



VIEWPOINTS

North Hills Pittsburgh, (PA) Branch

Vol. 56 SEP 202

September

Welcome Back Members!

Welcome to a new season of women supporting and celebrating women!

Prior to our program presentation, we will award the annual Sr. Matilda Incentive Grants

Program Title: Doing Good on Purpose: Partnering with the Ketteler Center for Peace, Justice and Inclusion.

Speaker: Dr. Paul Spradley, Executive Director of the Ketteler Center

Dr. Spradley leads the Ketterer Center's efforts to promote dialogue, service and systemic change of issues such as poverty, human rights, environmental justice, and inclusion.

The Ketteler Center serves as a focal point for La Roche University and the broader community to engage with issues of peace, justice and inclusion

This presentation will take a closer look at the center's role.

Bring a friend!

September Program

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Location: La Roche University
Ryan Room

5:30 P.M. Sister Matilda Winners

6:00 P.M. Social.

6:30 P.M. Program

7:15 P.M. Branch Meeting

Zoom Link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/jc/84326202323>

Meeting ID: 843 2620 2323

Speakers: Dr. Paul Spradley



President's Message



Welcome back, members! We're thrilled to have you rejoin our community and look forward to sharing another inspiring season together. Whether you're ready to dive into familiar activities or explore new ones, your presence enriches our collective experience. So, grab a cup of coffee/tea or wine and read on to discover what exciting things we have planned for you!

September 16th is our kick-off branch meeting for the new program year. Our interest groups are ready to dive into a new year of reading, playing bridge, lunch bunch and IPODS. Great Decisions will keep our minds stimulated during the upcoming winter. We plan to have other events throughout the year. This is a great time to come explore the mission of AAUW and what this dynamic branch has to offer!

There is so much for you to be involved in and with the nicest ladies on this earth. You can find upcoming activities in the Newsletters, on the Website, Facebook, E-blasts and in all the local publications. With the help of many Board members, a lot was accomplished this summer.

*If you're craving a community who will
genuinely cheer for you...
You've come to the right place*

Debbie

Branch Community Service Projects

This year our branch will again be participating in various "collection" type service projects. Community service is an important way to give back to the place where you live.

How do I donate? Donated items can be optionally brought to branch meetings or board meetings and special interest groups such as morning book group, evening book group, IPODS, Bridge group and Lunch bunch. If you belong to more than one group you only need to donate once.

What items are we collecting? For each of the months listed below we will be collecting items specific for that organization. More details will be in that month's Viewpoint about what we are collecting.

- **November.** Socks sizes 6 x through woman's sizes. These will be collected for Glade Run,
- **January.** Collection of items for La Roche Food Pantry.
- **April.** Collection for *Pack a Purse*.

September at a Glance QUICK REFERENCE CALENDAR

Sep 1, 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting

At June Maier's house

Sep 5, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. IPODS

Donna & Jerry Martin's house

Sep 8, 9:30 a.m. Morning Book Group

The Briar Club by Kate Quinn

Reviewer: Group Discussion

Hostess: Mary Ann Betush

Sep 11, 1:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch

Wexford Public

12087 Perry Hwy, Wexford, PA 15090

Sep 16, 6:00 p.m. Sept Program Title:

Doing Good on Purpose:

Location: La Roche University

Ryan Room

Sep 20, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Peace Picnic Festival at Point Grove in North Park

Sep 21, 6:00 p.m. Evening Book Group

The Maid by Nita Prose

Facilitator: Katherine Keith

Hostess: Francie Cech

Save the Date!

Holiday social December 12, 2026

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 **20th 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 20th 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

September Happenings

Lunch Bunch September 11th

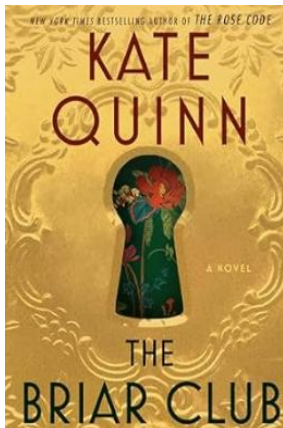
Wexford Public 12087 Perry Hwy, Wexford, PA 15090 (878) 465-2031

Homegrown by Wexford locals John and Melanie Dober, Wexford Public is where friendly faces and creative comfort come together. Looking for a restaurant that combines authentic cuisine with fresh ingredients? Look no further than Wexford Public. Our hand-crafted dishes will satisfy your taste buds and leave you wanting more. Come dine with us and experience the best the place has to offer.



Morning Book Group September 8th

The Briar Club by Kate Quinn

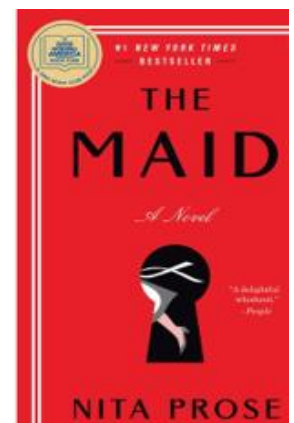


A haunting and powerful story of female friendships and secrets in a Washington, D.C. boardinghouse during the McCarthy era. Washington, D.C., 1950. Everyone keeps to themselves at Briarwood House, a down-at-the-heels all-female boardinghouse in the heart of the nation's capital, where secrets hide behind white picket fences. But when the lovely, mysterious widow Grace March moves into the attic, she draws her oddball collection of neighbors into unlikely friendship. Capturing the paranoia of the McCarthy era and evoking the changing roles for women in postwar America, *The Briar Club* is an intimate and thrilling novel of secrets and loyalty put to the test.

Evening Book Group September 21st

The Maid by Nita Prose

The Maid is a 2022 murder mystery novel by Nita Prose, featuring Molly Gray, a socially awkward hotel maid who becomes the prime suspect in a high-profile murder case. The book focuses on Molly the prime suspect in the murder investigation. With the help of unexpected friends, she attempts to uncover the real killer before it's too late, navigating a web of deception and intrigue along the way.



Membership

Happy New Year to all of our North Hills Pittsburgh AAUW members!

September is the beginning of yet another year of purpose and the opportunity for our branch to take part in the continuing quest for gender equity.

AAUW has been transforming women's lives for more than a century and even though the fight to give women equal access to education was achieved long ago, women's equity in education is currently being challenged every day. 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.

We are 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 and are **so** happy to have such a wonderful group of equally committed women to combine forces with and "use our powers for good"!

So happy to have each and every one of you on board. We look forward to making change happen together!

Francie Cech and Jennifer Schwoebel



SISTER MATILDA KELLY INCENTIVE GRANT**ANNOUNCING 2026 Sister Matilda Kelly Incentive Grant WINNERS**

The Sister Matilda Scholarship committee is very happy to share that we will be able to present three \$2500 Grants to three young ladies thanks to the generosity of donations made by her family and members in memory of Pauline Edison.

The Grants will be presented at the September meeting with family members, AAUW members and friends attending. Come join us for a wonderful time of celebration and remembrance.

This year's grant recipients are:

Pratima Sarki: Majoring in Information Technology

Taylor Ramsdell: Majoring in Criminology/ Criminal Justice and National Security studies

Ava Fox: Majoring in Biology with Forensics

August 2026 Financial Report – June Maier

(as of August 20, 2026)

CHECKING		SAVINGS		CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT	
Beg. Balance	\$9,692.78	Beg. Balance	\$7,165.13	Beg. Balance Acct. -6496	\$7,729.57
Deposits	\$595.00	Deposits	\$100.00	Beg. Balance Acct. -3201	\$7,818.00
Expenses	(\$440.00)				
		August Interest	TBD	August Interest	TBD
End. Balance	<u>\$9,847.78</u>	End. Balance	<u>\$7,265.13</u>	End. Balance	<u>\$15,547.57</u>

CHECKING + SAVINGS + CDs = \$32,660.48

- Processing of Dues Renewal Deposits & Dues Renewal Entries into AAUW Hub
- Current CD and addition of New CD for memorials

BRANCH FUNDRAISING

I would like to thank everyone in the branch that helped to make the 2026 For the Love of Books a success!!!



The 2026 For The Love of Books made a profit of \$3616.50. We had 43 members sign up to attend, 57 non-members and 3 authors. We increased the amount of money on the raffle baskets from last year.

Attendance Break Down

Years	Members	Non-members	Baskets	Blind Date with a book	Total profit
2023	35	46	710.00	276.73	2,536.77
2024	38	66	1240.00	165.00	2626.11
2025	33	66	1480.35	135.00	3759.92
2026	43	57	1635.00	338.00	3616.50



The Sister Matilda Kelly Incentive Grant and Great Decisions are two initiatives that are near and dear to our branch. In order to continue with these two initiatives, we need to raise more money than what our dues brings in. Remember only \$31 from your dues comes back to the branch.

The branch would like to focus on one fundraiser **"For The Love Of Books"**

Our goal is to raise enough money at this single event to support our branch initiatives for the entire year.

For this to work we need everyone to make a contribution to this event. This can be done by attending the event or if unable to attend making a monetary contribution. If you would like to donate a gift card let Debbie Rosenfelder know.

I know there are many reasons why some of our members cannot attend. It is really nice to see a large turnout for this event

Thank You for supporting this event!!!!!!

Next year's event is May 22,2027

PUBLIC POLICY

National:

AAUW Invests In Women

Women in higher education are doing the work that changes lives. If women are pushed out of education by discrimination, financial barriers or attacks on their civil rights breakthroughs can't happen.

By the numbers: In the 2026-27 cohort, AAUW is awarding a projected \$6.1 million to 259 outstanding women scholars, researchers, and community change-makers.

- **61%** are pursuing degrees or conducting research in STEM.
- **41%** are first-generation college students.
- **38%** come from or are leading single-parent households.
- Recipients represent **22 countries** through International Fellowships and Project Grants.

Here's the point: The barriers facing women in higher education don't just affect individual students, researchers, or scholars — they affect the strength and future of our institutions. AAUW works to protect access, advance equity, and ensure that women can learn, lead, and thrive without discrimination or unnecessary obstacles.

When women are fully included and fully supported, our campuses, workplaces, and communities are stronger. That's why AAUW invests in advocacy, policy, communications, and member engagement that help create a higher education system that is diverse, equitable, and open to all.

STATE:

2026 Atlantic States Regional Conference

AAUW PA is hosting this event. Please plan to join your friends and AAUW colleagues from 13 states at the [Lancaster County Convention Center & Marriott Hotel in Lancaster, PA](#) on September 25-27, 2026.

AAUW Pa is looking for volunteers from each branch to help with this event. More information will be forthcoming.

[2026 Atlantic States Regional Conference | AAUW Pennsylvania](#)



AAUW Pennsylvania Leadership

New officers sworn in, with returning leaders continuing the mission.



AAUW Pennsylvania Officers Sworn In

Karen Wellin

Membership Vice President

Ann Echols

President

Kathy Seidl

Co-Vice President
of Programming

Ardith Talbot

Co-Vice President
of Programming

Peggy Jennings

Vice President of
Communications

AAUW PA Works With Branches On The 5-Star Program

The AAUW Five-Star Program is a national recognition initiative that rewards branches for aligning their work with AAUW's strategic priorities and advancing gender equity for women and girls [AAUW of Michigan+1](#). While the "pat on the back" is a bonus, there are several meaningful reasons to be part of it.

1. Strengthen Your Branch's Mission Alignment
2. Boost Member Engagement and Retention.
3. Increase Visibility and Recognition
4. Enhance Leadership and Planning
5. Expand Impact Through Programs and Advocacy
6. Strengthen Communications and Outreach
7. Support AAUW's National Goals.



Your board has been working on meeting these goals. You will hear more about this in upcoming Viewpoints and emails.

Local:**AAUW Pennsylvania Proposed Public Policy Priorities 2026-2028**

<https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/policy/priorities/>

Our Branch will continue to collaborate with the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh. We are in the process of getting dates for the LRU Fall Activities Fair and to see if a second tabling date is of interest to La Roche University. Peggy will be on a medical leave and unable to participate in person activities. Judith Kuperstein who is both a Branch and LWV member has agreed to join the LWV Gr Pgh, Collegiate Team and be Co-Liaison to La Roche University with Peggy Schmiedecke. Judith is also working with Francie Cech to get a table for sharing membership info and grant info at the Fall Activities Fair at La Roche University. Judith is working with Amy Solomon, Coordinator of Civic Engagement & Service Ketteler Center for Peace, Justice and Inclusion at La Roche University. In this collaboration we have volunteers from both LWV and AAUW NH Pgh working the tables to provide voter registration info and education materials.

AAUW PA Public Policy Principles

AAUW PA's public policy goals are to educate citizens about the impact of public policies on women and girls and to advocate for policies that will advance equity for women and girls. In Pennsylvania, AAUW actively endorses the national AAUW Public Policy Principles and Priorities. AAUW Pennsylvania supports good governance, an informed citizenry, and community dialogue on critical issues. Biennial priorities are intended to complement national priorities and to be a focus for active educational and advocacy efforts at the state level.

AAUW PA opposes all forms of discrimination on the basis of age, disability, race, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, religious beliefs, pregnancy or parental status, socioeconomic status, and supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals.

At this time, our Branch is to spotlighting Voting Rights:

To enable members and all citizens to participate fully in a representative democracy and self-governance, AAUW-PA advocates

Awareness of issues so that members may be fully informed and empowered voters.

- Opposition to measures likely to suppress voting rights.
- Support for efforts to increase civil discourse and compromise between those with opposing views.
- Efforts to Get Out the Vote, including voter registration and the use of social media to promote voting.

Statewide Action Priorities for 2026-2028: Voting Rights:

- Engage in efforts to support the Unite and Rise 8.5 Campaign.
- Oppose measures that restrict or suppress voting access.

AAUW A Two-Minute Activist Alerts

Join AAUW advocates in the fight for equal pay, equity in education, paid leave, protections against sexual harassment and more. Sign up to get regular alerts on when and how to engage, including sending letters to your legislators, writing letters to the editor and other timely calls to action.

Take Action**It's Our Time Ladies!**

**Based on the latest US Census Bureau
there are roughly 134 million women
18-90 in the USA.**

Imagine if we all voted!

**Women make up roughly 50.9% of
the population**

AAUW National Election Resources How to Get Involved and Educate Voters

U.S. elections have a major impact on gender equity in education, women's economic security, and reproductive and civil rights. The good news? When women vote, we change the conversation.

Whether in-person or online, there are many impactful ways AAUW members can get involved in the elections and help educate voters. AAUW's voter engagement campaign — It's My Vote! — will give branches/members the training, tools, and resources to help increase voter participation in your community.

AAUW's **It's My Vote!** campaign is a nonpartisan voter engagement initiative designed to help members and affiliates increase participation, especially among women, by providing training, tools, and resources

In July 2026, we took a practical look at AAUW's It's My Vote! campaign — a nonpartisan effort to give women the tools, information, and confidence to make their voices heard. Attendees heard directly from AAUW members about what's working in their communities and left with ideas to put into action right away. Below are links to these tools.

[Watch the recording](#)

[View the slides](#)

[Download the *It's My Vote!* resource guide](#)

[Access AAUW-MO Ballots in the Box materials](#)

For additional information go to AAUW's web site listed below:

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





Why Our Social Groups Matter

We are living in a moment of extraordinary possibilities. We can work from anywhere, get what we need delivered and manage our day-to-day activities with just a tap of the screen. In optimizing our lives for speed and efficacy, we have lost the moments that once connected us to others.

Our branch social & cultural interest groups can help us stay connected. They are a great way to enhance meaningful human connection, intellectual growth, and personal development.

- Our Book clubs often choose a variety of titles, exposing members to genres and authors they might not encounter on their own.
- Our lunch bunch is a great way to explore local restaurants. It's an opportunity for networking. It's great food, great conversations and can contribute to your overall well-being.
- Our bridge group fosters social connection, equity, and community. It enhances creativity, and problem-solving skills.
- Our IPODS is a gathering of friends; singles, couples, friends who gather at a host home bringing an appetizer to share with all and staying for about 2 hours (sometimes longer) for food, fellowship, and good conversations. This group grew out of the Dinner group as a way for us to still gather without the serious and sometimes complicated meals we used to prepare. So come join us.
- Great Decisions program encourages our members and the community to engage in discussions about U.S. foreign policy and global affairs

You can participate in as much as you would like. It is a great way to meet members.



HOSPITALITY

Members from the elected and appointed Board will bring refreshments to the September meeting.

Refreshments for the October meeting will be provided by members from the off Board.

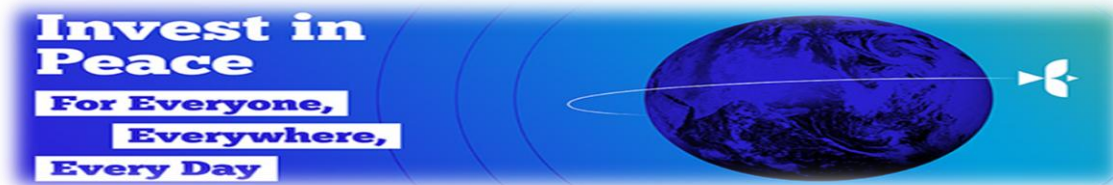
We need members to volunteer to bring snacks to our other meetings. Sina Murphy chairs the Hospitality committee. A sign-up list will be passed around at the September meeting and will circulate again at the October meeting. We are looking for volunteers for the November, January, March, and April meetings.

The International Day Of Peace is observed annually on September 21st

The 2026 Theme: Invest in Peace - For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day

Under the theme Invest in Peace: For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day, this year's International Day of Peace honours the 'everyday architects of peace'—people driving local action, laying the groundwork for stability, and building a lasting peace from the ground up.

Remember, peace isn't just built in conference rooms—it is shaped by everyone, everywhere, every day.

**A PERSONAL INVITATION!**

As diversity co-chair, I would like to personally invite each of you to the **22nd Annual Peace Picnic Festival on September 20 in North Park**. This year the North Hills Peace Picnic festival will be held on Sunday, September 20 at Point Grove in North Park from 2 to 4 PM. This is an event which is sponsored by our branch so let's show our support!!! It is a wonderful opportunity to experience diversity in our community. See you there.

More information will be sent out in an email closer to the date

Barbara Matthews



The Branch newsletter, **(The Viewpoints)**, is published monthly from September-June.

Branch meetings, activities, projects and upcoming events are described and then summarized in a monthly calendar. The Viewpoints for the month are emailed to all members at the beginning of the month. The Viewpoints will also be posted to the Branch website. To read an issue, click on its link on this page. [AAUW NORTH HILLS PITTSBURGH \(aauwnorthhillspgh.org\)](http://AAUW NORTH HILLS PITTSBURGH (aauwnorthhillspgh.org))

The deadline for article submission **is the 20th** of the month preceding publication. To submit an article, email it to the Viewpoints Editor rosenfelderd@verizon.net All members can submit articles.

Morning Book Group 2026-2027

Date	Book	Reviewer	Hostess
September 8 9:30 am	The Briar Club by Kate Quinn	Group Discussion	Mary Ann Betush
October 13 9:30 am	The Correspondent by Virginia Evans	Deanna Finley	Barb Matthews
November 10 9:30 am	The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson	Fran Bogos	Jan Peischl
December 8 9:30 am	NPR's I Thought My Father Was God Edited by Paul Auster	Marilyn Lanz	Fran Bogos
January 12 9:30 am	Time of the Child by Niall Williams	Deborah Hackney	Judy Sparlin hosts at Fran's house
February 9 9:30 am	Becoming Madam Secretary by Stephanie Dray	Karen Jackson	Karen Roofner
March 9 9:30 am	Buckeye by Patrick Ryan	Linda Joy	Marilyn Loichinger
April 13 9:30 am	Planning	Meeting	Donna Martin
May 11 9:30 am	Theo of Golden by Allen Levi	Judy Sparlin	Linda Joy
June 8 9:30 am	The Lion Women of Tehran by Marjan Kamali	Debbie Rosenfelder	Marilyn Lanz

2026/2027 Evening Book Group**Meeting Dates: 3rd Monday of the Month, 1:00pm or 6:00pm**

DATE	BOOK SELECTION	HOSTESS	FACILITATOR
September 21, 2026 6:00pm	<i>The Maid</i> by Nita Prose	Francie Cech	Katherine Keith
October 19, 2026 1:00pm	<i>The Women of Copper Country</i> by Mary Doria Russell	Barbara Matthews	Barbara Matthews
November 16, 2026 1:00pm	<i>Call the Midwife</i> by Jennifer Worth	Judy Daw	Chris Ley
December—No Meeting			
January 18, 2027 1:00pm	<i>The Briar Club</i> by Kate Quinn	Jenny Schwoebel	Jenny Schwoebel
February 15, 2027 1:00pm	<i>The Calamity Club</i> by Kathryn Stockett	Northland Library	Francie Cech
March 15, 2027 1:00pm	<i>Whistler</i> by Anne Patchett	Joyce Ruzanic	Deanna Finley
April 19, 2027 6:00pm	<i>Theo of Golden</i> by Allen Levi	Sina Murphy	Sina Murphy
May 17, 2027 6:00pm	<i>The Correspondent</i> by Virginia Evans	TBD	Judy Daw
June 21, 2027 6:00pm	<i>The Lion Women of Tehran</i> by Marjan Kamali	TBD	Debbie Rosenfelder
July 19, 2027 Planning Meeting		TBD	

ZOOM MEETINGS WILL ALWAYS BE AN OPTION**The link for Zoom meeting will be sent out the week before the meeting.**

Lunch Bunch 2026-2027

Please join the Lunch Bunch as we explore varied cuisine in the Pittsburgh area.

We will meet on the 2nd Friday of the month at 1:00 PM

Please check the Viewpoints each month

Sep 11, 2026 at 1:00 PM	Wexford Public 12087 Perry Hwy, Wexford, PA 15090 · 5.5 mi (878) 465-2031
Oct 09, 2026 at 1:00 PM	Dee Jay's BBQ Ribs & Grille - Wexford 2602 Brandt School Rd, Wexford, PA 15090 (724) 488-7427
Nov 13, 2026 at 1:00 PM	BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse 8970 Covenant Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 (412) 748-1470
Jan 08, 2027 at 1:00 PM	Olive Garden Italian Restaurant 40 McIntyre Square Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15237 (412) 369-9686
Feb 12, 2027 at 1:00 PM	Primanti Bros. Restaurant & Bar 45 McIntyre Square Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 (412) 760-6922
Mar 12, 2027 at 1:00 PM	Longhorn Steakhouse 9150 Covenant Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 · 2.1 mi (412) 369-8420
Apr 09, 2027 at 1:00 PM	Bellisario's Restaurant 1710 Duncan Ave, Allison Park, PA 15101 (412) 367-7616
May 14, 2027 at 1:00 PM	Andora 1616 Mount Nebo Rd, Sewickley, PA 15143 (412) 749-2452
June 11, 2027 at 1:00 PM	Springfield Grille 7001 Crider Rd, Mars, PA 16046 (724) 778-8700
July 09, 2027 at 1:00 PM	Bravo! Italian Kitchen 20001 Rte 19, Cranberry Township, PA 16066 (724) 772-8150
Aug 13, 2027 at 1:00 PM	Eat'n Park 2650 Brandt School Rd, Wexford, PA 15090 (724) 940-3270 Or would be interested in doing an early Dinner Franklin Inn Mexican Restaurant 2313 Rochester Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Summer in Pictures

June Evening Book Group



Lunch Bunch



IPODS



Mission Statement of AAUW

To advance gender equality for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

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

MISSION STATEMENT OF AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND