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## AAUW State College FALL GATHERING & POTLUCK



**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:00–7:30 pm**

**Tom Tudek Memorial Park Pavilion 1**

The park is located in Ferguson Township: [Map to Tudek](#)

**Invite a potential member ~ Door Prizes**

**Come ready to engage in branch activities**

***Last call – Sign up today!***

<https://signup.com/go/HPzeafO>

## REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS WEBINAR RAISES CRITICAL ISSUES & POTENTIAL OUTCOMES



AAUW supports “choice in  
determining one’s reproductive life  
and increased access to health care  
and family planning services,”

[Where We Stand: Reproductive Rights.](#)

The August 25<sup>th</sup> AAUW-PA webinar on reproductive rights in Pennsylvania led to a very informative discussion of SB 106, a Pennsylvania Senate bill dubbed the *No Right to Abortion* amendment. Presenters included Sue Frietsche, senior staff

attorney and founder and director of the Women's Law Project in Western Pennsylvania, and Dr. Sarah Horvath, Medical Director, Planned Parenthood Keystone. **If you missed the program, here's the recording:** <https://youtu.be/LNjEYupU6jU>

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) cautions that SB 106 "opens the door to a complete abortion ban in the state. **More:** <https://pcar.org/blog/what-will-sb-106-actually-do>



## WHERE DO STATE LEGISLATORS STAND ON AAUW ISSUES?

**Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:30 pm via Zoom**

In Pennsylvania, most of the focus in politics has been on the Governor and U.S. Senator races, but other races are just as important if not more so. All the Pennsylvania House is up for election as is half of the PA Senate (senators even-numbered districts). This program will explain what's at stake with issues of concern to AAUW: Senate Bill 106 (PA Constitutional Amendment Legislation); Paid Leave; Pay Equity; and, the Living Wage. Hear from Sandra Miller, AAUW Pennsylvania Public Policy Chair, and Issue Specialists Barbara Price, Ann Pehle and Jacqui Rogers. **Register in advance:** [MEETING REGISTRATION](#)



## PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLL

As we start the new academic year, Phi Delta Kappa has released its annual summary of the Public's Attitudes Toward Public Schools, <https://pdkpoll.org/2022-pdk-poll-results/>. This poll finds that the respondents give high ratings for their local public schools, but only 37% of parents want their children to become a teacher at this time of teacher shortages. Other results:

- 63% of all adults and 72% of parents of students enrolled in public schools have trust and confidence in their community's public-school teachers.
- A majority of parents trust teachers to appropriately handle topics related to U.S. history, civics, social/emotional growth, racial/ethnic diversity, media literacy, and racism. Trust is generally lower among all adults. Gender and sexuality are the issues about which both parents and all adults express the least trust and confidence.
- Trust and confidence in public school teachers follows political and ideological lines, with general trust at 73% among Democrats vs. 60% for independents and Republicans.
- Lastly, a majority of all adults support metal detectors, mental health screenings, and armed police in schools, but not arming teachers.

The AAUW State College Education Committee focuses on issues relating to our public schools. To join our group, contact Carol Hodes, [carolhodes@yahoo.com](mailto:carolhodes@yahoo.com), Branch *Education Chair*



## FAIR DISTRICTS PA CENTRE COUNTY UPDATE

The goal of Fair Districts PA is to establish an independent citizen's commission to draw legislative and congressional districts in Pennsylvania that prevent gerrymandering. Despite offering bills to establish a commission, Fair Districts was unable to meet their goal in time for the 2021 redistricting. The biggest road block was the legislative rules established at the beginning of each session.

Presently Pennsylvania has one of the least effective, most expensive, full-time legislatures in the country. In an average session less than 7% of bills introduced get a final vote. Many of the bills that pass just name bridges and roads.

Campaign **Fix Harrisburg**, organized by Fair Districts PA and the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, is an effort to take the legislative process out of the hands of a few partisan gatekeepers (committee chairs and majority leaders) so that all legislators can participate. Bills with a strong bipartisan support should be voted out of committee and allowed a vote on the chamber floor. Bills passing one chamber with bipartisan support should be allowed a vote in the other chamber.

You can help by contacting local legislators regarding rules. Go to [www.fairdistrictspa.com](http://www.fairdistrictspa.com) for more detailed information and talking points.

*--Sue Johnston, AAUW State College Liaison to Fair Districts PA Centre County*



## SEPTEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> CONSTITUTION DAY EVENT:

Face to Face Democracy, a Community Deliberative Roundtable

***What is the role of public education in our community?***

American Legion Post 345, 1950 Science Park Road, State College

**Moderator:** David Hutchinson, President, Centre County Constitution Day

Learn more: [Dear Friends of Constitution Day](http://DearFriendsOfConstitutionDay.org)

Contact: [info@constitutiondaycntre.org](mailto:info@constitutiondaycntre.org), [www.constitutionday.org](http://www.constitutionday.org)



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - VOTING INFORMATION

Thank you, League of Women Voters Centre County, for your tremendous efforts in providing necessary voter information.

[VOTER DEADLINES](#)

[VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION](#)

## SUMMER LOOK-BACK

This year's Juneteenth Festival in State College, *Reflections of Black Experiences: Voices of Freedom Through the Ages* provided many wonderful memories. If you missed the festival, the following C-Net video captures some highlights: [6-18-2022 Juneteenth Festival](#).

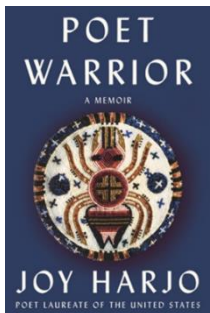
The June 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Community Diversity Group Conference had speakers on several topics, filmed by C-Net. **To view:** [CDG Diversity Conference Highlight Videos \(#3,4,5,6\)](#)



## SEPTEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> MULTICULTURAL UNITY FAIR

### *Volunteers Needed for AAUW table*

The Community Diversity Group will host a Multicultural Unity Fair on **September 17<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 - 4:00 pm at the State College Municipal Building**. The event features food and activities for both children and adults. AAUW State College, and various other community organizations, will host tables to showcase their activities. Volunteers are needed to help staff the Branch table for a few hours. To help, email [naananti500@gmail.com](mailto:naananti500@gmail.com).



## ¡ADELANTE! BOOK CLUB TO MEET THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup>

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, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm**. The group will discuss Joy Harjo's second memoir, *Poet Warrior: A Memoir*. Joy Harjo, the first Native American to serve as U.S. poet laureate, offers a vivid, lyrical, and inspiring call for love and justice in this contemplation of her trailblazing life.

To participate in the book club discussion, please contact [info@aauwstatecollege.org](mailto:info@aauwstatecollege.org). **Join us:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84109016353?pwd=MUlkWjVNN0h4R1hXR0hncjF3c3B2QT09>

--Naana Nti, AAUW State College Diversity Chair



## SCHLOW TO HOST DIVERSE VOICES BOOK CLUB

Schlow Centre Region Library extends thanks to AAUW State College for funding materials for fall book discussions featuring characters and authors by diverse, female voices. **Learn more:** [Diverse Voices Book Club Information](#)  
**Flyer:** [Diverse Voices Book Club Flyer](#)





## BRANCH SPONSORED PENN STATE FORUM SPEAKER SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> - *Tickets on Sale Now!*

**Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>** is the date of the Penn State Forum Lecture and luncheon with AAUW State College-sponsored speaker **Dr. Na'ilah Nasir**. Dr. Nasir is President of the American Educational Research Foundation; member of the National Academy of Education; and CEO of the Spencer Foundation. Her research examines the racialized and cultural nature of learning and schooling. Dr. Nasir's talk title and its description will be available soon.

**Learn more:** [December 1st Nasir Lecture](#)

### Purchase Your Penn State Forum Ticket Today

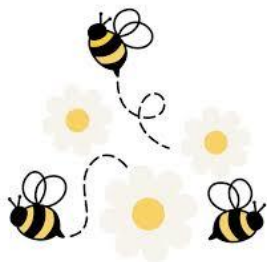
AAUW State College has reserved three tables of ten for this event, which includes a buffet lunch. The cost to attend is \$25. To sit with AAUW State College, please send check, made out to "**SCAUW Inc.**", to Vasundara Varadan, 746 East McCormick, State College, PA 16801. Write "Forum Lunch" in the memo line. Tickets sell out quickly; mail your check today!

Dr. Nasir's talk is funded by the Branch's Centennial Endowment, created in 2016 when the branch celebrated its 100-year anniversary. The event will be held at the Penn Stater.



## CHEER ON THE AAUW STATE COLLEGE TEAM FOR SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> MID-STATE LITERACY SPELLING BEE

Once again, AAUW State College will participate in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ron and Mary Maxwell Community Mid-State Literacy Council fundraiser on **Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 pm via Zoom**. This fun event brings together a wide range of local businesses and organizations, including AAUW State College, as event sponsors with 3-person teams of spellers. The Branch has participated for several years, having experienced both the winner's circle and . . . other outcomes!



This year's AAUW team includes **Martha Hummel, Morgen Hummel,** and **Vasundara Varadan**. Martha is a past Spelling Bee champion.

Interested AAUW members are invited to join the team in person for the event and cheer them on! To that end, we'll meet at Martha and Morgen's church, Saint Paul's Lutheran, in Pine Grove Mills (277 West Pine Grove Road). If interested in being part of the in-person cheering team, contact Connie Schroeder, [connieschroeder@gmail.com](mailto:connieschroeder@gmail.com), by **September 20<sup>th</sup>**. To view from home, the direct link to the live YouTube stream of the Spelling Bee is <https://youtu.be/-Fn4opgoS0w>.



## TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES FOSTERS FAIR TRADE

Ten Thousand Villages wants State College to know that it's more than a store. Founded in 1946, Ten Thousand Villages is a pioneer in fair trade and dedicated to breaking the cycle of generational poverty by putting people and the planet first. What began with one woman committed to the

concept of *women helping women* has evolved into a nonprofit organization that works with over 20,000 artisans in more than 25 countries.

Ten Thousand Villages builds long-term buying relationships - averaging 20 years - to support the sustainability of artisan businesses and impact families generationally. We focus our efforts on marginalized communities and over 60% of the artisans we work with are women. Our business model not only guarantees a fair wage, but provides 50% payment up front as an interest-free advance to cover the cost of raw materials and production. Artisans are paid in full before their goods are exported; we accept the risk of lost or damaged products.

Fair trade helps to create a safety net for artisans and their communities. Many of the groups we partner with have founded schools, daycares, and health clinics. Some fund education sponsorship programs to ensure that local children can complete their schooling. In countries where free public education is nonexistent, many children - especially girls - never reach basic literacy. We hope to change that. Learn more about how fair trade supports education here:

<https://www.tenthousandvillages.com/mosaic/back-to-school-a-right-for-every-child/>

*--Jenn Miller, Ten Thousand Villages State College Director of Outreach & Education*



**Editor's Note:** Earlier this year, AAUW State College named Ten Thousand Villages their 2022 Gateway to Equity Award recipient in recognition of the work that they do to help women around the world achieve economic independence. Ten Thousand Villages has shown its support of the work that AAUW State College does by partnering with us on a **3-day Community Shopping Event during the weekend prior to Thanksgiving**. A percentage of sale proceeds, during the weekend, are awarded to AAUW State College. Mark your calendar!

Store Manager **Kieran Holland** has made the partnership with AAUW State College personal. As a result of sharing membership information with his employees, three of them – **Susan Batcheler, Jennifer Miller, and Elizabeth Siegelman** – have joined the group, and Kieran has become a member as well. It takes a village to accomplish good things. This partnership with AAUW State College is mutually beneficial.

# Welcome

## New Members

**SUSAN BATCHELER** - [sjb5@hotmail.com](mailto:sjb5@hotmail.com)

A lifelong resident of State College, I graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science degree in communications media. I have worked in the Photo/Graphics department at Penn State; as an editorial assistant for the *Centre Daily Times* and *Town & Gown* magazine; and as a financial services representative for several local banks.



I am now happy to be working for Ten Thousand Villages, which provides a marketplace for people in developing countries to sell their products so that they can earn fair wages and work in safe environments. I have volunteered with the Centre County Youth Service Bureau as a Big Sister, and for PAWS as a foster "mom" to more than a dozen little dogs. I look forward to helping with the annual Used Book Sale, which I attend every year.



**KIERAN HOLLAND** - [kieran@kierantholland.com](mailto:kieran@kierantholland.com)

Hi, I am Kieran Holland and have made State College my home since 2009. I am the Executive Director of Ten Thousand Villages State College and sit on the board of The Center for Amazon Community Ecology, a nonprofit organization working with communities in the Peruvian Amazon. As a proponent of sustainable fair trade, we help artisans achieve economic independence.

My other community involvement includes the State College Elks and I am also the current Vice President of Global Connections. I seek ways to provide for the State College community through servant leadership and am a graduate of Leadership Centre County, class of 2021.

I am overjoyed to be a member of AAUW State College. For a long time, I had not realized men were eligible to join. I am happy to be able to support the organization any way that I can. The work that AAUW achieves is truly of vital importance. Even when I was in grade school I was puzzled and saddened by how women are *forced* by mixed opportunity, teachers, community, etc., into certain eventual professional roles. I do believe this is starting to change for the better.





**LINDSAY KEITER** - [lindsay.keiter@gmail.com](mailto:lindsay.keiter@gmail.com)

I am a historian of women and gender in early British North America, particularly the intersections with capitalism and the law. My current book project examines the economic functions of marriage in 18th and 19th century British North America. I'm a native of State College and attended Penn State, graduating with interdisciplinary honors in History and Women's Studies, and earned my PhD from the College of William & Mary in 2016.

I worked as a staff historian for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation before joining the faculty of Penn State Altoona as an Assistant Professor in 2018.

I have two young children who make my working life more challenging but my personal life far richer. When time permits, I knit. I joined AAUW to do what I can to support its mission of gender equity in education, and in the hopes of making new acquaintances in the area.



**JENN MILLER** - [jenn.lb.miller@gmail.com](mailto:jenn.lb.miller@gmail.com)

Hello! My name is Jenn Miller. I am currently the Director of Outreach & Education at Ten Thousand Villages State College. I have been involved in the fair trade movement since learning about it as a college student and serving on the boards of directors of Ten Thousand Villages Pittsburgh and Ten Thousand Villages Baltimore as well as the national leadership team for Fair Trade Campaigns.

I received my PhD in History from West Virginia University and hold a MA in History with a focus in Women's & Gender Studies from North Carolina State University. I taught at the university level for several years before returning to the nonprofit sector. Fair Trade is important to me because it creates opportunities for women in marginalized communities, creating access to income and education for both artisans and their children. I am excited to join AAUW and work toward advancing equity for women and girls!



**ELIZABETH SIEGELMAN** - [ersiegelman@cacj.us](mailto:ersiegelman@cacj.us)

Greetings! I am a biblical scholar and Restorative Justice advocate. While earning my PhD I also worked as a program coordinator for Drew Theological School's PREP (Partnership for Religion and Education in Prisons) Program, in which "combined" theological courses were taught inside two New Jersey State Prisons.



My current work as Facilitator Coordinator for Centre County Community Conferencing ([Centre County Community Conferencing](#)) is informed by my academic background and practical experience in prison education, both of which taught me the value of education as a tool for community building and personal transformation. Community Conferencing Center for Alternatives in Community Justice (CACJ) program done in collaboration with CentrePeace. Centre County Community Conferencing follows a similar model, because the conference process provides an alternative form of communication that imparts a new set of skills upon participants. It is our hope that the skills gained from a community conference will ripple out into the lives and communities of the people we serve, over time making Centre County a more just and equitable place.



## AAUW STATE COLLEGE BOARD REPORT

The AAUW State College Board met on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and unanimously approved recommendations from the Executive Board (the Executive Board consists of the elected officers) on how to move forward after the resignations of co-presidents Ann Echols and Carline Crevecoeur at the August 1<sup>st</sup> Board meeting.

### Some highlights:

- The Executive Board, with the addition of Used Book Sale co-chair Donna Trapp, will serve as the Branch's management team until the leadership positions are filled.
- Members of the Executive Board will assume additional responsibilities including having each member chair a Board meeting, by rotation, and ensure that agendas are created and distributed.
- The number of Board meetings will be reduced. Other means of communications, including the Branch Bulletin, will be used for sharing information and making decisions.
- The Immediate Past Co-presidents will assist the Executive Board.
- The top priority for the Board is to fill the vacant co-president positions. The first order of business is to appoint a Nominating Committee.
- As part of its Strategic Planning, the Board will place an increased focus on succession planning, including the creation of the position of Vice-President/President-Elect.
- The Board will encourage term-limits for committee chairs and members in order to engage new member and retain current members.
- The monthly *Branch Bulletin* will highlight Board actions and decisions on a regular basis.
- Branch will focus on the quality, not the quantity, of its actions and decisions.

*--Sally Kalin, AAUW State College Immediate Past Co-President*



**Unloading Book Bins** - The Penn State Humphrey Fellows are up for a good workout.



**Sorting Books** - Gabriela Mezelova (Slovakia), Andrea Mateos (Mexico), and Duyen Le (Vietnam).

## PENN STATE HUMPHREY FELLOWS VOLUNTEER AT USED BOOK WORKSHOP

Late summer and fall are busy times at the Used Book Workshop! Penn State Humphrey Fellows pitch in to help as their schedules permit. Thank you, all!



**Humphrey Fellow Donah Lekwati** (Botswana) helps to sort books.

### USED BOOK WORKSHOP

2197 High Tech Road  
State College

*Deposit books in  
outdoor bin 24/7.*

*For assistance  
bringing books inside:*

**Mondays**

**6:00 – 8:00 pm**

**Tues./Wed.**

**9:00 am – 2:30 pm**

*Have You Heard?*

Get well wishes to AAUW State College member **Ingrid Blood**, who recently had major surgery and is now convalescing. We hope that the recent arrival of her first grandchild aids in her recovery! Cards may be sent to Ingrid at 2377 Pine Hurst Drive, State College, 16803.

**Branch  
Bulletin**

## BRANCH BULLETIN DATES TO REMEMBER

The next *Bulletin* comes out on **Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**. Items for inclusion are due by **Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>** to *Branch Bulletin* Editor Connie Schroeder, [ConnieSchroeder@gmail.com](mailto:ConnieSchroeder@gmail.com). Bulletins are available at <https://aauwstatecollege.org/blog/> and are shared electronically with branch members and friends.