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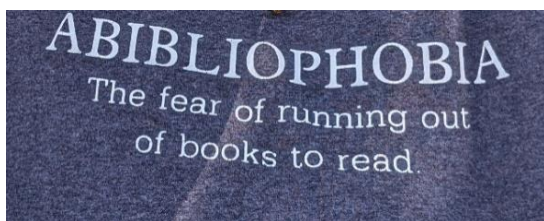
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2024 Used Book Sale a record breaker



On opening day of the May 11-14 AAUW State College Used Book Sale, several hundred sale-goers were eager to start their shopping. Those who fared best (left) had something to sit on (a “book bucket,” turned over) or even some knitting.

Gross revenues for this year’s sale were a record-breaking **\$214,296, a 13.5% increase over the 2023 sale!** After expenses, an estimated \$164,000 will be available for community outreach, programs, and branch priorities.



Best T-shirt message...

7,200+ shoppers attended the sale, about 425 more than 2023.



A dedicated crew at the book workshop loaded 4,400 book boxes onto trucks at the workshop. A large team at the Ag Arena was ready to unload them, making Move-in Night seamless.



Dozens of branch members volunteered at the sale. What better time to wear an apron?



25,000 children's books led to a massive treasure hunt.



Reading paper books is not such a novel idea.



Mother's Day: a perfect way to spend it with Mom.



Sale Co-Chair Donna Trapp (right) and friend relax for a moment at Move-in Night.



Amy Wilson and Sale Co-Chair Mary Ann Blair relish the closing minutes.



Treasurer Vasundara Varadan enjoys a hand from Vijay, her husband.

Photo Credits: Mizue Badding



2024 AAUW State College scholarship recipients

We are proud to introduce the women who were selected to receive 2024 AAUW State College scholarships. The combined total of the scholarships is \$24,000. Congratulations and best wishes to the 2024 scholarship recipients. Those planning to attend the June 6 annual AAUW State College Award &

Scholarship Celebration will have an opportunity to meet this year's scholarship recipients, as well as this year's branch honorees.

—*Suzanne Kerlin and Leslie Laing (Chairs),
Mary Adams, Maryann Domitrovitz, Sophie Penney Leach, and Taylor Stark,
AAUW State College Scholarship Committee*



Cassandra Barr – Evelyn Chostner Marboe Scholarship

Cassandra is a full-time student studying for a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in the College of the Liberal Arts at Penn State World Campus. She is a single parent of a toddler. Cassandra is President of the National Organization of *Active Minds*, which involves mental health awareness. She is also the Student Affairs Committee Chair and Student Engagement Committee Chair for Penn State World Campus Student Government Association. Her career goal is to attain a PhD and become a licensed clinical psychologist.



Abigail Deeter – Simmons Jansma Project Renew Grant

Abigail is a full-time student studying Kinesiology in the College of Health and Human Development at Penn State University Park. She volunteers at an equestrian center with disabled young people. She also volunteers at her church soup kitchen and the lacrosse team toy drive. Abigail's ultimate career goal is to attain a PhD in Physical Therapy and become a licensed Physical Therapist for an NFL team.



Faith Galbraith – Suzanne McCrae Kerlin Scholarship

Faith is a full-time student studying Music in the College of Arts and Architecture at Penn State University Park. She has volunteered with hurricane disaster relief in Puerto Rico and helped with the homeless in Syracuse, New York. She has also participated in *Give Kids a Smile* with Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology as well as with a mobile dental unit providing services to the elderly. Her ultimate career goal after a graduate degree is to perform in a premier military band in Washington, DC, as well as open her own studio to teach flutists.



Cigdem Beggi Alrawi – AAUW State College Branch Scholarship (shared)
Cigdem is a full-time student studying for a Bachelor of Arts in German with a minor in Comparative Literature in the College of the Liberal Arts at Penn State University Park. Cigdem and her husband immigrated to the United States for her husband to study at Penn State. They have one child. In Turkey, she volunteered as a German and English language teacher to young people. She also taught sign language to the hard-of-hearing. Her ultimate goal is to write books in three languages so that her stories can be enjoyed around the world.



Nivin Shaaban – AAUW State College Branch Scholarship (shared)
Nivin is a part-time student studying Engineering at Penn State World Campus. Nivin immigrated from Jordan with her husband who is studying for a PhD. They have two children. In Jordan, she volunteered as an Arabic teacher and now volunteers at the local mosque and at her children's school. Her goal is to get a job to be able to support her family and contribute to the community.



June 6 branch celebration update & details

We have just learned that the event location for the June 6 Celebration has been moved from the Wyndham Garden Inn at Mountain View to the **Ballroom in the Mountain View**

Clubhouse. Guests should enter through the main entrance facing the upper parking lot, shown here on the [Event Map](#) on the left side where it says “Stair to Clubhouse Lobby Level.”

Scholarship Awards & Branch Recognition – The event will include the awarding of scholarships to the above women, recognition of the following members, and presentation of the Gateway to Equity Award: *Outstanding Woman* – **Carol-Beth Book**, STEM Co-Chair; *Member Making a Difference* – **Jackie Esposito**, Branch Historian and community connector; *Named Gift Honorees* – **Susan Chyczewski** and **Carline Crevecoeur**, Membership VPs; *CCCHS Volunteer of the Year* – **Donna Trapp**, Used Book Sale Co-Chair; *Special Branch Recognition* – **Charlene Harrison**, past Co-President, Treasurer, Finance VP, and Membership Co-VP; *Gateway to Equity Award* – **League of Women Voters Centre County.**

Election of Branch officers – The June 6 event doubles as a Membership Meeting (very brief) where we formally elect incoming officers and attend to other business matters before the membership, such as Bylaws changes. We will do the election there via a Voice Vote. Please review the [Branch Officer Nominees and Bylaws Info](#) in advance of the banquet so you are informed ahead of the election.

June is Pride Month

June is LGBTQ+ Pride month, and there is no better place to celebrate than with our local community. State College was named yet again as an inclusive LGBTQ+ town with a perfect score for the fifth consecutive year ([Centre Daily Times, Nov. 30, 2023](#)). Many organizations and volunteers actively work towards advocacy, visibility, equity, and social justice. The yearly State College Pride parade will be held Saturday, June 8, at 10 am with a festival to follow at noon in Sidney Friedman Park. The community celebration will include food, drag shows, a fire eater, and more. **Details:** [Pride Month in State College](#)



Juneteenth Celebration, June 14-15

June is an important month for civil rights with the historic day of June 19, 1865, when the last enslaved African Americans were notified of the Emancipation Proclamation, announcing the abolition of slavery. This significant day in June became a federal holiday in 2021. State College will host the 5th Juneteenth Celebration Weekend, starting Friday, June 14, with an Art Exhibition opening at the Woskob Family Gallery at 6 pm, followed by a Block Party on June 15, 12 to 6 pm, at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza. The festival will include food, music, dance, and community togetherness. Attend the events to reflect on and celebrate Juneteenth.

Details: [Juneteenth Weekend in State College](#)

June 25 Community Diversity Conference registration open



COMMUNITY DIVERSITY
CONFERENCE

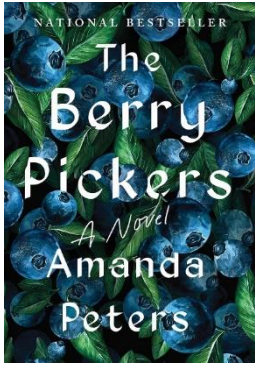
Embracing & Implementing Inclusion

Registration for the Community Diversity Group's biennial Diversity Conference, scheduled for **Tuesday, June 25, 8 am to 4 pm**, at the Penn Stater Conference Center, is now open. The cost to attend is \$115 and includes lunch and refreshment breaks.

Presenters will speak on a wide variety of topics, including government resources and initiatives; community health and safety; our community and work spaces; and empowerment and advocacy.

Branch members **Carline Crevecoeur, Leslie Laing, Naana Nti, Sophie Penney, and Elizabeth Seigelman** are among the presenters. Visit [June 25 CDG Conference](#) for complete details.

¡ADELANTE! Book Club to meet Thursday, July 18



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, July 18, at 2:30 pm**. We will discuss *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters. An indigenous family from Nova Scotia travels to harvest blueberries, when their daughter goes missing.

To participate with the group, please contact info@aauwstatecollege.org. We warmly welcome new members. **Join Zoom Meeting: [July 18 Meeting](#); Meeting ID: 898 5500 8974; Passcode: 913553**

--Naana Nti, AAUW State College Diversity Chair

Pennsylvania education funding updates



School Vouchers – The issue of vouchers is also of great concern. Money that goes to vouchers for private schools is detrimental to the public school system. The Education Committee will sponsor a virtual program with more information on vouchers in late September.

Education funding by zip code – This summer there should be news on the state education budget regarding increased funding by zip code for underfunded public schools.

Reform cyber charter school funding – A new report by Education Voters PA details how the four largest cyber schools in the state receive enough money from taxpayers to fund the school and spend on advertising, gift cards, and purchasing property not used for the school. This funding for cyber charter schools is a drain on the state budget for public schools and results in higher taxes. **Details:** [Cyber Charter Schools Waste](#). HB 1422 will bring cyber charter school funding more in line with actual costs. It has passed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives but is stuck in the State Senate. Contact your state senator to ask for action.

--Sue Johnston, Education Committee Chair



Fair Districts update

HB 1776 calls for a citizens' commission to draw voting district lines rather than legislators being in charge. A companion Senate bill, SB 1076, will soon be introduced by Senator Tim Kearney. Contact your state senator and ask them to co-sponsor this bill.

--Sue Johnston, Liaison to Fair Districts – Centre

Have You Heard?

Congrats to **Carline Crevecoeur** who was an invited guest in a May 29 segment of the *TODAY* show with Jenna Bush Hager. Along with a seven other members of the Flowers Book Club, Carline participated in an interview with Rachel Zhong, author of [Real Americans](#). See the interview with Carline's question: [Carline & Rachel Zhong](#)

Kudos to **Pam Francis**, who was recognized recently by Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Penn State with the Barbara Lindenbaum Award, for her longtime leadership, service, and a passion for lifelong learning. Following Pam's career as an educator, teaching in the classroom before working in curriculum and professional development, she brought her expertise to the Curriculum Committee at OLLI. She has volunteered for the institute ever since.

Congratulations to **Lauren Mazzatesta**, Penn State Class of 2024, who received a branch scholarship to attend NCCWSL 2023 (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). Lauren graduated in May as a Schreyer Honors Scholar, Student Marshal for the College of the Liberal Arts, with a double major in French/Francophone Studies and History. She has been accepted as a Fellow, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, for summer 2024. This fall, Lauren will study law at Penn State.



Important membership reminders – renewals & more

Twelve-month membership renewals are coming up for many of us over the next month or two. The good news is that the annual membership rate remains the same – at \$92. Members will receive an email notification from AAUW to renew in the month prior to it being due.

There are two ways to renew: **ONLINE** through AAUW National - respond to the email reminder from National or go to [AAUW](#)

[Membership](#); **BY MAIL** – go to the branch website home page and click on “Join Us.” This takes you to the [Membership Page](#). At the bottom of the page, click on “Join by Mail.” Print the form and send it with a check to the address listed.

ENGAGEMENT – When members join, they list their interests in the various areas of the branch. Current members and officers certainly try to reach out and meet with new members when they join. At the same time, making those connections sometimes calls for a two-way effort. Whether you are a new member or not, if you are ready to connect or reconnect, check out: [Time to Engage](#).

HEARTWARMING – At the Used Book Sale this year, an unidentified gentleman made an anonymous gift of \$92 for the purchase of a one-year AAUW State College membership for a deserving person. What a wonderful expression of support!

QUESTIONS? Contact Membership VPs [Susan Chyczewski](#) and [Carline Crevecoeur](#)



AAUW National election - Bylaws amendment for open membership falls short

AAUW National's proposed Bylaws amendment to drop the educational requirement for AAUW membership did not pass.

Changes to AAUW's bylaws require 2/3 majority (66.6%) to pass. AAUW members voted 65.1%, just short of the required votes needed.

Cheryl Sorokin, 2024 board chair, and Julia Brown, immediate past chair, commented, "We are disappointed that the initiative to open AAUW's membership did not pass. We understand that this outcome may feel exclusionary to some. But AAUW's history is one of continual change and growth, even in the face of challenges. That same resilient spirit must guide us now as we seek to fulfill AAUW's purpose to advance equity for women and girls."

AAUW Pennsylvania President Cindy Hall shared the following response to the outcome of the vote: [2024 AAUW National Election Outcome](#)



Lenore Clarke - lenoreclarke@gmail.com

Hello, neighbors. I am a recent transplant from Chester County, smack dab between Philly and Lancaster County, where my husband

and I lived for 35 years. We have three sons, four grandchildren, and no pets, allowing us to travel whenever and wherever we want.

Professionally, I was a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner before I became involved in pediatric vaccine trials. From there it was an easy transition to becoming involved further in pharmaceutical industry roles for the rest of my career.



Personally, I am a quilter with Centre Pieces Quilt Guild and coordinator of Comfort Covers for Centre County. You can also find me on Monday mornings pulling book requests for people at Schlow Library. I was the Book Nook coordinator for the Henrietta Hankin Library in Chester Springs for 10 years. We had twice yearly sales, as well as a rotated, well-stocked area for selling donations from the library and the public.

I am excited to start with AAUW sorting books in June. We do an admirable service helping people "let go" of some of their treasures.



Cathi Fuhrman - cathifuhrman@gmail.com

Hello! I am Cathi Fuhrman, a high school librarian in the State College Area School District. I have been a school librarian for 30 years and was a library department supervisor for 21 years in my former school district before coming to State College three years ago. I am also an adjunct, online instructor at Antioch University/Seattle. I currently serve on the AASL Board of Directors and am a past president of the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association and a past chair of the American Association of School Librarians Chapter Assembly.

In April, I was elected as a Councilor-at-Large to the American Library Association for the 2025-2027 term. I was honored to recently receive the [AASL Intellectual Freedom Award for 2024](#). I am co-chair of the PSLA Intellectual Freedom Task Group and a member of the ALA EDI Assembly, and PSLA's Advocacy Committee. I received my undergraduate degree from Millersville University, my MSLIS from Drexel University, and my Ed.D. from the University of Delaware.

I have three grown sons scattered in Harrisburg, Lehigh Valley, and our youngest serving in the U.S. Army. I am excited to be a part of State College AAUW and to help advocate for the important work the organization engages in.



Kimberly Hamilton - hamiltonk141@gmail.com

Hello, everyone! I joined AAUW at the recent book sale, where I volunteered for the first time. I have attended the book sale forever, but have only recently explored AAUW's mission and values, which harmonize with my own beliefs and years of advocacy for gender equity.

I am an attorney who has been practicing in Centre County since 1981, first as a Public Defender and then as a co-founder of the law firm Hamilton and Kimmel, located in Bellefonte. My undergraduate education was at Penn State, and I received my Juris Doctor degree from Pitt Law School. During the pandemic, my law partner and I decided to dissolve our firm and since then I have taken on the role of lawyer as a peacemaker through mediation and collaborative law.

I love reading and I am interested in working on the book sale, as well as AAUW's other advocacy programs. I live with my husband, Bob, and crazy dog, Wilbur, in Boalsburg. I am currently the treasurer and one of the founding members of the local chapter of the National Organization for Women, where I have had the good fortune to work with many amazing and talented women over the years. I am looking forward to meeting many more through my membership with AAUW.



Vijay Varadan – vjvesm@gmail.com

Through AAUW State College, I have enjoyed meeting many of the members, attending conferences, meeting various prominent leaders in Pennsylvania, and more importantly, some of AAUW’s young awardees. Thanks for the great opportunity. Please let me know if I can be of any additional assistance that may be helpful and make AAUW State College more successful always.



Used Book Sale wraps up with workshop volunteers’ potluck

About 20 book workshop volunteers who worked at the sale gathered on May 21 for a potluck lunch, where they shared their thoughts on preparing for and working at the sale. Topics ranged from a discussion of what categories sold well at the sale to how to improve the shopper experience. The Used Book Sale committee will meet later in the summer to review the feedback.

Left: Sale Co-Chairs Donna Trapp and Mary Ann Blair meant business, including taking notes for next year’s sale.



Book Nook Diorama has magical charm

John Hiester, husband of branch member **Sue Hiester**, is a talented artist who makes miniature diorama scenes. The “Book Nook,” the size of a large book, fits on a book shelf. The branch acquired it and decided to have a drawing among dedicated book workshop volunteers. The lucky winner was **Angie Hay**, a 30-year workshop volunteer.

BOOK DONATIONS

Welcome Here

Mid-June to August

Mon 6-8 pm; Tue/Wed 9 am-Noon

September to Mid-March

Mon 6-8 pm; Tue/Wed 9 am-2:30 pm



Book Donation Guidelines
bit.ly/Book_Donation



Used Book Workshop to reopen June 18

We are almost ready to start accepting books for next year’s sale (May 17-20, 2025). The AAUW State College Used Book Workshop will resume accepting donations in the outdoor bins out front, 24/7, on **Tuesday, June 18. The workshop itself will be open and staffed on Mondays, 6-8 pm and Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9 am-noon.** Left, check out the new door sign!

If you are new to the workshop, it is located at 2197 High Tech Road, down the road across from the airport. At the end of the chain link fence on the left, turn right and drive to the rear. The workshop is housed in the big building with the blue donation bins. If you have not donated books before, be sure to check out [Book Donation](#).



Nittany Valley Writers Network – time for summer reading & writing

Whether you love to write, are a budding author, or are thinking of joining a book group, the Nittany Valley Writers Network is a great resource for all things reading and writing. Check them out: [NVWN June 2024](#)



Join the League of Women Voters Centre County June 17 for book banning program

In conjunction with their (ten-minute) annual meeting, the LWV-CC has invited AAUW State College to join them for a dinner program on book banning, featuring former Schlow Library Director **Cathy Alloway**.

It will be held on **Monday, June 17, at 5:30 pm** at the Summit at Shiloh Clubhouse, 400 Jefferson Avenue, State College. **Directions:** Near the intersection of Shiloh Road and Trout Road, two residential buildings and one Clubhouse. Free parking.

RSVP: lwvcentrecounty@gmail.com. **Payment:** send a check for \$20/person by **Monday, June 10**, to LVWCC, P. O. Box 962, State College, 16804.



Central Pennsylvania
Festival of the Arts™

Volunteers still needed for July 10-14 AAUW-staffed booth at Central PA Festival of the Arts

The CPFA information booth on the corner of College and Allen will be staffed by AAUW State College volunteers again this year.

The booth is open Wednesday, July 10, to Saturday, July 13, from 9:30 am to 7:30 pm; Sunday, July 14, from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm. Remaining open shifts include **Wednesday, July 10:** 11 am to 1 pm (1 slot) and 1 to 4 pm (1 slot); **Friday, July 12:** 11 am to 1 pm (1 slot) and 1 to 3 pm (2 slots); **Sunday, July 14:** 1 to 4 pm (1 slot). To volunteer, contact [Jackie Esposito](#). Thank you.

Complete operational guidelines will be provided just prior to the Festival to each volunteer, and a detailed guide to the Fest will be at the booth.

--Jackie Esposito, AAUW State College Arts Fest Liaison



Join us behind the scenes – at the board meetings

Branch members are welcome to attend monthly board meetings. It is a great place to learn about what is going on and to offer input. Minutes from the last two meetings follow: [5-6-2024 AAUWSC Board Minutes](#)
[5-20-2024 AAUWSC Minutes](#)

The next AAUW State College board meeting will take place in person at the Patton Township Building and also via Zoom on **Monday, June 10, 11:30 am–1 pm**. Click here to join us: bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardMeeting



Branch Bulletin dates

After a summer hiatus, the next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **August 5**. The submission deadline will be **Monday, July 29**. Please send items to editor [Connie Schroeder](#).