



Inclined to AAUW



November/December, 2021

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*AAUW  
Christmas Luncheon*

Our Christmas Luncheon is Back! It's scheduled for **Saturday, December 4, Noon, at The Balance Restaurant**. Come and enjoy the food, fellowship, and a Garden Club Program on Christmas Decorating. Guests are welcome at this function. **The price is \$22 per person payable to Johnstown Branch AAUW. Send to Claire Montoya, 510 Village St., Johnstown, PA 15902.**

**Complete the reservation form below and send with check to Claire Montoya by November 15, 2012.**

*Menu*

*Family style: coffee, tea included*

*Appetizer: party meatballs with marinara  
Winter salad  
Italian Roasted chicken  
mixed vegetables  
baby potatoes  
tarragon nachos  
dessert cake*

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Member name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Total attending : \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Joyce Radovanic

## Meet our New Members!

**Joyce Radovanic** has been retired from Pitt-Johnstown since May, 2020, after working at the university for 38 years. I started as a part time clerk in the Business Office but throughout the years, I moved to different departments and ended my career as executive director of auxiliaries. I've made precious life-long friends with staff, faculty, and many former students.

While working, I became a non-traditional student and earned my bachelor's degree in English Literature. It was a great privilege to work and learn in such a beautiful environment.

I'm a volunteer for Visit Johnstown and am in the process of becoming a volunteer for Interim Hospice. Joining AAUW has been a great experience for me.

I've been married for nearly 48 years, live in Salix, and have two adult children who live in the Johnstown/Ebensburg area. But I'm most proud of my seven amazing grandchildren who call me, "Nanny."

**Kristie Murray.** I am a wife and mother of four. Last September I became a first time Grandma, which is more exciting than words can convey. I have been a nurse for 28 years and just recently obtained my School Nurse Certification. After working at Conemaugh Hospital for 27 years, this fall I will become the School Nurse for the Richland School District.



Kristie Murray

My daughters and I are actively volunteers in our church nursery. Crafting and scrap-booking are two of my favorite things to do in my spare time. I have been a Pampered Chef Consultant for two years and love to meet new people through my business. My husband and I like to go to concerts together and our family loves to vacation and travel to new places.



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

A big Thank You to all who have helped with the fall collection: those who pick up books from our collection boxes and those who help to sort and pack them. Our goal is to have another successful Used Book Sale in August 2022. So be ready to help again in the spring when we have the spring collection. . The annual book sale continues to be our primary fund raising activity. Our scholarship program depends upon it. And success depends on you. Again, Thanks.



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

It was brought to my attention that our branch newsletter inaccurately named the **Joyce Murtha Breast Care Center** and the **Windber GYN** associates who were generous hole sponsors for our July 12<sup>th</sup> golf outing.

My apologies were graciously accepted by those organizations.

Thank you to Madeline Gyure who noticed the errors. All members are welcomed to inform me of any such mistakes in the newsletter.

## Used Jewelry for Sale!

By Georgia Yeager ([gayeager@gmail.com](mailto:gayeager@gmail.com))

Most of us, during a long year of pandemic, didn't get out of our comfy clothes let alone dress up with jewelry. So, now that we are socializing again, it's time to dig through your jewelry



box (or boxes!), and decide which pieces you will save and which pieces you no longer need. **Donate your cast-off "bling" to our AAUW jewelry sale.**

Our Branch is looking for donations of gently used jewelry – clasps and pins in working order – to sell at the holiday market at the **Galleria Mall, November 19, 20, and 21**. All pieces will be five dollars. It's a simple sale, and organizations who have done this in the past say it has been very successful.

You can give your jewelry donations to Eileen Tweed, Doris Leidy, Claire Montoya, or Georgia Yeager. If you can't get the jewelry to us, we can pick it up if you just call. All donations should be received by November 1. (Our earlier request for donations by Oct. 26 was based on a sale date of November 5. Now with the change of sale dates, we have a little more time.)

In the holiday spirit, please volunteer to work the table at the Galleria. Call Georgia Yeager to volunteer your time on one or more of the three days. The work is easy – just sit at the table and collect five-dollar bills! Help us turn those unused treasures into cash for Branch operation and scholarships.

We send a big thank-you to Ann Fattman for the jewelry sale idea.

## Named Gift Award

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

Every year we chose an outstanding member to be designated as the Johnstown Branch recipient of the Named Gift Award. This award is possible because of a \$500 donation that our branch makes to the National Organization.

This year we wish to honor all of the women who are our Branch Honorary Life Members. These people have continued their membership for 50 years or more. The group **includes Sarah Ashman, Margaret Barron, Heather Brice, Anne Fattman, Dorothy Glass, Rose Mary Hagadus, Maryann Minahan, Adelle Picking, Leora Rager, and Florence Warfel.**

Congratulations to these faithful members.

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

By Doris Leidy ([dorisleidy19@gmail.com](mailto:dorisleidy19@gmail.com))

**November 29 at 6:30 p.m.**

THIS WILL BE A ZOOM MEETING so watch your email for the information about linking into this program.

Program: Kristen Villarrial will be speaking about the Cambria County Backpack Project.

**December 4. Noon at Balance Restaurant,**  
Main Street, Johnstown

Program: presented by the Johnstown Garden Club

# Membership Corner



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

Welcome, Fall!!

## BE OUR GUEST MEMBERSHIP EVENT

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021 6:30-8:30PM**  
**BOTTLEWORKS: 3rd Ave Jtown PA**

**RSVP by FRIDAY, October 29 to Shellby Custer (814)242-1125 or [shellbyc@aol.com](mailto:shellbyc@aol.com)**

This is our annual membership event to celebrate our members, and to invite members of the community to join our organization. Please invite a friend whom you think would enjoy our membership to BE OUR GUEST! Anyone who attends and joins by the end of November will be eligible for the SHAPE THE FUTURE discount!!

Look forward to seeing all of you there.

Anyone interested in bringing wine, cheese, crackers, sweets, etc. please let me know when you RSVP.

All should have received the Membership Directory. Please Shellby with any questions or corrections.

Please look for the new member profiles for information about our newest members.



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

The dining group has resumed our monthly outings. In October we experienced Kabuki Japanese Cuisine. It was so good to be back together. Each month will be a different restaurant so that we can explore all that the area has to offer. It is hoped that more of you will join us throughout the year. Do bring a spouse, friend or neighbor. This is a relaxed social evening Plan to join us in November. Time and place will be announced soon.



June 3-5 are the dates for the 2022 AAUW PA State Convention.

Our next statewide meeting is the AAUW Pennsylvania State Convention, June 3-5, 2022, at the Central Hotel & Conference Center, Harrisburg. More information about concurrent sessions and speakers will be shared throughout the coming months.



## Find us....

AAUW PA-Johnstown Branch

**Website:** [aauwjohntown.org](http://aauwjohntown.org)

**Pictures:** [www.flickr/photos/aauwjohntown/albums](http://www.flickr/photos/aauwjohntown/albums)

**Email:** [aauwjohnpa1@gmail.com](mailto:aauwjohnpa1@gmail.com)

## President's Report

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

Rounding out a very busy summer, your Branch Board met in late August for a marathon and productive meeting. The minutes of the meeting will be available on our website, but I want to focus on some of the actions that were taken.

First, the recently formed Finance Committee tackled the long-standing business of a possible investment with the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies. After reviewing information from several meetings with CFA staff, the Committee recommended to the Branch Board that the Branch invest \$15,000 in an endowed fund which will grow to establish at least one of our traditional \$1,500 AAUW scholarships in perpetuity. The Board accepted this recommendation and added an additional \$15,000 in an un-endowed fund, which will earn interest at the same rate as the endowed fund but is available for us to use for scholarships and other mission related expenses. These motions were passed unanimously. A lengthier explanation is included in the Branch Board Minutes.

The Finance Committee also developed and passed a Branch Financial Policy which may also be viewed on our website. In brief, it expands checks and balances on spending, and lays out the duties of the Finance Committee. If COVID taught us anything, it is to plan for the unplanned! The Board also passed a resolution in support of the Pennsylvania School funding litigation for fair funding. A copy of this resolution will be sent to our local State Legislators.

Paula Tomko has volunteered to manage the application for the 5 Star Program for the Branch in 2022.

Committees have been active as well, as I am sure that you will read in other articles in this newsletter. Many upcoming activities are covered elsewhere in the newsletter, but a few others to keep in mind are:



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

**In 2023 AAUW,  
Johnstown Branch  
celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary!!!!**

Those of you who were able to attend the September membership meeting heard all the exciting ideas and enthusiasm around the plans to celebrate.

Several members have already volunteered to form a committee to plan the event(s) and will be contacting you for assistance. Here's to another 100!

## March: Women's History Month

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

A Facebook blitz for Women's History Month, featuring local women owned businesses on our Branch Facebook page daily. We will begin with those businesses who have supported the Branch golf tournament and other fundraisers. We will be in touch with the Chamber of Commerce for a list of women owned businesses in their records.

Please, if you know of a woman owned business that you would like to see featured, please contact Kathy Howanek. We will need their permission to feature them on our page and some information about the business.



## Write - Read - Write

By Heidi Staib ([staibfam@aol.com](mailto:staibfam@aol.com))

The Literacy Committee is ready to kick off our 2021-2022 Write/Read/Write program. Conemaugh Township Fourth graders have written letters to our members. Since our next two General Membership meetings will be held on Zoom, we will have letters available at other events:

**Nov. 4, 2021 - Be Our Guest Event**

**Nov. 19-21, 2021 - Used Jewelry Sale**

**Nov. 11, 2021 - Books at the Boulevard**

**Nov. 9, 2011 - Second Tuesday Book Club**

I would also be happy to mail letters to members who cannot make those events. Please call Heidi Staib at (814)341-4380.

We ask that each member only buy their pen pal one book. Please wrap the book and attach your friendly letter to the wrapping. Please bring your book to the Christmas Luncheon on December 4, 2021. (I would be glad to pick up books from members who cannot attend.) Thank you so much for participating in this worthwhile event.

## Welcome to a New Member!



Andrea Santoro

**Andrea Santoro** I live in Westmont with my husband Dan. We have 2 pets, Zombie is our lovable dog and Rudy is our Princess Cat. She rules the animal kingdom in our house! I am relatively new to the Johnstown area. My husband and I met on a blind date and 2 years later we were married. My husband is a professor at UPJ and it made sense for me to move here, since I was planning on retiring from teaching within 5 years. I love living here, it's quiet and friendly and our backyard views the mountains and the lovely cemetery.

. I grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia, in Wayne. I went to PSU and studied Family and Consumer Science Education. I am recently retired from teaching FCS for 32 years, 27 of those from Derry Area School District. I also taught FCS at West Greene School District and Corry Area School District.

I enjoy traveling to see family. My 2 children from my 1st marriage are both married and soon will all be living in the Pittsburgh area. My husband and I have families in 5 different states and enjoy visiting when we can. I also enjoy reading, baking, and sewing. I volunteer at Laurel View Village.

Thanks to my friend, Nina, for inviting me to join your organization.



## Remembering...

By Eileen Tweed and Georgia Yeager

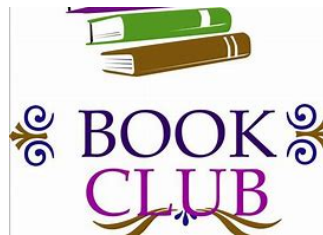
In July, AAUW lost a champion of not just women's rights, but the rights of all people. Bonnie Pekich passed away on July 16, 2021, after a short illness. Bonnie was a quiet, generous member interested in opportunities for women on both the local and national levels. She believed in the work of National AAUW: providing fellowships for women, fighting for equity through legislative avenues, and promoting inclusion at all levels of the organization. If you didn't know Bonnie, it was because she didn't always attend social events, but she worked quietly for the things she believed in. She advocated for voting rights by supporting Fair Districts PA and rallying in Harrisburg for redistricting. She worked the election by encouraging people to register to vote when AAUW had its Get Out the Vote table at the library. She supported AAUW legislative action at the state and national levels to insure women's rights.

Bonnie entered college as an adult and single mother of three children. Because of her experiences, she especially supported AAUW's mission to advance and promote education and equal opportunities for women and girls. She participated with book sale activities that raised money for our scholarship program. She also was generous with donations to our various baskets, and she was often a hostess providing refreshments for our meetings. Bonnie will certainly be missed.

### Books at the Boulevard

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

Books at the Boulevard continues to meet in person at the Boulevard Grill. We have been enjoying good books, good food, and great company!



Each book has offered interesting discussion and insights. The month of October we read *Full Throttle* by Joe Hill. This led to interesting discussion about the senses and how we experience our books.

We will continue to meet at the Boulevard Grill the **second Thursday of each month at 6pm**. Anyone wishing to attend/join us please let me or Pat Gryzbicki ([dsap@atlanticbb.net](mailto:dsap@atlanticbb.net)) know so that we can add you to our reservation.

Here are the upcoming books:

**November:** *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel (lead by Anna Anntemann)

**December:** *The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus* by L. Frank Baum (Led by Beth Thomas)

Members are asked to bring new book suggestions to the November meeting to set the course for 2022!

Again, anyone wishing to attend, please let us know so that we can make the proper reservation at the restaurant. Hope to see you there!!

## American Women Quarters™ Program

Thank you to Paulette Solomon for bringing this U.S. Mint article to our attention!



The American Women Quarters Program is a four-year program that celebrates the accomplishments and contributions made by women to the development and history of our country. Beginning in 2022, and continuing through 2025, the U.S. Mint will issue up to five new reverse designs each year. The obverse of each coin will maintain a likeness of George Washington, but is different from the design used during the previous quarter program.

The American Women Quarters may feature contributions from a variety of fields, including, but not limited to, suffrage, civil rights, abolition, government, humanities, science, space, and the arts. The women honored will be from ethnically, racially, and geographically diverse backgrounds. The Public Law requires that no living person be featured in the coin designs.

The American Women Quarters Program is authorized by the Circulating Collectible Coin Redesign Act of 2020 ([Public Law 116-330](#)).

The distinguished American women celebrated on the 2022 quarters will be:

- [Maya Angelou](#) – celebrated writer, performer, and social activist
- [Dr. Sally Ride](#) – physicist, astronaut, educator, and first American woman in space
- [Wilma Mankiller](#) – first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation
- [Nina Otero-Warren](#) – a leader in New Mexico's suffrage movement and the first female superintendent of Santa Fe public schools

### Public Policy Committee Needs Members

By Paula Tomko ([aauwpaulatomko@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpaulatomko@gmail.com))



The Public Policy Committee is looking for new members to help with the projects that we have in the works.

- We always need members who are willing to send post cards and write to our legislators about AAUW and AAUW PA public policy priorities. The members of the post card and letter writing team are integral in letting our legislators know about what is important to the organization and our members.
- We need members who are willing to meet with and talk to our legislators and local leaders about our priorities.
- We need members who are willing to help register voters and help GET OUT THE VOTE! As we know, voting rights are under attack and we need everyone's help making sure our right to vote is not taken away.
- We need members to help with Public Policy programming. This programming is in addition to the programming the Program Committee already has scheduled.

Please contact anyone on the Public Policy Committee - Paula Tomko, Deanna Haddle, Laryssa Duncan, Shellby Custer, Paula Shively – and let us know what you are interested in working on or if you would like to join us. The Public Policy Committee meets in local restaurants on weekends for lunch or brunch or via Zoom on week nights.



# THE AAUW PROGRAM

By Paula Tomko ([aauwpaulatomko@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpaulatomko@gmail.com))

In 2019, AAUW came out with the Five Star Recognition Program, which rewarded branches and state affiliates for aligning their work with the AAUW Mission. The program was designed to promote cohesion between AAUW national, the states, and the branches.

The original Five Star Program ended in June 2021 and was a success. In fact, eleven branches in PA received recognition in the 2021 Five Star Program.

In June 2021, AAUW National refreshed the program. The new Five Star Program runs from July 2021 to June 2022. There are five categories: Advancement, Public Policy & Research, Governance & Sustainability, Programs, and Communications & External Relations.

## **Advancement – Achieve 3 of the 5 criteria listed**

1. Raise \$30 per member for FY22 towards the Greatest Needs Fund
2. Increase contributions to the Greatest Needs Fund by 25% over the previous year
3. Retain 90% of Branch Membership
4. Increase Legacy circle Membership by 10%
5. Make Branch contributions to the Greatest Needs Fund in honor of AAUW's 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## **Public Policy & Research**

1. Appoint a branch public policy chair that collaborates with the state public policy chair
2. Conduct an annual meeting with a member of Congress, Governor, or a member of their staff, around a strategic plan focus
3. Host at least one event where there is an opportunity to sign up for the Action Network

## **Governance & Sustainability**

1. Branch Board institutes a succession plan
2. Branch Board Develops and uses a strategic plan that aligns with AAUW National Strategic Plan
3. Appoint a Diversity Officer to lead diversity and inclusion planning

## **Programs**

1. Host at least four (4) mission-based programs that align with the AAUW national strategic plan, of which two (2) of the programs focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Also collaborate with another branch on a program.

## **Communications & External Relations**

1. All existing website and social media accounts have at least 3 – 5 postings with a diversity, equity, and inclusions (DEI) focus



## Welcomes New CEO, Gloria L. Blackwell

On behalf of the Board of Directors of AAUW, I'm thrilled to announce that Gloria L. Blackwell will be the new Chief Executive Officer of the organization, effective October 18, 2021.

Gloria currently serves as AAUW's Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer and has extensive experience leading within the organization. She's managed and expanded AAUW's esteemed fellowships and grants program—awarding more than \$70 million in funding to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and abroad. She's spearheaded innovative programs, including the award-winning salary negotiation workshops, which have reached more than 190,000 women nationwide.

Gloria initiated and built partnerships with major funders, local governments and institutes of higher education. And she has significantly expanded the organization's outreach to girls and women of color. But most of all, Gloria has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to AAUW's vision of achieving equity for all.

Before joining AAUW 17 years ago, Gloria worked at the Institute of International Education (IIE) in Washington D.C., leading and managing girls' education programs in Africa and mid-career fellowships for global professionals. She began her career as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Cameroon and was the Country Desk Officer at the D.C. headquarters for five Sub-Saharan countries.

Talented, thoughtful and passionate about AAUW's mission, Gloria is the right leader at the right time. The Board has complete confidence in her ability to steer the organization through rapidly changing and challenging times in our country and to tackle new (and age old!) obstacles to gender equity.

We feel grateful and privileged that such an exceptional executive has accepted our invitation to lead our organization into the future. Please join us in congratulating and warmly welcoming Gloria Blackwell to her new role as AAUW CEO.



### Casmir Cultural Center Events

**Nov. 4, 2021** – “An Evening of the Macabre”. 7PM

**Nov. 6, 2021** - first designated time for the public to visit, tour and experience the grandeur of Casimir and its permanent art collection.

Private Tours on other dates can be arranged, but must be scheduled at least one month in advance to ensure availability. For groups, these tours can also include Stella's other properties and a catered meal if desired. If you would like to be part of an AAUW tour, call Deanna Haddle 814-659-1682.

Go to : [Events and Tickets – CASIMIR CULTURAL CENTER \(casimirjohnstown.com\)](https://www.casimirjohnstown.com)

# TREASURER'S REPORT

By Claire Montoya ([rmont1931@aol.com](mailto:rmont1931@aol.com))

## AAUW Johnstown Financial Statement

	August 2021	Year to Date	
BALANCE ON DEPOSIT JULY 1, 2021			47,082.51
<b>INCOME</b>			
Book Sale	8,859.00	9,259.00	
Fundraising	0.00	3,327.00	
Grants	0.00	0.00	
Donations	50.00	50.00	
Dues	143.00	472.00	
Local Dues	3.00	12.00	
Interest	.58	.99	
Amazon Smile	17.84	17.84	
Miscellaneous	67.00	478.50	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		9,140.42	13,617.33
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
President	0.00	67.96	
Membership	0.00	182.45	
Programming	0.00	0.00	
Fundraising	87.50	4,844.09	
Communication	0.00	28.99	
Education	0.00	0.00	
Treasurer	0.00	300.00	
Book Sale	743.61	743.61	
Special Projects	0.00	0.00	
Dues	216.00	545.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>		1,047.11	6,712.10
<b>BALANCE ON DEPOSIT</b>			
Checking		16,753.19	
Savings		37,234.55	
<b>TOTAL ON DEPOSIT TO DATE</b>			53,987.74



### The Balance Restaurant Donates via AAUW Charity Mocktail!

During September The Balance Restaurant mixologist, Patrick Riley created and sold the AAUW Suffragette Mocktail. AAUW earned \$1 for every Mocktail purchased. Many of us enjoyed this special mocktail during our September Thirsty Thursday Event.



The picture shows Patrick Riley presenting Deanna Haddle with a check for \$150. Our thanks to The Balance Restaurant for the donation and the FUN!



## A "THANK YOU" FROM PHCC SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

American Association of University Women (AAUW), Johnstown Branch Scholarship

Dear AAUW,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to your organization for making the AAUW scholarship possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor, and I am deeply appreciative of your support.

I am currently working to obtain my bachelor's degree in accounting. While it has been a long road in accomplishing my dreams, I know that it will be well worth it in the end. The financial assistance the scholarship has provided will be a great help to me in paying my educational expenses, while also allowing me to focus more of my time on my academics and family.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. You can rest assure that I will continue to work vigorously to complete my degree so in the future I am able to offer assistances to other women like myself.

Sincerely,

Teresa Marion



## AAUW Public Policy Priorities

By Paula Tomko ([aauwpaulatomko@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpaulatomko@gmail.com))

Every two years, AAUW updates their public policy priorities. In May 2021, they adopted the following priorities which need the organization's immediate focus.

We will be focusing on:

- Supporting a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity, and inclusivity, and which addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls.
- Achievement of economic security for all women.
- Guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society.
- Commitment to addressing systematic racism.
- Equitable higher education for all.
- Importance of high-quality data collection.

To learn more about the AAUW national priorities, please visit the AAUW website at:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/>

To learn more about AAUW Pennsylvania's public policy priorities, please visit the AAUW PA website at: <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/public-policy-priorities-proposal/>