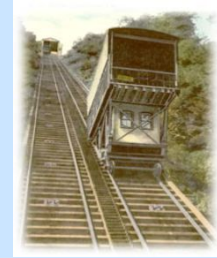




## Inclined to AAUW



May/June, 2024

Volume XXX, No. 3 Page 1

### *Gateway to Equity Award*

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

For her leadership in and dedication to public education and for serving as a strong role model for girls and women, the Johnstown Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) presented its 2024 Gateway to Equity Award to Dr. Amy Arcurio 5 p.m. on March 5 prior to the Johnstown School Board Meeting. The meeting was held at the administrative offices, 1091 Broad ST. 15906.

Dr. Arcurio has been an educational professional in the Johnstown area for over 20 years, the past five as the Superintendent of the Greater Johnstown School District. In this capacity, she has been in the forefront of efforts to establish fair and equitable funding for Pennsylvania's public schools, a public policy priority of AAUW. Under her leadership, Greater Johnstown was one of six low-income school districts who were plaintiffs in the successful lawsuit against the State of Pennsylvania in regard to the manner in which it pays for public education.

Described as a very hands-on superintendent, Dr. Arcurio attends most after-school functions. Additionally, she was instrumental in coordinating summer youth programs with the Flood City Youth Academy and the Alternative Community Resource Program. Dr. Arcurio was also a founding member of Women United, a branch of United Way of Southern Alleghenies which supports the core initiatives of Early Childhood Development and Parental Engagement. She has also served on the Board of Vision 2025 and was a founding member of the Cambria County Child Advocacy Center.



**AAUW member, Dr. Nina Girard, presents Dr. Amy Arcurio with the Gateway to Equity Award**

**Johnstown Branch AAUW Website**  
<http://www.aauwjohntown.org>

**The password to access the "members only" section is  
Ibelong21**



# A Time for Change

*A Time for Change*

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

The present co-chairs of the Annual Book Sale have held their positions since 2015. For the continued health and growth of the organization it is time for new leadership. We are looking for people willing to organize collection, schedule sorting and packing, set up the sale itself, be in contact with the Galleria management and attend to all the details that go into a successful sale. The sale works smoothly with a team approach. How many are on the team is up to you. Presently there are four named co-chairs but several more people who are indispensable. Please give this request serious consideration and be willing to step up and help.

The current co-chairs are open to working with the new team for a year if that would be helpful. Also a timeline can be created as a guide for what needs to be done and when. Thank you. You are the best!

Pat, Kathy, Georgia, Ann

## AAUW LitSTEM Donation to Cambria County Library

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



The Johnstown Branch AAUW celebrated Women’s History Month with a donation of LitSTEM activities and associated books/STEM kits to the children’s department at the Cambria County Library.

From left: Dr. Debe Mack, AAUW member and creator of the Lit STEM activities, Leah Johncola, CCL Children’s Coordinator, Deanna Haddle, AAUW member.



<https://www.facebook.com/paauw/>

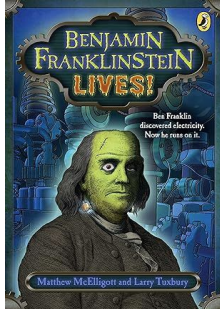
Cambria County Memory Project

[American Association of University Women |](#)  
[Cambria Memory Project](#)



# community Service

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



The Month of May brings a great community service opportunity for AAUW members. The One Book Program administered by Dr. Barbara Zaborowski at Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, Richland Campus. is a three day event involving 15 schools and 1300 students. The event is about a book that each student is given to read. On the day of their school's event the students get to meet the author and ask questions about the book. The students then go to various activities that are related to the book. They also get to have their book autographed by the author. Lunch is provided to volunteers.

This year's books is *Benjamin Franklin Lives!* by Matthew McElligott. Some of the activities (all related to Benjamin Franklin): Printing Press, Postage Stamp Magnets, Code Breaking, Glass Music, Fire Brigade, etc.

As a volunteer you can either lead a group of students from activity to activity or be part of an activity. Kathy Howanek, Madeline Gyure, Claire Montoya and I are just a few AAUW members who have attended in the past. Please ask them/me about their experiences. I found it to be a true joy! It is very organized and the students are very engaged. Please consider this very worthwhile event.

The event is being held **May 13, 14, 15, 2024 from 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. each day.** To register click this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OBOC2024volunteers>

The following middle schools are attending: **Monday** – Conemaugh Valley, Cambria Elementary, Jackson Elementary, Richland, Cambria Heights, Blacklick Valley. **Tuesday** – Central Cambria, Portage, Johnstown, Northern Cambria, St. Nicholas. **Wednesday** – Penn Cambria, Blacklick Valley, Forest Hills, Westmont

# BOOK SALE

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

OK Gals; it is April and time to plan book packing and sorting. Collection starts on April 19 and ends on May 18.

As in other collections we will sort on Mondays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00. We are still using the basement of First Lutheran Church, 415 Vine Street. The dates will be:

<b>Mondays</b>	<b>Mondays</b>	<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>Thursdays</b>
April 22	May 13	April 25	May 16
April 29	May 20	May 2	May 23 (if needed)
May 6		May 9	

If you can, please let me know what days you can be there. But you can always come if you find yourself free on a sorting day.

Also, we can always use more hands. So if you know of anyone who wants to learn about what we do and wants to help please encourage them to come.



# WBE Program a Success!

I hope all of our Facebook users saw, liked and shared the AAUW spotlights on the 21 Women Enterprise Businesses that participated in our Facebook Spotlight on WBE during the month of March. During our spotlight program we reached 5.7 thousand, with engagement from 1.4 thousand. Many of the 21 business liked our page and shared the other businesses on their page. A “win/win” for women!

Thanks to Marianne Spaminato who set the calendar for the posting of the business spotlights.

Below are our participants. Please continue to support their sales/event and their Facebook pages!

Adorned  
 At Merchant  
 Bougie Hair Care  
 Essentials  
 Camillya House of  
 Style Salons & Boutique  
 Classic Elements, Inc.  
 Cliptations  
 Crawdac Computer Services  
 Cruise Planners  
 Custom Cakes & Cookies  
 Darbouze Law Group

Donna Christopher, State Farm  
 Insurance  
 Jessica Lehman Interiors  
 Luck of the Draw  
 Morgainz Fitness  
 Para-Coat Technologies, Inc.  
 Peaced Together  
 Silverman, Tokarsky &  
 Forman, LLC.  
 Upstreet Architects, Inc.  
 Vibe Fitness  
 Yoga Song  
 Young Heart Books and Toys



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

## The Tuesday Book Club

The Tuesday book group is going on the road! On May 14 the members have an 11:00 AM reservation at the Frick in Pittsburgh to visit the new exhibit: Vermeer, Monet, Rembrandt: Forging the Frick Collections in Pittsburgh and New York.

This trip is a follow up to reading "The Magnolia Palace" by Fiona Davis. We are eagerly looking forward to this experience.



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

The Dining group continues to grow. It must be because we eat so well. 🍴

On Wednesday **May 15** we will be at the **Crow's Nest in Tire Hill**. On **June 19** we are going to **Nyko's on Scalp Avenue**. The time is **5:45**. And remember that you can always bring a guest. Looking forward to more good times together.



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

Our next Thirsty Thursday will be held on May 2 nd at El Jalisscco in the College Park Plaza. On June 6<sup>th</sup> it will be held at Wooly's Celtic Pub at 256 Strayer Street, 15906. Meeting time is always 6:00 PM Come for the drinks, food or just the FUN!



By Dr. Debe Mack (debemack@gmail.com)

As May flowers bloom, so does our membership! It's heartening to see many emerging from their winter retreat, eager to reconnect!

**YOUR VOICE YOUR VOTE:** Most important is the Open Membership vote, **April 3 through May 15**, watch for emails from [vote@simplyvoting.com](mailto:vote@simplyvoting.com) with your unique Elector ID and Password to vote. [Be sure to check your SPAM or JUNK folder.] Last time only 25% of the membership voted, which is not okay for an organization who promotes the importance of your voting voice, so be sure to ACT NOW and cast your vote.

Our membership social media campaign, which runs every Monday, continues to thrive. We're also in the final stages of planning our upcoming Shape the Future event in early June. This is an excellent opportunity to mingle with both current and prospective members, be prepared to attend.

Please keep liking and sharing our posts on Facebook. You can also catch up on our latest updates via the feed on our website.

A gentle reminder: getting involved in one or more of our committees is a great way to contribute to our mission. Active members send a powerful message to those considering joining our cause. There are opportunities for contributors at all levels, so don't hesitate to add your name to a committee today!

Reach out with any concerns or questions. Warm regards,  
Debe Mack

## AAUW Public Policy Priorities

**To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and to address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls, AAUW advocates**



## Jewelry

[debemack@gmail.com](mailto:debemack@gmail.com)

Our first event at Masonic Temple was a success due to contributions from our members!

Preparing jewelry for selling is a process! Jewelry is sorted, then processed using an autoclave to clean the items. Next, buffing shines & scrubs out minor scratches. The final step is presentation; different events require certain jewelry types. The tables are staged to show our renewed pieces, and buyers receive the item in new boxes.

Please continue to collect & donate gently used jewelry as we have several events in future months.



## Step up to Leadership Now!

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

Can you imagine going to the polls to vote for president, but there are no candidates on the ballot? What would we do? We assume that someone will step up and accept the role of leadership. We are confident that when we go to the polls, there will be names on the ballot. We will have choices.

Well, for 100 years, Johnstown Branch has had choices - people willing to accept leadership roles. Because of that, we have a strong history! We currently have over 70 very talented members. We are looking for a president or co-presidents to continue that strong tradition. It's really not that hard to be president. The VPs and committee chairs are in charge of making sure all of the projects and events are done well. The president organizes the meetings. If there are co-presidents, then each has help from the other, and one can travel knowing there is someone to handle the business while she is gone.

When I was doing the coursework to be a Vocational Director, I remember the instructor saying that if the school was well-structured and everyone was doing his or her job, then the institution would run itself day-to-day. Our branch can run in a similar manner with so many talented people already in charge of committees, projects, and events. You can be the leader! Two of you can lead together! And don't forget that the Past President serves for two years on the Board and will be there to answer questions and help new leadership succeed.

Our election of officers will be on May 20. When we cast our votes for President of the 100-year-old AAUW Johnstown Branch, will there be candidates on the ballot? Please ensure that that the Johnstown Branch keeps moving forward into the next one hundred years. Volunteer your talents and step up to leadership! Contact Kathy or Georgia or any member of the Nominating Committee: Madeline Gyure, Eloise Romano, or Anne Fattman.



## 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 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	Title	Author	Leader
May 9	<i>The Star-Crossed Sisters of Tuscany</i>	Lori Nelson Spielman	Claire Montoya
June 13	<i>Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine</i>	Gail Honeyman	Carolyn Orr
July 11	<i>Greenlight</i>	Matthew McConaughey	Shellby Custer

## Member "Shoutouts"

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



Congratulations to **Diane Lopez** who was featured in the Tribune-Democrat's series "Women in Business!" In her capacity as CEO and Board Treasurer of GAP Federal Credit Union, Diane has overseen not only tremendous growth in assets, but initiated financial education programming. Ms. Lopez has been described by GAP Board President as "...a leader who is unequalled." We are fortunate to have Diane as a member of our Branch Finance Committee, and for the record, we've known she's a winner for years!



Thank you to member **Laura Huchel** for representing AAUW Johnstown at UPJ's Inaugural Democracy Bowl. Laura served as a judge for the "My Impact" projects which were submitted by several teams from four different school districts. Organizers were pleased with the outcome and Laura hopes to be involved in future events. A member of the Branch Education committee, Laura is also sponsoring The Princeton Book Award for the first time this year as part of our high school awards.



## AAUW PA CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Most of the weekend of April 5-7, the Chicago song, “Wishing You Were Here,” was my earworm!

I truly did wish that many more of our members could have attended the AAUW PA Conference. It was energizing and inspirational. Kudos to the Conference Planning Committee for providing great speakers, great information, and an atmosphere conducive to interacting and having fun. The facility was

By Kathy Howanek  
[khowanek@hotmail.com](mailto:khowanek@hotmail.com)  
exceptional with a lovely sunken lounge where lots of “networking” occurred after business hours.

Georgia, Debe and I represented our branch and Debe reigns as the Queen of actual networking! The trifold that she created for the display drew a lot of admiration and will be displayed at our May meeting, weather permitting. We came back energized, which is fortunate because there is much to do. Our bylaws need to be revised and ready to present to all of you at the May meeting, as well as transitioning to a new branch leadership team.

The three keynote speakers were outstanding: PA Secretary of Human Services, Dr. Valerie A. Arkoosh, who spoke on health care reform especially as it effects women and families; Kimberly Adams, PhD. Professor of Political Science at East Stroudsburg University, who spoke on Women in American Politics: From Exclusion to Protest, to Participants, to Policymakers; and finally, Gisele Fetterman, Nonprofit Founder, Hugger and Dreamer, who spoke on The Power of Vulnerability. We don't have space and I don't have the words to describe their intelligence, commitment and accomplishments, but I can attest to their passion and ability to inspire. There were sessions on AI, public policy, open membership (which I personally favor), and a panel by the 100-year branches on history and motivation.

We also met many women from other branches and spent some extra time with our neighbor from the **Murrysville Branch, who invited us to attend their May meeting. It is open to the public and will be a program on banned books. They meet at the Murrysville Library (their home) on May 9 at 11 a.m.** Co-programming or some social events with them seems to be a possibility. Of course, we were all invited to the Penn State Branch Book Sale which runs from May 11-14 at the Penn State Snider Ag Arena. We also heard how some other branches manage their scholarship programs.

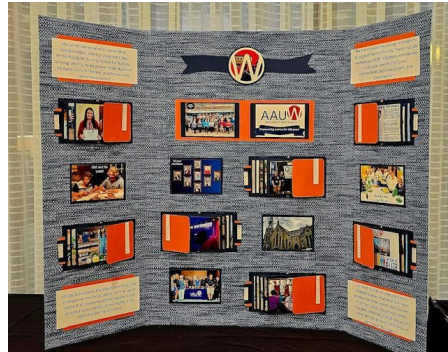
So much information and never a dull moment! Over the summer we will find a way to present it to all of you in a more formal and comprehensive fashion in the coming program year.

Leaving you with a “Wishing You Were Here” earworm,





## “Pics” from the AAUW PA Conference



Dr. Debe Mack created this awesome poster about our branch that was displayed at the PA AAUW Conference. The board has “pull out pictures” of our many programs/events. Thank you, Debe. Hopefully, we will see the board displayed at one of our meetings and the Meet & Greet.



2024 AAUW PA State Conference  
Debe Mack, Georgia Yeager, Giselle Fetterman & Kathy Howanek enjoying “AAUW camaraderie” at the PA Conference.

**AAUW**  
Johnstown (PA) Branch  
**MEMBER BENEFIT**  
AAUW JOHNSTOWN PA BRANCH MEMBERS ATTENDED THE AAUW PA STATE CONFERENCE THIS WEEKEND.

*A MESSAGE OF PIONEERS, BREAKING BARRIERS AND SETTING NEW STANDARDS. THEIR STORIES OF RESILIENCE, INNOVATION, AND LEADERSHIP ARE NOT JUST INSPIRING, THEY'RE TRANSFORMATIVE.*



## Congratulations...

to Debe Mack on her appointment to the AAUW PA Board as their social media coordinator. And congratulations to the Board for recruiting such a dynamo! We know Debe as our hardworking Membership VP, growing that role with her signature energy and creativity,



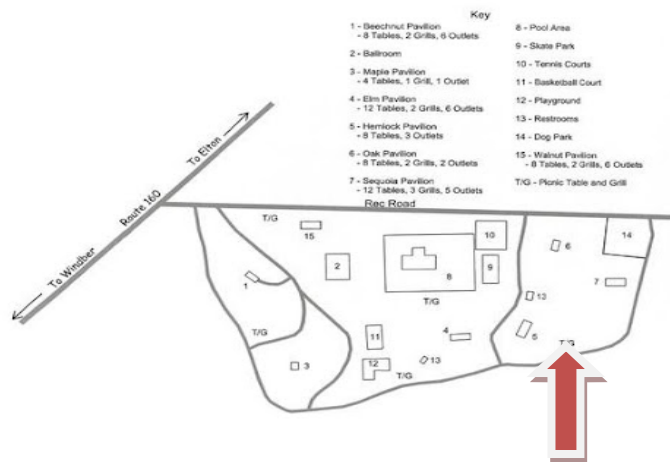
# Program Committee: May Business Meeting/Potluck

by Valerie Grash ([vgrash@pitt.edu](mailto:vgrash@pitt.edu))

Once again, Windber Rec Park's Hemlock Pavilion will be the gathering spot for our end-of-year business meeting and potluck dinner on **Monday, May 20**. Remember, there are plenty of electrical outlets available if you bring something hot in a crockpot. To make things easier, we'll repeat what we did for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in terms of menu assignments:

1. Salad or Appetizer: Last names beginning with A thru F
2. Main or Side dish (warm or cold): Last names beginning with G thru P
3. Dessert: Last names beginning with Q thru Z

You can do a one-to-one switch with another member if you have your heart set on making something not in your assigned category. If you prefer not to cook, we will be collecting money to buy fried chicken. Everything else will be provided. Let's plan to gather at or **before 5:00 p.m. to enjoy good food and each other's wonderful company; the business meeting will start at 6:00 p.m.**



**MAY 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Bk Sorting Thirsty Thursday	3	4
5	6 Bk Sorting	7	8	9 Bk Sorting Bk@Boulevard	10	11
12	13 One Bk Bk Sorting	14 One Bk Tues Bk Field Tri	15 One Bk Dining Club	16 Bk Sorting	17	18
19	20 Bk Sorting AAUW Picnic Meet 4:00 PM	21	22	23 Bk Sorting (maybe)	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**JUNE 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Thirsty Thursday	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Dining Club	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						