

Celebration of Women Achievers is planned at annual meeting

Reservations are due by May 1

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our Annual Meeting at Nick's Place, 12250 Edinboro Rd., on May 12, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers to enjoy and time to socialize. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

Awards will be given out for Woman of the Year, Member Making a Difference, and the Gateway to Equity Award. In addition, two women will be honored as Named Gift Honorees.

The Scholarship Committee will introduce us to women that they have chosen to receive scholarship awards in one of two categories: non-traditional college students or immigrant/refugees who are enrolled in, or plan to enroll in, an English or ESL/GED program.

These awards thereby assist those beginning, or those trying, to complete their educational journey.

New officers nominated for the upcoming year will be voted on and installed.

Outgoing officers will be thanked for their contributions to our branch.

Sign-up sheets will be provided for those interested in serving on different branch committees.

Dinner entrée choices are: grilled salmon, chicken bruschetta, or sirloin steak. Please be sure to indicate your entrée selection when making your payment.

All dinners will include a spinach strawberry salad, smashed potatoes, a medley of fresh broccoli and carrots, and a chocolate volcano cake served with ice cream for dessert. All dinners include coffee, tea, and soft drinks. Nick's Place is BYOB.

Paid reservations for the dinner in the amount of \$30.18 must be received by Candy Brown at 4123 Vassar St, Erie, PA 16506 by **May 1, 2025**. Please be sure to **include your entrée selection** on your check. Checks must be made out to **AAUW-Erie Branch, Inc.** You may also pay online by going to our branch website <https://www.aauwerie.org/events> and following the reservation/payment directions (\$31.40 with surcharge).

By Candy Brown

Nominating Committee issues slate

The Nominating Committee is presenting the following proposed slate of officers for the 2025-26 program year for your review prior to the April 12 Annual Meeting.

President —
Sharmin Khundker

President Elect -
Matasha MurrellJones

Membership VP -
Edie Cultu

Membership VP Elect -
Anne Marie Kumhera

Program VP co-chairs -
Soledad Traverso and Pat Benekos

Secretary -
Sarah Larson

Treasurer -
Barbara Hutzelman

Any member may also be nominated for any office from the meeting floor.

Nominating Committee members appointed by the Board include: Ellen DiPlacido, Edie Cultu, Barbara Hutzelman, Sharmin Khundker and Sarah Larson.

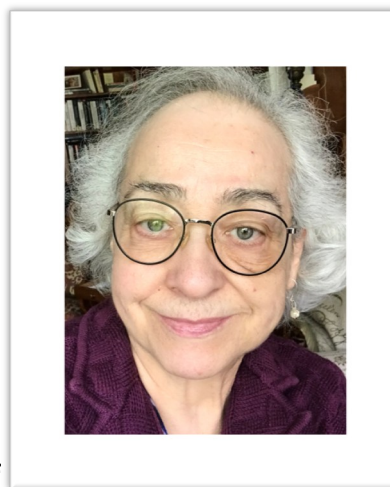
President's Message

Friends,

As we see the change of seasons, we are also witnessing a sea change concerning women in the workplace.

The dismantling of long-standing policies to ensure that women have equal footing at their jobs, equal pay for equal work, equal opportunities for advancement and, of course, equal access to education and training are on the agenda.

This is most obvious in the elimination of DEI funding that has enabled these policies to be implemented, as well as the impending disbanding of the federal Department of Education.



Asuman Baskan

AAUW, at the national level, has been a leader in creating these policies and has been called upon frequently for comment when they have become subjects of public debate...

We have an obligation to fulfill this role especially now, when (or because,) it has become a much bigger challenge.

Our national organization is currently holding elections for new officers. I urge you to read the bios of the candidates, evaluate their ability to carry out the duty of AAUW as an effective agent of policy design and... Vote.

We need to make sure that the new national board has clear mandate with which to participate in civil discourse, advance women's causes and preserve the gains we have registered so far.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions about voting.

All the best,
Asuman

We're assembling a Raffle Basket for Harding School

Harding School is having Spring Fest on May 16 and will have a raffle of baskets to help raise money for the school.

AAUW has offered to prepare one of the baskets for the raffle. Please consider donating an item to go into the basket. You may bring your item to the May dinner or contact Joan Benson-Cacchione to arrange to drop off your item at her house. Her email is jbc1817@icloud.com.

The theme of the basket will be summer fun. You might consider donating summer toys or games like balls, bubbles, yard games, frisbees, jump ropes, sidewalk chalk, beach toys or towels etc. You could also donate books or craft items.

If you wish, you could donate gift cards to summer activities like sporting events, Waldameer, ice cream places, or the Erie Zoo.

Thank you for helping to contribute to our AAUW basket in support of Harding School!

Public Policy Highlights

Recently, in a letter to Members of Congress dated March 31, 2025, AAUW National joined 111 other organizations supporting the Paycheck Fairness Act. If passed, this Act would close gender and race-based pay gaps and promote enforcement of anti-discrimination laws by updating the Equal Pay Act of 1963.

Some key provisions of the law include: Barring retaliation against workers who discuss or disclose wages; Ensuring that women can seek legal remedies for sex-based pay discrimination; Prohibiting employers from relying on salary history in setting pay, preventing past discrimination from following women from job to job;

The need to pass this legislation is clear. For the first time in 20 years, the pay gap widened in 2023. Women working full-time, year-round were paid 83 cents for every dollar paid to men, down from 84 cents in 2022.

In Pennsylvania, women face an even wider wage gap. Women in Pennsylvania earned only 82.4% of men's wages in 2023. Pennsylvania ranks as the 4th worst state for women's pay equity. In part, this is due to our state's very low minimum wage.

The gender pay gap is not just a number. It is a systemic barrier affecting millions of women's lives and economic security.

Passing the Paycheck Fairness Act is not only about fairness. Lower women's pay translates to families having less income for housing, healthcare, education and retirement. Pay equity would boost employee retention and consumer spending which would strengthen the economy. The letter is just one example of AAUW promoting our Mission to advance equity for women and girls.

YOUR DUES ARE DUE!

The AAUW fiscal year ends on June 30, and your annual dues of \$107 are due before that date.

Life members' dues are \$33 and Honorary Life members pay no dues.

Dues may be paid online at www.aauwerie.org or by check payable to AAUW Erie Branch, Inc. and mailed to P.O. Box 9264, Erie PA 16505 or in person to the treasurer at an Erie Branch meeting.

Note: Due to the newly enacted rolling membership year, there are members who will not owe dues until July or later. Those members will be notified by the treasurer, Barb Hutzelman.



Branch members enjoyed a visit to City Gallery to view the works of local artists in April.

Branch committees seek interested members

Your input is needed!

The Membership, Program, Investments, Fund-Raising, Bylaws and Scholarship Committees all work better with member participation.

Any branch member who is interested is welcome to participate, no special invitation is necessary. Please look for sign-up sheets at the May dinner or contact any officer for more information.



Global Friends study group attendees enjoyed a recent meeting while learning about Turkish baking, including Baklava.



Welcome to our new member!

Welcome to our new member **Anita Splendore!**

More information will be coming in the next *Pressible*, but please add the following to your yearbook.

Anita Splendore
6323 Stonebrook Drive
Fairview, PA 16415



Food & Friends present Ancient Grains and Fresh Herbs with a Modern Twist

The Food & Friends Herb Walk has been canceled by the presenter, so we are moving indoors.

Come to Asuman's house, 3838 State St., on Tuesday, May 20, at 10 a.m. We will introduce you to little-known grains, seeds and herbs, and their culinary and medicinal uses.

Together, we will make grain-based salads and sandwiches with homemade ethnic flat breads, share great company and savor simple but delicious food.

You'll take home recipes and information about the ingredients. There is no fee, however, donations will be accepted for our next Sunday Supper.

Please RSVP to Asuman (text or call, 814-282-8277; email irrepressibleturk@gmail.com) by May 15.



Please join the Food and Friends group for an evening at the Station Restaurant Dinner Theatre on Saturday, June 21, at 5:30 p.m. for a performance of Holy Cannoli.

The synopsis of the play: What do you do to prepare for a visit from your parents? Plenty, when you are the daughter of strict Italian Catholic parents who expect to meet your female roommate, who is actually a guy.

John was hoping to celebrate his and Maria's two-year anniversary as housemates by proposing to her. Instead, he finds himself as "Suzanne" wearing a dress and trying to cope with Maria's cranky father, her overbearing mother and her wild younger sister.

Then there's Maria's old childhood friend who tries to make his move on Maria as well as "Suzanne." Add John's trouble-making friend and you've got laughs on top of laughs.

We have reserved three tables of eight, dinner will be served family-style.

We have 24 seats altogether, but 7 seats are already taken so there remain 17 seats. The cost of the dinner and the show is \$43.

To reserve your place, please send a check for \$43 to: Karen Miller, 3625 Bellaire Drive, Erie, PA 16506.

Branch Study Groups

Book Discussion

Book Discussion will meet on Thursday, May 1, from 1-3 p.m. at Springhill 317.

Food and Friends

Food & Friends will meet on Tuesday, May 20, at 10 a.m. At Asuman's house, 3838 State St., We will introduce you to little-known grains, seeds and herbs, and their culinary and medicinal uses. Together, we will make grain-based salads and sandwiches with homemade ethnic flat breads, share great company and savor simple but delicious food.

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Global Friends

Global Friends will hold the Annual Picnic on Monday, May 19, at 6 p.m. in Glenwood Park (behind the zoo.)

Please bring a dish to share, hamburgers and drinks are provided.

Please let Edie know if you want a vegan burger.
RSVP edie_cultu@yahoo.com or 814-456-5406.

Gourmet

Plans TBA

Politalk

Politalk group will meet on May 15 at Asuman's home 3838 State St., 1 - 3 p.m.

May 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Book Club 1-3 p.m. Springhill 317	2	3
5 Board mtg. 6:30 p.m. Zoom	6	7	8	9	10
12 Spring dinner 5:30 Nick's Place	13	14	15 Politalk 1-3 p.m. at Asuman's	16	17
19	20 Food & Friends 10 a.m. at Asuman's	21	22	23 Gourmet TBA	24
26 Global Friends 6 p.m. at Glenwood Park	27	28	29	30	31



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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BOOK SALE

THURSDAY, MAY 15	10AM - 6PM
FRIDAY, MAY 16	10AM - 4PM
SATURDAY, MAY 17	9AM - 3PM

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