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**RSVPs due now for December 10 Gathering**

Our AAUW State College Holiday Gathering will be held on **Tuesday, December 10, 5:30-7:30 pm** at [University Wine Company](http://UniversityWineCompany.com).

Join us for an evening filled with food, drinks, laughter, and great company. **Festive attire, ugly sweaters are welcome.**

[Taproot Kitchen](http://TaprootKitchen.com) will cater a lovely meal of artisan dishes.



One beverage (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) is included in the cost of the meal, which has been subsidized by the branch.



**University Wine Company** is located at [540 Misty Hill Drive](http://540MistyHillDrive.com) 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. The winery is the first left up Misty Hill Drive.

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Members are welcome to invite guests to this event. The cost for all to attend is **\$20 per person**, except for members who joined the branch this year, who are invited to attend at no cost.

Please **RSVP** [membership@aauwstatecollege.org](mailto:membership@aauwstatecollege.org) your plans to attend **by Tuesday, December 3**, and bring **cash or a \$20 check made out to "SCAUW" to the event.** (Only one "A" in "SCAUW")

# How did Women Candidates Fare in the 2024 Pennsylvania Elections?



In our Congressional races, two seats changed hands, from Democratic to Republican. One of those losses was by a woman, Susan Wild, who was replaced by a man. Our Pennsylvania delegation now consists of ten Republicans to seven Democrats, including four women out of the 17, down from five. All four are Democrats.

In the US Senate race, Sen. Casey conceded, switching the seat from a male Democrat to a male Republican.

You already are aware that for President, the male candidate defeated the woman candidate for the second time.

The picture in our Pennsylvania Legislature is brighter for women, particularly when considered over time.

In the Pennsylvania Senate, 18 of the 50 members are women, evenly split at nine per party, for a total of 36%. Democrats added one woman to move up to nine members, which is 40.9% of the 22 Democratic Senators. Republicans' nine seats account for 32.1% of their 28 members.

In the Pennsylvania House, Republicans hold 101 seats. After this election, they have two less women, dropping from 27 to 25 seats, for a current 25.7% of their caucus. Democrats have 102 seats, maintaining their one seat majority. One woman moved from the House to the Senate, and another did not run again, but two new women won, keeping Democratic women's numbers at 36 seats, for 35.3% of their caucus. A woman, Joanna McClinton, is Speaker.

According to Represent, an organization dedicated to supporting women Democratic Legislative candidates, the percentage of Democratic women members of each body has doubled in the last 10 years that Represent has been active. In 2014, women held 16 of the Democrats' 92 seats, for 17.9%. In 2014, women held only four of the Democratic Senate seats, for 14.8%.

In these worrisome times, we should remember that persistence pays off.

*--Dianne Gregg and Mary Dupuis, Public Policy Co-Chairs*

## AAUW Hosts Post-Election Conversation



AAUW national provided a post-election webinar on November 19 that explored the path forward for women's economic security under the incoming Trump administration and the 119th Congress. It focused on the key AAUW issues of pay equity, paid family leave, and affordable childcare. Panelists included **Heather Boushey**, a member of President Biden's Council of Economic Advisers, **Dr. Jamila Taylor**, President and CEO of the Institute for

Women’s Policy Research (IWPR), focusing on maternal healthcare, reproductive justice, and structural barriers to healthcare access, and **Gloria L. Blackwell**, AAUW CEO.

**Gloria Blackwell** referenced remarks provided in AAUW’s [AAUW Post-Election Statement](#), where she stated, “The election results are extremely sobering, especially on the heels of a partisan, gridlocked Congress. AAUW is committed to holding all elected officials accountable about women’s rights, bodily autonomy, and access to education and economic opportunity, particularly for women of color.”

As president, Trump appointed the three conservative U.S. Supreme Court Justices who supported overturning Roe vs. Wade and women’s right to abortion care. His Supreme Court picks also helped overturn affirmative action in college admission decisions. Colleges and universities have since reported a downturn in students of color being admitted to their institutions as a result.

There was a positive that came out of this election. AAUW championed 10 state ballot measures that would codify into state laws and constitutions women’s rights to abortion access, and of the 10, seven states passed measures to maintain or expand abortion access.

Going forward, the panelists emphasized the importance of working strategically, primarily at the local and state levels, to effect change. Collaboration with allies to advance our platform is key. The program closed with a reminder from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: “*The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.*”

**View the webinar:** [Post-Election Conversation Webinar](#)

## School Vouchers: Read “Public Funding-Private Schooling”



Thank you to Education Committee member **Carol Hodes** for sharing the following comprehensive article on school vouchers: [Public Funding-Private Schooling](#). Taxpayer support of private schools through school vouchers is a threat to the public school system. AAUW strongly supports strong public schools, and we need to be well-informed and vigilant. The good news is that school voucher referenda were on the ballot in Nebraska, Kentucky, and Colorado and were all roundly rejected.

—Sue Johnston, AAUW State College Education Committee Chair

## Recognizing our Members: Nominations Due January 15



It is time to gather nominations to recognize our branch’s dedicated members! Please look around to see who is actively supporting the branch and submit your nomination(s) for the awards described below. Nominations should include a brief paragraph on how the person,

group, or organization meets the award criteria. Awardees will be recognized at our annual Award & Scholarship Celebration next June.

Nominations are due **January 15, 2025**. Following is a description of each of the awards.

### ***Outstanding Woman Award***

The Outstanding Woman Award recipient is an AAUW State College member who has given meritorious service to the branch and to the community over multiple years. Awardees for the past five years include: 2020–**Mary Dupuis**; 2021–**Cindy Hall** and **Sally Kalin**; 2022–**Naana Nti**; 2023–**Sally Kalin** and **Connie Schroeder**; 2024–**Carol-Beth Book**.

### ***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: 2020–**Ann Echols**; 2021–**Dina Liberatore**; 2022–**Estelle Stroup Call**; 2023–**Mary Ann Blair**; 2024–**Jackie Esposito**.

### ***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: 2020–**Fair Districts PA Centre County**; 2021–**Carol Eicher** and the **Community Diversity Group**; 2022–**Ten Thousand Villages State College**; 2023–**Leslie Laing**; 2024–**League of Women Voters Centre County**.

### ***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: 2020–**Suzanne Kerlin** and **Sherry Crassweller**; 2021–**Ann Echols**; 2022–**Jordan Glover**; 2023–**Vasundara Varadan**; 2024–**Donna Trapp**.

**Please send nominations by January 15** to Awards Co-Chairs [Chriss Schultz](#) and [Suzanne Kerlin](#) and let us know if you have any questions.

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

*DIVERSITY*



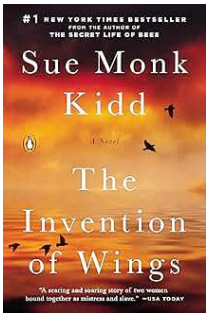
**You Are Invited to the CDG International Potluck,  
December 17, 6:00-8:00 pm**

Members of the Community Diversity Group welcome AAUW State College members to their annual *International Holiday Potluck-Celebrating Holiday Traditions from Around the World*. It will be held on **Tuesday, December 17,**

**6:00-8:00 pm** at the South Hills School of Business and Technology, 480 Waupelani Drive, State College. See links for details and sign-up today!

**Share Flyer:** [12-17 International Potluck Flyer](#); **Register:** [12-17 Potluck Registration](#)

## ¡ADELANTE! Book Club: Thursday, January 23, 2:30 pm



The next meeting of the Adelante Book Club will be on **Thursday, January 23, 2:30 pm**. We will discuss *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd.

**SUMMARY:** Hetty “Handful” Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke’s daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women.

Our book club is modeled after the AAUW Diversity Outreach for Impact Program, featuring diverse cultures in both fiction and nonfiction offerings. To participate with the group, please contact [diversity@aauwstatecollege.org](mailto:diversity@aauwstatecollege.org). We warmly welcome new members.

While Naana Nti will remain a book club member, [Sophie Penney Leach](#) is the new coordinator for this group. Sophie looks forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the meeting.

**Join Meeting:** [January 23 Meeting Zoom](#); **Meeting ID:** 889 9822 6517; **Passcode:** 498414

## Branch to Again Co-Sponsor *National Day of Racial Healing* on January 24



2025 marks the second year for our community to participate in the National Day of Racial Healing. It is tentatively set for **Friday, January 24, 12:00-2:00 pm** at the State College Borough Building. Partner sponsors include AAUW State College, Community Diversity Group, State College Borough, and the Borough’s Racial Equity Advisory

Commission. Stay tuned for details!

## *International Perspectives on Women in Society* with Humphrey Fellows Set for Thursday, January 30



AAUW State College will host its annual *International Perspectives on Women in Society* program, featuring two Penn State Humphrey Fellows, on **Thursday, January 30, 2025, 11:30 am-1:30 pm**. It will be held at The Graduate State College, 125 South Atherton.

Under the direction of **Naana Nti** and with help from **Christine Bishop**, this program has been a staple in our program lineup for 12 years. Thank you, Naana and Christine, for your leadership. With the Penn State Humphrey program ending later this spring, this is the final program in this series.

The program follows a lunch buffet and will be moderated by branch member **Carolyn Donaldson**. The panel features two of the current year's Penn State Humphrey Fellows:



**Nauzika Kovacs** is a Vice-dean for Education and Associate Professor at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary. She has a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering. Her focus is on academic program development, quality assurance, and fostering innovation in engineering education. She has been recognized for her achievements in academic research, participating in international conferences, and contributing to significant research projects.



**Kallaya Tantiyaswasdikul** is an Associate Professor of Architecture and Planning, Thammasat University, Thailand. She holds a Ph.D. in Policy Science and is a strategic foresight practitioner specializing in scenario planning and design thinking. Her research focuses on strategic foresight to inform policy recommendations involving innovation and sustainability.

Lead sponsor for the event is AAUW State College. Co-sponsors include the Community Diversity Group, Global Connections, Penn State Humphrey Fellows, and Soroptimists International of Centre County.

To attend, please send a **check for \$26 payable to "SCAUW"** (one "A") c/o Christine Bishop, 205 First Avenue, State College, Pa. 16801 **by January 23**. Late payments will be accepted at the door, but reservations are still required by January 23. **Questions?** Contact [Christine Bishop](#), (814) 441-3571. **Share Flyer:** [1-30-2025 Humphrey Program Flyer](#)

Diversity Committee: *Naana Nti (Chair), Carline Crevecoeur, Denise Rupert, Malu Tejada, Sophie Penney Leach, Maria Schmidt, and Carmen Vanderhoof*

## MEMBERSHIP FOCUS



### You Are Invited to a Fabulous ReGift Party January 14

Feeling the gift-giving blues? Worry not—turn those mismatched presents into smiles at our joyful ReGift Party! Join us **Tuesday, January 14, at 5:30 pm**, at the home of Membership Co-VP **Carline Crevecoeur**. Why hoard those peculiar treasures when you can swap them for something truly special?

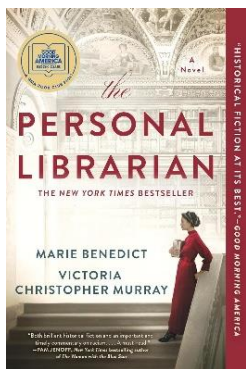
It's all about fun, laughter, and finding that unexpected gem! Bring your quirky, fun, or just plain "What was this?" gifts (wrapped) for a regifting adventure.

**RSVP today:** [membership@aauwstatecollege.org](mailto:membership@aauwstatecollege.org) and get ready for an evening of fun!

## Tuesday, April 22, Bus Trip to NYC to see the Morgan Library & Museum Exhibition: *Belle Da Costa Green – A Librarian Legacy*

**SAVE  
the  
DATE**

We are very excited to announce plans for a branch-sponsored bus trip to **New York City on April 22, 2025**. The trip coincides with the 100th anniversary of the [Morgan Library](#). Our primary interest is in a special exhibit at the Morgan on the life of J.P. Morgan's personal librarian. **Learn more:** [Belle Greene Exhibit](#). There also will be some time for you to explore New York City.



Many of us first learned about Belle da Costa Greene a few years ago when we read *The Personal Librarian* in our *¡Adelante!* book group. It described the true story of Belle, a woman of color, passing as a white woman to achieve success in the art and literary world. If you have not yet read the book, check it out now!

We secured a fabulous rate of \$60 per person for the bus, and the only other costs will be admission to the library and meals. AAUW State College members will have priority, but if seats are available, guests will also be welcome. Details will be provided in the January *Branch Bulletin*.

--Carline Crevecoeur and Susan Chyczewski, AAUW State College Membership Co-Chairs

## Explore Branch Engagement Opportunities

**engage**

Whether you are a longtime member or have joined the branch recently, if you are not currently "engaged" with the branch, or would like to shift directions, we need you!

There are several committees behind the scenes, planning branch programs, holding membership events, assisting with the Used Book Sale, selecting scholarship recipients, and doing much more. Check out the list of engagement opportunities today: [ENGAGEMENT](#)



## Time to renew your AAUW membership?

Time to renew your AAUW membership? Members receive an email renewal notification from AAUW the month prior to the renewal date.

**RENEW ONLINE** through AAUW national – respond to the email reminder from National or go to [AAUW Membership](#) on national’s webpage where you will be asked to reset your password.

**RENEW BY MAIL** – go to [https://aauwstatecollege.org/join\\_aauw\\_membership/](https://aauwstatecollege.org/join_aauw_membership/) and click on “Join by Mail” at the page bottom. Print the form and send with a check to address listed.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Membership VPs **Susan Chyczewski** and **Carline Crevecoeur** at [membership@aauwstatecollege.org](mailto:membership@aauwstatecollege.org).

## BOOK BEAT

### Holiday Hours for Workshop Volunteers

The Used Book Workshop will be closed to volunteers over the holidays, starting **December 23**. It will reopen on **January 6**. Book donations will still be accepted through this time, via the outdoor bins next to the workshop door.

### New Signage Guides Book Donors to the Book Workshop



**Left:** The new sign on High Tech Road is a good prompt that it is almost time to turn right.

**Right:** If you come and the door (right) is locked, deposit books into blue bins on the left.

## GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

### Branch Community Outreach



Thanks to the annual AAUW State College Used Book Sale, the branch is able to give back to the community with sale proceeds. The grants fund several Centre County non-profits whose missions dovetail with our own to advance equity for women and girls. One group of programs support

women and girls to pursue their interest in the STEM fields. Other grants address basic needs such as health care, literacy, and self-esteem.

In addition, 3-5 major undergraduate scholarships are awarded annually, funded primarily by an endowment created with Used Book Sale funds.

- **Community Action Grants** - Community Action Grants Chair **Sherry Crassweller** shares that her committee is meeting soon to select this fall's grant recipients and will share updates soon on the programs selected for funding. **Learn more:** [AAUWSC Community Action Grants](#)
- **STEM Grants** - STEM Co-Chairs **Carol Beth Book** and **Michele Crowl** report that their committee is reviewing the mini-grant application process. \$500 STEM mini-grants proposals are now accepted on a rolling basis. **Learn more:** [AAUWSC STEM Grants](#)
- **Branch Scholarships** - Scholarship Co-chair **Leslie Laing** reports that the application period for returning adult women undergraduates to apply for scholarships runs **January 15–March 31, 2025**. **Learn more:** [AAUWSC Scholarships](#)

## BEHIND THE SCENES

### Monthly board meetings open to membership



Branch board meetings are open to all members and are a great way to learn about what is going on and to offer your input. To catch up on branch business, review the minutes from the last board meeting:

[11-11-2024 Meeting Minutes](#)

The next branch board meeting will take place **via ZOOM (only) Monday, December 9, 11:30 am–1:00 pm**. Meeting link: [bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardMtg](https://bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardMtg)



### **Branch Bulletin dates**

The next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **January 7**. The submission deadline is **Monday, December 30**. Please send items to editor [Connie Schroeder](#).