



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 6

February 2026

Upcoming AAUW Events

Book Club

Monday, February 2; 1 pm

The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate
Kathy Weigl

13 North Letort Drive, Carlisle

RSVP to Wendy Armour Dickinson [here](#)

Preview remaining Book Selections on page 5

AAUW National Webinar

School Boards: Take Action for Gender Equity

February 12 at 7 pm

Register [here](#):

AAUW National Winter Member Gathering

Wednesday, February 18, 4:30 pm

Register [here](#)

More information on page 4

Submit to the March Branching Out By

Friday, February 20

Submit to Peggy Jennings [here](#)

Breakfast Club

Saturday, February 21; 9 am

Saturday, March 21; 9 am

Cracked Pot (36 N. Hanover St., Carlisle)
RSVP to Wendy Armour Dickinson [here](#)

February Membership Meeting

Tuesday, February 24; 7 pm

Dickinson College HUB Side Rooms 204-205

More information [here](#)

Duck Pin Bowling

Wednesday, February 25, at 11:30 am

Midway Bowling Center, 1561 Holly Pike, Carlisle

RSVP by February 20 [here](#)

More information on page 3

March Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 24; 7 pm

"Inside the Auction Industry:

A Female Perspective on Power, Value and Voice
Rescheduled from January

"The William C. Goodridge Freedom Center and Underground Railroad Museum, A Transformational Experience"

Tuesday, February 24; 7 pm

Dickinson College HUB, Side Rooms 204-205

Join us for a unique and meaningful evening in celebration of Black History Month.

Kelly D. Summerford is a Harrisburg native and accomplished living history interpreter, actor, director, and producer with a diverse career spanning public service, the arts, and community leadership. He currently serves as the Director of the William C. Goodridge Freedom Center and Underground Railroad Museum in York, PA, and has portrayed the historical persona of William Goodridge for more than 18 years.



Through first-person living history interpretation, Kelly brings to life the extraordinary story of William Goodridge (1805–1873)—a man born into slavery in Maryland who was sent to York, Pennsylvania as a child and later freed at the age of 16.

Goodridge went on to become a highly successful entrepreneur, opening a barbershop, building the tallest emporium on York's Centre Square, and operating a railcar line with daily service to Philadelphia. Beyond his business success, Goodridge played a critical role as a station master on the Underground Railroad, helping freedom seekers travel safely to new lives. His legacy is honored today with the first African American statue in York.

For this special AAUW program, Kelly Summerford will appear in full period attire, allowing audiences to experience "William



Goodridge himself" as he shares this powerful and deeply local story. His presentation offers a compelling blend of history, performance, and education, highlighting themes of resilience, leadership, and social justice that continue to resonate today.

Letter from the President

As I sit down to write this, I am reminded that the inauguration was one year ago today. Our world has changed in ways we couldn't have even imagined, and policies affecting virtually every one of our priorities have been rolled back or replaced.

And I am moved by the words of Martin Luther King, Jr.:

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to Justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects us all indirectly."

(Letter from Birmingham Jail)

AAUW's mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy has never been more important.

I close with words we should all take to heart:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

(attributed to anthropologist Margaret Mead)

Onward!!

Kate Elkins



Peggy Jennings and Ann Pehle

Celebrating the Holidays with AAUW Carlisle!



Nancy Sigrist and Kate Elkins



Cantate Carlisle



Pat Markowski and Patricia Yerkes



Becky Morgenthal

Support from your **SOFA**

LEAD/VOLUNTEER — NO TRAVEL REQUIRED!

- Convenient: Contribute anywhere, anytime—skip the commute.
- Flexible: Fit your involvement around your personal schedule.





- Co-chair a role, providing administrative support
- Draft notes, letters to local representatives, or outreach letters to potential sponsors.
- Prepare and organize mailings for events or fundraising campaigns.
- Proofread and edit content to ensure clarity and consistency.
- Serve as a virtual committee member: participate in phone or video meetings, share ideas, and review documents digitally.
- Provide guidance based on personal or professional expertise.
- Offer skills or knowledge in areas like accounting, event planning, or project management by phone or email
- Compile community resource lists or gather articles relevant to AAUW's mission and share them with leadership.

Consider new ways to help AAUW Carlisle without leaving your sofa!

Contact Kate Elkins [here](#) for more information on how!

Community Activities Updates



Hello, Pinbusters!!!!

Come join us for an exciting and fun time of
Duck Pin Bowling at
 Midway Bowling Center, 1561 Holly Pike, Carlisle
Wednesday, February 25, at 11:30 am

No skill or athleticism required (anyone can do it!) because Duck Pins uses smaller balls, smaller pins, shorter lanes, and no bowling shoes needed.

Cost is \$10 per person, and we ask that you also bring a wrapped white elephant gift to use for prizes.

What is a white elephant? It is a humorous, often tacky, impractical or funny item brought for a gift swap. It can actually be anything you want, but let's keep the value under \$10.

This promises to be an entertaining and enjoyable event.
 As always, guests are welcome to join us.

Please RSVP to Gail D'Urso [here](#) (not the general AAUW email) by February 20 so we can reserve the lanes.

Trailblazer!

Save the date for our eighth annual Trailblazer Girls Recognition Event on Wednesday, March 11 at 1 pm.

RSVP to Gail D'Urso [here](#) to have your security badge ready and waiting as you enter the Fowler Building at CarlisleHigh School.

For more information, check out the drop down tab labeled "Trailblazers" on the AAUW Carlisle website.

We Enjoyed "Bubbles and Bling"

Marjorie Romano, owner of Marjorie's Gems shared her story of how she came to love jewelry and shared the history of jewelry, some fun stories, and some cautionary tales.



Pat Markowski wants you to meet her new friend!



Julie Manta & Patty Stibitz



Marjorie shares her expertise with us



Marjorie appraises pieces from Kate Elkins and Janet Kacsur

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Community Activities

Let's Cook Mediterranean: Sarah Davis from Penn State Extension will share her knowledge with a cooking demonstration on Monday, March 30 at 2 pm at Long Shot Farms. Cost will be \$20 to sample the Mediterranean fare. Wine will be available for purchase from Long Shot. More information to come!



Antique Roadshow (Carlisle version), Friday, May 15. More details to follow.



Virginia Mauck

Gail D'Urso

Co-chairs, Community Activities

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



Public Policy Updates and Activities

We hope you are all staying warm and healthy this winter season! AAUW Carlisle's Public Policy Committee has been busy. We are currently in the early planning stages with the Cumberland County Commission for Women on an educational event focused on *Women in Government*. Our goal is to create a program that not only informs but also inspires attendees to become more involved. Stay tuned for more details!

AAUW and ICE

AAUW National will not be issuing a statement regarding ICE and has not taken a position on ICE or immigration. However, they encourage branches to follow the guidance on public demonstrations that was shared last year.

[AAUW Guidance for Public Demonstrations](#)

AAUW National Webinar

School Boards: Take Action for Gender Equity

February 12 at 7 pm.

Register [here](#):



Theresa Rice and Kelly Spasic
Public Policy Co-Chairs

News from National AAUW

AAUW's Winter Member Gathering

Wednesday, February 18, 4:30 pm.

Please join members for AAUW's Winter Member Gathering to:

- Recognize outstanding supporters and branches,
- Update you on the impact of our Strategic Plan's 3 key priorities, and
- Provide you with the information you need to answer our 5 Calls to Action!

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate our achievements and learn about our shared impact! Register [here](#).

Also, be sure and check out the new landing page:

<https://www.aauw.org/>

which directly shares what the organization cares about.

2025-26 Book Club Calendar—Start Reading Now!

	Date	Time	Hostess	Book		
	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 Process is Underway!

As of our January 20 midnight deadline, the Scholarship Committee has received applications from 30 students. We hope to select potential recipients who come from all walks of life with various backgrounds and ambitions. Interviews will be conducted on February 21 and 22.

Thank you for your support! All donations as well as honorary and memorial scholarships will be accepted!



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

Share Your Skills on the AAUW Carlisle Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee is looking for one good candidate to share their skills as the next Co-Chair of Finance. This two-year position starts in July, 2026. If you are good with numbers, can read a spreadsheet, pick up mail at the post office, and make bank deposits, this position is for YOU! Being part of the Board of Directors offers a unique opportunity to be more involved and gain a deeper understanding of what AAUW Carlisle is all about. Please consider serving. If you are interested or would just like more information, contact the Nominating Committee Chair, Virginia Mauk, [here](#) by February 13.



Membership Matters

AAUW-Carlisle has a strong membership woven together with unique fibers. We represent many careers, backgrounds, and skills. We will be profiling the membership journeys of Carlisle members here. Terri Gluek, Membership Vice President, starts us off:

When I moved to Carlisle about four years ago, I only knew one person here. In the early days of the move, I was worried that I wouldn't be able to make the same lasting friendships and connections I had made over many years in Pittsburgh. Public policy and social action were important to me and I wanted to make this part of my life in my new community. It so happened that AAUW was hosting an information session with school board members not long after we moved to Carlisle. That session was transformative for me and did three things: 1) I became aware of critical issues and personalities that informed my first voting experience in Carlisle, 2) I connected with AAUW Carlisle who thoughtfully put together this important event and proved to be a great match for my own interests, and 3) it gave me new people I could reach out to and start to make the kinds of friendships I was hoping to foster. I've been so fortunate to have started my AAUW relationship this way. I've found a home for my passionate interest in public policy - and made some thriving friendships to boot!

I hope you get the same mixture of intellectual and emotional benefit from your membership in AAUW. If so, maybe you know folks who would also like to become members, and we'd love to fold them into our mix. Think about bringing friends and people you know to our meetings in the future as guests. New members are our lifeblood!

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, Lillian 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 Members doing AAUW Things



Despite the iffy weather and several members who overslept, we had a pretty good turnout for Breakfast Club! Join us once a month on Saturdays!

Julie Manta, Janet Kacsur, Terri Glueck, Mary Bloser Berwick, and Gay Walker

Thank you to Ann Pehle!

A very grateful thank you to Ann Pehle to acknowledge her ongoing kindness by continuing to print the Scholarship appeal letters along with the address and return address labels. Ann's work is very much appreciated by the Funds Committee.

Mary Bloser Berwick
Funds Chair

AAUW members participate in Freedom Friday on the Carlisle Square

