



North Hills Pittsburgh, (PA) Branch

VIEWPOINTS

Vol. 52 February 2023

February Program

Unconscious Bias: How to Start the Conversation

To understand unconscious bias, it is important to appreciate that it is a natural human behavior. Humans are programmed to survive. As such, the brain continuously assesses the world around us processing visual, behavioral and verbal signs and signals, using them to assess danger, risk and opportunity.

This assessment includes an appraisal of the people we come into contact with. It is an innate process which helps us to determine whether someone might be friendly or hostile, honest or untrustworthy, helpful or damaging.

People will then, unwittingly, pre-judge and often categorize according to the automatic assessment using that categorization to inform behaviors.

Everyone has unconscious biases and unfortunately, they can be based on stereotypes and prejudices that people may not even realize they have. It is important to be aware of unconscious bias and the negative and exclusive effect it can have on decisions a person makes.

The goal of this conversation is to discuss how unconscious bias can affect diversity. There are many types of unconscious biases. This program will address some of these and evaluate how we can work to overcome unconscious bias. This will be done through a slide presentation and interactive discussion.

February Program

In past years, due to weather concerns, we have not offered a February meeting, but with our continuing usage of virtual meetings we have decided this year to take this great opportunity to have an engaging discussion of Unconscious Bias.

Wednesday February 15, 2023

Location Zoom

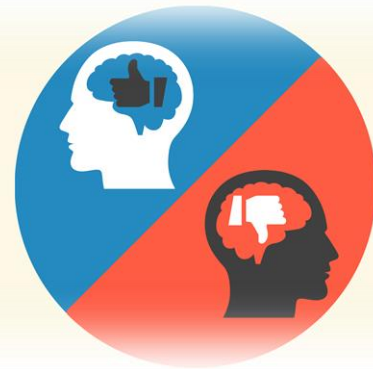
7:00 P.M. Program

Speakers: Interactive discussion

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82050453274>

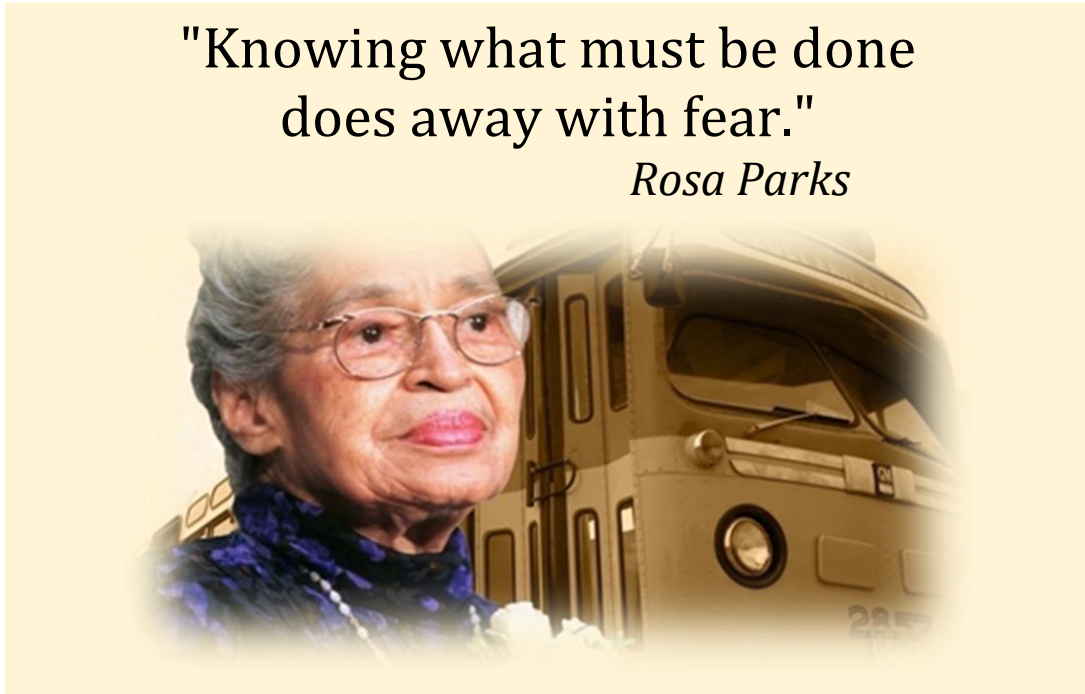
Meeting ID: 820 5045 3274



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTATION

"Knowing what must be done
does away with fear."

Rosa Parks



**February at a Glance
QUICK REFERENCE CALENDAR**

February 10, 12:30 p.m. Lunch Bunch
This will be a themed Virtual Lunch

February 14, 9:30 a.m. Morning Book Group
River of the Gods by Candace Millard
Facilitator: Karin Jackson
Hostess: Linda Joy & Marilyn Loichinger

February 15, 7:00 p.m. November program
Unconscious Bias: How to Start the Conversation
Zoom Meeting

February 20, 7:00 p.m. Evening Book Group
The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post
by Allison Pataki
Facilitator: Katherine Keith Hostess: Zoom

February 21, 5:00-7:00 p.m. IPODS Dinner Date
Deborah & David Hackney's house

**February 24, 7:00 p.m. LaRoche Literary Society,
Ryan Room**
*Perseverance: One Holocaust Survivor's Journey
from Poland to America.*
Lee Goldman Kikel

VIEWPOINT ARTICLES



We encourage all of our members to submit articles to the Viewpoints. If you have something to include in our newsletter the deadline is the **25th of each Month**. Please send to Debbie Rosenfelder in word format at rosenfelderd@verizon.net

If I do not have it by 5 P.M. on the 25th of the month it does not make the viewpoints.

Membership Update

We hope your new year is off to a good start, and that February is full of good books and at least a little chocolate!

Our January program, which focused on AAUW fellowship recipients, was not only fascinating in terms of knowing the impact that AAUW support had on the education and career path of four fellowship recipients, it also provided an excellent opportunity for La Roche students to join us. We welcomed four La Roche students to our program last Saturday and look forward to following up on their interest with the help of Julie Makuta.

We realize that along with the welcoming of the new year comes some wintry weather and longer nights, but are hoping that everyone is able to enjoy some warmer moments with AAUW friends through Morning or Evening Book Group, Bridge, Lunch Bunch, or IPODS. **PLEASE** consider asking a friend to join you for one of these get togethers as more guests may lead to a few more members for our wonderful North Hills Pittsburgh Branch of AAUW!

And **PLEASE** do ask a friend or neighbor to join you in attending a session or two of Great Decisions in February or March. This program is free, and a wonderful educational outreach program for all of the adults in our community. More information about this beloved program will be updated on our website, and we hope you save a few Saturday mornings to join us.

We love feeling just a little bit smarter before noon on a Saturday than we were on Friday night. The opportunity to continue to learn and grow is such a wonderful part of being a member of AAUW!

Stay warm and well,
Francie Cech and Jennifer Schwoebel

MEMBERSHIP

February 2023 Financial Report - June Maier (January Financials as of January 25, 2023)

CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$7035.34
Income	\$55.00
Expenses	<u>\$75.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$7,015.34

SAVINGS

Beginning Balance	\$4,835.49
Interest Earned	<u>TBD</u>
Ending Balance	\$4,835.49

CHECKING + SAVINGS \$11,850.83

February Happenings

Lunch Bunch

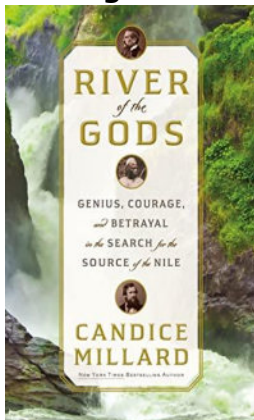
February is National Chocolate Month!

February is dedicated to everyone's favorite decadent treat. Join us via zoom for a lunch celebration of your favorite chocolate. Join us in the comfort of your home indulging in your favorite chocolate treats.

Zoom link will be sent out the week before the lunch date.



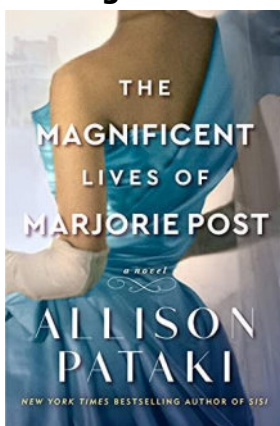
Morning Book Group



For millennia the location of the Nile River's headwaters was shrouded in mystery. In the 19th century, there was a frenzy of interest in ancient Egypt. At the same time, European powers sent off waves of explorations intended to map the unknown corners of the globe – and extend their colonial empires.

Richard Burton and John Hanning Speke were sent by the Royal Geographical Society to claim the prize for England. Burton spoke twenty-nine languages, and was a decorated soldier. He was also mercurial, subtle, and an iconoclastic atheist. Speke was a young aristocrat and Army officer determined to make his mark, passionate about hunting, Burton's opposite in temperament and beliefs. From the start the two men clashed. They would endure tremendous hardships, illness, and constant setbacks.

Evening Book Group



Mrs. Post, the President and First Lady are here to see you. . . . So begins another average evening for Marjorie Merriweather Post. Presidents have come and gone, but she has hosted them all. Growing up in the modest farmlands of Battle Creek, Michigan, Marjorie was inspired by a few simple rules: always think for yourself, never take success for granted, and work hard—even when deemed American royalty, even while covered in imperial diamonds. Marjorie had an insatiable drive to live and love and to give more than she got. From crawling through Moscow warehouses to rescue the Tsar's treasures to outrunning the Nazis in London, from serving the homeless of the Great Depression to entertaining Roosevelts, Kennedys, and Hollywood's biggest stars, Marjorie Merriweather Post lived an epic life few could imagine.

Great Decisions 2023

Starts Feb 4, 2023

Our North Hills Pittsburgh Branch of AAUW is so pleased to once again be sponsoring the Great Decisions discussion program in 2023! We are so hoping that you will be able to join us, and here are the answers to the top five questions you may have at this time.

What is Great Decisions?

This non-partisan program developed by the Foreign Policy Association in 1954 has become America's largest discussion program, and our branch has been sponsoring this valuable program for over forty years! Great Decisions offers the opportunity to take a closer look at the most critical issues facing our country through a group experience of viewing a documentary, reading an article (Optional), listening to a speaker, and engaging in a discussion focused on the information shared by both the Foreign Policy Association and the speaker. Our sessions also offer the opportunity to ask questions that our speakers answer to the best of their ability, which raises our level of understanding.

When will this program take place?

Our Great Decisions program takes place in February and March, and the dates for our 2023 season are as follows:

"Energy Geopolitics", Saturday, February 4th from 9:30-11:00 am
"War Crimes", Saturday, February 11th from 9:30-11:00 am
"China and the U.S.", Saturday, February 18th from 9:30-11:00 am
"Economic Warfare", Saturday, February 25th from 9:30-11:00 am
"Politics in Latin America", Saturday, March 4th from 9:30-11:00 am
"Global Famine", Saturday, March 18th from 9:30-11:00 am
"Iran at a Crossroads", Saturday, March 25th from 9:30-11:00 am
"Climate Migration", Saturday, April 1st from 9:30-11:00 am

Where will this program take place?

Our Great Decisions programs will take place both in-person at La Roche University, Room 101 in the Palumbo Science Center or on Zoom. Our website will be updated every week with the information to access the Zoom link for the upcoming session. Covid threw us many curve balls, but one of the better things it left in its wake was the ability, and value, of connecting through Zoom! We are offering our speakers the option of joining us on Zoom as well.

What is the cost of attending this amazing program?

Once again, our North Hills Pittsburgh Branch is pleased and proud to be offering this valuable educational outreach program to the community for no cost to the attendees. We will, however, be most appreciative of donations to the cause. We will have a donation box available at all of the Great Decisions sessions.

Wondering about the availability of books for the 2023 season of Great Decisions?

If you wish to purchase a book for the 2023 season, (optional) they are once again available to purchase at the La Roche University Library. The books are currently at the La Roche Library.

The books are \$30.00 and payable by check only. Checks should be made payable to:
AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh

Please check the AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh website for additional or updated information and to register if you will be utilizing Zoom in for a session.

We look forward to having you join us, in person or via Zoom, for Great Decisions 2023!

Great Decisions team - Francie Cech, Fran Bogos, Sister Rita Yeasted, and Judy Daw

Public Policy

In Honor of Black History Month

This year marks the 103th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment, a milestone in securing women's right to vote. But it wasn't until 45 years later, when the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed, that women of color were granted the right to vote.



Sadly, Black women routinely faced racism within the women's suffrage movement. And even today, a variety of laws threaten to prevent them from casting their ballots.

Black women have not remained silent in the face of these setbacks. Although they have often been leaders and innovators in the fight for equality, history has a tendency to erase their legacy and voices. So, in honor of Black history month, here are a few amazing women of color who have helped fight for and win greater equality for women.

Sojourner Truth, a former slave, became an outspoken advocate for abolition, temperance, and civil and women's rights (1797-1883).

Ida B. Wells was a prolific investigative journalist and suffragist who campaigned tirelessly for anti-lynching legislation. Her activism began in 1884 when she refused to give up her train car seat, leading to a successful lawsuit against the train company. Motivated in part by racism within the women's suffrage movement, Wells went on to found and co-found a variety of civil rights organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Association of Colored Women, and the Alpha Suffrage Club.

Rosa Parks and Claudette Colvin (age 15) helped initiate the Civil Rights movement by refusing to give up their seats to white men on Montgomery, Alabama buses. Their actions inspired and resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that bus segregation was unconstitutional.

Dorothy Height Known as the "godmother of civil rights," Dorothy Height was renowned for her work on the desegregation of schools, equal pay for women and voting rights. She advised numerous American leaders, ranging from Lyndon B. Johnson to Eleanor Roosevelt. She focused especially on helping advance Black women's equality and served as president of the National Council of Negro Women for 40 years. In 2010, AAUW posthumously honored her as a Woman of Distinction.

Vanzetta Penn McPherson, who grew up in Montgomery, Alabama, was an active participant in the civil rights movement. With help from an AAUW Fellowship, McPherson attended Columbia Law School. She returned to Alabama, where she established a private practice and later became a magistrate judge, dedicated to protecting the rights of working women and African Americans.

Shirley Chisholm was the first Black woman elected to Congress in 1968. She served as a representative from New York for 14 years, was the first Black candidate to run for president in the 1972 race, and founded the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971 and the Congressional Women's Caucus in 1977.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI)

In our January viewpoints we defined the frequently used terms of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This month we will go a bit further utilizing National's AAUW Toolkit.

Diversity vs. Inclusion Diversity refers to characteristics, the dimensions that make each of us unique. Inclusion entails behaviors and actions that make us feel welcomed or not. An environment that creates a sense of belonging, where everyone feels welcomed and included, is essential for the success of diversity efforts. To be truly inclusive, we often have to change the culture — and culture shifts can make people uncomfortable or give the sense that they are losing something. But that is absolutely not the case. In fact, the exact opposite is true: Research suggests that in environments where people feel supported, welcomed, respected and valued are actually more productive; everyone feels a greater connection to the organization's mission.

Inclusion vs. Belonging So, if diversity means the characteristics that make us unique and inclusion refers to behaviors and actions, then what is belonging? And why is it important? Belonging is feeling like you are a part of something in which you actually matter. It isn't necessarily about being liked — but rather being needed. AAUW needs all of these things together — diversity, inclusion, and belonging — for our branches to continue to grow and thrive.

Branch Service Project Feminine Hygiene Products What items are we collecting for the Feminine Hygiene Products Service Project?

Tampons, pads, deodorant, bar soap,
shower gel, shampoo and conditioner.



If there is a collection, please contact Peggy Schmiedecke at pschmiedecke@comcast.net to make an arrangement to get the items from you. Or you may drop items off to Julie Makuta, Monday-Friday during business hours.

Julie's email is Julie.Makuta@laroche.edu if you want to touch base with her that you are making a branch drop off of feminine hygiene products for the food pantry.

Become a Two-Minute Activist We need to let our elected officials know how we feel!!!



Members of AAUW's Action Network have received urgent e-mail notices and text messages when their advocacy is needed most.

With our online [Two-Minute Activist](#) tool, it takes just minutes and an internet connection to make your voice heard on issues impacting women and girls!

AAUW National provides all the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress, contact your state legislators about pressing issues, and more.

Fun Events in February

Groundhog Day: February 2, 2023

Groundhog Day serves as a convenient and whimsical milestone to mark the end of the darkest three months of the year (November, December, and January in the Northern Hemisphere). We wait with bated (and ice-cold) breath to see whether or not winter will continue for another six weeks.

Pennsylvania certainly has become a trendsetter. Just look at our beloved Punxsutawney Phil, the first groundhog to annually predict whether we'll have an early spring or six more weeks of winter. Since the inception of Groundhog Day in 1887, other cities have introduced their own versions of Phil. Nothing beats the original, though.

Before gearing up for his annual one day of weather forecasting on Feb. 2, Punxsutawney Phil made a visit to Pittsburgh. Phil and members of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club were at Wigle Whiskey in the Strip District on Jan. 17 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Did anyone go see him?

Punxsutawney Phil



Mardi Gras 2023: Tuesday, February 21



Mardi Gras refers to events of the Carnival celebration, beginning on or after the Christian feasts of the Epiphany and culminating on the day before Ash Wednesday, which is known as Shrove Tuesday. Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday", reflecting the practice of the last night of eating rich, fatty foods before the ritual Lenten sacrifices and fasting of the Lenten season.

La Roche Literary Society February Event

Friday February 24, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Ryan Room

Lee Goldman Kikel will discuss *Perseverance: One Holocaust Survivor's Journey from Poland to America*, her memoir of her father who survived the Holocaust.

This is a great local event to attend where you have the opportunity to interact with the author.

All presentations are free and open to the public. We hope you can attend.



Save the Date
National Conference for College Women Student Leaders
(NCCWSL)

AAUW's [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders \(NCCWSL\)](#) will be held May 31 - Jun 3 at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD. Hundreds of college women from around the country will gather for three days of leadership training, inspiration, and networking. AAUW-PA is once again offering grants for women-identifying Pennsylvania college students to help defray the costs of attending NCCWSL. Please share this information with anyone you think might be interested in applying. Thank you!



It's Back: "For the Love of Books"
Saturday, May 20 2023, 10:00am-2:00pm

The North Hills Pittsburgh Branch is pleased to announce by popular request we are bringing back the authors event "'For the Love of Books'". Three talented women Authors will speak. This is a great opportunity to interact with 3 local authors.

Where: *La Roche University, 9000 Babcock Blvd,
Pittsburgh, PA 15237*

Cost: \$ 45 dollars

Why: To raise funds for our scholarship and to support our mission for women and girls



Look for more information in upcoming viewpoints and on our website. Registration for this event opened on January 24, 2023. Please share this information with your family and friends and encourage them to come.

2023 AAUW Art Contest

The 2023 AAUW art contest is now underway! The winning entries will be featured in a collection of notecards mailed to AAUW members in the spring. Please click on the link below to read the entry rules. Submit your entry today! All entries must be submitted online. Each member may submit up to 2 entries. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: February 1, 2023 3:00 a.m. EST**

<https://artcontest.aauw.org/contest-entry>



January in Pictures

MLK Breakfast

Keynote Speaker
Sabrina Sounders Mosby



Seven branch members attended the MLK breakfast





**IPODS
At Clare Hoke's House**



Branch Meeting



Link for the Video that was played at the meeting

[Video: AAUW Fellowships and Grants 125th Anniversary: AAUW](#)

MISSION STATEMENT OF AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

LAF provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

AAUW MEMBERSHIP

AAUW, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who hold an associate's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

AAUW DIVERSITY STATEMENT

In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

BRANCH CONTACT INFORMATION

President: Kelley Clouser	717-283-6344 or kellyclouseraauw@gmail.com
Membership: Frances Cech	412-448-1182 or fmcech@gmail.com
Membership: Jennifer Schwoebel	412-559-1053 or jenniferbmcelroy@gmail.com
Viewpoints Editor: Debbie Rosenfelder	412-916-9073 or rosenfelderd@verizon.net

Branch Website: aaunorthhillspgh.org

Branch Email: aaunorthhillspgh@gmail.com

Facebook Page: AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh branch

CONNECT2AAUW: 800-326-2289 or connect@aauw.org

National Website: www.aauw.org

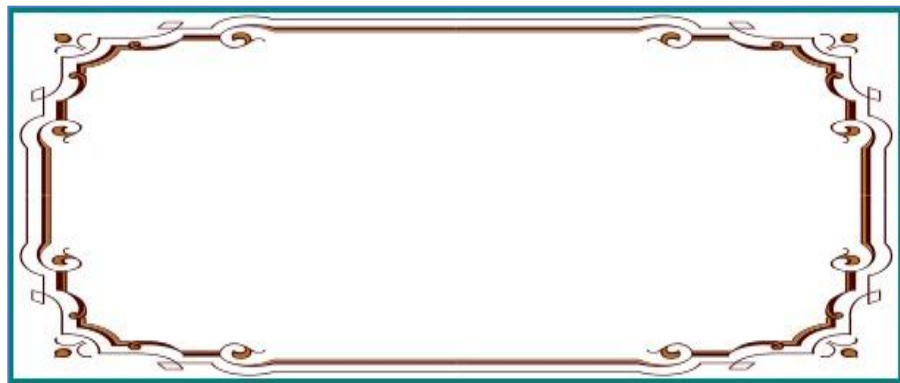
State Website: www.aauw-pa.org

Viewpoints

AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh Branch

Linda Tozier, Distribution Manager

31 Oxford Court, Pittsburgh, PA 15237



Because Equity is still an issue