

BRIDGES TO EQUITY

American Association of University Women (AAUW)
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Valley Forge Branch Newsletter
April 2026



MISSION STATEMENT: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, research and philanthropy.

**VALLEY FORGE AAUW BRANCH MEETING
SATURDAY, APRIL 11 AT 10:15 A.M.
AT THE EASTTOWN LIBRARY**

**THE RAPIDLY CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF A. I. AND WHY IT MATTERS
PRESENTED BY AJLA GLAVESEVIC LAUSSEGER**

Some of us use artificial intelligence on a regular basis. Others of us need to know more about it. All of us realize that it is evolving as we read or hear about new developments in the field every day. Does it offer promise or peril? Perhaps both?

Ajla, our speaker, is very qualified to address these questions. She serves as Deputy General Counsel and Global Data Privacy Officer at Quaker Houghton, a chemical manufacturing firm in Conshohocken. Among many other roles, she provides legal support and leadership regarding A. I. Ajla received her J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law and her B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Buffalo, where she competed as a hepathlete on a national level. She is a former member of the USA Women's Bobsled team.

Ajla serves on the board of AAUW PA as the Diversity Officer and previously served as secretary. Her family immigrated to the U.S, from Bosnia under refugee status in 1995. She's married to an Austrian national and has a son and a daughter.

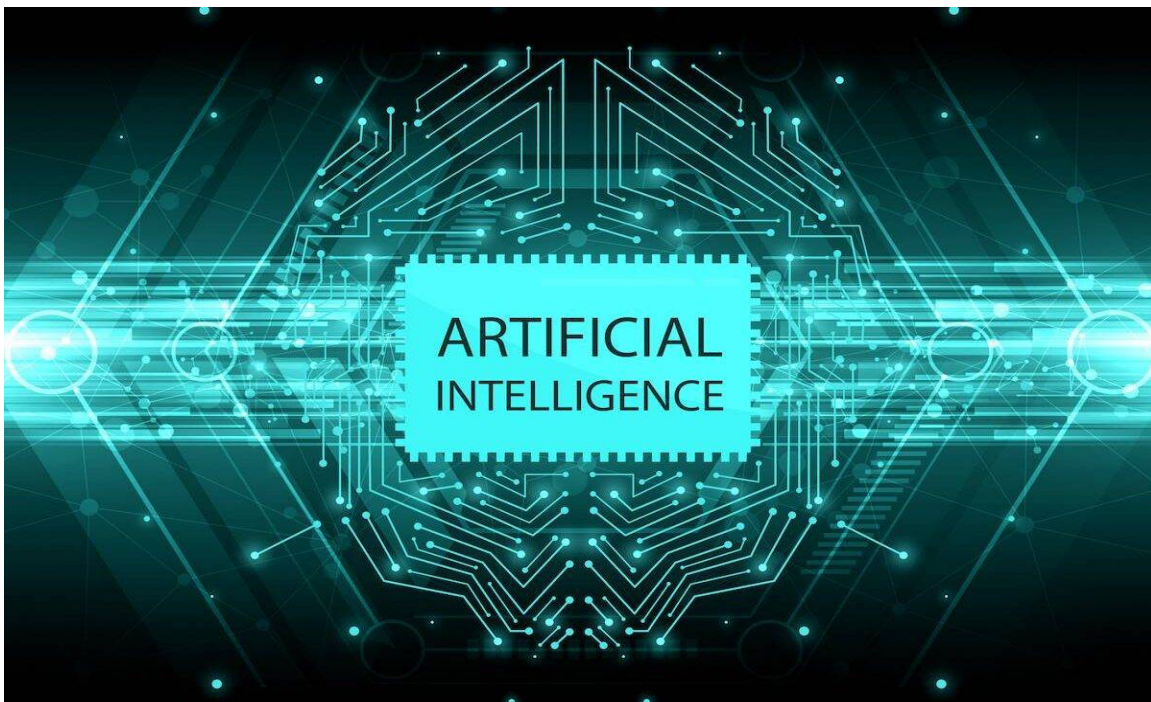
Do come on the 11th to learn more about this important topic. We'll also be electing officers. Guests are very welcome.

Ajla Glavasevic Lausegger Biography

Ajla Glavasevic Lausegger serves as Deputy General Counsel & Global Data Privacy Officer of a global chemical manufacturing company in Conshohocken, PA, Quaker Houghton. There, she leads the Data Privacy organization, advises on business matters, drafts and reviews contracts, and provides legal support and leadership in litigation, regulatory matters, corporate restructuring, labor and employment matters, corporate compliance, crisis management,

corporate governance, artificial intelligence, investigations, mergers and acquisitions, environmental matters, and day-to-day business needs of the organization. Prior to her work at Quaker Houghton, Ajla was an Associate at a general practice firm, where much of her work focused on corporate clients, as well as litigation, immigration matters, labor and employment, and criminal defense. Ajla received her J.D. at the University of Cincinnati College of Law and has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, concentrating on Financial Analysis from the University at Buffalo, where she also competed as a D1 heptathlete on a national level. Ajla is a former member of the USA Women's Bobsled Team.

Ajla serves on the board of AAUW PA as the Diversity Officer and previously served as the Secretary. Ajla's family immigrated from Bosnia to the United States under refugee status in 1995 and she's married to an Austrian National. Ajla is a mother to a 6-year-old son, Julius, and an almost 5-year-old daughter, Philippa.



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“Women in the Work Force, Let’s Fight for Equal Pay”

There I stood on the steps of the rotunda in Harrisburg on March 24, 2026, listening to a speaker talking about her experience as a single woman in sales. Apparently, she had done very well in her sales job, and there was some kind of bonus available for exemplary effort. Fully expecting to get the bonus, she was told that the bonus was going to a male colleague because “he needed it more”. I almost fell off the steps! That story took me back to 1982, when I learned that the man with whom I shared a sales territory was given a higher salary than me, simply because he was a married man with a child.

I looked around at the young women standing on the steps with me and said, “I fought this fight 45 years ago.” They all thanked me for still being on the front lines. The reality is, all these years later, we still must fight for pay equity. Our lobbying efforts these past weeks have focused on getting the Equal Pay Law to find its way into the Pennsylvania Senate. When women in this state still make \$0.81 for every dollar a man makes, we could use a champion. Representative Melissa Shusterman is our champion in the House. We need to support her!

What is also troubling is a report that I heard about a couple of weeks ago. It was about how AI (Artificial Intelligence) will affect our workplace now and in the future. The report highlighted that AI may have an especially negative impact on women because women are in administrative and clerical jobs, and these jobs can be replaced by AI. I must admit that I need to learn more about this; what a wonderful opportunity we have with our AI program on April 11.

Please come out to our branch program on April 11! Not only will we have a fabulous speaker, but we will need to vote for our new branch officers. We will also be able to vote for our state officers. You will receive a ballot for state officers after April 2. You can choose to follow the state instructions and vote by mail or online, OR we will have a means to vote for state officers at our branch meeting. Your choice! See you at Easttown Library!



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MEMBERSHIP

Debbie Talbot Snyder

We have been very lucky in recent months in that we have had several women express an interest in and join our branch. Again, please reach out to others about our branch and the important work of AAUW. I do want to give you an update that the membership dues collection for 2027 will open on April 1. Email reminders from National will be sent the week of April 20. You can renew on the Community Hub or, as in past years, pay via check. For this I will have a separate email sent out to our membership.

Welcome to new members:

Laura-Edythe Coleman
Drexel Hill, PA

Autumn Cavalcante
Bala Cynwyd, PA

PUBLIC POLICY

Debbie Talbot Snyder

As we know from recent protests and on-going political issues, now is a much-needed time to make our voices heard. In recent state public policy meetings, the Two-Minute Activist program that AAUW national provides has been mentioned. It is very easy to sign up, and you will receive notifications about issues important to AAUW's mission. I have included the link below and you will see a red button in the upper right-hand corner that you can use to sign up.

[AAUW Action Network – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)



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INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON LITERATURE

Connie Kirker
Susan Norris

We will meet on Wednesday, April 8, at 1:30 p.m. Maria Brooks will host and will lead our discussion of Lovely One by Katanji Brown Jackson.



CURRENT EVENTS

Susan Norris

We will meet on Wednesday, April 29 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Click on the link (that will be sent out) to join our discussion. NOTE the date change to the 4th Wed. of the month.



LIVING THEATRE

Karen Wellin

Living Theater – A Fun Way to Spend an Afternoon!

Living Theater will meet on Monday, April 27, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at Eleanor Erskine's. We'll read a one-act play, "The Ugly Duckling" by A. A. Milne. Karen will have copies of this play available at the April 11 branch meeting. Please RSVP/contact Eleanor so that she knows you're coming. Please call Karen with any questions or comments. Welcome all newcomers!



NEW YORKER GROUP

Eleanor Erskine

The New Yorker group will meet on Monday, May 11 at 1:30 p.m. at Eris Wickersham's home. Contact Eleanor for articles to be discussed.



APRIL DATES TO REMEMBER

8	Afternoon Lit.	1:30 p.m.
11	Branch meeting	10:15 a.m.
18	Board meeting	10:00 a.m. via Zoom
27	Living Theatre	1:30 p.m.
29	Current Events	1:30 p.m.

MAY DATES TO REMEMBER

3	70 th anniversary celebration!	1:00 p.m.
11	New Yorker group	1:30 p.m.
13	Afternoon Lit.	1:30 p.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Saturday, April 18, at 10:00 a.m. via ZOOM



WE REIMBURSE YOUR RIDE!

Remember, if you need to take Uber or Lyft or a cab to an AAUW Valley Forge meeting,
 we will reimburse your ride. Just forward your receipt to Jean Givey.
 We want to see you at our meetings!
