

INTRODUCING AAUW STATE COLLEGE BRANCH 2021 AWARDEES

Congratulations to all of our awards recipients! Planning for our annual Award & Scholarship Celebration is underway. For the time being, mark your calendar for **May 26th, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm**. Details will be provided in April.

--Chriss Schultz, Branch Awards Committee Chair



Outstanding Women - Cindy Hall and Sally Kalin

Through challenging times, Co-presidents **Cindy Hall** and **Sally Kalin** have flexibly and positively led the branch through a world of virtual meetings and programming, alternative ways of conducting our Used Book Sale, financial challenges, developing new branch leaders, the attainment of a 5-Star recognition from AAUW National, and oversight of a redesign of our branch website.



Member Making a Difference – Dina Liberatore

As the incoming leader of our traditional Used Book Sale, **Dina Liberatore** found herself facing a very different set of realities in 2020. Dina led the Used Book Sale committee’s discussions of scenarios and decision-making during this unsettling time full of unknowns. Ultimately, she oversaw the decision to sell the bulk of the books to Midtown Scholar Bookstore in Harrisburg as well as donate many to non-profit groups in our community. Throughout deliberations, she kept her eye on doing good for the community while ensuring the branch was able to honor our financial commitments.



Gateway to Equity Award

Carol Eicher and the Community Diversity Group (CDG)

Carol Eicher, founder and President of the **Community Diversity Group** cannot be separated from the organization she so ably leads. Begun in 2001, CDG is a coalition of citizens and businesses from the community, Penn State, and other non-profits in the State College area whose mission is “to bring diverse peoples together to cultivate inclusive, engaged

communities.” Carol and the CDG have made important contributions to enhancing the quality of life for the many diverse peoples living and working in our community.



CCCHS Volunteer of the Year - Ann Echols

Ann Echols is a volunteer community activist. She became our branch treasurer in 2018, and manages funds for our 501(c)3 and 501(c)4 budgets and advises the board on all financial and accounting matters. She helped overhaul our membership process, co-developed our strategic plan, and is a member of our Public Policy Education Subcommittee. In 2019, Ann created and implemented a comprehensive plan for introducing credit cards as a payment method for our Used Book Sale, resulting in an increase of several thousand dollars in sales. In 2020 she joined our Used Book Sale Committee to help identify strategies to minimize losses after the cancellation of the sale due to the pandemic. Ann also serves as Mid-State Literacy Council board chair, works with Leadership (Centre County), and volunteers elsewhere as her time permits. Ann is a talented community connector and a strong team player with a truly diverse set of talents.

2021-2023 AAUW-PA OFFICER ELECTION – NOW THROUGH MARCH 31st



This spring, we will vote on candidates for AAUW-PA state elected officers. Online voting is available now **through March 31st**. Elected officers during this cycle include Membership Vice President, Secretary, and Finance Officer. For each office, there is the option to write-in a candidate. Note that AAUW State College member **Ann Echols** is running for AAUW-PA Finance Officer.

Vote online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AAUWPAElections2021>



AAUW MEMBERSHIP DUES CHANGES FOR 2021-2022

Good news! For the coming membership year (starts July 1) branch dues for AAUW State College members will remain at \$8 and AAUW-PA dues will remain at \$10. After making dramatic cost-cutting measures to meet expenses, national AAUW will limit an increase in dues to \$3 for 2021-2022, from \$59 to \$62. This is the first dues increase in three years. Therefore, **total dues for the coming membership year will increase from \$77 to \$80**. Membership renewals begin later this spring, stay tuned!

During the last week of April, you will receive an email from memberinfo@auw.org with your specific member information. You will be asked to follow a link directly to AAUW payment software to use your credit card to make payment. Please follow the instructions provided. You will receive an email confirmation upon completion. Avoid long lines at the post office, save postage and a paper check – renew online. For additional information visit our membership page: https://auwstatecollege.org/auw_member_application/



AAUW FELLOW JENNIFER CARTER PRESENTS: THERMAL RADIATION OF WORLDS BEYOND OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

Wednesday, March 10th, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Jennifer Carter, assistant professor of physics at Susquehanna University, won a research publication grant from AAUW. Her talk will focus on how we can describe the temperature distribution of exoplanets using their emitted light.

Since we can now detect the presence of planets orbiting distant stars, we want to determine as many details of them as possible. Planets orbiting far-away stars mirror the planets of our solar system, but many do not match our previous expectations. For example, the first exoplanets discovered orbit their host stars in less than 3 days whereas the orbit of Mercury is 88 days in length. Since these first discoveries, we have launched several missions to study exoplanets using a variety of techniques.

Carter will focus on one technique that offers the opportunity to detect light emitted directly by the exoplanet, including thermal light. Like a hot iron, closely orbiting exoplanets are hot enough to glow with visible light. As instrumental precision increases, we require more accurate models of this thermal radiation. After reviewing current methods of modeling thermal radiation, Carter will introduce her new model and compare how well each model explains data gathered from exoplanet systems under different conditions.

The talk will be held at a Zoom meeting. Register in advance:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAod-muqz4uHtxD8WyZ-a44UCwif3evX4td>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

21st Cultural Empowerment for Women (CEW) Series

HOW COVID HAS IMPACTED WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY **Wednesday, March 17th, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm via Zoom**



The Community Diversity Group (CDG) and AAUW State College are hosting a panel of local women who will discuss the physical, emotional, and economic challenges they face and their coping strategies. The discussion also will include research on the impact of COVID on women, particularly women of color. The panel will be moderated by **Jeanne Knouse**, Director of Student Services, State College Area School District. Panelists include **Jordan Glover**, Diversity Chair, AAUW State College; **Centrice Martin**, Assistant Township Manager, Ferguson Township; **Jen Taylor**, Registered Nurse,

immunocompromised and currently unemployed; and **Marjory Price**, Registered Nurse, Mount Nittany Health Center. **Register at:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsf-uhpz0oHNNHUuevIEdU0gJXmtBe924zT>



¡ADELANTE! BOOK CLUB TO MEET MARCH 18th

We are reading *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. This fictional story tells the immigration story a mother and her son who are in danger and must flee Mexico.

According to www.bookbrowse.com, "*American Dirt* is an urgent, blistering, unforgettable book. In the portrayal of Lydia and Luca, a mother and son forced to leave their Mexican home, Jeanine Cummins has given face to migrants everywhere who flee violence and near-certain death in search of only one thing: a chance at life." The book club will meet **Thursday, March 18th at 2:30 pm** via Zoom. Everyone is welcome. For additional information, contact Pat Kephart at pbk1@comcast.net or (301) 774-5207.



BRANCH PROGRAM ON WOMEN IN EDUCATION **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31st, 6:00 - 7:30 pm**

Please join us for an evening of Zooming as we celebrate women in education. A panel of women who have various roles within our educational system will share their success stories, including what has enabled them to persevere and how diversity has shaped their experiences. There will be time for questions. Additional details to follow. Please register at link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84307524880?pwd=dGNjZElhU3k1OGV2aldLUld1VlFHUT09>



The Rivet

BRANCH SUPPORTS REMAKE LEARNING DAYS of CENTRAL PA

The STEM Committee was awarded a \$500 grant from ENGINE of Central PA (<https://www.enginecentralpa.org/>) to host a robotics event in May in partnership with The Rivet at Discovery Space (<https://therivet.org/>) and Actuated Medical Inc. The Rivet is Discovery Space’s makerspace for teens and adults. The event will be part of Remake Learning Days Across America, an innovative learning festival for families and youth. This Central Pennsylvania event will be geared toward high schoolers, particularly girls, but will be open to all ages. Details about the program will be released in early April.



APRIL 7th - MAY 17th AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION INCLUDES VOTE TO ELIMINATE DEGREE REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP

This spring, AAUW members will be asked to vote on amendments to the Public Policy Priorities and Bylaws, in addition to electing members to the national Board of Directors. Proposed Bylaws and Public Policy Priorities changes are provided here:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/>.

On March 30th, 7:00 pm, AAUW-PA will host a virtual Town Hall on Dropping the Educational Requirement. Stay tuned for details and registration link.

Voting will begin April 7th and close May 27th, and a voting link will be provided in advance of April 7th. Please take time to learn about the proposed Bylaws change that would eliminate the higher educational requirement for AAUW membership. Removal of this membership requirement would provide access to all women who support our mission. Learn more:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2021-comment-bylaws/>

This following statement is the position of the AAUW State College Branch Co-Presidents.

When AAUW was founded in 1881, the organization sought to provide an opportunity for women to come together for academic and cultural pursuits. Much has changed since that time. A degree is no longer necessary to make us like-minded. Our mission and our challenges have grown, we need all women to come together as one force if we are to be successful in our mission to advance women and girls in today’s society. Moreover, to move our agenda forward, AAUW must have sufficient funding. In the most pragmatic terms, we simply cannot expect foundations and corporations as well as other organizations to support AAUW financially if we don’t espouse our own values. It is time to drop the educational degree requirement as a barrier to joining AAUW and our branch. Vote to drop the requirement on the Spring 2021 national ballot.

*Cindy Hall and Sally Kalin
AAUW State College Branch Co-Presidents*



AAUW-PA SUMMER RETREAT PLANNED FOR JULY 23rd-24th in HARRISBURG

Mark your calendars for the AAUW-PA Summer Retreat beginning at 6:00 pm on Friday, July 23 with an informal social and ending on Saturday, July 24 at 3:30 pm at the Central Hotel and Conference Center in Harrisburg. We hope that COVID-19 will be behind us and that we will be able to meet in person. However, just in case, we are simultaneously planning for a possible virtual event. More information will be forthcoming as we continue to monitor the pandemic crisis. Mark your calendar to hold these dates; additional information forthcoming.



GENDER NEWS

Webinar: *Money, Gender, & Diversity in Academia* - <https://www.womenspowergap.org/>
Panel discussion including AAUW CEO Kim Churches and two university administrators, both of whom were former AAUW Fellows.

Accompanying Report: *The Power Gap among Top Earners at America's Elite Universities*

<https://www.womenspowergap.org/higher-education/the-power-gap-among-top-earners-at-elite-universities/>

Gender Policy Council Formed: The Biden administration has created a Gender Policy Council, following through on their commitment to “restoring America as a champion for women and girls.” Learn AAUW’s reaction to the news: https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/aauw-statement-on-creation-of-gender-policy-council/?emci=caa73698-c65c-eb11-a607-00155d43c992&emdi=d26ecf30-d45c-eb11-a607-00155d43c992&ceid=928804%22+%5ct+%22_blank



Please send submissions for the next *Branch Bulletin* to Connie Schroeder, connieschroeder@gmail.com, by **March 15th** for the *Branch Bulletin* that will be issued on March 22nd. Bulletins are sent electronically to branch members and friends by the date of issue and also are accessible at <https://aauwstatecollege.org/blog/>.