



# Inclined to AAUW

May/June, 2023

Volume XXX, No. 3

Page 1



Graphic by Dr. Debe Mack

## *Update on Celebrating 100 Years*

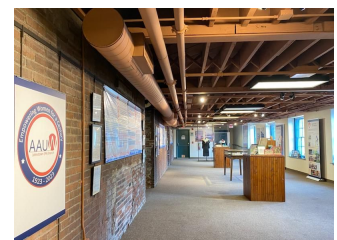
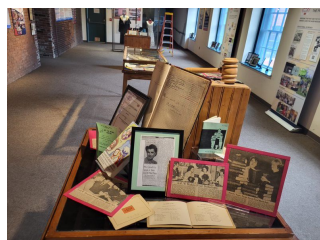
by Nina Girard, Chair of 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee  
[nina@pitt.edu](mailto:nina@pitt.edu)

Many thanks to those who were able to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception held as a kickoff to the official opening of our “AAUW Empowering Women for a Century” Exhibit at the Heritage Discovery Center on April 13. We had 44 members attend, as well as an additional 21 invited guests, spouses, and potential members. Attendees were able to walk through the exhibit, reminisce, and mingle among friends, while enjoying hors d’ oeuvres (provided by Flair of Country catering), drinks, and a 100-shaped cupcake cake (from Life’s a Treat bakery). We even had news coverage by WTJ-TV. A good time was had by all!

If you were unable to attend, you can still see the exhibit on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Gallery of the Discovery Center through June 5. The museum is open Mon-Fri from 9am-5pm and the exhibit is free to JAHA members or with museum admission.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Committee members worked tirelessly to organize and design the impressive exhibit. I would be remiss if I did not thank the following individuals in particular for their efforts: Kathy Howanek, Georgia Yeager, Shelby Custer, Valerie Grash, Madeline Gyure, Deanna Haddle, Debe Mack, Nancy Miller, Joyce Radovanic, Karen Rizzo, Andrea Santoro, Marianne Spampinato, and Eileen Tweed. And we worked with a very talented graphic artist, Krystal Whetzel, at RPM Signs.

More 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebratory events will be happening this year! In particular on October 18, the actual 100th Anniversary date of the first Johnstown Branch meeting, we will have a membership covered-dish dinner (just like they did in 1923) at the United Methodist Church on Franklin St. Details on that event will be coming soon.

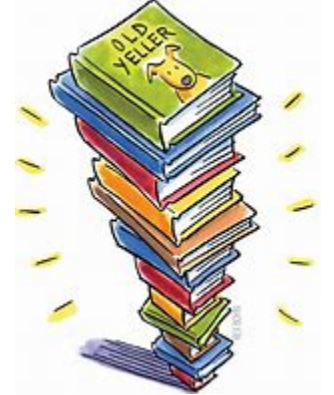




### Book Collection and Sorting

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

It is that time again! Book collection is underway. Which means that we have many boxes and bags to sort and pack. The Collection starts on May 4 and runs until June 4. Book sorting and packing will commence on May 8. We can always use more hands on sorting days which are Mondays and Thursdays from 1:00 until 3:00. So please consider learning a new skill if you haven't already!



And don't forget to mark your calendars for the week of August 7-12. Book Sale set up will be on Monday and Tuesday and the sale starts on Wednesday August 9. **GO, TEAM. GO!**

### AAUW Calling Committee 2023

by ShellbyCuster ([shellbycQ@aol.com](mailto:shellbycQ@aol.com))

ATTN CALLING COMMITTEE: Please use your 2022-23 Membership Directory to reach out to your assigned members. This is the pale orange booklet.

Please let the calling committee know if you prefer calls or text messages.

Calling Committee Member & Phone # Names to Call and Directory Page #

Mary Hays Carney (814-266-3852) Adams – Fattman P 9-11

Betty Dugan (814-255-6503) Furlong-Kirsch Pages 12-14

Mary Ann Minahan (814-288-3962) Lopez-Montoya Pages 15-16

Kenna Raymond (814-525-6916) Murray-Raymond Pages 17-18

Eileen Tweed (814-255-6208) Remick-Spampinato Pages 19-20

Georgia Yeager (814-255-3322) Staib-Yeager Pages 21-22

**NOTE:** If you are unavailable to make calls or texts; will be away or are sick and cannot make calls, please contact Shellby (814-242-1125) as back up.

### State AAUW PA Meeting

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

#### To All Currently Registered AAUW PA Members

Please attend the May 9<sup>th</sup>, 94<sup>th</sup> Annual AAUW PA Business Meeting.

This is a Zoom meeting scheduled for one hour .

When. May 8, 2023  
Time: 7:00 PM Eastern Time

Please register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUp>

[c-GggD4iHtN9LS6gKEA6zO5sY-SfdFzw](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98534542000)

### AAUW Dining Club

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

The Dining group continues to eat well and enjoy a different venue each month. On May 17<sup>th</sup> we plan to go to Primanti Brothers at 510 Galleria Drive and on June 21<sup>st</sup> to Graystone Homestyle Restaurant, 375 Theatre Drive. Time is 5:45. Remember that friends and family are always welcome.



# The President's Corner

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

We certainly had a successful Women’s History Month and are being rewarded with a lovely April! However, having lived in Western PA my entire life, I am still waiting for the other shoe (or snowflake) to drop. We just must keep our fingers crossed for good weather for our outdoor May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, our June 26<sup>th</sup> Golf Tournament, and the AAUW PA Summer Retreat on July 29<sup>th</sup> in Gettysburg.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the day of the retreat is Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup> but there are some activities on Friday evening before the retreat that you may want to enjoy. Just in case you did not save your copy of the most recent Keystoner, I am providing the link below.

This will give you all the retreat information and a link to register. Remember that the branch will cover the \$50 cost of registration. A block of rooms has been reserved at the reduced rate of \$149 per night. Members are responsible for lodging. Instructions for booking those rooms are also in the Keystoner. As Georgia mentioned last month, the AAUW PA retreats are really very good. Our branch is doing one of the breakout sessions on our Women Business Enterprise Facebook Blitz. Thanks to Deanna Haddle for ‘volunteering’ to take care of this!

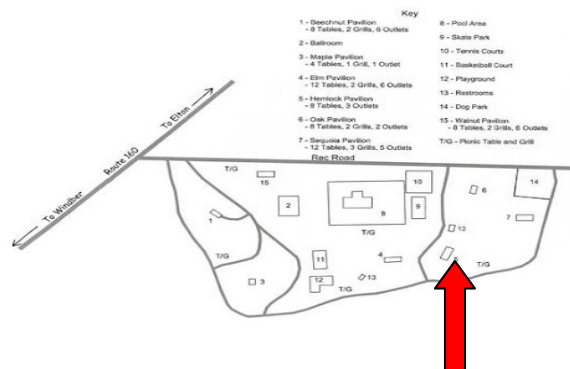
Here is the link—enjoy! <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net>



## Program Committee May Business Meeting/Potluck by Valerie Grash

Our annual May branch business meeting wraps up the 2022-2023 fiscal year—it’s time for elections and reflections, as well as for summer business like the golf tournament and book sale to be discussed.

What better way to mix business and pleasure than with a good, old-fashioned potluck dinner! We’ve reserved Hemlock Pavilion at Windber Recreation Park for **Monday, May 22**. Programming Committee members will be contacting everyone via email with more details soon, but let’s plan to gather at or before 5:00 p.m. to enjoy food and games; the business meeting will start at 6:00 p.m.





# Membership Corner

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

**DUES ARE DUE!!**

## PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING UPDATES AND CHANGES

Effective April 1, 2023 Annual DUES are **\$83** (\$72 for national, \$10 for state, and \$1 locally). Dues will be accepted thru June 30, 2023. **Effective July 1, 2023, State dues increase to \$12 (so \$85 total).**

You may also pay your dues online at AAUW.org. If choose to do this, please email me so that I know you did this... Thank you.

Checks should be made payable to: AAUW JOHNSTOWN BRANCH for **\$83**

Shellby Custer  
115 Melvin Street  
Johnstown, PA 15904

Please send names of individuals you believe would be active members and are interested in our organization. Anyone interested in the Membership committee or Calling committee, please contact me as well.



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

This is to recognize the generosity of our branch members. In 2022 you donated over \$800 dollars to the efforts of the National organization. This is in addition to the monies given by the Branch itself ie: Named gift award donation, and memorial donations.

We always need to be aware of the fact that we are part of a large charitable organization. National works tirelessly on behalf of women and girls. Our AAUW National organization has many projects such as legal case support, providing fellowships and grants, government relations and collegiate outreach.

Thanks to all of you who support not only the work of the Johnstown branch but the work of National also.

**“You cannot shake a hand with a clenched fist.”  
Indira Ghandi**



## BRANCH BOARD AWARDS STEM GRANT!

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

Upon receipt of a request from Forest Hills Robotics Club and consultation with AAUW PA officers, our Branch Board awarded it's first STEM grant! As you may have seen in the Tribune Democrat, a Forest Hills Robotics team advanced to the VEX Robotics World Championship competition in Texas.

The team is comprised of two female and two male students. One of the students, Paige Heilmann, participated in several of our STEM events in her elementary school years. The Board voted to award a \$500 grant to the team, which not only helped to enable the team to travel to the competition but allows us to have our logo displayed on their t-shirts and banners!

Upon return, Paige will write an article or our newsletter. It's nice to be back in the STEM business again!



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

On April 12 we all received an email from AAUW PA President, Cindy Hall, reminding us of the upcoming AAUW PA elections. The link to cast your ballot is below. Our branch has had good representation in the past, so let's keep it up!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023AAUW Election>

At our May 22 meeting, our membership will vote in person on the slate of officers presented by the nominating committee. For your consideration, the slate is as follows:

Treasurer: Claire Montoya  
 Membership VP: Dr. Debe Mack  
 Co-secretaries: Diana Price and Marion Shannon

A very heartfelt thanks to the nominating committee: Eloise Romano, Anne Fattman, and Madeline Gyure!



In honor of Women's History Month the Johnstown Branch AAUW donated woman/girl themed books to the Tween's Corner at the Cambria County Library. Pictured are (left to right) Deanna Haddle (AAUW), Leah Johncola (children's supervisor for the library) and Paulette Solomon (AAUW).

## GOLF TOURNAMENT NEWS



by Pat Grzybicki  
 (dsap@atlanticbb.net)

As I hope you know by now, the third annual AAUW Johnstown Branch Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, June 26, 2023 at Windber Country Club.

Thanks to all of you who have signed up to solicit donations or golfers, contribute gift baskets, gift cards, alcohol or other raffle items, and/or publicize the event. If you haven't done so yet, please consider helping our cause in any of the following ways:

- Procuring golfers (we would like to exceed last year's 14 teams)
- Obtaining hole or other sponsors
- Securing or donating raffle prizes (gifts cards, gift baskets, etc.)
- Donating liquor or wine for raffle prizes
- Obtaining golfer's gift bag goodies and/or helping to assemble them
- Publicizing the event by distributing or putting up flyers and/or trifolds
- 

Flyers, registration forms and sponsor letters can be obtained by contacting Deanna Haddle or Kathy Howanek. Questions may be directed to me or any Committee member\* listed below. Please help us to make this a wonderful fundraising event!

\*Pat Grzybicki, Madeline Gyure, Deanna Haddle, Kathy Howanek, Kenna Raymond, Eloise Romano, Georgia Yeager, Mary Kay Milavec, Robbin Hoffman

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

**AAUW Facebook**  
[AAUW-Pa Johnstown Branch | Facebook](#)



## Books at the Boulevard

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

Books at the Boulevard continue to meet in person at the Boulevard Grill. We 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](mailto:dsap@atlanticbb.net)) know so that we can add you to our reservation.

Here are the upcoming books

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

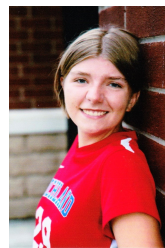
DATE	BOOK	AUTHOR	LEADER
May 11	<i>Before We were Yours</i>	Lisa Wingate	Karen Rizzo
June 8	<i>The Inheritance of Loss</i>	Kiran Desai	Carloyn Orr
July 13	<i>A Thousand Acres</i> <i>King Lear (optional)</i>	Jane Smiley Shakespeare	Georgia Yeager

## Scholarship Winners!

The Leora G. Scholarships were awarded on Sunday, April 2, at Sunnehanna Country Club. The awardees this year were Rylee Griffin from the Greater Johnstown Career & Technology Center, Eryn McEndree from Richland School District and Ryley Bier from Forest Hills School District.



Rylee Griffin



Eryn McEndree



Ryley Bier



Georgia Yeager, Claire Montoya, Nancy Miller

A great time was held by all as we honored all scholarship winners. We also celebrated Dr. Barbara Zaborowski's dedication to community by presenting her the AAUW Gateway to Equity Award.

Thank you to Nancy Miller, Joyce Radovonic, Eileen Tweed, Benice Adams, Claire Montoya, Georgia Yeager & Deanna Haddle



Kathy Howanek, Dr. Barbara Zaborowski



## Community Service

By Deanna Haddle ([ldhadd1@gmail.com](mailto:ldhadd1@gmail.com))

What fun...and a great community service. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, 15 AAUW volunteers packed 506 “backpacks” for the Back Pack Project.

We are willing to serve! Let us know if your church, or other organization needs “help” for a non-fundraising event

NOTE: The Back Pack Project needs plastic shopping bags. They can be deposited in a designated container in the lobby of The Learning Lamp on Bedford Street

## Welcome to New Member: Lisa Matson

Lisa holds a B.A. in English Literature and an M.L.S. from the University of Pittsburgh and a Ph.D. in Literature and Criticism from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She began her career as a reference librarian at Juniata College and at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. In 1994, she accepted a post at the United States Department of Justice National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) as Supervisory Librarian, and she was promoted to Analytical Research Unit Supervisor. Returning to higher education, she became Director of the Library at Mount Aloysius College. In 2003, Lisa went to work for Libraries for the Future, a national nonprofit based in Manhattan, with a 3 year grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to train public librarians on current technology. Lisa served under this grant as the Pennsylvania State Equal Access Program Coordinator. In 2010, Lisa published *Representations of Dante Gabriel Rossetti: Portrayals in Fiction, Drama, Music and Film*. Amherst, N.Y.: Cambria Press. Finally, Lisa was Academic Advising Coordinator and Humanities Instructor at Pennsylvania Highlands Community College.



Lisa is currently a board member of the Peer Empowerment Network (PEN). PEN provides services and community to people with mental illnesses. She loves to read and travel with her husband Robert. She loves to garden. In 2020, Lisa was elected by the congregation of Christ Lutheran Church to serve on the Church Council from January 2021 to January 2025. She tries to write every day. She has been a regular contributor to *The Review of the Pre-Raphaelite Society* beginning in 2011, and has started writing for the *Johnstown Magazine* in 2022. Lisa lives with her husband, Robert W. Matson and her mother, Joanne Dallape, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. You can read more about her and find her writing at [lisadallapematson.com](http://lisadallapematson.com)



## Josephine Romani



### *Memories of Jo Romani*

Whether behind the desk or in front of it, Jo was always involved in education!

As a young woman, Jo wanted to be a doctor. Her Italian born father wanted to send her to the best medical school in Italy. After being accepted and travelling to Italy, she began school only to discover that she could not stand the sight of blood! As Dad had paid for her travel to Italy, he told Jo she would have to fund her own way back! So, Jo found work as a translator at the Australian Embassy. Not only did she acquire the fare home, but a husband to bring home with her!

A stay-at-home Mom early on, Jo became involved in school matters, serving as PTA President. When her husband became ill, Jo, with her background in science, went back to school for a degree in Chemistry, a field outside the norm for women, but that didn't stop Jo! Her determination led to a 19-year career as a Chemistry teacher at Vo-tech. Joining AAUW in 1994, Jo willingly plunged right in and in short order (with some friendly persuasion from Anne Fattman and me) became Branch President.

#### **Lee Rager**

President of the Cypress Elementary PTA, Jo was on playground duty and came upon a child who had fallen and was being tended to by another "child." Jo approached the situation and said to the helper "You should get her teacher", whereupon first-year teacher **Claire Montoya** turned around and said, "I am her teacher!"

Many friendships cross decades, but some are so special that they cross careers, organizations and hobbies! This was the case with **Maryann Minahan** and Jo. They first met teaching at Vo-tech. Then Maryann invited Jo to join Delta Kappa Gamma, and Jo reciprocated by inviting Maryann to join AAUW! They played pinochle, were in book club and when Jo noticed that Maryann had Saturdays free, she filled them with Art League! A special friendship indeed!

Jo Romani and I had a special bond: we were both Chemistry teachers (both teaching at Vo-Tech at different times) and we were both Italian. We often shared stories of our teaching experience and our Italian heritage. She was such a caring and engaging person! Her presence at the book sales and the Tuesday Book Club was legendary. Riposa in pace, amica mia. **Deanna Haddle**





University of Pittsburgh  
at Johnstown

## LearningPLUS Program

Learning is a lifelong process that offers many rewards at all ages. For mature members of our community, we present the *LearningPLUS* Program. Participants are able to audit college classes at no charge (no grades are earned and no formal records are kept) . Whether you want to brush up on your accounting skills or learn more about the American Revolution, our *LearningPLUS* Program is the ideal way to make sure that your learning never ends.

### What's Available?

Qualifying individuals for the *LearningPLUS* Program are able to apply for most credit-bearing courses at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (the following courses are not eligible: computer science, physical education, or theatre).

To view course schedules, please visit the Registrar website [here](#). (*Course schedules are located in the lower right hand section.*)

### Application Procedure

Acceptance into the *LearningPLUS* Program is contingent upon course availability and instructor approval. In order to participate in the *LearningPLUS* Program, applicants must be at least 55 years of age or older (appropriate identification is required).

### [LearningPlus Program Application](#) (click here)

#### Application deadlines are:

Fall Term – August 1, Spring Term – December 1, Summer Term – April 15

Once your [application](#) has been approved, you will be notified by the Admissions Welcome Center. Applicants should not make direct contact with the instructor to inquire about their eligibility or acceptance into the program.

## ADMISSIONS

157 Blackington Hall  
814-269-7050  
Fax: 814-269-7044  
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Email: [upj admit@pitt.edu](mailto:upj admit@pitt.edu)  
Fall-Spring Hours: Monday-Friday,  
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM



## Thirsty Thursday by Kenna Raymond ([kennaraymond@gmail.com](mailto:kennaraymond@gmail.com))

Our May 4th Thirsty Thursday will be held at Trophies Bar & Grill at 5:00 PM at 1350 St. Clair Rd. Homestead Inn at 1930 Forest Hills Dr. Elton, will be the site of our June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Come and enjoy a drink, an appetizer or meal with fellow AAUW members. Bring a friend!

## One Book/ANOTHER COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY



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

Hi All

We were 15 strong at the Backpack Project on Monday and not only helped a worthy cause but had fun too! Next month provides another opportunity and it's one that several of us have volunteered for in the past.

Our Gateway to Equity Award winner, Dr. Barbara Zaborowski developed and has grown the "One Book" program for over a decade, to the point where over 1,200 students and their teachers are registered to participate this year. Students from all over the area, generally in grades 5 through 8, have read the same book and will meet in groups over the course of three days, May 15, 16, and 17. They will meet the author of the book and participate in a variety of activities related to the book topic. This year the book is "One Last Shot" by John Dean Anderson and the activity stations explore the science behind golf. Students also will have a chance to design their own mini-golf course and take a swing!

As guides, you will arrive at Penn Highlands Community College at 9:30, receive your assignment and then lead a group of students from station to station. Everything is well mapped out and operates very smoothly! Busses pick up the students at 1:30. Lunch is provided.

I have volunteered before and have signed up to do it again on Wednesday, May 17. I hope that some of you will join me on Wednesday, but if Wednesday doesn't work, Barb needs volunteers on Monday and Tuesday as well! I promise that you will enjoy the students and learn something as well!

Below is a link to register—let's make our second Community Outreach Project as successful as the first!

Thanks for considering,

Here is the link to register for One Book. I could use some group leaders everyday, but especially on Wednesday. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OBOC2023volunteers>



**VOLUNTEER TUNICS**

Since we are hoping for more volunteer opportunities and do want to advertise for our organization; Dr. Debe Mack has designed a tie-on tunic for the organization. Cost, color and size are still unknown. I will email the members once I have that information. Benefits: Can be worn with long sleeves and can be removed after the event.



**MAY 2023**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 JAHA exhibit until June 5th	2	3	4 Thirsty Thursday 5:00 Book Collection starts	5	6
7	8	9 PA AAUW Zoom Meeting 7:00 BK Club covered dish 12:00	10	11 Books @ Boulevard 6:00	12	13
14	15		17 Dining Club 5:45	18	18	20
21	22 Pot Luck Meeting 5:00	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**JUNE 2023**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Thirsty Thursday 5:00	2	3
4 Book Collection ends	5 End of JAHA exhibit	6	7	8 Books @ Boulevard 6:00	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Dining Club 5:45	22	23	24
25	26 Golf Event	27	28	29	30	

