



# Inclined to AAUW



**JOHNSTOWN BRANCH**

**January/February 2025**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

1:00 pm at United Way, Johnstown  
Community Outreach

**Saturday, February 8, 2025**

1:00 pm in Cambria County Library  
Community Room  
Membership Business Meeting

## LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

by Dr. Debe Mack

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

**Happy New Year, AAUW Johnstown!**

As we step into 2025, we celebrate the progress we've made together in advancing AAUW's mission of achieving equity for women and girls through education, advocacy, and research. Your dedication to breaking barriers and championing change continues to inspire our shared vision of a brighter, more equitable future.

Dr. Val Grash and Diana Price will guide our branch over the next six months. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to lead.

As we strive to strengthen our impact in the community, we invite all members to get involved, whether through joining committees, leading events, or contributing your unique talents, your participation is vital to the continued success of our branch. Together, we can:

- Expand educational opportunities for women and girls.
- Advocate for workplace equity and inclusion.
- Build community partnerships that amplify our mission.

Thank you for your passion and dedication. Let's make 2025 a year of purpose, collaboration, and meaningful change!

## AAUW IN ACTION

### SOCIAL GROUP CONTACTS

#### TUESDAY BOOK CLUB

2<sup>ND</sup> Tuesday afternoon of each month  
Ann Furlong: [akfurlong@verizon.net](mailto:akfurlong@verizon.net)

#### BOOKS @ BOULEVARD

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

#### DINING CLUB

3<sup>RD</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:45 pm  
Ann Furlong: [akfurlong@verizon.net](mailto:akfurlong@verizon.net)

#### THIRSTY THURSDAY

as scheduled by Kenna Raymond:  
[kennaraymond@gmail.com](mailto:kennaraymond@gmail.com)

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



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

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

### A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!

We are thrilled to share that our recent **Shape the Future Connection** event was a wonderful evening of networking, learning, and celebrating the mission of AAUW. Thanks to the engaging atmosphere and enthusiasm of our members and guests, we are delighted to welcome two new members, **Cynthia Banda & Patricia Schutte** to the AAUW Johnstown branch!

Your participation and support continue to make events like these impactful. Stay tuned for upcoming events, and don't forget to invite a friend or colleague to join our membership on this inspiring journey!

Together, we shape the future.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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



Following the generous contribution of the branch to the UPJ food pantry in October, the following email of appreciation was sent by Abby Gearhart, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Athletics. It is my pleasure to share it with you!

**Ms. Howanek and Dr. Mack,**

**On behalf of the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown and our food pantry, I thank you SO VERY much for the donated food items. That was so kind and very much appreciated. Our students of need really utilize this space and thanks to kind people like you, we can continue to keep this great initiative going. Please send my deepest thanks to the American Association of University Women!!!**

**Thank you again!**

**Abby**

To continue our outreach program, we had a collection to support the Cambria County Literacy Council at our Holiday celebration in December, which was delivered by Heidi Staib.

December and January had/has members wrapping diapers for distribution by the United Way.

Our February meeting collection will benefit the West End Food Pantry where member Eileen Tweed volunteers and who will schedule our delivery. Members wishing to participate should bring non-perishable items to the library.

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 4:00-5:30 pm. Kenna will be recruiting 15 volunteers closer to the date.



## AD HOC HOLOCAUST PROJECT COMMITTEE REPORT

by Becky Catalinet and Madeline Gyure

[beckycat1@gmail.com](mailto:beckycat1@gmail.com) and [madelinegyure@gmail.com](mailto:madelinegyure@gmail.com)

The Hope Springs Eternal Holocaust Project is a community collaboration whose objective has been to bring education and awareness about the Holocaust to the people of Johnstown and the surrounding communities. Funding for the Project comes through the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies from the Blanche Beerman Holocaust Education Fund. This fund originally was established to enable local high school students to travel to visit the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. as well as to support other educational endeavors. The Hope Springs Eternal Project has several components including concerts, plays, a musical, exhibits, and book discussions, all related to Holocaust education. Over the past several months there has been a mosaic art exhibit at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, a photography exhibit at Bottle Works, a concert of klezmer music, several plays at various locations, and a full production of Fiddler on the Roof.

As a participant in this community Project, and in keeping with AAUW's mission to promote gender equity for women and our commitment to encouraging literacy, we have been organizing book discussions focusing on various roles of women during the Holocaust. Four of the discussions included members of the community, and were held at various locations. Our two internal book clubs incorporated two of the selected books in

place of their scheduled books. Plans are now underway for two additional community book discussions, and we are hoping that our book clubs will again include the spring selections on their schedules. Of course, all AAUW members are welcome to attend the events in the community.

On Saturday, March 15, 2025, at the downtown library, in honor of Women's History month, we will open at 1:00 PM with a demonstration of Jewish cooking. This will be followed by a discussion of "In Memory's Kitchen: A Legacy from The Women of Terezin". We will also review "Honey Cakes and Latkes from The Old World" by the Auschwitz-Birkenau survivors. As this second book may not be available for everyone to have a copy, one or more will be on display, and there will be a moving reading from the text. On April 24, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Highland Library in Richland we will be discussing "The Cello Still Sings" by Janet Horvath, a memoir tribute to the power of music and family. This is in advance of the Johnstown Symphony's May concert during which they will perform works by Jewish composers "whose lives and careers were affected by the Holocaust".

Registration for the March and April events can be made on the Hope Springs Eternal Project website. Any questions can be directed to Madeline.





## PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

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

I recently asked members to write letters and make phone calls about the Equal Rights Amendment, which has passed all qualifications as of 2020, but has not been published as an amendment. Below is the most recent information received on this issue. Please do what you can, as this must happen before Jan. 20, 2025.

Note that our area Representatives have not signed on to move this amendment forward.

Please contact:

Representative Glenn Thompson 15th District (Geistown, Richland, Windber, etc.)  
124 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (814) 353-0215

and

Representative John Joyce 13th District (Stonycreek Twp., Johnstown, Westmont, etc.)  
1002 Logan Blvd.  
Ste. 114 #237  
Altoona, PA 16602  
Phone: 202-225-2431

Here are two paths that AAUW is working on to move the ERA to fruition.

**Congressional Path:**

There is a resolution to remove the deadline for the ratification of the ERA. This is stuck in committee and has not been scheduled for a floor vote. A discharge petition has been filed to move it to the floor. (See below) Once, this bill is approved by the House, it will be sent to the Senate for a vote. After the passage of the Senate, with exact language, it will go to the President. All steps must be completed by 12/20/24 for this path to be successful.

Here are the cosponsors: [Cosponsors - H.J.Res.25 - 118th Congress \(2023-2024\): Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment. | Congress.gov | Library of Congress.](#)

In order for this process to happen, it must be discharged from the committee and brought to a floor vote. The petition for this step to happen requires 218 sponsors. Here is the listing of the 214 members that have signed on so far: [Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives - Discharge Petition Details - 6.](#) We are looking for House Republicans to sign on so the vote can happen. All of Pennsylvania's Ds have signed on. There is hope that Brian Fitzpatrick will cross the aisle and sign on as he has signed on to the removal bill (above). So far that has not happened.

The other path is for the President to declare that sufficient states have ratified the ERA and give notice to the Archivist that it is ready for publication. There has been resistance due to the Trump Administration's DOJ opinions that it was not eligible for ratification. There are strong opinions (ABA included) that the archivist can disallow this DOJ advice and publish it.

AAUW is encouraging President Biden to use all of his powers to see that the ERA is published and both paths are valid means to get there.



## SECOND TUESDAY BOOK GROUP UPDATE

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

The Second Tuesday Book Group has made 2 changes to their schedule.

The group will meet at Heritage Ridge in January.

In the month of May the group is headed out to Bedford Springs Hotel. This luncheon and tour will be a follow up to our reading of "The Bowl with Golden Seams". This book is based on the true events surrounding the use of the hotel in WWII to hold as prisoners of war the Japanese ambassador to Germany along with his staff and their families.

## **WRITE-READ-WRITE**

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

The Johnstown Branch of the AAUW recently delivered books and letters to 121 fourth graders at Forest Hills Elementary School.

Our annual Write/Read/Write project began when the students wrote letters to our members. Our ladies responded by writing letters of their own, accompanied by new books purchased for their pen pals. The teachers reported that the students were excited about the project and anxious to get our replies.

Photos and thank you notes should arrive soon. Thank you to all who participated in this lovely endeavor.



## **BOOK SALE 2025 UPDATE**

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

January and February are months of rest for book sale workers if no large loads of books have been donated. If someone contacts you about a donation in January or February you can refer the person to Kathy Howanek, Georgia Yeager or Ann Furlong.



## **HOLIDAY LUNCHEON 2024**

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

Forty-one members enjoyed another lovely holiday gathering at The Boulevard's Speakeasy on Saturday, December 7. Soup, salad and a delicious array of wraps were served, along with a festive cookie tray from Country Delights in Davidsville. Many thanks go out to the Program Committee members who helped plan the luncheon and put together the six themed gift baskets raffled off to members. A gift certificate for The Boulevard's Sunday Brunch for two (worth about \$50) was once again generously donated by our banquet host, Don Kasprzyk.

In addition to dropping off our wrapped Write-Read-Write books, we also collected \$320 in donations for the Literacy Council from our generous members. Happy Holidays, everyone!  
After a post-holiday break, we look forward to seeing everyone at our next Business Meeting on Saturday, February 8, 2024, at 1:00 PM in the Cambria County Library Community Room downtown. Our speaker will be Lori Woods, AAUW PA Program VP.

Some luncheon pictures appear on the next page.

# A HAPPY HOLIDAY WAS HAD BY ALL!



# Happy New Year!

## JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Tue Bk</b> 1pm Heritage Rg <b>United Way</b> 1pm Diaper Wrap	8	9 <b>B@B</b> 6:00 pm	10	11
12	13	14	15 <b>Dining Club</b> 5:45 Blvd Grill	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



## FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Tue Bk</b> 1pm	5	6 <b>B@B</b> 6:00 pm	7	8 <b>Business Mtg</b> 1:00 CCL
9	10	11	12 <b>Dining Club</b> 5:45 Balance	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	