

AAUW March 2024 Newsletter



Co-Presidents Message

Life is not measured by the number of breaths you take but by the moments that take our breath away

March meeting will be held on March 2, 2024 (10:00 am, 9:30 for refreshments)

Pop-Up Books

Readers of all ages can enjoy the beauty of the illustrations and mechanics of pop-up books. Rue Snider, Pop-up book collector, has about 100 pop-up books. Several of his vast collection will be on display for us to peruse after his very interesting talk about the history of these intricate cut-out designs.

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.

BUDGET MEETING

It is time to prepare the 2024-25 budget. A meeting will be held following the March 2 branch meeting. All members are welcome to attend. If you are a committee chair and have a budget concern, email Nancy before March 2.

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.

The program has been renewed so we will start working on Stars #1 and #2.

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.

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.

RENEWING AND NEW MEMBERS

None this month

ADDRESS, EMAIL, AND PHONE NUMBER CHANGES

None this month

Bylaws and Policies

The revised bylaws have been submitted to AAUW State. Remember that National has a bylaw change under consideration by all members. The hyperlink below provides the contents of this change, and the National bylaws committee's commentary about this change. The deadlines for this change are:

- 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-aauw-proposed-bylaws-changes/>

Nancy Mahosky and Mary Beth Quinn have volunteered to join Pam Powers and Vickie Scott with reviewing and revising the Branch Policies. If you have suggestions for changes to the Branch Policies, please email your suggestion to

Vscott3412@gmail.com Vickie will consolidate the suggestions for the committee to use. **Your suggestions should be sent to Vickie by the end of April.** The committee will work through the changes over the summer. With the goal of having the revised policies ready for the first board meeting of the 2024-2025 fiscal year, and revisions ready for members' consideration in October 2024.

This is the article that was sent to the Beaver County Times. If you know of eligible young women in any of these categories, please encourage them to apply.

After March 22, application information will be sent to the Co-Presidents and chairpersons of Educational Fund, Community, and DE & I committees for the selection process.

2024 AAUW SCHOLARSHIPS

The Beaver Valley Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will award \$16,000 in scholarships to worthy Beaver County high school senior girls, non-traditional students, a CCBC student, and a law school student. Proceeds from their annual fundraiser, the AAUW Kitchen Tour, provide the funds for these awards.

Three eligible Beaver County high school senior girls and two non-traditional students---women who are returning to college to complete their degrees after an interruption of studies for several years---will each receive a \$2500 scholarship after completing an application. Applications are available on the website and qualifications and

requirements are outlined on the application. Deadline for applications is March 22, 2024.

Information about the \$1000 AAUW Award for a CCBC student is available at the CCBC Advising and Counseling Office at CCBC, and the deadline is also March 22, 2024.

Information about the \$2500 law student scholarship, named Effie Solomon Memorial Scholarship, is also available on the website.

<http://beavervalley-pa.aauw.net>

Any questions pertaining to scholarships should be referred to Pam Powers at pmjpowers@comcast.net

Pam Powers
Jean Macaluso

SLATE of OFFICERS FOR 2024-2026

We are very pleased and thank these members for their willingness to serve a two-year term.

CO-PRESIDENT— Deb Newton
Roberta Good will be completing her term in 2025.
PROGRAM VICE-PRESIDENT- Sharon Nerone
FINANCIAL OFFICER- Nancy Mahosky

Nominating Committee: Jean Macaluso, Mary Beth Quinn, Patty Rock

Kitchen Tour Update

The Kitchen Tour committee is looking for volunteer(s) to take over yard-sized sign distribution and retrieval. Jean Snitger and her husband are no longer able to manage the physical requirements with this task. Jean wants to work with and mentor the new committee members through the 2024 Kitchen Tour. She has extensive notes to share. Please contact Vickie Scott if you are interested in joining the committee and assuming this set of tasks.

The Kitchen Tour committee met on 5 February. It was an informative meeting. A few more pressing updates for all the membership.

- The hours for the tour will begin at 9:30am at the marketplace and end at 3:00pm. House tours will be open from 10:30am to 3:00pm. Raffle basket winners will be able to retrieve their baskets until 6:00pm Saturday. This is a slight modification from last year's hours – closing the marketplace at 3:00pm is new.

- Kretchmar's Bakery has agreed to sell lunch at the school using their new food truck.
- Two chefs have signed up – 19th Hole of Chippewa and PJ's Deli of New Brighton
- Mary Ann has been able to reserve the Beaver City sign at 3rd and Market Street for two weeks (September 16 to 30).
- First Energy is not able to support the printing expenses this year. The committee is evaluating how to reduce printing expenses and selecting a printing vendor.

Our next committee meeting will be in late March. Date and time are to be determined.

Fashion Accessories

Spring is right around the corner and so is Spring Cleaning.

Don't forget to save your purses, jewelry, scarves and other fashion items for the Kitchen Tour Marketplace.

Public Policy

National Equal Pay Day 2024

March 12th marks this year's date in time for the gender inequality pay gap. Based on the latest (2022) U.S. Census information, the average woman who works full time is paid on average 84% of her male counterpart. In dollars and cents: Women who work year-round are paid 84 cents for every dollar paid to men. This date calculation, first started in 1996 by the National Committee on Pay Equity, is to raise awareness about the gender wage gap.

Factors to Consider

It's not just about one paycheck. Due to this pay gap, the average income lost for all women over a 40 year career is approximately \$400,000. (Source: National Women's Law Center, "The Lifetime Wage Gap by State for Women Overall", March 2023.) This disparity further translates into less retirement income with women having 70% of the retirement income of men; and, lower wages mean lower Social Security earnings.

Latest Federal Action

On January 29th, an announcement was made by the White House on the 15th anniversary of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to ban the use of current or past pay when determining salaries of new Federal employees. By ending the use of salary history in pay setting decisions, this ensures salaries are based on applicants' skills, experience, and proficiencies. This action is designed to help close the wage gaps and improve pay transparency for employees. Note: President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act on January 29, 2009.

State Action

Over the past years, legislation has been proposed both in the PA House and PA Senate to update the state equal pay law enacted in 1967. No action to date

AAUW AWARDS

The Awards Committee is pleased to announce this year's honorees:

Named Gift Honorees: *Members who have shown leadership or great effort to the Branch:* **NANCY COLE; KIM LITZ; LEA KRETCHMAR; NANCY MAHOSKY; JODEAN BROOKS**

Member Making a Difference: *A member who has made a significant difference in something of importance to the branch within the past year:* **VICTORIA "VICKIE" SCOTT**

Outstanding woman of the Branch: *Awarded to a member for meritorious service to the branch and the community for her accumulative body of service:* **JEAN MACALUSO**

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:* **SHELBY BLACK-COUCH, Trades of Hope, Director Partner**

Champion of AAUW Beaver Valley: *Awarded to an individual or organization that substantially supports the AAUW Mission and Values:* **DAMIAN EONTA**, a genuine supporter of the Kitchen Tour.

CONGRATULATIONS to all Honorees for your achievements in support of our Branch!! Mark your calendars to attend the April 4 and May 4 Branch meetings for the presentation of the awards.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS – Jodean Brooks, Mary Beth Quinn

Are you ready for a challenge? Our Branch has 9 new members. We would love to make it 10! Why not invite a friend, neighbor, co-worker to join? The new member dues are \$53. For those who join now this will cover their dues through June 2025. It's a win-win! Invite someone to attend our March Branch meeting to introduce them to our vibrant group of women.

AAUW college/university partnership

Members and Penn State students attended the Vagina Monologues on April 14th. The play addressed women's sexuality and the social stigma surrounding rape and abuse, creating a new conversation about and with women. AAUW applications and information for AAUW college/university partnership were available. Two members, Helen Bloom and Jodean Brooks, were lucky winners for the gift bag drawing.

Girls' Recognition Night

Due to increased cost and low attendance, we will not hold STEM Day on April 13th. GRN will still be held on April 11th.

FEMMES

Contrary to the schedule for March, FEMMES cannot meet at Shakespeare's because the restaurant is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays and also on Wednesdays during the winter. If, however, you enjoy Sunday brunches, their brunch is an outstanding selection of breakfast and lunch/dinner items.

Arrangements, then, have been made for us to meet at the Grand Valley Inn (sunporch) on Tuesday, March 5, at 12:30. I hope our new members will be able to join us for a pleasant afternoon of good food and fellowship. Please let me know by the preceding Saturday if you plan to be there so that the restaurant can have an approximate count. Hope to see you then.
jean.macaluso@yahoo.com

Literature 1

Notice place and time change.

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 3

The Literature III book group will discuss "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt!

Deb Newton will lead the discussion on March 19, 2024 , 12:30pm at the Wooden Angel.



Membership

Join the new interest group at Artsy Doodle for a painting night out.

Prices start at \$35. It is BYOB. Becky, contact person at Artsy Doodle, sent a link to order your craft.

<https://artsydoodlecraftstudio.square.site>. Hope to see you Friday Night, February 23rd at 6:30

Jodean

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 Greersburg 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)