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**AAUW State College  
Award & Scholarship Celebration**

**Thursday, June 1**

**5:30 pm - Meet & Greet with cash bar**

**6:15 pm - Dinner & program**

**Mountain View Country Club**

310 Elks Road, Boalsburg

We are excited to come together for our annual spring banquet after a very busy year. It will be an opportunity to welcome many new members, reconnect with old friends, meet this year's scholarship recipients, honor branch awardees, and install new officers (listed on pages 9-10).

The Meet & Greet includes a cash bar. The dinner is a buffet featuring salads and fresh fruit, vegetable lasagna, stuffed chicken breast with apple cranberry stuffing, honey tarragon carrots, pesto cauliflower, red skin potatoes, a dessert display, and beverages.

**The cost to attend is \$30. Reservations are due May 24<sup>th</sup>. See pages 10-11 for additional banquet information and the RSVP form.**

*--Nina Cowart, AAUW State College Program Co-VP*

## 61<sup>st</sup> AAUW State College Used Book Sale ready to launch



Good news! Sale Co-Chair Donna Trapp reports that we picked up many more volunteers for the May 13-16 Used Book Sale over the past month, both from our membership and from community volunteers who are ready to dive in and help. If you are volunteering for the sale (whether on Move-In Day on May 11 or at the sale on May 13-16 at the Arena), here is the complete schedule and information on volunteering:

[2023 Book Sale Bulletin](#)

If you have an AAUW State College shirt, be sure to wear it when you volunteer at the sale. Here's a sneak preview:

**New Sections** – The new Pennsylvania/Penn State section features local and regional books, such as *Pennsylvania Mountain Stories*, *Horseshoe Curve: Sabotage and Subversion in the Railroad City*, *Folk Art of Rural Pennsylvania*, and *Cook'in with the Lion*, to name a few. The International section features books written in languages other than English.

**Special Collections** - Featured books found in Special Collections (next to the side EXIT door at the Arena) include many exceptional titles, such as a 3-volume set of *The Civil War: A Narrative*, authored and inscribed by Shelby Foote; a First Edition of *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, and *Hints on Household Taste in Furniture & Upholstery*, written in 1881.

To view featured books in advance (by author): [2023 Featured Books](#)



**BOOK SALE FLYER (8.5" x 11"):** [bit.ly/3GCyzro](https://bit.ly/3GCyzro)

**SQUARE image for social media:** [bit.ly/40oUoSg](https://bit.ly/40oUoSg)

**BOOK SALE INFORMATION:** [bit.ly/3Lgcfqd](https://bit.ly/3Lgcfqd)

Like us, follow us, and repost our posts prior to and during the sale via [AAUW State College Facebook](#) and [AAUW State](#)

[College Instagram](#). Time to toot our own horn.



### Spring Primary Election May 16

Voters are nominating candidates for judicial positions, school board seats, and county offices. Member Nancy Chiswick shares that only about 25% of registered voters in PA are likely to vote on Tuesday, May

16 in the Primary. That means a very small number of voters determine who will be on the ballot in November. Branch Public Policy Co-Chairs Mary Dupuis and Dianne Gregg shared a *Candidates Guide* based on public sources, sent April 23. If you missed seeing it, here's the link: [May 16 Primary Election Guide](#). This is all important reading!



## Education Committee Updates

The Primary Election is Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Among those up for election are five places on the SCASD Board. This is a very important election because the school board shapes the priorities of our public schools and influences the quality of education.

Education Voters of Pennsylvania describes a school board as “an elected body responsible for governing the school district.” It levies taxes and adopts an annual budget based on available funding from state and local sources, approves the hiring and compensation of personnel, approves curriculum and textbooks, appoints the superintendent, and enacts policy.

Some of the qualities we look for in our school board members are the ability to function as a team (there are 10 members), the ability to listen to all sides, and make a decision for the good of the school district. They should do this without a political agenda and not impose their personal beliefs on the students and staff.

Keep the above in mind when you look at the profiles from the Public Policy Committee.

**Laurel Zydney**, an AAUW State College Branch member, is running for the SCASD Board. Laurel is affiliated with neither of the two candidate slates. She is running as an independent candidate. Learn more about Laurel's candidacy: [LaurelForSCASD.com](http://LaurelForSCASD.com). Voters may vote for any five of candidates from among the eleven candidates running.

In the April *Branch Bulletin*, there was an article by branch member Carline Crevecoeur about her experience as a first-year school board member. Please read this article to better understand expectations for school board members.

Please vote and encourage your family members and neighbors to vote, either by mail or on May 16.

*--Sue Johnston, AAUW State College Education Committee Chair*

## What is at stake in school board elections this year



**Note:** AAUW State College Public Policy Co-Chair Mary Dupuis shared this illuminating piece from Sue Spicka, Executive Director of Education Voters PA.

On the May 16th primary election, voters in 499 school districts across Pennsylvania will determine which school board candidates will appear on the fall ballot. Candidates who advance to the fall election will, ultimately, be elected to positions where they will have enormous power to shape the priorities of our local public schools and influence the quality of education students in our communities receive.

In recent years, Pennsylvania has become a focal point for extremist politicians, including at the school district level. In some places extremists will be running for school board to promote a political agenda and impose their personal and religious beliefs on students, teachers, and district staff. Their goals will include enacting regressive book bans, censorship of classroom discussions about race and gender identity, and policies discriminating against individual students because they identify as LGBTQ+.

Our communities depend on school boards to use tax dollars wisely and to ensure that our local schools will provide students with the opportunities that will allow them to thrive in school today and succeed in life after graduation. In districts that have elected a majority of extremists to their boards, we have seen tax dollars wasted on legal bills defending extremist policies instead of being invested in educating children.

Ultimately, we have seen that extremist boards have little concern for the quality of education students receive.

Learn more about the [Roles and Responsibilities](#) of school boards, how to talk about what is happening with extremists and school board elections this year with your friends and neighbors, and how you can be prepared to vote in the May 16th primary election.

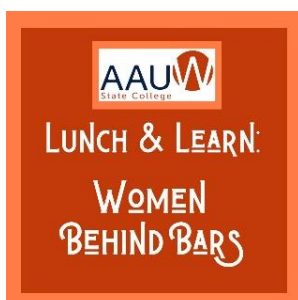
### **Make a Plan to Vote on Tuesday, May 16**

School board elections are nonpartisan, so candidates can "cross-file" and have their name appear on both the Republican and Democratic ballot. You will NOT know the party of a candidate when you vote. This makes it critical for you to learn about candidates' values BEFORE you go to the polls or vote by mail.

Our communities depend on school boards acting in good faith. We depend on them to use tax dollars wisely. We depend on them for schools that provide students with opportunities to thrive today and succeed after graduation. We depend on them to listen to us—their constituents—and not an extremist agenda.

So we can't let 2023 be an "off year" election. We need to show up and take a stand against extremism so that our communities—and our children—can come first.

*--Susan Spicka, Executive Director, Education Voters of PA*



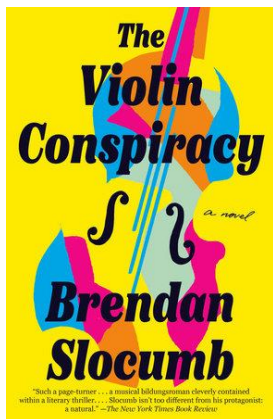
### **April 10 Women Behind Bars program reflections**

The April 10 branch program on *Women Behind Bars* was very well-done. Thank you to branch members and presenters **Elizabeth Siegelman** and **Leslie Laing** for their hard work in this important area. For those who missed it, the program focused on Community Conferencing Centre

County's reentry work at the Centre County Correctional Facility (CCCF) and the recent grant they were awarded by PCCD (Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency) for their Women's Reentry Services Initiative. Leslie is also a member of the Pennsylvania Prison Society, which is the sole organization in the Commonwealth with legal authority to visit any prison or jail.

The issues around women who are incarcerated and current efforts to attend to those issues real. Program attendee Sally Kalin noted, "I was enlightened by *Women Behind Bars*. There were so many things I did not know. It underscored the blatant discrimination against women and others in the criminal justice system that begins even before people are convicted (and some are not). Denying women basic needs like menstrual products is inhumane."

View one hour program: <http://bit.ly/3MB8sVy> More: [Community Conferencing](#)



## ¡ADELANTE! Book Club to meet Thursday, June 22

Our book club is modeled after the AAUW Diversity Outreach for Impact Program, featuring diverse cultures in both fiction and nonfiction offerings. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30 pm**. The group will discuss *The Violin Conspiracy: A Novel* by Brendan Slocumb. It is the story of a Black classical musician on the rise—undeterred by the pressure and prejudice of the classical music world.

To participate with the group, contact [info@auwstatecollege.org](mailto:info@auwstatecollege.org). We warmly welcome new members. **Join Meeting:** [June 22 Adelante Meeting](#)



## May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. Learn more about its history: [Asian/American Heritage Month](#). Meet an Asian American you may not have heard about: **Yuri Kochiyama** (May 19, 1921 – June 1, 2014). She was a tireless political activist who dedicated her life to contributing to social change through her participation in social justice and human rights movements. **Learn more:** [Yuri Kochiyama](#)

--Naana Nti, AAUW State College Diversity Chair

## July 28-29 AAUW Pennsylvania retreat registration due June 25



The annual summer AAUW-Pennsylvania summer retreat is just around the corner. Plan to join us for this engaging and inspiring gathering!

**AAUW State College will pay the \$50 registration cost which also includes meals for any branch member who wants to attend the retreat.** If they elect to attend the Friday evening events, conference-goers will be responsible for securing and covering the cost of their hotel rooms. A group rate is available for Friday night for a limited number of rooms so call early. (Information is provided in the link below.)

The retreat begins on Friday, July 28 with an optional Gettysburg tour and social event Friday evening. On Saturday, Keynote Speaker Pennsylvania State Representative [Donna Bullock](#), chair of the Pennsylvania Black Caucus, will speak on pay equity.

There will be several break-out sessions, including two by AAUW State College members. **Michele Crowl** and **Candace Davison** will offer a session on STEM, and **Naana Nti** and **Sophie Penney Leach** will offer a session on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Attendees may attend both Friday evening and Saturday or Saturday only. Complete conference and registration information is available at [AAUW Pennsylvania](#).

**The deadline to register for the retreat is Sunday, June 25.**

## Thank you, Centre Markets



Recently, Centre Markets offered to help us spread the word about the Used Book Sale to their clients by sharing sale bookmarks with them just ahead of the sale. Centre Markets is an independent, woman-owned online farmer's market featuring about 40 local farmers (mostly women).

Centre Markets is passionate about supporting new and minority-owned businesses. They offer premium locally grown vegetables, fruits, dairy, baked goods, cut flowers, and more. Orders placed on Fridays are ready for pick-up on Saturday afternoon at their facility behind Nature's Pantry on 2331 Commercial Blvd. **More:** [Centre Markets](#)

## Volunteer at the Branch-staffed Arts Fest Information Booth



Central Pennsylvania  
Festival of the Arts™

AAUW State College will again staff the **July 12-16 Arts Fest information table** on the corner of College Avenue and Allen Street. Sign-up for a shift at the Used Book Sale Hospitality Table or at the June 1 banquet. Thank you to [Jackie Esposito](#) for coordinating this initiative.

## AAUW State College membership updates



AAUW State College Branch members whose dues expired at the end of March or will expire at the end of April, May, June or July are scheduled to receive a "reminder to pay dues" email from the national AAUW office during the week of April 24. [Existing 50-year Honorary Life members will **not** receive this reminder.] As noted in an earlier

newsletter article, national dues for fiscal year 2024 will increase to \$72, *of which \$69 is tax deductible*. AAUW national life membership is \$1,440 and is fully tax deductible.

It is anticipated that AAUW-PA dues will increase from \$10 to \$12 effective July 1, 2023. Branch dues will remain at \$8. So going forward, **most AAUW-State College Branch members will pay \$92 in annual dues, \$90 if they make payment prior to July 1**. For existing members who wish to self-renew online through the Community Hub, instructions will be provided in the email as to the process. For members who prefer to pay dues by check, please make that check payable to AAUW-State College Branch, Inc. and send it to Membership Renewal, AAUW-State College Branch, P.O. Box 735, State College, PA 16804.

As many of you may recall, national AAUW introduced a Community Hub last year to give members the option of renewing membership online and using a credit card for dues payment. Unfortunately, the Community Hub's implementation was troubled; and we ultimately encouraged State College Branch members to pay dues by check mailed to our P.O. Box. Right now, we don't know if this year's online membership renewal process will proceed smoothly or not, so stay tuned.

National AAUW officially counts membership as of February 1 of each year. As of that date, the State College Branch had 144 members, which makes it the largest branch in Pennsylvania. Like many other membership organizations, our Branch membership numbers dropped during the pandemic, but it has rebounded for several reasons. At this year's Used Book Sale, we will again offer **to new members** half-price national, state, and local membership dues. **If you know someone who would like to become an AAUW-State College member, encourage them to attend the Used Book Sale and join at this special rate of \$45.** There will be a branch information table in the front lobby at the sale with membership applications.

In closing, here is another membership tidbit. AAUW State College was ranked #1 in Pennsylvania for donations to AAUW by a branch, #4 in Pennsylvania for donations by branch members to AAUW, and #3 overall. We are thrilled at the impact that our branch has!

*--Charlene Harrison, AAUW State College Membership Co-VP*



## April 27 CCCHS volunteer recognition for Vasundara Varadan

Twenty-seven member groups of CCCHS (Centre County Council for Human Services) gathered at the Penn Stater on April 27 for dinner and recognition of their outstanding volunteers of the year. AAUW State College honored **Vasundara Varadan**

for her excellent work as branch treasurer. Kudos, Vasu!

*Pictured: (seated): Sally Kalin, Vasundara Varadan, Connie Schroeder. (Standing): Leslie Laing, Liz Kopco, Amy Wilson, Chriss Schultz, Suzanne Kerlin, Nancy Weinreb, Nina Cowart, Naana Nti.*

# Have You Heard?

Congratulations, **Chobi DebRoy**, for being one of six AAUW artists selected in the annual AAUW art contest for her painting, *March for Women’s Rights*. It is one of the paintings featured on the complimentary note cards that AAUW sent recently along with renewal information.

Best Wishes to **Carolyn Donaldson**, who has started a new position as VP, Community Engagement & Relationship Development for Kish Bank, serving 15 locations in Centre and Juniata Counties.

Condolences to member **Jackie Esposito** on the loss of her daughter **Bridget Esposito** on April 9. Among many other things, Bridget was a longtime volunteer for the AAUW State College Used Book Sale (both behind the scenes and at the event) and worked each year at the Central Pennsylvania Arts Fest Information Booth staffed by AAUW State College. She and her smile will be sorely missed. More: [Bridget Esposito Obituary](#)

Congratulations to member **Salua Kamerow**, who recently passed the bar in Pennsylvania and virtually in 40 states (and D.C.). She is a new assistant District Attorney in Blair County.



## Join Clearwater Conservancy and AAUW State College Wednesday, June 14

We’ve been invited by Clearwater Conservancy to participate in a *Wellness Wednesday* program, which is part of their Centred



Outdoors program. Centred Outdoors helps engage and build an audience wanting to learn, explore and protect the local gems we have in our own backyards. Centred Outdoors connects people to nature while benefiting both!



AAUW will be a co-presenter for Centred Outdoors on **Wednesday, June 14, 6:00 – 8:00 pm** at Shavers Creek. A second presenter, Jennifer Tucker, will share information on **medicinal plants**. It will be held at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg. Sounds like fun – invite a friend, and plan to join us!



## 2023-2026 Branch Strategic Planning Update

In 2022, AAUW State College Board members were asked to assess the *2018-2021 Strategic Plan* to determine what had been accomplished and what still needed to be done. Cindy Hall, Linda Friend, and Sally Kalin pulled the feedback together. This information was shared with the Board, who were then asked to submit their ideas for the next strategic plan. Subsequently, the Board approved four themes for the new Strategic Plan: Organizational Stability and Sustainability; Contributions to Society and Community Engagement; Communications; and Used Book Sale and Fund-raising. In December 2022, four Strategic Planning Teams were appointed to address these themes.

The goals and objectives in the attached *2023-2026 Strategic Plan* were compiled from the reports of the Teams, e-mail exchanges, ideas solicited from Branch members, personal conversations, and the assessment of the *2018-2021 Strategic Plan*.

There is still work to be done, including setting priorities, assigning responsibilities for implementation, and crafting budgets to reflect our future directions.

We thank the AAUW State College members who served on the strategic planning teams: Mary Ann Blair, Kathy Burnham, Susan Chyczewski, Nina Cowart, Sherry Crassweller, Candace Davison, Rebekah Grmela, Charlene Harrison, Carol Hodes, Suzanne Kerlin, Liz Kopco, Leslie Laing, Dina Liberatore, Naana Nti, Connie Schroeder, Donna Trapp, Sue Werner, Connie Wheeler, and Amy Wilson. Your fresh ideas, recommendations, and your commitment are critical to charting our future. **Read:** [2023-2026 AAUW State College Strategic Plan](#)

*--Linda Friend and Sally Kalin, Co-Chairs, 2023-2026 Strategic Plan*

# Welcome

## Branch board meetings are open to all members

Behind the scenes: [April 3 board meeting actions](#)

All branch members are welcome to attend monthly board meetings, held **the first Monday of the month at noon**, unless otherwise indicated. The next board meeting will be held on **June 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon**. This meeting will be held both in-person at the College Twp. Building (Council Room upstairs), and via Zoom: [June 5 Board Meeting](#)



## 2023 Branch scholarship recipients

Branch scholarship recipients for 2023-2024 have been selected for board approval from applications received by the Scholarship Committee this spring. The committee is chaired by Leslie Laing and Maria Schmidt, and committee members include Mary Adams, Maryann Domitrovitz, Sophie Penney Leach, Suzanne Kerlin, Ann Mitra, and Taylor Stark.

Complete information on the 2023 scholarship recipients will be shared later this month – **ahead of the June 1 banquet where we look forward to meeting them when their scholarships are presented.**



## Branch honorees and new officers to be recognized at June 1 Celebration

Two final components of the June 1 Celebration are recognizing branch honorees and installing incoming officers. Our 2022-2023 year has been a busy one, with a lot of lasting memories. Plan to join us by clipping out the reservation slip on the next page and mailing in, today!

**2023 Branch Honorees:** Outstanding Women: **Sally Kalin** and **Connie Schroeder**; Member Making a Difference: **Mary Ann Blair**; Gateway to Equity Award: **Leslie Laing**; CCCHS Volunteer of the Year: **Vasundara Varadan**.

*--Suzanne Kerlin and Chriss Schultz, AAUW State College Awards Co-Chairs*

**Incoming and renewing officers:** Co-President Elects: **Grace Hampton** and **Liz Kopco**; Co-VPs Program: **Betsy Manlove** and **Claire Milner**; Membership: **Carline Crevecoeur** and **Sophie Penney Leach**; Secretary: **Nancy Weinreb**; Treasurer: **Vasundara Varadan**

*--Mary Dupuis, Nominating/Leadership Chair*

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## AAUW STATE COLLEGE JUNE 1 CELEBRATION RESERVATION

Complete and mail this form **with your \$30 check per person**, payable to “SCAUW, Inc.” (there is not a second “A”) to Christine Bishop, 205 First Avenue, State College, PA 16801.

**The reservation deadline for the event is Wednesday, May 24.**

NAME (Member): \_\_\_\_\_ NAME (Guest): \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Contact Christine Bishop, [cbishop@ccysb.com](mailto:cbishop@ccysb.com), (814) 441-3571.

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### ***Branch Bulletin*** deadline and publication date

Items for inclusion in the next issue should be sent to *Branch Bulletin* Editor [Connie Schroeder](#) by **Monday, May 29**. The Bulletin will be issued **June 5**. Bulletins are also available at [AAUW State College](#).