



BEAVER VALLEY BRANCH NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2025

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE - DEB NEWTON and DEB MANGELLI

In June, Vickie Scott, Deb Mangelli and I had the honor of representing all of you at the American Association of University Women (AAUW) PA Summer Retreat held in State College. A resounding message of stepping up to fulfill the mission of AAUW was quite evident. Our mission is rooted in advancing equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Since February 13, 1930, when seventeen women met on the campus of Geneva College, the Beaver Valley Branch of the AAUW has been committed to widening opportunities for women. ***Our work matters*** because the future we are building depends upon those opportunities we open today. And together we honor that history by not just remembering it but continuing it.

We invite you to join our upcoming events, support our scholarship fund raising efforts, and participate in conversations to further amplify women's voices. Kicking off this year's activities is the annual Fall Brunch on September 6th at the Wooden Angel in Beaver where we recognize the Effie M. Solomon scholarship awardee. This is a great time to catch up with friends and celebrate the efforts of a local law student.

We then move into the year with monthly meetings now scheduled at our new meeting location of the Vanport Presbyterian Church at 289 Georgetown Lane, Beaver. The slate of programs put forth by our Program Committee features a variety of thought-provoking topics and an entertaining December holiday ensemble.

This is just a snippet of what lies ahead. Of course, we have the Kitchen Tour, that we hope you will fully support, Interest Groups including Book Groups, After Hours Group, Garden Group, and Antique Group, the Girls Recognition Night, and the scholarship selections and awards. Plenty of areas to engage,

continue learning, and carry on the legacy left by those seventeen forward thinking women of 1930.



A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

As I conclude my four-year tenure as Co-President of this outstanding organization, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your unwavering support. Serving as a liaison between our local branch and the State and National AAUW has been both an honor and a responsibility I embraced, keeping you informed of policy updates, upcoming events, and member surveys.

Together, we achieved so much. With your dedication and enthusiasm, we earned 5-Star Recognition, hosted successful Kitchen Tours, and thoughtfully reviewed and awarded scholarships, continuing to advance our mission of equity and education for women and girls.

Thank you again for your encouragement and collaboration. I look forward to continuing my involvement with this remarkable group of women.

Warm regards,

Roberta

**AAUW Beaver Valley Branch is proud to announce our 2025
Scholarship Recipients.**

From a pool of stiff competition among many eligible applicants, the Scholarship Committee selected four scholarship recipients, each receiving \$2,500. In addition, we partner with CCBC to present a \$1,000 award to a current student.

The winners are as follows:

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



DANICA PURTELL

Danica, a senior at Beaver High School, sets her sights to the University of Pittsburgh with a major in the sciences and research to become a missionary pediatric surgeon. She has gained insight into the field by participating in medical missionary trips, most recently with her mother to the Dominican Republic to distribute oral hygiene supplies and children's books that Danica wrote. Number two in her class, Danica founded the school's Chemistry Club and worked to make science approachable to other girls who may have been hesitant to pursue the field. She will continue to advocate for young women and ensure that underrepresented groups will have equal opportunities by transforming her passion for research into meaningful action.



QUINN O'LEARY

Inspiration came early to Quinn, who knew as an eight-year-old what her career path was destined to be. A woman television news anchor, Norah O'Donnell, was Quinn's role model, and she emulated Norah's poise and integrity in practice sessions with her siblings. At Beaver High School, Quinn was the face of the school's morning announcements, was the social media content creator for the Athletic Department and was Class President for three years among many other activities. Quinn will attend Syracuse University to further hone her craft and perpetuate the path that was set before her. We look forward to seeing her on the evening news someday.



JAIVONA SMITH

Jaivona is a graduating senior from Beaver Falls High School who will attend Geneva College as a Criminal Justice major. Jaivona has proven herself to be

a giving person---giving of her time and talents as attested by her total involvement in school and community activities. Driven also to maintain a responsible weekly work schedule, she was able to achieve high honor roll standing all four years and perfect attendance in her junior year. She was named Rotary Student of the Month and inducted into National Honor Society in her sophomore year. Jaivona sees justice as being treated fairly, such as women to be treated equal to men. She values higher education, and she will reach for it

NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



ANDREA DIGGS

Andrea, the Non-Traditional Scholarship recipient, has chosen to fulfill her dream of becoming a Registered Nurse and, eventually, a Nurse Practitioner after sixteen years in the military and the mother of two children. She sees that seeking higher education later in life is not only possible, but something to be proud to achieve. Currently, her job as a youth case manager at Beaver County Job Training helps her to see that barriers can discourage one from seeking certain careers; however, her work aligns with AAUW's mission to break down barriers and equip youth with skills, resources, and confidence they need to succeed in their chosen fields. In her case, she is determined to promote equity in the healthcare system and drive change that benefits everyone.

CCBC AWARD



KENDRA COLEMAN

Kendra is a graduate of Beaver Falls High School where she was an active member of FBLA. She is now majoring in special education at CCBC while working at Beaver Falls Middle School. She plans on continuing her education at Slippery Rock University to earn her teaching degree. Kendra is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, and she made the Dean's List last semester. She would love to teach students in grade 3 or younger.

FINANCE - NANCY MAHOSKY

STILL NEED TO PAY DUES?



To have your information included in the yearbook, dues needed to be paid by June 15, 2025. **You can still pay by check in the amount of \$82 made payable to AAUW Beaver Valley Branch and mailed to Nancy Mahosky, 1904 17th Street, Beaver Falls, PA 15010. An addressed envelope for your convenience was included in the April mailing.**

Members may also pay online using a credit or debit card. Click on the Membership 2025-26 tab to access.

Your information will be listed in the next newsletter.

SHAPE THE FUTURE FREE MEMBERSHIPS

Please continue to recruit new members. Dues for new members are only \$54 (half-price). It's a real bargain! Plus, our branch will earn one free membership for every 2 recruits applicable to 2026-27 dues. Ask potential members to contact Mary Beth Quinn or Kim Litz for an application. This

application is also available on our website for downloading. Just click on the Membership Application 2025-26 tab.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to member Jean Macaluso for her donation of \$50 to our Benefit Event Fund. The donation was made in the name of deceased member Nancy Davies.

2026 KITCHEN TOUR RECIPES NEEDED!!!

The 2025 recipe book is complete, but we need fresh recipes for the 2026 Kitchen Tour. Please search for your favorites and submit to Nancy. Typed recipes are preferred but a photocopy, picture, or even something handwritten is also OK. Email to nmahosky@comcast.net or send it in the old-style mail. PLEASE HELP!!!!!! Any recipes not used in 2026 will be saved for the future.

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, Christmas luncheon, and spring luncheon, 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.

There are buttons on the website to pay dues.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome new members Stephanie Menor and Tara O’Leary. Read all about them in the membership section.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The following 5 women did not renew their membership for 2025-26. We wish them well and hope they may join us again in the future.

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Shelby Black-Couch | 2024-2025 |
| Lauren Gerard | 2023-2025 |
| Susan Huntsman | 1984-2025 |
| Irene McGee | 2019-2025 |
| Lydia Podbielski | 2024-2025 |

Our current membership count is 78.

.

YEARBOOK UPDATES

Any changes to addresses, phone numbers, email, or university degrees should be sent to Nancy Mahosky, financial officer. Changes must be made by June 15 to be published in the yearbook. Later changes will be published in the newsletter.

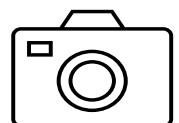
Please contact Nancy Mahosky if you want your cell phone number published in the yearbook and distributed to members.

SMILING FACES NEEDED!

Our photographers, Lea Kretchmar and Kim Litz, are trying to obtain photos of all members for the website. It’s password-protected so only other members can see it.

The following members need to have their lovely picture taken:

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Karen Coates | Debbie Daquila | Patty Davison |
| Michelle Donner | Joyce Hoppa | Millie Koos |



Angela Manno
Abigail McFarland
Karen Mitch
Paulette Potter
Joann Soltes
Yvonne Zier

Judy McDermott
Stephanie Menor
Tara O'Leary
Vickie Scott
Patricia Von Dreele

Carey McDougall
Katherine Miller
Amy Palaich
Meghan Solomon
Janet Wise

If you have a headshot that you would like to publish, text or email it to Lea. So, if you see Lea or Kim heading your way, SMILE!!!!

MEMBERSHIP - KIM LITZ, MARY BETH QUINN

It's time to start recruiting for new members for 2025-26! With a goal of 10 new members, we begin this club year with four new members! Our Fall Brunch is a great time to introduce others to our vital organization. **Invite your friends to the brunch – maybe they will join us!**

New members Meghan Solomon and Karen Coates were introduced to you in previous newsletters. Meet our newest members:

Stephanie Menor has joined our branch as a student member. She originates from Rochester but has lived in Los Angeles for the past 25 years growing a family and career in Marketing and Product Development. She is now back in Beaver County and finishing her degree at Penn State Beaver in 2026. She is currently the manager of the Beaver Valley Launchbox powered by Penn State. She is responsible for interns, social media, event planning, mentoring of clients and community outreach Stephanie is a wife to Chris Menor and mom to 13-year-old Roman. She enjoys painting, drawing, and arts & crafts. Stephanie is the speaker for our March Branch Meeting.

Welcome to Stephanie Menor.

Tara O'Leary is our most recent new member. She attended our Spring Brunch because her daughter, Quinn, was the recipient of an AAUW Scholarship. She enjoyed her time with us and decided to join! Tara earned a BA in English Degree from Bucknell University, and a Master's in Education from Colorado College. She enjoys teaching 6th grade English at Dutch Ridge Elementary School as well as coaching the Beaver Lacrosse team. She also serves as the Running Club Coach.

Tara enjoys reading, thrifting and running. She is a Sunday School volunteer at Northridge Community Church.

Welcome to Tara O'Leary.

KITCHEN TOUR – VICKIE SCOTT



The Countdown to the Kitchen Tour is On

The branch members will be busy the next 6 weeks with the preparations for the tour on Saturday October 4, 2025. Please recall that we have a new marketplace location (IBEW Union Hall, 217 Sassafras Lane – Vanport) and will be setting up during the **DAY** on Friday, October 3.

Here is a checklist of tasks to complete in the next couple of weeks:

- ☐ Send your \$40 to Mary Beth Quinn for your tickets.
- ☐ Deliver your raffle basket items/baskets to Vickie Scott no later than **Monday, September 8**. A small team is assembling the baskets on Friday, September 12. To eliminate a trip to Industry, you can bring completed baskets and items to the Fall brunch meeting on the 6th.
- ☐ Drop off accessory sale donations at Vickie Scott's or Linda Lobo's homes. We need these items by **Thursday, September 11**.
- ☐ Sign up for the bake sale at the brunch meeting, September 6. Or email Pam Powers before then.
- ☐ If you have a yard sale at your house and are attending the brunch meeting see Vickie, Yvonne, or Linda at the meeting for your date stickers.
- ☐ Verify your work assignment for setup and the event at the brunch meeting on the 6th.
- ☐ Bring your bake sale items to the IBEW Union Hall on Friday, October 3 between **11:00am and 2:00 pm**.

A heartfelt thank you to all the branch members who have already donated their time and talents over the summer. Everyone's efforts are much appreciated. We have had small groups work from my home over the last weeks and will continue into September. Roberta and Vivian were

instrumental in finding two kitchens this year. Jean M. and Kacie found and closed the deal with two chefs this year.

I am still looking for someone to lead the accessory sale. We will be consolidating all the items to my home for pricing, etc. shortly after September 11.

SCHOLARSHIP – JEAN MACALUSO, PAM POWERS

Any member interested in serving on the Scholarship Committee in the open At-Large position should email their interest to Jean Macaluso jean.macaluso@yahoo.com or Pam Powers elapowers@comcast.net by 9/30/25. The position will be filled by a blind drawing at the October Branch meeting.

PROGRAM – BARB CRISHI

Preview 2025–26

Our Program Planning Committee has worked hard to create a year full of engaging and inspiring events—something for everyone!

October - Kick off the season with **Felicia Mycyk**, coach, mother of four, cancer survivor, and award-winning community advocate. She'll share her story and strategies to stay motivated in life's toughest moments.

November - *Bring a friend!* **Barb Crishi**, Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist, will answer your questions and share the basics of understanding and managing diabetes.

December - Celebrate the season with *The Sounds of Pittsburgh* in a festive Christmas concert.

And that's just the beginning—stay tuned for more exciting programs coming in 2026!

INTEREST GROUPS



~ANTIQUES – JACKIE HEANEY

The September activity for the Antiques Group will be a field trip to the Hoyt Mansion in New Castle on Tuesday, September 9th. A one hour guided tour at \$10/person will begin at 11:00. Lunch will follow at the nearby Crane Room Grille.

The Hoyt Mansion reflects the golden age of life in Lawrence County during the Industrial Age. It was built from 1914-1917 at a cost of \$250,000. In today's dollars, it would be \$5.6 million. The home boasts many accoutrements, ahead of the time, that today are standard features in most homes. Any member who is interested in joining Antiques Group for the tour should contact Jan Landsbach (724) 846-3905.



~FEMMES – JEAN MACALUSO

During the summer, we really enjoyed Speers Steakhouse, Narcisi Winery, and The Grille at Bridgewater Crossings. Now, with fall in the air, what could be more inviting than lunch at SEVEN OAKS overlooking the golf course? Hope you will join us on Wednesday, September 3, at 12:30, and confirm with me by Tuesday morning. See you then.

Looking ahead to October, we will visit a place that has never been on our travels: Pondi's Restaurant in Lisbon, OH. For more than 100 years, diners have enjoyed Pondi's welcoming atmosphere, a menu offering steaks, seafood, and other classic fare, and great service, so let's take a short scenic drive and try it! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 1, 12:30, and leave me a message if you are going by Tuesday morning.

Suggestions for new dining spots are always welcomed.

~GARDEN - DEBBIE MANGELLI



In June seven members attended the Fairlamb Lavender Farm in Sandy Lake, PA. Judy, the owner, made us lavender iced tea & lavender cookies and they were yummy. It was a beautiful day, and the group enjoyed learning about lavender and its uses and varieties. We had lunch at a local country restaurant nearby and the food was delicious.

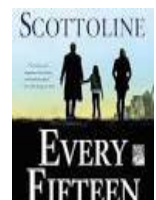
The Garden Group continued touring in July at Ginger Gardens on College Hill, Beaver Falls & had lunch at Jus1 More' sports bar in Beaver Falls. It was a hot day but worth the sweat. Anna Wargo has many flowers in areas on College Hill & North Sewickley. She showed us many different varieties of annuals & perennials & gave us a lot of flower information. It was very informative. She also made a bouquet giving us suggestions for making our own at home. She sells bouquets every Monday & Thursday for \$15 each at The Health Hut in Chippewa and the Beaver Falls Coffee & Tea on College Hill. She also custom makes flower arrangements for special occasions.

Our next tour is on Aug 27th at 10am at the Raccoon State Park where we will be guided by Shane Miller, a state ranger, who will show us over 100 varieties of fall wildflowers on a walk thru the park.

Our September tour will be on Saturday, the 20th of Sep at 11am, at the gardens of Adele Rutherford in Shaler Twp.

~LITERATURE I – LINDA LOBOZZO

Yvonne will lead the discussion of our next book, *Every 15 Minutes* by Lisa Scottoline. We will meet at 11:30, on Tuesday, November 11, at Quality Time & Carry Out in New Brighton.





LITERATURE II – GINGER MUNS

The Literature II Book Group meets on the second Thursday of each month in members' homes. Reading selections are proposed at a picnic in July and then scheduled at a luncheon at the Wooden Angel in August. The group gathers in December for a Christmas lunch and grab bag paperback book exchange.

Contact Ginger, Leader for more information.

~LITERATURE III – JEAN MACALUSO

Tuesday, September 16, 12:30, Wooden Angel.

The book to be reviewed by Judy McDermott is



THE WOMAN WHO KNEW EVERYONE by Meryl Gordon. It is a biography about Pearl Mesta, the “hostess with the mostess” who was a prominent Washington socialite. Much is written about her influence, and her close relationships with presidents, her lavish parties, her fundraising, and activism to the feminist movement. She was appointed as a U.S. envoy to Luxembourg.

EAVER COUNTY WOMAN MAKES EXCITING IMPACT IN SRI LANKA



SRI LANKA — Madhurima Ray, assistant professor of computer science at Penn State Beaver, recently presented to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Women in Engineering Student Branch Affinity Group at the University of Jaffna in Sri Lanka.

Ray — who in 2024 was elevated to [senior member status](#) in the IEEE, a professional association for electronics engineering, electrical engineering and additional related disciplines — spoke about Software-Defined Networking (SDN) traffic management. The event was part of the IEEE's speaker series "Igniting Research Passion."

Ray said she was contacted via LinkedIn by the chairperson of the IEEE Women in Engineering Student Branch Affinity Group to speak at an online session focused on research with the field of network traffic management.

"I was both honored and pleasantly surprised by the request, especially considering I had no prior connection to the university," Ray said. "The chairperson had discovered my profile through Google Scholar while exploring the topic of 'network,' and after reviewing several researcher profiles, she found mine particularly relevant and interesting."

Ray said she was asked to provide an overview of the field, related subtopics and research opportunities suitable for undergraduates.

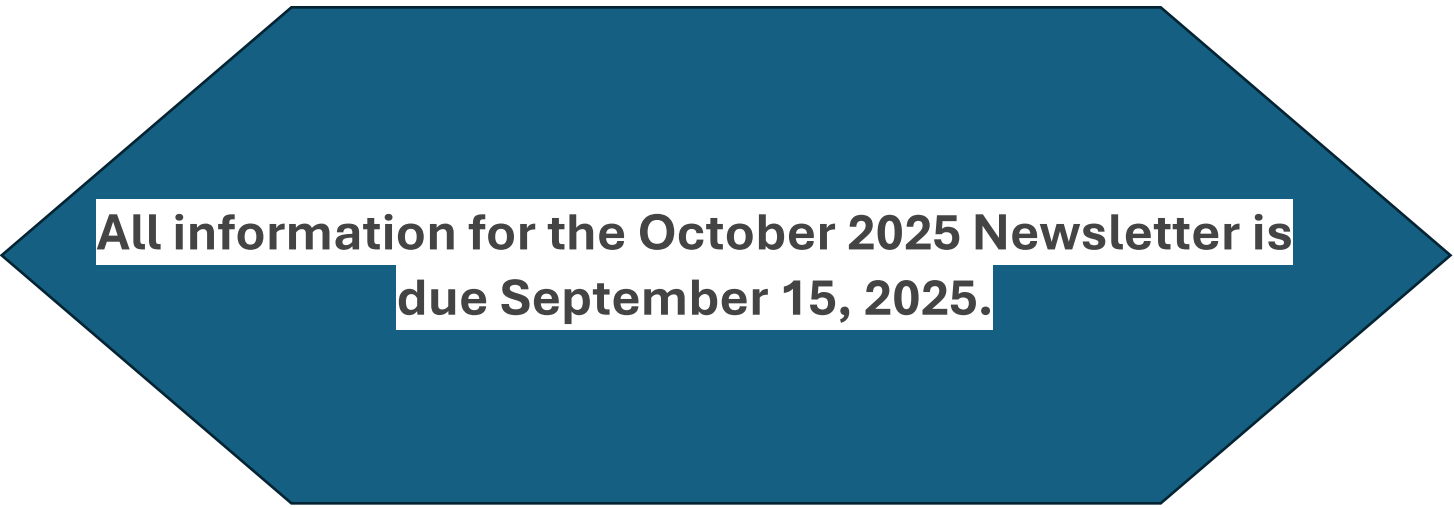
"I chose to focus on Software-Defined Network traffic management, a cutting-edge subdomain of network traffic management, to help students understand its significance and research potential in the evolving landscape of network technologies," she said.

Ray said the session was primarily targeted toward undergraduate students, especially those in their third and fourth years of computer science and computer engineering, who are in the process of selecting or advancing their research topics.

"Undergraduate students frequently have limited exposure to the fundamentals of conducting research. Even if they have studied subjects like Computer Networks as part of their curriculum, they may not be familiar with the current advancements or emerging areas of interest within those domains," Ray said. "Given their academic stage, the need to introduce them to current and emerging areas of research was essential for their success."

First- and second-year students also participated to gain early exposure to research fundamentals and trends.”

This article was suggested by member Carey McDougall.



**All information for the October 2025 Newsletter is
due September 15, 2025.**