

What's New at Mercy Center for Women?

AAUW Erie Branch will hold its November program at Mercy Center for Women, 1039 E. 27th St.

Jennie Hagerty will be our presenter on Monday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. Jennie will provide an overview of the agency and the services provided by Mercy Anchor Center.

Since 2017, Jennie has been the executive director for the Mercy Center for Women, a nonprofit in Erie whose mission is to provide transitional housing and support services to homeless women and their children. Previously she was the director of advancement at Saint Jude the Apostle Church and Saint Peter Cathedral.

Jennie graduated from Gannon University with a Bachelor of Business Administration and Management degree. In 2018, the Northwestern PA Chapter of the American Fundraising Professionals named her the 2018 Outstanding Fundraising Professional of the Year.

Hope you will join us and learn about this wonderful organization. Please consider bringing in donations such as sanitary napkins, hygiene products and disposable diapers.

Parking is available in the former Holy Rosary School parking lot.

By Sharmin Khundker and Sarah Larson



Jennie Hagerty

Welcome to our new branch member!

Welcome to our newest member, Alison Steadman!

Alison, who joined in October as part of AAUW's The Shape of the Future Campaign, is a retired bookkeeper, born and raised in Brockport, N.Y.



Alison Steadman

She graduated from Grove City College with a BA in Business Education and taught high school while her husband attended law school.

After settling in Girard, she was the bookkeeper in her husband's law office for 42 years.

After retirement, the couple moved to Erie. Alison and her husband spend summers in Chautauqua.

The Steadmans are the parents of three married daughters and four grandchildren - two boys and two girls.

Continued on P. 3

President's Message

It is difficult for me to adjust to the reality that November is upon us!

Of course, November brings cooler weather and a reminder that winter is on the way. Not to be forgotten though, is that November also brings our vitally important opportunity to vote.

Recently Sandra Miller, AAUW Pennsylvania Public Policy Chair, reminded AAUW PA members that our Nov. 7 election is extremely important. Voters statewide will choose the next Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice as well as judges for the Pennsylvania Superior and Commonwealth Courts.



Loretta Seigley

Candidates who win these seats will have tremendous influence on and be able to shape future Pennsylvania legislation important to AAUW members.

In addition, crucial School Board elections in many Pennsylvania counties, including Erie, are vitally important. Sandra Miller reminds us that School Board elections can result in decisions that impact diversity policies, health and wellness policies as well as curriculum reform and access to diverse viewpoints due to the banning of classroom and or library books.

City and County Council elections impact how financial resources are distributed and used to support initiatives that align with the AAUW Mission to support women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

Clearly our vote matters! As Americans we cherish our right to engage in public debate on important issues and to vote to further goals that we support. I hope we will all join with our AAUW Pennsylvania members at the polls on Nov. 7.



Members gather at ECCC

Members enjoyed hearing about Erie County Community College at the October branch meeting. Dr. Christopher Gray, President, provided an overview of the school, shared a couple of student experiences and explained how the college's workforce training builds a stronger Erie County.

Bosco's update

To date, Erie Branch has raised \$ 470 to support branch operations via the Bosco's fundraiser. Thank you to all who participated.

By Barbara Hutzelman

Welcome!

Continued from P. 1

During her free time, Alison likes to bake, read, and knit neck warmers for seamen.

The couple resides at 10 Peninsula Drive, Unit 16, Erie, PA 16505. Her phone number is 814-836-5249; Email : altz1016@gmail.com

Public Policy Highlights

The past month has been a challenging one in Washington, D.C.

We were saddened to learn about the passing of Sen. Dianne Feinstein. The longest-serving woman in the U.S. Senate, she was a tireless advocate for gender equity. We have also seen some extremely challenging moments in Congress, narrowly averting a government shutdown and an unprecedented removal of a Speaker of the House.

The partisan tensions threaten the ability to advance any bipartisan legislation, including what we hope would include a budget that invests in programs that support access to higher education and protect civil rights.

New data from the Census Bureau also showed us that the gender pay gap not only persists but is devastating to certain groups of women. For example, Latinas in the U.S. are paid 48 percent less than white men. This is unacceptable.

We will continue to fight for expanded educational opportunities, address biases and inequities within the education system, and advance equal pay laws at the state and federal level. It will take concerted effort to close the gap, but we can do it, together.

Meghan Kissell, MSW
Senior Director, Policy and Member Advocacy AAUW



Members gather to assist Harding with Trunk-or-Treat

Several Branch members bolstered Harding School's recent Trunk-or-Treat event, as they helped to pass out candy to students. This effort was part of the United Way's Community Schools initiative. Members also contributed candy for distribution at the event.

Addition and Correction for the Yearbook

New Member

Alison Steadman
10 Peninsula Drive #16
Erie PA 16505
814-836-5249
altz1016@gmail.com
Business Education, Grove City

Email Correction

Livosky, Marilyn
mlivosky666@gmail.com

Branch Study Groups

Book Discussion

Loretta Seigley will be leading the book group discussion on "The Soul of America" by Jon Meacham on Thursday, Nov. 2, at 1 p.m. at the Millcreek Branch of the Erie County Public Library. Any member is welcome to join us.

For more information, contact Sarah Larson, sarahellenlarson@gmail.com or 585-403-1366.

Games for your Brain!

GAMES for the BRAIN has been canceled for November.

Global Friends

Global Friends will meet on Monday, Nov. 27, at 6 p.m. for a Holiday Potluck Dinner

At Edie's Home, 638 Vermont Ave. Please bring a dish to share.

R.S.V.P. to edie_cultu@yahoo.com or 814-456-5406.

Gourmet

TBA.

The group was to meet Oct. 27 at Royal Chopstix, 3444 West Lake Road. Contact Nickie Azicri at 814-835-3780 for more information.

Politalk

Politalk will meet on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2 - 4 p.m., at Asuman's house, 3838 State St.

November 2023

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 Book Millcreek Library 1 p.m. | 3 | 4 |
| 6 Board mtg. 6:30 p.m. Zoom | 7 | 8 Games Canceled | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 13 Branch Mtg. Mercy Center, 7 p.m. | 14 | 15 | 16 Politalk 2 p.m. at Asuman's | 17 | 18 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Gourmet TBA | 25 |
| 27 Global Friends 6 p.m. at Edie's | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |



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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Branch email: eriebranchaauw@gmail.com
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 image master

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