North Hills Pittsburgh, (PA) Branch

AAUW President's September Message

Welcome to the AAUW 2020-2021 year! This has certainly been a year unlike any other in our memories. We had been planning to kick off the year by celebrating our 50th anniversary through various events, but this will now be changed due the Coronavirus pandemic. Events pertaining to this celebration will be outlined in the Viewpoints.



As we are entering this new year, I would like to bring everyone up to date on where we are and where we are heading in this time of pandemic. This is definitely going to be a challenging year.

The new and outgoing board met in June by Zoom. Since we were not able to hold a May face-to-face branch meeting, the new officers for this year were installed at the May Zoom Board meeting.

The board realizes that the quarantine will affect not only our ability to hold branch meetings but also our ability to hold fundraising events that are used to help fund our many programs.

The board is working on various ways in which we may be able to do some fundraising, but we will need the support of all of our members to make this successful.

Branch programs will be conducted consistent with regular program times but will be held virtually for the near future. Each program will last for 45-50 minutes including 10 minutes of questions for the speaker. When the speaker permits, we will record the programs so you may watch them as your schedule allows. I encourage you to log onto the Zoom meetings five or ten minutes early so we can start promptly.

As our branch celebrates 50 year of existence, let's examine where we are. Old habits die hard – especially the habit of stereotyping people based on gender or race. Even though a lot has changed for women over the years in the workplace, politics, and everyday life, many of our beliefs about gender or race have

stayed the same. As we move through this year there are three questions that we need to ask ourselves:

- What progress as a branch/ individual have we made?
- Where have we stayed the same?
- Where have we made a difference?

Even though we will start out our year remotely, we have a lot planned and I hope you will join in!

Stay safe, wash your hands and were a mask!

Debbie





SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

Wed, Sep 2 07:00 PM **AAUW September Board Meeting** ZOOM 833 3025 6007

> Fri, Sept 4 04:00 PM AAUW Happy Hour Devil's Grove in North Park

Tue, Sep 8 09:30 AM **AAUW Morning Book Group** Meeting ID: 880 1392 0010

Fri, Sep 11 12:30 PM **AAUW Lunch bunch Outside** La Casa Narcisi Winery

4578 Gibsonia Road Gibsonia PA

Thur, Sep 17 04:00 PM **AAUW Happy Hour** Meeting ID: 896 0211 1365 Passcode: 872786

Fri, Sep 18 10:00 AM **50th Anniversary Committee** Meeting ID: 894 0232 6151 Passcode: AAUW

Mon, Sep 21 07:00 PM **AAUW Evening Book Group** Meeting ID: 845 6570 6138

Wed, Sep 30 06:30 PM **AAUW Branch Meeting** Meeting ID: 844 1167 0695 Password: AAUW

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Welcome back! Our programs this year will be thought provoking and will focus on issues that impact women.

Title: Let's Talk About Racism

Across the country, people are taking to the streets to demand change, eradicate systemic racism, and create a more inclusive future. As our branch celebrates its 50th birthday, how have conversations about race evolved? This month, we welcome Liz Hrenda to engage us in a discussion about race, white supremacy, and what we can do to affect change. As a primer to our program, Liz recommends you read So You Want to Talk about Race by Ijeoma Oluo. Liz will walk us through the origins of white supremacy, which she describes as a historic phenomenon and not an inherent one, and will show us that by understanding the past, we can dismantle white supremacy and racism today.

6:45 P.M. Log in to Zoom Meeting ID: 844 1167 0695 Password: AAUW 7:00 P.M. Speaker - Liz Hrenda

7:45 P.M. Meeting/70's branch highlights

Submitted by Kelley Clouser



National Voter **Registration Day: Your** Vote. Your Choice ...

Celebrated on the fourth Tuesday of September. September 22,2020



Introducing Shout Outs! In an effort to celebrate each other, we are debuting Shout Outs! A Shout Out is an acknowledgement or thank you to someone in the branch. It's your way of sharing your appreciation with others. Be thinking of Shout Outs you would like to publish in the Viewpoints. Here's an example:

Shout Out to Linda Tozier whose amazing network of AAUW contacts "got the job done". Learning how to contact First Lady Frances Wolf recently helped me connect with her. She will provide a video-taped message of support for victims of domestic violence during Crisis Center North's upcoming art show! Linda is a fine example of how women can help other women help others. 2 -- Submitted by Cora Koller

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International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace is a United Nations-Sanctioned Holiday. It is sometimes unofficially known as World Peace Day and is observed annually on 21 September. It is dedicated to world peace. Established in **1981** by unanimous United Nations resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.

Minute of Silence at Noon on 9/21



The Minute of Silence/Moment of Peace has grown throughout the world and is supported by the United Nations, Rotary, Mayors for Peace and many NGOs globally. This minute, observed at **12 noon in all time zones**, is a shared and practical act of peacebuilding in which all individuals, organizations and nations can participate. This minute can be used to meditate, envision a nuclear free world, pray for those impacted by war and violence, or focus on peace in a way that is meaningful for you.

The Directory

The 2020-2021 Directory is finished. Due to not having face to face meetings, we are planning to deliver Directories to members.



District Meetings

The District coordinators are planning district meetings sometime in the Fall. Stay tuned. Paula Tomko is the new Western District Coordinator. Her contact information can be found on page 3 of this year's Directory.

How Many of the 2020 Convening Webinars Have You Attended?

Catch up on all the content rich, topically relevant webinars. The speakers are top shelf, the subjects interesting, and in total, very enriching.

Policy v. Practice. This session provided an opportunity to reflect on AAUW's historic contributions to the advancement of women and girls and think about how we can strengthen our position as we work to be more inclusive in our fight for equity. It would be great if we could have a discussion on this webinar. All webinar recording will be available under AAUW's <u>2020</u> <u>Convening Series</u>.

Festival Season

Festival season is going to look a little different this year. We sadly won't be enjoying our fall fundraiser "For the Love of Books" author series – but we can still have a taste of the action. We were already in full swing of collecting donations for this event. We are planning to hold a raffle to utilize these donations. We are hoping all members will help support this raffle! (Please print flyer, page 4, next page.)

Celebrating Our Branch's 50 Years

Although we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary differently than we had originally had intended, **we still have planned lots of** ways to celebrate!

- In the Viewpoints beginning with this issue, we will take a look back at each decade and highlight the key accomplishments (See p. 6.)
- In addition, at each branch meeting beginning with the **September 30** branch meeting, we will recognize a different decade each month.
- The 50th Anniversary Commemorative Book is well underway with over 60 stories so far!
- The 50th Celebration Brunch, that was to be held in December 2020, has been moved to be combined with the May 2021 Annual Dinner. The date for the combined dinner is May 19, 2021. Put that date in your calendars now!

AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh Branch

An Opportunity to Still Raise Funds for the Sister Matilda Incentive Grant

Due to COVID19 and for the safety of our members and participants, we will not be holding our two fall fundraisers in 2020.

- For the Love of Books, our Authors' Lunch
- The Holiday Greens Sales



To raise funds for the Sister Matilda Incentive Grant this year, we will be raffling a tote with items we had started to collect for this year's Authors' Lunch.



The Winner will be drawn at our October 28, 2020 virtual branch meeting. One of our members will deliver the prize to the winner.

Questions call/email Debbie Rosenfelder 412-916-9073 or <u>rosenfelderd@verizon.net</u> **PLEASE CHECK ONE:**

 \Box 1 Ticket for \$10

 \Box 3 Tickets for \$20

 \Box 5 Tickets for \$30

\$100 in restaurant gift cards, 3 bottles of wine (one valued at \$50 and two valued at \$20, a Hallmark holiday candle, 2 passes to the Andy Warhol Museum and a tote bag from thirty-one bags. (A \$250 value)

PRINT THIS PAGE 4. Return this flyer with your donation.

- Donations need to be received by October 23, 2020.
- Make check payable to: AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh Branch.
- Mail to: Betty Kroniser. 920 Camelot Drive. Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Thank you for supporting this 2020 Sister Matilda Incentive Grant Fundraiser

See you next year at the Authors' lunch on October 2, 2021!

2020-2021 Fellows and Grant Recipients

AAUW awarded more than 200 awards and \$3.5 million in funding for fellows and grantees in the 2020 award year. It is always helpful to remember that past recipients are great speaker prospects and are id at <u>https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/directory-of-recipients-sponsors/</u>.

Following is a list of those women attending Pennsylvania colleges and universities who were selected for AAUW national fellowship or grant. Also included are recipients of the Community Action Grant.

4 are from the Pittsburgh area.

American Fellowship, Ph.D.	Lehigh University	Polymer Solid Lubricant Tribology	
American Fellowship, Publication Grant	Dickinson College	Francophone Literature	
American Fellowship, Ph.D.	University of Pittsburgh	Communication: Rhetoric	
Career Development, M.P.S.	Pennsylvania State University	Human Resources and Employment Relations	
Community Action Grant	YWCA Greater Pittsburgh	LaunchPad	
International Fellowship, M.S. Electrical and Computer Engineering	Carnegie Mellon University	Machine Learning, Signal Processing, and Artificial Intelligence	
International Fellowship, M.S. Computer Engineering	Carnegie Mellon University	Computer Engineering	
Research Publication Grant in Engineering, Medicine, and Science Grant	Susquehanna University	Physics: Exoplanet Science	
Research Publication Grant in Engineering, Medicine, and Science Grant	King's College	Biology: Behavioral Neuroscience	

August 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT			2020 - 202
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2020 – 2021 AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh Branch Directories

This year's Branch Directories are being distributed right now. Thanks to Linda Joy, Janis Kapadia, Sylvia Lynn, Barb Matthews, Janice Peischl and Debbie Rosenfelder for helping me with this. I am mailing the remaining directories now.

If you have not received yours by September 15th, please contact me.

Thanks, Linda Tozier Yearbook Distribution Chair

Celebrating Our 50 Years – Off to a Great Start!

It all began in 1970. Women from Franklin Park, Shaler, Ross, McCandless, and Pine met in the spring and fall of 1970 to talk about forming a branch of the American Association of Women (AAUW) in the North Hills. After many conversations and gettogethers to confirm interest, in November 1970 officers were elected and applications were received for charter memberships. From the very beginning, our branch has encouraged its members to become involved—in community, the arts, education, and world problems. Along with studying the issues, we developed long-lasting friendships, with LOTS OF FUN ALONG THE WAY!



- One of our first endeavors was to review the Allegheny County's courts system. The "A Dollar's Worth" study group taught members how to prepare a budget and become more informed about government, banks, and investments. The branch conducted a two-year study on Consumerism, comparing availability and cost of items at local supermarkets vs "mom and pop" grocery stores.
- Later in the decade, "Mini Universities" and special interest groups continued to keep members engaged. A legislative day court tour, gardening, vegetarian cooking, cross country skiing, to name a few, illustrated the variety of the Mini U's.
- There were morning and evening book groups, as well as opportunities to play bridge. International Cuisine Night began in December 1972. Dinner menus for the evenings were based on foods from a particular country. Our first cookbook, *A Pinch and A Dash*, included many delicious recipes from those dinners.
- Members could also choose to attend Progressive Dinners, where appetizers were served at one member's home, followed by the entrée at another member's home, and so on.
- To promote interest in the arts, in 1976 our branch supported what would become an ongoing art exchange at Northland Public Library.
- Community involvement in education was foremost. Members spoke up at local school board meetings. Beginning in 1973, our branch began to award a yearly educational scholarship to a deserving local woman pursuing a degree at LaRoche.
- Great Decisions began at the Northland Public Library, in 1972.
- Invited speakers kept us well informed in the 1970s including Richard Thornburgh who would eventually become Governor of Pennsylvania and Dr. Margaret Mead, noted anthropologist, writer and lecturer.
- As we closed out the decade, our branch co-sponsored the Women's Center North Hills. The Center, founded by members Anna Belle Few and Lori Heiser in August 1979, continues to help women and families in crisis, known today as Crisis Center – North.

Send your "Why I Joined" Story for the 50th Anniversary Book to June Maier. <u>junemaier@gmail.com</u>. Or give June a call 412-445-5135 and tell her your story over the phone. **Deadline for stories: October 15th**



www.lwvpgh.org

Women in the United States Are Still Denied the Right to Vote

One hundred years on from 'woman suffrage,' and women in the United States are still denied the right to vote, whether through outright disenfranchisement for past involvement with the criminal legal system, voter intimidation, bogus claims of 'voter fraud,' or the realization-perhaps logical—that there isn't much worth voting for in a political system that has so often failed and excluded them. The Nineteenth Amendment, under which no state may abridge or deny the right to vote based on sex, was ratified one hundred years ago this August. The women who remain locked out of the franchise are the fractured legacy of a fractured movement. Over the past decade, states and localities across the country have enacted policies that make it harder to vote. Our democracy works when everyone can fully participate. Elected officials routinely make decisions about issues that directly impact all of us. From our paychecks to paid leave, access to reproductive health care to access to education, our lives are on the line-and our vote is our voice.

Your Vote Matters. Do Not Let It Be Wasted.

The General Election is November 3rd

Last Day to register to vote is October 19th

Last Day to request mail-in ballot is October 27th



BLACK GIRLS AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE | SHE MATTERS WEBINAR SERIES gwen's girls



Thursday, September 10TH, 2020 via ZOOM FROM 3-5PM EST Registration Required. PRE-REGISTER TODAY https://bit.ly/3etdlMa

Description. This webinar will explore the most prevalent forms of gender-based violence experienced by Black girls in Pittsburgh and highlight community-based interventions. Commercial sexual exploitation, dating violence and missing youth will all be explored during the discussion. Join to hear from advocates on the frontlines about the early warning signs of gender-based violence and resources needed to end the abuse to prison pipeline experienced by far too many Black girls.

Previous Webinars. Go to individual link below or go here and scroll down till you see previous webinars. <u>http://www.gwensgirls.org/equitysummit/</u>

WHAT DOES #BLACKLIVESMATTER MEAN IN SCHOOL? <u>HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/DTEZ3MDDPWS</u>

MENTAL, SEXUAL, AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INEQUITIES <u>HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/64MSZZ6TXJW</u>

BLACK GIRLS EXERIENCE W/BULLYING AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT <u>HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/C8ZUEAH3UTE</u>

In the August Viewpoints Cora Dietrich Koller, Public Policy Chair submitted an article titled HOW TO BE AN ALLY...AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR MARGINALIZED MINORITY COMMUNITIES. One of the points that allies do is Get Educated - Take responsibility for your own learning about racism and oppression. This article provides you some excellent locally produced webinars from Gwen's Girls to help us get educated.

Submitted by Peggy Schmiedecke, STEM Co-Chair

America in the World: Great Decisions Special Edition



During the 2016 American presidential election, charges were leveled that foreign policy had become the preserve of elites removed from the concerns of Americans. Yet since 1918, the Foreign Policy Association and since 1919, the Hoover Institution have been at the forefront of outreach to encourage informed public debate on vital international issues through dissemination of relevant and timely scholarship.

We are delighted that FPA and Hoover have come together at this crucial juncture to stimulate public discussion over the path forward for America in a troubled world. We hope you will enjoy **America in the World**, a thought-provoking collection of op-ed style essays by leading experts.

To reserve your copy, call 800-477-5836.

Our thinking, decisions and votes shape our democracy, culture, and way of life.

Every day, people make important decisions about career choices, education, finances, healthcare, food, housing, marriage, parenting and social relationships, social distancing, race, religion, conflict escalation, de-escalation or resolution, politics, and voting. To make these decisions as well as decisions about voting, individual American citizens need strong critical thinking skills to shape them. The quality of our decisions, and the thought behind them, impacts us as individuals, family members, workers, community members and citizens. Our thinking, decisions and votes shape our democracy, culture, and way of life. When American citizens vote, we decide what state, local and national issues matter. We provide a broad outline of public policies that impact us individually and collectively. As President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, "Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely."

To choose wisely in local, state, and national elections, voters need to develop and apply critical thinking skills. Critical thinking refers to the ability to analyze information objectively and make a reasoned judgment. It involves the evaluation of sources, such as data, facts, observable phenomena, and research findings. Effective critical thinkers can draw reasonable conclusions from a set of information and discriminate between useful and less useful details to solve problems or make decisions. They explore individual issues of interest to them personally, and develop positions or arguments based on the above factors. Because they are likely to be more liberal on some issues and more conservative on others, most critical thinkers recognize that no political party, candidate or voter "has all the right answers." They can engage in open and reasonable dialogues with others whose values, experience, knowledge and viewpoints differ from their own; without resorting to swearing, name calling or racial or ethnic slurs, other emotional outbursts or violence. At times, they find common ground and ways to work together for common good. At others, they "respectfully agree to disagree" and move on to other matters.

As a non-partisan organization, the AAUW encourages members to think critically about political questions and candidates. Questions to ask about candidates' motivations, qualifications, and abilities to fulfill the obligations of public office include:

- 1. What information is essential to make an informed decision about the candidates?
- 2. What skills will they bring to problem-solving?
- 3. Are they able to make decisions based on complex evidence?
- 4. Will they think critically enough to adapt to changing situations and information?
- 5. How do their values, beliefs, life experiences and facts or evidence shape their views?
- 6. Does this candidate display bias, discrimination or prejudice against others based on gender, generation, race or ethnicity or religion?
- 7. How does that bias (or lack thereof) affect their motivations, qualifications and/or ability to fulfill the obligations of elected office?
- 8. Are they motivated to listen and learn?
- 9. What leadership skills does this candidate have, and how do they use these skills?
- 10. If they were previously elected to an office, did they perform well or not?
- 11. How has the campaign raised and spent money?
- 12. Have they complied with the letter and spirit of campaign finance laws and regulations?
- 13. How does the candidate (including their campaign and supporters) use or misuse social media?
- 14. What do the candidate's and campaign's advertising and marketing-especially on social media-imply about what the candidate believes about voters?
- 15. Identify whether, when or how often this candidate (1) uses and benefits from or (2) is harmed or discredited by "fake news." For suggestions about how to identify "fake news" visit <u>https://www.factcheck.org/2016/11/how-to-spot-fake-news/</u>.

In conclusion consider the following.

"The vote is the emblem of your equality, women of America, the guarantee of your liberty... That vote has been costly. Prize it! The vote is a power, a weapon of offense and defense, a prayer. Understand what it means and what it can do for your country. Use it intelligently, conscientiously, prayerfully." *Carrie Chapman Catt*

"As I have done in every election since I started voting so many years ago, I always like to take my time and examine the two candidates, see not only the two candidates but the policies they will bring in, the people they will bring in, who they might appoint to the Supreme Court, and look at the whole range of issues before making a decision." *Colin Powell*

"It's more important than ever that we show up to vote, not just this year, but every year and in every election. Every voice must be heard, and every voice must be counted." *Michelle Obama*

All Pennsylvanians can vote in person or by mail to ensure their voice are heard safely in the upcoming elections, despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic. It you choose the mail in ballot option, it is better to apply for your ballot now, to receive, cast and return it several weeks ahead of election day. According to the League of Women Voters (https://www.palwv.org/2020-election-calendar) important dates to remember are:

October 19Last day to register to vote before the November election.October 27Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot. This means your
county election office must receive your application by October 27, 2020.November 3GENERAL ELECTION Polls are open from 7 A.M. to 8 P.M.
Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted
mail-in and civilian absentee ballotsNovember 3Bio P.M.
Bio P.M.Note: you can click on the link above to learn more about
mail-in and absentee ballots, apply for one and track your application
and ballot status.

What can YOU do?

- 1. Safely cast a timely, informed vote for the candidates of your choice in the upcoming local, state and national elections by 8:00 pm o November 3, 2020.
- 2. Use information from this article and other reputable sources to encourage everyone you know to do likewise.

Submitted by Cora Koller

HOLIDAY PROJECT TO BENEFIT CRISIS CENTER NORTH CLIENTS

Crisis Center North (CCN) is the non-profit domestic violence victim services agency founded by several AAUW North Hills branch members over 40 years ago. CCN has asked the Branch to support its holiday toy/gift drive to benefit victims of domestic violence this year. In December 2020, CCN's clients will be able to visit "Santa's Workshop" to select gifts for their children and brighten their holiday season. Often, these gifts are the only ones their children receive. The need is particularly great this year, because COVID-19 related employment and financial losses compound the challenges of recovering and healing from domestic violence.

More information about this project, and how individual Branch members can support it will be provided at upcoming Branch meetings and in the newsletters.



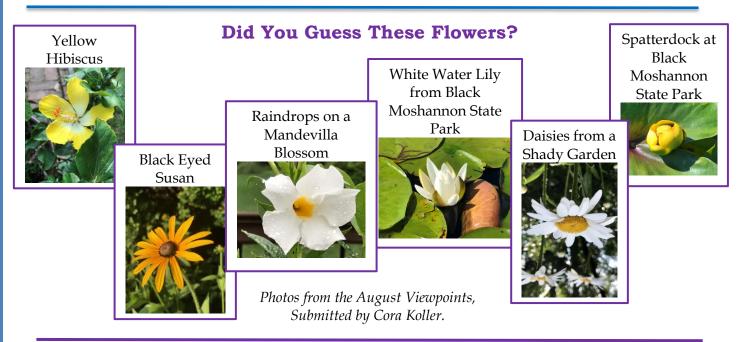
Lunch Bunch Photos – August & September 2020

It's Official: Women Leaders Dealt With Covid Better

A study has suggested that women leaders' more empathetic communication style contributed to fewer coronavirus deaths. Countries with women leaders suffered half as many COVID deaths on average compared to countries with male leaders, academics have found.

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/bv8byv/female-leaders-dealt-with-covid-better-than-men_

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SHARE THE GOOD NEWS! TELL US ABOUT YOUR PUBLIC POLICY ACTIVITIES

Despite the community shutdown, AAUW North Hills Branch members continue to engage in Public Policy Activities. We call legislators, write letters and emails, register voters, raise awareness of pay women's health and pay equity matters, author petitions for legislative action, attend peaceful demonstrations, serve on government commissions and engage in many other public policy activities.

As in past years, we want to celebrate your work, and share it with the Pennsylvania AAUW!

Because we will be meeting virtually this year, we cannot collect this information during branch meetings as we have in the past. Instead, we'll do it by email. Just:

- 1. Cut, copy and paste the form below into an email titled AAUW Public Policy Activity.
- 2. Then fill in the form with your information.
- 3. Send it to our Public Policy Chair, Cora Koller at photowriter56@verizon.net.

Member Name	Date	Organization	Event/Activity	What You Did

DON'T FORGET TO PRINT PAGE 4, OUR FUNDRAISER.

PLEASE PARTICIPATE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

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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

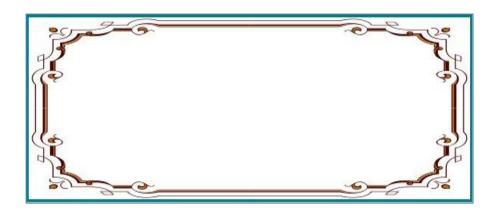
President: Deborah Rosenfelder Program VP: Kelley Clouser Membership: Janis Kapadia Viewpoints Editor: June Maier 412-916-9073 or <u>rosenfelderd@verizon.net</u> 717-283-6344 or <u>kelleyclouseraauw@gmail.com</u> 724-935-7507 or <u>jkapadia@consolidated.net</u> 412-445-5135 or <u>junemaier@gmail.com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

Branch Website: <u>http://northhills-pa.aauw.net</u> Branch Email: <u>aauwnorthhillspgh@gmail.com</u> Facebook Page: AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh branch

CONNECT2AAUW: 800-326-2289 or <u>connect@aauw.org</u> National Website: <u>www.aauw.org</u> State Website: <u>www.aauw-pa.org</u>

Viewpoints

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



Because Equity is still an issue