



December Program

Holiday Social *At Wildwood Country Club*

As is our tradition, we are taking a break from our informative and educational meeting content to celebrate the season with our Holiday Social.

Holiday Party at Wildwood Golf Club Saturday, December 7, 2024
11:30 A.M. Cost is \$35.00 per person



Join us as we celebrate the season with a festive Holiday Party! There will be good food, friends, holiday music and a cookie table. This is a chance to wear your favorite holiday outfit or your favorite ugly sweater.

December at a Glance QUICK REFERENCE CALENDAR

Dec 7, 11:30 p.m. Holiday Social

Wildwood Golf Club

2195 Sample Road, Allison Park 15101

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

Table For two by Amor Towles

Facilitator: Linda Joy

Hostess: Fran Bogos

Dec 16, 1:00 p.m. Evening Book Group

Mrs. Plansky's Revenge

By Spencer Quinn

Facilitator: Judy Daw

Hostess: Maripat Kwaczala

****Please note time change***

Wear your favorite holiday top

Dec 20, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. IPODs

The Hoke's are hosting

Save The Date!

Jan 7, Next Board Meeting

Great Decision starts Feb 1, 2025

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 **15th of December for this 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 15th of the month it may not make the Viewpoints

WEB SITE



Don't Forget Me...
I'm always here!
I'm your Branch AAUW Website:
<https://aauwnorthhillspgh.org>
Stay informed!

Webmaster: Susan Banerjee

December Presidents Message

Christmas comes but once a year. I've been thinking a lot about that old saying, we know Christmas as the season of giving. We give each other gifts; we donate our time and money to charities, and we're just more generous all around, but our generosity doesn't have to end with this season. I challenge each of us to keep this feeling going all year round by being generous with our time, our support, our respect, and our hearts; not just with each other, but with people we meet every day. Let's keep the spirit of Christmas alive all year long

So, as we approach the end of the year to enter a new one, I encourage each of you to reflect on the mission and vision of AAUW and our Branch. Think about how we want to serve and continue aligning action and impact to the community in the various AAUW focus areas of research, education, and advocacy. AAUW Mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Priorities for AAUW include: • Removing bias from education • Fighting for fair pay and economic equity • Advancing women in leadership roles.

I invite you to step away from what can be a frenzied time and take a few moments to reflect on your own personal thoughts as well as our work together as an organization. We can be proud of our efforts to champion women's issues and education. I am grateful for each of you and your work to support our scholarships; to stand for diversity, equity, and inclusion; and for your friendship.

I wish you Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love during this holiday season and for the New Year. Merry Christmas!

Debbie



Membership
Let's Keep Growing Together!
December, 2024

"A woman is like a tea bag: you never know how strong she is until she's in hot water."

Eleanor Roosevelt

Many women are finding themselves experiencing a wide range of emotions following an election the results of which, at first glance, do not appear to favor women's equity. I have found some hope in reading the words of many wise women who have been leaders in the continuing quest for gender equity. One of those women is Meghan Kissell, Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy for AAUW. I am sharing her words with you in the hope that they will provide some solace to all of you as well.

"Rather than feeling disoriented, I am heartened by the millions of people who voted in favor of inclusive public education and gender equity.

- Voters in Missouri and Alaska expanded paid sick leave;
- Voters in Kentucky and Nebraska made sure public money goes to public schools;
- Voters in Arizona and Montana voted to expand access to abortion care; and
- Voters in New York passed an inclusive Equal Rights Amendment to their state constitution.

These issues are core to women's lives and core to our mission - and it is progress, but it's not enough. We must work together to continue to support women. We must be ready to defend against policies that will impede women's ability to fully access education and achieve economic security."

AAUW is a community of more than 170,000 members standing strong for gender equity and please know **your membership matters!** Your voice helps amplify our powerful voice 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 some of the most crucial issues of our time.

We were thrilled to have several guests join us for our wonderful speaker on November 16th, and are looking forward to welcoming a few new members to our branch. **Please ask a friend** to join us when we gather together on January 11th to learn about "Living in Liberty", and as always, work together to support women.

We look forward to seeing you and working with you in 2025,
Francie Cech and Jennifer Schwoebel
Membership V.P.'s
AAUW NHP

December Happenings

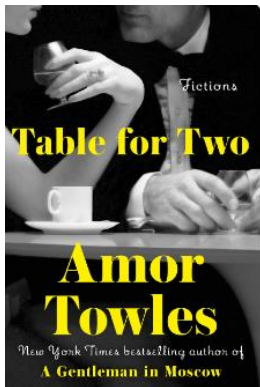
Lunch Bunch

The Lunch bunch will not be meeting in December. Instead we will be celebrating at the holiday social at Wildwood Golf Club Saturday, December 7, 2024 11:30A.M. This is a great opportunity to start the holiday season. Come enjoy holiday music, good food and there will even be a holiday cookie table.



Morning Book Group

Table for Two by Amor Towles



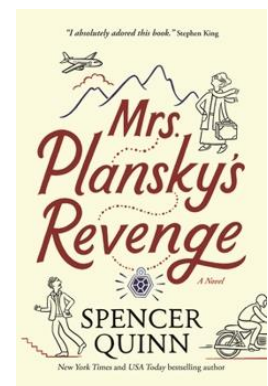
A collection of six short stories and a novella that weaves together tales of human connection across different eras and settings. Towles, known for his rich [historical fiction](#), explores the lives of Americans navigating complex social and personal dynamics. Each story is anchored by moments of profound realization, often occurring at a kitchen table where characters confront new realities.

From post-revolutionary Russia to turn-of-the-millennium New York City and 1930s Los Angeles, Towles delves into themes of happiness, power, and societal expectations, offering a deeply engaging reading experience.

Evening Book Group

Mrs. Plansky's Revenge by Spencer Quinn

A fun, light-hearted read, with an interesting cast of characters. The book is about a well-to-do widow living in retirement in Florida who deals with an overly dependent family and the dreaded telephone scammer. The book has a cozyish, comedic feel and Mrs. Plansky is a believable character for whom readers will cheer.



Public Policy

Local

ACTION OPPORTUNITY - ERA

With the ERA ratified by the required 38 states, the amendment has met all criteria to become part of the Constitution but has not been officially published as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. Here's something we can do to move things along.

In the last days of Pres. Biden's administration, this needs to happen - before January 20, 2025! Please use this link to go a page "Share Your Thoughts With The President". This is a secure site with the White House. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/share/> Please share this with your friends and family.



In the what you want to discuss box you will have to select other. In the "What Would You Like To Say Box" cut and paste this information which is proposed text that was provided by the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh.

Dear President Biden,

I urge you to send guidance to the US Archivist to publish the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) immediately.

The ERA will constitutionally protect the equality of rights under the law regardless of sex and is necessary to uphold the rights of more than half of the nation's population. Please move beyond politics to take swift action on this urgent issue.

Women gained the right to vote over 100 years ago, and it is past time to ensure equality for women in the US Constitution. Despite the significant legal and legislative advances that have been made in recent decades, women continue to face discrimination based on sex. The symptoms of this systemic discrimination are apparent in the ongoing fights against unequal pay, workplace harassment, pregnancy discrimination, domestic violence, and limited access to comprehensive health care. It is not enough to treat the symptoms; we must address the root cause of inequality through constitutional protections against the denial of equal rights.

The ERA has satisfied all requirements for ratification outlined in Article V of the Constitution and should be added as the 28th Amendment. In 1972, Congress passed the ERA with well over the necessary two-thirds vote and sent it to the states. It has been over two years since Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the amendment, fulfilling the three-fourth state ratification requirement. Both the Supreme Court and Congress have failed to protect women's rights in recent actions. It is evident that addressing sex discrimination requires additional executive action.

It is within your power to take the final step to ensure that the ERA is published immediately. Please seize this historic opportunity to add to your legacy and enshrine sex equality into the constitution, a vital step to ensure true equality under the law for every person in the nation. The time is now.

OPEN BRANCH POSITIONS

Yes, it is a stark message. At this time of the year especially, we don't want to be bothered with thinking about the day-to-day running of our AAUW Branch. However, it is necessary to start planning NOW for the 2025-2026 Executive Team.

For the starting of odd years, we will be electing a new President, Program VP and Secretary.

The Nominating committee is being formed. June Maier will be chairing this committee and is looking for volunteers.

If anyone is interested in one of these roles or wants to learn about more opportunities to get involved, please reach out to June Maier. If you are in one of these roles and would like to continue please let June know.

If you are not interested in one of these roles you may want to add your creative talents to one of the following roles Diversity, Viewpoints, Directory, Lunch Bunch or STEM.



Outstanding Woman and Member Making a Difference Awards



It is time to start thinking about who has made a difference this year to the branch and who has served the branch and the community. The committee solicits recommendations from branch members 60 days prior to the PA state deadline which typically is mid-February. If you know of someone you would like to nominate, please include a brief statement explaining the reason for the nomination. This can be emailed to:

November 2024 Financial Report – June Maier

(as of November 19, 2024)

CHECKING		SAVINGS		9-MONTH CD	
Beginning Balance	\$8,039.04	Beginning Balance	\$3,836.47	Beginning Balance	\$3,069.65
Deposits	\$133.81	Transactions	\$0.00		
Expenses	\$293.22	Interest Earned	TBD	Interest Earned	TBD
Ending Balances	\$7,879.63	Ending Balances	\$3,836.47	Ending Balance	\$3,069.65

CHECKING + SAVINGS + CD = \$15,004.03

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR! AAUW End of Year Giving

"If we could make an end of year gift of \$25," says Gloria Blackwell, CEO of AAUW National, "it would be matched to become \$50, or a gift of \$40 would become \$80, or even, if you can, a gift of \$50, it would become \$100."

Gloria urges us to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in End of Year Giving where every dollar we give will be doubled – twice the impact for our vital work together.

Gloria continues. There is more work to do.

- **Supporting the economic security of all women.** AAUW advocates policies like the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (Family) Act and the Healthy Families Act. We will keep fighting for these to become law.
- **Breaking down the gender pay gap.** There is still more work to be done to close the gap once and for all.
- **Making college more affordable.** Pushing policies that expand opportunities for women, including student moms, by advocating for programs like on-campus childcare, doubling Pell Grants, and supporting initiatives that reduce financial barriers.
- **Ending discrimination and harassment on campus.** Title IX was created to ensure that all students have access to an education free from gender discrimination in all forms. AAUW has backed it since its creation.

Ways to donate.

- If you are comfortable donating online by credit card, go to AAUW.org/YearEnd2024. Donate to a Fund such as Greatest Needs and our AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh branch will receive credit for your donation.
- You may also donate by sending a check payable to AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh to June Maier, 959 Broad Meadow Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15237. Enter the Fund you are supporting on the memo line. June will deposit your check into our bank account before she goes into the AAUW Hub to enter your donation. You will receive an acknowledgement from AAUW National that your donation has been received.

Remember, donations received **by December 31** in support of AAUW Funds such as the Greatest Needs Fund **will be matched! Thank you for your support!**



VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Ring a bell...Take a Stand Help Others



NHCO 2024 Salvation Army Kettle Campaign. Looking for volunteers to help spread holiday cheer! Volunteers will stand by the kettles at Kuhn's Market on Ferguson Road and Walmart in Gibsonia, ringing bells and collecting donations to support those in need. Find a friend to ring with you - always more fun with someone you know.

You can make the experience festive by singing carols, playing instruments or wearing fun holiday outfits—anything to add some joy!

Contact Harriet at NHCO for more information.

[Sign up for a spot at Kuhn's Market on Ferguson Road](#)

[Sign up for a spot at Walmart in Gibsonia](#)

Diversity

Save the Date

Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Unity Breakfast

You are invited to attend the **25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast**
Speaker: Angela Reynolds, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, YWCA Greater Pittsburgh

January 20, 2024, at La Roche University in the Zappala Campus Center

8:00 a.m. breakfast served 8:30 a.m.

Addition information will be in the January Viewpoints



Great Decisions

Mark your calendars! Another Great Decisions series is about to begin!



AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh is again sponsoring this educational outreach program for the North Hills community!



Our Great Decisions leadership team, Frances Cech, Fran Bogos and Sr. Rita, are planning for the 2025 program to be held on seven Saturday mornings in February and March. Plans are currently underway for the 2025 season to be a hybrid model. For each session registrants will be able to choose whether to participate on Zoom or in-person by coming to the Palumbo Center at La Roche University. (Yes, Zoom can be thought of as one part of the past four years that we can continue to use as it provides an option to many people who might not otherwise be able to attend Great Decisions!)

The series is FREE and you may attend as few or as many of the sessions as you choose. But who wouldn't want to learn more about ALL of these topics?!! Those who choose



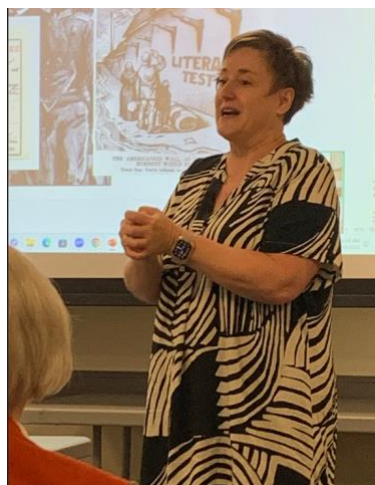
to purchase the Briefing Book can do so for \$30 at the LA Roche Library. **ONLY CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED, made out to AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh.**



Books and the complete schedule of dates will be available in January.

November in Pictures

Branch Meeting



IPODS





From Your Board



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: aaunorthhillspgh.org

Branch Email: aauwfam@gmail.com

Facebook Page: AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh branch

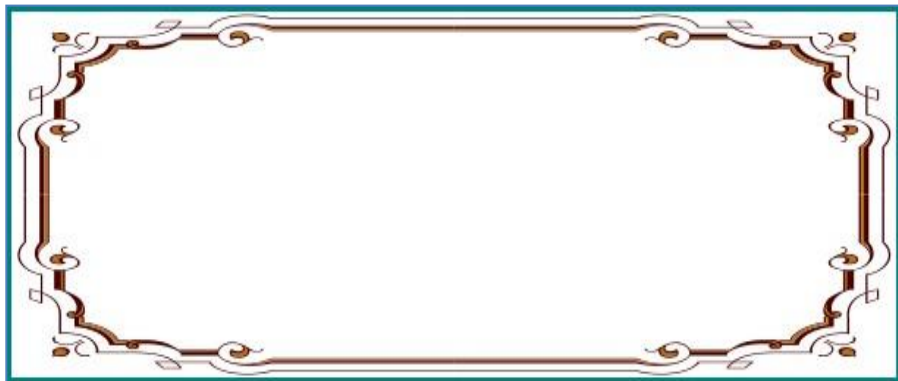
CONNECT2AAUW: 800-326-2289 or connect@aauw.org

National Website: www.aauw.org

State Website: www.aauw-pa.org

Viewpoints

AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh Branch
Deborah Rosenfelder, Distribution Manager
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Because Equity is still an issue