

## *Celebrating the 100th Anniversary the 19th Amendment*



Laryssa Duncan, Diane Lopez

AAUW member, Laryssa Duncan, and YWCA/AAUW member, Diane Lopez remind us of a very important date: August 18, 1920. 100 years ago on that date the 19th Amendment to United States Constitution was ratified, **making it illegal to stop any U.S. citizen from voting based on their sex.** More specifically it **gave white women the right to vote.** The 19th Amendment came about because of the women's suffrage movement in the U.S. which fought for women's right to vote at state and national levels.

In March, our Public Policy Committee had committed to a celebration in Johnstown's Central Park to honor this important date in women's history. Other women organizations were invited, there were to be songs, speakers, etc. But of course, the COVID restrictions forced us to cancel those plans.

### **The Good News**

At the August Public Policy meeting it was decided to commemorate the 101st Anniversary of the 19th Amendment with a Central Park Event. We will be celebrating the beginning of the 2nd century of women's voting rights.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**August 14, 2021**

## ***2020 AAUW Pennsylvania Convention Webinar Series***

Presenting some of the content scheduled for the in-person convention – kicked off on July 15th with A Conversation with Frances Wolf, First Lady of Pennsylvania.

Barbara Price, AAUW Pennsylvania Public Policy Chair spoke with the First Lady about her work with AAUW on the economic issues facing women in Pennsylvania and our collaboration with the Pennsylvania Commission for Women.

Click on this url

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/75QIuCs-mo3HtHAswSDBvV8W47sfK2s1yZI\\_6cPzoqxUHFVolumMuBBZ-c4DS3\\_ETqluCR7USHgH27W](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/75QIuCs-mo3HtHAswSDBvV8W47sfK2s1yZI_6cPzoqxUHFVolumMuBBZ-c4DS3_ETqluCR7USHgH27W)  
to watch the recording

## Introducing our AAUW Co-Presidents



Kathy Howanek

The Johnstown Branch AAUW elected Kathy Howanek and Georgia Yeager as Co-Presidents in May 2020.

Kathy Howanek has been a member of AAUW since 2005. In that time she has served as Write-Read-Write chair, Membership VP, Secretary and is currently co-chair of the Used Book Sale.

Kathy moved to Johnstown in 1982 to accept a position as Vocational Counselor for the Deaf at the Hiram G. Andrews Center where she retired in 2002 as Deputy Director.

Kathy and her husband Jim have two children, Emily and Jeffrey and two beautiful grandchildren, Matthew and Ella.

Georgia Yeager has been an AAUW member since 2000. During that time she has been Membership Vice-President and is currently a co-chair of the Used Book Sale.

Georgia taught English at the Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center for 15 years before moving on to the Somerset County Technology Center where she was Principal and then Director. She retired in 2012 with 35 years of service in public education.

Georgia and her husband Dennis have two married sons, Matthew (New Jersey) and Andrew (Maryland), and they are currently parents to two fabulous felines.



Georgia Yeager

## Statement on our Co-Presidency

by Kathy Howanek ([khowanek@hotmail.com](mailto:khowanek@hotmail.com))

First, we are fortunate to follow in the footsteps of Pat Grzybicki. Her diligence and hard work left us with an updated Strategic Plan as a guideline for our branch future.

Having said that, who could have imagined that the past winter's future would become our current world "turned upside down!" As we work to marry AAUW public policy priorities with our local branch goals, one of our challenges and priorities will be **communication**. In person branch meetings may not happen until 2021, but we can use this time research programs and projects that can start up as soon as we are able or that can be offered via virtual platforms.

Members should expect a call, text or email from officers and committee chairs as we review and implement the Strategic Plan. Staying in touch just to stay in touch is important now too, so when you see our names on your caller ID, we may just be reaching out to say "Hi!"

Another priority is **inclusion**. This means not only inclusion in our membership, but in our scholarships and partnerships. Developing partnerships is a theme which runs throughout our Strategic Plan. Inclusion also means recruiting more of our members to be included in committees, projects and programs. There are several potential outlets for our AAUW Start Smart and Work Smart programs which we are committed to pursuing. Committees and individual members can still generate ideas. One such, a sequel to our branch publication "Women of Cambria County 1770-1987" was floated by our communications committee and seems perfectly suited to this time of limited personal public exposure.

Though we may not all get together any time soon, we can all work together to further the mission of AAUW. Together we can turn challenging times into exciting and productive times and celebrate joyously when we are able!



## Membership

by Shellby Custer ([shellbyc@aol.com](mailto:shellbyc@aol.com))

Wow! What a year! On a very positive note, three members have won a free membership for the 2020-21 year. They are: Mary Lou Wyandt, Lori Hutchinson, and Pat Grzybicki. CONGRATULATIONS!! All members are eligible for a chance to win each year based on attendance and participation in events, activities, programming, and meetings. Names are then drawn in May for a free membership for the next year.

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus, most AAUW events have been canceled or postponed, including the Meet and Greet for potential new members. However, many committee meetings are still happening via Zoom or other video/tele applications. Our membership holds strong, and efforts are being made to find ways for us to have online or video connections. Please stay tuned for updates on this.

Moving forward we will continue to need members to participate on committees. Please contact me or any committee chair to participate.

I welcome any ideas or suggestions on how to keep us connected and active. And on that note, I am including a membership survey that you can find at the end of the Newsletter. Please provide any feedback, suggestions, questions, and/or concerns you may have. Please mail it to me; email it to me; or call/text me about the survey. (My information will be on the survey). I look forward to having constructive conversations with every one of you.

Please enjoy the rest of the summer.



© Can Stock Photo

Because of concerns for the health of our membership the following social activities have been cancelled until further notice.

### Thirsty Thursday Dining Club

We are looking forward to our future fun and interesting gathering of friends!

Thank You!



In the last issue, businesses that have contributed gift cards or donations to our various fundraisers were listed and members were asked to support those business in this crazy COVID economy.

Epic Journeys, which is owned by AAUW member Cynthia Watters, was missing on that list. Thank you Cyndi for your past support. Please patronize our friend, Epic Jurneys, LLC!

## Congratulations!!

Kudos to Paula Tomko, Public Policy Chair of our branch, who has been appointed as the PA AAUW Western District Chair!

Thank you, Paula, for your engagement with AAUW



Paula Tomko



## *A New Fundraising Tool*

by Valerie Grash ( [vgrash@pitt.edu](mailto:vgrash@pitt.edu) )

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic has halted our in-person fundraising events such as September's Trivia Night and October's Book Sale, resulting in a major loss of funding for our scholarships and other activities. Hopefully, conditions will have improved enough that we can hold these events and others in 2021.

Meanwhile, we are attempting a new mode of fundraising, one that has proven extremely useful to other non-profits and involves no in-person contact. AAUW Johnstown now has a [Giving Portal](#) where people can donate \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or Other, either once, weekly or monthly, using a credit or debit card. For us, the cost is only 2.9 % + 30¢ per transaction—there is no yearly cost for using this program.

We encourage you to share the link (<https://aauw-johnstown-pa.snwbll.com/giving-portal>) with your friends and family! Maybe in lieu of a birthday gift or as an act of celebration (or sympathy) someone would like to donate in support of our scholarship program. As a chapter, we will also promote donations on key dates, such as the upcoming Women's Equality Day (August 26) and #GivingTuesday (December 1). Watch our Facebook page for these announcements, and share our links posted there.

Anyone who is interested in joining the Fundraising Committee as we brainstorm future events for the chapter can either email me ([vgrash@pitt.edu](mailto:vgrash@pitt.edu)) or text/phone me at: (814) 288-7212.



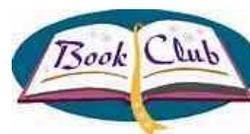
Please Like us, Comment and Share

**Website:** <http://aauwjohnstown.org>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/jpaaauw>

### **Tuesday Book Club**

by Ann Furlong ( [akfurlong@verizon.net](mailto:akfurlong@verizon.net) )



Since Covid-19 is still very much with us and social distancing is important, the Sept. 8th meeting will be held outdoors at Ann Furlong's patio. If you feel uncomfortable in any group setting, do not feel you have to attend. Believe me we will understand if you do not wish to participate. The book is *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty. The time is 1:00 and the place is 1120 Menoher Blvd.



## BOOK SALE CANCELLED

by Ann Furlong( [akfurlong@verizon.net](mailto:akfurlong@verizon.net) )

At the July 14, 2020 board meeting it was decided that the October Used Book Sale will be cancelled. This has been done out of concern for the welfare of our members and the safety of the public. This is a year of hard decisions for all of us. This cancellation was not an easy choice but seemed, upon reflection, to be the only choice. Rest assured that AAUW Johnstown Branch will be awarding scholarships in 2021.

The branch has monies in reserve for times such as these when a sale cannot be held or a sale does not produce sufficient income. Thank goodness for the foresight we have had in preserving these funds. We can thus stay true to our mission "To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy".

There are enough books at the Galleria for a sale in 2021. Our hope is that we can have the Used Book Sale then. Book collection is suspended for now. Perhaps in the spring we can consider having a short collection period. In the meantime stay Healthy and safe. We will get through this together.



Pennsylvania law allows vote by mail without an excuse. Here are the steps and dates for voting this fall.

**October 19:** Last day to register to vote or update your voter registration.

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx>

**October 27:** Last day to apply for a mail-in-ballot. **However, don't wait. Do it now! Apply for or mail in ballot.**

[https://www.votespa.com/Register-to-Vote/Documents/PADOS\\_MailInApplication.pdf](https://www.votespa.com/Register-to-Vote/Documents/PADOS_MailInApplication.pdf)

**November 3, 8pm:** Deadline to return your mail-in-ballot. Complete your ballot and send it back in the postage paid return envelope as soon as you can. **You can also return the ballot to your local election board at 200 S. Center St, Ebensburg, PA 15931**

**November 2:** Find your polling place If you prefer to vote in person, be sure to check your polling place. Many were moved in the primary because of Covid-19.

## Gender Pay Gap

The gender pay gap exists in almost every congressional district according to the [most recent statistics](#) from the U.S. Census Bureau. Passing a federal law, like the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#) or the Fair Pay Act, would help protect everyone in all states. But until that happens, each state will continue operating under antiquated regulations and piecemeal state and local laws to combat unequal pay.

What is Pennsylvania's wage gap? **PA Gender Pay ratio is 81%**

How does Pennsylvania compare to other states? **PA ranks 21st**

## *Education/Scholarship Report*

by Nancy Miller ( [carlnanmiller@verizon.net](mailto:carlnanmiller@verizon.net) )



Hi All,

It seems like eons since we had our Scholarship Committee meeting in January to plan for the banquet that didn't happen. I hope all you current committee members are still on board for this year. Due to the expanded duties of the Education Chair and Committee stated in our revised Strategic Plan, we need more members to join us. Please consider helping with any of the following subcommittees that are now part of Education Committee responsibilities.

**Literacy Subcommittee:** Write-read Write program, Books for Babies Program, Exploring Partnerships

**Closing Gender Gap Subcommittee:** Explore Partnerships working with the Program and Public Policy committees

**Economic Security Subcommittee:** Promote WorkSmart, StartSmart, and retirement education programs.

**Scholarship subcommittee:** Evaluate Scholarship criteria and selection, plan the awards banquet (what we have been doing).

All of these subcommittees will be under the Education Chair and part of the entire Education Committee. Contact me at [carlnanmiller@verizon.net](mailto:carlnanmiller@verizon.net). I look forward to having a large, active, fun committee to work with.

## Books at the Boulevard



by Georgia Yeager ( [gaveager@gmail.com](mailto:gaveager@gmail.com) )

In recent months we have not had our book discussions at the Boulevard. In fact, we may have to rename the club "Books by Zoom." But we idealistically forge ahead with a book list and anticipate that there will be a book discussion each month. Here are the books we are reading

**September** – *Daisy Jones and the Six* by Taylor Jenkins Reid (Paula T. leads discussion) and *My Family and Other Animals* by Gerald Durrell (Beth T. leads discussion)

**October** – *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr (Karen R. leads discussion)

**November** – *Hope Never Dies, Obama Biden Mysteries #1* by Andrew Shaffer (Billie Z. Leads discussion)

**December** – *The Christmas Mystery* by Jostein Gaarder (Beth T. leads discussion)

All of these meetings are most likely by Zoom. It is important to let Georgia ([gaveager@gmail.com](mailto:gaveager@gmail.com)) or Billie ([billiegirl20@hotmail.com](mailto:billiegirl20@hotmail.com)) know if you plan to participate so that we can send you a Zoom invitation. We always welcome new book club members, so start reading and join us for discussion in September!

Deanna Haddle & Sandra Pagano  
"Toast-to Tenacity"!



Vision 2020, a national women's equality coalition headquartered at Drexel University in Philadelphia, originated an event called a "Toast to Tenacity" to celebrate this historic milestone in which people come together and raise their glasses in a united salute to those who worked so hard to make women's right to vote a reality.

There is also information for your branch members to join the Vision 2020 kickoff of Women 100: A National Celebration of American Women, with a **Toast to Tenacity** on August 26, Women's Equality Day! You can join their webcast at 12 pm ET featuring a toast from the Philadelphia Eagles, Philadelphia Orchestra musicians and the debut of a new music video by award-winning singer-songwriter Meghan Cary. The webcast will be hosted on the Women 100 website, [www.Women100.org/events/toast-to-tenacity](http://www.Women100.org/events/toast-to-tenacity).

If you do host an event and take a picture of your branch members toasting (either in-person or virtual as you are comfortable), please send it to Peggy Jennings ([AAUWpakeystoner@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWpakeystoner@gmail.com)) no later than October 1<sup>st</sup> so that it can be included in a special section of the December issue of the Keystoner.

## The second in the

### 2020 AAUW Pennsylvania Convention Webinar Series,

Please join us as we bring to you virtually speakers who were scheduled for the in-person cancelled 2020 AAUW Pennsylvania State Convention. Suzanne Almeida, Interim Executive Director, Common Cause Pennsylvania, will share updates on all the voting topics relevant today -- redistricting reform, mail-in voting, and the November 3rd general election.

#### Voting in Pennsylvania: 2020 and Beyond

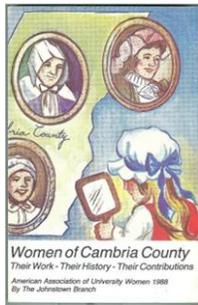
Wednesday, September 2

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_edF-w87pQh6xKPLHU6R5Zw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_edF-w87pQh6xKPLHU6R5Zw)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



## Are You Interested ??

by Deanna Haddle ( [jdhadd1@gmail.com](mailto:jdhadd1@gmail.com) )

In 1988, The Johnstown Branch AAUW published a book, "*Women of Cambria County*:" This amazing book documented the lives of over one hundred women from Cambria County



This book included snippets of life in areas of Cambria County: Geistown, Barnesboro, Spangler, Cresson, Johnstown, Vintondale, etc. There were general descriptions of women such as "The Life of a Coal Miner's Wife", "The Teacher in the One-Room School", etc. Members of our Branch wrote biographies ( one page to three pages ) describing amazing women who lived from the 1800's until 1987. Some of those biography authors are still members of our branch.

SOOOOOO.... right now we are all sort of trapped in "safe places", and it was suggested that we could engage our membership by writing another such book, 1987-2020! Please think about this idea. It would be a fun, interesting, instructive exercise. Pick a name, do some research and write a short bio of woman of Cambria County....maybe someone you know.

Please email me at [jdhadd1@gmail.com](mailto:jdhadd1@gmail.com) or call me at 814-659-1682 if you are interested in this project. Join the FUN!

## Be part of our FACEBOOK page! !



To get Social Media to work for AAUW, you need to help. Jessica Clifford, who is graciously administering our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/jpaaauw>, want posts every day. Jessica is also our marketing director and says, "The goal of social media is to get information out there that will get current members interested and future members interested in participating in our organization."

To this end, if you are working on an AAUW project or just visiting another member, take a selfie and text or email it to Jessica with caption of what you are doing and the names of the people in the picture.

Committee chairs should inform Jessica of meeting times and date that will be placed on a calendar on the FACEBOOK page.

- Write a caption for each photograph. Short 2-3 sentences.
- If you want to write an article, please include who wrote it and that you don't want it altered.
- Captions that encourage people to comment, are the best! ( What book are you presently reading?) along with a pic of book club meeting.



Jessica Clifford

**Jessica@jessicalynportraits.com**  
**814-419-9655**



## American Association of University Women Johnstown Branch

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### 2020 Membership Questionnaire

Please write a response where requested or circle the answer that best describes your experience with the Johnstown Branch of AAUW.

1. When I joined AAUW, I expected the organization to be \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The organization met my expectations.      YES                      NO

Explanation (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. I find the women welcoming.

seldom              sometimes              most of the time              always

3. Annually, I find at least one project or event that I enjoy.

Yes                              No

4. The one thing I like most about AAUW is

\_\_\_\_\_

5. The one thing I like least about AAUW is

\_\_\_\_\_

6. To improve the Johnstown Branch of AAUW, the one change I suggest is

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this survey to Shellby Custer via mail or email; or you may text/call your response to me.

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