



Inclined to AAUW



JOHNSTOWN BRANCH

September-October 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, September 4, 4-8 pm
Saturday, September 5, 2-8 pm
Cambria City Ethnic Festival: Jewelry Sales

Wednesday, September 9
Program: "The Justice Bell: Tracing the Journey of a Forgotten Symbol"
6:30-8:30 pm @ Penn Highlands Community College Auditorium

Saturday, September 12
Get Out the Vote postcard writing
10:30-11:30 am @ the Easter Seals Building 232 Walnut Street

Saturday, September 12
Center for Metal Arts tour
(preregistration required) 12:45-3:00 pm @ 106 Iron Street

Wednesday, September 23
Get Out the Vote postcard writing
1:30-2:30 pm @ Lambcakes Bakery
110 Franklin Street

Tuesday, October 6
United Way service project: assemble Early Learning Stations 1:00-3:00 pm
@ United Way Office 422 Main Street

Thursday, October 8
"Your Voice, Your Vote" program
6:00 pm @ Penn Highlands CC Community Room

MEMBER UPDATES

Welcome to new member:

Katharine Harmon
1570 White Horse Road
Berlin, PA 15530
814-267-2540

Email updates:

Bernice Adams BEAdams730@gmail.com
Linda Archbold lluverizon@msn.com

AAUW IN ACTION SOCIAL GROUP CONTACTS

TUESDAY BOOK CLUB
2ND Tuesday afternoon of each month
Deanna Haddle: jdhadd1@gmail.com

BOOKS on THURSDAY
2ND Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm
Pat Grzybicki: patgrzybicki@gmail.com
Shellby Custer: shellbyc@aol.com

TASTE BUDDS
3RD Wednesday of each month at 5:45 pm
Mary Kay Milavec: mkmilavec@verizon.net
Kenna Raymond:
kennaraymond@gmail.com

GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN
as scheduled by Kathy Howanek:
khowanek@hotmail.com

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Madeline Gyure
madelinegyure@gmail.com



On August 13th, our new Pennsylvania AAUW president, Ann Echols, held her first branch president's zoom meeting. Our past state president, Cindy Hall, is now on the National Board of Directors, something that should make Pennsylvania members proud.

I was unable to attend the zoom meeting, but have reviewed a large amount of information that was covered at that time. Much of it is intended to provide a framework for our programs and activities. As we move into this new year, I plan on sharing this information with the appropriate committee chairs. Ann noted that Pennsylvania is the fifth largest AAUW state organization, currently with 1,381 members. One of her goals for this year is to have all of the branches in Pennsylvania earn the 5 Star designation which I had briefly described in the last newsletter. The three policy areas of focus supported by AAUW at this time are:

- 1) education and STEM;
- 2) economic security; and
- 3) social justice/civil rights.

The **Atlantic Regional Conference in Lancaster** is just around the corner on September 25-27. Our own Debe Mack is the conference coordinator, and she tells me it is going to be an outstanding conference. As of August 13th, there were 172 registrants from 12 states! Debe, Sue Graham and I will be attending, and will undoubtedly return inspired and with a wealth of information to share.

On a local note:

One of the items of concern revealed in the spring survey was the length of the meetings. In an effort to address this, our committee chairs plan on limiting the amount of information that they report at these. We will try to keep members informed while keeping the meeting time to a minimum. The chairs will continue to provide more detailed information on their plans and activities in the newsletter. I encourage you to read the newsletter when you receive it in your email. You can print it and keep it handy for reference.

Also, the newsletter, membership meeting minutes, and board meeting minutes can be accessed under the "Members Only" section on our website. So, even if you miss a meeting, there are ways to stay informed.

Remember, our **first public program is at 6:30 on Wednesday, September 9th** in the Penn Highlands Community College auditorium. It is free, and open to the public. Bring your friends, family and potential new branch members. See you this Fall!



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Dr. Debe Mack
debemack@gmail.com



AAUW Johnstown currently has **66 members**, and we are pleased to welcome our newest member, **Katharine Harmon**, to the branch!

A reminder that AAUW memberships are on a **rolling renewal**, so renewal dates vary by member. Your **membership can be renewed online at AAUW.org** by signing in to your current account, or you may send a dues check made payable to **AAUW Johnstown** to **Debe Mack**, who can process the renewal for you.

Our **Shape the Future** opportunity continues! New, first-time members can join AAUW with **heavily discounted dues for their first year**. If you know someone who may be interested, invite them to a meeting, bring them along to an event, or share their information with Debe for outreach. As you are out in the community, please help us spread the word about AAUW Johnstown and the opportunities our branch offers.

The **2026-2027 Member Yearbooks** were distributed to members attending the August business meeting. Yearbooks for all other members will be delivered in early September.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

by Heidi Staib
staibfam@aol.com

The Write/Read/Write project is set to kick off this fall with Richland fourth graders. Cindy Banda is our coordinator. More information to follow.

Andrea Santoro purchased and prepared enough Books for Babies to last until the end of 2026. Thanks to Lisa Matson and Renee Ahlstrom for their help.

Beth Stem facilitated the endowed scholarships for 2026-2027. Rachel Kohn, (pictured at right with Director Carole Van Meter and Madeline Gyure), a Cambria County resident, received the scholarship at Penn Highlands where she is a student in paralegal studies. Nursing student Madison Bassett received a renewed scholarship at UPJ.



There presently is no functioning Minority Club, so no scholarship was awarded.

An Education Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2026. We will be discussing the Minority Scholarship, educational opportunities for members, and additional programs.



BOOK SALE 2026 UPDATE

by Pat Grzybicki
patgrzybicki@gmail.com



This year's sale greatly surpassed our expectations! So many of you helped in so many ways: picking up books from collection sites; helping to sort and pack books; working book sale set-up and tear down; and of course, the hours spent at the sale itself. Also, thanks to those of you who recruited friends, family and young people who helped with the set-up and tear down. We could not have done it without them or you!

Our gross income was about \$20,000 and the net is around \$16,000. This profit means that the scholarships for 2026-27 will be well funded, our community projects can go forward, and our need for other fundraising is greatly diminished.



So, relax during September but be ready to go back to work in October! The next collection period will begin on October 3 and end on October 24. Please be ready to say "yes" when called to collect books from drop-off locations, or when asked to sign up for sorting and packing. Sorting and packing days will continue to be Mondays and Thursdays through the month of October.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

by Kathy Howanek
khowanek@hotmail.com



The Community Outreach Committee met to establish the Branch outreach calendar. Below is the schedule as developed by the Committee. In making this schedule, we considered input from the branch survey as well as verbal suggestions from members. Projects are mission-related and where possible involve agencies or activities in which our members are active. Special Projects are intended to promote the Branch as a community partner.

Special Projects for the 2026-27 Branch Year include:

October 2026: Scarecrow in the Park
December 2026: Christmas Tree at AmeriServ

Collections for various groups are listed in the program section of the Branch Yearbook, and members will also be reminded via email.

Hands-on service project:

As United Way has very little need for diaper wrapping, their staff have suggested another project which involves assembling Early Learning Stations for a variety of locations in the area.

The first assembly will occur on **Tuesday, October 6** from 1-3 p.m. at the United Way office 422 Main St. Johnstown.

The second session is scheduled for **Wednesday November 4**, same time and place.

Kenna Raymond is coordinating these sessions. Sign-up sheets will be available at membership activities.



Diaper wrapping last spring

There were suggestions for outreach activities that will require clearances which we will discuss at a branch membership meeting. These include reading at the YWCA Kuddle Korner and participating in playgroups at Beginnings.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

by Pat Grzybicki
patgrzybicki@gmail.com

The newsletter is published bimonthly. Any member may submit items for publication. Articles/information/pictures are due on the 15th of the following months: February, April, June, August, and October unless otherwise announced. Nina Girard and Georgia Yeager are proofreaders. Currently, eleven members are receiving printed issues by mail. Please read and enjoy!

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

by Deanna Haddle
jdhadd1@gmail.com



Fall is a busy time for the AAUW Public Policy Committee. This is a reminder of what this committee does: it supports action and legislation that relates to the AAUW mission. We are **non-partisan, but political**.

Get Out the Vote is a main priority of PA-AAUW. Our committee is holding two postcard writing events.

- **September 12, 2026, from 10:30 AM until 11:30 AM at the Easter Seals Building**, 232 Walnut Street, Johnstown. There is parking next to the building.
- **September 23, 2026, from 1:30 PM until 2:30 PM at Lambcakes Bakery**, 110 Franklin St, Johnstown.

Postcard writing is a proven means of getting voters' attention. You don't have to stay for an hour. Stay for as long as you are able. It turns out that the GJWTHF committee is sponsoring a Cambria Iron Conference tour on September 12th at 1:00 PM. Members who are attending that event could stop at the Easter Seals Building to pick up post card packets to take home. (These include postcards, stamps, addresses and a writing script.)

If you can't make these dates for any reason, call me (814-659-1682) and I will deliver the packets to you.

On October 8, 2026, at 6:00 pm at the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, our Branch and the College will hold a **free, open-to-the public presentation, "Your Voice, Your Vote!"**.

Blessing Osazuwa, the state organizer for PA League of Women Voters will provide information on your specific voting rights, what actions can be taken to ensure your vote is counted, and how to counter voter disinformation.

How votes/ballots are handled in Cambria County will be presented by the **Cambria County Election Office**.

We hope to see you at several of these events!

FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT!



Book Sale Men's Club



Happy Birthday Madeline!



Book Club Intensity!

GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN!

by Kathy Howanek
khowanek@hotmail.com

The ad hoc Girls Just Wanna Have Fun Committee have three outings planned and would like to offer a fourth after we have a chance to review the upcoming offerings of McIlwain Tours.

On September 12, we have planned a **tour of the Center for Metal Arts**. The tour will include a walk-through of all three buildings on campus, demonstrations in the historic Blacksmith Shop, and the telling of the history of the Cambria Iron historic landmark. Participants will get to experience the 3,000 lb. Chambersburg and the 4,000 lb. Bement Miles power hammers in action, two of the remaining large industrial hammers left inside the Blacksmith Shop, which are being used to forge sculpture with featured demonstrator Patrick Quinn. Inside the Pattern Shop there will be additional metal forging demonstrations. Pre-registration and \$20 payment are necessary. The details were sent in a separate email to all members on August 16. The tour begins at 1:00 and those who have signed up should meet in the parking lot at 12:45 pm. Guests of members are welcome to join this activity. You may register and pay online at <https://centerformetalarts.org/events/conference/>. Anyone having questions or needing a ride may contact Kathy Howanek. After the tour, participants will be encouraged to check out the From Core to Surface art exhibition on display in the Rolling Mill Office Building. This conference exhibition is a juried exhibition showcasing contemporary forged work from around the world. And after all that walking, plan to rest and relax with us at Craft restaurant at the Stonebridge Brewery.

November 20 will be a day spent in the **Oakland area of Pittsburgh**, visiting the Nationality Rooms at the Cathedral of Learning which will be decorated for the holidays, lunching at a local restaurant, and then enjoying the Holiday Display and Light Show at Phipps Conservatory. A van which can accommodate 13 members with a driver will be available for those who do not wish to drive, but carpooling is an option as well. Cost of riding in the van is \$32, Nationality Rooms \$10, and Phipps approximately \$26. Kenna will be able to confirm the exact Phipps price next month. For questions or to sign-up for this event, contact Kenna Raymond.

April 2027: A Molly's Trolleys historic tour of Pittsburgh on a vintage trolley. This includes a ride on the Duquesne Incline. Lunch and shopping in the Strip District will follow. Details will be provided in the new year.

And finally, stay tuned for notices of **"Coffee Klatch"** get togethers designed to just catch up and get to know members in a casual setting. We have several great coffee shops in the area, (many of which are women owned) for us to enjoy!



AN UPDATE ON THREE FRONTS

by Georgia Yeager
gayeager@gmail.com



1. It's been a busy summer for the **Program Committee**, planning a year's worth of meetings and programs and phoning for speakers and meeting spaces. The information concerning these programs can be found in the new 2026-27 Membership Directory. (The March program has been finalized, but not in time to make the directory! Details will follow.) Please take the time to go through the directory and discover all of the good information that can be found there.

Georgia Yeager and Shellby Custer co-chair the committee that includes Joyce Radovanic, Heather Brice, Carol Keppel, Andrea Santoro, and Georgia Kerrick.

2. The **scarecrow committee** has met and is in the process of building **Benjamin Franklinstein**, a frightening founding father from Pennsylvania, who will join the ranks of the many scarecrows making their way to downtown Johnstown in October. The Committee includes Carol Keppel, Paula Shively, Georgia Kerrick, Sue Sklar-Graham, Claire Montoya and Georgia Yeager.

3. The **Holly Jolly Lobby Tree** committee also has met, and the talented Marianne Spampinato is again taking the lead in creating ornaments representing women throughout America's 250 years. It will be a patriotic tree with many red, white and blue decorations. The committee will decorate the tree after Thanksgiving. Committee members include Marcia Podplesky, Carol Keppel, Claire Montoya, Marianne Spampinato, Paula Shively, Sue Sklar-Graham, Madeline Gyure, and Georgia Yeager.

The following article is reprinted from the May/June 2026 newsletter by request.

Experienced Educators and Speech Therapists Needed

by Madeline Gyure
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Journey to Literacy and Beyond, a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has asked our AAUW Branch if any of our former teachers or speech therapists might be willing to volunteer as tutors in their after school and summer program.

Journey to Literacy and Beyond offers in-person, one-on-one help for students in kindergarten through grade 12 (high school credit recovery). Many of the students served are from the Greater Johnstown School District.

Please contact Fran Cashaw at (814) 341.5110 or visit <https://www.johnstowntutor.org> for more information. All volunteers are required to provide up-to-date student safety clearances.

SEPTEMBER



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 Ethnic Fest Jlry 4-8	5 Ethnic Fest Jlry 2-8
6 Eth Fest	7 <i>Happy Labor Day!</i>	8 2 nd Tues Book Club 1 pm	9 Justice Bell prog @ PHCC 6:30-8:30	10 Bks on Thurs The Fifth 6 pm	11	12 Get Out Vote postcard writing 10:30-11:30 *Center for Metal Arts Tr 12:45-3:00
13	14	15	16 Taste Budds 5:45 @ Kabuki Japanese	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Get Out Vote postcard writing 1:30-2:30 pm	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 Fall Book Collection begins
4	5	6 United Way Ser Proj 1-3	7 Bk Sort 4-6 pm	8 Bk Sort 1-3 *Your Voice, Your Vote 6 pm PHCC	9	10
11	12 Bk Sort 1-3	13 2 nd Tues Book Club 1 pm	14 Bk sort 4-6	15 Bk Sort 1-3 *Bks on Th 6pm Rizzo's	16	17
18	19 Bk Sort 1-3	20	21 Bk Sort 4-5 *Taste Budds 5:45 @ Rizzo's	22 Bk Sort 1-3	23	24 Fall Book Collection ends
25	26 Bk Sort 1-3	27	28 Bk Sort 4-6	29 Bk Sort 1-3	30	31 <i>Happy Halloween!</i>