

October Program

Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation

Anne will discuss the flagship exhibit at the Heinz History Center that tells the story of how Western Pennsylvania innovators have shaped society worldwide. It features:

- **Historic industries:** The rise of steel, glass, and steamboat manufacturing.
- **Medical breakthroughs:** From Dr. Jonas Salk's polio vaccine to Dr. Thomas Starzl's pioneering organ transplant work.
- **Technology milestones:** The "Andy" lunar rover from Carnegie Mellon University, one of the first self-driving cars tested in Pittsburgh, and the Freedom House ambulance service that trained Black paramedics in the Hill District

Madarasz emphasizes that Pittsburgh's innovation is not just about technology but also about **problem-solving, community impact, and cross-disciplinary collaboration**. By highlighting both industrial and modern innovations, this shows how Pittsburgh's "tradition" continues to inspire new ideas.

Speaker:

Anne Madarasz, Chief Historian at the Heinz History Center, is the voice behind the **"Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation"** exhibition, which celebrates the city's long and rich history of ingenuity.

October Program

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Location: La Roche University
Ryan Room

9:30 A.M. Social

10:00 A.M. Program

11:00 A.M. Branch Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 829 0992 3840



Bring a friend

President's Message



October is a month of change, reflection, and celebration. October brings the heart of autumn, with crisp air, golden leaves, and cozy vibe. It's time to trade iced coffee for hot cocoa and cozy sweaters.

October is a month rich with historical milestones, global awareness campaigns, and cultural themes that resonate deeply with women's lives and rights. Internationally, October 11 is observed as the International Day of the Girl, a UN initiative to celebrate girls' voices and advocate for their rights.

October also features Give to Women and Girls Day, a national campaign to raise awareness and funding for women's and girls' organizations. It addresses the underfunding of these groups—less than 2% of U.S. philanthropic support—highlighting the need for sustained investment in gender equality.

From a health perspective October is designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, promoting early detection and self-care through regular breast self-exams. It also brings attention to Menopause Awareness. Additionally, October is recognized for raising awareness about domestic violence, encouraging support and prevention efforts.

October impacts women by honoring their history, amplifying their voices globally, promoting health and safety awareness, and encouraging personal and societal growth. It is a month that blends celebration, advocacy, and awareness, making it a powerful time for women to be seen, heard, and supported.

In these changing times AAUW works to ensure that women's voices are heard, celebrated and remembered. This is a movement, come and be part of it!

Debbie

September 2026 Financial Report – June Maier

(as of September 20, 2026)

CHECKING		SAVINGS		CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT	
Beg. Balance	\$10,026.38	Beg. Balance	\$7,365.19	Beg. Balance Acct. -6496	\$7,758.82
Deposit	\$5,000.00	Transfer	(\$5,000.00)	Beg. Balance Acct. -3201	\$7,840.90
Expenses	(\$588.00)				
End. Balance	\$14,438.38	September Interest	TBD	September Interest	TBD
		End. Balance	\$2,365.19	End. Balance	\$15,599.72

CHECKING + SAVINGS + CDs = \$32,403.29

- Transferred memorial funds from Savings to Checking in preparation for awarding two Sr. Matilda Grants
- Expenses: one new member entered into the Hub; donation made to CMU STEM Girls of Steel Program

October at a Glance Quick Reference Calendar

Oct 6, 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
At June Maier's house

Oct 09, 1:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch
Dee Jay's BBQ Ribs and Grille - Wexford
2602 Brandt School Rd, Wexford, PA 15090

Oct 09, 7:00 p.m. The La Roche University Literary Society
Woven From Clay By: Jenny Birch
Location: La Roche University
Ryan Room

Oct 10, 6:00 p.m. October Program Title:
Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation
Location: La Roche University
Ryan Room

Oct 13, 9:30 a.m. Morning Book Group
The Correspondent by Virginia Evans
Hostess Barbara Matthews
Reviewer Deanna Finley

Oct 19, 1:00 p.m. Evening Book Group
The Women of Copper Country
By: Mary Doria Rus
Hostess Barbara Matthews
Reviewer Barbara Matthews

Oct 25, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. IPODS
Marcia & Robert Coleman's house

Save the Date!

Fox Chaple Branch Fundraiser **Friday, October 30th**, a **Halloween themed Crazy Cards Game and Luncheon**

Holiday Social December 12, 2026

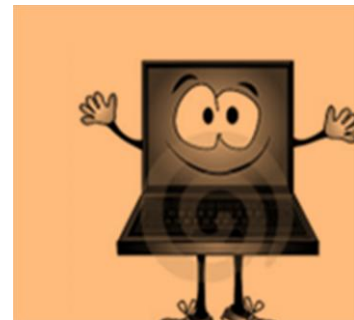
Viewpoint Articles

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

October Happenings

Lunch Bunch October 9th

Dee Jay's BBQ Ribs and Grille - Wexford 2602 Brandt School Rd, Wexford, PA 15090

Dee Jay's BBQ Ribs & Grille is a restaurant that offers a variety of dishes such as salads, chicken wings, sandwiches, ribs, salmon, coleslaw, and strawberry shortcake. Overall, Dee Jay's BBQ Ribs & Grille is a highly recommended restaurant that offers delicious BBQ dishes and a wide variety of sides, with excellent service and a welcoming atmosphere.

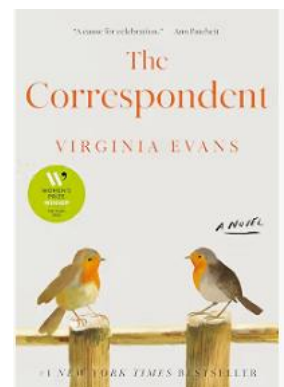


Morning Book Group October 13th

***The Correspondent* By: Virginia Evans**

Hostess Barbara Matthews Reviewer Deanna Finley

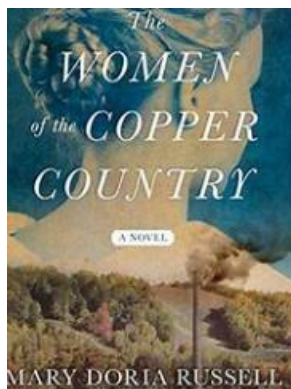
Filled with knowledge that only comes from a life fully lived, *The Correspondent* is a gem of a novel about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people we might never meet in person. It is about the hubris of youth and the wisdom of old age, and the mistakes and acts of kindness that occur during a lifetime.



Evening Book Group October 19th

***The Women of Copper Country* By: Mary Doria Russell**

Hostess Barbara Matthews Reviewer Barbara Matthews



"The Women of Copper County" is a historical novel by Mary Doria Russel that tells the story of Annie Clements, a courageous woman who leads a strike against a major copper mining company in early 20th-century Michigan.

Set in July 1913, the novel follows Annie Clements, a 25-year-old woman living in Calumet, Michigan, a town dominated by the copper mining industry. The story highlights the struggles faced by miners and their families, particularly the women who support them while dealing with the harsh realities of their lives. Annie becomes a pivotal figure in the labor movement, advocating for better working conditions and fair wages for miners who risk their lives daily for meager salaries.

Membership

Your Membership Does Matter!

A few days ago, our North Hills Pittsburgh branch of AAUW was pleased to present three La Roche students with grants that will help them further their educational goals. These impressive young women not only gave everyone in the room hope for the future; their smiles and gratitude provided the inspiration for another year of working together to help make amazing opportunities a reality for several more students. And why all of our memberships matter.

I have often been asked why I find being a member of AAUW to be of importance at this time in my life when relaxing with a good book might bring me great joy with less effort. My response is always the same; that I cannot imagine being able to relax when women's equity and quite possibly their access to healthcare, education, and their right to vote is being attacked or called into question every single day. And while AAUW National helps lead the charge in advocacy and legal challenges, local branches across the country are making contributions to women's futures just like our own branch's dedication to providing grants for La Roche students throughout the past 25 years.

I am thrilled to welcome two new members to our North Hills Pittsburgh branch this season, Charlotte Wlodkowski and Laura Jones. Charlotte has also kindly agreed to be one of the three authors featured at our annual fundraiser "For the Love of Books", and Laura was an AAUW member in Virginia who thankfully, following a move to Pittsburgh, found "her people" once again.

I, too, love that I have found my people because by joining AAUW our voices are amplified and our dollars are multiplied to make a difference in a cause we are all passionate about. You inspire me with your dedication, love for learning, and passion for equity that help bring AAUW's goals to fruition in our own community.

Yours in the continuing quest for equity,
Francie Cech (and Jennifer Schwoebel)
Co-V.P.'s for Membership
AAUW-NHP



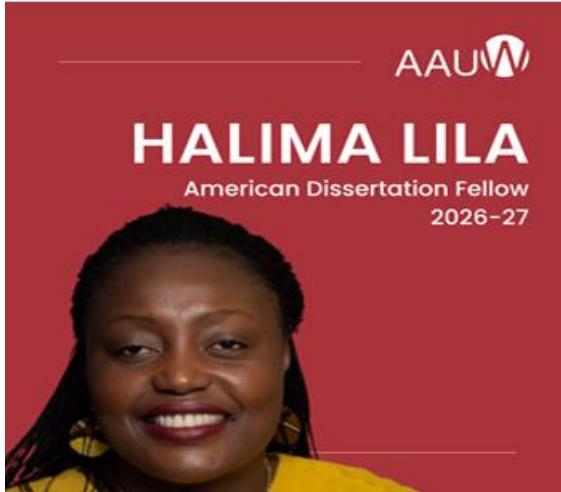
Sister Matilda Kelley Incentive Grant Scholarship Award

The Branch 2026 Sr. Matilda Kelley Incentive Grant's were presented at our September meeting by: Sina Murphy, Barbara Matthews, Dona Macsuga, Sylvia Lynn and David Edison. Due to the generous donation from the Edison family, we were able to give three scholarships out this year.

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



PUBLIC POLICY**National****AAUW Awardee Spotlight**

Halima Lila, American Dissertation Fellow 2026-07 contributes to the global community by generating evidence, influencing health policies, strengthening health system and advancing equitable access to sexual and reproductive health services, particularly for women, girls adolescents, and young people.

AAUW Election Resources

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. To learn about AAUW National's resources click the link below.

[utilize and share AAUW's key advocacy and civic engagement resources. When women vote, we change the conversation.](#)



AAUW and AAUW Action Fund's Civic Engagement Guide uplifts key gender equity issues at stake in the 2026 elections.

Use this nonpartisan guide to educate yourself and your community, prompt conversations, and pose questions to candidates so you can make informed decisions at the ballot box.

[**Learn more about the Civic Engagement Guide**](#)

STATE:**Pennsylvania Legislation Affecting Women in 2026**

In 2026, Pennsylvania's legislative and policy landscape for women's rights is shaped by a mix of **reproductive rights protections, gender-related school policies, workplace accommodations, and voting rights debates.**

Reproductive Rights

Abortion remains legal in Pennsylvania through 24 weeks, but restrictions such as a 24-hour waiting period, parental consent for minors, and limited Medicaid coverage still apply www.womensrightsdata.org. Governor Josh Shapiro has reaffirmed his commitment to protecting access to reproductive health care, including eliminating unnecessary barriers. However, abortion protections are currently in state law, not the constitution, so future changes will depend on political control www.womensrightsdata.org.

Gender-Related School Policies

Bills restricting transgender girls' and women's participation in school and college sports have advanced but remain stalled www.womensrightsdata.org. Broader gender identity legislation, such as HB 300 (the "Fairness Act"), could expand protected classes to include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity or expression" in employment, housing, education, and public accommodations [PA Family](#). Supporters frame it as civil rights expansion, but critics warn it could affect women's spaces, athletic competition, and religious institutions.

Workplace and Health Protections

Lawmakers are considering proposals for **paid family leave, maternal-care access, reproductive-health data privacy, and menopause-related workplace accommodations** www.womensrightsdata.org. These aim to expand protections for working women, though their passage is uncertain.

Voting Rights

Voting policy is a major political and legal issue. Pennsylvania is involved in federal litigation over mail voting requirements, and state lawmakers are debating early voting, ballot processing, and voter registration rules www.womensrightsdata.org. These changes could impact women's civic participation.

Key Takeaway

Women in Pennsylvania in 2026 face a **divided political environment** where reproductive rights are legally protected but constitutionally uncertain, gender-related school policies are contentious, and workplace and voting rights are under legislative and legal scrutiny. The November 2026 elections could shift the balance of power and determine the direction of these laws.

**2026 General Election
Important Dates**

Oct. 19
Last day to register to vote in the general election
• vote.pa.gov/Register

Oct. 27
Last day to apply for a mail ballot
• vote.pa.gov/MailBallot

Nov. 3
Election Day. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
• vote.pa.gov/Polls

The graphic features a dark blue header with the title in white. Below the header are three white boxes with red borders, each containing a date in a red box, an icon, and text. The icons are a ballot box, a mail ballot, and a house with a location pin. The Pennsylvania and South Carolina state logos are on the left and right sides of the header.

AAUW 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!!!!

Voter Registration and AAUW Student Membership Outreach LRU Student Activities Fair

We had the opportunity to have our tables next to each other and tag teamed students. We talked to students, staff and even lifelong learning students. We shared a lot of info for the students to check their registration status, make a plan to vote and see who is on their ballot. We collaborated with the League of Women Voters.

The AAUW Student Membership table was rocking. Students were very interested in Grants, Fellowships and Scholarships. Many signed up for more information. Jenny Schwobel brought student membership info, swag and great cookies and chocolate. We got some good candidate photos. Does anyone recognize the one lifelong learner student?





North Hills International Day Of Peace Celebration

This event was held on Sunday September 20th at the Point Grove on Lake Shore Drive. The rain did not keep the community away or our members away. The event promotes dialogue and a chance to learn about different cultures. Activities included culture entertainment, personal stories, information tables, food sampling family activities ending with the flag ceremony. along with other different cultural events.





Interesting Fact About Witches By: Susan G. Butruile

As the autumn light fades and the green of summer dies, we approach Hallowe'en -- All Hallows Eve. It's the eve of the Christian All Souls' or All Saints' Day, the Irish Vigil of Saman, the Celtic Samhain, all based on the pagan All Hallows' Day. The celebration of Halloween has ancient common roots, and around the world it's the eve of the Day of the Dead, a feast to honor the dying earth and the souls of the dead.



Halloween is witches with their brooms and owls and cats and bats. The tradition of witches and Halloween is perhaps the oldest one of all.

In pre-Christian times when women were clan leaders, they presided over their communities' important life events, including death. This is the basis for witches' association with Halloween. The current common definition of a witch has been around since medieval times, when its meaning was stolen and changed for political purposes. The dictionary tells us that a witch is "a woman supposed to have supernatural power by a compact with the devil or evil spirits."

As powerful men took over the public practice of ritual and medicine, they began to define powerful women as evil, and associated them with the devil. These ideas culminated in the witch hunts of the sixteenth through the nineteenth centuries. In these terrifying times people in the hundreds of thousands -- some say millions -- were tortured, burned and hanged as witches throughout Europe and beyond. Women were eighty percent of the victims in this little-remembered Holocaust.

Any woman who was old, odd, uppity, independent, powerful or poor could be pronounced a witch. A woman who challenged the authority of her husband, father, church or medical establishment could be accused of witchcraft. A woman could be condemned for practicing the same medicine or preaching the same words for which a man would be respected.

Witches are still with us, and they call upon the energies of Earth and spirit to restore a balance between temporal and spiritual, male and female, living and dead. You might say there's a bit of a witch in every woman who decides to live her life on her own terms.

Let's be a little witchy



FOX CHAPLE BRANCH IS INVITING US TO THEIR CRAZY CARDS HALLOWEEN LUNCHEON

On **Friday, October 30th**, a **Halloween themed Crazy Cards Game and Luncheon** will be held as a fundraiser for Fox Chapel Area AAUW's education programs.

Donation to the Fox Chapel Area AAUW Education Fund is a **minimum of \$35 dollars** per person. Please make your **check payable to Fox Chapel Area AAUW** and mail or give it to Barbara Johnstone, by **October 17th**.

For Your Reservation Send your check to

Barbara Johnstone,

640 5th Street, Apt. 303, Oakmont, PA 15139.

Crazy Cards is considered by many to be one of the most fun card games to play. This game is not like any card game you might know. To join in the fun playing Crazy Cards, all you need to know are the names of the suits and face cards as well as the number cards. Written instructions will be provided, and players rotate so you have an opportunity to play with everyone.

Carpooling can be an option



September in Pictures

Lunch Bunch



Branch Meeting





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