



# Inclined to AAUW



**JOHNSTOWN BRANCH**

**November/December 2024**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Tuesday, November 19**

5:30-7:30 pm at Classic Elements  
Fall Shape the Future Event

### **Saturday, December 7**

12:00-3:00 pm at The Boulevard Grill's  
Speakeasy  
Holiday Luncheon

## AAUW IN ACTION

### SOCIAL GROUP CONTACTS

#### **TUESDAY BOOK CLUB**

2<sup>ND</sup> Tuesday afternoon of each month  
Ann Furlong: akfurlong@verizon.net

#### **BOOKS @ BOULEVARD**

2<sup>ND</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm  
Pat Grzybicki: dsap@atlanticbb.net  
Shellby Custer: shellbyc@aol.com

#### **DINING CLUB**

3<sup>RD</sup> Wednesday of each month; 5:45 pm  
Ann Furlong: akfurlong@verizon.net

#### **THIRSTY THURSDAY**

as scheduled by Kenna Raymond:  
kennaraymond@gmail.com

## HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

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

Come and celebrate the holidays with AAUW members and guests at The Boulevard Grille's Speakeasy on Saturday, December 7, 2024, from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. Festive surprises are guaranteed, including gift baskets and other treats!

The cost is **\$25 per person**, payable to: "Johnstown Branch AAUW." Send payment by **November 25** to:

Claire Montoya  
510 Village St.  
Johnstown, PA 15902-2663

Luncheon Buffet Menu (includes coffee, tea, and soft drinks):

Seasonal Salad  
Italian Wedding Soup  
Three choices of wraps (Turkey Bacon Club, Honey Dijon Swiss Chicken, and Grilled Vegetable)  
Holiday Desserts  
Cash Bar

As has become our tradition, we will be collecting donations for the Cambria County Literacy Council at the luncheon, either cash or check made out to "Cambria County Literacy Council" Hope to see you there!



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



## LEADERSHIP LETTER: Closing Out 2024 with Gratitude and Ambition

by Dr. Debe Mack  
[debemack@gmail.com](mailto:debemack@gmail.com)

As we approach the end of 2024, we want to take a moment to reflect on the past year, express our gratitude, and share our vision for the future.

This year has been one of change, collaboration, and impact. Our community came together to support a range of initiatives, from our annual book sale to educational programs and advocacy efforts that champion gender equity. We are proud to have hosted meaningful events, facilitated discussions on important issues, and supported the academic pursuits of local students through scholarships and mentorship.

Looking Forward: As we head into 2025, our mission remains clear: to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. We are excited to introduce new programs, expand our outreach efforts, and continue building a stronger, more inclusive community. Committees have planned events that will inspire, educate, and bring people together.

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to our members and supporters. Your time, dedication, and passion have been the driving force behind our achievements. Together, we can create even greater opportunities for women and girls in Johnstown and beyond.

Thank you for making 2024 a memorable and impactful year. Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a prosperous new year ahead.

Warm regards,  
Claire & Debe

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

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



In response to the enthusiasm and involvement of the membership for last year's community outreach projects, four such opportunities were scheduled for the branch in our coming business year. One was completed in October and three remain. The projects that were chosen have some connection with the branch or some of our members.

The collection at **December's** Holiday celebration will once again benefit the Cambria County Literacy Council. Member Heidi Staib, a Literacy Council volunteer, will accept the donation on the Council's behalf.

Our **February** meeting will benefit the West End Food Pantry where member Eileen Tweed volunteers and will schedule our delivery.

And because we had such a great turnout last year, Kenna Raymond has arranged for our members to "stuff the backpacks" for the Cambria County Backpack Project on Monday **April 14** from 4-5:30 p.m. Kenna will be recruiting 15 volunteers closer to the date.

**GET OUT THE VOTE** postcard writing crew at Panera Bread in October.  
Good work ladies!



## SHAPE THE FUTURE EVENT

by Dr. Debe Mack  
[debemack@gmail.com](mailto:debemack@gmail.com)

A Fall Shape the Future event is scheduled for November 19th at 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM at Classic Elements downtown. This special gathering is designed to connect potential members with our current AAUW community, offering an opportunity to learn more about AAUW's impactful activities, advocacy, and programs.

Members, we need your help to make this event a success! Please share this event with friends, colleagues, and anyone you believe would benefit joining AAUW Johnstown. Encourage them to attend and discover how they can be part of our mission to advance equity for women and girls.

The evening will feature:

- Light refreshments
- Opportunities to mingle with AAUW members
- Game & giveaways

Thank you for helping us to  
Shape the Future!

**RSVP Required:** contact Debe Mack

561-339-4075 [debemack@gmail.com](mailto:debemack@gmail.com)

\*Details will be sent to members via email.



## EDUCATION/SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

by Madeline Gyure  
[madelinegyure@gmail.com](mailto:madelinegyure@gmail.com)

The Education Committee met on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The scholarship administration process was reviewed. Other than a minor additional sentence to be added to the letter to the guidance counselors, the Committee had no recommendations to make changes to the existing selection process at this time. Future goals include consultation with one of the State Board Administrators to assure that we are meeting all of the current national criteria in regards to the inclusion or exclusion of schools in our selection process, as well as to how we select the individual students. We plan on continuing to be involved in the awarding of the Princeton Book Award and the Minority Scholarship, and will attempt to increase the AAUW visibility in the presentation of the endowed scholarships at UPJ and Penn Highlands. The Write/Read/Write program is underway; this year we are cooperating with Forest Hills.

All six of the Fall Holocaust book discussions were successful. In addition to our own two book clubs discussing two of the selected books on women in the Holocaust, discussions held in the community had 15, 22, 5, and 17 people attend. Plans are underway for the March 15<sup>th</sup>. and April 24<sup>th</sup>. discussions. Book titles will be announced. Please mark your calendars and try to increase AAUW's involvement in this Project.



## PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

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

On October 2, 2024, the Johnstown Branch AAUW, in cooperation with the Education Division of UPJ, held a public forum on “The Impact of the PA Education Budget on our Local School Districts.”

Guest speakers, pictured below, were:

- Dr. Amy Arcurio, Superintendent, Greater Johnstown School District
- Susan Spicka, Executive Director, Education Voters for PA
- Dr. Charline Rowland, UPJ Division Chair of Education
- Thomas Mitchell, Superintendent, Westmont Hilltop School District
- Nicole Dull, Superintendent, Conemaugh Township School District



Also, thanks to UPJ Student Affiliate volunteers Leah, Kaylee, and Taylor for their help.



## WRITE-READ-WRITE

by Heidi Staib  
[staibfamily@aol.com](mailto:staibfamily@aol.com)

Our Write-Read-Write project has begun. I have received letters from 120 Forest Hills fourth graders talking about themselves and their reading preferences. We need our members to help us by choosing letters to answer and books to purchase for our young friends! I will try to have a Write-Read-Write folder at our branch's group events. Please take as many letters as you wish and sign your name on the sign-up sheet by the students you chose. I can also deliver letters to anyone that needs them. My cell is 814-341-4380.

Your letter should be taped on the wrapped book. (One book per student, please!) Write the student's name and the number/letter written on the student's letter. (Ex. Susie J.- 3.Mc) Please bring your books to the Christmas party on Dec. 7, 2024 at the Boulevard Grill. I would like to deliver them before the holiday break. Write-Read-Write is a worthwhile and enjoyable endeavor for our branch. Please help us make it a success! Thank you!



## BOOK SALE 2025 UPDATE

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

The Fall Book Collection is over. A big shoutout goes to all of you wonderful workers! We are all happy to have our space at the Galleria again. It makes our hard work just that much easier.

Know that you have a job well done. Enjoy the holiday season and we will gather again in the Spring.





## NOVEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7 Thirsty Thurs 6:00 Anthony's</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue Bk 1pm D Haddle</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14 B@B 6:00 pm</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19 Shape the Future 5:30-7:30 Classic Ele</b>	<b>20 Dining Club 5:45 JR's Sports Den</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>



## DECEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7 Holiday Luncheon 12-3 BG</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue Bk 1pm N Miller</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12 B@B 6:00 pm</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 Dining Club 5:45 Harrigan's</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				