

## FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS

*You are invited!*

*An exciting day awaits you!*

*The North Hills Pittsburgh Branch of AAUW is pleased to announce  
the 5th annual author's lunch event  
"For the Love of Books" Fundraiser.*

*Saturday May 30, 2026, from 10 a.m. -2 p.m.*

*At La Roche University*

*Three talented female Authors will speak.*



*This is a great opportunity to interact with 3 local authors  
and to raise funds for our scholarship and to support our  
mission for women and girls.*

*We hope you are able to join us!*

## President's Message

The month of May can be pure magic. While April can be a mix of cool rainy days with some warm sunny days here and there, May serves up plenty of warm days and blooming flowers. May can be a month of rebirth, inspiration and excitement as we look forward to a long relaxing summer.



May is the month when the AAUW North Hills Branch moves into high gear. Widespread congratulations are due to the members that have served on our board. We have identified our board for the 2026-2027 years. The good news is our board will be staying the same. The Scholarship Committees will begin the hard work of choosing a recipient for the 2026 branch grant. Great Decisions has ended for another year. Thank you to all who supported this program and for making it a great success in the community. Our annual dinner was on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Award winners will be listed in the June viewpoints. We have had some amazing programs this year and the April program was no exception. After learning the history of the Harmony line I'm thinking of taking a road trip this summer to the trolley museum. We end the month of May with our branch fundraiser "For The Love Of Books". We need everyone's support to make this event a success.

There are two important times when members should vote during May 2026. May 19 is the Pennsylvania primary election where we can exercise our right to vote. This is where you will be able to select the candidates who will be on the ballot in the November General Election. We will also have the opportunity this month to elect State officers for the AAUW. Please look for the email from AAUW so that you can cast your vote.

The June viewpoints will come out about the second week in June so that we can capture information about the Fundraiser and the June board meeting.

*Debbie*

*May is a month that celebrates  
women's strength, resilience, and creativity*

## MAY at a Glance

### QUICK REFERENCE CALENDAR

#### MAY No Board Meeting

May No Lunch Bunch

#### MAY 12, 9:30 a.m. Morning Book Group

*The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon*

Facilitator: Fran Bogos

Hostess: Marilyn Lanz

#### May 12, 1:00 p.m. Fundraising Meeting

Sylvia Lynn's House

#### MAY 18, 6:30 p.m. Evening Book Group

*Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult*

Facilitator: Jenny Schwoebel

Hostess: Jenny Schoebel

#### MAY IPODs May 23 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

The Kohr's are hosting

#### May 30, 10:00-2:00p.m. *For The Love Of Books EVENT*

hope to  
see you  
there

## 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](mailto: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

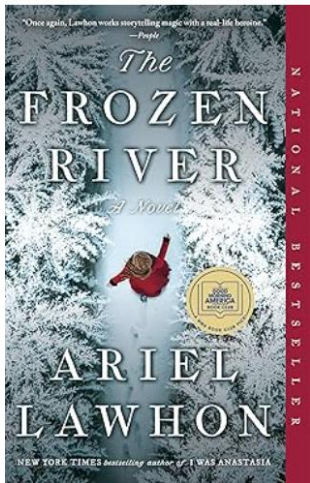
## May Happenings

### Lunch Bunch

The lunch bunch will not be meeting in the month of May. With the Branch Annual Dinner being held at the end of April and the Authors Lunch *For The Love Of Books* on May 30<sup>st</sup>, a decision was made to take a pause from lunch bunch for this month.

We will continue to schedule the Lunch Bunch throughout the final summer months. Please view the June Viewpoints for more information on these dates.

### Morning Book Group:

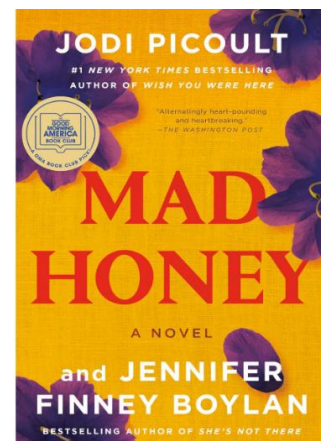


Historical mystery inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history. Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. Her diary is a record of every birth and death, crime and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community.

### Evening Book Group:

Olivia McAfee knows what it feels like to start over. Her picture-perfect life—living in Boston, married to a brilliant cardiothoracic surgeon, raising their beautiful son, Asher—was upended when her husband revealed a darker side. She never imagined that she would end up back in her sleepy New Hampshire hometown, living in the house she grew up in and taking over her father's beekeeping business.

*Mad Honey* is a riveting novel of suspense, an unforgettable love story, and a moving and powerful exploration of the secrets we keep and the risks we take in order to become ourselves.



**Membership**  
**Membership Truly Matters!**



AAUW has been transforming women's lives for more than a century. And now that we have won the fight to give women equal access to education, we're taking on one of the most defining issues of our time: gender equity.

**But no one can do this alone.**

Once again, I am reminding you of the beauty and power of being part of something bigger than yourself, because in raising our voices together amplifies our quest for equity for all women and girls.

By becoming a member, you're not only joining a community committed to our cause. You're also directly funding our work to:

- Train millions of women to [negotiate for higher salaries and benefits](#).
- Support state and local [fair-pay legislation](#) to ban the use of salary history in hiring, a practice that puts women at a financial disadvantage.

You may have experienced similar feelings of frustration in recent months when the fear of watching the current administration attempt to unravel women's rights hits hard. I am committed to being part of AAUW as an amplified effort to address the dismantling of DEI, loss of funding for women's education, and the continuing threat to negate thousands of women's voices at the polls going forward.

I **SO** hope you will join me -join us - in these most challenging times by renewing your membership in AAUW. The information you need is below.

Francie Cech (and Jennifer Schwoebel)  
AAUW-NHP Co-VP's Membership



## Membership Renewal

-Membership renewal for most of our members begins April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Our newer members who joined in November of last year (2025) do not have to renew at this time.

-The current dues for membership is **\$119.00.**  
(National, \$76.00, State, \$12.00, and NHP branch, \$31.00)

-You can renew on line via the AAUW website, or use the most typical method of sending a check for \$119.00 to our financial officer June Maier. The check should be written to **AAUW-NHP Branch.**

June's address is:  
959 Broadmeadow Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Yes, the cost of membership has increased slightly (\$2.00 from last year)  
**but** the importance of women investing in the future of all women and girls has seldom  
been greater!



## Public Policy

### National:

#### Advocating for Higher Education and Opportunity

Federal policy decisions underway could significantly impact how colleges support students, and AAUW is closely tracking proposed changes to accreditation that may weaken accountability and limit inclusive policies. With another round of negotiations set for May, concerns are growing about efforts to reshape higher education. At the same time, AAUW is advocating for increased investment in student success, including more funding for the Postsecondary Student Success Grant program and protecting Pell Grants. We're also opposing proposals that could restrict graduate student aid and make advanced degrees less accessible. [Explore AAUW's policy work here.](#)

#### AAUW Two-Minute Activist Join AAUW in the fight for gender equity!

Take an action or click "Sign Up" to get regular Two-Minute Activist alerts on when and how to engage on pressing issues.

### State:

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

Last week the PA House passed [House Bill 2400 with a bipartisan vote of 107-94](#). This bill includes Governor Shapiro's FY 26-27 state budget, which includes his full ask for education funding.

[Click HERE for the PA Schools Work response to the passage of House Bill 2400.](#)



#### 2026 Atlantic States Regional Conference Hosted by Pennsylvania

The 2026 Atlantic Regional Conference "Unfinished Revolution: Together We Stand" will be held September 25 - 27, 2026 at the Lancaster Convention Center.

The hotel room block is now open for the Lancaster Marriott at the Lancaster Convention Center- reserve early to secure your stay at and be at the center of the action! Please visit the conference website at [aauwatlanticregionalconference](http://aauwatlanticregionalconference)

**Local:****Pennsylvania Primary Voting & Elections**

On May 19, Democrats and Republicans in Pennsylvania will vote in the primary election for their party's candidates.

Voters will have races for governor and lieutenant governor on their ballots, as well as races for the entire Pennsylvania House and all the even-numbered districts in the state Senate. All of Pennsylvania's congressional districts are also on the ballot.

While many voters will head to their local polling places on Election Day, others will use mail ballots. All registered voters in the Commonwealth have been able to vote by mail since 2020.

Mail-in voting can be confusing and has been made even more so over the past five years by legal challenges, disinformation undermining public faith in elections, and efforts by many Republican lawmakers to prohibit its use.

There's important work to be done at the local level by the politicians and judges whom we elect this year. If you're looking for ways to address the whirlwind in Washington, start close to home. Spread the word about the importance of local elections in today's national political climate. Upcoming PA Primary Election, May 19

- Polls are open from 7 AM – 8 PM
- Last day to register to vote: May 4, 2026
- Last day to request a mail in or absentee ballot: May 12, 2026







## SCHOLARSHIPS, STUDENT DEBT AND THE PAY GAP

Sometimes one seemingly offhand remark can set you on a path of discovery, or even anger or activism. When a young woman mentioned her student debt – how it seemed like it was going to be a rock around her neck for her whole life, how she couldn't envision having kids or buying a house or even sharing half of the expenses of a household despite having a master's degree and a professional career. This woman is bright and hardworking and is good at her job. Although her field requires a master's degree, the income she earns is far less than what is paid in many other, especially male-dominated, professions. But we need her and people like her to do this important work.

AAUW does a lot of research and data analysis, which shows that this scenario is all-too common. In 2017, AAUW released a great study "Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans", which was updated in 2021. I already knew that more women than men were graduating from college, that women came out of college with more debt than men and earned lower incomes on average. But I thought there was hope, in that more women are embracing STEM and continuing to break down barriers in employment and attaining influential positions. And then I read the 2026 update "The NOT SO SIMPLE TRUTH" About the Gender Pay Gap. The most recent numbers are appalling! Women hold about 2/3 of student loan debt. Women graduates are paid 74% of what male graduates make. When you compare the gender pay gap – the difference between what women and men are paid given the same education, college major, job tenure and experience – the pay gap has worsened from 83% to 81%. Over a 40-year career, women lose \$542,800. It's even worse news for a woman of color – she may lose over \$1 million over a lifetime of work. What does this mean?

- It means women build less wealth in their working years.
- They are having to make difficult choices and sacrifices.
- They are apt to face greater economic insecurity later in life.
- They often have to work longer, and they are more likely to live in poverty in their "golden years".

So, what can we do? Beyond our scholarship program, which attempts to address the cost of higher education for promising students, we can try to educate ourselves and other women on financial management, including the impact of debt. Nearly every woman will be responsible for managing her own finances for at least some part of her life. And we can continue to advocate for systemic change. AAUW lists a number of ways to address the pay gap via national and state policy and employer solutions. I would like nothing better than that AAUW becomes irrelevant – that we no longer face barriers to education, career and leadership opportunities, and economic empowerment. But we're not there yet – not by a long shot. We will soon be recognizing and celebrating our 2026 grant winner at our September meeting. AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For over 140 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

## Key Holidays in May 2026 Include

**Memorial Day, and various cultural and religious observances.**

### Federal Holidays



**Memorial Day:** Monday, May 25, 2026. This is a federal holiday honoring military personnel who have died in service to the United States.

### Other Notable Observances

- **May Day:** Friday, May 01, 2026, European festival signifies the start of summer.
- **Mother's Day:** Sunday, May 10, 2026. Celebrated nationwide to honor mothers and maternal figures.
- **Armed Forces Day:** Saturday, May 16, 2026. Recognizes the service of men and women in the U.S. military.
- **National Teacher Day:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026. A day to appreciate educators.
- **National Nurses Day:** Monday, May 6, 2026. Celebrates the contributions of nurses.
- **Cinco de Mayo:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026. Commemorates the Mexican army's victory at the Battle of Puebla, widely celebrated in the U.S. with cultural events.
- **Peace Officers Memorial Day:** Wednesday, May 13, 2026. Honors law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

## Celebrate Mother's Day and Memorial Day.

### May Highlights in US Women's History

- **May 1, 1950** – Gwendolyn Brooks becomes the first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, named Library of Congress's Consultant in Poetry (later called Poet Laureate) in 1985.
- **May 5, 1938** – Dr. Dorothy H. Andersen presents results of her medical research identifying the disease cystic fibrosis at a meeting of the American Pediatric Association.
- **May 6 – 12 Nurses Week**
- **May 8, 1914** – President Woodrow Wilson signs a Proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.
- **May 10, 1872** – Victoria Woodhull is nominated as the first woman candidate for U.S. president for the Equal Rights Party.
- **May 12, 1968** – A 12-block Mother's Day march of "welfare mothers" is held in Washington, D.C., led by Coretta Scott King accompanied by Ethel Kennedy.
- **May 15, 1970** – Anna Mae Hays and Elizabeth P. Hoisington officially receive their ranks as U.S. Army Generals, becoming the first women to do so.
- **May 21, 1932** – Amelia Earhart Putnam becomes the first woman to complete a solo-transatlantic flight by flying 2,026 miles from Newfoundland to Ireland in just under 15 hours.
- **May 21, 1973** – Lynn Genesko, a swimmer, receives the first athletic scholarship awarded to a woman (University of Miami).
- **May 29, 1977** – Janet Guthrie becomes the first woman to qualify for and complete the Indy 500 car race.
- **May 29, 1943** – "Rosie the Riveter" by Norman Rockwell appears on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post.



**April IN PICTURES**

**Lunch Bunch**





April Branch Meeting







April IPODs







**MISSION STATEMENT OF AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND**

*LAF provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.*

**AAUW MEMBERSHIP**

*AAUW, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who hold an associate's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.*

**AAUW DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

*In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.*

**BRANCH CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Branch Email: [aauwfam@gmail.com](mailto:aauwfam@gmail.com)

Facebook Page: AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh branch

CONNECT2AAUW: 800-326-2289 or [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org)

National Website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

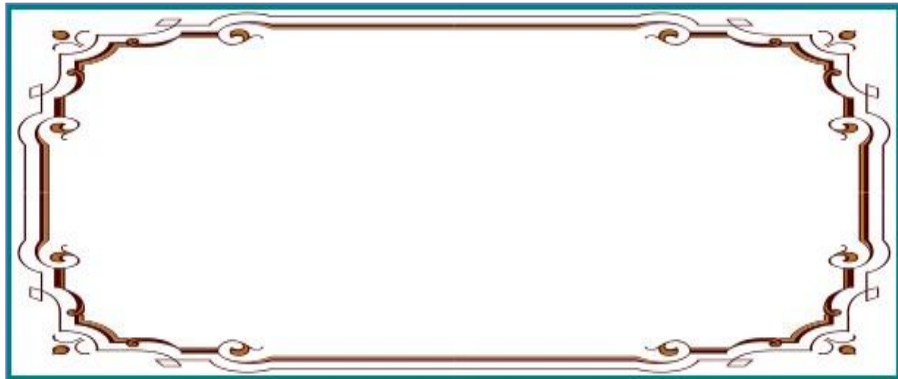
State Website: [www.aauw-pa.org](http://www.aauw-pa.org)

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## Viewpoints

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**Because Equity is still an issue**