

ERIE PRESSIBLE

November 2025

Domestic Abuse: Impact on Victims, Perpetrators, and Police

Please join us on **Monday, November 10, at 6:30 PM** to learn about domestic abuse and its impact on society at large.

Deputy Chief of Police in the Criminal Investigations Division for the City of Erie, Rick Lorah, will address police procedures in response to calls from victims and referrals to other agencies when needed, as well as the long-term impact on all involved.

The talk will be held at the **Lincoln Community Center Fairview Branch Library at 1255 Manchester Rd.**

Some of the topics he plans to address are:

- Erie Police Department's Crisis Intervention Unit, its origin and mission.
- Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment Program.
- Statistics of domestic violence in Erie, calls for service, services available to victims.
- Protection from abuse.
- What is a PFA and where do I get one?
- What can the Court order?
- Is a Pennsylvania Protection Order enforceable in another state?



Deputy Chief, Rick Lorah

What is their mission? Their goal is to develop relationships with not only the service providers of all local agencies but to also build relationships with our community to assist in providing the best services possible. The officers of the Crisis Intervention Unit are trained to handle calls for Domestic Violence, Mental Health, Homelessness, and OCY Disturbances. The officers in this unit are trained to assess the risk that each victim is exposed to. All domestic violence is serious, but often not enough to be considered a lethal risk.

Chief Lorah has been with the Erie Police Department for more than 26 years with roles of increasing responsibility from Patrolman, Detective, and Captain, to his current role. He has had extensive experience in the area of criminal investigations involving cold case homicides, missing person investigations, sexual assault investigations, physical and sexual child abuse investigations, robberies, and other complex investigations. In addition to his professional affiliation with several Police Chief organizations, he is currently a member of the Board of Directors for the Crime Victims Center.

Please come ready to learn about the valuable role that members of the Erie Police Department provide for our community. There will be a period for questions and answers at the end of his talk.

President's Message

Friends,

With the program year well underway, the energy across our branch is inspiring. Our programs are laying a strong foundation and bringing members together for thoughtful dialogue, shared learning, and a renewed commitment to our mission. Thanks to Christy for organizing a fascinating program focusing on maritime archaeology with a specialization in the Great Lakes and maritime cultural landscape.

Fall is officially here, and with it comes the beauty of changing leaves, crisp air, and cozy traditions. One of my favorite seasonal joys is handing out candy on Halloween. It's heartwarming to see children dressed in imaginative, adorable costumes, their faces lit up with excitement. This tradition always reminds me of the simple ways we connect, celebrate together and share a lot of joy with the community around us.

Over the years, traditions like Thanksgiving and Halloween have become deeply meaningful to me. Sharing happiness with friends and neighbors makes me feel rooted in this community and grateful for the life I've built here. Recently, friends abroad and family in Bangladesh have asked me what it's like to live in the U.S, especially with growing concerns about immigration policies. It is indeed a trying time for us immigrants here. All the current anti-immigration political narratives cast us in a negative light, intensifying feelings of uncertainty and feeling unwelcome. At this time of uncertainty and change, I have found comfort and conviction in being a part of AAUW. What we stand for -- equity, education, and empowerment — isn't just a mission statement. It's something I see reflected in each of you.



Sharmin Khundker

It has been a privilege for me to get to know all of you through all of our volunteering, community outreaches and activities. I feel supported, welcomed, and uplifted by a community that works tirelessly to make this country more equitable and just for everyone. At our Erie branch, I've witnessed incredible dedication. Whether it's advocating for scholarships, organizing study groups, donating on Erie Gives Day, our members embody the values I hold dearly. I've always felt a deep sense of respect, interest and celebration for the diverse backgrounds and experiences of our members. This spirit of inclusion shows others how embracing our differences can lead to real, positive change.

Wishing you all a season filled with color, connection, and kindness.

Sharmin

Branch Study Groups

Games, Games, Games! is a brand new "study" group. Come play your favorite games. Our first get together is **November 13th** from **2-4 pm at 626 Mohawk**. Make reservations with Susan Roehr (814- 868-4537) so she knows how many to expect.

Computer Knowledge has begun! The original plan was to meet 1 – 3 pm on Tuesday, November 4 and November 18 at the **Afghan Community Center** located in Patrick Henry Square at **4801 Peach St.** (the corner of Peach St and Hilltop). The cost is \$5 per session. **Please be aware that these dates may change.** Loretto will contact everyone who has expressed interest.

If you didn't sign up yet and you'd like to receive the email updates, please contact Loretto.bellicini1@gmail.com or (814) 449-8839.

Global Friends is an outreach program to immigrant women in our community. It is open to both AAUW members and immigrant women. The intent is to understand and respect other cultures. Global Friends is chaired by Edie Cultu (814-397-2975).

Join us for a **holiday meal on December 1st** at Edie's home at **638 Vermont Avenue**. (edie_cultu@yahoo.com) Bring something to share at our annual potluck dinner.

Gourmet This month we will visit **Kadhai Kitchen** (formerly Namaste) located at **5901 West Ridge Rd on Thursday, Nov 20 at 5:30 pm**. Thank you Matasha for the suggestion! Deb heard that it's even better than before. Reservations can be made with Candy. Notify her no later than Nov. 13th. The Gourmet Study Group chair is Candy Brown (814-873-0486) (candycbrown1@gmail.com).

Food and Friends is delighted to host **Dr. Matthew Levy, Associate Professor of Art History at Penn State Behrend**. He will present on **the intersection of American visual art and the social and political protest movements of the 1960s**. The decade's upheavals catalyzed an unprecedented period of politically engaged art and brought artists from underrepresented demographics to national prominence. We will examine artists' participation in anti-Vietnam War protests, as well as work made in support of the civil, women's, and LGBTQ rights movements.

Join us on **Thursday, November 13** at **noon-2 PM** at **Lincoln Library**, 1255 Manchester Rd. in Fairview. A light lunch will be provided. Please notify Barb Hutzelman by November 10th by phone 814-881-7399 or email at barbhutz@yahoo.com.

The ***AAUW Book Club*** meets the **first Thursday of every month, from 1-2:30 PM** at SpringHill, 2323 Edinboro Road, room 316. The book to be discussed is **The Waters** by Bonnie Jo Campbell. Cindy Belczyk is the coordinator for the group (814-873-5401) (BelczykCA@gmail.com).

Politalk is an unstructured discussion about domestic and international political events which leads to brainstorming about ways of coping with such events. Politalk meets the **3rd Thursday of the month from 1-3 PM** at chair Asuman Baskan's house 3838 State Street. (814-282-8277) (irrepressibleturk@gmail.com)

Global Friends

There is no regular meeting of Global Friends in November, but please join us for a **potluck holiday meal** on **December 1st** at Edie's house **638 Vermont Avenue**.

Bring something to share! These meetings are open to both AAUW members and immigrant women. The intent is to understand and respect other cultures.

Global Friends is chaired by Edie Cultu 814-397-2975 (edie_cultu@yahoo.com).

AAUW Erie Marketing

Member, Matasha Murrell Jones, has been creating business cards, bookmarks, and cards promoting AAUW Erie Branch. See them soon and share them with potential members!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Some of our Erie AAUW Members had fun volunteering at the **Trunk or Treat** event at Harding Elementary School held on Friday, October 17th. Kids were in costumes and cars were decorated for the spooky season. Lots of candy treats were shared with the little ghosts, goblins, and ghouls.



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Public Policy Update

Election Day, November 4, 2025, is near. This year, Pennsylvania voters will elect judges who will shape the future of our state and decide on the scope of citizen rights for many years. The Pennsylvania Constitution includes stronger equity protections than the United States Constitution. However, interpretations of these protections when making judicial decisions can vary. Judges on the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court and the Pennsylvania Superior Court have the power to affirm or reverse decisions made in lower courts, but their rulings can be appealed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court which often has the final say. These judges make important decisions including issues re: healthcare, equity, workplace fairness and voting rights.

Pennsylvania voters will be asked to give three judges on the state Supreme Court more time on the bench. This is a retention election, which means that voters must select "yes" or "no" on whether to keep the judges on the bench for ten more years. Retention elections are not partisan, so when a judge appears on the ballot to be retained, their name will not have a political party next to it. The Pennsylvania Bar Association, a non-partisan trade group for lawyers that evaluates judicial candidate's qualifications, has recommended all three justices for retention.

A Non Partisan Guide to the 2025 Pennsylvania Supreme Court Retention Election is available, including background information on each of the three judges' written opinions as well as votes in key cases before the Court. <https://guides.vote> using the tab "Voters Guides".

Good News!

Thanks to generous Erie Gives 2025 donations from our members and friends, we received \$5,246.42 for the Adella B. Woods Scholarship Fund.

Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission!



Save the Date

The **annual holiday luncheon** will be held on **Saturday, Dec. 6th, at the Kahkwa Club** beginning at 11:30 a.m. Please make your reservation by Monday, Dec. 1st, by sending a check for \$30 payable to "AAUW Erie Branch Inc." to Barbara Hutzelman, 3226 Rustic Lane, Erie 16506 (814-881-7339). You can make your reservation online via our branch website www.aauwerie.org under the Events tab. It's easy and quick!

More information will be in the December Pressible.

Please indicate your choice of:

- Salmon with a Cucumber Dill Sauce
- Grilled Chicken Breast with Velouté Sauce
- Zucchini Boat stuffed with Vegetable Ragout.



New Members to our Erie branch

Give a warm welcome our two new members, and add them to your yearbook.

Darla-Elayne Bretta Brown (Dee)

3026 Cherry St., Erie 16508

240-727-1621

dbretteb@yahoo.com

A.A. Calumet College of St. Joseph, Liberal Arts

B.A. Governors State University, Urban Studies

Graduate Certificate, Bethany Theological Seminary, Theology

Sepideh Javadpour

9191 Dougan Rd., North East, PA 16428

502-533-9509

ssjavadpour@gmail.com

B.S.c. Shiraz University, Computer Science & Engineering (Note: the lower case c in the degree is intentional. The degree is equivalent to US B.S.)

Farewell dear friend

Virginia "Ginny" McGarvey, a long-time member of our branch, passed away on September 20th. Ginny served as president in 1970 – 1972 and was the first recipient of the Erie Branch Woman of the Year award in 1981. Ginny was known for her distinguished community service of dedication and commitment to organizations that serve wide community, regional, statewide and national constituencies and interests.

Her spirit will be missed.

Reminder — Ride Share Connections

Some of our members are unable to attend AAUW Branch meetings and events due to transportation challenges. To support one another and ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate, Membership is creating Ride Share Connections, a simple but meaningful way to help more of our members join in the programs, events, and opportunities our branch offers.

If you are interested in being part of the Ride Share Connection either as an occasional driver or as someone who may now and then need a ride — please contact Anne Marie Kumhera at annemarieku@gmail.com or 440-670-5899.

Together, we can make sure that transportation is never a barrier to participation.



November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Computer Club 1-3 pm 4801 Peach St	5	6 Book Club 1-2:30 pm Springhill	7	8
9	10 Domestic Abuse Talk 6:30 pm Lincoln Library	11	12	13 Food & Friends noon-2 pm Lincoln Library Games 2-4 pm, 626 Mohawk	14	15
16	17	18 Computer Club 1-3 pm 4801 Peach St	19	20 Politalk 1-3 pm Asuman's and Gourmet 5:30 pm Kadhai Kitchen	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day Holiday	28 	29
30	Dec 1 Global Friends 6 pm Eddie's house					



Erie Branch ♦ Founded in 1902

P.O. Box 9264 Erie PA 16505

AAUW's Mission

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through education, philanthropy, and research. By joining AAUW you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance. In principle and in practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

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