriotism was in the air!

And many thanks to all who attended "Big Money Big Questions: The Future of PA's Supreme Court," a collaboration between AAUW Carlisle and the AAUW Dickinson Student Organization. Your support was noted and appreciated! For those who weren't able to make it, you missed a blue ribbon line-up of judicial experts, each discussing the Pennsylvania judicial retention election from a different angle, providing the audience a solid look at how it works, the importance of the Supreme Court, and the current environment of this election, wrapping up with information to students on voter registration and encouragement to all attendees to get out and cast their vote!

So let me take this opportunity to remind all of you that Election Day is on November 4th. Let's be sure our voices are heard!

Nancy Sigrist
Vice President

Public Policy Updates and Activities

Advocacy Day with Partners from Campaign for Women's Health at the Capitol Rotunda

Tuesday, November 18 9 am—3 pm

Organizations are joining forces to encourage our legislators to pass legislation that will enhance the well-being and health of our constituents. Organizations include AAUW PA, Planned Parenthood, Access Matters, Women's Law Project, ACLU, and MomsRising.

AAUW PA is joining its partners from the Campaign for Women's Health in hosting an Advocacy Day in Harrisburg on November 18. Feel free to join in anytime between 9 am and 3 pm.

The goals of this day would be:

- Make it clear what our legislative priorities are in the House and Senate;
- Show the force of our campaign through the collaboration of our partners and their supporters showing up in the Capitol;
- Legislative meetings connecting organization leaders and advocates with elected officials.

They will provide all the messaging and support you will need in meetings with our lawmakers, including a listing of bills that we are endorsing, materials to drop off at offices, and signs to hold for any press events. It's hoped that there will be at least one opportunity on the steps to share stories and demands for action with invitations to our state leaders to join us.

Theresa Rice and Kelly Spasic
Public Policy Co-Chairs



Remember to Vote November 4!

Municipal elections include important votes on the retention of judges and the election of local school boards!

Spotlight PA has some great resources! Click the caption to access!



Local Supervisors & Council
Members



General Information



Voter Information

Holiday Brunch

Saturday, December 6; 10 am
Allison Community Room; Dickinson College;
99 Mooreland Avenue

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

Menu
Sausage Patty
Home Fries
Spinach & Mushroom Quiche
Fresh Fruit
Home-made Cinnamon Rolls
Coffee, Tea, Juice, Water

Please Make Your Reservation by Friday
November 21!

Mail Reservation & Check using form below
OR

Pay by PayPal using this link:

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?
hosted_button_id=L9VZ8TFDB78A2](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=L9VZ8TFDB78A2)

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 shampoo 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): _____

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.



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.

Good Wine, Good Food & Local History

AAUW Members and their guests had a lovely evening at The Winery at Long Shot Farm. We enjoyed some wine, good food, and especially each other's company. Author David Smith treated us to the fascinating true story of the "Babes in the Woods." David has done extensive work with the Cumberland County Historical Society on this piece of our local history.

Special thanks to the Community Activities Committee for providing refreshments and to Patty Stibitz and Gail D'Urso for coordinating the event.

Virginia Mauk
Community Activities

In search of... Sponsors for the Holiday Brunch Centerpieces



The Funds Committee hopes to find a sponsor(s) to cover the cost of the centerpieces so that all the opportunities become a profit for the Scholarship Fund. Centerpiece donors and their businesses, if applicable, will be acknowledged during the event and in the December/January Newsletter.

Please contact, Mary Berwick at [Click here for email](#), if you are willing to be a sponsor. Thank you.

Mary Bloser Berwick
Funds Chair



David Smith

What's Up in Pennsylvania News from AAUW Pennsylvania

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 venue is [Lancaster County Convention Center & Marriott Hotel in Lancaster, PA](#). Reservations are open NOW for discounted sleeping room rates. Click [here](#) to reserve your room.

*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

UNFINISHED REVOLUTION: TOGETHER WE STAND

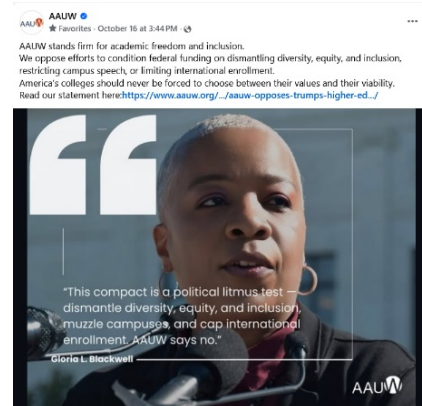


2026 AAUW Atlantic States Regional Conference
September 25-27, 2026
Lancaster County Convention Center
Lancaster, PA

News from National AAUW

AAUW is speaking up and speaking out. See/read the [press releases](#).

AAUW CEO, Gloria Blackwell speaking at October 18th No Kings Rally in Washington D.C. [Read more here](#)



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

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!



2025-26 Book Club Calendar—Start Reading Now!



Date	Time	Hostess	Book
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

2026 Scholarship Application Goes Live!

November is the launch of the 2026 AAUW Carlisle Higher Education Scholarship year.



We have a new and improved application form on the website, plus flyers being distributed on bulletin boards around town, and the electronic billboard flashing our scholarship all over Carlisle!

The Scholarship Committee is ready to receive applications!

Lillian Wong and Gail D'Urso
Co-chairs of Scholarship Committee



Seated: Catherine, Scarlette, Elise
Standing: Ariel, Lily, Sarah, Kyle

"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™

Silent Auction Thank You!

A very special thank you for the generous offer of yard work from AAUW Dickinson for our Silent Auction. My flower beds won the afternoon of yard work from these amazing young ladies.

Mary Bloser Berwick

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

AAUW Carlisle and AAUW Dickinson student group collaborative presentation on the future of the PA Supreme Court



The "3 Kathryns/Catherines": Dr. Katie Schweighofer, Dickinson Liaison, Catherine Puckett, Dickinson AAUW President; and Kate Elkins



Catherine Puckett, Pres. of AAUW Dickinson, Kate Elkins, Carlisle Pres., Prof. Sarah Niebler, Ed Mahon from Spotlight PA, Dean Gary Gildin, Hon. Robert Graci, Prof. Jane Rigler.