

AAUW FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



Co-Presidents Report

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to our last 4 branch meetings of this AAUW year. There is some important news at AAUW. There will be another vote on open membership (no degree required) as well as National ByLaws update. It is important that you all vote. Many of you have strong feelings both ways and make sure your voice is heard! Voting begins on line April 3 and ends May 15. Please go to the AAUW website to vote.

Just remember, you can do anything you set your mind to, but it takes action, perseverance, and facing your fears. ~Gillian Anderson

Our first meeting of 2024 will be February 3 at 10:00 am Room 210 First Presbyterian Church, Beaver.

The program is "The Life and Times of Three Slaves Living in Beaver County. Harvey and Denise Johnson have researched the Underground Railroad throughout the years. This dramatic sketch was born out of that research. Their purpose in this presentation is to inform and enhance the great legacy and history of this movement in the Beaver County area.

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.

Our 5 Star Committee met on December 14 and completed the evaluation survey. We are hoping to earn 3 stars. If the program is continued, we will try to earn the final 2 stars.

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.

THANKS TO SHELBY BLACK-COUCH AND TRADES OF HOPE

Our November speaker, Shelby Black Couch, sponsored a pop-up fundraiser for the month of November. Our branch received 20% of the sales: 10% from Shelby and 10% from Trades of Hope. **Total of \$385.72.** The money will be added to our scholarship funds. We appreciate Shelby and the work she did to set this up.

THANKS TO MEMBER JUNE SCHUTTE

Many thanks to our honorary lifetime member June Schutte for her donation of \$100 to the 2023 Kitchen Tour. June lives in North Carolina but has remained a member and contributes annually to our tour.

ZOOM CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Zoom agreed to settle a class action suit for unfair practices and all plaintiffs were given a refund. Our branch received \$32.32 which will be returned to the communications budget.

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 17th 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.

The January issue of The Keystoner is now available at <https://aaup-pa.aauw.net/files/2024/01/2024-January-Keystoner-FINAL.pdf>

Kick-Off for the Kitchen Tour

The Kitchen Tour Committee and anyone else is welcome to attend a Kitchen Tour Committee meeting on Monday February 5th at 10:30am. We will meet in room 210 at the First Presbyterian Church. This is the same location as our branch meeting. The meeting should be finished by noon.

The upcoming 23rd Kitchen Tour will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2024. This is the final Saturday in September.

Bylaws Committee Update

Mary Beth has sent the updated bylaws and a synopsis of those changes out to the membership. Please take a few moments to review these materials. The Bylaws Committee will be submitting these changes for approval by the membership during the February Branch meeting.

On January 8, AAUW National distributed a message that an announcement for a national bylaws change had not distributed as desired. This bylaw change would remove the degree requirement for membership. The hyperlink below provides the contents of this change, National bylaws committee's commentary, and the link to submit your comments. The deadlines for this change are:

- January 26 | Comment period ends at 5:00 pm ET
- April 3 | Voting opens (online voting is encouraged)
- May 15 | Online voting ends at 12:00 pm ET and results announced online

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2024-aaup-proposed-bylaws-changes/>

MEMBERSHIP NEWS – Jodean Brooks, Mary Beth Quinn

We are delighted to introduce our newest member, **Christine Kubala**. Christine was the guest of Roberta Good at our November Meeting. **Christine marks new member**

#9. Can we make it 10?! Invite a guest to our February Branch Meeting. The program promises to be interesting and informative.

Public Policy

CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8th International Women's Day was first observed in 1908 when suffragettes marched in New York City for better pay, shorter working hours, and the right to vote. In 1911, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria, as well as the US all joined in to celebrate the day, definitely making it international. It further came to prominence when the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1977 invited member states to proclaim March 8th as International Women's Day, an official UN holiday for women's rights and world peace.

This year's UN theme for International Women's Day is Invest in Women: Accelerate progress. Our world faces many challenges putting communities in crises. Gender equality is critical if future generations will realize economic prosperity and a healthy planet.

Five key areas of focus that require action to ensure women are not left behind:

- Investing in Women: A Human Rights Issue
 - ◆ Progress for women benefits us all and builds a more inclusive society.
- Ending Poverty
 - ◆ The pandemic, world conflicts, climate disasters, and resulting economic chaos have all contributed to many more people (particularly women with children) living below the poverty line.
- Implementing Gender-Responsive Financing
 - ◆ Cuts to public spending brought on by conflicts, rising fuel and food costs have disproportionately impacted women in regard to public services and social protection.
- Shift to a Green Economy and a Care Society
 - ◆ Advocates propose an alternative economic model that stresses a green economy and care society that amplifies women's voices and ideas.
- Support Feminist Change-Makers
 - ◆ Organizations that fight for women's equality and lifting women out of poverty receive little official development assistance. The UN notes these organizations receive 0.13 percent of total official development assistance.

So.....celebrate the day, acknowledge achievements, tackle prejudices and inequalities, and open discussions on how we (you) can bring about change. And, wear your purple (signifying justice and dignity), green (standing for hope), and white (symbolizing purity)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship information and applications are now on our website. Encourage eligible Beaver County high school seniors and non-traditional students to apply.

Program Committee - 2024 – 2025

The Program Committee will be having a meeting in March to begin planning programs for 2024-2025. Our committee from the previous year was as follows: Kathy Harris, Lea Kretchmar, Jean Macaluso, Frances Pickard, Mary Beth Quinn, Sharon Nerone. Let me know if you will remain on the program committee for the coming year. Also anyone interested in joining our committee or if you have a suggestion for a program contact me at neronesl@aol.com

FEMMES

It has been years since we dined at a Hibachi Steakhouse, so let's try the newest one, SHOGUN HIBACHI STEAKHOUSE, at Beaver Valley Mall. Plan for a fun afternoon there on Tuesday, February 6, at 12:30 to sit around and watch as our meals are being prepared. I hope your schedules permit you to join us, so please let me know by the preceding Saturday morning if you plan to attend.

jean.macaluso@yahoo.com (Please reply directly to me.)
724-581-6050—text

AAUW Antique's Interest Group 2024

The first planned meeting of the Antique Interest Group (Adult Show & Tell) will be held in April. We never meet in January, February, July, and August. We are member driven in choosing our topics. Not all of us are experts or collectors. Between our members and the internet, we succeed. Except for our field trips, we meet at 1 pm on the second Monday of the month in members' homes. We are always looking for members who would like to share their interest in antiques as well as learn along with us. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Jan Landsbach, our reservation coordinator (724) 846-3905. We will be finalizing our 2024 schedule when we meet in April.

April 8, 2024. "Not my Cup of Tea" Janet Wise, hostess; Ginger Muns, dessert. Members are to bring their own cup and saucer. They are to try to research the company and pattern in advance.

May 2024. Field Trip McCarl Industrial Museum, Darlington, PA. Tentative plans to have an early dinner around 3pm at Greensburg Tavern.

June 2024. Field Trip. The McCarl Coverlet Gallery, St Vincent College, Latrobe, PA (Tentative)

Sept 9, 2024
Oct 14, 2024
Nov 11, 2024

Dec 2024. Field trip Christmas at the Village, Old Economy (Tentative)



Community/GRN

GRN will be contacting potential STEM professionals for GRN. Any member who knows of a woman who would be interested in speaking at the program, please email Jodean with the information.

Literature 1

WHERE: **Grand Valley Inn**
WHEN: Tuesday, March 12, 2024
TIME: **11:30**
WHAT: ***West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge**
Yvonne will be discussion leader

SUMMARY: Based on a true story and set during the Great Depression in 1938.
The story takes place over the twelve days it takes Woody and the Old

Man

to drive from New Jersey to California in a customized truck, hauling two young giraffes to the San Diego Zoo.

Literature 2

Book Group met January 11 at Roberta Good's home. Each member reviewed the book she received in a grab bag at our Christmas Luncheon at Felicity Farm in December.

The Group has decided to donate a gift of children's bed linens to the organization, Sleep in Heavenly Peace in memory of our member, Ann Nieman.

The Lit II Group meets at 1:00 pm on the second Thursday of each month with members taking turns hosting or providing refreshments. Next month's meeting will be on February 8th at Roberta Good's home with discussion of the book, Lessons in Chemistry. Lit II is always open and welcome to new members-contact Ginger Muns for more information

Literature 3

book group will meet on February 20, 12:30 pm at the Wooden Angel.
Jean Macaluso will lead the discussion of the book, "Home Front" by Kristen Hannah.

Movie Group

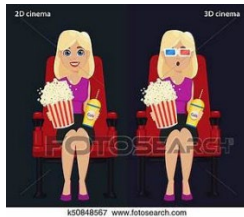


Monaca movie theater

February 6, 2024

12:10 PM, Meet at 12:00

Synopsis: As stated by the official website, *Argylle* is “a razor-witted, reality-bending, globe-encircling spy thriller.” A reclusive real-life author, **Elly Conway**, finds events closely mirroring the ones she recently penned down for her espionage novels. Organized by a sinister syndicate, The Division, Conway sets off alongside her cat, Alfie, and cat-allergic rescuer, Aiden. The globe-trotting mission soon has her questioning the lines between fiction and reality, yet times go short past them as the stakes keep getting higher. However, the dilemma could not have become any stranger as her book spy, Agent Argylle seems to have come to life amid vibrant colors, high-octane stunts, and a mind-bending meta-aspect of the story. If interested please email Pam Powers or Jodean



Six members attended the movie, *The Color Purple* on January 2nd. If you would enjoy adding a movie to the list, contact Pam or Jodean.



Evening group

Our new getting to know you group met at the 19th Hole on December 8th. We enjoyed appetizers and a drink while getting to know our new member. We will be planning another outing for January. Any suggestions, email Jodean.

Circle February 23rd. on your calendar and join the new interest group at Artsy Doodle for their Sip and Paint program. Price is \$35 dollars, some projects are more. Starts at 6:30pm in Beaver. It is BYOB. Becky, the person at Artsy Doodle, will

send a link with the projects to choose from. Please let me know if you are interested and I will make arrangements for us and have the link sent out to choose the project that fits your personality.



AAUW's annual art contest is officially under way, and we invite members to [submit a high-res image](#) of their original painting, photography, sculpture, collage or other artwork. We will be accepting submissions through January 31, 2024. Your work could be among the winning entries!

Starting in February, AAUW members will select their favorite entries via ranked-choice voting. The winners will be featured on a collection of notecards sent to all members this spring. The back of each card will include the winning artist's biography, a fact about AAUW and a highlight of the artist's local branch affiliation when applicable.

For more information on submitting artwork, or to peruse last year's art gallery, please visit the [AAUW Art Contest page](#).

FEMMES du JOUR SCHEDULE 2024

JANUARY 9	JACKSON'S	Near Beaver Valley Mall
FEBRUARY 6	SHOGUN HIBACHI STEAKHOUSE	Beaver Valley Mall
MARCH 5	SHAKESPEARE'S	Near Ellwood City
APRIL 9	OFF THE HOOK	Cranberry
MAY 7	SAL'S	Chippewa
JUNE 4	HYEHLDE	Moon Twp. *Dinner 4:30
JULY 2	ANDORA	Near Sewickley
AUGUST 6	D J'S BBQ	Wexford
SEPTEMBER 3	RED LOBSTER	Robinson Twp.

OCTOBER 1	SPREAD EAGLE	Hanoverton, OH
NOVEMBER 5	DUTCH HAUS	COLUMBIANA, OH *(date may change)
DECEMBER 17 (Tuesday)	WOODEN ANGEL, Bridgewater	(Pre-paid reservation)

We meet for lunch on the first Tuesday of each month, at 12:30 pm., unless otherwise specified. If you plan to attend, please call or text Jean Macaluso, 724-581-6050, or email jean.macaluso@yahoo.com by the preceding Saturday. Some months may be subject to change.