

## AAUW NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



### Co-Presidents Report

**“Autumn mornings: sunshine and crisp air, birds and calmness, year’s end and day’s beginnings” - Terri Guillemets**

Thank you to everyone that came to our October branch meeting, such a great turnout! October has gone by so fast... I am not ready for Thanksgiving yet.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the November 2 meeting at 7:00 pm. The program is “Trades of Hope” presented by Shelby Black Couch which should be an informative program to all. This will be a “Shape the Future” event.

Please feel free to bring a friend to the meeting.

### NEWS FROM THE FINANCIAL OFFICER, NANCY MAHOSKY

Please continue to recruit new members. Dues for new members are only \$53 (half-price). It’s a real bargain! Plus our branch will earn one free membership for every 2 recruits. Ask potential members to contact Jodean Brooks or Mary Beth Quinn for an application. This application is also available on our website for downloading. Just click on the Membership Application tab.

If any printed copies of the application form are floating around, please make sure it shows a \$53 dues payment. It is embarrassing to us when a new member sends a check for an incorrect amount.

### YEARBOOK UPDATES

Any changes to addresses, phone numbers, email, or university info should be sent to Nancy Mahosky, financial officer. Any other updates should be sent to Pam Powers, yearbook editor.

### 5 STAR BRANCH COMMITTEE

So far, we have completed the requirements for Star #3 Governance by writing a strategic plan and a succession plan. Star #4 Programs is also complete as we have 4

programs that are aligned to the strategic plan. Finally, Star #5 Communications is done as our social media pages have 3-4 posts on DEI.

Evaluation of our progress will be via a survey sent out in the fall. Members will be sent talking points to help with filling it out.

### **IF YOU CHANGED YOUR NAME, CHECK YOUR JOIN YEAR!**

Any member who joined under one last name and then changed it needs to be certain that the join year recorded by national AAUW is correct. Nancy has that information and can check for you.

### **STATE DUES INCREASE FOR 2024-25**

State dues are increasing for the first time in many, many years. They will be \$12 next year instead of \$10.

### **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION CHAIRPERSON NEEDED**

Please consider volunteering to be our DE&I officer for 2023-24. We need someone to post articles to Facebook and our web site and to assist with inclusion efforts to mirror the AAUW vision. Without a chair, we will not earn Star #3 for 2023-24. Please help!

### **ONLINE BILL PAYMENT**

Are any members currently using online bill payment? You can easily add our branch as a biller and have your bank send us a check for dues or luncheon payments or even donations! Just add this biller information:

AAUW Beaver Valley Branch  
1904 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Beaver Falls PA 15010

Checks will be printed and mailed to Nancy. Make sure to allow enough time for the check to arrive before the deadline.

### **CREDIT CARD / DEBIT CARD / PAYPAL PAYMENTS**

Our branch is now able to accept credit and debit card payments as well as Paypal transfers. There is a Donate button on the main page, the About Us page, and the Kitchen Tour page of the website. Members and friends of AAUW Beaver Valley may use this button at any time to submit donations.

We also now accept credit card or debit card payments made online for our branch activities. There will always be a link on the website when we begin to advertise an event. Just follow the directions.

There is always a small processing fee for these payments. However, when you consider the cost of a stamp and the time to write a check and prepare an addressed envelope, it is worth it! Payments were accepted for our Fall Brunch reservations and many members took advantage of it.

If anyone has a Paypal account, money can be sent directly to our branch Paypal account without a fee. See Nancy for directions.

### **RENEWING AND NEW MEMBERS**

Our membership total is now 80 (6 are new). See membership article for more information.

### **ADDRESS, EMAIL, AND PHONE NUMBER CHANGES**

None this month

### **PHONE NUMBER ADJUSTMENTS**

Please contact Nancy Mahosky if you want your cell phone number published in the yearbook and distributed to members.

## **AWARDS COMMITTEE - Nominations are due Nov. 15!**

Celebrate the achievements and extra effort that many of our members and community leaders have made in support of AAUW's mission and values. Please give some thought to the awards program by submitting nominations from our membership and the community.

### **FIVE AWARDS and CRITERIA:**

- **NAMED GIFT HONOREE/S:** *awarded to a **member**/s who has shown leadership or great effort to the branch.*
- **MEMBER MAKING A DIFFERENCE:** *awarded to a **member** who has made a significant difference in something of importance to the branch within the past year.*
- **OUTSTANDING WOMAN OF THE BRANCH:** *awarded to a **member** for meritorious service to the branch and the community for her accumulative service.*
- **GATEWAY TO EQUITY AWARD:** *awarded to **someone in the community**, not necessarily an AAUW member, who has promoted inclusion of women in the workplace as well as other leadership roles.*
- **CHAMPION OF AAUW Beaver Valley Branch:** *awarded to an **individual or organization** that substantially supports the AAUW mission and values.*

**Submit nominations** - please include the following information for each nominee:

- Specific Award as noted above
- Individual's name and contact information for non-members
- Describe what the nominee has accomplished to meet the criteria for the respective award
- Include your name and email
- **Email your nominations by Nov. 15 to Mary Ann Falcone-Bolland: [dbolland@comcast.net](mailto:dbolland@comcast.net)**

**Thank you** for taking the time to recognize individuals for their contributions to our branch.

The Awards Committee reviews nominations and presents the selections to the board for approval. Awards will be presented in 2024. *Awards Committee: Mary Ann Falcone-Bolland, Public Information/Awards Chair; Jodean Brooks and Joann Lecrone, Community Co-Chairs; Jodean Brooks and Mary Beth Quinn, Membership VPs.*



## College and universities

Received ideas for joint branch programs from the AAUW web site. Carley and I will plan to reach out to the colleges. Also, I contacted Brittney Golden at CCBC.

### Can list ideals:

- October Breast Cancer Awareness Month bake sale (Branch make bake goods)
- Voter registration drives in fall and/or spring.
- Tabling on campus in October and/or April handing out forms to request an absentee ballot from the states most represented among that campus's student population.
- Pay equity activities: host an Equal Pay Day bake sale, collect signatures to support pay-equity legislation, sponsor speakers on negotiation skills, etc.
- Title IX and Knowing Your Rights programs and tabling.
- A speaker or panel on an AAUW issue hosted by your branch.
- Student mentoring
- Shared project like Love Your Body, Sister-to-Sister Summits, Take Back the Night, Red Sands National Awareness
- Conversations about Gender Equity
- Have college student be a panelist at Girls' Recognition Night
- Make sure students at your local institutions of higher education know about [NCCWSL](#) and the grants that are available at National (Conference for

College Women Student Leaders National)Have a college student speak at the Girls' Recognition Night Program

I researched Red Sands National Awareness. This would be a fun project that we can share with a college. It would be a spring/summer project.

## **Community**

Our Friends Helping Friends passes made \$100.00.

## **Membership News – Jodean Brooks, Mary Beth Quinn**

The November 2 Meeting is a special “Getting to Know Us” meeting. You are encouraged to invite friends who may be interested in joining our group. In lieu of a business meeting we will have a program explaining what a vibrant organization we are. The program is “Trades of Hope” presented by Shelby Black Couch which should be an informative program to all.

## **Welcome Our New Members**

**Kacie Kirkpatrick** attended the 2023 Kitchen Tour and immediately decided to join our Branch. She was previously a student affiliate. She holds both a Bachelor and Masters Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in International Business from Southern New Hampshire University. She is currently enrolled in doctorate program at Liberty University. She is currently employed as an Operations Analyst Supervisor for PPG Paints.

Kacie and her significant other enjoy hiking with their two dogs – Odin, a Saint Bernard and Jedi, a German Shepherd mix. She also attends boxing class two nights a week.

**Erin Crishi** refers to herself as the “non-traditional” student as she worked full time supporting herself while finishing her degree in her 30's. She earned an Associate's Degree from Stark State College in Ohio and a Bachelors Degree in Organizational Supervision from the University of Akron. While earning her degrees Erin held a variety of positions – rental manager, housekeeping manager, admissions director, order specialist and sales manager.

Erin met her husband simultaneously with earning her degrees. She is now a stay-at-home mom to their 4 year old daughter. She moved from Hudson, OH nearly 5 years ago to be close to her husband's family. Painting, hiking and gardening are among Erin's interests. She has earned the status of Master Gardener and volunteers at Sahli Nature Park.

**Bi-Partisanship can exist. Pennsylvania state legislature comes together to pass legislation.**

With the country recognizing October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month for almost 40 years, a State law passed this past spring is worth revisiting at this point in time. On May 1, 2023, Pennsylvania enacted (a first of its kind in the nation) a law that eliminates all costs for preventive screenings in women with high risk for breast cancer. Senate Bill 8 will require insurers to cover the cost of breast MRIs and ultrasound for women with high risk conditions. The high risk conditions referenced in this legislation are for women who have dense breast tissue, a personal or family history of breast cancer, genetic predisposition, or prior radiation therapy. It will also cover costs for genetic testing and counseling for people at high risk of BRCA1 and BRCA 2 gene mutations. This legislation, which becomes effective starting 2025, was passed by both chambers unanimously.

✓ Remember to Vote November 7, 2023

## **FINAL WRAP-UP OF KITCHEN TOUR 2023**

### **THANK YOU....**

....to Nancy Noll, Patty Rock, Vickie Scott for your help in writing many, many Thank You notes and letters.

....to these members who contributed lovely raffle baskets: Andrea Challis, Fran Colafella, Nancy Cole, Roberta Good, Angela Manno (2), Nancy Osman, Frances Pickard, Bonnie Reyes, Pam Powers (9 USA baskets), and I.

Among the lucky winners of baskets were these members: Jackie Heaney, Angela Manno,

Pam Mansell, Karen Mitch, Deb Newton, Pam Powers, Bonnie Reyes (2)

..... to ALL members who contributed in some way to achieve our goals:

- 1) Designate profits for scholarships and branch programs. Profit this year is \$18,560!!
- 2) Recognition of the name of AAUW in the community by visibility, publicity, and presentation of a memorable event.
- 3) Attain new members.

-----especially to our KITCHEN TOUR COMMITTEE, abundant appreciation for your willingness to lend time, talent, and commitment to our mission which attributed to our successes.

Members of the KITCHEN TOUR COMMITTEE are as follow: Mary Ann Bolland, Sue Brandt,

Andrea Challis, Fran Colafella, Nancy Cole, Mary DeSanzo, Roberta Good, Rose Homish,

Joyce Hoppa, Val Keeley, Lea Kretchmar, Kim Litz, Linda Loboizzo, Nancy Mahosky, Ginger Muns, Nancy Noll, Nancy Osman, Frances Pickard, Pam Powers, Salam Raskovsky,

Bonnie Reyes, Mary Beth Quinn, Patty Rock, Vickie Scott, Jeannie Snitger, Marianne Turner

(corrected from Directory)

These past years have provided me with much joy and satisfaction, and I sincerely hope that Vickie Scott, Chair, and our branch will enjoy more years of successful KITCHEN TOURS. Thank you very much.

Jean Macaluso

Retiring Chair

## **Education Update:**

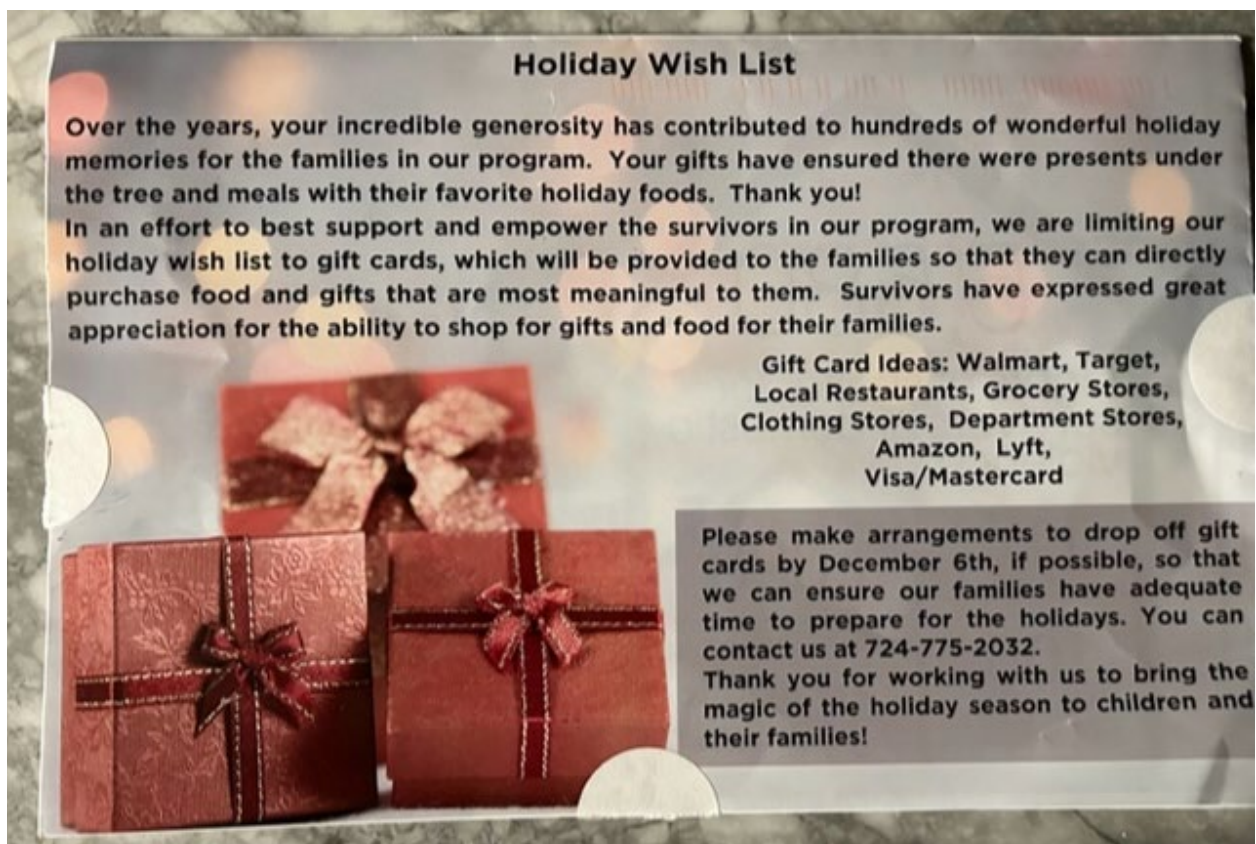
**Student Loan Debt Forgiveness:** The Department of Education is beginning talks to create a new plan to relieve student debt. President Biden's executive order to relieve \$20,000.00 for each student's debt could not stand by the Supreme Court's ruling. A new strategy is being hashed out by a panel consisting of borrowers, servicers, colleges, and universities. Their hope is to get it through under a federal higher education policy change bypassing the ability of Congress to overturn it. (Source: USA Today)

The PA Basic Education Funding Commission is conducting a statewide fact-finding tour to develop and propose a new funding formula that will promote fairness and equity financially in all Pa schools. [On February 7, 2023, a Commonwealth Court ruled that PA school funding system is unconstitutional.] (Source: PSEA Keeping Connected and Education Voters of PA)

PA Department of Education launched a new website, Teach in PA for inspiring educators. {Under pa.gov}, (Source: PSEA Keeping Connected)

- 1) On August 3, 2023, the Education budget was signed by Governor Shapiro who line-item vetoed \$100 million for private and religious schools. No vouchers for now. (Source: Education Voters Of PA).

**WOMEN'S CENTER GIFT CARD DONATIONS** (see the information on the next page and bring to the November Meeting).



## **INTEREST GROUPS**

### **FEMMES.**

**JW Hall's** in Hopewell is a very popular and established Beaver County Restaurant, and it will be our gathering place in November---Tuesday,



November 7, ELECTION DAY. Mark your calendars for lunch at 12:30 after voting, and I hope you will join us. Please let me know by the preceding Saturday if you plan to be there.

Jean Macaluso 724-581-6050 text [jean.macaluso@yahoo.com](mailto:jean.macaluso@yahoo.com)

## Literature 1

WHEN: Tuesday, November 14, 2023

WHERE: Jackson's

TIME: 2:00 – notice time change

BOOK: *Pulling the Chariot of the Sun* by Shane McCrae



LEADER: Joann L.

WHEN: Tuesday, January 9, 2024

WHERE: Jackson's

TIME: 1:00

BOOK: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus



LEADER: Linda L.

## LITERATURE 2

As the Chair of Lit. II for many, many years I am happy to report that Ginger Muns has agreed to take over this active group. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as chair, and I know that Ginger who has been an enthusiastic member of Lit. II will bring her own perspective to our monthly meetings.

At our October meeting we discussed Barbara Kingsolver's "Demon Copperhead" which is quite different from her previous books and loosely refers to Dicken's David Copperfield. Barb

Chrishi led with a well-researched and lively discussion at Kathi Harris's home with a delicious pumpkin dessert provided by Ellen Taylor.  
Beth Buttermore, retiring Chair

## LITERATURE 3

The book group will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 12:30 pm, at the Wooden Angel.  
Lea Kretchmar will lead the discussion of the book,  
THE WOMAN THEY COULD NOT SILENCE by Kate Moore.  
Our group will not meet in December.



### Movie group

***Killers of the Flower Moon*** is an epic Western crime drama directed by Martin Scorsese. Based on the 2017 book of the same name by David Grann, *Killers of the Flower Moon* tells the story of members of the Osage tribe in northeastern Oklahoma who are murdered under mysterious circumstances after oil is found on their land, prompting an FBI investigation. Starring in *Killers of the Flower Moon* are Leonardo DiCaprio as Ernest Burkhart, Robert De Niro as William Hale, Lily Gladstone as Mollie Burkhart, Jesse Plemons as Tom White, Tantoo Cardinal as Lizzie Q, John Lithgow as Prosecutor Leaward, and Brendan Fraser as W.S. Hamilton.

### Release date: October 20

I will email when the movie comes to Monaca with date and time.

### The Hold Overs

#### Release Date: November 10th

Nobody likes teacher Paul Hunham (Giamatti) -- not his students, not his fellow faculty, not the headmaster, who all find his pomposity and rigidity exasperating. With no family and nowhere to go over the Christmas holiday in 1970, Paul remains at school to supervise students unable to go home for the holidays.