

MARCH PROGRAM**Program Title: The Impact of CEDAW – Global to Local**

CEDAW is an acronym for the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the global human rights treaty focused on gender justice. The UN General Assembly adopted CEDAW in 1979, and the treaty entered into force in 1981. The rights it enshrines promote gender justice in every area of life—civil, political, economic, social and cultural. Although the U.S. has not ratified CEDAW, local governments can take meaningful action to uphold its principles. Under the international principle of subsidiarity, cities and counties have the authority, responsibility and proximity to promote human rights. By adopting local CEDAW measures, they can bypass federal inaction and advance gender justice where it matters most—in the communities that shape people’s everyday lives.

Local CEDAW measures promote gender justice through intersectional gender data collection and analysis, concrete action plans with measurable impact and oversight mechanisms that ensure accountability and sustained progress.

CEDAW explicitly recognizes that women, girls and gender-diverse individuals experience discrimination in multifaceted ways, shaped by race, ethnicity, disability, age, migration status, socioeconomic status and more—extending beyond the categories protected under U.S. law. Local CEDAW measures are grounded in intersectionality

Speaker: Marcia Bandes, Chair, Pittsburgh for CEDAW - Worked at IBM for 34 years in the areas of technical sales support, product marketing, Business Partner support and management. Marcia is currently the Chair of Pittsburgh for CEDAW. The Coalition was established in 2015 with the goal to pass an ordinance reflecting the articles of CEDAW. We attained our goal in 2016 and Pittsburgh became the sixth CEDAW City in the US and now has a Gender Equity Commission. With a focus on women’s rights, Marcia represents Pittsburgh for CEDAW on the Board of the Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance and as an affiliate of the Black Girls Equity Alliance. She is also a member of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh, and Pittsburghers for Public Transit. These days she relaxes walking the family greyhound around the streets and parks of Squirrel Hill.

March Program

Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Location: La Roche University
Ryan Room
6:00 P.M. Social
6:15 P.M. Gateway To Equity
Award
6:45 P.M. Program
7:30 P.M. Business Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87492591383>

Meeting ID: 874 9259 1383

Prior to the program we will be presenting the Gateway to Equity Award.

President’s Message

Ah, The sound of March. I feel a sense of hopefulness as winter in Pittsburgh has been especially hard this year and spring is right around the corner.

March arrives with the promise of new beginnings. This is a season that mirrors the strength, grace and resilience of women everywhere.

March is a month of renewal, growth, and strength — and it’s also a time to honor the incredible power, resilience, and brilliance of women everywhere.



March is Women’s History Month, an annual celebration in the United States that recognizes and celebrates the contributions of women all throughout the nation’s history.

Although gender is a socially constructed concept that changes and evolves personally throughout each of our lives, there is no shortage of nuanced and dynamic conversations to be had about women, gender, inequality, and injustice.

Throughout history, women have been erased and excluded, and women of color, transgender women, and queer women have been subjected to even more harmful oppression than their white, cisgender sisters. To truly embrace and understand the value of Women’s History Month, we must approach our celebrations with intersectionality and intention.

And it is especially important to do so in 2026, as recent rollbacks of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs aim to target all marginalized communities across the U.S.

With that in mind, Women’s History Month is both a time to confront the ongoing injustices that plague women around the world — and an invitation to celebrate and rejoice in our shared humanity as women.

Debbie

February 2026 Financial Report – June Maier					
(as of February 23, 2026)					
CHECKING		SAVINGS		CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT	
Beg. Balance	\$6,438.11	Beg. Balance	\$2,114.93	Beg. Balance	\$7,599.73
Deposits	\$150.00				
Expenses	\$125.00				
		Interest Earned	TBD	Interest Earned	TBD
End. Balance	\$6,463.11	End. Balance	\$2,114.93	End. Balance	\$7,599.73
CHECKING + SAVINGS + CD = \$16,177.77					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checking Deposits – vendor checks, Love of Books • Checking Expenses – Great Decisions expense 					

March at a Glance

QUICK REFERENCE CALENDAR

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

Mar 10, 9:30 a.m. Morning Book Group
The Glass Maker by Tracy Chevalier
Facilitator: June Maier
Hostess: June Maier

Mar 13, 1:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch
Sieb's Pub & Restaurant
3382 Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Mar 16, 1:00 p.m. Evening Book Group
The Edge of Lost by Frank McMorris
Facilitator: Sina Murphy
Hostess: Cindy Stewart

Mar 18, 6:00 p.m. Program

Mar IPODS TBD,

Save The Dates!

Great Decisions: Mar 7, 14 & 21

La Roche Literary Society April 24th

Annual Dinner April 29th

**May 30, 2026 For The Love of Books
Fundraiser**

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

March Happenings

Lunch Bunch

Sieb's Pub & Restaurant 3382 Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237

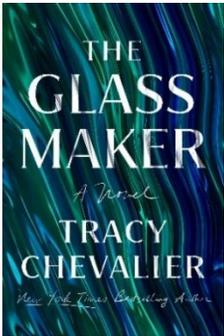
Sieb's Pub is a family-owned and operated Irish pub, restaurant, and banquet facility. Owners Ken (Sonny) and his wife Judy Siebert opened their doors in November 2004 and have made so many great friends along the way.

Wear your favorite green and help us celebrate St. Patrick's Day.



Morning Book Group

The Glass Maker by Tracy Chevalier

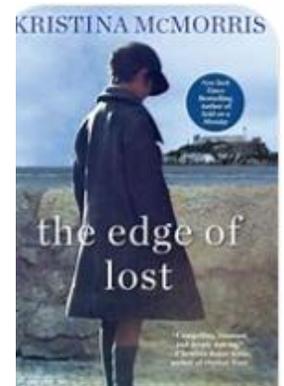


The Glassmaker (2024) is a historical novel that follows the life of a fictional glassmaker named Orsola Rosso and fuses traditional historical fiction with elements of magical realism, depicting the primary characters in different eras that range from 1486 to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chevalier also describes key events in the history of Venice and develops themes of creativity, gender, and memory.

Evening Book Group

The Edge of Lost By Kristina McMorris

From bestselling author Kristina McMorris comes an ambitious and heartrending story of immigrants, deception, and second chances. Skillfully weaving these two stories, Kristina McMorris delivers a compelling novel that moves from Ireland to New York to San Francisco Bay. As her finely crafted characters discover the true nature of loyalty, sacrifice, and betrayal, they are forced to confront the lies we tell—and believe—in order to survive.



Membership

Membership Does Indeed Matter!

So many times, in the past year, we have shared our thoughts on the beauty of being part of something much bigger than ourselves in the continuing fight for equity for women and girls. There are too many days when the frustration of the unraveling, or attempted unraveling, of women's rights seems overwhelming. But these are the days when being part of something much bigger, and having a louder voice, matters most. We want to share a message from a recent publication of AAUW National's "Membership Matters" that echoes our thoughts.

"As we begin 2026, I want to make clear that AAUW stands in solidarity with those impacted by the federal immigration enforcement surge in Minnesota — a situation that has included aggressive raids, community fear, and tragic deaths that have drawn national attention and widespread protest. We are guided by the principle that every person deserves safety, dignity, and fair treatment, and we condemn violence and actions that exacerbate bias or harm the most vulnerable members of our communities. Even as these events weigh heavily on our communities, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank you for the remarkable work you accomplished in 2025. From advancing our mission in your communities to helping power our historic year-end fundraising efforts, your leadership, programming, and generosity are the reason AAUW continues to make an impact nationwide."

Our voices **are** being amplified on all issues regarding women, from the attempted dismantling of DEI, loss of funding for women's education, and the attempt to negate the number of women who will have their voice heard at the polls going forward. It is a painfully slow process, but we feel better having our voices join thousands of other women in this most important fight for equity. And we hope you do as well.

PLEASE continue to ask other women you know to join us for a program. No pressure to join, just the opportunity to have some coffee, cookies, and good conversation as well as being inspired by some guest speakers.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, March 18th and we will be certain to inspire everyone with the words from our 2026 **Gateway to Equity** award winner as well as words from our own Peggy Schmiedecke, chair of Public Policy and the member who keeps us informed regarding women's issues right here in the Pittsburgh area.

Yours in all things AAUW,
Francie Cech & Jennifer Schwoebel
CO-VPs for Membership

Great Decisions

What in the World??

Find out by attending **Great Decisions 2026!**

We would love to have you join us to learn more about the most important Foreign Policy issues facing us today as selected by the Foreign Policy Association.

1) **"U.S.-China Relations Trade Rivalry"** - a discussion focused on both security motives as well as the tariff situation.

Dr. Mark Haas, Duquesne University -Saturday, February 7th, 2026.

This session has been rescheduled for Saturday, February 28th.

2) **"America and the World: Trump 2.0 Foreign Policy"** - a discussion that will explore the implications of a potential return of Trump to the presidency and how it may reshape U.S. foreign policy.

Professor Ross Harrison, University of Pittsburgh -Saturday, February 14th, 2026.

3) **"Ruptured Alliances and the risk of Nuclear Proliferation"** - a discussion focused on the consequences of weakened alliances & the implication for global security, specifically in regard to nuclear weapons.

Dr. Soren Fanning, Robert Morris University -Saturday, February 21st , 2026.

4) **"U.S.-China Relations Trade Rivalry"** - a discussion focused on both security motives as well as the tariff situation.

Dr. Mark Haas, Duquesne University -Saturday, February 7th, 2026.

This session has been rescheduled from Saturday, February 7th.

5) **"U.S. Engagement of Africa"** - a discussion focusing on Africa's growing geopolitical role, comparing U.S. and Chinese presence, and the tools of statecraft the U.S. might use to strengthen ties.

Dr. Innocent Badasu, University of Pittsburgh – Saturday, March 7th ,2026.

6) **"Ukraine and the Future of European Security"** - a discussion on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and its effects on European security.

Dr. Soren Fanning, Robert Morris University - Saturday, March 14th, 2026.

7) **"The Future of Human Rights and International Law"** - a look at the future of global cooperation amidst shifting power dynamics and rising nationalism.

Mark Lagon, Chief Policy Officer at Friends of the Global Fight - Saturday, March 21st, 2026.

Our North Hills Pittsburgh branch of AAUW is proud to sponsor the largest discussion program on world affairs, a program put forth by the Foreign Policy Association.

We hope you will be able to join us on Saturday mornings at La Roche University, Palumbo Science Center, Room 101 from 9:30 am to 11:00 am or on Zoom!

Public Policy

National:

From Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW CEO:

AAUW is especially proud to celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of our [AAUW fellows](#), grantees, and alumnae.

Their work expands knowledge, uplifts communities, and paves new pathways for opportunity. Through their research, teaching, advocacy, and leadership, they demonstrate what is possible when talent is nurtured and barriers are challenged.

The U.S. Department of Education opened a public comment period on a proposed rule that would implement major student loan changes scheduled to take effect July 1, 2026. Stemming from the 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act' budget reconciliation law, the proposed rule would end Grad PLUS for new borrowers, set new borrowing caps, and establish new student loan repayment pathways. AAUW is urging students, educators, and the public to submit comments so the Department fully understands how these changes will shape access to graduate and professional degrees for women, especially Black and Latina women and student parents. Our recent [statement](#) reaffirms this commitment as we continue to push forward toward equity in every community.

State:

The AAUW PA annual Business/Membership meeting is scheduled for May 2 at 10 a.m. on Zoom. Link to come.

There is a Call for Proposals for the 2026 Atlantic Regional Conference in Lancaster, Sept. 25-27, 2026.

Conference planning is continuing strongly! The bulk of speakers have been selected, and AAUW PA is ready to invite members across the region to submit a proposal for **Ideas that Move the Needle**. These sessions offer the opportunity to share your greatest idea for achieving the AAUW Mission and goals, and they will showcase AAUW members exclusively.

Local:

Voter Registration & Education at La Roche University Spring Activities Fair 2026



Pictured Peggy Schmiedecke, LVV Colligate Team and AAUW Public Policy Chair, Mary Ellen and Lou Benedict, LWV Pittsburgh.

May 19, 2026 Election Day - Polls Open 7:00 am - 8:00 pm

May 4, 2026 Last day to Register to Vote/ Update Registration

Gateway to Equity Award – North Hills Pittsburgh



Ana Kay Yaghoubian, MPA (She/Her), is a nonprofit professional with 20 years of experience. She has served as the Director of Education Programs at Adagio Health, started a program to prevent dating violence, secured a federal grant from the Office of Population Affairs, for which she served as Project Director, as well as multiple grants from the state Department of Health. Ana Kay doubled the size of the Department and expanded the geographic footprint of education programs in Southwestern PA. She has developed and maintained partnerships throughout the region with schools, nonprofits and foundations. She continues to work on behalf of youth and equity in education as the

Director of Building for Success in School in Life at United Way of Southwestern PA. Ana Kay's volunteer work includes:

Board Member – Pittsburgh Scholar House an organization focused on improving the quality of life for women & their children through post-secondary education and comprehensive support services.

Advisory Board Member - Office of Child Development University of Pittsburgh. This office fosters community programs, Early Head Start, program partnerships, advances racial equity and social justice, and provides high quality evaluation and research. She supports the mission of OCD to improve the lives of children, youth and families through interdisciplinary collaborations across research, practice, and policy.

PA Women Work – Providing mentorship to women in the Pittsburgh area who are transitioning into work or from one career to another. Helping to strengthen women's interview and job search skills, career and strategic planning.

Ana Kay holds a Bachelor's of Sociology and Women's Studies from George Mason University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration with a Focus on Non-Profit Management.

Officer Elections



Our branch elects officers for Finance Officer and V.P. of Membership in even numbered years. June Maier has served two 2-year terms as Finance Officer and Francie Cech and Jennifer Schwoebel have served two 2-year terms as Membership V.P.s. They are now ineligible to run again.

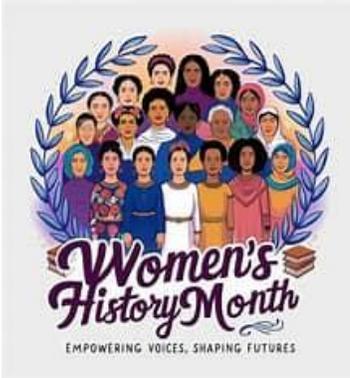
At this time, the Nominating Committee (Chair Peggie Schmiedecke and Katherine Keith) has no nominees to present. During our April branch business meeting we will again call for any member interested in filling one of these offices.

If there is no interest the president can appoint members, with the approval of the Board, to fill these roles, per our Bylaws. June, Francie and Jennifer have graciously agreed to accept these appointments.

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

DIVERSITY

Women's History Month



Women's History Month is a time to recognize and celebrate the contributions of women throughout history. The theme for 2026 is "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future"

IMPORTANCE & RELEVANCE: In this pivotal moment of history, we are called to confront a range of overlapping global challenges: climate change, economic insecurity, healthcare disparities, and threats to democratic participation. These issues are deeply intertwined – and women, particularly from marginalized communities, often experience their impacts most acutely.

Yet women have also led the charge toward lasting solutions.

"Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future" expands our understanding of sustainability beyond just environmental concerns. It encompasses financial sustainability, community resilience, leadership succession, and intergenerational equity. Whether developing green technologies, advancing economic justice, strengthening education systems, or building civic power – women are designing blueprints for sustainable transformation. This theme affirms that shaping a sustainable future means fostering systems that support both people and the planet.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

- **Honor:** Celebrate the diverse contributions of women who are leading sustainability efforts across environmental, economic, educational, and social justice movements.
- **Educate:** Raise awareness about the important historical and contemporary roles of women in shaping sustainable change.
- **Inspire:** Empower individuals and institutions on how to take action toward sustainability, equity, and justice in their own spheres of influence.
- **Connect:** Build bridges across generations, geographies, and disciplines to foster collaboration, mentorship, and shared learning.
- **Envision:** Encourage a long-term vision for our future where women's leadership is central to thriving communities and a healthy planet.

DIVERSITY

IS EDUCATION TODAY AN EQUALIZER IN SOCIETY?

(Some interesting thoughts paraphrased from AAUW's Diversity tool kit).

For many years, education has been seen as the great equalizer. But is it really? Or does it actually further increase the divide in this country? We have long thought that providing a free public education to all would alleviate the divide between [races](#), [genders](#) and [social classes](#) in the U.S. But it hasn't had the desired effect.

Nowhere in the definition of education does it specify that education means through formal institutions. In fact, that's probably the biggest misconception about education. What most of us think of as education is actually credentialing and obtaining a degree. This is not the same as being educated. Credentialism is also plagued by the effects of racism, sexism, and socio-economic inequality — and research has shown that race, gender, and socio-economic status also impact access to institutions of higher learning.



As the world around us continues to evolve, there are those advocating for us to reconceptualize how we think of education. Alternative notions of what being educated means have emerged. These include characteristics, such as being able to think freely and critically, learning and working independently, taking initiative, questioning assumptions and the ability to establish rapport and interact with others. Society is changing and recent events have shown us that we have to learn to adapt and be flexible in unprecedented ways.

Click the link below to learn more:

[Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Toolkit – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

La Roche University Student Activity Fair



On Monday February 2nd Francie Cech and Jennifer Schwoebel attended the La Roche Student Activity Fair. They were able to interact with students and talk about AAUW and our Mission. They provided handout about AAUW. They were able to recruit 9 additional student members.

Those cookies look so good!!



PACK-A-PURSE 2026

We will once again be doing the Pack a Purse for our branch April Service Project. For several years now the evening book group, and last year the branch, has been collecting in April for The Pack-A-Purse project.

Once again AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh Branch is happy to be helping with this initiative that supports women in need.

The actual collection will take place in April as our community project. In case you are getting a jump on some early spring cleaning and have a gently used purse or two to donate, or just would like to start tucking a few items aside each week that will be used to pack those purses, here is a list of items that the Pack-A-Purse team "packs" in all purses before they are distributed:



- shampoo, conditioner, brushes/combs
- hand lotion, hand wipes, tissues
- body wash, deodorant, wash cloth/shower puffs/loofahs
- toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss
- tampons, pads, hand sanitizer
- breath mints, fragrance, small umbrella

Thank you, in advance, for your support. The purses will be distributed to numerous organizations that support women including Angel's Place, Crisis Center North, Dress for Success, Genesis House, North Hills Community Outreach, Sojourner House and Veterans' Leadership Program of Western PA.



Equal Pay Day 2026

Equal Pay Day is a symbolic day that highlights the gender pay gap, representing how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year.



Each year, this symbolic day is used to raise awareness around and combat the impact of pay inequities. Equal Pay Day 2026 is on March 26 and marks the current state of the gender pay gap for women: **81%** for full-time, year-round workers and **76%** for all workers (including part-time and seasonal).

In 2026, Equal Pay Day in the United States falls on March 4, National equal pay day falls on March 26 of this year

and International Equal Pay Day is observed on September 18.

- Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AAANHPI) Women's Equal Pay Day is observed on April 7th, 2026.
- LGBTQIA+ Equal Pay Awareness Day 2026 is scheduled for June 13.
- National Black Women's Equal Pay Day in 2026 is observed on July 27.
- Latina Equal Pay Day in 2026 is expected to be observed on October 8.
- Native Women's Equal Pay Day will be observed on November 30.

Primary Election Season

Make your voice heard!!!!

The 2026 midterm elections will shape the future of Pennsylvania state government and determine the balance of power in Congress.

With every seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Pennsylvania House on the ballot, and key races for governor and lieutenant governor,

Important dates for Pa. voters in 2026

May 4: Final day to register to vote before the primary.

May 12: Final day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot.

May 19: Primary election. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. v day for county election office to receive completed mail-in and civilian absentee ballots. Ballot must be received by 8 p.m.

May 26: Final day for county election office to receive completed military and overseas absentee ballots. They must be submitted for delivery no later than 11:59 P.M. May 19.



Save The Dates!



ANNUAL DINNER

AWARDS

Please join us at

for our annual celebration dinner

Wildwood Golf Club

April 29, 2026 Wildwood Golf club: 6:00- 8:00 PM

Flyer will be sent

“For the Love of Books” Branch Fundraiser

Saturday, May 30, 2026, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

\$45 includes

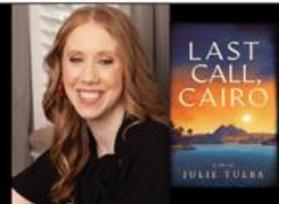
- Help Support AAUW's mission
- Meet Local Authors Panel discussion, presentation
- Morning refreshments
- Light lunch is Gluten free, Nut free
- Raffle Baskets
- Shop with Vendors
- Book signings



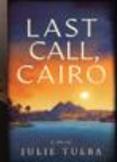
Sherry Cormier



Michelle Maher



Julie Tulba



MAY 30 2026

10 AM - 2 PM

La Roche University
9000 Babcock Blvd. Pgh, PA 15237
Learn more: wp.me/Pdl2o4-zu
Reserve your spot by May 23!

LEARN MORE HERE



A Few March Dates

March is a month filled with important historical events, cultural observances, and international awareness days.

Historical Events

1. **March 1: St. David's Day** - Celebrated in Wales, honoring the patron saint of Wales.
2. **March 8: International Women's Day** - A global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.
3. **March 14: Pi Day** The date represents the first three digits of the mathematical constant (The pi symbol π). The day is recognized by math enthusiasts and is often celebrated with activities involving pie as a play on word with pi.
4. **March 15: Ides of March** - Notorious for the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 BC, marking a significant turning point in Roman history.
5. **March 17: St. Patrick's Day** - Celebrated in Ireland and by Irish communities worldwide, honoring St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.
6. **March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** - A Day to promote efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.
7. **March 22: World Water Day** - Focuses on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.
8. **March 26: Purple Day** - A global day dedicated to raising awareness about epilepsy.



February in Pictures

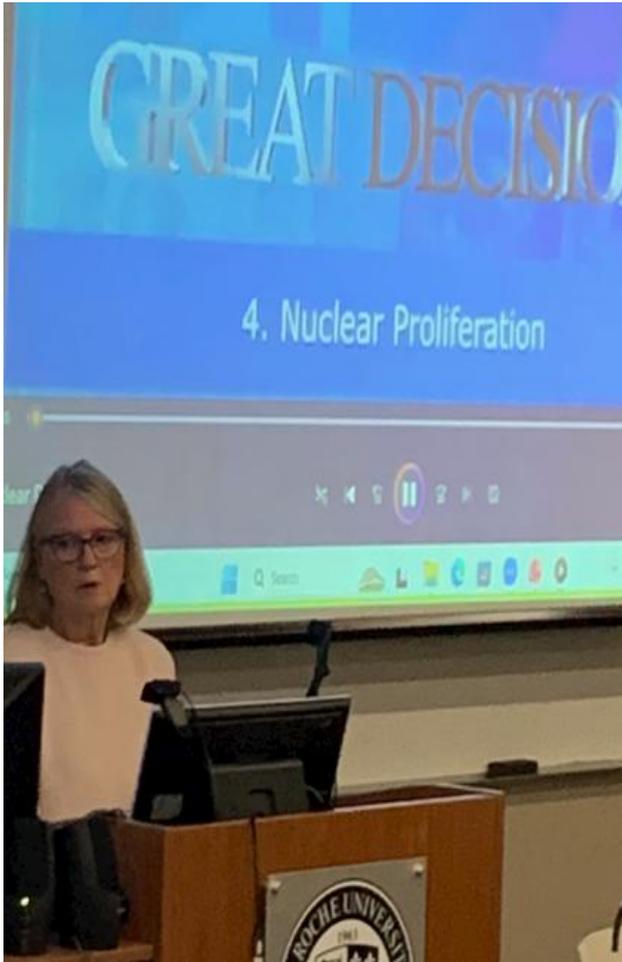
Ground Hog Day



Lunch Bunch



Great Decisions



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

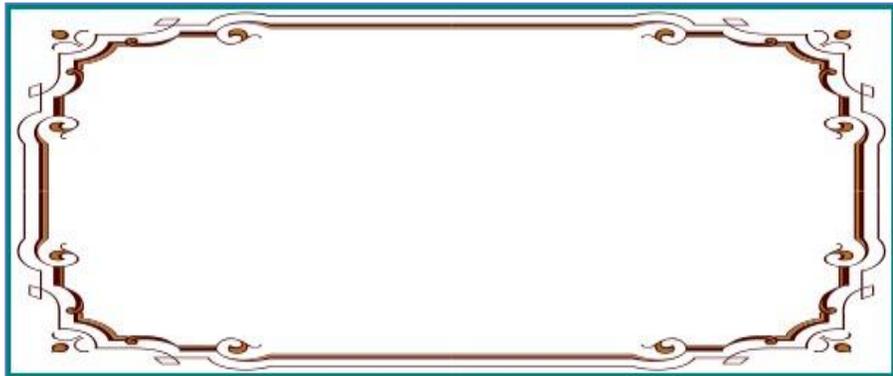
CONNECT2AAUW: 800-326-2289 or connect@aauw.org

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