

President's Message

As unbelievable as it is...June has arrived and so has the end of the branch year. It has been a unique, unconventional, forward-thinking year but a very successful one.



As we wrap up our 2024-2025 branch year, I want to reflect on all that we have accomplished during this unprecedented time. We continue to grow with amazing new members and continue to enjoy what our seasoned members bring to our branch. Our new members bring energy and new ideas to our different projects and our veterans share their experiences and wisdom.

In September we awarded the Sister Matilda Scholarship Grant to a non-traditional student at La Roche University. In November we held our shape the future event as Dr. Lisa Tetrault, Associate Professor of History at Carnegie Mellon University discussed When Women Won the Right to Vote: A History Unfinished. February and March saw another successful Great Decision series. In May our branch provided our traditional end of year celebrations, awards and the installation of new officers. Our fundraiser For The Love of Books occurred on May 31st. We had 33 members sign up to attend and we had 66 nonmembers attend. We had a great turnout. Thanks to everyone for getting the word out. We will end the year with the Western District meeting on June 14th.

The summer months bring a more flexible AAUW schedule, but that doesn't mean we're not thinking about you or working to strengthen the branch! This will be the last Viewpoints until September, but check your email for updates on summer activities.

I hope all of you have a wonderful, relaxing summer and I look forward to seeing all of you in the fall.



June at a Glance QUICK REFERENCE CALENDAR

Jun 03, 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
At June Maier's house

Jun 10, 9:30 a.m. Morning Book Group
The Demon of Unrest By Erik Larson
Facilitator: Pauline Edison
Hostess: Pauline Edison

Jun 14, 11:00 a.m. Western District Meeting
Cooper-Siegel Library lower level at the back of the building

Jun 16, 7:00 p.m. Evening Book Group
Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers By Jesse Q. Sutanto
Facilitator: Francie Cech
Hostess: Francie Cech

Jun TBD, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. IPODs
The Joy's are hosting

Save The Date!

Jul 11, 1:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch
Narcisi Restaurant and winery
4578 Gibsonia Rd, Gibsonia
(724) 444-4744

Aug 08, 1:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch
Coughlin's Law Kitchen and Brew Pub
at Nebo Pointe

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

WEB SITE



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

Webmaster: Susan Banerjee

Membership
Let's Keep Growing Together!

Membership in AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh 2025-2026:
Your membership matters!

I have been asked many times in the past few months why I am such a supporter of AAUW, and every time I respond with the same words:

Joining AAUW is like going on a road trip with the most wonderful women; thoughtful, kind, supportive, determined, and funny. Like most good road trips, we have a shared destination and in this case, that destination is equity for women and girls. And everyone brings something of great value to the trip.

I truly cannot imagine making this journey alone. We are better together, equipped with an abundance of wisdom, experience, talents, and passion. Although there are many reasons to love our North Hills branch of AAUW – the many opportunities to grow through meeting new people, learning new things, reading new books, or sharing a meal - the reason that means the most to me is the opportunity to be part of something that is much bigger than myself in the mission of supporting equity for women and girls.

Our North Hills Pittsburgh branch of AAUW has a history dedicated to diversity, (Peace Picnic Initiative and the Martin Luther King Breakfast) offering educational support, (Sister Matilda Scholarship) and educational outreach to our community (Great Decisions) not to mention the opportunities offered through book clubs, IPODS, Lunch Bunch, Bridge, holiday celebrations, monthly collections that support women in our community and to work together on our annual fundraiser "For the Love of Books".

I believe our mission is as important now as it was over 100 years ago, and remain optimistic that together we can help "hold the line" for all of the women and girls in our lives despite the many hurdles that have occurred in recent months. The AAUW focus on education, economic security, and advocacy continue to be crucial in the quest for equity. I am grateful to have found our branch of AAUW and continue to be inspired by the many women who share the quest for equity.

I so hope that you, too, will continue this commitment by renewing your membership. **We need you to be part of our road trip to a better future for all!**

Ready, set, join!

Here are **four** important things we would like you to know regarding the website, and the renewal process for this year:

- 1) This year the renewal campaign begins April 1st the target closure date is June 30th, 2025.
PLEASE try and renew BEFORE June 30th!
- 2) National dues are \$74.00, having just been increased by \$2.00. Pennsylvania state dues remain the same at \$12.00, and local dues remain the same at \$31.00. Thus the total is \$117.00.
- 3) If you are interested in getting on to the website, here are the steps to follow:
 - Log on to AAUW.org and read the directions for entering your email and your password. This will take you to a screen that will ask you to verify your address and information before hitting the button to renew.
 - The renew button should allow you to do three things – verify your information, (address, email, years of membership, etc.) renew with your credit card, and have the option of donating to AAUW's Greatest Need Fund.
- 4) As in years past, there is the option to renew with a check written to our Finance Officer June Maier. Two things to know if this is your method of renewal:

-The check should be written to **AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh for \$117.00**, and given/sent to June Maier, financial officer at 959 Broadmeadow Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

-If you would like to renew with a check **AND** donate to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund at that time, be sure to make a note to June letting her know your intentions.

We do realize that, like many things in our lives, the cost of membership has increased slightly. But by being a member of AAUW you are part of something much bigger than yourself and therefore able to be part of the ongoing mission to gain equity for women and girls.

Your membership matters!

PLEASE do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions.

Francie Cech and Jennifer Schwoebel, NHP Membership VP's, (412-448-1182)

June 2025 Financial Report – June Maier					
(as of May 31, 2025)					
CHECKING		SAVINGS		9-MONTH CD	
Beg. Balance	\$9,678.43	Beg. Balance	\$3,910.68	Beg. Balance	\$3,151.50
Deposits	\$4,041.00	Scholarship (+)	\$179.00		
Expenses	\$2,371.80	Interest	.03	Interest	\$10.78
End. Balance	\$11,347.63	End. Balance	\$4,089.71	End. Balance	\$3,162.28
CHECKING + SAVINGS + CD = \$18,599.62					

June Happenings

Western District of AAUW-PA Get Together

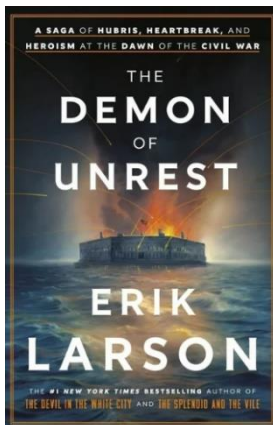
Building our Statewide Relationships to Sharpen our Local Impact

Saturday, June 14, 2025, at 11 AM-3 PM
Cooper-Siegel Library (lower level at the back of the building)
403 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238
Lunch will be provided

Spend time with fellow AAUW members from Western PA branches and the state board. Let's come together to strengthen our work and reaffirm our mission.

Morning Book Group *The Demon of Unrest By Erik Larson*

Master storyteller Erik Larson offers a gripping account of the chaotic months between Lincoln's election and the Confederacy's shelling of Sumter—a period marked by tragic errors and miscommunications, enflamed egos and craven ambitions, personal tragedies and betrayals. Lincoln himself wrote that the trials of these five months were "so great that, could I have anticipated them, I would not have believed it possible to survive them."



At the heart of this suspense-filled narrative are Major Robert Anderson, Sumter's commander and a former slave owner sympathetic to the South but loyal to the Union; Edmund Ruffin, a vain and bloodthirsty radical who stirs secessionist ardor at every opportunity; and Mary Boykin Chesnut, wife of a prominent planter, conflicted over both marriage and slavery and seeing parallels between them. In the middle of it all is the overwhelmed Lincoln,

battling with his duplicitous secretary of state, William Seward, as he tries desperately to avert a war that he fears is inevitable.

Evening Book Group *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers By Jesse Q. Sutanto*

Vera Wong is a lonely little old lady—ah, lady of a certain age—who lives above her forgotten tea shop in the middle of San Francisco's Chinatown. Despite living alone, Vera is not needy, oh no. She likes nothing more than sipping on a good cup of Wulong and doing some healthy detective work on the Internet about what her Gen-Z son is up to.



Then one morning, Vera trudges downstairs to find a curious thing—a dead man in the middle of her tea shop. In his outstretched hand, a flash drive. Vera doesn't know what comes over her, but after calling the cops like any good citizen would, she sort of . . . swipes the flash drive from the body and tucks it safely into the pocket of her apron. Why? Because Vera is sure she would do a better job than the police possibly could, because nobody sniffs out

a wrongdoing quite like a suspicious Chinese mother with time on her hands. Vera knows the killer will be back for the flash drive; all she has to do is watch the increasing number of customers at her shop and figure out which one among them is the killer.

Public Policy

National

AAUW is thrilled to launch our new 2025 Strategic Plan — a powerful, purpose-driven roadmap that honors our proud legacy and propels us into a future of even greater impact.

[2025 AAUW Strategic Plan – AAUW: Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

The big picture:

As higher education faces mounting challenges and unprecedented threats, we are rising to meet the moment. We're doubling down on what we do best: leading with vision, advancing women in higher education, and igniting pathways to opportunity, equity, and lasting economic empowerment.

Our 3 Strategic Priorities:

1. Empower pathways to higher education
We're investing directly in women — especially in underserved communities and underrepresented fields like STEM — through fellowships, grants, and leadership development.
2. Advocate for inclusive policy change
We're championing legislation and initiatives that remove barriers in education and the workplace — from ensuring educational environments are inclusive and free from harassment to championing pay equity, reproductive freedom, and more.
3. Strengthen AAUW's grassroots and operational power
We're building a sustainable future by supporting local branches, aligning for collective impact, and fostering a robust network of members and partners nationwide.

What's next:

This plan is about *all of us* — and the unstoppable force we become when we unite with purpose. Our members, branches, and supporters are the beating heart of this movement. **Your advocacy, your fundraising, your presence in communities across the country — you are the spark that transforms vision into real, lasting change.**

If you have missed any of the Webinars hosted by National click on the link below to get caught up

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

State**AAUW PA 2025 Summer Retreat**

Join us on Saturday, June 28th
Wyndham Garden State College

Kick off the weekend with our Welcome
Reception

Friday, June 27th | 6:30–8:00 PM at
Wyndham

1. To register for the Summer Retreat, [click here](#).
2. The cost for the retreat is \$75.00
3. After pressing "Done" on the Registration Form, you will be directed to a page on which you can pay via PayPal. **Deadline for registration is June 22, 2025.**
4. The registration fee is NON-REFUNDABLE. If you are unable to attend, try and get someone else to attend in your place.

Western District of AAUW-PA Get Together

Building our Statewide Relationships to Sharpen our Local Impact

Saturday, June 14, 2025, at 11 AM-3 PM
Cooper-Siegel Library (lower level at the back of the building)

403 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Lunch will be provided

Spend time with fellow AAUW members from Western PA branches and the state board. Let's come together to strengthen our work and reaffirm our mission.

Learn about recent developments at the state and national levels and share your input as we prepare for the 2025-2026 AAUW year.

In attendance from AAUW Pennsylvania: Cindy Hall, President; Lori Woods, Program Vice President; Karen Wellin, Membership Vice President; Ann Echols, Finance Officer.



Public Policy

Our Purpose

AAUW advances equity for women and girls by championing success in higher education — a vital pathway to economic security. For over 140 years, AAUW has led the fight for gender equity through advocacy, funding, and collective action.

Strategic Priorities

1. Fund Higher Education

Provide grants and fellowships for women in underserved communities and underrepresented fields like STEM.

Support women in academia and research.

Build networks for alumnae to lead and expand AAUW's impact globally.

2. Remove Barriers to Success in Education and the Workplace

Champion legislation supporting paid family and medical leave, paid sick days, pay equity, and workplace harassment protections.

Promote inclusive, safe, and accessible educational environments through

Enforcement of Title IX and other civil rights laws.

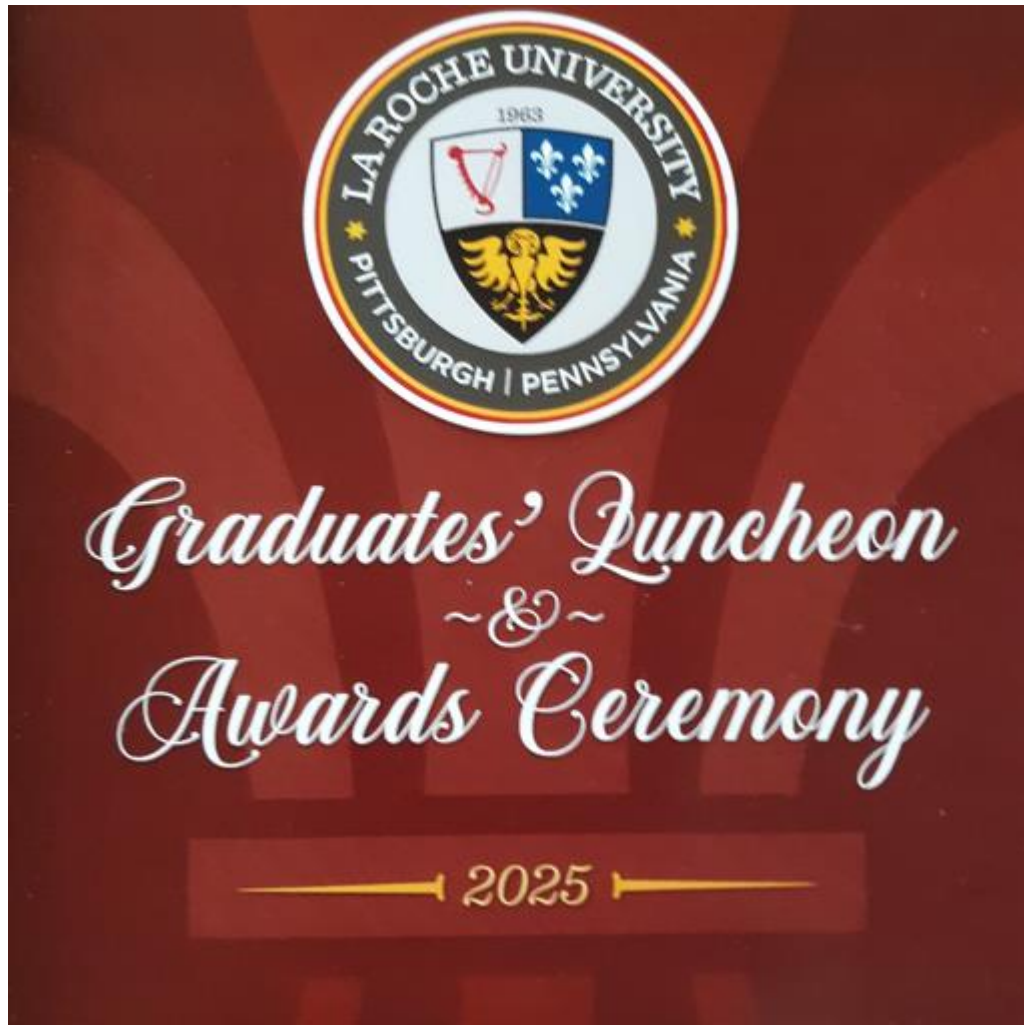
3. Strengthen AAUW's Reach

Support an effective network of states and branches through aligned strategies and initiatives like the Five-Star Program.

Grow organizational sustainability through member engagement and impact evaluation.

Call to Action

In a time of growing challenges to education access, AAUW must meet this moment. This strategic plan renews our commitment to higher education as the key to equity and empowers a stronger, unified movement to create lasting change.



Graduates' Luncheon ~&~ Awards Ceremony

2025

American Association of University Women (AAUW) Student Leadership Award

AAUW is a national organization with the mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. AAUW student organizations give students the resources and support to engage their community. Students gain leadership skills, create change on their campus, address equity issues and connect with a national community. The AAUW Student Leadership Award is given to a student/students who live out that mission.

Winter Marie Brown | Brooke Elaina Locher | Astrid Lutz | Anna M. Redfoot

Annual Dinner and Awards

After a storm delayed our Annual dinner scheduled for May 14th, 34 branch members enjoyed a relaxing evening of good food and fellowship at the annual May dinner at the Wildwood golf Club. Congratulations to our ten members who were recognized for their Membership Milestones.

Milestones Awards: Presented by Francie Cech/ Jennifer Schwoebel

15 Year Milestone Achievement Award:

Margaret Schmiedecke Cynthia Stewart

25 Year Milestone Achievement Award:

Rosemary Prager

30 Year Milestone Achievement Award:

Janice Meade Deborah Rosenfelder

35 Year Milestone Achievement Award:

Sina Murphy

40 Year Milestone Achievement Award:

Donna Martin Sr. Rita Yeasted

55 Year Milestone Achievement Award:

Linda Joy

60 Year Milestone Achievement Award:

Sylvia Lynn



Installation of Officers by Peggy Schmiedecke

Several of the new officers were unable to attend this event in person.

President: Debbie Rosenfelder

Programs Co-chairs: Fran Bogos & Kathleen Batykefer

Branch Secretary Christine Ley

Board Secretary Susan McAuliffe



Branch Awards

June Maier presented the Outstanding Woman Award to Francie Cech and the Branch Member Making a Difference Award to **Jennifer Schwoebel**.



Outstanding Woman award Francie Cech

Francie is always promoting membership because of her deep beliefs in the mission and values of AAUW. She has established an immediate connection between the new members and the branch. She attends the La Roche University Student Activities Fair to help recruit new student members into AAUW and interacts with the students throughout the year. Francie is the chairperson for the 7-week, Great Decisions sponsored by the North Hills Pittsburgh Branch. She coordinates the April service project pack a purse. Francie promotes our branch to the community through her interaction with the community.

Member Making a Difference Award to Jennifer Schwoebel

Jennifer promotes membership in AAUW through her social interactions with friends and acquaintances. She interacts with members and potential members to keep them informed as to the activities of the Branch. Jennifer exemplifies the spirit of AAUW with her interaction with in the branch. Jennifer helps to plan the branch annual "Shape the Future" campaign, and helps coordinate the delivery of directories to members, either in-person or by mail. At each branch meeting, she creates a themed gift bag to be given at the close of the meeting. A member's name is drawn as the winner.



THE AAUW DIRECTORY 2025-2026

Sylvia Lynn has started to work on next year's directory. Please take a moment to look at your information to make sure that your name is spelled correctly as well as the address, email and phone numbers. If it is not please let Sylvia know by e-mail or phone. If there has been a change in your information, please let Sylvia know.

412-486-0151 sylviaklynn@gmail.com

May in Pictures

May Dinner



FUNDRAISER "For The Love Of Books"













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

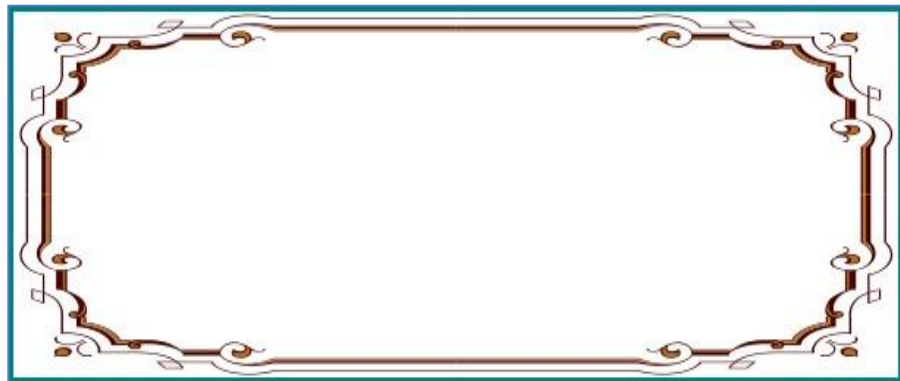
CONNECT2AAUW: 800-326-2289 or connect@aauw.org

National Website: www.aauw.org

State Website: www.aauw-pa.org

Viewpoints

AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh Branch
Deborah Rosenfelder, Distribution Manager
8310 Van Buren Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237



Because Equity is still an issue