



Inclined to AAUW



March/April 2021

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Named Gift Awards

by Ann Furlong (akfurlong@verizon.net)

Thanks to the generosity and benevolence of our membership, Johnstown Branch is eligible to award three Named Gift Awards.

As already announced in a previous newsletter, **Pat Grzybicki** has been nominated for the award.

Mary Lou Wyandt joined the Johnstown Branch AAUW in the year 2000. Since that time she served in many capacities. Mary Lou was elected as Vice President of membership and later as Vice President for programming. Her committee work included being the first chair person of the Write Read Write program. She also chaired the Hospitality committee and Public Policy and served wherever asked.



Mary Lou Wyandt

The third award goes to **Nancy Miller**. Nancy has been a member of Johnstown Branch since 1989. She has been a faithful, active member for all of those thirty plus years.



Nancy Miller

Nancy currently serves as chairperson of the Education/Scholarship Committee. Through the years she has chaired the Book Sale and has been recognized with the Outstanding Woman award in 2015. Nancy has participated on the Nominating Committee, the Calling Committee, Program Committee and Second Tuesday Book Group. She steps forth when needed and continues to work tirelessly on the Book Sale. Congratulations to Nancy on this award.



**Every
Vote
Counts**

Don't forget to register your vote concerning the national by-laws change concerning changing the education requirement for membership. Check April 7th email from Shannon Wolfe. Address questions [to aauwpadiversity@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpadiversity@gmail.com). aauwpadiversity@gmail.com. **Vote before May 17th!**

Presidents' Report

by Kathy Howanek (khowanek@hotmail.com)
Georgia Yeager (gayeager@gmail.com)



It hardly seems possible that our business year is coming to an end, and the branch survived! Our fundraising summer will tell us if we have thrived!

May 24, 2021, will be our final business meeting and as a result of a poll taken by the calling committee, we will end the year as we began, on Zoom. At that meeting we will have an election for the following offices: Membership VP, Fund Raising VP and Treasurer. We will also present the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year.

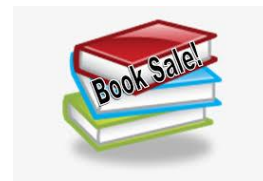
Thanks to those of you who have begun soliciting sponsors and golfers for our July 12 golf tournament fundraiser. For those of you who have taken a back seat, please let me assure you that we need your participation particularly for recruiting hole sponsors and golfers. As we experience a chilly Johnstown spring, July seems far away, but now is the time to guarantee sponsors and golfers before nice weather lures us into other activities. **Remember that last year we had no fundraisers, yet gave our normal number of scholarships. We do not want to reduce our scholarships even for one year, so it is vital that we replenish those funds.** While we have scheduled our annual book sale for August, this indoor event will be COVID dependent and dependent on members being willing to volunteer.

If you have not yet voted on AAUW National's proposed by-laws and public policy changes, please make your voice heard. **The by-laws change includes dropping the education requirement for membership. On April 7, you received an email from Shannon Wolfe** which contains your member I.D number and voter PIN, both of which are unique to you. Click on the link in the email to vote on these important issues.

Finally, thanks to all of you for your patience, cooperation and enthusiasm during this challenging year. We have all learned a lot, done more than we might have expected and had some fun, too. Like all of you, we look forward to getting together in person, renewing our friendships and working on behalf of women in our area.

Hooray! The Book Sale Returns!

by Ann Furlong (akfurlong@verizon.net)



A date has been set for our 2021 AAUW Used Book Sale. **The sale will be held at the Galleria on August 11-14 with set up on August 9 and 10.** This, of course, all depends on the progress that is being made with vaccines and mitigation efforts.

A short collection period will start on May 24 and end June 12. Please say "yes" if you are called by Anne Fattman to do pick up at the Windber collection site. Also sorters will be needed at the Galleria during the collection. Sorting days are Mondays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00. This is still our best revenue source and all hands are needed to make it work. Scheduling for the actual sale dates will be coming soon. This is exciting news and is a step toward the "normalcy" that we all crave.

In Memoriam

by Kathy Howanek



We are saddened at the passing of member Paulett Simunich. COVID took Paulett on March 5, 2021, ending a full and joyful life. Paulett became a member of AAUW in 2014 and brought cheer, enthusiasm and interesting conversation to all events. She was a reliable worker at the annual book sale and excelled at engaging the public in conversation about our mission and recruiting members.

Known throughout the community as the Pysanky Lady, Paulett's art was chosen as part of a travelling exhibit "Making it Better: Folk Arts in Pennsylvania Today." Education was one of Paulett's many passions, serving on the Richland School Board and the Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Children.

A donation has been made to AAUW's Greatest Need Fund in memory of Paulett Simunich.



Paulett Simunich



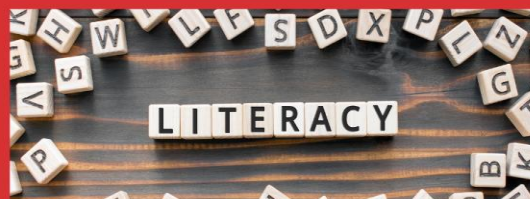
PROGRAM COMMITTEE

by Doris Leidy (dorisleidy19@gmail.com)

Program Committee : Doris Leidy (Chair), Heather Brice, Laryssa Duncan, Georgia Kerrick, Paula Tomko (Bi-Law/Public Policy Chair), Shelby Custer (Membership Chair), Kathy Howanek (ad hoc) and Georgia Yeager (ad hoc).

The Committee will be meeting sometime in late July to formulate our programs for September 2021 - May 2022. As of now, it is still uncertain what Covid19 rules will be in place by fall and how they will affect us but let's think positively! Hopefully, by September, we'll all be able to get together again to enjoy each other's company and smiling faces.

Please feel free to contact anyone on the Program Committee if you have a suggestion for a program you'd like us to consider.



The Cambria County Literacy Council needs volunteer tutors!

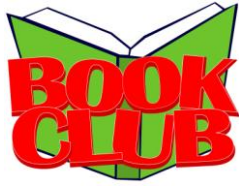
- Volunteers provide tutoring in basic adult literacy, ESL, spelling, and more.
- Contact us at 814-539-2791, literacycounciljtn@gmail.com, or message us through our Facebook page.

Please consider helping our organization provide this valuable service to our community!



Don't forget to LIKE, SHARE & INVITE people to our Facebook page
[AAUW-Pa Johnstown Branch | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AAUW-Pa-Johnstown-Branch/)

AND to visit our website
<http://aauwjohnstown.org>



BOOKS AT THE BOULEVARD

by Georgia Yeager (gayeager@gmail.com)

Our book club is still Zooming, but that has not kept us from great discussions! Typically we have between five and eight “zoomers” each month. May’s discussion promises to be a good one as we tackle Jame Richard’s *Three Rivers Rising*, a story of the Johnstown flood. In addition to that very short book, members are encouraged to read another account of the flood (if they have time) and to share that reading experience with the group.

Unlike other flood books, *Three Rivers Rising* is the story of the flood from the viewpoints of several fictional characters who are from either the South Fork Hunting and Fishing Club or from the Johnstown community. Also, the story is written in modern poetic form which is delightful to read. While not totally factual, it does provided a unique perspective. (I enjoyed every minute of it!)

In June, the group will discuss *No Exit* by Taylor Adams. It is a thriller that is described as “swift, sharp, and relentless.” We are looking forward to that exciting book. Anyone who would like to join our discussion for April, should contact Paula Tomko to receive a Zoom invitation (aauwpaulatomko@gmail.com).

Anyone who would to join us for the June meeting should email Georgia Yeager

Why Public Policy Matters by Paula Tomko (aauwpaulatomko@gmail.com)

On March 29th, AAUW Johnstown hosted Barbara Price, AAUW Pennsylvania Public Policy Chair, for our March meeting – Why Public Policy Matters.

Barbara discussed Pay Equity and the Wage Gap using her Tale of Two Women, a story of two women (one a high school graduate, the other a college graduate) and the challenges and income disparities they face throughout their working lives. It is something all women can relate to a woman is generally who leaves the workforce to care for children and elderly parents.

Women leaving the work force became headline news in 2020 and 2021 with the Covid-19 Pandemic. There are studies that say nearly 3,000,000 women left the workforce over the past year due to Covid.

I encourage you to watch the replay of our March Branch meeting. Public Policy really does matter.

Passcode: ySqMNf4?

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/kLIn4zr8gdWPwdqJnDyWsso-iKsT8hWw7PHqq736--iRoSaQGM1XVNB0f7N02-u3.jLipgcqRqBz_BDfF

If you would like to become involved with the Public Policy Committee please contact Public Policy Chair Paula Tomko.

The Public Policy Committee needs help writing post cards, contacting legislators regarding legislation that affects AAUW priorities, letters to the editor, and many other projects that you can do from comfort of your home. We will also be holding Voter Registration events this year.



Membership Corner

by Shellby Custer (shellbyc@aol.com)

Welcome, Spring!!

Welcome to our newest members: Joyce Radovanic and Catherine Monk!!

This is the time of year when **Membership dues are due; by June 30, 2021.**

Please send a check payable to AAUW Johnstown Branch to
Shellby Custer
115 Melvin Street
Johnstown, PA 15904

Please send any updates/corrected information for the Membership Directory. Additionally, anyone wishing to join the Membership Committee is asked to please contact me, or if you know someone that is interested in joining our organization. You can reach me at (814)242-1125 via phone or text, or shellbyc@aol.com.

We are hoping to start doing more events in the future, including a Membership event (Meet and Greet) in the fall. Any feedback or input is appreciated.

Many events continue by Zoom, including programs, Book clubs, etc. and you will receive an email and a reminder call about most of these events. However, due to the Coronavirus, many of our membership events have been cancelled or postponed. Hopefully, we will start to do more things.

Please let us know your level of comfort so we can work to accommodate the best we can. Please consider reaching out to each other (you have the directory with all members' contact information) via phone, email, text, or just sending an old-fashioned card.

AAUW GOLF OUTING



We need golfers and sponsors for the July 12th AAUW Golf Outing at Windber Country Club. **We also need volunteers** to work the day of the event.

Please ask a business to be a Hole Sponsor!



SCHOLARSHIP

by Nancy Miller (carlnanmiller@verizon.net)

We are pleased to announce our 2021 AAUW Leora G Rager Scholarship awardees. They are all outstanding young women who are fine representatives of their schools. We're sorry that again we won't be able to have our awards banquet in order to celebrate with them in person, but we congratulate them on their achievements. They will be sent \$1500 award following the successful completion of their first college semester.



Rylan Felosky

First, from Greater Johnstown High School, is **Rylan Felosky**. Rylan is the daughter of Wil and Amanda Felosky. She is in the top 6% of her class. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. She is active in the school sports of basketball, softball, and volleyball. Her community activities include Downtown and Highway cleanup and Sandyvale flower planting. Rylan will be attending UPJ, majoring in Pre-Dental.

Next is **Morgan Hudy** of Ferndale Area High School. Morgan is the daughter of Jamie and Matthew Hudy. She is second in her class. Morgan has been active in many school organizations and has held leadership positions in them including Secretary of both her junior and senior classes, President of NHS, Co-President of Student Council, and Vice President of Drama Club. She belongs to Marching and Jazz bands, Choir, and Forensics. Outside of school, she participates in travel team volleyball. Morgan has been accepted at Gettysburg and Lycoming Colleges, but has not yet committed. Her major is undecided at present



Morgan Hudy



Claire Telfer

Finally, from Windber Area High School, is **Claire Telfer**. Her parents are Kristin and Christopher Telfer. Claire's class rank is 4. She is a member of NHS, Marching Band, and Student Council. Her sports activities include varsity tennis, varsity track, and varsity soccer. She has participated in Outdoor Odyssey and Mission Team (St. Anthony of Padua). Claire will be attending West Virginia University, majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Congratulations to these fine young women who represent AAUW's future. We wish them much success as they pursue their educational goals.

On another note, I'm sorry I've been remiss in scheduling a Zoom Education/Scholarship committee meeting. To my 14 committee members, I will be contacting you by email to schedule a Zoom meeting, hopefully before the end of this month. We have several issues to discuss for the 2021-2022 year. I hope we can work with the finance committee regarding changes to our scholarship funding and other concerns.

Did you know?



by Paula Tomko (aauwpaulatomko@gmail.com)

AAUW has been advocating for a woman's right to an education, Pay Equity, and Paycheck Fairness since its founding in 1881.

In 1885, AAUW printed its first research report disproving the myth that an education affected a woman's fertility. In 1888, AAUW awarded its first fellowship.

In 1907, AAUW member Ellen Swallow Richards presented a report on equal pay for college educated women. In 1913, AAUW Washington DC branch presented a report on women in civil service jobs. Women were found to make 78% of what a man made in the same position.

Fast Forward to Today:

In 2002, AAUW hosted its first National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). In 2008, AAUW received special United Nations consultative status to advocate for women. In 2009, AAUW advocated for and helped with the passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. In 2019, AAUW **continued** advocating for the Paycheck Fairness.

Don't know how to get involved in AAUW Public Policy advocacy?

AAUW created the Two Minute Activist. AAUW created tools for issues we are working on. Go to <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/> and learn how you can be an advocate from your couch.

AAUW Pennsylvania created Advocacy in a Box. Advocacy in a Box lists AAUW Pennsylvania's Public Policy Priorities and provides resources on how to be an advocate.

<https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/advocacy-in-a-box/>

AAUW's mission is **TO ADVANCE GENDER EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ADVOCACY.**

It is up to us as women, as AAUW members, to help other women succeed. When they succeed, we succeed? No matter what stage of life you are in, women's issues matter. You do not want your daughters or granddaughters to have to continue to fight for the right to an education, healthcare, fair pay, and voting rights, do you?

Correction!

I was just informed of a very important **typo** on our Golf Outing flyer .

Checks should be sent to :

AAUW

510 Village Street

Johnstown, PA **15902.**

Please make the change on the flyer.



BOOK COLLECTION!

May-June is book collection time. Please volunteer to pick up and sort books.

Understanding Pennsylvania's School Funding Lawsuit

by Kathy Howanek (Khowanek@hotmail.com)

Get a behind the scenes, insider's perspective, of the lawsuit filed in 2014 by the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia and Education Law Center- PA on behalf of individuals, school districts and organizations, making the complaint that the funding system in Pennsylvania is not only wrong, it violates the state Constitution.



The lawsuit is tentatively set to go to trial in PA Commonwealth Court on September 9th, 2021 and we want you to be in the know. Join attorneys from the from the Public Interest Law Center and Law Center for an overview of the Pennsylvania's school funding lawsuit.

The PA School Funding Lawsuit Tuesday, May 18th at 7:00 pm via Zoom

The webinar will provide general information about the lawsuit and be an opportunity AAUW members to hear directly from attorneys in the case about opportunities to support the lawsuit in their communities.

Registration is required at: <https://krc-pbpc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEqcOGrrzMqHt3SVLrx3WSmTUwvoI6-DBmg>

Please extend an invitation to a friend (or to many friends!).

Why is this important?

Throughout Pennsylvania, our schools have not received adequate and equitable funding to meet our children's educational needs. But our Constitution says, "The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth." The state government is breaking its own law, underfunding our schools by billions of dollars, and our kids are suffering.

And why does AAUW Pennsylvania care?

As stated in the [AAUW Pennsylvania strategic plan](#), we advocate to support a quality system of public education, and one component is support for a fair and adequately funded system of public education.

Public education advocates have a critical role to play in demanding action and then holding state lawmakers accountable for ensuring that all schools receive adequate and equitable funding to meet our children's educational needs.

We MUST raise awareness of the school funding problem in our communities and demand action from every branch of government.

Resources

<https://www.pubintl.org/cases-and-projects/school-funding-lawsuit/>

https://www.elc-pa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/faq_schoolfundinglitigationfinal.pdf

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

podcast -- <https://www.fundourschoolspa.org/news/check-out-the-trailer-for-underfunded-inside-the-fight-to-fairly-fund-public-schools-in-pa>

AAUW Golf Outing

Windber Country Club
Monday July 12th, 2021



The **American Association of University Women** is dedicated to advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Founded in 1923, AAUW Johnstown Branch is a 501c3 charitable organization that awards four scholarships to local high school students annually and funds endowed scholarships at both UPJ and Penn Highlands Community College. The Branch has also provided free STEM events for middle school students and established a partnership with the Cambria County Library to continue STEM events. A literacy program is also offered through local schools.

Registration @ noon, Shotgun Start @ 1:30, Four Person Scramble, Dinner @ 6:00

PRIZES

1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Teams
Longest Drive, Longest Putt and Closest to Pin
1st Hole in One on #2 Wins \$1000

ADD ONS

50/50
\$30 Combo:
Mulligans, Powerball, Raffle Ticket

SPONSORS/DONATIONS

Diamond Event Sponsor \$5000:
2-Foursome Registrations, Event Banner,
Cart Signs, Social Media, Hole Sign
Registration & Dinner Recognition

Gold Sponsor \$2500:
2-Foursome Registrations,
Social Media, Hole Sign
Registration & Dinner Recognition

Silver Sponsor \$1000:
1-Foursome Registration, Social Media
Hole Sign, Registration Recognition

Bronze Sponsor \$500:
Social Media, Hole Sign,
Registration Recognition

Hole Sponsor \$100

All other Donations:
Registration Recognition

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

(Includes: Golf, Lunch, Dinner and Gift Bag)

Individual (\$125) Name: _____

Foursome (\$500) Names: _____

Foursome and Hole Sponsor \$600

Sponsor Name: _____

Checks for registration, sponsorships and
donations payable to:

Johnstown Branch AAUW
510 Village Street,
Johnstown, Pa 15902

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: (814)201-1373
Email: aauwjohnpa1@gmail.com

Registration Deadline: June 30th, 2021