

AAUW VIEWPOINTS

North Hills Pittsburgh, (PA) Branch

AAUW President's October Message



This year our branch turns 50. We had planned to kick off our first branch meeting with a celebration of this outstanding achievement and then recognize each decade of our existence at future monthly meetings. Our September meeting was held late in the month but was well worth the wait. The meeting which was held virtually was kicked off by Linda Joy's overview of the decade of the 1970's.

The impressive and informative speaker for our September meeting was Liz Hrenda who stimulated us in a discussion concerning racism. In retrospect some of the issues of contention in the 1970's are the very issues that we are addressing in today's society. One of those issues, Racial Tension, was high in 1970 as people of color became frustrated with economic conditions that did not improve despite advancements in civil rights. In 2020 we are seeing Americans taking to the streets again to demand change.

During the September meeting we were able to do some "Catching Up" from our long absence from each other even if only virtually. Our meeting included an introduction to our most recent scholarship recipient, Tamika Berry. Sylvia Lynn provided a very nice write up on Tamika that was posted in our August Viewpoints.

For our North Hills Pittsburgh Branch, October heralds another sure sign of autumn. The first hints of autumn have crept in, bringing cool early-morning temperatures, and ubiquitous Halloween and Thanksgiving (Thanksgiving!) store displays. Peak fall foliage could come to the Pittsburgh area as soon as the week of October 8th. This is a great way to get out of the house and take in the fall colors of the area.



With Covid-19 still alive and well, our branch Interest Group Activities will continue to be held virtually or in some limited cases outdoors with proper social distancing and masks. See this Viewpoints for details on interest group meetings.

As we move through this unprecedented year, I am open to all ideas to help keep us connected. Stay safe.

Debbie



October Meetings

Wed, Oct 7 07:00 PM - 08:30 PM
AAUW October Board Meeting
Meeting ID: 840 9670 2915
Password: aauw

Tue, Oct 13 09:30 AM - 11:00 AM
AAUW Morning Book Group
Meeting ID: 819 5432 7109
Password: aauw

Mon, Oct 19 01:00 - 02:00 PM
DrivewayPaloosa
Ann Carlson's Driveway

Mon, Oct 19 07:00 PM- 08:30 PM
AAUW Evening Book Group
Meeting ID: 898 7772 4648
Password: aauw

Fri, Oct 23 12:30 PM - 02:00 PM
AAUW Lunch Bunch
Meeting ID: 867 4908 5339
Password: aauw

Wed, Oct 28 06:30 PM -08:00 PM
AAUW October Branch Meeting
Meeting ID: 841 4997 5969
Password: aauw

Wed, Nov 4 06:00 PM - 07:30 PM
AAUW November Board Meeting
Meeting ID: 858 0228 5097
Password: aauw

Fri, Nov 6 04:00 PM
Happy Hour – Please Join Us!!
Meeting ID: 843 6851 8257
Passcode: 600809

DRIVEWAYPALOOZA IS BACK!!!

Where: Ann Carlson's driveway
When: Monday, October 19, 2020
Time: 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Theme: **Halloween**

Wear a COVID mask along with your best Halloween finery!

Munchies/Beverage: Bring your favorite.

Particulars: Bring a folding chair. Social distancing will in effect.

See You There!



Branch Meeting Wednesday, OCTOBER 28, 2020

**Program: Workplace Discrimination
Speakers-Attorneys Alan Cech and
Adam Hobaugh**

October's program focuses on Workplace Discrimination, featuring Attorneys Alan Cech and Adam Hobaugh as our speakers. Both attorneys are partners at the Law Offices of Murtagh, Hobaugh, and Cech.

As we continue to celebrate 50 years with our branch, this presentation gives us a chance to look back and see how far women have come and how far we still have to go. Our speakers will discuss the challenges and barriers women face in the workplace like discrimination, unequal pay, and sexual harassment; and what can be done to advocate for change.

SEPTEMBER 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

CHECKING:

Beg Balance	\$8,729.28
Deposits	\$1,247.00
Expenses	<u>-\$353.13</u>
Ending Balance	\$9,623.15

SAVINGS:

Beg Balance	\$4,834.37
Interest Earned	<u>\$0.04</u>
Ending Balance	\$4,834.41

AAUW La Roche Students

The AAUW students have several activities planned on Campus for the month of October. Emily Twichel and Rebecca Koulibali helped out at the voter information table on October 1st for **Get Out the Vote**.

For October Breast Cancer Awareness Month, students will write the names of loved ones impacted by Breast Cancer on ribbons and hand them up on poster boards throughout the University. In October the AAUW students also plan to hold a fundraiser **Donate a Drink** to collect money for the League of Women Voters.



La Roche University senior Emily Twichel is a double major in marketing and management.

COVID-19: A CONTINUING THREAT

Reminder: Virtual Meetings Only

Our AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh branch is aligned with AAUW National in hosting no in-person events.

As we enter another season during the pandemic, it's worth reiterating that AAUW's top priority is keeping our members safe. Please continue to pay close attention to our governor and County Health Department for specific instructions.

AAUW National urges affiliates to host gatherings virtually for the foreseeable future.

For outreach with *any* physical component ensure you're complying with public health guidance. Stay socially distant, masked and outdoors to minimize risk.

ZOOMING INTO MEETINGS

We will be zooming into our meetings this fall. We have purchased a subscription to Zoom.

Here are some things you should know about using Zoom and Zoom webinars:

1. You are not required to have the Zoom application on your computer, tablet, or phone.
2. You will be sent an email with a link to register for the branch meeting and social event.
3. You will be able to ask questions through the Question and Answer feature at the bottom of the screen while on a Zoom call.
4. To facilitate this new process, we can hold training sessions.

The Economic Impact of COVID19 On Women



Women helped pull the U.S. economy out of the last recession. This time around they are falling behind. The pandemic is disproportionately affecting women and threatening to wipe out decades of their economic progress. As the crisis drags on, some of the biggest pain points are among women of color and those with young children. These setbacks -- characterized by

some economists as the nation's **first female recession** -- stand in sharp contrast to the dramatic progress women made in the expansion following the last financial crisis. The jobs, income and promotions that women lose as a result of the coronavirus could hold back economic growth and sideline an entire generation of women.

Uneven Joblessness

Many more women than men lost jobs during the pandemic. The official data are stark. The unemployment rate for Black and Hispanic adult women remains above 10%, even though it's decreased to 7.3% for White women, according to data from the Labor Department this September. At the same time, women between the ages of 25 and 54 -- also known as prime-age -- are increasingly dropping out of the workforce, often to care for children. The participation gap between men and women in this age group is now widening after shrinking to the narrowest ever right before the virus.

Pandemic Undoes Progress

Black and Latina women's jobless rates were getting closer to the lows seen by White women before the crisis, now they're recovering more slowly. Economists say it's going to be difficult for women to return, and there could be long-lasting consequences not just for women but the entire economy. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has commented repeatedly about how women and minorities have been among the hardest hit economically by the virus.

The Wage Gap

Millennial women, many of whom have children, were "blazing trails" before the pandemic and are now falling behind, which is a "painful setback." The female recession could slow the recovery, according to some economists and policy analysts. The wage gap will likely be more than 2 percentage points wider after a pandemic recession, instead of shrinking like it would during a normal downturn, according to Northwestern University economics professor Matthias Doepke. As many as tens of millions of women may never return to the labor force, even after a vaccine is found, said Center for American Progress senior policy analyst Rasheed Malik. Altogether, McKinsey & Co. expects global gross domestic product could be \$1 trillion less in 2030 than it would be without a gender unemployment gap.

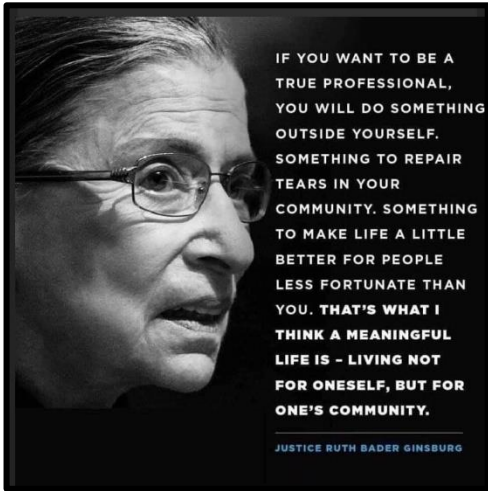
Women Voters

There are political consequences too, as women represent one of the biggest voting blocs in question this election. Support for paid leave and similar policies has been rising. Roughly 72% of female voters polled in late March by the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation were in favor of some type of paid leave, up from 64% earlier in the month. The increase in support among men and women for such a policy was driven by a 10-percentage-point rise among Republicans. Before the virus, women had been making major strides in the labor market and in closing the wage gap. There is uncertainty in how long it will take for women to come back.

Source: Summary from Bureau of Labor Statistics

A Tribute to Ruth Bader Ginsburg

With heavy hearts, we mourn the loss Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. We hold her memory as an inspiration to continue her life's work: fighting for gender equity and representation everywhere. For now, to honor her, the most important thing you can do is vote.



- Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a leading force in securing women's rights to:
- Obtain a mortgage without a male co-signer
 - Open a checking account without a male co-signer
 - Start a business without a male co-signer
 - Get a credit card without a male co-signer
 - Obtain a business loan without a male co-signer
 - Obtain a job without gender-based discrimination
 - Obtain/retain employment while pregnant
 - Obtain birth control without having to obtain husband's permission
 - Not be forced to provide proof of sterilization to obtain/retain employment
 - Pension benefits equal to male coworkers
 - Equal consideration to be executors of their children estates



Members of Our Branch Met to Pay Tribute to RBG

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg: A Well-Lived Life of Purpose & Service

“In her 87 and a half years, Ruth Bader Ginsburg left a significant mark on law, on feminism, and, late in her life, on pop culture. She also left a significant mark on everyday life in America, helping broaden the sorts of families people are able to make and the sorts of jobs they’re able to take. Her legacy is, in a way, the lives that countless Americans are able to live today.”(RGB’s Fingerprints Are All Over Your Everyday Life” Joe Pinsker The Economist <https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2020/09/ruth-bader-ginsburg-legacy/616447/>

In her own life, Justice Ginsberg (fondly known to admirers young and old as “RGB”) overcame prejudice and discrimination based on her religion, gender identify, marital status and parenthood. An ardent feminist and powerful advocate who understood the value of listening, speaking and writing well; Justice Ginsberg is a role model for women of all generations.

“Mrs. Martin Ginsberg” was an outstanding student who successfully managed her rigorous law school course work, the needs of her young daughter and caregiving responsibilities for her seriously ill husband. Yet, because of her gender and family status, attorney Ruth Bader Ginsberg could not find a job practicing law after her graduation from Columbia Law School. Instead, she accepted a teaching position at Rutgers University. There, she successfully advocated for women faculty members to receive pay that was equal to that of their male colleagues. An early expert on sex discrimination and its harmful effects on men as well as women; she co-authored the first law school casebook on the subject. After serving as the first female tenured law professor at Columbia Law School, Ruth Ginsberg went on to co-found the ACLU’s Women’s Right’s Project, handle over 300 gender discrimination complaints and win 5 of the 6 cases she argued before the United States Supreme Court. In 1980, President Carter appointed her to the US court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. In 1993, President Clinton appointed her to the US Supreme Court. She was the second woman and first Jewish person to serve the country in that capacity. During her 27 years on the Supreme Court, Justice Ginsberg authored powerful majority and dissenting opinions; eventually becoming the leader of the liberal wing of the court while famously maintaining congenial relationships with her fellow justices.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg changed American law, social policy and life for the better... for women and men, members of the LGBTQ+ community, undocumented immigrants, individuals living with disabilities and voters. She lived her life well, with a sense of purpose and integrity, commitment to public service and deep connections to family and friends.

To learn more About Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg’s life and legacy read some of recent articles or watch a short video, such as:

Ruth Bader Ginsberg “Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s Advice for Living” New York Times 10/01/16 <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/02/opinion/sunday/ruth-bader-ginsburgs-advice-for-living.html?referringSource=articleShare>

“RGB’s Fingerprints Are All Over Your Everyday Life” Joe Pinsker The Economist 09/23/2020 <https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2020/09/ruth-bader-ginsburg-legacy/616447/>

Linda Greenhouse “Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Supreme Court’s Feminist Icon, Is Dead at 87” New York Times 09/18/2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/18/us/ruth-bader-ginsburg-dead.html>

Beth Allison Barrna “Why Evangelical Women Should Mourn the Loss of #RBG Too” 09/21/2020
<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/anxiousbench/2020/09/why-evangelical-women-should-mourn-the-loss-of-rbg-too/>

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Dies At 87: Remembering Her Life and Legacy - TODAY, 9/19/2020
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5YyBi59W8M>



AAUW NORTH HILLS BRANCH HOLIDAY GIFT CARD DRIVE



WHO BENEFITS?

The gift cards will be given to victims/survivors of domestic violence and their children under age 18 years who are receiving victim services through Crisis Center North (CCN).

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Safely purchase gift cards for use at:

- grocery stores
- bakeries, coffee shops, or restaurants
- clothing stores
- department stores like Target, Kohl's or Wal-Mart
- online retailers like Amazon

- Please note the card value on its envelope or attached card.
- Let Cora Koller know you have a gift for CCN clients.
- Call 412-656-3109 or email photowriter56@verizon.net)
- Cora will coordinate safe pick-up/delivery of gifts to CCN.
- All gift cards will be delivered to CCN by 12/01/2020.

HOW WILL YOUR DONATED GIFT CARDS BE USED?

Due to COVID-19, CCN cannot host a live gift shop event as in past years. Instead, CCN counselors will distribute gift cards to their clients individually. To do so, they will use a safe, private, no-contact delivery method. Recipients will use the cards to choose and buy gifts for their children.

THANK YOU!

WE WISH YOU A SAFE AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON.



In a lot of ways, the election has already started. Around the country, absentee ballots are being sent out, and cities are getting ready to open early voting sites throughout October. But no matter which way you choose to vote -- by mail, in person, or early -- you *must* be registered. Sorry, I don't make the rules. You can [register to vote online](#), by mail, in person at your county voter registration office or at PennDOT and select other government agencies. If you're not sure if you've already registered, [check your registration status](#) today. **The deadline to register to vote** for the current election cycle is **Monday, October 19**. If you have moved since you last voted make sure your address is up to date.

Voting in person: You can vote in person at an assigned polling place [near where you live](#), open 7 AM to 8 PM on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3. If your name is not in the voter roster, you may have the right to vote on a [provisional ballot](#). Poll workers will be available to assist with any questions or concerns on Election Day.

Voting by mail: Voting by mail is a safe, secure and legal way for Americans to practice their constitutional right to vote. Any qualified voter may apply for a mail-in ballot. **Tuesday, October 27 is the deadline to [request your mail-in or absentee ballot](#). To ensure your ballot is counted, don't wait to send your ballot in, as ballots must be postmarked by 8 PM on Tuesday, November 3 and received by your county election office by 5 PM on Friday, November 6.**

Three specific requirements you must meet in Pennsylvania when filling out an optical-scan mail-in ballot:

- Forget the trusty No. 2 pencil from your test-taking days in school. You must vote in blue or black ink. If you make a mistake, bring your ballot back to your county election office, which can provide a new one. If you can't do that, call them; they'll find a way to invalidate your ballot and send you a new one.
- **Your mail-in ballot comes with two envelopes. You must put your ballot in the smaller secrecy envelope, which then goes inside the larger mailing envelope.**
- On the larger envelope, you must sign your name with a signature matching the one on file at the election office; date the envelope; and write your street address.

Failure to do any of those things will probably result in your vote not being counted. PA voters can see the status of their mail-in or absentee ballot online. Track your ballot's progress from when your county receives your application, to when they receive your voted ballot.

News from AAUW National *(Check AAUW National website for details.)*



[AAUW Statement on the Nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court, September 26, 2020](#)

[AAUW Statement on the Passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, September 18, 2020](#)

[AAUW Reacts to Stagnant Gender Pay Gap Numbers, September 15, 2020](#)

Memories of the 1980s – AAUW Is Still More Relevant Than Ever

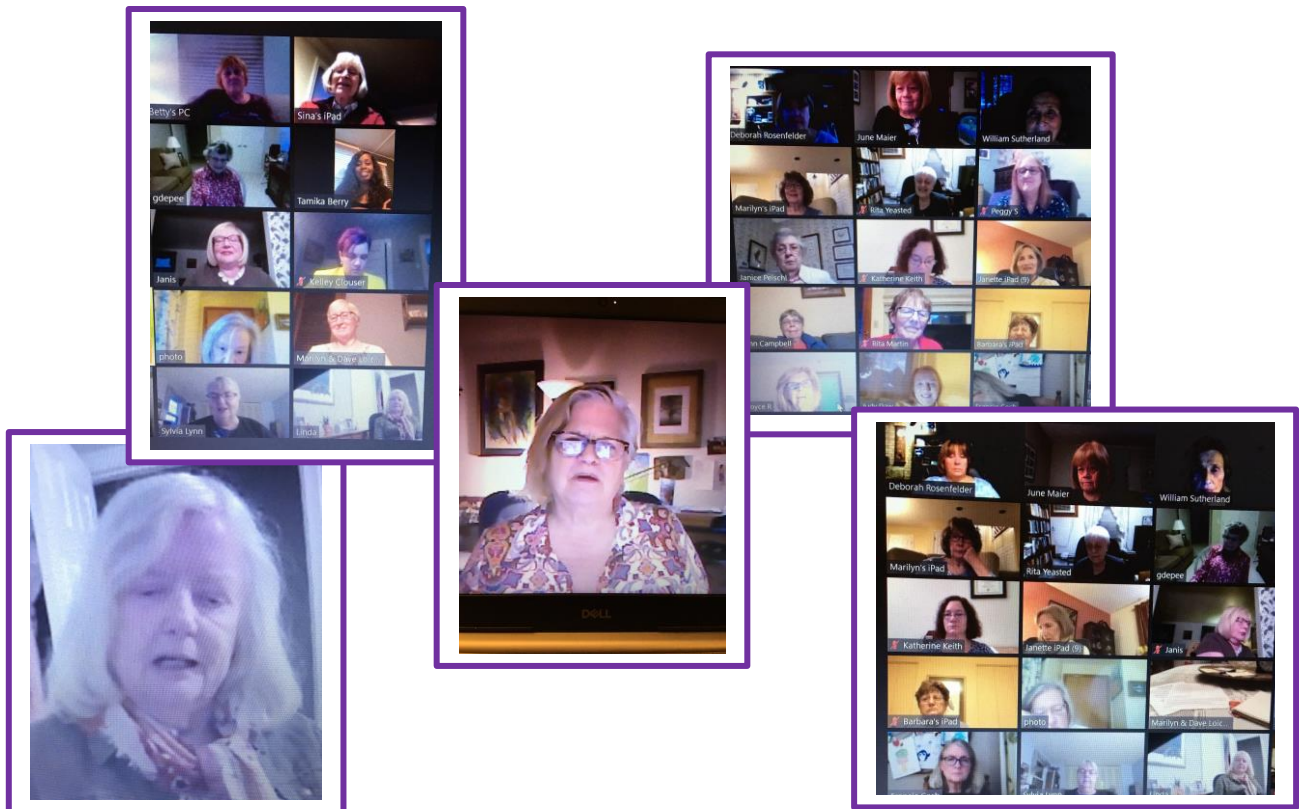
The following is an excerpt from our upcoming 50th Anniversary Book. **You can still contribute your story.** Just call or email June, 412-445-5135; junemaier@gmail.com.

Branch president Joanne Kron wrote in the May 1981 issue of the Viewpoints, “Ten years ago, we were a handful of educated housewives dedicated to self-improvement and community involvement.” She wondered, now that the branch had evolved into a relatively stable older group with half of its members working full time outside the home, “Where does AAUW fit into our busy lives?”

Joanne encouraged members to look at the bigger picture. “How can we (...) possibly retreat from the pressures of obligation (...) when we know that we are living in a nation whose Constitution does not recognize us as persons; when we see the deterioration of families, public education, and the values and morals of today’s society?” She concluded that AAUW offered its members something that they could not get anywhere else. “Without the support of such an organization, an individual is helpless in today’s world; therefore, AAUW is more relevant than ever.”

28 Members Attended September 30, 2020 Branch Meeting

Linda Joy talked about the 1970s. Guest Speaker Liz Hrenda led a discussion on Racism, including sections from “You Want to Talk about Race” by Ijeoma Oluo.



Thank you to everyone who joined our first program of the year, "Let's Talk about Racism." It was thought-provoking and engaging. Our speaker, Liz Hrenda has shared a variety of resources with us that are included below:

Pittsburgh Freethought Community and Sunday Assembly Pittsburgh are co-sponsoring a weekly discussion based on the new book by Isabel Wilkerson, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. There will be eight sessions, each focusing on one of the eight Pillars of Caste which Wilkerson identified by researching commonalities among the Hindu caste system in India, Anti-Semitism in Nazi Germany, and Anti-Black racism in the U.S. Each session will begin with a brief explanation of the selected Pillar and a discussion focusing on how these characteristics are manifested in our society and how we can dismantle those policies and practices. It will not be necessary to have read the book in order to participate. Sessions begin on Sunday October 11, from 1PM to 2:15PM. Register at pghfreethought.org to receive the Zoom link.

Here are some additional resources Liz has found to be helpful:

Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America, Ibram X. Kendi
White Rage: the Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide, Carol Anderson, PhD

Dying of Whiteness, Jonathan Metzl

How the Irish Became White, Noel Ignatiev

The Wages of Whiteness, David Roediger

The Power Worshippers: Inside the Dangerous Rise of Religious Nationalism, Katherine Stewart

These Truths: A History of the United States, Jill Lepore

The New Jim Crow, Michelle Alexander

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration, Isabel Wilkerson

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard For White People to Talk About Racism, Robin DeAngelo

The American Non-Dilemma: Racial Inequality Without Racists, Nancy DiTomaso

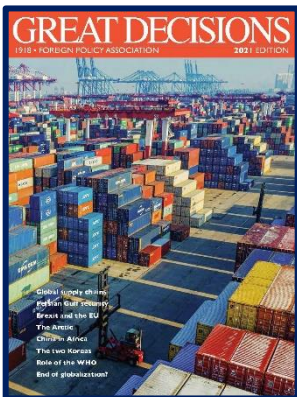
When Colorblindness Isn't the Answer, Anthony Pinn

Against: What Does the White Evangelical Want, Tad DeLay (DeLay will be giving a virtual lecture to Pittsburgh Freethought in January 2021. See our website pghfreethought.org for details.)

Kelley Clouser, Program VP

An FYI from Maryann Anderson

Here is a list of the preliminary topics for the upcoming 2021 edition of Great Decisions. The eight topics will each have a corresponding episode of GDTV that will broadcast on PBS and be available on DVD or streaming with [Vimeo](https://www.vimeo.com/).



Preliminary Topic Listing for 2021

Topic 1: The role of international organizations in a Global Pandemic

Topic 2: Global supply chains and national security

Topic 3: China and Africa

Topic 4: Korean Peninsula

Topic 5: Persian Gulf Security

Topic 6: Brexit and the European Union

Topic 7: The fight over the melting Arctic

Topic 8: The End of Globalization?

MISSION STATEMENT OF AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

LAF provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

AAUW MEMBERSHIP

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

BRANCH CONTACT INFORMATION

President: Deborah Rosenfelder	412-916-9073 or rosenfelderd@verizon.net
Program VP: Kelley Clouser	717-283-6344 or kelleycloueraauw@gmail.com
Membership: Janis Kapadia	724-935-7507 or jkapadia@consolidated.net
Viewpoints Editor: June Maier	412-445-5135 or junemaier@gmail.com

Branch Website: <http://northhills-pa.aauw.net>

Branch Email: aaunorthhillspgh@gmail.com

Facebook Page: AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh branch

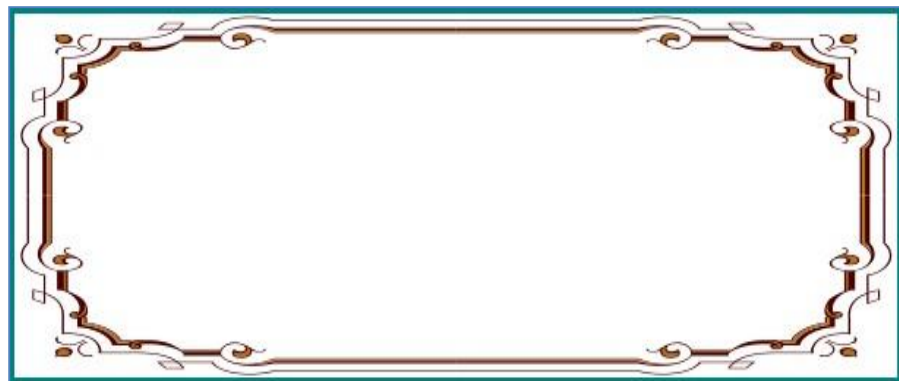
CONNECT2AAUW: 800-326-2289 or connect@aauw.org

National Website: www.aauw.org

State Website: www.aauw-pa.org

Viewpoints

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



Because **Equity** is still an issue