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"Watch Party" and Discussion on Reproductive Rights: Saturday, January 14, 9:30 am

AAUW State College invites you to a screening of the AAUW PA's webinar on the status of reproductive rights in

Pennsylvania. There will be a focus on health implications and possible legislative actions that could affect women and families in Pennsylvania. See [Where AAUW Stands on Reproductive Rights](#).

The event will be held on **Saturday, January 14 from 9:30 am to noon at the home of Vasundara Varadan**. The program is open to branch members and *potential* members. Seating is limited to 20. There will be brunch-style refreshments and a discussion led by branch members Anne Ard and Carline Crevecoeur.

Anne Ard served as Executive Director of Centre Safe (formerly Centre County Women's Resource Center), a domestic violence shelter and rape crisis center for 25 years, retiring in 2022. In 2015, Anne was appointed by Governor Tom Wolf to the Pennsylvania Commission for Women.

Carline Crevecoeur is a retired obstetrician and gynecologist. She has worked extensively with breast cancer patients and victims of sexual violence. After 20 years of medical practice in New York and Pennsylvania, she relocated to State College where she volunteered as a physician for CVIM.

Legislatively, reproductive rights in Pennsylvania are now in flux.

It is a complex landscape with evolving challenges that extend nationwide. We cannot advocate for anything until we know what we're advocating for, and the first step is to have a clear idea of the landscape. **The deadline to sign-up is Tuesday, January 10.** Email your RSVP to [Susan Chyczewski](#) today!



Branch award submissions due January 16

We need YOU to help us recognize our hard-working volunteer members by looking around at who is actively supporting the branch and submitting a nomination(s) for the awards described below. Nominations should include a brief paragraph on how the person, group, or organization meets the awards criteria.

Send nominations to [Chriss Schultz](#) and [Suzanne Kerlin](#), Awards Committee Co-Chairs, by **January 16, 2023**.

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: Carol Hodes (2018); Sue Johnston (2019); Mary Dupuis (2020); Cindy Hall and Sally Kalin (2021); Naana Nti (2022).

Making a Difference Award

This award honors a member who made a significant contribution 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: Michele Crawl (2018); Star Campbell (2019); Ann Echols (2020); Dina Liberatore (2021); Estelle Call (2021).

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: Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program (2018); Interfaith Human Services (2019); Fair Districts PA Centre County (2020); Carol Eicher and the Community Diversity Group (2021); Ten Thousand Villages State College (2022).

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 Banquet dinner. Past recipients include: Jennifer Karch (2018); Angie Hay (2019); Suzanne Kerlin and Sherry Crassweller (2020); Ann Echols (2021); Jordan Glover (2021).

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



This year's Humphrey Fellows panelists include **Abby-Gail Sharonne Blanchard** (Suriname), and **Shehrena Gulamani** (Pakistan).

Luncheon program with Humphrey Fellows set for February 13

Mark your calendars! The Penn State Humphrey Fellows will present *International Perspectives on Women in Society* on **Monday, February 13, from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at The Graduate State**

College (formerly the Atherton Hotel). Event co-sponsors include Altrusa International Centre County, the Community Diversity Group, Soroptimist International of Centre County, and Ten Thousand Villages State College.

This annual event features a panel discussion with two of the current year's Humphrey Fellows. Registration, including lunch buffet, is \$23. **Reservations are due February 6.** **Details:** [February 13 Humphrey program flyer](#)

--Naana Nti, AAUW State College Program Committee

Intersection of Policing and Race event planned for January 10



Centre County | Est. 2020



AAUW State College member **Elizabeth Siegelman** is Program Coordinator for [Community Conferencing of Centre County](#). State College Borough and Community Conferencing have

collaborated on a series of conversations meant to bring people together to listen and learn from one another on topics pertinent to the State College community. ***The Intersection of Policing and Race*** will be held **Tuesday, January 10 from 7-9 pm at the State Theatre**.

The conversation, moderated by Jason Browne and Sue Marshall, will include local panelists who will answer previously selected questions proposed by the community through the registration link provided below. We are eager to hear what the community has to say on this topic and to gather future topics of interest. As a follow-up, a breakout session will be held on **Thursday, January 12 from 5-7 pm** in the Borough Building Community Room (2nd floor), for those interested in further discussing the issues and/or proposing future topics.

Event details & registration: [January 10 Intersection of Policing and Race](#)

For additional information contact [Elizabeth Siegelman](#), (814) 810-7196.

We have a new Centre County Commissioner!



We have a new female County Commissioner. The vacancy existed because Centre County Commissioners Chair, Michael Pipe, has been appointed Deputy Chief of Staff for Public Safety in Gov-elect Josh Shapiro's administration. His replacement is Amber Conception, President of the State College Area School Board.

Amber will be the first woman to serve as Commissioner in over 20 years. The new year brings us municipal elections, with the Commissioner races at the top of the county ticket. We'll bring you the names of all the candidates as soon as we have them. For now, expect nominating petitions to begin to circulate on February 14, for county and local offices as well as for statewide judges.

It's time to decide if you want to run for something. If not, be thinking about good people you know and start to urge them to run.

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

SPOTLIGHT on the STEM Empower Conference, February 4



EMPOWER 2023
February 4th, 2023 | State College PA



[Empower](#) is a networking and professional development conference hosted annually by the State College Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) for students, post-docs, faculty, and

professionals in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Fields.



The theme of the 2023 Empower conference is ***Catalysts for Change. It*** will be held in-person on **Saturday, February 4, 8:30 am – 6:30 pm** at The Graduate Hotel in downtown State College. The keynote speaker is [Dr. Renee Horton](#), a hearing-impaired black physicist, and NASA engineer. She actively advocates for disabled folks in the sciences, and supports girls interested in science. AAUW State College funds T-shirts and other extras for conference participants.

Event Registration: [Empower Registration](#)

Event Flyer: [February 4 Empower Event](#)

SPOTLIGHT on Envision: Stem Career Day, February 25



ENVISION: STEM Career Day Supporting Young Women is a full day event organized by the Office of Science Outreach in the Eberly College of Science. The goal of ENVISION is to help girls and young women see themselves in careers in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math). At ENVISION, students in grades 6-12 come to the Penn State campus to listen to keynote speakers and participate in three hands-on workshops about various STEM topics. Attendees interact with female college students and STEM professionals who answer questions related to their research or their reasons for entering a STEM field.

Participants enjoy lunch together and connect with other girls interested in STEM.

Funding from AAUW helps to support **ENVISION** by providing supplies to the participants.

This year, **ENVISION** will be held on **Saturday, February 25, 2023, from 9 am to 4 pm**. Online registration for the event will begin on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at noon and can be accessed at the ENVISION website: [Envision Registration](#)

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

Student learning losses occur during pandemic



Recently released 2022 test scores, that reflect learning losses from the COVID-19 pandemic lock-downs, have been in the education news. All students felt the impact of the shutdowns, but students already struggling academically and girls seemed to fare worse. The usual testing was suspended in 2020 and participation in the 2021 Keystone exams was so low that it was not considered a representative sample. Thus, the best comparison is between 2019 and 2022 data.

To read the full report visit: [Complete report with data](#)

Students learn best when safely in school where teachers can support them. Schools and teachers had little or no expertise with distance learning techniques prior to the COVID pandemic. Take-aways from the pandemic are that teachers need to better understand how to implement best practices of distance learning when needed and to integrate technology into their instruction.

Students, especially girls, need to know where they can turn for help. Also, teacher education programs must prepare new teachers to integrate technology into teaching and for the possibility of technology-based learning scenarios.

[The State of the American Student: Fall 2022](#) report can be accessed at the Center on Reinventing Public Education.

--Carol Hodes, AAUW State College Education Chair



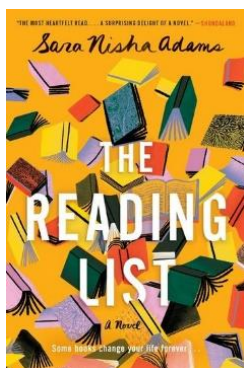
Update on Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

On December 16, the U. S. Senate voted 73 to 24 to pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA). With overwhelming bipartisan support, PWFA passed as an amendment to the omnibus bill and will soon become a law.

This momentous win will allow millions of pregnant people to finally provide for their families without compromising their health or pregnancies. PWFA clarifies that it is unlawful to discriminate against pregnant workers by forcing them out of their jobs unnecessarily or denying them reasonable accommodations. Additionally, employers will be prohibited from retaliating against pregnant workers who request accommodations such as taking bathroom breaks.



¡ADELANTE! Book Club to meet February 23

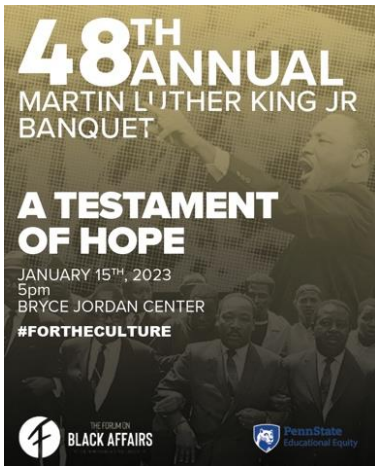


Our ¡ADELANTE! Diversity Book Club is modeled after the AAUW Diversity Outreach for Impact Program, featuring diverse cultures in both fiction and nonfiction offerings.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, February 23 at 2:30 pm**. The group will discuss ***The Reading List: A Novel***, by Sara Nisha Adams. It is described as “an unforgettable and heartwarming debut about how a chance encounter with a list of library books helps forge an unlikely friendship between two very different people in a London suburb.” [Google review](#)

Join Zoom Meeting: [Meeting Link for February 23 Book Discussion](#)

Meeting ID: 853 8286 1173; **Passcode:** 078545



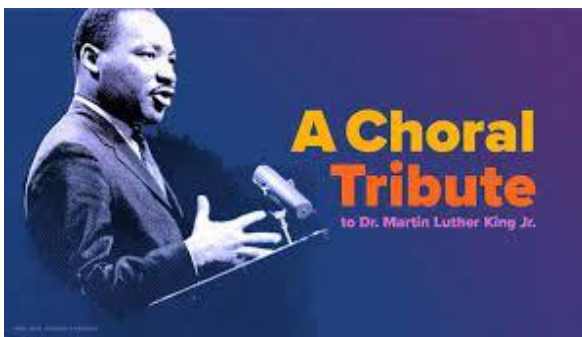
MLK banquet set for January 15

The 48th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet will be held **Sunday, January 15** at the Bryce Jordan Center (BJC). Doors open at 5 pm and the banquet will begin at 5:30 pm. The theme for this year's banquet is "*A Testament of Hope- #FORTHETHECULTURE.*"

The program includes a buffet dinner and cash bar, followed by performances and recognition of the 2023 Forum on Black Affairs (FOBA) Humanitarian Award recipient and student scholarship winners. Immediately following the banquet, guests are welcomed

to stay for a night of dancing.

Tickets are \$775 for a table of ten and \$80 for individual adults. Tables are not limited and can only be confirmed after full payment has been received. [Purchase Tickets Here](#)



January 21 Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Singers from Penn State, local high schools, and a historically Black university will celebrate the influence and inspiration of human-rights champion Martin Luther King Jr. in an event at 4 pm Saturday, January 21, in Eisenhower Auditorium.

General admission tickets for the concert are on sale now and are \$20 for adult, \$10 for a person 18 and younger, and \$5 for a University Park student. Order in person at the Arts Ticket Center at Eisenhower Auditorium, by phone at (814) 863-0255, or [Purchase Tickets Here](#).

The program will focus on choral and vocal music from African and African-American musical idioms that emphasize King's legacy and influence. It will feature performances by:

- Penn State's Essence of Joy, conducted by Anthony T. Leach;
- Morgan State University Concert Choir, conducted by Eric Conway;
- State College Area High School Master Singers, conducted by Erik Clayton; and
- Bellefonte Area High School Concert Choir, conducted by Eric Brinser.

Leach is the event's artistic coordinator, and special guest ensemble Mwenso and The Shakes will accompany the performers.

NATIONAL DAY OF



January 17 National Day of Racial Healing

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is excited to share information from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation about the National Day of Racial Healing. The following information comes from the Foundation's website.

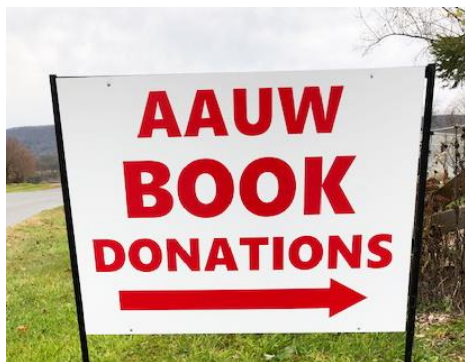
"The National Day of Racial Healing is a time to contemplate our shared values and create the blueprint together for #HowWeHeal from the effects of racism. Launched on January 17, 2017, it is an opportunity to bring ALL people together in their common humanity and inspire collective action to create a more just and equitable world. Fundamental to this day is a clear understanding that racial healing is at the core of racial equity."

This day is observed every year on the Tuesday following Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

From coast to coast, communities observe the National Day of Racial Healing in unique and meaningful ways. In the weeks leading up to the day, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation organizations share ideas for taking action that supports the National Day of Racial Healing. Everyone can bring racial healing into their homes, communities and institutions; ideas shared include action kits for students, parents, educators, faith & spiritual communities and within the health, business and philanthropy sectors.

For more information or **to take action to support NDORH 2023 on January 17**, please visit: [racial healing action kits](#).

*--AAUW Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
Naana Nti (Chair), Carline Crevecoeur, Chitrita Debroy, Jordan Glover,
Sophie Penney Leach, Maria Schmidt, and Carmen Vanderhoof*



Donating books for 2023 sale

Book donations for the 2023 sale will be accepted now **through Tuesday, March 14**. The Used Book Workshop is located at 2197 High Tech Road near University Park Airport.

Deposit books in outdoor bins anytime. For help bringing books inside, the workshop is open:

Mondays 6 - 8 pm; Tues./Wed. 9 am - 2:30 pm

Prior to packing your donation, learn more about [book donation guidelines](#).



Urgent need: Used Book Sale volunteer scheduler

Two months have gone by with no “takers” for the post of Used Book Sale volunteer scheduler. **Our sale cannot take place without this vital position filled, and we need to fill it this month.** The first call for volunteers goes out in February. Given the popularity of the sale, most volunteer shifts fill quickly. This is a great behind-the-scenes job and critical to the success of the sale. This position is terrific for a member who has not been actively involved with the branch but needs flexibility to work on her own hours. Contact [Donna Trapp](#) for details.

Branch communications team at work



Above: Sally Kalin, new members Rebekah Grmela and Liz Kopco, and Connie Schroeder, meeting at the Good Day Café.

Some members of the AAUW State College marketing & communications team met recently at Good Day Café ([Good Day Cafe](#)) to review the status of electronic communications for our branch. What a terrific place to meet for breakfast or lunch or anywhere in between! Proceeds help fund the good work of Strawberry Fields.

Between keeping the website current and using social media to highlight day-to-day topics, we have lots to do. New members, **Rebekah Grmela** and **Liz Kopco**, have talents in the communications field and have joined the team. If you use social media, be sure to “like,” comment, and repost what you see, and share with other Facebook groups. We’re also on Instagram and LinkedIn.

To keep our website current, **we are in great need of members for our update team** who know Word Press or are willing to learn it. For details, contact [Sally Kalin](#).

In case you haven’t yet seen the slide show we made of 2022 highlights, have a peek. There were some inspirational moments, to be sure: [AAUW State College 2022 – What a Year!](#)

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

Welcome

New Members

Taylor Stark

taystark2@gmail.com

My name is Taylor Stark and I am a Human Resources Specialist with the Talent Management

division of Penn State Human Resources. The main focus of my work is to provide tailored training opportunities for different units and departments, on an as needed basis.



I am originally from the Pocono Mountains and moved to State College to attend Penn State University in 2012. While in college, working a part-time job at M&T Bank, I met my husband, Trevor. He was born and raised in State College, so upon graduation, I was lucky enough to obtain a position with the University which allowed us to stay in the area. We were married in 2018 and welcomed our first daughter, Madison, in 2022.

Having my daughter is what empowered me to become involved in AAUW. I want to be part of creating a future where young women are valued, in all aspects of life. When I am not running around with Madison, I enjoy friends, hiking with my dog, Ellie, and reading.

Future Branch Bulletin deadline and publication date



Items for inclusion in the next issue should be sent to *Branch Bulletin* Editor [Connie Schroeder](#) by **Monday, January 30**, and will be sent out by **February 6**. Bulletins are available at [AAUW State College](#).