



VIEWPOINTS

North Hills Pittsburgh, (PA) Branch

Vol. 54 SEP 2024

PROGRAM

Welcome Back Members!

The Banning of Books:

Challenges to reading materials are nothing new. Attempts to restrict books date back to the Puritan days, but what may be surprising is that book banning challenges have increased exponentially over the past few years. Pennsylvania ranks especially high in the average number of book challenges.

Traditionally revered as centers of knowledge, libraries, schools and bookstores are now grappling with attacks on intellectual freedom and the right to access diverse literary works. The contentious issue of book bans has taken center stage across the nation.

September's Branch program will address the current controversy surrounding book censorship.

The speaker for this program will be:
Fran Bogos, BS. M.Ed.

Fran is a retired reading specialist in the North Allegheny School District; she began her 38-year teaching career at the same elementary school she had attended as a child. With a Master's degree as a Reading specialist, she was hired at McKeesport Junior High School, then at North Allegheny School District. Fran taught remedial reading, speech, and debate classes and created a Communications Skills course. One of her favorite courses to teach was Honors Argument which enabled students to earn credits at universities. As coach of the Speech and Debate Team, Fran proudly watched her students demonstrate the skills they learned, and excel at both the state and national tournaments.

Prior to the program we will be awarding the annual Sr. Matilda Kelley Incentive Grant Awards. This year we will be presenting two awards.

Bring a friend!!!

September Program

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Location: La Roche University
Ryan Room

6:30 P.M. Social

7:00 P.M. Sister Matilda Winners

7:30 P.M. Program

8:00 P.M. Branch Meeting

Speaker: Fran Bogos, BS M.Ed.



September at a Glance QUICK REFERENCE CALENDAR

Sep 3, 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting

At Cadence Club House in North Park

Sep 10, 9:30 a.m. Morning Book Group

Trust By Herman Diaz

Reviewer: Judy Sparlin

Hostess: Mary Ann Betush

Sep 11, 6:30 p.m. Sept Program

The Banning of Books

Location: La Roche University, Ryan Room

Sep 13, 1:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch

Dee Jay's BBQ Ribs and Grille - Wexford

2602 Brandt School Rd, Wexford, PA 15090

Sep 16, 7:00 p.m. Evening Book Group

The Women by Kristen Hannah

Facilitator and Hostess: Debbie Rosenfelder

Sep 22, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Peace Picnic Festival

Sep 28, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. IPODs

Sylvia & Jerry Lynn's house

Save The Date!

Dec 7, 2024 Holiday Social

May 31, 2025 Authors Lunch

For The Love of Books

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.

BRANCH WEB SITE



Don't FORGET ME...
I'm always here! I'm Your Branch
AAUW Website:

<https://aauwnorthhillspgh.org>
Stay informed!

Webmaster: Susan Banerjee

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



As September approaches, I recall the quote: "September is the month of new beginnings and fresh starts". September traditionally leads us into the fall months when the weather gets cooler, children go back to school, organizations begin new activities, and we feel more energetic that summer is passing. Our AAUW Group Leaders have been working on our activities and preparing for the coming year. These include; programs, membership, diversity, public policy, book groups and lunch bunch. We have a great year planned.

As we embark on a new year, I am both excited and apprehensive for our future. Our theme for this year will be Expand and Empower. Expand is a call to stretch beyond our comfort zone to broaden our perspective. Empowerment is a continuous process. Let us uplift one another.

I will leave you with this thought!

With all that is going on in the world today remember Life is a gift to you.
How you live your life is your gift to those around you and those that will come after you.
Why not make it a fantastic one? Live it well, Enjoy today.
Do something Fun- Be Happy.
Remember to be kind to those you know and to those you have yet to meet.

Looking forward to a great year!!!!!!

Debbie

August 2024 Financial Report – June Maier

(as of August 22, 2024)

CHECKING		SAVINGS		9-MONTH CD	
Beginning Balance	\$8,207.16	Beginning Balance	\$7,836.36	Beginning Balance	\$3,044.03
Deposits	\$575.00	Deposits			
Expenses	\$591.09	Interest	TBD	Interest	TBD
		Earned		Earned	
Ending Balances	\$8,191.07	Ending Balances	\$7,836.36	Ending Balance	\$3,044.03
CHECKING + SAVINGS + CD = \$19,071.46					

MEMBERSHIP

Let's Keep Growing Together!



Membership
September, 2024

AAUW is a community of more than 170,000 members standing strong for gender equity. Your membership matters as it makes our powerful voice even louder on critical issues affecting women and girls. AAUW has been transforming women's lives for more than a century, and we need to raise our collective voices to address one of the most crucial issues of our time.

Our North Hills Pittsburgh branch of AAUW is currently 60 members strong! We look forward to growing together throughout the year, both in terms of our membership and our impact to advocate for women.

PLEASE invite a friend to come and join us for a program this year. Our September program will take place on Wednesday, September 18th, and will showcase the many opportunities our branch offers to our members and the community. It would be the perfect opportunity to introduce a few friends to all that AAUW has to offer, and all that we can accomplish together. This would be a wonderful opportunity to invite a guest simply to be a guest – no pressure to join. We will be having our "Shape the Future" program in November when those interested are able to join for half price! Please consider inviting a friend or neighbor to join us in September.

Yours in Membership,
Francie Cech and Jennifer Schwoebel

PS If anyone is considering becoming an AAUW member, here is the information regarding membership dues. The annual cost of AAUW membership is currently \$115.00.
(National dues, \$72.00/ State dues, \$12.00/Local dues, \$31.00)

**YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS**

SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS

Lunch Bunch

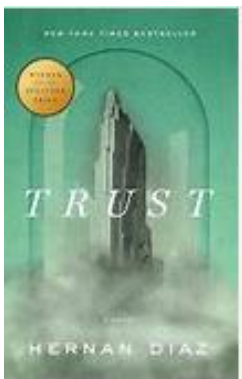
Dee Jay's BBQ Ribs and Grille - Wexford 2602 Brandt School Rd, Wexford, PA 15090

Dee Jay's BBQ Ribs & Grille is a restaurant that offers a variety of dishes such as salads, chicken wings, sandwiches, ribs, salmon, coleslaw, and strawberry shortcake. Overall, Dee Jay's BBQ Ribs & Grille is a highly recommended restaurant that offers delicious BBQ dishes and a wide variety of sides, with excellent service and a welcoming atmosphere.



Morning Book Group

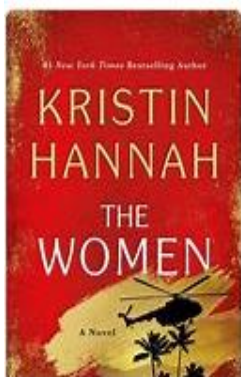
***Trust* by Herman Diaz**



Trust by Hernan Diaz is one of those novels that's always pulling a fast one on a reader. Take the opening section: You settle in, become absorbed in the story and, then, 100 pages or so later — Boom! — the novel lurches into another narrative that upends the truth of everything that came before. *Trust* is an ingeniously constructed historical novel with a postmodern point. Throughout, Diaz makes a connection between the realms of fiction and finance. "The world of *Trust* feels very close to our own...This book is a reminder that wealth isn't a treasure chest and the rich aren't magical, no matter how dramatically they shape the world. It's all just money, made by real people, with very real, often dangerous implications."

Evening Book Group

***The Women* by Kristen Hannah**



Women can be heroes. When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. *The Women* is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism.

SISTER MATILDA KELLY INCENTIVE GRANT WINNER

We are proud to announce that Faith Turamye and Maria Christina Nchama Owono Ango are the 2024 recipients of the Sister Matilda Grant Awards.

Due to donations received by our Branch in memory of Mary Eury and Marcie Filiaggi, we are able to present two grants this year. Members of Mary's and Marcie's family will be invited to attend the presentations at the September branch meeting.

Faith's application was well written and the recommendations from instructors glowing. She is pursuing a double major in Management Information Systems (MIS) and Management with a minor in Marketing. Faith grew up in Rwanda and is committed to contributing to the well-being of others. She also has a strong commitment to her studies and is actively involved in student organizations.

Her final statement in her essay stated "my journey as an international student is one of perseverance, academic excellence and a deep commitment to community service. This scholarship is not just financial support, it is an endorsement of my vision to blend professional success with social impact."

Maria Christina Nchama Owona Ango comes to us from Equatorial Guinea and learned of La Roche through a family member who attended. She is pursuing a degree in Health Sciences and plans to continue her education by obtaining a degree in Nursing specializing in Midwifery. She feels that having a diverse group of friends from other cultures and religions has helped her grow. Her first language is Spanish so coming to the U.S. meant learning and becoming proficient in a new language. Her application was well done and provided all of the information needed. She is passionate about helping others. Her parents have three of their children attending colleges which highlights the value the entire family places on education.

We are excited to meet Maria and Faith at our September 11th meeting in the Ryan Room.



BRANCH FUNDRAISER



The Sister Matilda Kelly Incentive Grant and Great Decisions are two initiatives that are near and dear to our branch. In order to continue with these two initiatives, we need to raise more money than what our dues brings in. Remember only \$31 from your dues comes back to the branch.

In the past we have done two fundraisers per year. We are trying something different this year and only doing one fundraiser. In order for this to work we need EVERYONE'S support.

At the June 01, 2024 fundraising event **For The Love of Books** we raised \$2,626.21. We attracted 104 attendees with 38 of these being our branch members.

In the spring of 2025 we will be hosting the spring fundraiser Author's lunch

"For The Love Of Books"



What I am asking is for everyone to make a contribution to this event. This can be done by attending the event or if unable to attend making a monetary contribution.

I know there are many reasons why some of our members are not able to attend.

If you are not able to make the May 31, 2025 event, please consider making a donation. The goal would be to raise enough money at this single event to support our fundraising for the entire year.

Thank You for supporting this event!!!!!!!

PUBLIC POLICY

National

The 2024 U.S. election will have a major impact on gender equity in education, women's economic security, and reproductive and civil rights. The good news is when women vote, we change the conversation.

Please be mindful of AAUW's non-partisan stance as we pursue election advocacy. It is essential that we keep the party out of our work and focus on the issues and priorities of AAUW.

National AAUW resources: National has several resources so visit the websites below. We also have a partnership with When We All Vote to support this work.

[Election Resources – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

[Latest webinar with When We All Vote:](#)

[7/24 Voter Registration Webinar Recording \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Its-My-Vote-2024-Voter-Issue-Guide-English.pdf \(aauw.org\)](#)

Ballot ready: [Ballot Ready: Where you go before you vote](#)

When we all vote: [Home - When We All Vote](#)

Vote!!!!

The 2024 U.S. presidential election promises to be like no other in modern times. No matter which party you are for this will be a historical first.

Make sure you are registered to vote!!

Make your voice be heard. Get Out and Vote.



PA State**2024 Title IX Regulations: A Current Perspective**

Submitted by Peggy Schmiedecke

On August 14, 2024, Peg Pennepacker presented information on the 2024 Title IX Regulations that were recently issued on April 19th by the Department of Education. A recording of this webinar is available on AAUW PA's website - Virtual Events. The following are some key take aways. The requirements for K12 schools and higher education institutions and the current challenges facing implementation of the regulations for some schools was discussed. This is a fast-paced and ever-changing situation regarding the 2024 regulations. The newly updated Title IX rules, released this spring, are intended to better support students experiencing gender-based harassment, pregnant & parenting students, and clarify that all students—including LGBTQ+ students—have the right to a safe & inclusive learning environment.

The Department of Education released the rule in April, and took effect August 1. It clarifies that [discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity is unlawful sex discrimination](#) under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

Supporters of the final rule argue that it is a necessary step to protect transgender students from discrimination and to ensure that all students have equal access to educational opportunities.

The Department of Education has not commented on the pending litigation. However, LGBTQ+ activists argue that the regulations are necessary to protect transgender and nonbinary students from discrimination and harassment in educational settings. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona previously explained the department's position. "These regulations make it crystal clear that no one should have to abandon their educational aspirations due to discrimination," he said.

Also reviewed was the history of AAUW being an active advocate in 1972 to present day for Title IX.

Title IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENT OF 1972

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Federal Update:

Title IX Rules Released: Effective August 1st. Just in time for the new school year. Here is the Title IX Coalition Statement: [Title IX Coalition Statement - Google Docs](#) AAUW is part of the coalition.

AAUW Biennial Action Priorities

National priorities inform state and local action. Biennial priorities for national action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership. To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and to address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls, AAUW advocates: Strengthening and vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education.



DIVERSITY

What Is DEI?



Diversity is embracing the difference everyone brings to the table, whether it's someone's race, age, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical ability or other aspects of social identity

Equity is treating everyone fairly and providing equal opportunities

Inclusion is respecting everyone's voice and creating a culture where people from all backgrounds feel

encouraged to express their ideas and perspectives.

DEI was created because marginalized communities have not always had equal opportunities or felt a sense of belonging.



GLOBAL PEACE DAY September 21, 2024

Theme: Cultivating a Culture of Peace

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Declaration and program of Action on a Culture of Peace.

The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") is observed around the world each year on 21 September. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all difference and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace



The International Day of Peace gives all a special reminder for people to gather around the globe and work together to promote peace between us all

A PERSONAL INVITATION!

As diversity co-chairman, I would like to personally invite each of you to the **20th Annual Peace Picnic Festival on September 22 in North Park**. Please check the attached flyer for the complete information. This is an event which is sponsored by our branch so let's show our support!!! It is a wonderful opportunity to experience diversity in our community. See you there.

Barbara Matthews

GREAT DECISIONS 2025

Our North Hills Pittsburgh branch of AAUW has sponsored the Great Decisions program for over forty years. Great Decisions is a program developed by the Foreign Policy Association which provides communities with a unique opportunity to learn about issues of global importance in an engaging and interactive format. This seven week program begins on the first Saturday in February and continues for the following six Saturdays. The sessions for Great Decisions 2025 may include the following topics:

- American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads.
- U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy.
- U.S./China Relations.
- International Cooperation on Climate Change.
- The Future of NATO and European Security.
- AI and American National Security.
- India: between China, the West, and the Global South.
- After Gaza: American policy in the Middle East.

More information will be forthcoming but our Great Decisions team is excited for our upcoming season!



HOSPITALITY

Members from the elected and appointed board will bring refreshments to the September meeting.

Refreshments for the October meeting will be provided by members from the off board. We need members to volunteer to bring snacks to our other meetings. Sina Murphy chairs the Hospitality committee. A sign-up list will be 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.



SEPTEMBER FUN FACTS

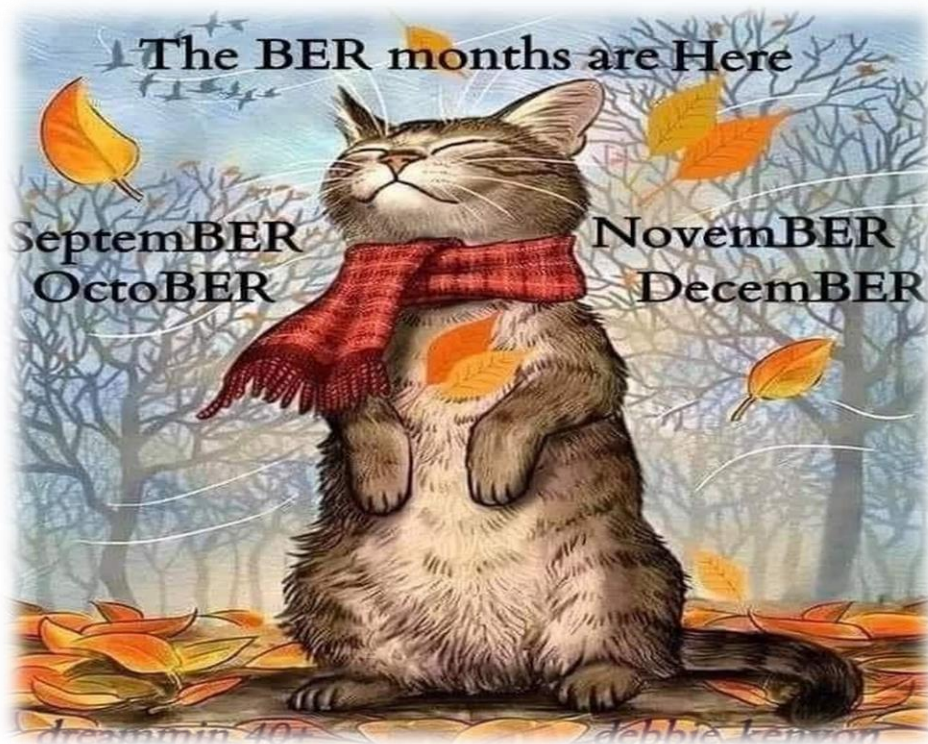
Labor Day kicks off many exciting holidays in September, including the unofficial start of the fall season. September includes federal holidays, religious holidays, and other celebrations and observances, such as the beginning of the school year and football season, the emergence of the harvest moon, and so much more.



September plays host to daily, weekly, and monthly celebrations and observances. Besides Labor Day and Patriot Day honoring 9/11, the International Day of Peace comes later in the month. Some fun, quirky, or lesser-known holidays are International Talk like a Pirate Day, National Cheese Pizza Day, and National Comic Book Day.

There are several holidays in September that celebrate women, including

- National Women's Friendship Day (third Sunday of September)
- Business Women's Day (September 22)



LUNCH BUNCH 2024-2025

Please join the Lunch Bunch as we explore new and varied cuisine in the Pittsburgh area.

We will meet on the 2nd Friday of the month at 1:00 PM

Sep 13, 2024 at 1P.M.	Dee Jay's BBQ Ribs and Grille - Wexford 2602 Brandt School Rd, Wexford, PA 15090 deejaysfamousribs.com (724) 488-7427
Oct 11, 2024 at 1P.M.	Bone fish Grill 8950 Covenant Ave., McCandless, PA 15237 bonefishgrill.com 412-536-1881
Nov 8, 2024 at 1P.M	Wexford Public 12087 Perry Highway, Wexford, PA 15090-9530 (878) 465-2031
Dec 7, 2024 at 11:30 A.M. Holiday social	Wildwood Golf Club 2195 Sample Rd, Allison Park, PA 15101 i www.wildwoodgolfclub.org (412) 492-1181
Jan 10, 2025 at 1P.M.	Olive Garden Italian Restaurant 40 McIntyre Square Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15237 www.olivegarden.com (412) 369-9686
Feb 14, 2025 at 1P.M.	<u>Primanti Bros. Restaurant and Bar</u> 45 McIntyre Square Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 primantibros.com (412) 760-6922
Mar 14, 2025 at 1P.M.	Sieb's Pub & Restaurant 3382 Babcock Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 www.siebspub.com (412) 364-8511
Apr 11, 2025 at 1P.M.	<u>Bellisario's Restaurant</u> <u>1710 Duncan Ave, Allison Park, PA 15101</u> <u>www.bellisariosrestaurant.com (412) 367-7616</u>
April 30, 2025 Annual Dinner	Wildwood Golf Club 2195 Sample Rd, Allison Park, PA 15101 www.wildwoodgolfclub.org (412) 492-1181
June 13, 2025 at 1P.M.	<u>Hotel Saxonburg</u> <u>220 W Main St, Saxonburg, PA 16056</u> <u>www.hotelsaxonburg.com (724) 352-4200</u>

2024/2025 MORNING BOOK GROUP

*NOTE TIME CHANGE which will be the choice of the hostess

Date	Book	Reviewer	Hostess
September 10	Trust by Herman Diaz	Judy Sparlin	Mary Ann Betush
October 8	The Women by Kristin Hannah	Debbie Rosenfelder	Debbie Rosenfelder
November 12	The Wager by David Grann	Karin Jackson	Deborah Hackney
December 10	Table For Two by Amor Towles	Linda Joy	Fran Bogos
January 14	The River We Remember by Willian Kent Krueger	Janis Kapadia	West View Hub
February 11	The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride	Fran Bogos	Marilyn Loichinger
March 11	Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus	Jan Peischl	Marilyn Lanz
April 8	Planning Meeting		Donna Martin
May 13	The Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar	June Maier	Linda Joy
June 10	The Demon of Unrest by Erik Larson	Pauline Edison	Pauline Edison

2024/2025 EVENING BOOK GROUP

*NOTE TIME CHANGE which will be the choice of the hostess

DATE	BOOK	FACILITATOR	HOSTESS
September 16 7:00PM	The Women by Kristen Hannah	Debbie Rosenfelder	Debbie Rosenfelder
October 21 *1:00PM	Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby VanPelt	Maripat Kwaczala	Barbara Matthews
November 18 *1:00 PM	Long Island by Colm Toibin	Judy Dillon	Sina Murphy
December 16 *1:00PM	Mrs. Plansky's Revenge by Spencer Quinn	Judy Daw	Maripat Kwaczala
January 20 *1:00PM	The Echo of Old Books by Barbara Davis	June Maier	Joyce Ruzanic
February 17 7:00PM	The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny& Murder by David Grann		Zoom Option
March 17 7:00PM	The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store By James McBride	Christine Ley	June Maier
April 21 7:00PM	The First Ladies by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray	Barbara Matthews	Ann Carlson
May 19 7:00PM	Shelterwood: A Novel by Lisa Wingate	Jennifer Schwoebel	Jennifer Schwoebel
June 16 7:00PM	Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers by Jesse Q. Sutanto	Francie Cech	Francie Cech
July 21 *6:00PM	Planning Meeting		Judy Dillon
August 18 7:00	The Glassmaker by Tracy Chevalier	Cindy Stewart	TBA

SUMMER IN PICTURES

Lunch Bunch July

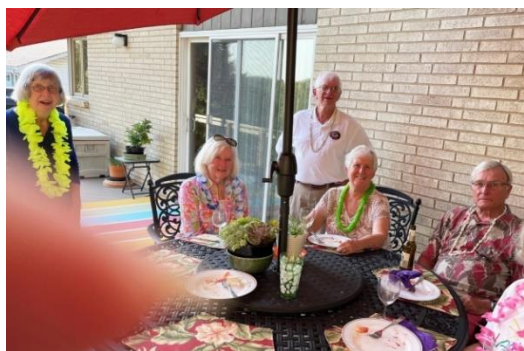


IPODS in June





IPODS in July



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	412-916-9073 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: aauwnorthhillspgh.org

Branch Email: aauwfam@gmail.com

Facebook Page: AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh branch

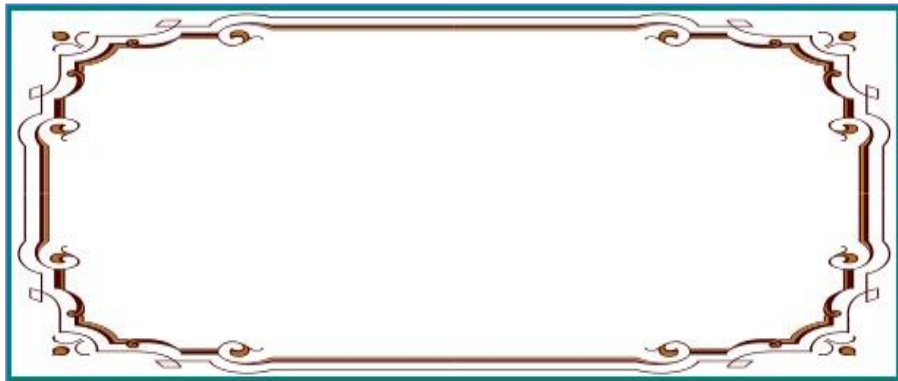
CONNECT2AAUW: 800-326-2289 or connect@aauw.org

National Website: www.aauw.org

State Website: www.aauw-pa.org

Viewpoints

AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh Branch
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Because Equity is still an issue