



VIEWPOINTS

North Hills Pittsburgh, (PA) Branch

Vol. 53 Oct 2023

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Shape the Future The Role of Gender in Leadership and American Politics

Our North Hills Pittsburgh branch of AAUW is looking forward to growing together throughout the year, both in terms of our membership and our impact to advocate for women!

In keeping with our mission of advocating for women and girls, our October program will feature Ms. Marissa Escajeda, of **Strong Women, Strong Girls**, as our speaker. Marissa is the managing director of the Pittsburgh program Strong Women, Strong Girls. This group was founded in 2000 as a student group in Boston to create mentorship opportunities for women and girls, and now has a branch here in Pittsburgh. **This organization is also a recent recipient of an AAUW grant!**



October Program

Saturday October 21, 2023

Location: La Roche University
Ryan Room

9:30 A.M. Social

10:00 A.M. Program

10:45 A.M. Branch Meeting

**Speaker: Marissa Escajeda, of
Strong Women, Strong Girls**



PLEASE invite a friend to come and join us for a program this year. Our October program would be the perfect opportunity to introduce a few friends to one of the many ways that AAUW, and its support through scholarships and grants, has to offer. And, because our October program is our chapter's **"Shape the Future"** event, this will provide the opportunity for anyone who joins that day to join for half price!

October President's Message



With the start of fall (calendar – not weather!) we are all looking forward to this coming year with AAUW. Our active year started with our well-attended, well-presented AAUW Homecoming — Welcome Back meeting Member Reception held September 20th.

Thanks to all our members who participated. Good to see our members attending in person! Our group presentations—both tables and personal—were interesting and gave a snapshot view of our activities and interest groups.

We had a nice group turn out for the first branch meeting. Sixteen Branch members attended in person with one on Zoom. We had seven guests including our scholarship recipient and four students.

Over the next year, your Board will be deciding - with your input - to what extent we want to increase our impact on the lives of girls and women in our community beyond the awards and scholarships we currently support. Let's ask ourselves what it means to be a leading force. Where can we best invest our collective time, energy, and money to make the greatest difference for the most girls and women struggling against unfair odds? The types of questions we will ask include:

What would your answers be to these questions? Are there other questions the Board should be asking? In a world that still poses so many challenges and barriers for girls and women, what do you care the most about and where would you like to invest your own time and energy? This is our call to action. We look forward to hearing your ideas on how to increase our community impact.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Come Join Us!

Post pandemic is a different world with people reassessing where to spend their time.

Our branch has always been a very active branch. Pre pandemic almost half of our members attended meetings and social events. Our social groups today remain strong and vibrant, but currently only about a fourth of our members attend meetings.

So I'm asking, what would make you attend meetings!

Bring your suggestions to the October meeting or you can e-mail them to Debbie Rosenfelder. We will discuss your suggestions and brainstorm ideas to increase membership participation in our branch.

HOPE TO
see you
THERE

October at a Glance QUICK REFERENCE CALENDAR

Oct 03, 2023 10:00 am Board Meeting
At Cadence Club House in North Park

**Oct 10, 2023 10:00 am Fox Chapel Branch
AAUW**
Banned Books Panel presentation
Cooper Seigel Library

Oct 13, 12:30 pm Lunch Bunch
Bone fish Grill
8950 Covenant Ave., McCandless, PA 15237

Oct 16, 7:00 pm Evening Book Group
The Rose Code by Kate Quinn
Facilitator: Judy Dillon Hostess: Ann Carlson

Oct 17, 9:30 am Morning Book Group
Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow
by Gabrielle Zevin
Reviewer: and Hostess Mary Ann Betush

Oct 29, 5 pm to 7 pm October IPODS
Marcia Colman house

Save The Date!

Dec 2, 2023 Holiday Social

Jun 1, 2024 Authors Lunch
For The Love of Books

October 2023 Financial Report June Maier (Sept Financials as of Sept 25th)

CHECKING

Beginning Balance	\$ 8,782.15
Income	\$ 260.00
Expenses	\$ 2,114.00
Ending Balance	\$ 6,928.15

SAVINGS

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,930.80
Income*	\$ 75.00
Interest	\$ TBD
Ending Balance	\$ 3,005.80

* Restricted for Scholarship

CHECKING + SAVINGS \$ 9,933.95

8-MONTH CD

Beginning Balance	\$ 3,005.07
Interest	\$ TBD
Ending Balance	\$ 3,005.07

OPERATING BALANCE \$ 9,933.95
CD INVESTMENT \$ 3,005.07
TOTAL \$ 12,939.02

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 may not make the viewpoints.

Membership

Let's Keep Growing Together!



Membership Information

Interested in becoming a member of the North Hills Pittsburgh chapter of AAUW? We would love to have you become part of our family! Here is the financial information regarding membership. We realize that like so many things in our lives, the cost of membership has increased slightly in the last few years but, by being a member of AAUW you become part of something much larger than yourself and are therefore able to make an impact in the ongoing mission to gain equity for women and girls. Our North Hills Pittsburgh branch has a history dedicated to diversity, offering educational support (i.e., the Sister Matilda Scholarship awarded annually to a student at LA Roche University) and educational outreach to our community (i.e., Great Decisions), not to mention the opportunities offered through book clubs, bridge, "lunch bunch", IPODS, and diversity initiatives such as the Martin Luther King Breakfast. We are hoping that you will join us in our quest to support equity for women and girls.

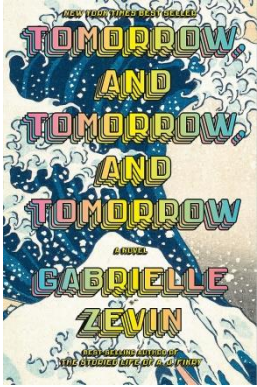
- National dues are \$72.00. (Last year they were \$67.00, but 2023 will be the final increment of National's three-year plan for dues increases. These increases are put to good purpose in advocating, on behalf of all of us, for women and girls' equity as well as educational opportunities through scholarship.) State dues are \$12.00, (they increased on July 1st by \$2.00) and local dues remain the same at \$31.00. Thus, the total is \$115.00.
- The easiest way to join our branch of AAUW is to write a check made out to AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh for \$115.00, and send it to our finance officer June Maier:
June Maier/ 959 Broadmeadow Drive/ Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions,
Francie Cech (412-448-1182)
Jennifer Schwoebel (412-559-9741)
Membership Vice Presidents, North Hills Pittsburgh AAUW

October Happenings

Morning Book Group

Oct 17, 9:30 am: *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin

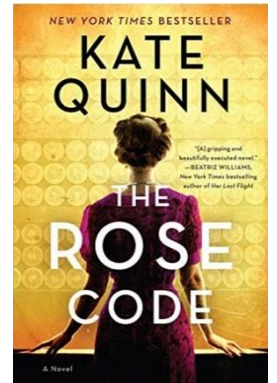


"*Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*" is a novel about friendship particularly that rare, miraculous friend who may drift away for long stretches of time but always rises again with the vigor of Sonic the Hedgehog. The story begins at the end of the 20th century as Americans fret about Y2K and squint expectantly at Magic Eye posters. Two college students — Sam Mazer (Harvard) and Sadie Green (MIT) — bump into each other in Cambridge. They haven't seen each other since they were kids in the hospital. Back in that previous life, Sam was recovering from a grievous car accident that crushed his foot, and Sadie was visiting her sister being treated for cancer. With loads of time on their hands, the two preteens bonded over Super Mario Bros., but then they fell out over a painful misunderstanding.

Evening Book Group

October 16, 7:00 pm: *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn

The Rose Code is a historical fiction mystery novel by Kate Quinn, published in 2021. Set in England during and just after World War II, the novel follows the experiences of three women who participate in Bletchley Park's codebreaking operation, as well as their efforts after the war to uncover a traitor among their colleagues. Their stories highlight the social changes brought on by World War II, especially concerning gender dynamics.



Lunch Bunch

Oct 13, Bone fish Grill

12:30 pm 8950 Covenant Ave., McCandless, PA 15237 412-536-1881

A Seafood restaurant that has seasonal favorites. Pumpkin Ravioli is back!!



Sister Matilda Kelley Incentive Grant Scholarship Award

The Branch 2023 Sr. Matilda Kelley Incentive Grant was presented by Sina Murphy to recipient Quinn Hughes. She is a La Roche University Student where she is pursuing a Biology degree with plans to attend Medical School.



Grants, Fellowships and Endowments

By Sally Kalin, AAUW Pa Funds Chair

AAUW just awarded a record \$6.3 million dollars in grants and fellowships to 285 recipients, for a total of \$135 million since the program's inception in 1888.

AAUW holds millions of dollars in endowments which were created by branches and members, predominately in the last century. This Spring I learned that some Pennsylvania branches were unaware of endowments that they or their members founded, and how the monies generated by these endowments were used to advance the education and research agendas of women. In some cases, their endowments were used to support programs of community groups that empower women and girls.

How to Search for Individuals Who Have Received AAUW Grants from a Branch or Personal Endowment

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/directory-of-recipients-sponsors/>

More updates to come on this

Diversity

DIVERSITY IN A MINUTE: The following was taken from a recent Webinar



The world is failing to achieve gender equality, making it an increasingly distant goal. If current trends continue, more than 340 million women and girls will still live in extreme poverty by 2030; and close to one in four will experience moderate to severe food insecurity.

Gender equality is a right! Fulfilling this right is the best chance we have in meeting some of the most pressing challenges of our time. Women are not only more affected by these problems, but also possess ideas and leadership to solve them when given the opportunity.

We still have a long way to go!!! This is why AAUW matters.

American Women Quarters™ Program (Hispanic Heritage Month)



The American Women Quarters Program is a four-year program that celebrates the accomplishments and contributions made by women of the United States. Beginning in 2022, and continuing through 2025, the U.S. Mint will issue up to five new reverse designs each year. The obverse of each coin will maintain a likeness of George Washington, but is different from the design used during the previous quarter program.

The American Women Quarters may feature contributions from a variety of fields, including, but not limited to, suffrage, civil rights, abolition, government, humanities, science, space, and the arts. The women honored will be from ethnically, racially, and geographically diverse backgrounds.

In Kicking off Hispanic Heritage Month the Jovita Idar Quarter is released. It is the ninth coin in the American Women Quarters™ Program. Idar devoted her life to fighting against separatist ideologies and sought to create a better future for Mexican-Americans. She believed education was the foundation for a better future.

The American Women Quarters Program is authorized by the Circulating Collectible Coin Redesign Act of 2020 ([Public Law 116-330](#)).

Public Policy

National and State AAUW Public Policy

Like the federal congress, The PA legislature is also divided. While progress has been made in passing some bills in the House, we will need to push to get them passed in the Senate.

As a result of our priorities, AAUW PA actively supports the following legislation



- Pay Equity – HB 98 (Bullock) and SB 421 (Santasiero)
- Living Wage – HB 1032 passed the House 6/29/23 Sen Dan Laughlin has the same bill
- Efforts to address School Funding and HB 1422 Cyber Charter reform passed the house July 7.
- Paid Leave – HB 181 (D. Miller) Senators Maria Collette (D-12) and Devlin J. Robinson (R-37) have issued a Co-sponsorship Memoranda to re-introduce the "The Family Care Act," bi-partisan legislation that would establish a statewide family and medical leave insurance program. They are asking their fellow senators to join them in sponsoring this important legislation to help hard-working Pennsylvanians take care of their families as unexpected and protracted illness can strike anyone at any time. Ask your state senator to sign on as a co- sponsor. Here is the link to the

memorandum:

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=S&SPick=20230&cosponId=41222>

The freedom to vote is a fundamental right.

We value our freedom to vote to elect leaders who respect our will, protect our interests, and govern in our name. With increasing mistrust in the electoral process, we must push for leaders on the local, state, and federal levels to stand strong and protect our freedoms and our right to vote. We cannot wait until the next election cycle; we need to act now to protect our vote and our voice in our democracy. We can and must come together and champion laws that:

- Protect our votes
- Protect election officials, workers, and volunteers in the workplace
- Ward off voter suppression efforts, and
- Expand funding for local, state, and federal elections

**Can you take 1 (one) minute to advocate
for our freedoms and our democracy
by sending a letter to your local lawmakers?**

Important General Election Dates:

October 23, 2023: Last day to REGISTER TO VOTE in the November election

October 31, 2023: Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot (ALL registered voters in Pennsylvania can apply for a mail-in ballot)

November 7, 2023: GENERAL ELECTION DAY

November 7, 2023: Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots **(must be received by 8:00 P.M. on Election Day, postmarks are not enough.)**

November 14, 2023: Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted military and overseas mail-in and civilian absentee ballots **(must be submitted for delivery no later than 11:59 P.M. on November 6th)**

GENERAL Election: polls are open from 7 A.M. to 8 P.M. on November 7, 2023.

Important Election Information:

This fall's election is important with statewide judicial elections that could shape the Supreme Court and crucial school board elections. Above are important dates from the LWVPA website that will assist us in preparing for these upcoming key steps for the November election:

You provide
the voice.
We'll provide
the megaphone.

Become a Two-Minute Activist for women and girls today.



Local Public Policy

CEDAW for Pittsburgh - Communication Update from Mayor Ed Gainey
Regarding Gender Equity Commission (GEC)
Recap May 5, 2023 letter to Mayor

Pittsburgh for CEDAW along with 20 supporting organizations, including AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh, signed a letter that was sent to Mayor Gainey expressing our concerns on the Gender Equity Ordinance Chapter 177C – Gender Equity Commission. It was requested that the hiring of an Executive Director-Gender Equity Commission (GEC) become a high priority.

It was also stated the plan to bundle the Gender Equity Commission Executive Director position into a new position called Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (IDEA) Manager would be a failure to the implementation of the ordinance which states that an Executive Director is to lead the Gender Equity Commission (GED). Combining two job positions will also be disempowering, will affect the success of reestablishing the GED and impact opportunities to meet with stakeholders.

September 9, 2023 reply letter from Mayor Gainey was received

The Mayor stated: "This administration is the most diverse administration in the history of our great city. The majority of my administration is made up of women, including the Directors of City Planning, Human Resources, DOMI, Citi Parks, Communications, Permits Licensing and Inspection, and Innovation and Performance. Our City Solicitor is a woman, as is the Special Assistant to the Mayor, Deputy Chief of Staff, leader of Neighborhood Services, our Chiefs of Operations and Administration, Emergency Medical Services, and Procurement; as well as countless other women who all make this City run. Each and every one of these leaders has integrated a gender equity lens into their planning and day to day work. He stated, that we believe this new role fulfills the legal requirements in the city code to staff the GED."

While the above statement is a key portion of his reply letter regarding other positions in the City and it is very encouraging, it does not change the point that the ordinance states that the position is an Executive Director-Gender Equity Commission.

Next Step

The mayor has invited Marcia Bandes, Chairwomen for CEDAW for Pittsburgh and other key leaders that signed the letter to meet with him on a date yet to be confirmed by 10/4/2023.

To help with resources for this meeting Peggy Schmiedecke compared the job duties for both the Executive Director-GEC and the IDEA Manager job descriptions. There are some similar tasks. However Executive Directors are involved with decision-making and strategy for the organization, while managers are responsible for implementing the policies and plans formulated by the top management. Very few of the duties specific to managing a commission are stated in the IDEA Manager job description.

Submitted by Peggy Schmiedecke

An Event Happening in Pittsburgh

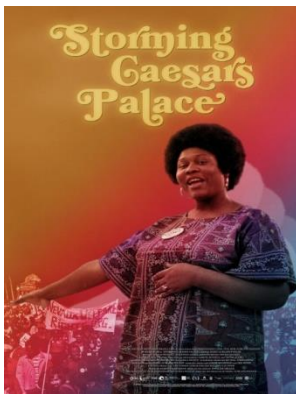
Just Films is a collaboration of six organizations in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania committed to women, girls, gender equity, and social justice:

A fresh series of social justice films that will educate, inspire, challenge, and move you to action.

Announcing Season 8 of the Just Films series! They will be screening new documentaries about gender and intersectional social justice issues starting in September 2023.

Sponsored by the Black Women's Policy Center, Chatham University Art & Design Department and Women's Institute, MomsWork Powered by NCJW Pittsburgh, the Women and Girls Foundation, the Women's Law Project, and YWCA Greater Pittsburgh.

Free and open to the public.



Please [register](https://justfilmspg.org/tickets/) <https://justfilmspg.org/tickets/> to receive important information about each screening. Films are on Tuesday evenings at 6:00PM in the Eddy Theatre on Chatham's Shadyside campus, followed by a panel discussion and Q&A with local experts and activists working on the issues related to each documentary. Join us at 5:30PM for a reception before the film.

October 24, 2023
5:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Storming Caesars Place

What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas — until now.

When Ruby Duncan faces the stigma and harassment of a fraud-obsessed and broken system she ignites "Mother Power," mobilizing a welfare rights group to march down the Strip demanding dignity, justice, democratic participation, and an adequate income in 1971.

Based on the book *Storming Caesars Palace: How Black Mothers Fought Their Own War on Poverty* by Annelise Orleck. The film challenges the pernicious lie of the "Welfare Queen," and highlights the visionary leadership of low-income grassroots organizers whose courage, tenacity and dreams could not be quashed, against all odds.

Hospitality

Now that we are back in person, we need members to volunteer to bring snacks to our meeting. Sina Murphy chairs the Hospitality committee. A sign-up list was passed around at the September meeting and will circulate again at the October meeting. We are looking for volunteers for the November, January, March and April meetings.



Great Decisions for 2024!

We are excited to say that our North Hills Pittsburgh chapter of AAUW will once again be hosting the Great Decisions Program, which is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The Great Decisions sessions will take place in February and March, and will take place at LaRoche University.

The topics for 2024 have just been released and are listed below. Look for more information in the coming editions of Viewpoints!



The Foreign Policy Association is pleased to announce the topic selections for
Great Decisions 2024.

Mideast Realignment By Marc Lynch

The United States and Middle East are at a crossroads. In spite of a reduced presence in the Middle East, the U.S. still has significant national interests there and the area is a key arena for global power politics. Can the U.S. continue to defend its interests in the Middle East and globally with a lower level of military and political involvement, or should it recommit to a leading role in the region?

Climate technology and competition By Bud Ward

Will the United States and China, with other powerful countries following suit, approach current and future climate initiatives with an increased commitment to trade protectionism and nationalism, by various measures including trade restrictions? Or could a growing spirit of international accord develop to confront the "common enemy" of climate change?

Science across borders By Mila Rosenthal

Scientific advances benefit from collaboration between researchers, but what happens when material, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) is controversial and important to a nation's national security? Is there a middle ground between sharing information and denying access? How can we regulate cooperation?

U.S. -China trade rivalry By Jonathan Chanis

China's economic rise and its current policies of increasing the role of the state in the economy have led some U.S. policymakers to seek to deny China access to U.S. technology and investment. This is seen as a necessary corrective to decades of predatory Chinese economic policies. Is this a wise strategy, and how effective can it be?

NATO's future By Sarwar Kashmeri

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has come under increased scrutiny, not because NATO troops are involved in the conflict, but because of its role in relations between Russia and its neighbors. Will expanding membership in NATO protect countries, or will it further provoke Russia?

Understanding Indonesia By Charles Sullivan

Despite its large size, Indonesia remains virtually invisible to most Americans. But as one of the world's largest democracies, the world's largest Muslim-majority nation, and as an economic driver of ASEAN, why does it fly below the radar? What are current issues in U.S.-Indonesian relations, and what role can the country play in Asia?

High Seas Treaty By FPA editors

Areas of the seas beyond national jurisdiction comprise the high seas, which are facing a degradation of ecosystems due to climate change and the increase in human activities, such as shipping, overfishing, pollution, and deep-sea mining. The recently negotiated High Seas Treaty, also known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty, will attempt to address these issues. How difficult will it be to convince nations to participate?

Pandemic preparedness By Carolyn Reynolds

Looking back at the COVID-19 pandemic, there are many lessons to take away in terms of domestic and international policies. Although this pandemic seems to have waned, how can we apply these lessons to future pandemics? Will countries cooperate, and will a consensus emerge on how to manage global health challenges?

Fall Fundraising

The fall fundraiser will be a raffle**From Thirty-One: the following two items.**

- Large Utility Cargo Thermal combines the features you love from their utility products with insulated Leak Lock® thermal lining! Exterior zipper pockets
- Paris Montreal Purse Charcoal Snake Pebble
*Interior slot pocket *Exterior cell phone pocket
*Includes strap to carry cross body or on your shoulder *Faux leather Approx.: 8.75"L X 11.5"H x 3.5"D

**In Addition**

- Beautiful Fully Finished table runner 13X45 made by one of our members
- Amazon gift card \$100
- Massage Envy Gift Certificate \$70
- Hand Lotion

If everyone could sell two tickets this would go a long way in meeting our goal. A flyer will be attached and sent out with this Viewpoint.

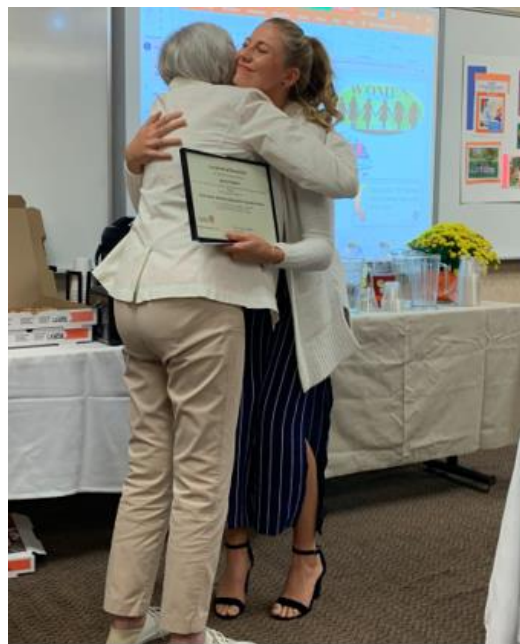
September in Pictures

Lunch Bunch

**Great time at Magnolia & Pines
13 members attended**



Pictures from September Branch Meeting



IPODS



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

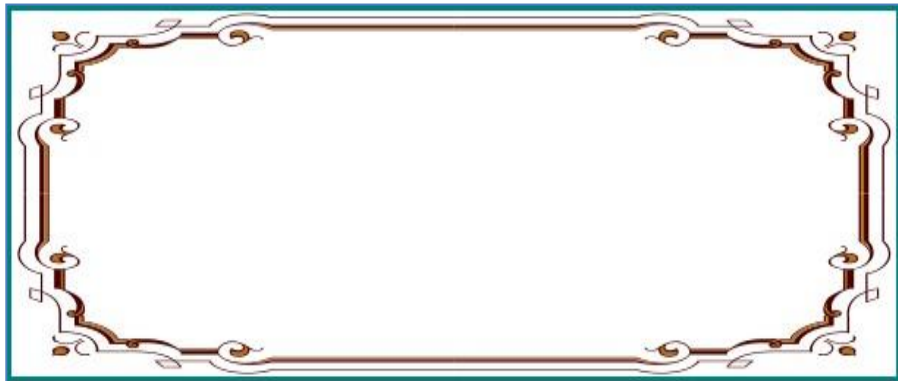
President: Deborah Rosenfelder	412-91609073 or rosenfelderd@verizon.net
Membership: Frances Cech	412-448-1182 or fmcech@gmail.com
Membership: Jennifer Schwoebel	412-559-1053 or jenniferbmcelroy@gmail.com
Viewpoints Editor: Debbie Rosenfelder	412-916-9073 or rosenfelderd@verizon.net

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
Deborah Rosenfelder, Distribution Manager
8310 Van Buren Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237



Because Equity is still an issue