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## June

### June President's Message

As we enter the final month of this program year, I have been reflecting on my role as a branch leader and, more importantly, our collective accomplishments as a branch. Even with annual leadership changes and transitions, our branch continues to chug along, strong and thriving, achieving our goals, engaging and enriching our members, and making a difference. I often think about what it means to make a difference and how we know it's happening. I have concluded that even as a small group of women, the greatest impact we have is on each other.

Because of the friendships I have developed over the years and the inspiration I take from my sister members, I am a better person with more diverse interests, greater knowledge, and greater civic engagement. If each of us feels this level of impact, then collectively we are making a difference and are starting to accomplish great things. A few sources of our collective pride this year include: an outstanding Program line up, our Great Decisions programs with speakers, our 3 service projects and collaboration with the League of Women voters and the many new members that joined this year.

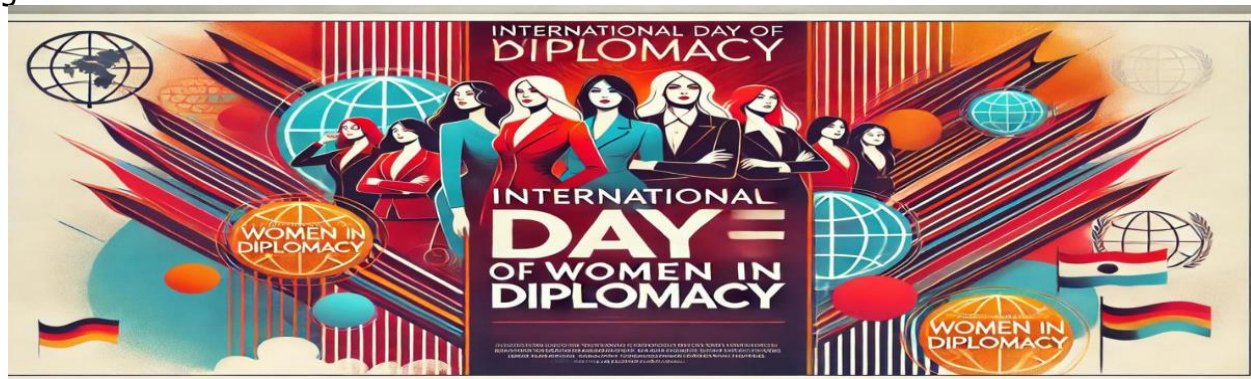
The Viewpoints will be taking a break for the summer but the board will be hard at work planning for the upcoming year. We are always looking for new ideas please reach out to a Board Member if you have something to share.



**Thank you for all your support  
Debbie**

### International Day of Women in Diplomacy

The International Day of Women in Diplomacy is observed annually on June 24 to celebrate women's contributions to diplomacy and to promote their full and equal participation in all levels of decision-making.



## June at a Glance

### QUICK REFERENCE CALENDAR

#### Jun 02, 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting

At June Maier's house

#### Jun 9, 9:30 a.m. Morning Book Group

**Nineteen Eighty-four**, by George Orwell

Facilitator: The Group

Hostess: Zoom

#### Jun 12, 1:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch

Billy's Roadhouse 10150 Old Perry Hwy,  
Wexford 15090

#### Jun 15, 6:30 p.m. Evening Book Group

*The GUNCLE* by Steven Rowley

Facilitator: Francie Cech

Hostess: Francie Cech

#### Jun TBD, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. IPODs

Sina Murphy is Hosting (Please check emails  
for updates)

### Save The Date!

#### Jul 10, 1:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch

Hartwood Restaurant & Whisper Pub

#### Aug 14, 1:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch

Dough Daddy Brewery

**Look for an email with more information  
a week before the lunch.**

## 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

## June Happenings

### Lunch Bunch

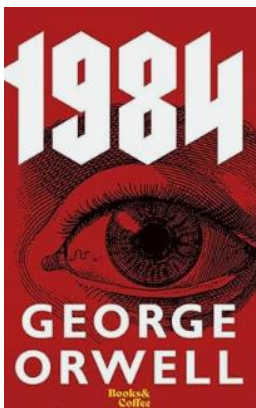
The lunch bunch will meet at Billy's Roadhouse 10150 Old Perry Hwy, Wexford 15090  
724-934-1177

Billy's Roadhouse is a full-service bar and restaurant. It's a long-standing local favorite known for its American-style menu, generous portions, and welcoming atmosphere. They have an awesome Grilled Lobster roll



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

### Morning Book Group:



**Nineteen Eighty-four**, [novel](#) by English author [George Orwell](#) published in 1949 as a warning against [totalitarianism](#). The novel's chilling [dystopia](#) made a deep impression on readers, and Orwell's ideas entered mainstream [culture](#) in a way achieved by very few books. The book's title and many of its concepts, such as [Big Brother](#) and the Thought Police, are instantly recognized and understood, often as bywords for modern social and political abuses.

### Evening Book Group:

*The GUNCLE* by Steven Rowley

This book is a deeply funny novel about a once-famous sitcom star whose unexpected family tragedy leaves him with his niece and nephew. Patrick O'Hara has always loved his niece, Maisie, and nephew, Grant — from a safe distance. His Palm Springs home and reclusive lifestyle aren't exactly welcoming to children. But when tragedy strikes, Patrick finds himself suddenly taking on the role of primary guardian.

Patrick has no idea what to expect, having spent years barely holding on after the loss of his own great love and managing a stalled career. He regrets his decision to take them in, until he starts to recognize that his outsize lifestyle and unusual life wisdom could bring about a season of healing that redefines their understanding of family, and finally lead Patrick back to himself.



## Membership Truly Matters!

AAUW has been transforming women's lives for more than a century, always dedicated to one of the defining issues of our time: gender equity. But no one can do this alone and once again, I am reminding you of the beauty and power of being part of something bigger than yourself. Raising our voices together amplifies our quest for equity for all women.

I have had far too many days of frustration in recent months when the fear of watching the current administration attempt to unravel women's rights hits hard. Just when we thought we had won the fight to give women equal access to education, barriers are being enacted. Recent policy and funding shifts are impacting graduate student loans, civil rights protection, research investments, accreditation standards, and diversity initiatives. I am committed to being part of AAUW as an amplified effort to address all of these road blocks for women as well as the continuing threat to negate thousands of women's voices at the polls going forward. **And I SO hope that you will join me – join us – in these most challenging times. Your membership truly matters!**

You will be receiving an email or two from AAUW National. This will include not only a reminder to renew, but all the information you need to know to do so. PLEASE do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions at all. **Your membership matters!**

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

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Current membership information:

-Membership renewal for most of our members begins April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Our newer members that have joined in November last year, (2025) or November 2026 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 \$117.00 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!

### Planting The Seeds Of AAUW!

The American Association of American Women views student membership as a “vital pipeline for advancing gender equity and building future advocacy leaders.”

Our North Hills Pittsburgh branch of AAUW could not agree more and has incredibly been so very fortunate to have had a partnership with La Roche University for over twenty years which affords our branch an efficient path to not only provide the university students easy access to the career readiness resources such as the nationally recognized Work Smart salary negotiation courses, but to plant the seeds of AAUW by cultivating future advocates for equity.

We are happy to have increased our student membership at in the past few years as La Roche has continued its institutional partnership with AAUW which allows their students to join at no cost. Despite the majority of student members not being able to take part in the majority of our programming, it does allow for “the planting of seeds”; to recognize the importance of equity for women and the dedication of AAUW members to carry this forward. Our North Hills Pittsburgh branch has provided each of our graduating student members with cords for representation at graduation, a notepad with our logo and a note to wish them well and to remember what AAUW represents as they move into the next chapter of their lives. One of our 2026 graduates reached out to let us know that even in her limited time with us, she truly appreciated the opportunity to learn and grow.

Our hope is to increase the conversations with our La Roche student members in the coming year. It is my belief that despite the difference in our age, we have “more in common than not” and our conversations are vital in our work to plant the seeds of AAUW.

Francie Cech and Jennifer Schwoebel  
NHP Membership VP’s



**“What You Do Makes A Difference,  
And You Have To Decide What Kind Of Difference You Want To Make.”**

Our North Hills Pittsburgh branch of AAUW has long been a group of women who have been dedicated to making a difference for other women and girls in their community, and the country. Whether participating in fundraising events to provide educational grants or supporting educational outreach opportunities in the community, our members have contributed creativity, caring hearts, and countless hours to the AAUW mission of equity for women.

This year, several members were nominated and recognized for their exceptional efforts in our branch endeavors:

**Judy Daw** and **Deanna Finley** were both our awardees for 2026 **“Outstanding Woman”**.

-Judy has served as the coordinator of vendors for our annual fundraiser for 5 years as well as serving as the contact list coordinator for our Great Decisions program. She also assists with set up and cleanup for most of our programs throughout the year and reaches out to many a member who may be in need of a few words of encouragement. Truly a woman who supports other woman!



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Deanna is a relatively new member who has jumped in with both feet to not only participate in but support all of our branch endeavors. She designed, printed, and hung informational posters to promote our Great Decisions program with all who entered the halls of La Roche University, and promoted this educational initiative through social media as well. Deanna has been a very strong supporter of the Pack-a-Purse project and has assisted with set up and cleanup for many of our programs throughout the year. We are so happy that Deanna decided to join us in 2024!



**Christine Ley** was awarded our 2026 **"Member Making a Difference"** award.



-Christine has volunteered to serve as our branch secretary for 2025-2026 and is a devoted attendee to our Great Decisions program. She has been an avid supporter of our annual fundraiser for several years, inviting friends and associates to come and not only enjoy the afternoon but to be introduced to AAUW and its quest for equity. Chris has also coordinated the donation of dozens of gently loved books to be used in our "Blind Date with a Book" portion of our fundraiser as she values the importance every dollar can make in the grants given to La Roche students every year. We are very appreciative of Chris's dedication to our main mission – she has definitely made a difference!

**Barbara Matthews** and **Jan Peischl** were our **Named Gift Honorees** for 2026.

This award is part of an AAUW initiative that enables branches who have made significant contributions to AAUW National, either in education or in policy and law, to recognize members who have made distinguished contributions to their branch and the overall mission of AAUW. These two longtime members (40 years!) have consistently supported the branch by serving in a variety of positions and both continue to serve on our NHP branch board. We are grateful for the continued dedication and service of these two women and are thrilled to be able to honor you!

Our incredibly dedicated Public Policy person, **Peggy Schmiedecke**, was nominated as well but much to our frustration, was not eligible to be recognized with an award this year as she was awarded both Outstanding Woman and Member Making a Difference in the past twelve years.

(We must confess to looking into bending this rule but to no avail. 😊) Our branch is most fortunate to have such a strong public policy representative as well as the many women in our branch who contribute to the mission of equity. We are incredibly grateful for every one of our members who support other women in ways both big and small.



Francie Cech and June Maier  
Recognition committee for 2025-2026

## Public Policy

### National

AAUW National election

AAUW National Board of Directors, is pleased to share the results of our 2026 national election.

Let's welcome our newly elected board members:

- **Pat Ashe**
- **Sandi Gabe**
- **Cindy Hall**
- **Kathleen Marrs**

National is also pleased to welcome **Malinda Gaul**, who will complete the remainder of outgoing director Sona Pancholy's term, and **Ana Nygren**, newly appointed members of the board. These accomplished leaders bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and dedication to AAUW's mission. We are looking forward to the perspective and leadership they will bring in the coming years.

As we begin this next chapter, we also want to recognize and thank our outgoing board members for their exceptional service:

- **Dr. Kimberly S. Adams**
- **Jenna K. Howard**
- **Jeanie Latz**
- **Edwina Frances Martin**
- **Shaila Rao Mistry**
- **Sona Pancholy**

Each has served with dedication, wisdom, and passion, helping guide AAUW through a pivotal time in our history. We are grateful for their service and impact.

**June 2026 Financial Report – June Maier**

(as of May 22, 2026)

<b>CHECKING</b>		<b>SAVINGS</b>		<b>CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT</b>	
Beg. Balance	\$7,786.91	Beg. Balance	\$2,114.99	Beg. Balance	\$7,666.64
Deposits	\$4,313.00	Deposits	\$1,100.00		
Expenses	\$1,842.16				
		May Interest	TBD	May Interest	TBD
End. Balance	<u>\$10,257.75</u>	End. Balance	<u>\$3,214.99</u>	End. Balance	<u>\$7,666.64</u>

**CHECKING + SAVINGS + CD = \$21,139.38**

- Checking Deposits – Dues Renewals, Annual Dinner Reservations, Love of Books Tickets
- Checking Expenses – Dues Renewals, Greatest Needs Donation. Annual Dinner, Gateway to Equity
- Savings Deposit - In Memory of Pauline Edison - Grant (Scholarship) Restricted

**THE AAUW DIRECTORY 2026-2027**

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](mailto:sylviaklynn@gmail.com)



**Pauline Edison**

August 27, 1940 - April 27, 2026

Pauline was a member of AAUW for 45 years. She was very active in book groups and Great Decision, when you think of Pauline you think generous, kind with many diverse talents. You can find Pauline engaged in one of her passions knitting or out in her gardens. You could always find Pauline leading discussion whether it be at book group, Great Decisions or the local library. Pauline was very engaged in the current affairs of today and shared a vision for a better tomorrow. She was a lover of the arts, she held season tickets to the Pittsburgh Symphony, Pittsburgh Opera, and Pittsburgh Public Theatre. You could always count on Pauline to ask the one though provoking question that make you think.

Please see below the tribute by Janette Kohr

Pauline and I have enjoyed delightful opportunities together at the AAUW IPODS hors d'oeuvres gatherings/meetings, in a wonderful Florida rental, and at her lovely home for English teas/meals. An Edison/Kohr friendship has reciprocally blossomed over the past several years. Pauline's amazing intellect enhanced with AAUW programs and reading groups plus college courses created wonderful, enlightening conversations. With interesting English childhood, college days, marriage to Dave and life continuing in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Pauline's storytelling was fascinating. As a calm, welcoming, kind, caring, thoughtful, and giving person, happy memories of Pauline, my dear friend, will continue in my heart.

Gratefully with Love, Janette Kohr

## 250 Years



Two hundred and fifty years ago, a new nation came into being. Amid the hard-fought war for independence against the British Crown, certain leading men residing in its 13 colonies came together to sign off on a document proclaiming, “All men are created equal.”

Such an anniversary—set during a time of immense backlash against the progress made in advancing gender equality, racial justice, and various inclusions across gender diversity, sexual orientation, the differently abled and aged, religious, national and ethnic groups—invites a reckoning with this democratic project that began as a work in progress.

We have yet to complete it (even after 250 years) in the quest for a “more perfect union.” We need to examining the past to better understand our present and to plan more inclusive visions for our collective future.

So, we ask: What did freedom and equality mean for those in the past—especially when co-existing alongside chattel slavery, Indigenous dispossession, women’s subordination and class hierarchies. And what will it mean 250 years from now, or even 50 years from now?

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution—which grants freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press and freedom of the right to assemble—gave way to additional amendments, as the growing nation moved towards the promise of equality, with the passage of the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery, the 14th granting birthright citizenship and equal protection under the law, the 19th granting women the right to vote, and the yet-to-be published [Equal Rights Amendment](#), penned by suffragist Alice Paul, that would establish gender equality across all spheres.

This existing foundation also made it possible to expand other rights into law: from the Americans with Disabilities Act, to marriage equality across sexual orientations, the latter recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The fact that these rights could still be chipped away—based on the election or appointment of individuals invested less in democracy and more in demagoguery—demonstrates that freedom and equality cannot be taken for granted. We must work toward their promise as “we the people” (or “[we the women](#),” according to Nora O’Donnell) are still very much a work in progress.

If you would like to learn more about the Founding Feminist Ms. Magazine has published a series of articles that may be of interest. Click on the link below to learn more.

**[Founding Feminists: Series Overview](#)**

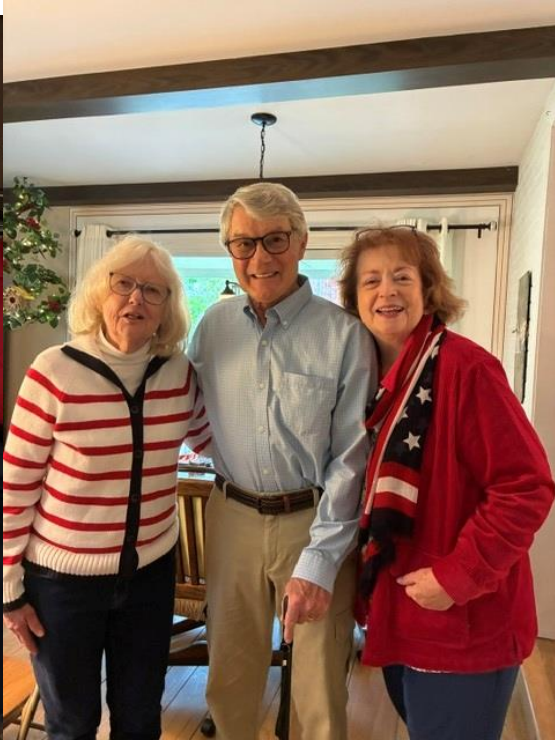
The [series](#), launching at the start of Women’s History Month and unfolding over two

months, features 12 articles. (The series is now [complete and available to read and explore in full](#))

### May in Pictures

#### IPODS





### For The Love of Books

We had 103 attendees 3 amazing authors and great raffle baskets  
Pictures from "For The Love Of Books 2026"











*See You Next Year  
May 22, 2027*

**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 <a href="mailto:rosenfelderd@verizon.net">rosenfelderd@verizon.net</a>
Membership: Frances Cech	412-448-1182 or <a href="mailto:fmcech@gmail.com">fmcech@gmail.com</a>
Membership: Jennifer Schwoebel	412-559-1053 or <a href="mailto:jenniferbmcelroy@gmail.com">jenniferbmcelroy@gmail.com</a>
Viewpoints Editor: Debbie Rosenfelder	412-916-9073 or <a href="mailto:rosenfelderd@verizon.net">rosenfelderd@verizon.net</a>

Branch Website: [aauwnorthhillspgh.org](http://aauwnorthhillspgh.org)

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)

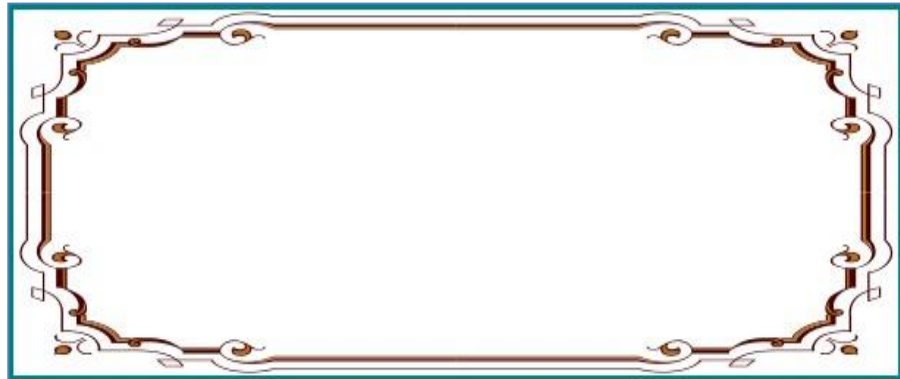
State Website: [www.aauw-pa.org](http://www.aauw-pa.org)

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## Viewpoints

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



**Because Equity is still an issue**