



VIEWPOINTS

North Hills Pittsburgh, (PA) Branch

Vol. 56 Nov 2026

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

PROGRAM TITLE: MCCANDLESS TOWNSHIP, THEN AND NOW

Speaker: Abby Lucostic, Director of Parks and Recreation

McCandless Township, now a suburban community of nearly 30,000 residents, evolved from a Native American hunting ground into a farming settlement, then a booming oil and rail hub, and today a mixed-use suburb with parks, retail, and residential neighborhoods.

Abby will describe McCandless' rich history of family farms, oil, The Harmony Line, North Park, churches, schools, and the residents who have influenced it along the way. Celebrating the Town's 175th anniversary in 2026, Parks and Rec created programs that connected people to one another, and to the place they call home.

Speaker: Abby Lucostic is the Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of McCandless, Wexford, Pennsylvania, with a background in museum management and community engagement.

Abby Lucostic serves as Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of McCandless. She oversees programs, facilities, and community recreation initiatives.

November Program

Saturday: November 7, 2026

9:30am-11:30pm Location:

La Roche University, The Ryan Room

9:30 A.M. Social

10: A.M. Program

11:00 A.M. Business Meeting

Speakers: Speaker: Abby Lucostic,
Director of Parks and Recreation

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82909923840>

Meeting ID: 829 0992 3840



**BRING
A FRIEND!!!**

President's Message



With Halloween behind us and Midterm Elections just around the corner, it's all a little scary! While I hope you had a spooktacular Halloween, let's not lose sight of how frightening this election is. Because, with so much at stake—whether it's reproductive rights, student loan debt, cost of living, Health care, human rights or workplace discrimination—it's not an exaggeration to say our very lives may depend on the outcome. Make a plan to vote and elevate your voice.

On the positive side November is observed annually as National Gratitude Month, a time to pause, reflect, and intentionally cultivate thankfulness for the people, experiences, and simple joys in life. National Gratitude Month, created in 2015 by author and motivational speaker Stacey Grewal, runs from November 1 to November 30 each year. It aligns naturally with Thanksgiving, offering a structured opportunity to focus on positive thinking, emotional well-being, and appreciation for life's blessings

Looking ahead, take a moment and reflect on what actions you can take in the next year to fully express the meaning of Thanksgiving. Wishing you a harvest of blessings, good health, and happiness this Thanksgiving season.

As a reminder, if you have not yet RSVP'd for our holiday luncheon, do so soon. Money and food selection are due to June Maier by December 1 and checks can be made payable to AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh.



November at a Glance QUICK REFERENCE CALENDAR

Nov 07, 9:30 a.m. Branch Meeting

La Roche University Ryan Room

Nov 10, 9:30 a.m. Morning Book Group

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by
Kim Michele Richardson
Hostess Jan Peischl
Reviewer Fran Bogos

Nov 13, 1:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse

18790 Covenant Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
412 748-1470

Nov 16, 1:00 p.m. Evening Book Group

Call the Midwife by Jennifer Worth
Hostess Judy Daw
Facilitator Chris Ley

Nov??? 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. IPODs

David Edison will be hosting

Save The Dates

Road Trip December 1st at 1 P.M. to the Hartwood
Restaurant & Whisper Pub

Holiday Social

**Saturday December 12th, 2026 11:30
am-1:00 pm**

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 **15th of each Month for December and January**. Please send to Debbie Rosenfelder in word format at rosenfelderd@verizon.net



If I do not have it by 5 P.M. on the 15th 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

November Happenings

Lunch Bunch November 13th

BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse: 8790 Covenant Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 412 748-1470

BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse is a U.S. casual-dining chain. BJ's menu features pizza, beers, appetizers, entrees, pastas, sandwiches, salads, and desserts (including the signature Pizookie). They have a great lunch menu!



Morning book group November 10th

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson

Hostess Jan Peischl

Reviewer Fran Bogos



The bestselling historical fiction novel from Kim Michele Richardson, this is a novel following Cussy Mary, a packhorse librarian and her quest to bring books to the Appalachian community she loves,

Cussy's not only a book woman, however, she's also the last of her kind, her skin a shade of blue unlike most anyone else. Not everyone is keen on Cussy's family or the Library Project, and a Blue is often blamed for any whiff of trouble. If Cussy wants to bring the joy of books to the hill folks, she's going to have to confront prejudice as old as the Appalachia's and suspicion as deep as the holler. Inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky

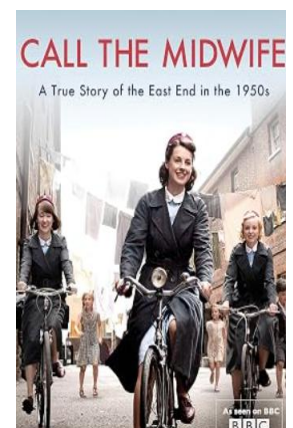
Evening Book Group November 16th

Call the Midwife by Jennifer Worth

Hostess Judy Daw

Facilitator Chris Ley

Call the Midwife is the first book in Jennifer Worth's memoir trilogy, recounting her experiences as a trainee midwife in the impoverished East End of London during the 1950s. The narrative follows Worth, under the pseudonym "Jenny Lee," as she trains with the nursing nuns of Nonnatus House, providing care to women and families in challenging post-war conditions. The book captures both the joys and hardships of childbirth, offering a detailed look at midwifery practices before modern medicine.



Membership

Membership DOES matter!

A question we often hear is why does membership in AAUW matter? It matters to us for several reasons but as fall gets underway, it is wonderful to see that nearly 10,000 people have accessed AAUW's critical nonpartisan voter resources. This means many voters have access to voter information and quite possibly, advance equity for women and girls-and our membership has helped to make that possible!

The programs and other opportunities offered through our North Hills Pittsburgh branch of AAUW are enriching and enjoyable. But our collective voices and monetary contributions make it possible to share voter resources, advocacy, and addressing legal challenges in a way that most of us could not alone, no matter how passionate our belief in equity. We continue to be grateful to know each of you and be inspired by the energy and passion you bring to this work and for the many ways you continue to advance AAUW's mission in our community.

We remain hopeful that by the time you read this article, the 2026 election will have made it possible for equity to return to policy in our country. Thank you for using your voice to vote, and in conversations with friends and family. Hopefully we will continue to raise awareness of the importance of true equity. And please consider inviting a friend or neighbor who may have similar concerns to any of our meetings. We welcome sharing coffee, cookies, and good conversation with community members. They might just "find their people" as so many of us have been fortunate to do.

Yours in equity,
Francie Cech & Jennifer Schwoebel
VPs for Membership
AAUW – North Hills Pittsburgh

(Thanks is extended to Katrina Breeze, AAUW Senior Director of Institutional Advancement for sharing the information regarding voter resources.)

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- The current dues for membership are \$119.00.
(National, \$76.00, State, \$12.00, and NHP branch, \$31.00)
 - You can renew online via the AAUW website, or use the most typical method of sending a check for \$119.00 to our financial officer June Maier.

Your check should be made out to:
AAUW-NHP Branch and June's address is:
959 Broadmeadow Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

November Community Service Project Socks For Girls and Women

Why Women's and Girls' Socks Are Collected for Donation.

In short, women's and girls' socks are collected because they are health essentials, size-specific needs, and high-demand donations that improve comfort, safety, and dignity for those in need.

Every pair of socks collected will be distributed to Glade Run. All items should be new. You can bring your donation to any event in November.



October 2026 Financial Report – June Maier

(as of October 14, 2026)

CHECKING		SAVINGS		CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT	
Beg. Balance	\$6,580.59	Beg. Balance	\$2,465.21	Beg. Balance Acct. -6496	\$7,780.82
Deposit		Mem Donation	\$100.00	Beg. Balance Acct. -3201	\$7,863.14
Expenses	(\$35.00)	October Interest	TBD	October Interest	TBD
End. Balance	<u>\$6,545.59</u>	End. Balance	<u>\$2,565.21</u>	End. Balance	<u>\$15,643.96</u>
CHECKING + SAVINGS + CDs = \$24,754.76					

Public Policy

National

Equity Through Education

When a woman is educated, she unlocks not only her own power but the potential of entire communities. Education isn't just a right—it's the foundation of equity, the engine of opportunity, and the key to a future where every woman can thrive.

Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW CEO

State:

The Atlantic States Regional Conference was a three-day gathering of AAUW members, allies, and leaders from over 13 states, themed "Unfinished Revolution: Together We Stand".

It featured engaging sessions on critical social, political, and economic issues, including education, economic security, bodily autonomy, voting rights, sexual harassment in the workplace, reproductive health research, social justice, and civil rights.

Several members from the Fox Chapel branch attended the conference. Here are a couple of the talking points;

- **Public Policy:**

The current emphasis remains getting out the vote and voting early when and if possible. However, a change in administration will not change the fact that there is an enormous amount of money and power in play, and a great deal of future work will be required going forward to correct conditions in this country.

- **Meghan Kissell** shared important information on how public policy operates out of National.
- **Andrea Miller, the executive director of People Demanding Action, and Celina Steward, CEO of the League of Women Voters**, both reported encouraging information on voter registration and get out the vote efforts in key states.
- **Judy Carbone from the Garrett County, MD affiliate** spoke at length on the distinction between politics and partisanship, emphasizing inviting people IN instead of calling them OUT.
- **Joyce Davis, Opinion Editor, PennLive and The Patriot News America's Media Crisis**, discussed the changing role and perception of the press.

Look for more information about the conference in coming Viewpoints.

Local

Pittsburgh for CEDAW Update

Submitted by AAUW NH PGH, CEDAW 4 PGH & AC Chair Peggy Schmiedecke



Global - CEDAW is the acronym for the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. Cities for CEDAW is a grassroots initiative that “Makes the Global Local” by implementing CEDAW in cities and counties across the United States.

CEDAW Rising advances gender justice and strengthens the rights of women and girls—in all their diversity—by promoting local adoption and implementation of the principles of the CEDAW. We strive to ensure our movement is grassroots-driven, intersectional, multigenerational and aligned with human rights standards.

Local - Pittsburgh for CEDAW brought the FIRST intersectional Gender Equity Commission (GEC) to a U.S. city in 2016, and enabled Pittsburgh to become a CEDAW city. We continue to educate the public on the Pittsburgh GEC and support its efforts. Pittsburgh CEDAW ordinance is legally binding, highlights salient issues within the city, calls for intersectional data analyses, created oversight bodies to effectuate implementation and urge City of Pittsburgh to develop action plans to promote gender justice.

Pittsburgh for CEDAW seeks to improve the lives of all women and girls, including trans women and gender fluid people in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, in accordance with CEDAW.

Gender Equity Commission



Mission & Vision

The **mission** of the Gender Equity Commission is to ensure that people of all gender identities are treated fairly and equitably within City of Pittsburgh. Our **vision** is a future in which everyone in the City of Pittsburgh, regardless of gender identity or expression, is safe in all spaces, empowered to achieve their full potential, and no longer faces structural or institutional barriers to economic, social, and political equality.

<https://www.pittsburghpa.gov/City-Government/Boards-Authorities-Commissions/List-of-Boards-Authorities-Commissions/Gender-Equity-Commission>

Pittsburgh for CEDAW - Mission and Objectives Going Forward

- Advocacy (primary): Be the leading bridge organization between local civil society and the GEC. Give the GEC input on what the community wants and needs, and relay to civil society what information the GEC needs and what progress has been made.
- County adoption (secondary): Get the county to adopt CEDAW.
- Accountability: Feed Pittsburgh's progress into the CEDAW UPR process.
- Possible model: Act as a "secretariat"-type organization. Local organizations each send a representative to our meetings to share input and learning, and we feed that back to the City and County.
- Next step: write up our organizational strategy.

Capstone Project

- Goal: have students talk to local organizations about needs and wants that the GEC can support.
- Steps:
 - Teach students about CEDAW and how local government works, including looking into departments and mandates (e.g., health is a county issue).
 - Students interview local organizations to gather their needs.
 - Students write an analytical report that we can bring to the GEC.
- Katie Whipkey, Co-Chair to ask Pitt and CMU.
- Marcia Bandes, Co-Chair to ask Jessie Ramey at Chatham.

CEDAW / UPR

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique mechanism of the Human Rights Council that calls for each UN Member State to undergo a peer review of its human rights records every 4 years. The UPR provides each State the opportunity to regularly:

- Report on the actions it has taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges to the enjoyment of human rights.
- Receive recommendations – informed by multi-stakeholder input and pre-session reports – from UN Member States for continuous improvement.
- Jackie Smith (Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance) handles the UPRs on human rights, which happens every 4 years.
- Set up a meeting with CEDAW Rising to discuss the process and how we can provide input.



Your Vote Matters

A year that began with a focus on inflation concerns and the cost of living has turned into anger and frustration over American rights and freedoms.

Women almost always vote at higher rates than men do, and we have seen indications that more are registering to vote.

The 2026 midterms look different than they did six months or a year ago. Cost of living is still front of mind for many women. The moment feels existential for many women, including independents and swing voters, and it's all on their minds when they describe the country as

"headed in the wrong direction" to pollsters.

Historically, the president's party loses seats in a midterm election, and at the beginning of the year most prognosticators saw voters headed in Republicans' direction.

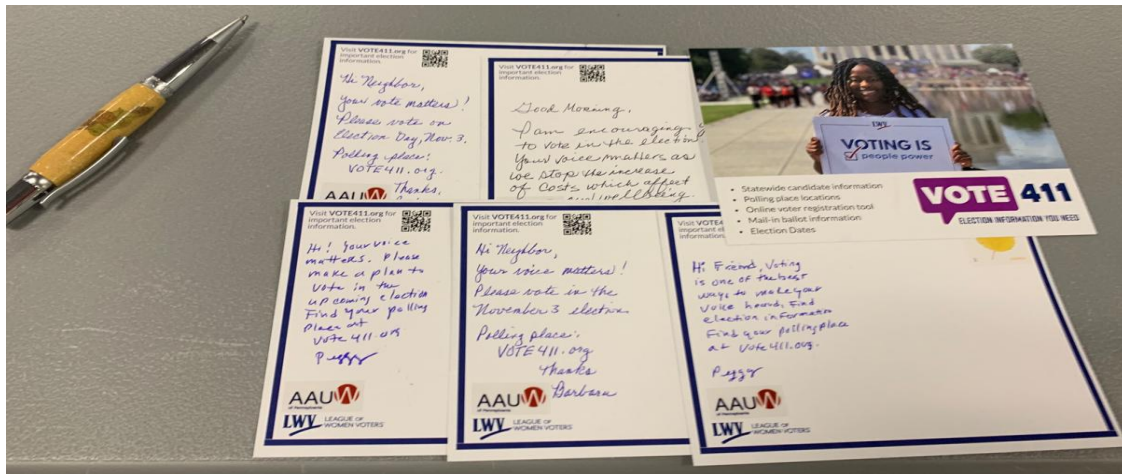
Will the changing dynamics be enough to buck history for the party in power this fall? Either way, it will be women who once again tell the story.

Voter Postcards

Post Cards can increase voter turnout and engagement. Research shows that postcards are an effective way to **increase voter turnout and engagement** when messages are personal, emphasize civic duty, and highlight the importance of making one's voice heard.

October

The North Hills Pittsburgh Branch took some time before their branch meeting to complete some voter postcards.





Wildwood Golf Club

Saturday December 12th, 2026 11:30 am-1:00 pm

We look forward to welcoming the holiday season together!

Please select one of the following entrees:

_____Chicken Francaise:

Lightly battered boneless chicken breast, sautéed in a lemon butter sauce. Served with vegetable medley that includes peppers, zucchini, and carrots.

_____Salmon with Dill Sauce (GF):

Grilled salmon with dill sauce. Served with vegetable medley that includes peppers, zucchini, and carrots.

_____Pasta Primavera (V):

Fusilli, seasonal vegetables, olive oil, garlic.

All lunch selections include salad, rolls, coffee, tea, and chocolate cake for dessert. A cash bar will be available.

The cost for any of the selections is \$35.00

Kindly send your check, with meal choice on the memo line, to:
June Maier, 959 Broadmeadow Drive, PGH, PA, 15237

(Responses needed by Monday, December 7st)



November Highlights in US Women's History

- November 1, 1848 – First medical school for women, the New England Female Medical School, opens, in 1874 it merges with Boston University to become one of the world's first co-ed medical schools
- November 6, 2018 – Peggy Flanagan, a citizen of the White Earth Nation, became the first female Native American elected lieutenant governor of Minnesota. She was a Native American activist, community organizer, and served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 2015 to 2019.
- November 8, 1910 – The state of Washington passes a constitutional amendment to guarantee woman suffrage
- November 8, 1984 – Dr. Anna L. Fisher, a physician on the shuttle Discovery, becomes the first American mother and third American woman to fly into space
- November 11, 1979 – Bethune Museum and Archives opens in Washington D.C. as a center for African-American women's history, honoring Mary McLeod Bethune
- November 11, 1993 – The Vietnam Women's Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C. after being conceived by former army combat nurse Diane Carlson Evans and sculpted by Glenna Goodacre to honor the 265,000 women who voluntarily served during the Vietnam era
- November 13, 1938 – Mother Francis Xavier Cabrini is beatified, the first American woman citizen to become a saint
- November 14, 1889 – Journalist Elizabeth Cochran, aka Nellie Bly, sails around the world in 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes, and 14 seconds,
- November 14, 1903 – The U.S. Women's Trade Union League is established
- November 14, 1946 – Emily Greene Balch, co-founder of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
- November 28, 1881 – The first organizational meeting is held for the predecessor group to the American Association of University Women (AAUW)
- November 30 – Native Women's Equal Pay Day, when we recognize the wide gap in earnings between Native women and White, non-Hispanic men – 55 cents for every \$1.00

November is rich in milestones for women's history — from the first American woman to fly into space to the first Native American woman elected to a state office — making it a month that celebrates women's achievements across the globe.

One particularly notable fact is that November 8, 1984, marked the day Dr. Anna L. Fisher became the first American mother and the third American woman to fly into space. Fisher, a physician and astronaut, was part of the Space Shuttle *Discovery* mission, a historic moment that combined her professional achievements in medicine with her role in space exploration.

Another significant November milestone is November 6, 2018, when Peggy Flanagan became the first female Native American elected lieutenant governor of Minnesota [National Women's History Alliance](#). Flanagan, a citizen of the White Earth Nation, was also a community organizer and activist, breaking barriers in both Native leadership and state politics.

These events are part of a broader pattern: November contains multiple dates that honor women's contributions to science, politics, and culture, from the first American woman to be beatified (Mother Francis Xavier Cabrini, November 13, 1938) to the dedication of the Vietnam Women's Memorial

[National Women's History Alliance](#)

4 Star Rating



Deb Rony Vice Chair of the AAUW Advancement Committee, congratulates our branch the North Hills Pittsburgh Branch on achieving four stars!

Stars are not easy to achieve. Thanks to all the hard work of our membership for making this happen!



December Road Trip

December 1st at 1 P.M. to the Hartwood Restaurant & Whisper Pub

Over the years, The Hartwood Restaurant has continued to evolve into a charming and unique place for meals, drinks, and events. The elegant dining rooms are now complemented by a new pub featuring hand-tooled woodwork and stained-glass artwork. Although many of our guests still browse the books that line the walls in our dining rooms, today The Hartwood Restaurant is an elegant boutique restaurant featuring fresh, seasonal, upscale cuisine in a casual, country setting.

The lunch bunch visited this restaurant in July and had such a great time we wanted to go back and check it out over the holidays. We are really going back for the Pittsburgh Pecan Balls or the Peppermint Snow Ball.

An email will be sent out a week before to RSVP.



October Pictures

Branch Meeting



Halloween At Ann's



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
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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