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**Branch Potluck Look-back**

A good time was had by all at the September 21 branch gathering of about 25 members at Tudek Park. It was a great time to catch up with current members and to meet some new members. Thank you to Program Co-VPs Nina Cowart and Betsy Manlove for organizing the event.



*It was fun to watch fresh arrivals with their potluck offerings. Nancy Chiswick, Sue Johnston, Nancy Weinreb, and Jane Stanton just knew they were at the right place.*



*Members Leslie Laing, Susan Chyczewski, Laurel Zydney, and Carline Crevecoeur (members of the Clean Plate Club) had a lot to talk about, including several October events – see the following pages for more information.*

# Save the Dates



Details of events will be added as they become available. **Membership events will mostly run from 6-8:30 pm.**

The deadline to RSVP to events is one week prior to the event. Mark your calendar for the following events.

## Fall 2023 AAUW State College Branch Co/Sponsored Events

- October 3** AAUW-PA webinar – *Censorship in Our Schools* – details p. 2
- October 11 (MP)** Game Night: Carline Crevecoeur’s residence – details p. 3
- October 18** CEW lunch (co-sponsored with CDG) – details p. 4
- October 19** *jAdelante!* (virtual book club) - details p. 4
- November 3-5** Branch shopping event with Ten Thousand Villages – details p. 7
- November 8 (MP)** *Read Between the Wines* (book club): *The Personal Librarian* – Susan Chyczewski’s residence, details TBD
- December 6 (MP)** Painting Party: TBD

Programs designated “MP” mean members are welcome to invite a “Plus One.”

**Program Note:** The Program Committee was planning a program on Civics Education to be held this month in advance of the November election. It has been postponed due to planning issues. It will be rescheduled prior to the 2024 election. To help with this program contact [Nina Cowart](#) or [Betsy Manlove](#).



## AAUW Pennsylvania webinar - *Censorship in the Schools: What Can You Do?* October 3

Join AAUW members and our partner organizations, the League of Women Voters PA, Education Voters PA, the Education Law Center, LWV Bucks County, for a discussion on censorship in PA schools and actions you can take in your community. This important webinar is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 3, 7-8 pm**. The panelists will reflect on how school boards are increasingly using their power to impose their personal values on school curriculum, censoring library books and restricting classroom teaching. School board candidates will be on the ballot on November 7.

This webinar will help us to make informed choices when we vote. The panel will be moderated by Susan Boser, Social Policy Director at LWVPA. **Register to Attend: [October 3 webinar: Censorship in the Schools](#). If you are unable to attend the October 3 webinar but register for it, you will be sent the link to view it later.**



## Join our Ladies' Game Night Extravaganza, October 11

Roll the dice, strategize, and have an absolute blast at our unforgettable evening at the **Ladies' Game Night Extravaganza**, where you will find laughter, camaraderie, friendly competition, and the mystery of Tarot Card reading. It will be held on **October 11, 6-9 pm** at Carline Crevecoeur's residence, 120 Aspen Drive, Boalsburg.

**Game Variety:** From Dominoes to Codenames, Exploding Kittens, and more, our games will have something for everyone.

**Inclusivity and Fun:** No matter your gaming experience, from seasoned strategist to beginner, we welcome all skill levels.

**Connect and Play:** The power of play brings people together as we forge new connections and make lasting memories.

**Tarot Card reading:** Delve into the mystical world of tarot with personalized readings to explore the path that lies ahead, with [Jumeau Tarot](#).

**Refreshments and atmosphere:** Delight your taste buds with delectable snacks and refreshments as you soak in the lively and welcoming atmosphere.

**RSVP Now!** Do not miss out on this evening. **RSVP to [Carline Crevecoeur](#) by Wednesday, October 4.**

**Let's play, connect, and celebrate the joy of gaming and divination!**



## United Nations Association Centre County invites AAUW State College to United Nations Day program on October 12

The Centre County Chapter of the United Nations invites AAUW State College members to join in the United Nations Day event, to be held on **October 12 from 6-8 pm at Foxdale Auditorium**, 500 East Marylyn

Avenue, State College. The Penn State Humphrey Fellows will discuss the impact of the United Nations in their countries. This event is free to the public and light refreshments will be served. Parking is available on and around the Foxdale campus. Learn more about UNA Centre County: [UNA Centre County](#)

AAUW has a deep interest in women's issues locally, nationally, and internationally. AAUW is one of more than 2,500 NGOs (non-governmental organizations) who consult with various UN bodies. **Learn more:** [AAUW Global Connections](#)

**Share flyer:** [October 12 UN Day flyer](#)



## Cultural Empowerment for Women Luncheon Series Wednesday, October 18, 11:30 am – 2 pm

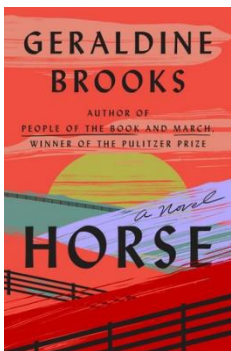
### *A Conversation with Diverse Women of Influence*

Co-sponsored by the Community Diversity Group and AAUW State College, this lunch and panel discussion will be held at the Penn State Hotel & Conference Center. The panel features a diverse group of local women who have made an impact on our community. They will share their rich experiences with attendees and inspire attendees to do the same.

**Panelists:** Carolyn Donaldson (Moderator) VP, Community Engagement & Relationship Development Officer, Kish Bank; **Vicki Fong**, Communications strategist and nonprofit leader; **Dr. Melissa Landrau-Vega**, Director, Multicultural Resource Center, Office of Educational Equity; **JaNae Wian**, Campaign/Relationship Manager, Centre County United Way.

Registration is \$15 by mail and \$18 online or at the door. All reservations are due by October 11, 2023. **Register:** <https://tinyurl.com/29ytxufh> **Questions?** [Naana Nti](#)

**Share flyer:** [October 18 CEW Lunch flyer](#)



## *¡Adelante!* Book Club to meet Thursday, October 19

Our book club is modeled after the AAUW Diversity Outreach for Impact Program, featuring diverse cultures in both fiction and nonfiction books.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, October 19 at 2:30 pm**. The group will discuss *Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks. To participate with the group, please contact [info@aauwstatecollege.org](mailto:info@aauwstatecollege.org). New members are welcome!

**Join Zoom:** [October 19 Adelante Meeting](#)

## Ethnic Festivals:

- **Happy Valley Latin Festival** will be held **Saturday, October 7, 11 am-5 pm** at the Martin Luther King Plaza, 127 South Fraser Street, State College. Live entertainment! There is something on Friday evening as well.
- **Hispanic Heritage Month 2023**, runs through **October 15**. Learn more at [Hispanic Heritage Month](#).
- **Indigenous People's Day, Monday, October 9**. Learn more at [Indigenous People's Day](#)

--Naana Nti, AAUW State College Diversity Chair

**A TOWN & GOWN CONVERSATION ON  
INTERSECTIONALITY:**  
Race, Gender, and Economic Justice

**Join a Town & Gown  
Conversation on  
Intersectionality  
October 24 and 25**

This event is sponsored by the Borough of State College and Community Conferencing. It is intended to bring the community together to learn, ask questions, and brainstorm action/change on topics pertinent to the State College community.

**Panelists:** **Nusaibah Nubah**, State High Borough Council Representative; **Chief John Gardner**, State College Police Department; **Lieutenant Kelly Aston**, State College Police Department; **Chief Jason Zajac**, Penn State Police Department; **Sue Marshall**, LGBT+ Support Network.

**Panel discussion: Tuesday, Oct 24, 6-8 pm** at the **Steimer Auditorium inside the Forest Resource Building**, (located behind East Parking Deck and close to the Creamery on Penn State's Campus). East Deck Address: 1965 Bigler Road.

**Breakout Session: Wednesday, Oct 25, 5-7 pm**, State College Borough Building, Room 201, 243 S. Allen Street, State College.

**Take Survey in Advance:** [October 2023 Community Conversation survey](#)

**Questions?** Contact [Elizabeth Siegelman](#)



**League of Women Voters Centre County & local media  
to provide candidate info for November 7 election**

Thanks go to the League of Women Voters Centre County for providing information about candidate interviews for the November 7 election. Local media groups, *C-Net*, the *Centre Daily Times*, and the *Centre County Gazette*, are working in partnership with LWV to make this possible.

C-Net will do individual candidate interviews and make them available for viewing on the LWVCC website, [League of Women Voters Centre County](#). C-Net will also provide live coverage and will rebroadcast several times prior to the election. **Details:** [C-Net](#)

LWVCC hosts Candidates' Night and produces the Voter's Guide. All candidates from areas meeting population standards have been invited to participate in the Voter's Guide; however, only candidates in contested races are invited to participate in Candidates' Night.

**Be ready for the November election:**

- **October 15** – Voter's Guide will be in *Centre Daily Times* (both print and digital issues)
- **October 17** – Send questions for candidates to [LWVCC](#) website or email [LWVCC email](#)

- **October 19** – First in a series, voter’s Guide will be in the *Centre County Gazette*.
- **October 21** – Visit link to Candidate Interviews at [LWVCC](#) or [C-Net](#)
- **October 24** – (C-Net) Candidates’ Night for all officers EXCEPT school board directors.
- **October 26** – (C-Net) Candidates’ Night for school board directors only.

Questions will also be accepted from live audiences on October 24 and 26.

**The League of Women Voters Centre County has also shared their fall deadlines flyer, voter registration form, and mail-in application, all accessible via [LWVCC Election Info](#).**

The September issue of the [AAUW State College Branch Bulletin](#) included a detailed **Election Guide** (pp. 7-14) and other articles to use while preparing to vote in the fall election. This piece, along with the efforts of the League of Women Voters described above, will adequately prepare readers to make an informed decision. More updates will be shared later this month, as they become available.

## Education Committee updates



The Education Committee is following the upcoming school board election. We are concerned about people being elected that have priorities that are not aligned with the mission of AAUW. Be sure to check the above schedule of important dates this month, and encourage friends and family to vote.

We are also following the *Level Up* Funding activity. Presently, a bi-partisan Basic Education Funding Commission is holding listening sessions around Pennsylvania. Learn more [here](#).

To follow is the key public policy priorities of AAUW-PA which align with those of AAUW.

### **To support a quality system of public education, AAUW Pennsylvania advocates:**

- Opposition to the diversion of public funds to non-public elementary and secondary education, charter, and cyber charter schools
- Support for a fair and adequately funded system of public education
- Strengthening secondary and post-secondary programs that provide women with education, vocational training, and support for success in the workforce, including non-traditional occupations
- Policies promoting inclusion, diversity, equity, and justice in our schools

The education priorities of AAUW State College are listed on page 15 of the 2022-2023 *Handbook/Directory*.

--Sue Johnston, Branch Education Chair

## Fair Districts PA update on the *Fix Harrisburg* campaign



Fair Districts is continuing with the *Fix Harrisburg* campaign. The main priority is to establish mechanisms to obtain bi-partisan votes. Presently the Pennsylvania legislature is one of the least effective, and most expensive full-time legislatures, in the country. Only about 7% of the bills introduced make it to a final vote.

Go to [Fix Harrisburg](#) and sign the petition if you have not done so already. Communication with your legislators on policy matters is always good. Watch for more information on additional campaigns.

--Sue Johnston, AAUW State College liaison to Fair Districts PA



### AAUW State College event: November 3-5 Calling all volunteers and shoppers!

Our AAUW State College Community Shopping Event with Ten Thousand Villages is scheduled for **November 3-5**. It's perfectly timed with shopping for holiday gift giving, especially for gifts that need to be mailed. Take advantage of it, and be sure to let the cashier at the store know that you are making your purchase on behalf of AAUW State College. A percentage of proceeds will be directed back to AAUW State College. Last year's event generated \$679 for the branch.

Branch coordinator for the event [Deb Smith](#) reports that she has several openings to staff our AAUW table in the store during the event. Volunteers are needed **Friday, November 3 and Saturday, November 4 from 11 am - 6 pm** and **Sunday, November 5 from 12 - 4 pm**. Table staffing is fun and easy. We talk with customers, share information about AAUW, and encourage shoppers to mention AAUW when they make their purchases.

Thank you to our friends at Ten Thousand Villages for making this event possible! Learn more about them at [Ten Thousand Villages State College](#).



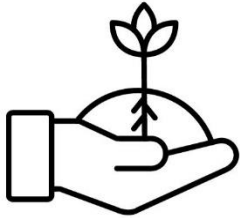
### Memorial Gift from Patricia Machon family

*Editor: We received the following note and gift and were very touched by the sentiments. We will report next month on how the gift will be used.*

My mother, Patricia Machon, was an avid reader and annually purchased hundreds of books from the AAUW State College Used Book Sale. Last year

she was unable to walk, but still attended the sale, riding on a scooter. She was also a supporter of women's causes and believed in your mission. In honor of my mother, please accept this gift of \$500. Thank you for the incredible work you do!

--Patricia Thorwart, State College



## AAUW offers Planned Giving workshop October 16

AAUW National is offering a virtual workshop on planned giving, led by two financial planning experts and members of AAUW's National Legacy Circle Team. **It will run 3-4 pm.** Questions? Visit [AAUW Planned Giving](#). **Register for workshop [here](#).**



## Branch Centennial Speaker: Lisa Salters, March 29, 2024

[Lisa Salters](#), ESPN sports broadcaster, will be the AAUW State College Centennial Speaker at the 2024 Penn State Forum on Friday, March 29. A Penn State alumna, Salters has broken glass ceilings both as a woman and as a woman of color in a mostly male-dominated field. We have purchased three tables for the event. **Buy your ticket now: [March 29 Forum](#)**



## Branch Book-Bees tie for first place

Mid-State Literacy Council's *Ron and Mary Maxwell Community Spelling Bee* took place on September 27. The AAUW State College team, *The Book-Bees* (left), included **Martha and Morgen Hummel (the third team member, Vasundara Varadan, had to cancel)**. After a crazy but fun-filled evening of spelling, *The Book-Bees* tied for FIRST PLACE in the tenth round (the longest Bee ever) with the *Better Than AutoCorrect* team by correctly spelling P-H-Y-S-I-O-G-N-O-M-I-S-T, which is a person supposedly able to judge character from facial characteristics. (We saw smiles all around and they were authentic.)

The cheer squad included Talat Azhar, Sally Kalin, Suzy Lutz, Connie Schroeder, and Jane Stanton. Special thanks to Book-Bee team sponsors Blake and Linda Gall and all the team sponsors. Your dollars are well-spent in helping to provide literacy services in our community. Learn about the [Community Action Grants](#) that AAUW State College awarded this year, including one to Mid-State Literacy Council.



# Welcome

## New Members

### **Maria (Malu) Luisa Tejada de Rivero Sawers**

[mltejadasawers@gmail.com](mailto:mltejadasawers@gmail.com)

My name is Maria Luisa Tejada de Rivero, but everyone calls me

Malu! I was born and raised in Geneva, Switzerland to a Peruvian father and a Belgian mother. I received my MD from the University of Geneva and trained as an obstetrician and gynecologist.



In 2010, I followed my Scottish husband's passion for corn – he's a plant scientist – all the way to Guanajuato, Mexico where we lived for 10 years. That same year, our life was brutally upended following the unexplained stillbirth, at term, of our second son, Pablo. I share my professional and personal experience to support sexual and reproductive rights: I am a fierce advocate for equity and dignity in maternal health, postpartum bereavement care, stillbirth prevention education and awareness.

In 2018, I received my Master of Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. I currently work at Penn State as an Extension educator on adult immunization, cancer prevention, mental health, and vector-borne diseases.

In 2020, we decided to get the dog my third son had been begging for since he was born: Fiona - a beagle - is the fur daughter we never knew we needed! Just like Fiona, I love people, food and lying on the couch with a book!

### **Lydia Vandenberg - [lbvanden@gmail.com](mailto:lbvanden@gmail.com)**



My husband and I moved to State College for a second time in 1998 after having lived in Baltimore, Maryland and Pasadena, California. We are both native to North Carolina. In the early years, I worked for the University's Physical Plant in their communications department and then transitioned to focus on educating staff about sustainability issues for Penn State's Sustainability Institute. Recently, we launched a Sustainable Labs program, which is now attracting national recognition. Nice to end that career phase on a high note.

In late August, I retired, and am now ready to spend more time outdoors hiking and biking, read all those books that have been piling up from AAUW sales, work on house projects, and spend time traveling to see our two children, their spouses, and three grandchildren while considering my next major focus.



## Stop by the Used Book Workshop

Have some books to deliver to our Used Book Workshop or are you interested in volunteering there? The workshop is located off 2197 High Tech Road close to University Park Airport. The workshop is open **Mondays, 6-8 pm and Tuesdays/Wednesdays, 9 am – 2:30 pm**. Books may be donated 24/7 in the outdoor bins.

## Membership Matters

Your AAUW membership is more important and valuable than ever. The easiest way to renew your membership is online: [AAUW membership renewal](#). You will receive a

notice when your annual membership is due. Branch membership is \$92 for one-year, with \$69 being tax deductible. If you need to pay by check, make it payable to AAUW State College Branch, Inc. and mail to AAUW State College Branch c/o Membership Renewal, P.O. Box 735, State College, PA 16804. Please direct membership renewal questions to Membership Co-VP [Carline Crevecoeur](#). Your membership makes a difference, thank you.

Want to become more engaged in the branch? Check out our [Engagement Opportunities](#).

–Carline Crevecoeur and Susan Chyczewski, Membership Co-VPs



## Branch leadership team & board meeting invite

Want to connect with any of the branch leaders? They would love to hear from you: [2023-2025 AAUW State College Leadership Team](#). The branch’s Board of Directors met on September 11. For a summary of that meeting see [9-2023 Board Meeting notes](#).

All branch members are welcome to attend monthly board meetings, held the **second Monday of each month** in the College Township Council Room (2nd floor) from 11:45 am – 12:45 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, October 9**. Members are welcome to attend board meetings via Zoom. Click *here* for link to the [October 9 Board Meeting](#). We are working to improve the audio for remote attendees, please be patient.

## Branch Bulletin Dates

The next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **Monday, November 6**. The submission deadline is **Monday, October 30**. Send items to *Branch Bulletin* editor [Connie Schroeder](#). The bulletin is also accessible on the branch website: [AAUW State College](#) under News.

Branch  
Bulletin