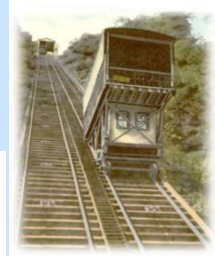




Inclined to AAUW



January-February 2021

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President's Update

by Kathy Howanek (khowanel@hotmail.com)



Kathy
Howanek

Hello All!

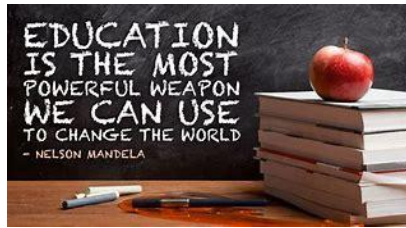
Before we move in to a new year, I want to thank you all for your continued support of our branch. You've participated in new ways and always with cheerful attitude and positive suggestions. We have been an island of good will and civility often contentious world. Your financial support of AAUW National's Greatest Needs Fund has been generous and appreciated.

For our part, Georgia and I will continue to explore the goals of inclusion and community involvement. On November 10, we were fortunate to meet with Katie Kinka, Senior Planner on the Cambria County Planning Commission to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration with other community groups. Katie is an energetic young professional and it was inspiring to hear more about the plans for Johnstown's future. Right now she is working on expansion of residential options in downtown. We explained AAUW's mission and our specific goals for the branch. We left with two new contacts, one with the Girl Scouts and one with Emerging Professionals in Cambria County (formerly YPA, now EPIC). We have exchanged emails with these women and plan to Zoom in the new year.

The most recent State Presidents conference call again revolved around the dues increase and the proposed by-laws change to drop the educational requirement for membership. More information on both issues is forthcoming from National. The round robin section of the meeting generated some good ideas for programming and fund raising and we were happy to make email introductions to Tara Rotuna (the Nancy Drew expert) and the president of one of PA's other branches.

Many of you have received calls from our committee chairs as we attempt to include more and different members in branch planning. If you did not receive a call and would like to volunteer in some capacity, please contact anyone on the Board.

More updates will come following the next board meeting in January. In the meantime, stay safe and warm and don't throw away your masks just yet!



by Nancy Miller (carlnanmiller@verizon.net)

Thanks to all the members who have agreed to be on the Education/Scholarship Committee. According to our revised Strategic Plan, the Education/Scholarship committee will now include some subcommittees which will operate under the Education umbrella which I chair. Please look at the following subcommittees to decide which one you would like to be part of. They are all open to new ideas, revision, and/or replacement. I'll be contacting you soon to find out which you would like to work on so that we may have a general Zoom committee meeting early January. You can email me your choice at carlnanmiller@verizon.net.

Education Subcommittee: Explore and implement a non-traditional Career Fair.

Scholarship Subcommittee: reevaluate our scholarship program and administer the program. Plan awards banquet.

Literacy Subcommittee: Reevaluate Books for Babies and Write Read-Write Programs. Explore partnerships to promote literacy.

Closing Gender Gap Subcommittee: Explore Partnerships working with the Program and Public Policy Committees.

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

Our schools in rotation for 2021 are Greater Johnstown, Ferndale, and Windber. Hopefully, we will be able administer our scholarships this year.

Program Committee

by Doris Leidy (dorisleidy19@gmail.com)

Well, here we are again; restrictions on daily living because of Covid 19. But hope is on the horizon with the distribution of the vaccine so hang in there!

The Program Committee will be meeting sometime in January via zoom to formulate 3 zoom programs to be presented between February and May. Please watch your e-mail for dates and times.



Georgia Yeager

Degree or No Degree?

by Georgia Yeager (gayeager@gmail.com)

The November-December newsletter featured a pro and con look at whether or not AAUW should retain or eliminate the degree requirement, and you were asked to contribute your thoughts. Betty Zahurak has expressed her opinion on the matter, so what follows are Betty's own words:

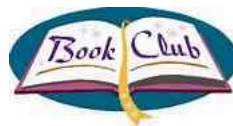
This is in response to the article in the last newsletter regarding the proposed change in AAUW membership requirements. While I am not one to exclude anyone from anything, I feel the degree requirement should remain. First, the organization is supposed to advocate for, encourage, and support higher education in our young women. Secondly, the AAUW name would need changed, as it would no longer be an association of university women, right? Has that even been considered?

It'll be interesting to learn how others feel regarding this matter. I would not want the AAUW organization to become just another women's group.

Thanks for the opportunity to once again voice my opinion about this matter. I will respect whatever decision is made by those having the final say.

BETTY ZAHURAK

If you have an opinion to express, please feel comfortable in expressing your thoughts in our next newsletter. We will be asked to vote in the spring on whether or not to drop the degree requirement. The national membership voted in 2019, by a narrow margin, to retain the degree requirement. The idea of dropping the educational requirement has been expressed by National AAUW as important to the future of our organization. The final say on this matter belongs to the national membership, and YOUR VOTE this spring is important!



by Ann Furlong
(akfurlong@verizon.net)

The Tuesday Book Club will meet **via Zoom on January 12th at 3:00 PM**. The book to be discussed is *Tending Roses* by Lisa Wingate. We had a wonderful discussion about *The Dutch House* in December.

If you are interested in attending, email Ann Furlong (akfurlong@verizon.net) and I will send you the link to the Zoom meeting. We are getting much better at "Zooming"!

A reminder that friends are welcome, as you don't have to be a member of AAUW to participate in this book club.

Getting to Know Your Board Members!

My name is Claire Montoya I have been a member of AAUW since 1997, but I have only been active the last few years. I joined because my mother, Grace Walter, had been a member and also because I was interested in finding out about the group that had the wonderful annual book sale. I helped with book sale on sale days and with collecting and sorting books throughout the year.



Claire Montoya

I participated in Write-Read-Write and Books at the Boulevard from its beginning. Currently I am in the second term as Treasurer.

I attended Greater Johnstown High School and graduated from UPJ with a BS in Education and a MEd. After graduation I spent two years as a volunteer in California with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers, where I worked in the accounting office. My late husband, Ruben, also worked for the UFW

When we returned to Johnstown I taught at in the Greater Johnstown School District for 40 year as an elementary teacher. I also served on the Board of Directors of New Day, Inc. for thirty-some years.

In my free time I enjoy reading and playing bridge. Now that I am retired from teaching, I look forward to having more time to devote to AAUW activities.



BOOKS AT THE BOULEVARD

by Georgia Yeager (gayeager@gmail.com)

Like everything else, Books at the Boulevard has moved to Zoom meetings. We concluded our year with an inspiring virtual discussion of *The Christmas Mystery* by Jostein Gaarder, discussion led by Beth Thomas. We are ready now to choose books for 2021. (Hooray! 2020 will soon be behind us!)

Book club meets on the second Thursday of each month. Our next Zoom meeting is Thursday, January 14. Each member should bring to the Zoom at least one book suggestion along with information about the reviews of the book. Members should try to choose books that will generate good discussion. (Some books offer good plot, but little to discuss.)

We are always looking for new members. With Zoom, you can join us and not have to worry about driving at night! For more information or to be added to the email and Zoom lists, contact Georgia Yeager (gayeager@gmail.com; 255-3322).

Importance of Knowing Your Medications

by Emily Milazzo PharmD

As we get ready for a new year we think about resolutions—most of which we stop thinking about by January 7! Here is one resolution that will take only minutes to complete yet be useful to you beyond 2021.



While attending an appointment with your physician, someone will go over your medications list with you. However, suppose that you see more than one doctor? Do all of your physicians have the same list?

You get an antibiotic filled at the local pharmacy on the corner, but you usually receive your prescriptions in the mail from a large pharmacy corporation; how can the pharmacist verify that there will not be a drug interaction with your regular home regimen?

Finally, if you would have to go to the Emergency Department or Urgent Care because you are not feeling well, they will ask you for your home regimen before treating you. Having a list of all your medicines in one place helps your doctor, pharmacist, hospital, or other healthcare workers take better care of you.

[My Medicine List](#) is an excellent resource of the information you should keep track of and have in your wallet or purse. This template is very thorough and organized by time of day, yet a few pages. UPMC Children's Hospital also has a nice format called the [wallet card](#).

I would encourage you and any loved ones to consider making a list and update as needed.

Thank you, Emily, for this important information!



*Wishing you and your Family
a Happy New Year!*

*Forget all your worries and welcome...
A New Year has come with New Expectations,
New Opportunities, New Challenges
and more reasons to live, give and love!*