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**Freedom to Read panel discussion and
trivia bowl - March 26, 2024**



Join us for **Freedom to Read** on **Tuesday, March 26, 6-7:30 pm** in the Downsborough Community Room at Schlow Centre Region Library. The goal of this program is to encourage reading, build awareness about maintaining access to reading material, and promote literacy.

The program will include a panel discussion moderated by AAUW State College member **Leslie Laing**.

Panelists supporting AAUW’s commitment to intellectual freedom and literacy include **Maria Burchill**, Head of Adult and Teen Services at Schlow Centre Region Library; **Ellysa Cahoy**, Education Librarian and Director, Pennsylvania Center for the Book, Penn State University Libraries; **Sara Willoughby-Herb**, Professor Emeritus, Shippensburg University College of Education and the Laboratory School.

We will also have a roundtable discussion and a *Freedom to Read* Trivia Bowl (centered around books, literacy, and censorship). Top scorers will receive vouchers for shopping at our May Used Book Sale. Refreshments will be available.

Flyer to Share: [March 26 Freedom to Read flyer](#)
Register by March 22: [Freedom to Read registration](#)

--Sue Johnston, Branch Education Committee Chair



AAUW State College Centennial speaker: Lisa Salters
Penn State Forum
March 29, 2024, 11:30 am-1:30 pm

The branch endowment with Penn State, created in 2016 to celebrate our centennial year, funds a speaker at the Penn State Forum annually. The goal is to expose the community to women whose vision and leadership have made a positive change, and who serve as role models for a new generation of leaders. This is a wonderful event to come together as a branch and show the community where our priorities lie. The branch has purchased three tables for the Lisa Salters event. Join us!

[Lisa Salters](#), Emmy Award-winning ESPN sports broadcaster and Penn State alumna, has broken glass ceilings both as a woman and as a person of color in a mostly male-dominated field. Learn more about [Lisa Salters: Sideline Reporter](#).

The event, held in President’s Hall, Penn Stater Conference Center, includes a buffet lunch followed by remarks from Ms. Salters. After the presentation, a facilitator will pose questions to Ms. Salters submitted by members of the audience.

Tickets are \$25, available now: [March 29 Forum tickets](#)



Application deadlines:
Undergraduate Scholarships - March 15, 2024
Community Action Grants - April 1, 2024

The application periods for branch Community Action Grants and undergraduate scholarships are nearly upon us. Please share this information with those who may be interested.

Undergraduate Scholarships (applications due Friday, March 15) support women who, at some point, interrupted their undergraduate studies for at least two years.

Details: [AAUW State College Undergraduate Scholarships](#)

Community Action Grants (applications due Monday, April 1) help nonprofit organizations conduct programs in health, literacy, diversity, self-esteem, and more for women and girls.

Details: [AAUW State College Community Action Grants](#)

Branch selects 2024 award recipients



The branch Awards Committee met in late January to select award recipients, nominated by branch members, to move forward for board approval. Awardees will be recognized at our spring awards and scholarship event. Congratulations to all of you and thank you for your outstanding contributions to AAUW State College.

Awards Committee: Chriss Schultz and Suzanne Kerlin (Co-Chairs), Sue Poremba, Sue Werner, Anne Ard, Betsy Manlove, Susan Johnston

Outstanding Woman – Carol-Beth Book



Carol-Beth Book has served as Co-Chair of the branch STEM Committee for three years. She is an integral part of the committee, sending out reminders, taking minutes, and keeping everyone informed. Her committee co-chair, Michele Crowl, comments that she “could not do it without her.” Carol-Beth helps to recruit new members, meets with people about mini-grants, and leads the efforts for AAUW-funded merit-based scholarship applications for Science-U camps.

Member Making a Difference – Jackie Esposito



In her role as branch co-historian with Louise Tukey, Jackie has organized and catalogued branch records to keep them accessible to future generations. Jackie has also served as coordinator of the branch-staffed Arts Fest Information booth on Allen Street, keeping it fully staffed for the 5-day event. Additionally, she is also a wonderful community connector for our group. She serves as branch liaison to United Nations Association Centre County and participates in a host of other worthwhile community initiatives that align with the branch priorities.

Gateway to Equity – League of Women Voters of Centre County



The League is a nationwide, nonpartisan, grassroots organization of women and men who believe that through informed action, people can make profound changes in their communities. We value their work to empower voters and defend democracy. Their commitment to voter education is central to our branch’s public policy goals. We work closely with them locally to offer community programming. The League of Women Voters brings equity to the

ballot box. We have partnered with LWV of Centre County on projects and look forward to doing so in the future.

Centre County Council of Human Services Volunteer of the Year – Donna Trapp



As Used Book Sale Co-Chair, Donna combines a direct, no-nonsense approach with a rich sense of humor, making volunteering with her a fun and interesting experience. Donna works behind the scenes with Penn State to ensure that we follow Penn State policies and regulations. This past year, Donna mentored Mary Ann Blair as a sale co-chair. Donna balances her full-time position as Vice President for Human Resources at the Penn State Federal Credit Union with working Monday evenings at the Used Book Workshop. It is truly a juggling act to perform all these tasks at once and Donna makes it look easy.

Named Gift Honorees - Susan Chyczewski and Carline Crevecoeur



Each year, the branch can name a Gift because of our donations to AAUW national. This year, the Awards Committee recognizes Susan and Carline, our Membership Co-VPs, for their enthusiastic creativity in building and supporting our Branch membership. Going beyond processing new member applications, they personally meet new members to orient them to the branch. Their leadership in developing new in-person activities in members' homes has been a welcome addition to our branch calendar.

Special Branch Recognition – Charlene Harrison



We recognize Charlene Harrison for her staunch commitment to the health of our branch. Charlene has held many influential positions that have helped guide us toward being the healthy and thriving branch we continue to be today. These include Co-President, Treasurer, and VP for Finance. She has spent many hours supporting our Used Book Sale and serving on various committees. Most recently, she was our Membership Co-VP, guiding our branch through the many changes instituted by AAUW national. We appreciate you, Charlene!



Attend the CCCHS Volunteer Dinner - April 25, 5:45 pm, Penn State Hotel & Conference Center

Mark your calendar for the Centre County Council of Human Services dinner, planned for Thursday, April 25. We will honor Used Book Sale Co-Chair **Donna Trapp**. The cost to attend is \$45. Watch for additional info in the April 1 issue of the Branch Bulletin. Contact [Suzanne Kerlin](#) for details.



Cultural Empowerment for Women - Tuesday, March 12

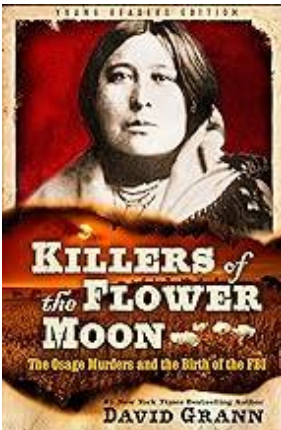
The next Cultural Empowerment for Women Luncheon, co-sponsored by AAUW State College and the Community Diversity Group, is scheduled for March 12 at the **Penn Stater Conference Center, 11:30 am-2:00 pm.**

A diverse panel of local women will discuss their personal and professional experiences with mentorship and offer tips on how attendees can foster mentorship connections by mentoring others or seeking out mentorship opportunities and making the most of them.

Dr. Amy Trithart, Chief Human Resources and Chief Ancillary Services Officer, Mount Nittany Health, will serve as moderator. Panelists include **Dr. Lauren Griggs**, Assistant Teaching Professor, Director of the Multicultural Engineering Program and Director of the Clark Scholars Program at Penn State; **Dorene Uhrich**, COO, MindPlay Education; and **Paula Williams**, Executive Director, Centre County United Way.

Registration is due by March 5: bit.ly/CEWlunchMarch12

Cost is \$18 if included with registration OR \$20 if paid online or at the door.



¡ADELANTE! Book Club to meet on March 21, 2024

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, March 21, at 2:30 pm.**

We will discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*. Author [David Grann](#) describes a tragic chapter in American history: the Osage Reign of Terror (1921-26), when twenty Osage Indians were murdered in cold blood for access to their valuable shares of oil money.

To join the group, please contact [Naana Nti](#). We warmly welcome new members. Meeting ID: 817 1072 2281; Passcode: 759737; **Zoom Meeting link:** bit.ly/AdelanteZoomMeeting

Strategies to break down racial barriers

April 12, 11:30 am-1:30 pm



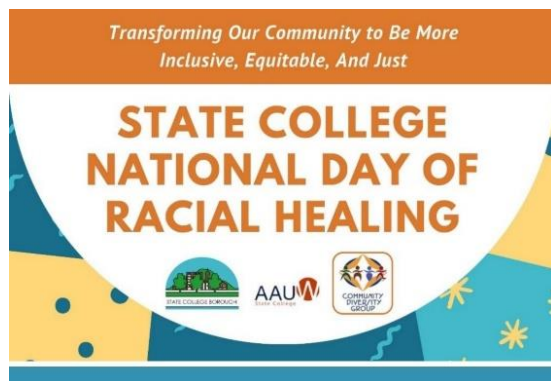
Branch members Candace Davison and Leslie Laing take a moment at the first National Day of Racial Healing event.

The first National Day of Racial Healing (NDORH) event in State College was held on February 2. It was a conversation to identify racial barriers.

Sponsored by AAUW State College, the Community Diversity Group, the Borough of State College, and the Borough's Racial Equity Advisory Commission, the event was well received and drew over seventy attendees. The follow-up event, identifying strategies to break down racial barriers, will take place on Friday, April 12.

It will again be held in the State College Borough Building, Room 201, and includes lunch. Make your reservation today. A limited number of seats remain.

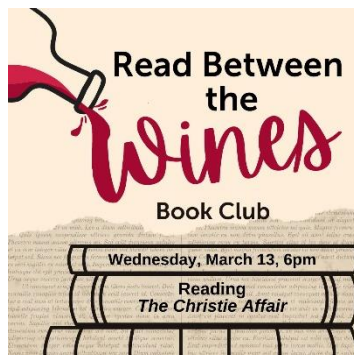
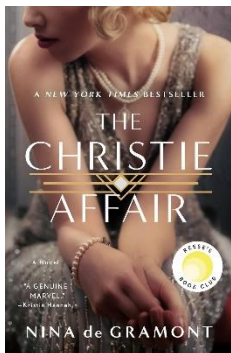
Register: [April 12 NDORH](#)



--Naana Nti, AAUW State College Diversity Chair

Read Between the Wines Book Club selects *The Christie Affair*

March 13



Our new book club will read *The Christie Affair*, an international and New York Times bestseller, historical fiction, and thriller, by Nina de Gramont. From [Amazon Review](#), "In 1925, Miss Nan O'Dea infiltrated the wealthy, rarefied world of author Agatha Christie and her husband, Archie. She became a part of their life—first, with both

Christies. Then, just Archie. Soon, Nan became Archie's mistress, luring him away from his devoted wife. Nan's plot did not begin the day she met Archie and Agatha."

The gathering will be held **Wednesday, March 13, 6-7 pm** at the home of Sally Kalin. To attend, please RSVP to [Carline Crevecoeur](#) by **March 11** for directions and parking instructions.

Flyer to Share: [March 13 Read Between the Wines](#)

--Susan Chyczewski, Membership Co-VP

Used Book Workshop to close March 12



After ten months of culling, sorting, and pricing book donations from generous community book donors, the job for processing books for the May 2024 sale is nearly done!

Thank you to our workshop team for their fine efforts. Still have books to donate? Check this out first: [Book Donation](#)

We will bring about 3800 boxes of books to the sale.



May 11-14 Used Book Sale volunteer scheduling – sign up today



Volunteer scheduling for the May 11-14 AAUW State College Used Book Sale has begun. If you have not yet committed to volunteer, this is a great time to do so. We need lots of help on Move-in Night (May 9) and over the four days of the sale.

Invite a friend to join you and sign up today:
[May 11-14 Used Book Sale Volunteer Sign-up](#)

Louise Tukey tribute and named scholarship



In the wake of her January passing this year, AAUW State College board members elected at their February board meeting to honor Louise Tukey for her 71 years of service to the branch. Plans include:

--Dedicating the 2024 Book Sale in Louise's honor. A display about Louise's role will be featured in the lobby of the AAUW State College Used Book Sale, and announcements in her honor will be made during the sale.

--Naming a branch scholarship in Louise's honor. Donations in Louise's name will be added to the existing fund to support the scholarship at www.centre-foundation.org/

Instrumental in the creation of the Used Book Sale, Louise and books went hand in hand.

April 5- 7 AAUW Pennsylvania convention - deadlines!

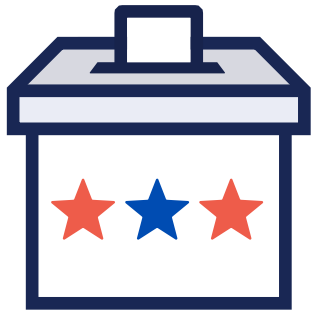


Network with AAUW members from around the state and be inspired by conference sessions and speakers. Of note, Gisele Fetterman will provide Keynote remarks on Saturday (see program agenda below), speaking on *The Power of Vulnerability*.

- Hotel Reservation (reserve by Tuesday, **March 5**).
- Conference Registration (register by Friday, **March 15**) - costs covered by branch.

Registration/hotels: [Deadlines & Details](#) Full Conference Program: [Agenda](#)

Did you want to vote by mail?



Our primary election is on **April 23**. We know you are expecting it to be in May, but this is a presidential election year, so we go a month early.

With less than two months to go, it is time to prepare if you want to vote by mail.

The first thing to know is, according to our state Legislature, “permanent” means “annual”: you must renew your application for a mail-in ballot every year.

If you received a letter from our Elections Office asking if you wanted to vote by mail, that was the “permanent” part: they will reach out to you every year so long as you keep your application up-to-date annually by returning that letter, filled out.

If you returned your letter and indicated you want to keep voting by mail, you should have received an email acknowledging receipt from the Pennsylvania Department of State. That means, you are good to go and will receive your ballot in the mail once they are ready. Expect to receive your ballot about three weeks before election day.

If you did not get a letter or mislaid it, or if you have not applied before, you can go online to apply at vote.pa.gov. On that main page, scroll down to “mail-in and absentee ballots.” **NOTE:** they are not the same thing! Mail-in ballots are *no excuses*; absentee ballots *need excuses* [just like in the old days]. You will be asked three questions. If you answer yes to any of them, you will be sent an absentee ballot. If you say no to all of them, you will be sent a mail-in ballot. Think of it this way: an absentee ballot would be good for one election [for instance, if you were planning to snowbird, so wanted to forward your mail] whereas the mail-in ballot would be something you want to do regularly. [Not to worry if you change your mind and want to switch back to in-person voting. You could take the blank mail-in ballot to your polling place

this election, or you could cancel your mail-in status on next year's letter.] There should be a box on the application asking if you want an annual request.

Please do not put off applying! The deadline is way too close to Election Day, given that the Post Office is slowing down even more. We will write up the candidates for you well ahead of the election so you can get your vote in with confidence.

-- Mary Dupuis and Dianne Gregg, AAUW State College Public Policy Co-Chairs

Women make history on the Pennsylvania high courts



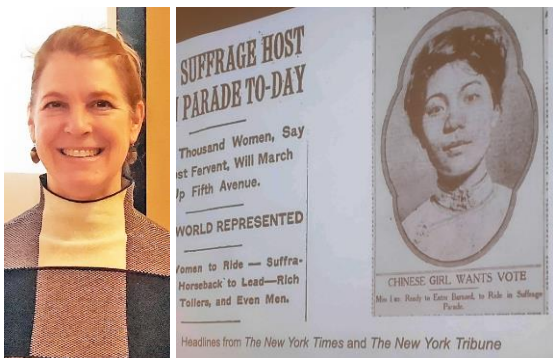
For the first time in the history of Pennsylvania, all three of our appeals courts are led by women!

The Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court is **Madam Justice Debra Todd**. The President Judge of the PA Superior Court is **Judge Anne Lazarus**. The President Judge of the PA Commonwealth Court is **Judge Renee Cohn Jubelirer**. Renee is a native of State College and the daughter of our long-time member, the late Trudy Levine, and her husband, Sam.

Additionally, the Supreme Court has seven members—three are women—making it the only one of these courts where men are in the majority.

The Superior Court has fifteen members—twelve women, two men, and one vacant seat up for election in 2025. The Commonwealth Court has nine members—seven women, two men.

Recasting the Vote program look-back



The February 26 branch program, *Recasting the Vote: How Women of Color Transformed the Suffrage Movement*, featured the book of the same title.

Presented by Penn State professor and author, Dr. Cathleen Cahill, the program was very engaging.

Dr. Cahill focused mostly on Mabel Ping-Hua Lee, born in China and raised in New York City. In 1921 she became the first Chinese woman in the United States to receive a doctorate in economics but could not get a job in her field. She continued to advocate for women and Chinese immigrants throughout her life.

Branch member Linda Higginson commented, “Dr. Cahill’s presentation was so interesting and informative. She discussed history about suffrage activists, highlighting again the realization of how much history has not been taught in schools over the years.”

Branch-sponsored program on mental health - April 11

SAVE
the
DATE

Mark your calendar for an evening program on Thursday, April 11, offered by Dr. Chemba Raghavan, a Human Development and Family Studies professor from Penn State. She is Senior Advisor, Early Childhood Development, UNICEF. Her talk will focus on supporting mental health and empowering women who are caregivers of children (caring for the caregivers). She will collaborate with Mark Brennan, Penn State Professor and UNESCO Chair in Community, Leadership, and Youth Development.

Details will come in the next *Branch Bulletin*, coming out April 1.

--Betsy Manlove, AAUW State College Program VP

HAVE
YOU
HEARD

Best wishes to branch member **Charlene Harrison** as she continues to recover from a stroke suffered last summer. She has moved to Juniper Village, 1940 Cliffside Drive, Apt. 107, State College, PA 16801. Charlene welcomes cards and visitors. Her daughter Jean reports that Charlene has made huge progress and appreciates all the cards received thus far.

Links to renewing your membership



Following 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 Membership VPs [Susan Chyczewski](#) and [Carline Crevecoeur](#)

For Members Only



In January we added a *For Members Only* page to our website. The page provides our member directory, member engagement opportunities, and contact information for all branch officers. To date, only a few members have registered.

The convenience of having key branch records stored in a secure place, but accessible to members, is invaluable. To access the page, click on the *For*

Members Only button at the top right of the web page. Give it a little extra time to connect. Create a password and log-in for entry and request access. Receiving access may take a few days, but it is well worth the wait.



Learn more about what is going on!

Branch members are welcome to attend monthly board meetings. It is a great place to learn what is going on and to offer your input.

The next board meeting will take place via Zoom on **Monday, March 11, 11:45 am–1 pm**. Click here to join us: bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardMeeting

New position-based emails for branch officers



We are still working on creating position-based email addresses for branch officers to use on our public platforms: the *Branch Bulletin*, our website, and our social media. In the interim, queries to branch leaders can be sent through info@aauwstatecollege.org. Thank you to branch member Sherry Lonsdale for taking up this project.

--Connie Schroeder, AAUW State College Marketing & Communications VP



Branch Bulletin dates

The next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **Monday, April 1**. Submissions are due **Monday, March 25**. Please send items to editor [Connie Schroeder](#).

