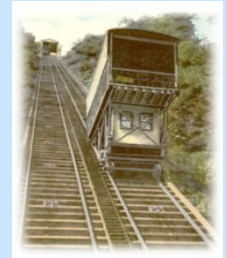




Inclined to AAUW



January/February, 2023

Volume XXIX, No. 14 Page 1



A Lovely Christmas Luncheon

By Valerie Grash (vgrash@pitt.edu)

The Boulevard Grill's Speakeasy served as the perfect backdrop for our Holiday Luncheon on Dec 4, fully decked out with lovely Christmas decorations to set the ideal mood. Thirty-six attendees enjoyed the intimate setting, good food, and excellent service.

It was so nice to socialize in such a relaxed atmosphere, relishing pre-meal drinks, conversation, and plenty of laughs. Before we tucked into the buffet, a moment of silence was offered for the people of Ukraine and for the ailing Dr. Joe Carney who was much missed.



After the meal, Membership Chair Shellby Custer recognized Heather Brice for her 50 years of membership with a framed certificate.

Led by Program Chair Valerie Grash, we also tested our brains with a round of Christmas trivia, with our own "Vanna White", Joyce Radovanic handing out prizes to the victresses.

Festive themed baskets (one each for tea, coffee, hot cocoa, and wine) were also raffled off, as was a gift certificate for the Boulevard's Sunday Brunch for two (worth about \$50) generously donated by our banquet host, Don Kasprzyk.



Many thanks go out to the Program Committee members who helped put together the baskets and the luncheon.

We collected \$353 in donations for the Literacy Council from our generous members. Happy Holidays!





JANUARY 2023 President's Message

By Kathy Howanek (khowanek@hotmail.com)

Happy Anniversary year to us!! Keep watching for updates on our celebration that launches in a few short months.

In other news, the PA President's Counterpart group had a Zoom meeting on November 21, 2022. PA President Cindy Hall began the meeting by asking branch presidents to remind their members to read the **Keystoner**, the state newsletter. All members who use email receive a link for the **Keystoner** and Deanna will start sending a paper copy to those who do not. I encourage reviewing the **Keystoner** throughout the month, as well as our own **Inclined to AAUW**. Deanna does a great job trying to keep all pertinent information at our fingertips! The **Keystoner** would also appreciate input from branches on local activities, especially book group suggestions.

Public Policy, Program and Convention chairs also addressed the group.

AAUW PA will begin work on a new strategic plan in January. If any branch members are interested involvement in this endeavor, you may contact Cindy Hall.

General discussion centered on membership recruitment and retention as well as leadership development. The State Retreat in 2023 will be held **April 14-16 in Gettysburg** and will address these issues. There will also be presenters from the Park Service featuring programs such as the role of women in the Civil War. This is expected to be a very well attended retreat and I will have more information in the near future.

As we discussed recruitment and retention, the topic of Student Affiliates was raised. Several other branches were in the midst of applying for such a group, but there is no support from National for these initiatives. Our branch board will look at alternatives at our January meeting. Leadership teams were also discussed, and many branches use them as we do for fundraising.

You may anticipate discussion of some of these topics at our February membership meeting.

Finally, COVID numbers are on the rise again as we spend more time at indoor gatherings. That combined with a variety of viruses and generally dicey Western PA weather, remember that Zoom remains an option for use by any committee or book group. Just let me know and I'll arrange a meeting time. Meanwhile, stay warm and interested!!!



Please check out our FaceBook Page:

[https:// AAUW-Pa Johnstown Branch | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AAUW-Pa-Johnstown-Branch)

and our website

<http://aauwjohnstown.org>

Memership Corner

By Shellby Custer (shellby@aol.com)

WELCOME to our newest member, **Carol Keppe!** Please reach out to her, and introduce yourself.

Please start thinking about membership recruitment ideas as we approach the New Year, and our 100th year as a Branch. Send names of individuals you believe would be active members and are interested in our organization. Anyone interested in Membership, please contact me as well.

Please use your 2022-23 Membership Directory to reach out to other members and to find dates and times for upcoming meetings and events. The upcoming member meetings and events are listed in there, as well as a directory of all our members. (Please contact me directly if there are any errors so that I may correct them.)



Joe Carney

Sadly, on December 4, 2022, our branch lost long time member and friend, Joseph Carney. While the yearbook lists Joe's membership as beginning in 2021, in truth Joe has been a member in spirit and effort for much longer. As husband of member, Mary Hays Carney, Joe was a regular at dining group and a welcome guest at branch social functions.

Many of us know him as a result of his tireless work over the years in support of the book sale. He was book sorter, stacker and transporter. At book sorting, we experienced Joe as a raconteur with a dry wit, a book critic with great recommendations and a "true southern gentleman." The illness which took Joe was thankfully brief, but his time among us not nearly long enough.

Godspeed, friend.



Dining Group by Ann Furlong (akfurlong@verison.net)

The dining group had a lovely meal at Asiago's on December 14. Plans for the next two months are: **January 18 we will meet at The Haven Lounge**, 117 Langhorne Avenue at 5:45. On **February 15 we will be at The Franklin Street Bar and Grill**, 751 Franklin Street.

Do plan to join us for a relaxed evening. Friends and spouses and visitors and all are most welcome.



Thirsty Thursday

By Kenna Raymond
(kennaraymong@gmail.com)

Because of the notorious bad weather during January and February, it was decided to postpone Thirsty Thursday meetings until April.
See you then!



By Deanna Haddle (jdhadd1@gmail.com)

AAUW's mission does not specifically include community service, but advocacy for inclusion and intersectionality begs for our organization to be a bigger presence in the community.

In one of our latest newsletters co-president Kathy Howanek asked for a member to lead a Community Service Committee. No one has stepped up; but I believe we can still accomplish this task.

Many of you are already involved in community service through your church, work or other organizations. If you notify me of a community outreach program (not fundraising), I will email members and ask if they are interested in participating in that event. Along those lines, I have contacted Kristen Villarria of the Backpack Project for a date that perhaps we can help them.

Members wearing AAUW t-shirts or badges while working such activities would certainly enhance our presence in the community.

If you have information about such an event, please call be

814-659-1682.

JOHNSTOWN BRANCH CELEBRATES SUPER- CENTENARIAN

by Kathy Howanek (khowanek@hotmail.com)

Members of the Johnstown Branch recently showered member Sarah Ashman with cards on the event of her 110th birthday! Now living in Idaho with her daughter, Sarah joined the branch in 1950, having graduated cum laude from Bryn Mawr College in 1934. She was active in literature groups and hosted several meetings at her home.

In an interview with the *Johnstown Tribune Democrat*, Mrs. Ashman volunteered that while her hearing and sight are failing, "I have my brain, thank God." She uses her iPad daily to read the New York Times Digest and still does math puzzles.

An inspiration to us all, congratulations, Sarah!


By Nancy Miller
(carlnanmiller@verizon.net)



The Write/Read/Write books will be delivered to Conemaugh Valley the week of December 19th . Thanks to members who donated books. This project is a wonderful community outreach for our organization. Thanks to Heidi Staib for her dedication to the program.

Beginning in January we will be contacting the three schools in rotation for this year -Richland, Forest Hills, and GJCTC to begin the selection process.

The Scholarship/Awards Luncheon will be held at 1:00 PM Sunday, April 2, 2023 at Sunnehanna Country Club. Mark your calendars!



Books at the Boulevard

 By Shellby Custer (shellbyc@aol.com)

Holiday Greetings! Need to stay warm? Cuddle up with a good book, and join a Book Club!!

The last 2 months we enjoyed *11/22/63* by Stephen King and *The Immortal Nicholas* by Glenn Beck. Wonderful journeys though time.

Books at the Boulevard continue to grow and become an enjoyable space to discuss books, among many other subjects and topics. We continue enjoying good books, good food, and great company! Each book provides great entertainment and lively discussion.

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 Grzybicki (dsap@atlanticbb.net) know so that we can add you to our reservation.

Our booklist for the upcoming year (2023) is listed in the Membership Directory, and will appear in upcoming newsletters.

Here are the upcoming books for the next three months.

Again, anyone wishing to attend, please let us know so that we can make the proper reservations and arrangements

Date	Book	Author	Discussion Leader
January 12, 2023	<i>The Invisible Life of Addie Larue</i>	V.E. Schwab	Shellby Custer
February 9, 2023	<i>Madame Bovary</i>	Gustave Flaubert	Vanessa Bush
March 9, 2023	<i>American Dirt</i>	Jeanine Cummins	Madeline Guyer

50 Year Member!

Congratulations to Heather Brice, for her 50th year as an AAUW member.

We salute your presence and service to the Johnstown Branch AAUW! Your smile brightens our work!



Shellby Custer presents a 50 year member certificate to Heather Brice

AAUW Scholarship Winner at PHCC

By Georgia Yeager (gaveager@gmail.com)

In years past, the Johnstown Branch of AAUW endowed a scholarship at Penn Highlands Community College. The scholarship provides \$500 each semester, totaling \$1000 for the academic year in which it was awarded. PHCC awards the scholarship in the fall, and it is renewable in the spring.

This fall the AAUW Scholarship was awarded to Emma Martz, a student from Berlin, Somerset County. Emma is in her second year studying in the Early Childhood Education program. In addition to the AAUW scholarship, Emma has received the College Employee Sponsored Scholarship and the Board Sponsored Scholarship. She is described as an “emerging leader.”



Pictured at Penn Highlands are Beth Freedline, Executive Assistant to the President and Foundation; Georgia Yeager, AAUW Co-President; Emma Martz, scholarship recipient; and Dr. Steve Nunez, President of Penn Highlands Community College.

AAUW is glad that this future leader is able to benefit from the AAUW scholarship. Emma is more than happy to be studying at Pennsylvania Highlands. She says, “I tell people I don’t want to leave. I wish this were a four-year college.”

According to Dr. Steve Nunez, President of Penn Highlands Community College, “Emma is a bright student who is well liked by her peers, our staff, and faculty. Her hard work and dedication to academics have earned her these scholarships. We are very proud of her and look forward to observing her future successes.”

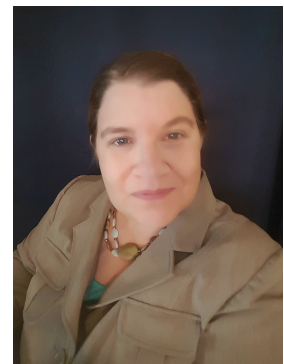
Beth Freedline, Executive Assistant to the President and Foundation, commented, “Penn Highlands provides an affordable and quality education. Couple that with scholarships from generous donors like AAUW and students are able to worry less about their tuition and focus more on their studies.”

Introducing...Dr. Debe Mack

I have spent my entire career in an area of healthcare; first as a trauma nurse, then administrator, to my current role as University Director of Health Science programs. To continue my professional development I also teach remotely, and develop curriculum & interactives, for a second university.

I recently moved from Florida, a lover of books, water & snow sports, live performances, and so much more!

I am pleased to be assisting with a few projects here at AAUW, and am looking forward to discuss ways to expand outreach, growing membership so others can enjoy all this group has to offer!



Dr. Debe Mack

We Need You!

By Georgia Yeager (gayeager@)

AAUW Johnstown Branch has an excellent level of membership and talent. In addition, there are many of you that are natural leaders. The Johnstown Branch needs your time and talents to help us flourish and maintain our level of excellence.

Here is how you can help!

1. **Step forward to lead the jewelry sale project.** The project is already set up, so you won't be starting from scratch! The jewelry, for the most part, is sorted, bagged, and in plastic bins just waiting to be carried to the sale site and set up on tables. The biggest job that the chair of this project would have to do is schedule workers – and we have never had any difficulty getting people to work at the sale. So, it's pretty easy! The project just needs one chair OR two or three people working as a team to carry this project forward. The profits are deposited in the Community Foundation to increase our level of investment in an endowed scholarship. **Jewelry Sale Chair or Co-Chairs – we need you!**

2. **Volunteer to chair the Finance Committee.** This committee meets only a couple times a year. It is next to no work at all. The biggest task of this committee chair is scheduling the internal audit of Branch finances in late July or early August. Those auditors are willing and able to do the job. They just need to be called by the chair. Also, the Finance Committee reviews the annual budget and recommends it to the Board. Again, the biggest task is emailing people to come to the meetings. The committee exists; it just needs a chairperson. **Finance Committee Chair – we need you!**

If you want to become more involved in your Branch by volunteering for one of these positions, contact Kathy (khowanek@hotmail.com) or Georgia (gayeager@gmail.com).

Recognizing Women Owned Enterprises

By Deanna Haddle (jdhadd1@gmail.com)

AAUW supports girls and women in our community in many ways. As another way of celebrating “Women’s History Month” in 2022, it was decided to spotlight a different Women Owned Enterprise on our Facebook page every day during the month of March.

A Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE) is defined as one that is at least 51% owned, operated and controlled on a daily basis by one or more female American citizens.

Fifty-six businesses were sent the necessary form to participate last year in this free publicity for their business. Some did not qualify for the WBE status.

We only had 13 respond by the deadline. The few that were late with their forms, will be on the this year’s list. Below is the list with which I will start:

ADORNED	JUST BREATHE	DARBOUZE LAW	CLEAR CONNECT LOGISTIC
CAMILLE’S HOUSE OF STYLE	AT MERCHANT	PEACED TOGETHER	JAKE’S RIB & GRILL
DONNA CHRISTOPHER INS	PARA-COAT TECH	BOUGLE HAIR CARE	CRAWDAC COMPUTER
VIBE FITNESS STUDIO	CELESTIAL BRIDES	THE RAMBLER	JLEHMAN INTERIORS
BATTER BAKESHOP	CUSTOM CAKES	FLOURISH MASSAGE	HAIR TARATORY
YOUNG AT HEART BOOKS	STACEY HICKMAN	SILVERMAN, TOKARSKY	BALANCE
CLASSIC ELEMENTS	JESSICA LYNN	CRUISE PLANNERS	EPIC JOURNEYS
SALLY SARGENT	SUPPES FORD	FRANKLIN ST GRILL	SALVATORE’S
ELEVATE	SIGN LANGUAGE SPEC	REPEAT BOTIQUE	CLIPTATIONS

Please email me any other business you think might be a WBE by January 15th and please share the WBE descriptions that will be on our Facebook page in March.



© Can Stock Photo

By Paula Tomko (aauwpaulatomko@gmail.com)

Sandra Miller, AAUW PA Public Policy Chair, and the State Public Policy Committee have been closely watching the activities in Harrisburg that have had an impact on our priorities since the election. With so much uncertainty about the leadership in the House of Representatives ([The fight over control of the Pa. House is Harrisburg high-stakes lunacy at its worst - Pennsylvania Capital-Star \(penncapital-star.com\)](https://www.penncapital-star.com)) it is unknown what will happen come January 3rd. We are part of coalitions working on many fronts from the Constitutional Amendments to Women's Health.

What we do know is that on **January 3rd**, there will be a rally organized by **Fix Harrisburg** from 11-12pm. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to this link. [Join the Movement for Redistricting Reform | Fair Districts PA](#)

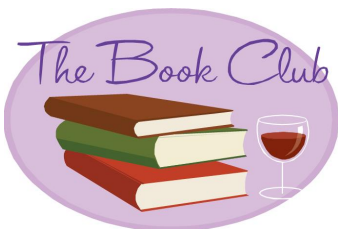
As a supporter of the coalition, we hope to have AAUW members hold signs with our logo on them in support of rule changes that will assist in our efforts to get our priorities up for a vote!

Second, we are patiently waiting to hear from the Commonwealth Court judge about the **School Funding Lawsuit**. This decision could come any day and we hope to have members participate in actions around the state to support our schools' need for adequate and equitable funding!

Third, on the federal side, we are looking forward to the signing of the **Respect for Marriage Act** that passed the House again and is heading to the President's desk. In addition, AAUW staff have been advocating for the passage of the **Pregnant Workers Fairness Act** and hopes that it can be passed in Senate by the end of the year. Please remind all members to join the Action Network for updates. We had a very interesting discussion regarding the **Equal Rights Amendment** and the work going on by the Equal Rights Amendment Coalition in Washington DC by one of our own, AJ Conroy.

If you are interested in the material that was shared, please reach out to Branch Public Policy Chair, Paula Tomko.

THE SECOND TUESDAY BOOK CLUB



The Second Tuesday Book Club will have Zoom meetings for January and February,

On January 10, 2023 at 1:00 PM the book will be *The Maid* by Nita Prose. *Fascism: A Warning by Madeline Albright* will be discussed on February 14, 2023 at 1:00PM

JANUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Harrisburg Rally 11 -12	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Tues Book Club ZOOM	11	12 Books @ Boulevard 6:00	13	14
15 Deadline for WBE referrals	16	17	18 Dining Club 5:45 The Haven	19	20	21
21	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Books @ Boulevard 6:00	10	11 AAUW Meeting 1 -3 Library
12	13	Tues Book Club  ZOOM	15 Dining Club 5:45 Franklin St Bar & Grill	16 Deadline for newsletter articles	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				