

Summer AAUW Events

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2025 Used Book Sale achieves record attendance and nets \$161,000+ for local grants, scholarships, more



The AAUW State College 63rd Used Book Sale ended in style, with happy shoppers, great volunteers, record attendance (7,867 shoppers), and a wonderful outcome.

This year's sale stood out with some new ideas that we have not done before, and that worked well. First, on Saturday morning we had four sale monitors. Left, Molly Kunkel made sure that our new Code of Conduct was being adhered to. Second, one of our new branch grant recipients (CC4-H Robotics) was permitted to have a demonstration display, which was well received.

Left: Gail Agans and Vasundara Varadan, incoming and current finance officers, were kept very busy at the sale. Vasundara reported total sales of **\$211,475**, almost identical to the 2024 total. After deducting book workshop (rent, utilities, etc.) and sale expenses, net proceeds from the sale come to **\$161,475**. Great job and THANK YOU to all who made it happen!



2025 Used Book Sale Volunteers Engage



AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET



Our May 29 banquet began with a welcome from incoming branch president, Carline Crevecoeur. She offered a powerful and inspiring message that is shared below.

For those of you who may not know me, I am Carline Crevecoeur, a Haitian-American woman. I was raised mostly by my mother and grandmother who had a tremendous influence on me. They instilled many values

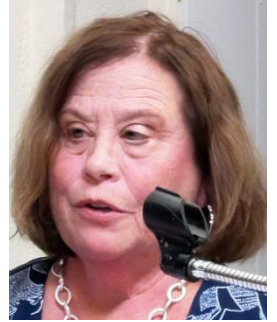
in me. They taught me the value of education because they believed you would not get far in life without a good education. They taught me the necessity of speaking up, because we were one of the first Black families to move into a white neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York. We were not welcomed. My grandmother and my mom spoke to me about the value of responsibility we have, not only to our families and children, but to one another.

Those lessons led me to pursue a career in obstetrics and gynecology, not only to heal, but to advocate for women, especially Black women whose voices are too often unheard. And now, as a mother of five, including two amazing girls, that mission feels even more personal and urgent. I want my children to grow up in a world where equity is not just an ideal, but a lived reality.

That calling is what led me to serve as a Director on the State College Area School Board, and ultimately to join AAUW. In a world that too often feels designed to divide and discourage, AAUW has chosen a different path. We choose to *show up*, to *speak out*, and to *move forward—together*.

AAUW Pennsylvania president (and AAUW State College member)

Cindy Hall thanked the branch for its successes and many contributions, and shared her vision for the future.



Outstanding Woman award recipient Michele Crowl and President-Elect Molly Kunkel enjoyed a moment together.



Member Making a Difference award recipient Sherry Lonsdale found time to relax after working hard with her web team on first steps to renovate the branch website. Part 2, straight ahead!

Thank you and congratulations to all branch award recipients!



Carolyn Donaldson congratulated Amy Wilson on being named CCCHS Rose Cologne Volunteer of the Year for the branch.



Five returning adult scholarships were awarded.

Row 1: Savannah Heiden and Samantha Bergers (recipients).
Row 2: Ann Mitra (Scholarship Committee); Morgen Noll and Morgen Colpetzer (recipients); Leslie Laing (Scholarship Committee Chair) and Maria Schmidt (Scholarship Committee member).

Not pictured: Moira Inocencio, recipient.



Cindy Pasquinelli accepts Gateway to Equity Award on behalf of Strawberry Fields from Awards Chair Chriss Schultz.



The Strategic Planning Implementation Task Force was recognized as Named Gift Honorees. **Pictured:** Grace Hampton, chair; Jackie Esposito, Ann Echols, and Linda Higginson. **Not pictured:** Lee Carpenter.



Left: Public Policy Co-Chair Mary Dupuis urged members to engage in promoting AAUW advocacy priorities.

Right: Nancy Chiswick was recognized as a new 50-year member. Learn more about her on page 10.

Click here to view our new slide show, viewed at the banquet:

2024-2025
Be a Part of Something That Matters

Share this with others!

Introducing the 2025-2027 branch officer team



At the close of the May 29 Awards & Scholarships Banquet, new officers for the 2025-2027 AAUW State College Board of Directors term were elected by acclamation. They were nominated through the efforts of the Nomination Committee early this spring, which included Nina Cowart, Candace Davison, Molly Kunkel, Dina Liberatore, and Vasundara Varadan. Thank you, all!

Thank you to outgoing officers Connie Schroeder (Marketing & Communications), Vasundara Varadan (Financial Officer), and Nancy Weinreb (Co-Secretary). Best wishes to the newly elected officers, who are listed below in **blue** along with the rest of the team, whose terms were not due to expire:

- President – **Carline Crevecoeur** with President-Elect Molly Kunkel (2024-2026)
- **Past Presidents' Team**
- Co-VPs Marketing & Communications – **Angela Hughes** & **Dina Liberatore**
- Co-VP Membership – **Susan Chyczewski**
- Co-VPs Programs – **Betsy Manlove** with Renee Cloutier (2024-2026)
- Co-Secretary – **Lee Carpenter**, with Amy Wilson (2024-2026)
- Financial Officer – **Gail Agans**

Our membership committee in particular could use more members to see to various tasks, which are not difficult to do. If interested, contact membership@aauwstatecollege.org.

NCCWSL SCHOLARSHIPS

Branch sends five Penn State women to leadership conference



The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), a leadership conference, was held May 28-30 on the University of Maryland campus.

NCCWSL scholarships unite college women nationwide for an experience in leadership development, networking, and inspiration.

Our branch sent five Penn State-UP women to the conference, including **Natalia Brizuela-Wahlin**, undergraduate, College of Agricultural Sciences; **Ela Garza**, junior, College of Liberal Arts and Schreyer Honors College; **Ayesha Iqbal**, PhD student, Department of Biology, College of Science; **Savannah McCloskey-Reigh**, undergraduate, College of Agricultural Sciences; **Emma Steely**, graduate assistant, Bio-Renewable Systems, College of Agricultural Sciences.

A recent memorial gift from former branch member **Ann Heinsohn**, who was committed to providing leadership experiences for women in agriculture, contributed to the scholarships.



Left: Coming from a family of avid readers, NCCWSL scholarship recipient Emma Steely (in apron) found the book sale a perfect place to volunteer; **right:** Emma, Ayesha, Ela, Natalia, Savannah at the conference.

Below, two NCCWSL attendees shared their personal experiences at the conference, Ela Garza and Savannah McCloskey-Reigh.

From Ela Garza:

The National Conference for Women Student Leaders was an enriching experience. I attended all three days and most of the sessions the conference offered. I also met many people, including a couple of women outside of the Penn State group. The conference began with a keynote address on Wednesday by Dr. Daria J. Willis, the President of Howard Community College. Her address was about enduring adversity as one of the first black women to be president of the college, including by the US Congress. She discussed the changes she brought to the college, her successes, and the backlash she got as a result of those changes and her presence.

On Thursday, Resa Lovelace led the opening keynote. She is a queer black woman who works with student athletes at the University of Maryland. She also discussed the adversity she experienced as a result of being a queer woman in a male-dominated space as well as the initiatives she led, including BeOregon at the University of Oregon.

The afternoon keynote was led by Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO. The final closing keynote was held by Dr. Jhenai Chandler, the Vice President for Research and Policy at NASPA. Her keynote was about the experiences that led her to her work at NASPA.

On Thursday and Friday, there were multiple sessions and workshops based around leadership, the workplace, or the pressures women experience in both areas. I attended four of the five sessions. The first one I participated in was about perfectionism, its toll, and how to stop the pressure it creates. Multiple other women talked about their issues with perfectionism as well, most commonly related to academics or leadership experiences. I also

attended a lecture on the basics of personal finance, which discussed budgeting strategies and credit/debit. The third one I attended discussed authenticity in the workplace and what values were most important when navigating the job search and actually being in the job. There was a speed networking event set to take place immediately after. The session I went to discussed the manifestations of oppression and how that manifested in society and the workplace. We were split into groups and asked to give examples of each one. Overall, I enjoyed the conference and was able to make some connections. I learned some things about navigating adversity from within and from the outside, and also some ideas for managing personal finance.

From Savannah McCloskey-Reigh:



***Savannah
McCloskey-Reigh***

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) was an amazing experience that focused on empowering women and building a vibrant community of leaders. Attending NCCWSL is not just about the workshops and lectures; it is a chance to make meaningful connections, find inspiration, and discover the incredible strength of women who are eager to lead and make a difference.

One of the highlights of the NCCWSL conference was the sense of camaraderie among everyone who attends. Women from all walks of life and different academic fields come together, all driven by a shared desire to grow as leaders. The atmosphere is warm and supportive, encouraging everyone to be open, vulnerable, and confident. Through engaging sessions, you will not only learn important leadership skills but also share your own stories, challenges, and victories. This sharing fostered mutual respect and understanding, showing that leadership is a journey we take together, not something we do alone.

NCCWSL also creates an inclusive community where women can build lifelong friendships and professional networks. It is a welcoming space where we uplift one another, celebrate each other's successes, and collaborate on ideas for positive change. The connections made during the event often last far beyond the conference, becoming a valuable source of encouragement and support in our ongoing journeys.

In short, the NCCWSL leadership conference is a joyful celebration of experiences and community among women. It equips you with the skills, confidence, and connections needed to lead with passion. Most importantly, it reminds us all that our voices matter, and together, we can be a powerful force for good in the world! I thank you dearly for the opportunity to learn, grow, and feel unity.

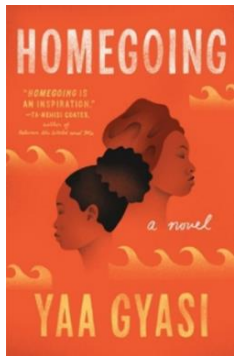
Juneteenth Celebration planned for June 13-14



Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States, normally celebrated on or near June 19 to commemorate the ending of slavery in the United States. All of our community is invited to State College's **5th Annual Juneteenth Celebration** on June 13-14. This event honors the importance of June 19th, 1865, when the last enslaved African Americans in the rebelling states were notified that the Emancipation Proclamation would be enforced.

An Arts & Crafts exhibition will be held at the Woskob Family Gallery (146 South Allen Street) on **Friday, June 13th, at 6 pm**. On Saturday the **14th**, the celebration continues with a block party, to be held **noon to 6 pm** at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza, 100 block of Fraser Street. Come and enjoy the food, art, music, performances, and many wonderful and inspiring activities. **More:** [Juneteenth Celebration](#)

Join ¡Adelante! Book Club: Thursday, July 17, 2:30 pm



¡Adelante!, our diversity book club, will read **Homegoing** by Yaa Gyasi for our next virtual gathering on Thursday, July 17.

An historical fiction, *Homegoing* follows the parallel paths of two sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem. Yaa Gyasi's extraordinary, prize-winning novel illuminates slavery's troubled legacy both for those who were taken and those who stayed. *Homecoming* shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our

nation. – from Penguin Books, the publisher.

Schlow Library has one print copy, and it is also available as an audio book through Schlow and as an e-book. Amazon and other sellers carry the book as well. All are welcome to join us.

Questions? Contact ¡Adelante! Book Club leader [Sophie Penney Leach](#).

Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82936052690?pwd=N47q4jKB9QOowzPjzxYJf6yRtsig3H.1>

--AAUW State College Diversity Committee: Naana Niti (Chair), Carline Crevecoeur, Sophie Penney Leach, Denise Rupert, Maria Schmidt, and Carmen Vanderhoof

Equity is the key to the future that we all want to be a part of.

COMING KEY DATES

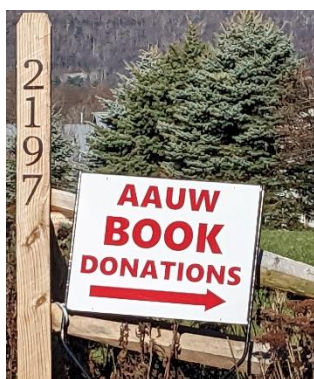
Branch registrations for June 27-28 AAUW Pennsylvania retreat high



Wonderful news! Thirty branch members have signed up to attend the June 27-28 AAUW Pennsylvania summer retreat. It will be held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Boalsburg.

Reminder to those signed up: The Friday night reception runs from 6:30 to 8:00 pm and includes hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Saturday begins with breakfast refreshments at 9 am, and the program runs 10 am-3 pm.

Used Book Workshop to reopen for donations starting July 8



Great news for those of us who have full book shelves and need to make room for more books! The AAUW State College Used Book Workshop reopens on **Tuesday, July 8**, for book donations for our May 2026 sale. Donations may be made anytime in outdoor donation bins.

Summer Hours: The workshop will be staffed by volunteers this summer Mondays 6:00-8:00 pm; Tuesday/Wednesdays 9:00 am-Noon. Check out book donation guidelines before you pack your car: [AAUW State College Book Donation](#).

For those who have not been out to the workshop before, it is located at 2197 High Tech Road, across from State College Area Airport. Watch for AAUW signs.

AAUW State College-sponsored Info Booth at Arts Fest July 9-13



Jackie Esposito, branch liaison to the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, reports that the volunteer staffing schedule for the Arts Fest AAUW-staffed Information Booth on Allen Street (near College Avenue) is very nearly complete. Right now, the only openings left are for **Wednesday, July 9, noon-3 pm** and **Sunday, July 13, 1-4 pm**. Contact [Jackie Esposito](#) if you can help!

AAUW State College-sponsored Penn State Forum speaker scheduled for Monday, October 13 – *save the date!*

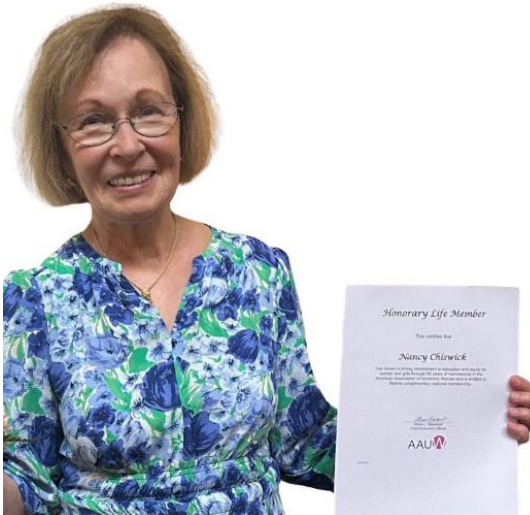


Caroline Fitzgerald has been selected as the AAUW State College-sponsored Penn State Forum speaker. The Penn State Forum lunch is scheduled for **October 13 at the Penn Stater, Deans Hall**. Caroline is the Founder and CEO of GOALS—a

consultancy and media platform dedicated to growing women's sports. She has dedicated her career to empowering individuals through innovative approaches to personal and professional development. ***Ticket information will be provided this summer. For now, mark your calendar!***

MEMBERSHIP FOCUS

Meet 50-year AAUW State College member, Nancy Chiswick



At the recent AAUW State College Awards & Scholarships Banquet, Immediate Past Co-President Sally Kalin shared the following thoughts about branch member Nancy Chiswick.

Dr. Nancy Chiswick has been a member of AAUW for fifty years and therefore has achieved honorary status.

Nancy's life exemplifies AAUW's mission and values. A psychotherapist who is experienced working with all ages, Nancy maintains a special interest in clinical child psychology and in women's issues, including women who suffer from depression, anxiety, and eating disorders.

Although hailing from Illinois with digressions to Massachusetts, Europe, and Asia, Nancy and her husband decided to make State College their home where she has been an active participant on numerous boards and committees. In describing State College, she has said: "And what a lovely place to land: I could not have imagined a better place to raise a family (son and daughter), have a career, and be part of a vibrant and varied community."

Although AAUW is a nonpartisan organization, it encourages participation in the political process as a means to make life better for everyone. There are few more committed to this than Nancy. A first-generation American, Nancy is steadfast in her belief in our Constitution. She was instrumental in establishing our local Constitution Day. One year, I still recall her proudly displaying her grandmother's suffragette dress, so I know that her advocacy of women's rights is both emotional and deep.

Recently Nancy put out a call for engagement in our nation's future: "Please find some way to be a part of preserving and strengthening the country we love. We are in a time of political chaos, and we need to make sure we are helping to move us in a direction that will bring us together and preserve democracy."

Nancy brings her intelligence, wisdom, kindness, and compassion to everything she does. While this echoes what we have heard from others tonight, we congratulate Nancy on becoming an honorary member of AAUW and are so proud to consider her one of our own.

Grace Hampton receives award from Penn State Alumni Association



AAUW State College member Grace Hampton recently received the Honorary Alumni Award from the Penn State Alumni Association for her significant contributions toward the University's welfare, reputation, or prestige. She is pictured here with Alumni Association Interim Executive Officer, Ryan Jones. Congratulations, Grace!

Grace Hampton, is professor emerita of art, art education, and integrative arts in the College of Arts and Architecture at Penn State. An accomplished educator and administrator, she has spearheaded research collaborations between Penn State and universities in Ghana and Nigeria, enhancing the University's international impact. Hampton joined the Penn State faculty in 1985 and served in several administrative positions, including vice provost and executive assistant to the provost for the development of the arts, before retiring in 2014.

Hampton joined the Penn State faculty in 1985 and served in several administrative positions, including vice provost and executive assistant to the provost for the development of the arts, before retiring in 2014. She received two Senior Fulbright Awards that supported her work with Kwame Nkrumah University in Ghana and Ilorin University in Nigeria.

Hampton is the founder of Weaving Wisdom, a community-based, intergenerational project that brings people together to discuss how fabrics can convey information about a given culture. In 2022, Forbes Magazine named Hampton a "social entrepreneur," recognizing her establishment of Weaving Wisdom and her teaching across generational divides. The National Art Education Association has dedicated a lecture series in her honor.

Grace has held leadership positions on the Center for the Performing Arts' advisory board and with American Association for University Women and has been involved in Penn State's Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration committee and the local Juneteenth celebration committee. She established a fund that provides ongoing support to the Penn State School of Visual Arts.

Explore Branch Engagement Opportunities



If you are not currently "engaged" with the branch, or would like to shift directions, 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 their 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 bit.ly/AAUWSCMembership and click on “Join by Mail” at the page bottom. Print the form and send it with a check to the address listed. **QUESTIONS?** Contact Membership VPs **Susan Chyczewski** and **Carline Crevecoeur** at membership@aauwstatecollege.org.

BRANCH 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 [April meeting minutes](#).

The next board meeting will occur **via Zoom only** on **Monday, June 9, 11:30 am–1:00 pm**. **There will be no July meeting.**

The August meeting will be hybrid (in-person and on Zoom) on **Monday, August 11, 11:30 am–1:00 pm**. In-person, the meeting will be in the College Township Council Room (second floor) and remotely, it will be held via Zoom.

The Zoom link to board meetings is bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardMtg.

Branch Bulletin dates



After a brief summer hiatus, the next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **August 4**, (the usual first Monday of the month).

The submission deadline for the June bulletin is **Monday, July 28**. Send items to editor [Connie Schroeder](#).