



North Hills Pittsburgh (PA) Branch

VIEWPOINTS

Presidents Message



February is a short month filled with many special days. February is full of romance and food, and many of the days celebrated during February are food-oriented. However, February is also Women's Heart month and Black History month. If you're interested in something a little quirky but interesting, there are events such as the National Wear Red Day, Toothache Day and National Gum Drop Day. Then, there's National Freedom Day along with President's Day and Groundhog Day. There is also a White T-Shirt Day and a National Inventor's Day in honor of Thomas Edison's birthday.

Our Branch kicked off the New Year with our January program, *Steel City Grooves; The Celebration of Jazz legends in Western PA*. This presentation provided an overview of the past, present and future of jazz in Pittsburgh. Many of our members braved the cold weather to attend this informative and interesting program.

On January 16th ten of our branch members went to see the movie "**On the Basis of Sex**", which focuses on the first sex-discrimination case that supreme court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg argued in federal court. The book could prove for a lively book group discussion.

The third annual Pittsburgh Women's March occurred on Saturday Jan 19th in downtown Pittsburgh. The theme of this year's march was "**Building Bridges: Stronger than Hate**". Several of our branch members braved the weather to attend this yearly event.

The 19th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast took place on January 21th. Several of our members attended this event at La Roche College. This year's breakfast was titled "**Honoring Diversity in Our Community**". Our branches' own Jan Peischl serves on the committee for this annual event.

February will be a very active month for our branch even though we do not have a branch meeting. We kick off the month with the start of the Great Decisions series on February 2nd. This series continues on Saturdays through February and into March. In addition, our branch will be kicking off some public policy initiatives this month. These programs are discussed in this month's viewpoints.

Put our programs and events on your calendar; and invite a like-minded friend to participate. We are already planning our programs for next year. If you have an idea for a program in the future, please advise Kelly Clouser our Program VPs. We are working to strengthen our community with programs which interest our members, both socially and mission-based on the issues impacting gender equity. Let's enjoy ourselves and make a difference for women and girls in 2019!

Our branch is full of fun and important things to do. Find something! Join an interest group and/or a committee. Participate in Public Policy activities.

Debbie

CALENDAR

February 9:
Great Decisions La Roche College

February 12
Morning Book Group, 9:30 am
“The Lost City of the Monkey God”
Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church,
517 Sangree Road

February 16
Great Decisions La Roche College
IPODS 6:00-8:00 pm
Home of June and Tom Maier

February 18
Evening Book Group, 7:00 pm.
“The Feather Thief”
Home of Linda Loewer

February 20
Lunch Bunch, 12:30 pm
Hoffstat’s Cafe Monaco, Oakmont
NOTE THE DATE CHANGE

February 23
Great Decisions La Roche College

Barbara Matthews

FDPA Allegheny County North Planning Meeting
Kearns Spirituality Retreat Center, 9000 Babcock Blvd
Allison Park, PA 15101
(Adjoining La Roche College campus)

February 12, 2019 at 7 PM

Join us to plan our FDPA working group's next steps in political, organizational, public, and media outreach in the North Hills. Please RSVP to fdpa.alleghenynorth@gmail.com. Visit <https://nonproftech.info/fdpa/> for more information as the date draws near.

Joe McLaughlin & Larry Wolfson
FDPA Allegheny County - North Working
Group Coordinators

Peggy Schmiedecke - College/University Liaison

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SAVE These Dates for Upcoming Events

March 30, 2019: AAUW Western District Meeting

May 14, 2019: Draw The Lines Event “Gerrymandering”

May 22. Annual dinner at Treesdale Country Club

October 05, 2019: Branch fundraiser “For The love of Books, Fall Harvest”

Finance Report

January, 2019 Checking:

Beginning Balance	\$ 8,243.14
Deposits	610.75
Expenses	<u>100.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 8,753.89

Savings:

Beginning Balance	\$ 4,831.01
Interest Earned	.21
Ending Balance	\$ 4,831.22

Betty Kroniser

JANUARY MEETING.



Topic: Steel city Grooves with Max Gonano

Our Branch members had the opportunity to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the North Hills Anti-Racism Coalition's MLK, Jr. Breakfast



David and Marilyn Loichinger

Debbie Rosenfelder

Janice and Victor Peischl



Students attending the Breakfast

Ann Hollis, Executive Director of Amachi with Janice Peischl



YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

Voting for the three open AAUW Pennsylvania Board positions is now open. **All voting must be completed by March 31, 2019.** Let's make it so **100% of our branch votes.**

The familiar voting options -- online and paper -- are available. Usually, members who attend the state convention, vote during the Annual Meeting. Since there is not a state convention in 2019, the Board was concerned about a low voter turnout. Therefore, a third voting option -- **Branch voting** -- is being offered for the first time this year.

Information about the 2019 Officer Election is at <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/2019-officer-election-2/>.

Online Voting

Members go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019AAUWElection> to review the candidates and cast their vote.

Branches may facilitate online voting at a branch meeting. It requires a computer, a site with internet access, and a degree of voting privacy. If you are going to facilitate online voting at a branch meeting, announce to your members where and when. Otherwise, simply share this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019AAUWElection> for them to vote on their own.

Paper Ballot Voting

Instructions for paper ballot voting and a downloadable ballot are at <https://aauw-paaaauw.net/2019-officer-election-2>. While these will also be in the March *Keystoner*, it may not arrive prior to the end of voting on March 31. Please share these instructions with those persons in your branch who received a paper *Keystoner*.

Branch Voting -- NEW OPTION

In an effort to promote greater participation of members voting for state officers, AAUW- PA is introducing Branch Voting. **This will occur at our March Branch Meeting on 23Jan19 if you have not already voted.**

Punxsutawney Phil Predicts a Rare Early Spring for 2019

Groundhog Day is a popular tradition celebrated in the United States and Canada on February 2. It derives from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog emerging from its burrow on this day sees a shadow due to clear weather, it will retreat to its den and winter will persist for six more weeks, and if it does not see its shadow because of cloudiness, spring will arrive early. While the tradition remains popular in modern times, studies have found no consistent correlation between a groundhog seeing its shadow or not and the subsequent arrival time of spring-like weather.

Work Smart Online Has Launched — Now Help Us Mobilize a Million

AAUW is committed to eliminating the gender Pay gap by 2030. To do this AAUW is training 10 million women to negotiate their financial futures by 2022. You can take this on-line course and share this information with women you know that are still working. Our branch is working with organization within the North Hills Community to share this program. Please let a member of the executive know if you know of an organization in the community that may benefit from knowing about this program. You can use the URL listed to log on to this program.

<https://salary.aauw.org/work-smart/>

Draw the lines



The AAUW Pennsylvania Draw the Lines program is finally ready. Find all the details at <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/draw-the-lines/>

We have good news we have been awarded a \$275 grant for the Draw the Lines activity. We have a date scheduled for this event **Tuesday May 14,2019 7PM-9PM** at La Roche College in the Ryan room. This event will be free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

- **Fair District Pa Speaker:** Suzan Broughton
- **Draw the Lines Speake:** Rachel Colker

This program offers a tour of the issue's history and the state of play now in Pennsylvania, with a rundown on Draw the Lines and how it connects to reform efforts.

We will be asking for reservations as seating will be limited. There will be more to come on this.

In addition, our branch is working with Rachel Colker the Western PA Coordinator, Draw the Lines PA to identify teacher that may be interested in bringing this program into their school. Students have the potential to will cash prizes and even go to Harrisburg to share their map.

We are working with Dr. J.B. Forrest, Chair, Political Science Dept.at La Roche College. If you know of teachers, we can reach out to please let me know.

AAUW PA 2020 Convention Save-the-Date

While it may be January 2019, April 2020 is just around the corner and it will be time for our AAUW PA State Convention. Mark your calendars for **April 24-26, 2020** at the Best Western Premier, **The Central Hotel and Conference Center in Harrisburg.**

The Keynote Speaker will be Elaine Weiss, author of “The Women’s Hour” which tell the dramatic tale of the journey to women’s suffrage.

On the National and State Front

As we begin 2019, AAUW is more committed than ever to bolstering our efforts to empower women and girls. That's why we're asking members to make these four New Year's resolutions to promote gender equity:

1. Take AAUW's Work Smart Online and share it with 20 people you know as part of our Members Mobilize a Million challenge.
2. Sign our petition to oppose the Department of Education's proposed changes to Title IX's regulations, which would undermine students' civil rights protections and drastically reduce schools' obligations in responding to reports of sexual harassment and violence.
3. Empower a young woman in your community by giving her a scholarship to attend AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.
4. Give to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund or to one of our Strategic Plan priorities to allow AAUW the flexibility to respond rapidly to emerging challenges facing women and girls

It's a new year and a new Congress — and AAUW's website is updated with new opportunities for action! Check out our Two-Minute Activist page for the latest ways to get involved on issues that impact women and girls, including Title IX and the Paycheck Fairness Act.

AAUW Western District Meeting

Please mark your calendars for the spring meeting of the AAUW Western District. This year's meeting will be held on **Saturday, March 30th from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Park Inn by Radisson, 45 Holiday Inn Rd, Clarion, PA.** Cost to attend the meeting will be \$20.00. The theme will be using Public Policy to Develop Programs.

Additional information will be forthcoming including registration details.

AAUW Launches New Book Club

AAUW is starting a new book club, Operation Equity: Reading for Results. It merges AAUW members' love of reading with easy, action-oriented projects to advance gender equity. Every quarter, we'll focus on a different aspect of AAUW's strategic plan. Use the books and articles suggested to start a conversation and then pick a related project that will make a difference in the lives of women and girls. We look forward to hearing more about how you are promoting gender equity in your communities through your book clubs and events. Books and articles for Operation Equity will be available January 14, 2019, under the Resources section of the AAUW website

Nominations for State Board Positions

Officer elections will be from mid-February to March 30. In addition to online and paper ballots, we added another voting option. Wishing to involve many branch members, ask you to conduct elections during a branch meeting. Will take no longer than 15-minutes.

Instructions will be sent via email no later than mid-February. Ann Pehle has asked branches to plan for a polling place during a branch meeting between mid-February and March 30. We will coordinate this with our March meeting. FYI Linda Tozier is running for Membership Vice President.

TIME SENSITIVE REQUEST FOR STORIES TO SUPPORT SCHOOL FUNDING

WHY?	The Pennsylvania Legislature has already begun considering the 2019-2020 State Budget. PA Schools Work , is a coalition of public school entities and organizations, like AAUW Pennsylvania, fighting for equitable, adequate funding necessary to support educational excellence. PA Schools Work believes investing in public education excellence is the path to thriving communities, a stable economy and successful students. They have asked for our help because we can reach members in many different public school districts throughout Pennsylvania.
WHAT?	Legislators consistently tell us that it is real stories that make a difference when they are considering their funding choices. AAUW Pennsylvania members are asked to find those stories!! Because the drastic cuts in funding over the last few years have had such negative impacts on our children's schools, such stories are easy to find.
HOW	Collect stories from family, friends, co-workers, students or others. Transcribe responses into an email to Cora Koller at photowriter56@verizon.net In the subject line please include AAUW-PA Education Survey, I will send all our branch responses to AAUW Pennsylvania.
WHEN?	Before February 12, 2019
STORY CONTENT IDEAS	Identify the school district or individual school, and Curriculum topics or content no longer offered due to budget cuts, Extra-curricular activities no longer offered due to budget cuts (clubs, sports etc.), Student services no longer offered due to budget cuts (school nurse, librarian etc.), Increased class size or teacher loads due to budget cuts, and/or Other changes in schools due to budget cuts.

EQUAL PAY LEGISLATION AND ADVOCACY

AAUW applauds the US House of Representatives for introducing the bipartisan *Paycheck Fairness Act* of 2019 on January 31, 2019. The Act would close loopholes in the *Equal Pay Act of 1963* and:

- Prohibit employees from using salary history
- Protect against retaliation for discussing salary with colleagues
- Ensure equal pay for equal work
- Equalize discrimination claims based on gender, race and ethnicity
- Support employers and employees to achieve equal pay

On average women are paid only 80 cents for every dollar paid to men. The gap exists across all demographics and age groups but tends to be larger for women of color. Because the pay gap expands and compounds over time, it hurts women in retirement. It is harder to pay off debts and we receive less in social security. Closing the pay gap would cut the poverty rate for working single mothers and lift 2.5 million children out of poverty. Pennsylvania is one of the 17 states with the weakest equal pay laws. Therefore, our advocacy on this issue matters. Each of us can:

- Take AAUW's salary negotiation course "Start Smart Work Smart" at <https://courses.aauw.org/learn/register>
- Encourage friends, family members, employees, job seekers and others to do so also.
- Write a letter to the editor or contact state and national legislators.
- Participate in the Equal Pay Day rally in Harrisburg on 04/08/2019 (email me at photowriter56@verizon.net if you want to attend and carpool)
- Join our branch's new equal pay policy subcommittee to organize equal pay day events in 2019. (email me at photowrite56@verizon.net if you can organize and attend events)

COLLABORATIVE ADVOCACY

If you are passionate about or interested in other public policy issues, please be positively proactive and help our members learn about them, how they affect women and how we can be collaborative advocates for system change. Please email me at photowriter56@verizon.net to tell me what you want to work on, and how. If we each do a little, we can achieve much.

Cora Koller: Public Policy

MISSION STATEMENT OF AAUW ASSOCIATION

To advance gender equality for women and girls through research education and
advocacy, AAUW, MEMBERSHIP

AAUW, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who hold an associates 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 the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age,
sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

BRANCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Branch President: Deborah Rosenfelder 412-367-4751 rosenfelder@verizon.net
Program VP: Kelley Clouser 717-283-6244 kelleyclouser@aauw.org
Membership VP: Janis Kapadia 724-935-7507 jkapadia@consolidated.net
Viewpoints Sylvia Lynn 412-486-0151 sylviaaklynn@gmail.com
Branch Website: <http://northhills-ppa.aauw.net>
Branch Email: aawnorthhillspgh@gmail.com
Facebook Page: [aaunorth hills Pittsburgh branch](https://www.facebook.com/aaunorthhills)
CONNECT2AAUW: 800-326-2289 or connect@aauw.org
National Website: www.aawu.org
State Website: www.aauwpa.org

Viewpoints

AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh Branch
Linda Tozier, Distribution Manager
31 Oxford Court, Pittsburgh, PA 15237