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**Branch Holiday Party/Membership Mixer
Tuesday, December 12**

**Let's Be
Festive
Together**

Date: Tuesday,
December 12

Time: 4:30-6:30 pm

Location:
University Wine
Company

Address:
540 Misty Hill Drive
State College

RSVP:
crevey@msn.com
by December 6

**Holiday
Party**



*Join us for
an evening
filled with food,
drinks, laughter,
and great
company!*

*Festive attire,
ugly sweaters
encouraged.*




[University Wine Company](http://www.universitywinecompany.com) is located at 540 Misty Hill Drive off Rte. 45 between Atherton Street and Pine Grove Mills. From the intersection of South Atherton and Rte. 45, travel 1.4 miles to Misty Hill Drive and turn left. Winery is the first left up Misty Hill Drive.

RSVP to crevey@msn.com by Wednesday, December 6, please!

Branch-led Humphrey Fellows program to run January 25



AAUW State College will host its annual *International Perspectives on Women in Society* program, featuring the Penn State Humphrey Fellows on **Thursday, January 25, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm** at the Graduate State College (formerly The Atherton Hotel), 125 South Atherton Street, SC.

This annual event features a panel discussion with two of the current year's Humphrey Fellows. Thank you to branch member **Charlene Harrison** for very capably serving as panel moderator since the inception of this program over a decade ago. This year, **Carolyn Donaldson** will serve as moderator, and the panelists include Dr. Odgerel Batsaikhan, Vice Director of Otgontenger University in Mongolia, and **Ninoska Leiva**, Professor, University of Chile and the University of Santiago de Chile.

To attend, please send a check for \$24 payable to "AAUW State College" c/o Christine Bishop, 205 First Avenue, State College, Pa. 16801. Late payments will be accepted at the door, but **advance reservations are required by Thursday, January 18**. Questions? Contact [Christine Bishop](#), (814) 441-3571.

Invite to International Holiday Potluck, December 7



You are invited to the Community Diversity Group's annual *International Holiday Potluck* on **Thursday, December 7, 6-8 pm**, at South Hills School of Business and Technology, 480 Waupelani Drive, State College. The event is free and open to the public. Please bring a cultural holiday dish to share.

Register: [December 7 CDG Potluck](#)

Join us for the National Day of Racial Healing, January 16



January 16, 2024, marks the eighth annual National Day of Racial Healing, where groups across the country explore their common humanity and build the relationships necessary to create a more just and equitable world. The first of two events offered locally will take place the day after Martin Luther King Day:

Title: *Conversations to Identify Barriers to Racial Healing*

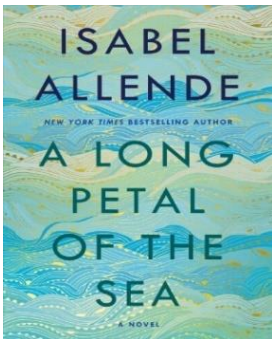
Date/Time: Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 11:30 am-1:30 pm (lunch provided)

Location: State College Municipal Building, Room 201 (Community Room)

Register to attend: [January 16 event registration](#)

A second event will occur in February; date to be announced in the January *Branch Bulletin*. The National Day of Racial Healing events are co-sponsored by AAUW State College, Borough of State College, Community Diversity Group, and the Racial Equity Advisory Commission.

¡Adelante! Book Club to meet Thursday, January 18



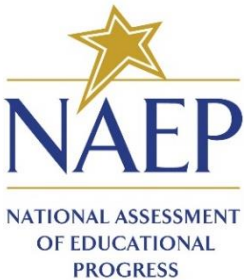
Our book club is modeled after the AAUW Diversity Outreach for Impact Program, featuring diverse cultures in both fiction and nonfiction books.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, January 18, at 2:30 pm**. We will discuss ***A Long Petal of the Sea*** by Isabel Allende. The book follows a pregnant young widow whose life becomes intertwined with an army doctor who is her deceased love's brother. In order to survive, the two must unite in a marriage neither of them desires.

To participate with the group, please contact info@aauwstatecollege.org. We warmly welcome new members. **Join Zoom:** [January 18 Adelante Meet-up](#)

--Naana Nti, AAUW State College Diversity Chair

Pennsylvania ranks near the bottom in national study of charter school performance



shared by Mary Dupuis and Dianne Gregg, Branch Public Policy Co-Chairs

By Peter Hall, *Pennsylvania Capital-Star*, November 17, 2023

A decade's worth of testing data ranks Pennsylvania among the states with the lowest charter school performance.

In a study of students' scores in reading and math, a first-ever state ranking of charter school students' performance was done by the

National Assessment of Educational Progress, [Ranking Charter School Student Performance](#). Researchers compared charter school performance in 35 states and Washington, D.C. Alaska had the highest scores compared to the average, followed by Colorado, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York.

Pennsylvania ranked 31st, followed by Oregon, Michigan, Tennessee, and Hawaii. The commonwealth was also among the states with the largest gap between white and Black charter school students' scores, with the seventh-largest gap. The study found Pennsylvania had the second-largest performance gap between white and Hispanic students' scores, ranking above only Washington, D.C.

The authors said they hope the rankings will spur charter school improvement and contribute to debate over whether charter schools should be subject to close regulation or “allow many and diverse flowers to bloom,” whether charters should be independent or incorporated into networks and whether for-profit charter schools should be permitted. Noting trends in the data, they also found that students in southern states tended to perform above average while students in Rust Belt states ranked in the middle or below average.

They also found that the style of governance tended to correlate with performance. Students in charter school networks scored higher than independent charter school students, while students in schools run by for-profit organizations scored lower. And students in charter schools authorized by state education agencies had higher scores than those at charter schools authorized by local school districts, non-educational organizations, and universities.

Full story: [Pennsylvania Charter School Ranking](#)

Provide feedback to the Basic Education Funding Commission



Fair and equitable funding for all Pennsylvania school districts was mandated by the Commonwealth Court of PA but has not been implemented yet. The Education Committee is encouraging all AAUW members to help by contacting Governor Shapiro. He was instrumental in the lawsuit as Attorney General, and now he has the power to push for a fair funding formula. The Basic Education Funding Commission will issue a report on their findings and recommendations from the listening tour on **January 11, 2024**.

Be sure to read the update on basic education funding from Education Voters PA and contact the governor: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/contact/>. Please contact your state legislators about fair funding and let them know your views.

--Sue Johnston, AAUW State College Education Chair

Update from Education Voters PA on November 14

rally for education funding



EDUCATION VOTERS
of Pennsylvania

On Tuesday, November 14, more than 250 Pennsylvanians rallied on the Capitol steps in Harrisburg in support of a state funding system that will ensure ALL children have access to the comprehensive, effective, contemporary public education they are guaranteed by the PA constitution.

Advocates came from dozens of school districts, small and large; rich and poor; rural, urban, and suburban. More than 125 students attended from districts including Woodland Hills, McKeesport, Clairton City, and Chester-Upland. Individuals came and organizations brought their members. Everyone had the same message for Governor Shapiro

and state lawmakers: Our children cannot afford for Harrisburg to continue to fail Pennsylvania's public-school students.

We had giant report cards from the PA Schools Work campaign and called on the Basic Education Funding Commission to issue a report that includes a plan with the total cost to meet the constitutional standard and a concrete timeline to implement this plan. We will be grading them on how well their report meets these standards after it is issued on January 11, 2024.

We are so proud of the role that Ed Voters plays in this beautiful, inclusive, and growing movement to fund public education. Every day we work to contribute to building a space where students, families, and educators can show up authentically to advocate for the quality public schools that ALL children deserve. We have our work cut out for us. It will require a lot of effort to hold our elected officials accountable. But students across PA deserve an education that accepts them, empowers them, and equips them for life. Working together, we will make that a reality.

Learn here about the power of [Governor Shapiro](#) in shaping the Basic Education Funding Commission report. Thank you for your continued support of public education.

--Susan Spicka and Sandra Miller, Education Voters of PA

Fair Districts PA supports constitutional amendment for redistricting



Fair Districts is in support of a Constitutional Amendment to create an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

The solution is to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to create an independent citizen's redistricting commission. By any measure, Pennsylvania has been one of the most gerrymandered states in the country. We have ALL been harmed by lack of choice at the polls and an unresponsive, unaccountable legislature.



Until we fix this structural flaw in our electoral process, our legislators will continue to pay more attention to outside interests than to the people of Pennsylvania. Sign the petition now – [Petition for Redistricting Commission](#) - to ask your legislators to support an independent citizen's redistricting commission. Then share it with your family, friends,

and networks. Learn more at FairDistrictsPA.com

--Sue Johnston, liaison to Fair Districts PA - Centre

Branch award submissions due January 15



Recognizing our Members - We need YOU to help us recognize our branch's hard-working volunteers by looking around at who you see actively supporting the branch and submitting a nomination(s) for the awards described below. Nominations should include a brief paragraph on how the person, group, or organization meets the award criteria.

To learn more about the history of the following awards, visit [AAUW State College Past Award Recipients](#). Nominations should be sent to [Chriss Schultz](#) and [Suzanne Kerlin](#), Awards Committee Co-Chairs, no later than **January 15, 2024**. Awardees will be recognized at the Branch Award & Scholarship banquet next spring.

Outstanding Woman Award - The Outstanding Woman Award recipient is a branch member who has given meritorious service to the branch and to the community over multiple years. Awardees for the past five years include Carol Hodes (2019); Mary Dupuis (2020); Cindy Hall and Sally Kalin (2021); Naana Nti (2022); Sally Kalin and Connie Schroeder (2022).

Making a Difference Award - This award honors a member who made a big difference in something important to AAUW State College within the past year. The recipient exemplifies the spirit of AAUW and need not be a branch officer or committee chair. Recent recipients include Star Campbell (2019); Ann Echols (2020); Dina Liberatore (2021); Estelle Stroup Call (2022); Mary Ann Blair (2023).

Gateway to Equity Award - The Gateway to Equity Award honors an individual, group, or organization that by action and philosophy has promoted AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, or research. Past recipients include Interfaith Human Services (2019); Fair Districts PA Centre County (2020); Carol Eicher and the Community Diversity Group (2021); Ten Thousand Villages State College (2022); Leslie Laing (2023).

Centre County Council for Human Services - The CCCHS Award honors an individual who has devoted outstanding volunteer service to an organization. The recipient will be recognized at the April CCCHS Volunteer of the Year dinner. Past recipients include Angie Hay (2019); Suzanne Kerlin and Sherry Crassweller (2020); Ann Echols (2021); Jordan Glover (2022); Vasundara Varadan (2023).

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



Help us reach "your people."

Are you a member of other community groups who may be interested in learning more about AAUW State College? We'd love to share information about our programs and extend an invite to our May book sale. To talk over options, contact branch Marketing & Communications VP [Connie Schroeder](#).



Above: Ron Beyer, State College Sunrise Rotary President, with AAUW State College members and Co-VPs Susan Chyczewski and Carline Crevecoeur.

AAUW State College visits Sunrise Rotary

November 8 was a special day for AAUW State College. Courtesy of AAUW State College member Sophie Penney, who is also a member of Sunrise Rotary, we were invited to speak to their group.

We shared our new branch slide show, which focuses on our 2023 activities as well as highlights of our 107-year history. Several rotary members expressed an interest in our group, and plan to volunteer at the May book sale.



Above: Ten Thousand Villages employees Jenn Miller and Susan Batcheler are also members of AAUW State College.
Right: Amy Wilson and Sally Kalin reconnect after shopping.

AAUW State College – Ten Thousand Villages event look-back



Thank you to our friends at Ten Thousand Villages for making our November 3-5 Community Shopping Event possible. The event generated **\$469** in earnings for the branch. Members staffed an AAUW table over the four days, shopped, and encouraged friends and family to shop there as well. Learn more about the important work [Ten Thousand Villages State College](#) does to help artisans globally.

November 9 *Read Between the Wines* group gathers



Above: Carline Crevecoeur, Susan Chyczewski, Sally Kalin, and Laurel Zydney took a moment after the gathering.

The new branch book group, *Read Between the Wines*, met November 9 at the home of Susan Chyczewski to discuss *The Personal Librarian*. Ten women attended and embarked on a lively book discussion and other interesting topics.

We now seek a branch member to host the next *Read Between the Wines* discussion. An early evening weeknight is best. If interested in hosting, contact [Susan](#) or [Carline](#).

Book workshop closed over holidays



Above: The Monday night workshop crew work hard and have fun, all at the same time!

The Used Book Workshop will be **closed the week of December 24 and will reopen January 2**. Book donations may still be made, 24/7, using the outdoor blue book bins.

Regular hours for volunteering at the Used Book Workshop, located off 2197 High Tech Road near the airport, are **Monday night 6-8 pm and Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9 am-2:30 pm**.

Seeking a book sale volunteer scheduler

**vol·un·teer
needed**

We are looking for someone to schedule volunteers for the 2024 sale. The position entails emailing previous volunteers and identifying new volunteers to help for **Move-in Night on May 9 and the 4-day sale, May 11-14**. There are lots of resources from past sales to follow, and this is a great way to participate in the sale. All work is done on the computer, so a good computer internet connection is a must. If you are interested in helping as Book Sale Volunteer Scheduler, email co-chairs [Donna Trapp](#) or [Mary Ann Blair](#).

UNA-Centre County invite to December 9 event



On **Saturday, December 9**, the UNA (United Nations Association) of Centre County will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The event will be held at **3 Dots Downtown, 137 East College Avenue, from 3:00-5:00 pm**, and features live music and refreshments. To learn more about the UN and Human Rights visit [UNA-CC Human Rights](#).

With AAUW's deep interest in women's issues locally, nationally, and even internationally, AAUW State College is a member of the United Nations Association Centre County Council of Organizations.



Sending a card or note shows that we care

Best wishes to **Susan Chyczewski** – elected as an incoming Patton Township Supervisor in the November primary election.

Get well wishes to **Charlene Harrison**, as she continues to recover at home from a stroke suffered last summer. She improves every day!

Condolences to the family of **Lenore Horner**, who died November 14, 2023, in Sarasota, Florida. Lenore made her home in Florida part-time and was a 50-year member of AAUW.

Congratulations to **Liz Kopco** on her new position with Eli Lilly as creative services writer and manager. Thankfully, Liz will be able to do this job remotely, which means that she will still be a part of our "neighborhood!"

Get Well wishes to **Shirley Sacks**, who broke her arm in a fall at her home on November 20. Branch member **Rebecca Mugridge** came to her aid by bringing her to the emergency room.

Special thoughts to **Louise Tukey**, who is currently staying at Juniper Village, Second Floor, 1930 Cliffside Drive, State College 16801.

Membership renewals & member engagement



Quick links to get you where you need to be:

- [Online membership renewal through AAUW National](#)
- [Paper membership form to mail with check](#)
- [Member engagement opportunities](#)
- Questions? Contact [Carline](#) or [Susan](#)

-- Susan Chyczewski and Carline Crevecoeur, Membership Co-VPs

Welcome

New Members

Linda Billingsley

ljbillingsley098@gmail.com

I retired from teaching in June 2022 and moved with my husband to Centre Hall. As Penn State graduates, we dreamed of

moving back to the area. This year has been one of discovering all that the region has to offer.



I graduated from Penn State in 1980 with a degree in Education of the Deaf. Over the years, I received an MBA from St. Bonaventure University and an Elementary Certification from Edinboro State University. My career over the last 40+ years included deaf education, retail management, and college administration, before returning to education. Over the last 20 years I taught 4th graders in Meadville, Pennsylvania.

I discovered AAUW State College at the annual book sale. While selecting several bags of books, I took a flyer about AAUW. I was drawn to the mission of supporting women and girls in their pursuit of education. I look forward to helping in this endeavor.

Judy Harnadek - jahdms@optonline.net

Hello, everyone. It is a privilege to join this group of empowered and accomplished women. An organization such as AAUW, promoting women and education, is an important network in today's society. I look forward to meeting members and contributing where I can.

I am a proud Penn State alum (BS Ed '86) and mother of two current Penn State engineering students. Although I reside in New Jersey with my husband, we recently purchased a second home in Bellefonte, which we have been enjoying on weekends and extended stays. We love the beauty of scenic Centre County and have been taking advantage of many activities offered by Penn State. We expect this to be our full-time retirement spot in a few years.



My career has been focused on a specialized area of insurance, with plenty of other non-employment work in church, school, and community activities. I like to stay busy and worry about how I will fill my time in retirement! I am an avid reader and Penn State sports fan.

Handbook/Directory Corrections

Apologies to branch members whose information was not listed correctly in the Handbook/Directory that was mailed last month. Corrections include:

- Add Linda Billingsley, ljbillingsley098@gmail.com

- Email: Emilee Fortier, ecf5232@psu.edu
- Last name: Judy **Harnadek**
- Email: Jennifer Miller, jenn.lb.miller@gmail.com



March 29, 2024, Branch Centennial Speaker: Lisa Salters Purchase your ticket today

[Lisa Salters](#), ESPN sports broadcaster, will be the AAUW State College Centennial Speaker at the 2024 Penn State Forum on Friday, March 29, 2024. 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. Learn more about her: [Lisa Salters: Sideline Reporter](#).

The event will be held at the Penn Stater Conference Center in President’s Hall and will run from **11:30 am-1:30 pm**. It includes a buffet lunch, and a Q & A session. The cost to attend is \$25. The branch has purchased three tables for the event. Tickets to the event are \$25, available now: [March 29 Forum tickets](#)

AAUW Penn State World Campus updates



We have received an update on the doings of the AAUW Penn State World Campus group—a student organization that was created a few years ago. Their current Immediate Past President, **Lauren Wellar** (left), spoke about the group at our Award & Scholarship banquet last spring. She is an enthusiastic, talented, and focused leader. With the help of group advisor **Estelle Call** (an AAUW State College member who works for World Campus), the group has grown to 160 members.

AAUW Penn State World Campus has held (virtual) programs, such as a Women’s History Month Trivia Night, and a panel discussion on Women in Leadership. Learn more: <https://sites.psu.edu/aauw/>

We plan to invite this group to our virtual programs and discuss the possibility of some joint programming. In the meantime, thank you to Lauren and Estelle and their leadership team for their efforts to build and sustain this group.

Branch leadership team & board meeting invite



Want to connect with branch leaders? They would love to hear from you. Reach out here: [2023-2025 AAUW State College Leadership Team](#). The Board of Directors met on November 13. Meeting notes will be shared when they become available.

Over the winter months board meetings are held via Zoom only, usually the second Monday of the month. The next meeting will be held **Monday, December 11**, from **11:45 am-12:45 pm**. Click *here* to attend: bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardMeeting. Board meetings will also be posted on our website under [EVENTS](#). The best way to learn what is going on in the branch is to join these meetings.



Branch Bulletin Dates

The next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **Monday, January 1**. Submissions are due **Monday, December 18**. Please send items to editor [Connie Schroeder](#). The bulletin is also on the branch website: [AAUW State College](#) under [NEWS](#).

It takes a village...



As we close out 2023, now is a good time to extend a heartfelt thank you to those of you who make the monthly *Branch Bulletin* possible.

First, thank you to the branch leaders who have faithfully supplied articles with up-to-date information on their areas. Sometimes, there are hardly hours in the day to do this.

Second, we have a wonderful team of ghost editors who have helped and/or continue to help behind-the-scenes on the bulletin. This is not the easiest of jobs. Thank you, **Martha Hummel**, **Talat Azhar** (former branch member), **Sally Kalin**, and **Kay Shirk**, new member! Your eagle eyes make this publication the best that it can be.

--Connie Schroeder, AAUW State College Branch Bulletin Editor