

Winter-Spring Branch Events

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Plans for the New Year:

- 1) Start off with some fun!
- 2) Connect up for something meaningful.



Fun: *Branch 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 is 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 and get ready for an evening of fun!

Connect up: Join the *All-Member Town Hall*



Monday, February 3, 11:30 am-1:30 pm

As a follow-up to its October 2024 retreat, the Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force will hold "Town Hall" for all branch members. It will be held at the College Township Building, 1481 East College Avenue (upstairs) on **Monday, February 3, 2025, 11:30 am-1:30 pm**.

The task force will provide a brief summary of the events leading up to the town hall, and from there will examine key branch priorities, such as branch financial support, succession planning, communications for today and tomorrow. All members are encouraged to attend, and the

meeting will be offered both in person and via Zoom. Bring your lunch, and plan to participate! The task force intends to make this interactive and fun.

RSVP to [Lee Carpenter](#) no later than Friday, January 31. Please plan to attend in person if possible; networking with other members is a priority. When you RSVP, indicate if you will attend **in person or via Zoom**. Zoom attendees will receive a link ahead of the meeting.

BRANCH AWARDS

Recognizing our Members: nominations due Wednesday, 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 **Wednesday, 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

WINTER BRANCH PROGRAMS



Branch to again co-sponsor *National Day of Racial Healing* on Wednesday, January 29* *Breaking Racial Barriers: Bring Your Voice*

2025 marks the second year for our community to participate in the [National Day of Racial Healing](#). State College's National Day of Racial Healing is inspired by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The event is set for **Wednesday, January 29, 12:00-2:00 pm** (lunch 12-12:30 pm) at the **State College Borough Building in the Community Room (Room 201)**. The event will feature facilitated discussions, and lunch will be provided.

Partners with AAUW State College are the Borough of State College, Community Diversity Group, and the Borough's Racial Equity Advisory Commission. Supporters include: Centre LGBTQ+, Clear Water Conservancy, UPUA, Mid-State Literacy Council, Paul Robeson Cultural Center, Patton Township, and State College Sunrise Rotary.

Share Flyer: [January 29 NDORH flyer](#)

Seating is limited, so register early: <https://bit.ly/3ZAKzIP>

**Date changed from what was shared in the December 2024 Branch Bulletin.*

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. 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.

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 a series.

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*



***From Waste to Well-Being:
Empowering Change
Through Food Recovery***

**Thursday, February 20
6:30-7:30 pm**

This program is the story of feeding a community: how students are turning food waste into donated meals. **Adeline Peat** and **Anna Janaszek** are senior nutrition majors at Penn State who are a bold example of how two women’s leadership is making a positive difference. They noticed the large number of unserved meals from dining halls on campus and decided to do something about it. In 2023,

with the help of a couple of friends, they launched the Food Recovery Network at Penn State. They will tell us about their journey from the initial idea to the establishment of a student organization with more than 40 volunteers. This program will be held in the **Schlow Centre Region Library Community Room**.

Learn more: [PSU Food Recovery Network](#) Share flyer: <https://bit.ly/3BOZeli>

RSVP Today: programs@aauwstatecollege.org

PUBLIC POLICY

What's on Your Ballot in 2025?



STATE LEVEL: All the statewide races are judicial. We have five retentions on the high courts and two vacancies to fill in 2025.

Retentions are how judges run for reelection. We do not have to circulate nominating petitions for them. Instead, they declare their desire to serve another term, and their names automatically go on the ballot. We vote on them in the general election, where the question is, “Shall Judge So-and-So be retained on the [name of Court] for an additional 10-year term?” Vote yes or no.

Three of the retentions are for Supreme Court: **Justices Christine Donohue, Kevin Dougherty, and David Wecht**. All judges run in parties in Pennsylvania, but once elected, they are supposed to be nonpartisan. That is why they will not be identified by party on your ballot. Unfortunately, this set of retentions is likely to be highly contentious. The reason is that all three are registered as Democrats; their election 10 years ago swung the majority on the Court from Republican to Democrat. That led to the overturning of the old Congressional district map in favor of a new version that was more reflective of the basically even partisan divide in Pennsylvania. Certain Republicans are vowing to engage in a *Vote No* campaign to reverse majority control. A majority No vote would remove these judges from office and open their seats to election in the usual fashion.

We have one retention—**Judge Alice Beck Dubow**—and one vacant seat on Superior Court. This Court has the highest workload in the country, as it must hear all appeals sent to it. It deals principally with issues between people, as with family law. The other retention is **Judge Mike Wojcik** and one vacancy are on Commonwealth Court. Our Commonwealth Court is the only appeals court of its type in the country, mainly hearing cases involving government, such as with voting rights or cases where an individual has a conflict with a government entity.

COUNTY LEVEL: We have a retention for one county judge in Centre County: **Judge Katie Oliver**. As with the other retentions, this will be a yes or no vote in the fall, with no nominating petitions to circulate.

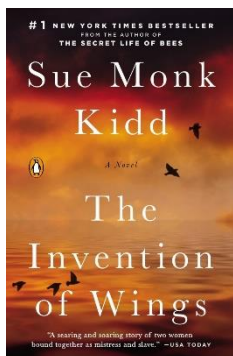
Our **District Attorney, Bernie Cantorna**, is up for reelection in the usual way, with nominating petitions to be circulated. He faces a primary election in May.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS: This is an election year for mayors, borough and township council seats, and school boards. Mayors and council candidates run in parties, but school board candidates can cross-file, meaning that they can run in both party primaries because those positions are supposed to be nonpartisan. As we have seen in recent years with Moms for Liberty and campaigns to censor library books, school boards can become very partisan. The best defense against mischief is the recruitment of good candidates who are fair-minded. Please keep your eyes open for talent. All these candidates would appreciate your help in circulating and signing their petitions. **The first day to circulate petitions is February 18.**

We will be sending out more information as we get it.

Dianne Gregg and Mary Dupuis, Public Policy Co-Chairs

DIVERSITY



¡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.

The book is set in the early 19th century in Charleston, based in part on the historical figure of Sarah Grimke. 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. On her eleventh birthday in 1803, Sarah is given ownership of ten-year-old Handful, who is to be her waiting maid. We follow their journeys over the next thirty-five years, as both strive for a life of their own.

Kidd goes beyond the record to flesh out the rich interior lives of all her characters, both real and invented. Learn more: <https://suemonkkidd.com/books/the-invention-of-wings/>

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. We welcome new members.

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

MEMBERSHIP FOCUS



NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Meet Anders Schiller

isaacs2727@gmail.com

Anders Schiller is a second-year graduate student at Penn State

University. He is studying early modern literature with a focus on comparative theology. Anders is a feminist who believes that a just and equitable future must be continually won. He also enjoys music festivals.

Remembering... Anne Heinsohn

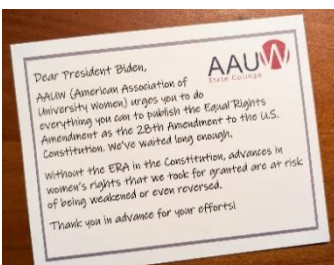
Former branch member Anne Heinsohn died on November 3. Anne enjoyed sorting books at the Used Book Workshop and working at the annual Used Book Sale. She also served on the Grants Committee. Recently, Anne made a donation to the branch that will be used to fund a student to attend the spring National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Learn more about Anne: [Anne Heinsohn](#)



Festive December 10 holiday gathering a hit

About 36 members (wearing predominantly red!) gathered at University Wine Company for an end-of-year party. They enjoyed a wonderful meal from Taproot Kitchen and reminisced over a busy and eventful year for the branch.

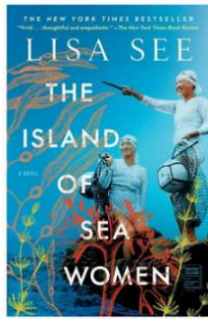
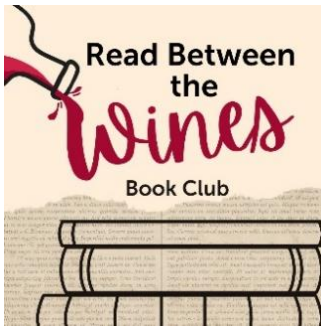
It was terrific reconnecting with old members and welcoming some new ones! Thank you to Membership VPs Carline Crevecoeur and Susan Chyczewski for organizing the evening..



Postcards urge ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment -

The holiday gathering was made complete with the opportunity for attendees to write postcard messages to President Biden, urging him to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment before he leaves office.

Additional information is provided under "AAUW National" on p. 11.



Host sought for next *Read Between the Wines*: Tuesday, March 11, time TBD

For our next *Read Between the Wines* gathering we will read ***The Island of Sea Women*** by Lisa See. A work of historical fiction, this book explores “complexities of female friendship and is also an eye-opening portrait of a country ravaged by decades of conflict and unrest, a

searing examination of the effects that foreign intervention can have on the evolution of a nation and of course individual lives.” <https://lisasee.com/books/the-island-of-sea-women/>.

Contact membership@aauwstatecollege.org today if you can host.

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

Advance Reservations requested now!



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 the [Belle Green Exhibit](#), featuring the life of J.P. Morgan’s personal librarian. There will be time to explore New York City after we visit the Morgan.

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. **Additional details will be provided in the February Branch Bulletin.**

Please email membership@aauwstatecollege.org today with your interest in going.

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

Explore Branch Engagement Opportunities



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 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 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.

BOOK BEAT

Getting ready for May 17-20 AAUW State College Used Book Sale



Left, Doris Trueblood prices children's books while Star Campbell prices education and philosophy books at the branch's Used Book Workshop.

The AAUW State College Used Book Sale will be held **May 17-20, 2025**. If your calendar is not already marked, please do it now. Lots of volunteers will be needed!

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Branch Community Action Grants awarded for 2024-2025



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 programs of several Centre County nonprofits whose missions dovetail with our AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls.

Community Action Grants address women's needs in fields such as health care, literacy, economic self-sufficiency, and self-esteem. In December, Community Action Grants Chair **Sherry Crassweller** reported that the Grant Committee voted to award a total of **\$56,047** this month to programs of 11 Centre County nonprofits. They include:

- **3 Dots** (Shine the Light on Central Pennsylvania Women Artists) - \$10,000
- **C-Net** (female student internships for three semesters) - \$1,500
- **Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts** (supporting Children's Day activities) - \$5,000
- **Centre Volunteers in Medicine** (gynecological services) - \$10,042
- **Centre County Youth Service Bureau** (youth services programs) - \$1,950
- **Centre Helps** (community education program for low-income women) - \$2,000
- **Interfaith Human Services** (emergency vehicle repairs) - \$3,500
- **Jana Marie Foundation** (building confidence/self-identity through workshops) - \$3,725
- **Mid-State Literacy Council** (basic literacy education for low-income women) - \$15,750
- **Park Forest Preschool** (science skill education materials) - \$580
- **Schlow Centre Region Library** (Great Women Through the Ages) - \$2,000

The next window to apply for Community Action Grants opens **September 1**. **Learn more:** [AAUWSC Community Action Grants](#)

Branch undergraduate scholarship applications open January 15



AAUW State College Scholarship Chair **Leslie Laing** reports that applications for 2025 branch undergraduate scholarships will be accepted **January 15-March 31**. Interested applicants may apply at <https://www.grantinterface.com/sl/bJCRww> starting January 15.

Approximately four recipients will be selected. Scholarships range from **\$3,000 to \$7,000**, depending on the financial need and circumstances of the recipients. For additional scholarship information and eligibility criteria: [AAUWSC Scholarships](#).

AAUW BEYOND the BRANCH

AAUW Pennsylvania to hold summer retreat in State College area on June 27-28; mark your calendar



AAUW State College is hosting the AAUW Pennsylvania Summer Retreat on June 27-28. It will be held at the Wyndham Hotel in Boalsburg. There will be approximately 100 people in attendance,

representing 30 AAUW branches from around the state. Friday evening will feature a “meet and greet,” and we hope to also provide a tour of a local landmark or two. Saturday will feature workshops, networking, and more. For now, mark your calendar to attend. Details will be provided later in the spring.



AAUW national – Where we stand with the Equal Rights Amendment

AAUW advocates for the passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment “in order to guarantee equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society.” The majority of Americans mistakenly believe that women and men have equal rights under our Constitution. The 14th Amendment of the Constitution explicitly states that men are guaranteed equality under law, but it does not mention women.

The advancement of women’s equality continues incrementally through patchwork legislation and court decisions, but equality under law remains illusory as these laws can be changed or even revoked at the whim of legislators and judges. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) would provide, once and for all, the constitutional guarantee that all men and women are truly equal under the law and that these rights cannot easily be abridged.

Learn more: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/position-era/>

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:

[December 2024 minutes](#)

The next board meeting will take place via ZOOM **Monday, January 13, 2025, 11:30 am–1:00 pm.** Meeting link: www.bit.ly/AAUWSCBoardMtg

Time to brag about yourself?



Hello, AAUW State College! The social media team would like to remind you to follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and to encourage you to submit any of your personal achievements to us for member spotlight posts! Have you recently earned that degree or certification you have been working toward? Received a professional accolade or new position? Recently published?

Let us know! We would love to show you off to the world. Send your news today to [Angela Hughes](#).



***Branch Bulletin* dates**

The next *Branch Bulletin* will be issued **February 3**. The submission deadline is **Monday, January 27**. Please send items to editor [Connie Schroeder](#).