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Join AAUW State College 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 relationships necessary to create a more just and equitable world. Across the country, it occurs the day after Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

AAUW State College joins the Community Diversity Group, the State College Borough, and the Borough’s Racial Equity Advisory Commission as event co-sponsors. The event will take place January 16, and the second will be in February, details to be announced.

The January event, ***A Conversation to Identify Racial Barriers***, takes place **Tuesday, January 16, 11:30 am-1:30 pm, in the State College Borough Building, Room 201**. It includes lunch; space is limited, so register early.

Register to attend: [Jan. 16 program registration](#)
Flyer to share: [Jan. 16 Nat’l Day of Racial Healing flyer](#)

Branch award submissions due Monday, January 15



Recognizing our Members - We need YOU to help us recognize our branch's hardworking volunteers. Look around and identify members who are actively supporting the branch and submit nomination(s) for the awards described below. Nominations should include a brief paragraph on how the person or organization meets the award criteria.

To learn more about the history of the 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 later this spring.

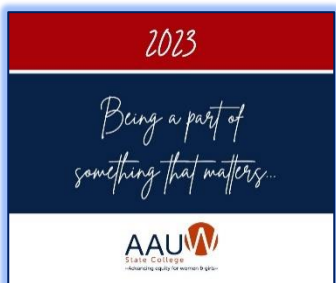
Outstanding Woman Award - The Outstanding Woman Award recipient is a branch member who has given meritorious service to the branch and to the community over multiple years. Awardees for the past five years include Carol Hodes (2019); Mary Dupuis (2020); Cindy Hall and Sally Kalin (2021); Naana Nti (2022);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



Branch slide show features 2023 highlights

Our latest slide show, ***Being a Part of Something that Matters***, is a snapshot of branch activities from the past twelve months. Feel free to share it with potential members who are interested to learn more about us: [AAUW State College 2023 Highlights](#)

Branch-led Humphrey program to run January 25 – register today

AAUW State College will host the 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, State College. This annual event features a panel discussion with two of the current year’s Humphrey Fellows. **Carolyn Donaldson** will serve as moderator.



The first panelist is **Dr. Odgerel Batsaikhan**, Vice Director of Otgontenger University in Mongolia. She is a member of the Gender Consortium, a collaborative platform for Mongolian universities, and analyzes liberal arts curricula with the aim of clarifying gender-sensitive methodology. She has authored and co-authored several books.

The second panelist is **Ninoska Leiva**, a professor at the University of Chile and the University of Santiago de Chile. She heads communications at the Department of Mechanical Engineering in the University of Chile. Her professional experiences include strategic communication in the media, private and public sectors, and has worked with CNN and the Ministry of Health.



The event is co-sponsored by Altrusa International Centre County, Community Diversity Group, Global Connections, Soroptimist Centre County, and Ten Thousand Villages State College.

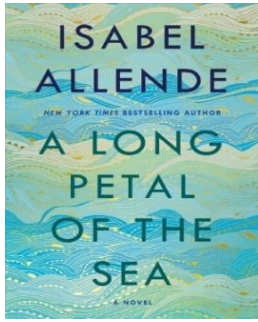
To attend, please send a check for \$24 payable to “AAUW State College” c/o Christine Bishop, 205 First Avenue, State College, Pa. 16801. Late payments will be accepted at the door, but **advance reservations are required by Thursday, January 18**. Questions? Contact [Christine Bishop](#), 814-441-3571.

Share flyer: [January 25 Humphrey program flyer](#)



**¡Adelante! Book Club to meet virtually
Thursday, January 18, 2:30 pm**

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 welcome new members. **Join Zoom: [January 18 Adelante Meet-up](#)**

--Naana Nti, AAUW State College Diversity Chair

How women of color transformed the suffrage movement



Thursday, February 29, 6:30-7:30 pm
Schlow Centre Region Library
Downsbrough Community Room

This branch program features speaker Dr. Cathleen Cahill, Penn State Professor of History and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The program will focus primarily on her book, *Recasting the Vote: How Women of Color Transformed the Suffrage Movement* (2020).

The book describes the powerful stories of a multiracial group of activists who propelled the national suffrage movement toward a more inclusive vision of equal rights—both before and after the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the program.

To attend, please RSVP to: aauw_cahill.unclip306@aleeas.com. Those registered will receive a Zoom link to the program. In the event of inclement weather, it will be held virtually.

--Betsy Manlove, AAUW State College Program VP



AAUW State College invests in community: scholarship and grant applications open

Our scholarships helping adult undergraduate women are made possible through an endowment with Centre Foundation, and our Community Action Grants and STEM grants are funded by our annual Used Book Sale. The application period for grants and scholarships is now, or nearly, upon us. They include:

- Undergraduate scholarships helping adult women - apply **January 1 – March 15, 2024**.
- Community Action Grants (helping women and girls through programs in health, literacy, diversity, self-esteem, and more) - apply **February 1 – April 1, 2024**.

- STEM mini-grants (grants up to \$500), applications are accepted on a rolling basis. As the following article on Science-U scholarships indicates, the application deadline for Science-U scholarships is **January 17, 2024**.

We will share more details about our grant and scholarship programs in a column in the *Centre Daily Times* (CDT) that is scheduled to run on **January 3**, courtesy of our membership in the Centre County Council of Human Services. Keep an eye out for it.

This year, we hope to award more grants to local programs helping women and girls, and scholarships to women pursuing undergraduate degrees. Learn more about our funding initiatives, including criteria, programs funded, and applications at [AAUW State College](#) on our **Community Outreach** page.

AAUW Merit-Based STEM Scholarships to Science-U now available!



The AAUW STEM Committee is once again offering scholarships for girls and young women in Centre County to attend the popular and educational Science-U summer science camps held at Penn State. The weeklong day camps run from 9 am to 4 pm over the summer months and cover different topics in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

Some of the camps this year will focus on engineering, computer design, astronomy, medicine, ecology, and materials science.

To be eligible for the scholarships, girls and young women should be Centre County residents entering grades 6-12 in the Fall (currently in grades 5-11).



Scholarships require the applicant to submit a short essay and a form including a parent's name and email address.

A STEM teacher or mentor also needs to complete a recommendation form for each applicant. Scholarship applications are due to the Office of Science Outreach, organizers of the Science-U camps, by **Wednesday, January 17, 2024**. More information about the scholarship and the application forms are available on the [Science-U website](#).

Last summer, the AAUW STEM Committee awarded full scholarships to 15 girls and young women! Please share this year's scholarship information with educators and families to help encourage more girls and young women to take advantage of this opportunity.

--Carol-Beth Book, AAUW State College STEM Co-Chair

Workshop volunteers preparing for sale



Used Book Workshop volunteers have been making steady progress sorting and pricing book donations for the May 11-14 sale. To date, **over 2,500 boxes** have been packed for the sale. The workshop will be open for several more weeks, and an announcement of the closing day will be made sometime in February.

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 Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 am-2:30 pm**. It's fun, interesting, and a great workout. Stop by and check us out.

Throughout the year we receive an oversupply of certain categories of books. Many of them have been delivered to [Little Free Libraries](#) around Centre County, thanks to **Geri Stonebraker**, who has led this effort for the past few years. In 2023 alone she delivered **223 bags and boxes** of books to Little Free Libraries in our communities. Amazing! Also, **Steve Wheeler** has delivered several bags of books to the Little Free Libraries in the Children's Garden at the Penn State Arboretum. While gathering quality books for the sale is certainly our #1 priority, we are happy to find a home for the oversupply. Thank you, Geri and Steve.



vol·un·teer needed

Book sale volunteer scheduler
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](#).

Member Engagement: committees formed; openings remain



Nominations – A new Nominations Committee has formed, charged with recommending members for our branch leadership team—to run for open offices of the 2024-2026 term. Positions begin July 1, 2024. Members include **Amy Wilson, Carol-Beth Book, Candace Davison, Sherry Lonsdale, and Susan Werner**.

Open positions include a Marketing & Communications Co-VP, a Program Co-VP, and a Co-Secretary. For information on any of these positions, contact info@aauwstatecollege.org.

Strategic Planning – We have a new task force that will review the 2023-2026 strategic plan and identify ways to implement the recommendations. It will be chaired by President Co-Elect **Grace Hamilton**, who will be joined by members **Lee Carpenter, Ann Echols, Jackie Esposito,** and **Linda Higginson**. Having led the 2023 strategic planning process, **Sally Kalin** and **Linda Friend** will be on hand as needed.

Read Between the Wines – We seek hosts for our occasional weeknight evening book group, held in members' homes. If interested, contact [Carline Crevecoeur](#) or [Susan Chyczewski](#).

Social Media – Thank you to **Dina Liberatore**, who has volunteered to do social media for the Used Book Sale. We still need a member to assist with non-book sale posts throughout the year, an average of 2-3 posts per week. If interested, contact [Connie Schroeder](#).

Website – Our website company, Keystone Connect, has made some needed improvements on the website in 2023. We have a handful of pages to go.

Thank you to **Jane Stanton** and **Sally Kalin**, who are learning Word Press with Divi to make simple updates to the website. **We need 2-3 more people** to join them, to volunteer to monitor and update a few assigned pages regularly. To learn more, contact [Connie Schroeder](#).

The biggest change to the website is the new password-protected **For Members Only** page. To access, go to [AAUW State College](#), click on *For Members Only* at the top-right side of the page, and create a user ID and password. While this page is not yet completed, there are several useful documents stored there.

Membership Matters



Best
Wishes
for the
New
Year.
Peace
on Earth.
Good
Will to
Women.

Our December 12 holiday gathering was a hit. We reconnected with each other and made new acquaintances, celebrated branch accomplishments of the past year, and looked toward the future.

To follow are quick links to renewing your membership, and a list of engagement opportunities.

- [Online membership renewal](#)
- [Paper membership form to mail with check](#)
- [Member engagement opportunities](#)

Questions? Contact [Carline](#) or [Susan](#)

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

Abby Dwyer – abigail.monson@gmail.com

Welcome
New Members



Hello, everyone. I am excited to join this great group of women. I moved from New York City to Bellefonte in 2022 to live with my then-boyfriend, now-husband, Nolan. I studied French and Political Science at a small college in Minnesota called St. Olaf and then lived in the NJ/NYC area for the past seven years.

I am a consultant in corporate learning and development and work remotely now, which allowed me to make the transition to Bellefonte. As a native Minnesotan, I was ready to get out of the hustle and bustle of NYC. My husband, who went to Penn State, assured me that this area had the perfect combination of nature and active community, and he has been right!

Beyond work, I am passionate about learning, education, and inclusivity and look forward to participating in related AAUW activities. My husband and I are also both avid readers, and we look forward to the AAUW book sale every year! I hope to meet you all soon.

Margaret Mbeseha – awungmk@yahoo.com



I am delighted to join AAUW State College. I had been a member of AAUW in my home country, but schooling and professional endeavors kept me from active participation. I hold a Ph.D. in Special Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and an M.Ed. in Rehabilitation Counseling from Penn State University.

During my 20 years of teaching K–12 in Cameroon, plus 20 years of working in nursing homes, group homes, and educational institutions dealing with individuals with disabilities, I became a passionate social justice advocate for people with disabilities. To support the education of underprivileged children in Cameroon, I founded an all-inclusive school to provide special education services to children with disabilities in the Cameroon school systems. Since these children historically are alienated from the Cameroon larger school culture, I am playing a leading role in providing these services as part of my professional achievements.

Rejoining AAUW will broaden my capacity to support the vision of equal opportunities for all, especially women and girls in the areas of education, inclusiveness, and social justice.



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 branch has purchased three tables for the event. **Tickets are \$25, available now:** [March 29 Forum tickets](#)



Bank focused on women business leaders opens in State College

Impressia Bank, a division of CNB Bank, has opened in State College with a focus on the professional and financial development and advancement of women business owners and leaders. It aims to provide credit access, promote financial literacy, and support women’s business development. More: [Impressia Bank](#)



AAUW urges support of Women’s Health Protection Act

It has been more than a year since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, which instigated new legislative and legal attacks on critical health care. Everyone has the right to make decisions about their own reproductive lives without government interference.

Abortion access is vital to women’s ability to control their lives, bodies, and futures. The [Women’s Health Protection Act \(WHPA\)](#) would protect abortion care as a statutory right and prohibit restrictions, including arbitrary deadlines like 6- or 20-week bans, biased counseling, and mandatory ultrasounds. [Take action now](#) to urge your members of Congress to support and pass the WHPA! Without reproductive freedom, there can be no equity.



AAUW Pennsylvania Convention, April 5-7

AAUW Pennsylvania will hold their 2024 convention, *Evolution of the Fight: Looking Back to Move Forward*, on **April 5-7** in Harrisburg. The conference will be held at the Best Western Central Hotel & Conference Center, held to provide AAUW

Pennsylvania branches the chance to exchange notes, and learn from each other. The 2023 summer retreat was so well received that we have good reason to believe that this meeting will be equally so. More details forthcoming in the next bulletin and at [AAUW Pennsylvania](#).



Re-Gift Gathering Thursday, January 11

Did you receive some gifts this holiday season that you would love to share elsewhere? Package them back up for a **January 11 re-gift gathering** at the home of member Carline Crevecoeur, **4:30-5:30 pm**, complete with eggnog and cookies. **RSVP** to [Carline](#), by **January 9**.



Engage with branch leaders & learn what's going on!

Want to connect with branch leaders? They would love to hear from you. Reach out via: [2023-2025 AAUW State College Leadership Team](#). To learn more about what takes place at board meetings, *click on* [December 11 board minutes](#).



Join us for a Saturday Zoom "retreat" – January 13

Over the winter, board meetings are held via Zoom only, usually the second Monday of the month. For January, we are changing things up in order to have a more in-depth meeting. After a brief discussion of other board matters, we will focus the **Used Book Workshop and Sale**. It will be held

Saturday, January 13, 10 am-12 pm. All members are welcome to join. Click *here* to attend: bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardMeeting. Board meetings also listed on our website under [EVENTS](#).



Branch Bulletin dates

The next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **Monday, February 5**. Submissions are due **Monday, January 29**. Please send items to editor [Connie Schroeder](#). Branch Bulletins are also posted on the branch website: [AAUW State College](#) under [NEWS](#).