

ERIE PRESSIBLE April 2023

What is ECAT and how does it serve the community?

Over the past few years, we have heard about new programs that have been initiated in the Erie area to provide additional and supportive educational opportunities. We will be hearing about one of these opportunities at our April 10, 7 p.m., program at the Erie Center for Arts and Technology (ECAT) at 650 East Avenue, formerly Wayne School.

Daria Devlin, Executive Director, will provide us with an overview of the programs there and give us a tour.

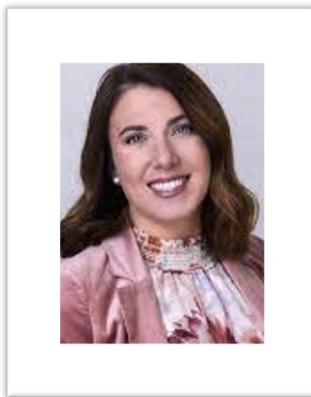
Daria is a life-long resident of the City of Erie and a proud graduate of the former Central High School. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Colgate University and an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from Edinboro University.

Prior to taking the position with ECAT in 2019 Daria, who has over 15 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, served as the Coordinator of Grants and Community Relations for Erie's Public Schools. In 2021, she was elected to the Erie School Board and now serves as Board President. She also serves on the Port Authority Board of Directors, the Erie Land Bank Board of Directors and as Vice-President of her church parish council. Daria lives in the City of Erie with her husband Neal and three sons, Nick (20), Nate (18) and Alex (16).

We are proud of Daria, as she was one of our scholarship recipients in 1995!

There is a parking lot off East 7th Street, behind the building. Just be aware that East 7th Street is one way going east. As it will be after hours, no need to honor reserved spots.

See you there!



Daria Devlin

By SarahEllen Larson

Scholarship applications due in April

Erie Branch is again offering up to three \$3,000 scholarships this year to qualified adult applicants and up to four \$1,500 awards under the new refugee and immigrant program. Completed applications for both programs are due by April 7. The \$3,000 scholarships are for Erie County women who are full or part-time students en-

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2023-2024 board members being sought

The time is quickly approaching when you will have the opportunity to vote for members to fill vacant Board positions for the 2023-24 program year.

Open Board positions include President-Elect, Recording Secretary, Finance Officer, Membership VP Elect, and Program VP.

If you would like to be

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President's Message

During the month of March, we have celebrated WOMEN MAKING HISTORY. So why not continue celebrating women during the month of April?

April is a time to recognize and celebrate our unique cultures, backgrounds, and rich traditions. It is more important than ever to recognize and celebrate diversity.

Sometimes we respond to uncertainty by surrounding ourselves with people who are like us. We all originate from a myriad of cultures, steeped in a multitude of beliefs and traditions.



Ellen DiPlacido

It is important to find value in each other's experiences, differences, and unique characteristics. By sharing our diversity, we gain a greater appreciation of each other. Celebrating diversity creates spaces of inclusion and fosters belonging where we all feel valued.

I discovered an article published in April 2020 from Chantell Garrett, Certified DEI and Non-profit Professional. In that article she listed a few simple ways that all of us can celebrate each other's uniqueness.

1. Share your culture and heritage with a social media post using a photo in your cultural attire, an heirloom or a family recipe.
2. Engage in learning opportunities, such as brushing up on inclusive leader habits, share how you combat bias, and read a DEI publication.
3. Host a multicultural movie night. Guests could bring a snack that represents different countries or cultures.
4. Attend a cultural art exhibit.
5. Play music from around the world.

I think that Maya Angelou may have summed this up in her own words: "We should all know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color."

New Games study group being held twice monthly

It's NEW and EXCITING! GAMES for your BRAIN!

A new study group has been formed, involving any kind of game you'd like to play. Susan Roehrl will welcome you to her home, 626 Mohawk Dr., on the 3rd Wednesday AND the last Saturday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m. She has many board games, but you can choose to play card games, etc. These kind of activities have been proven to stimulate your brain! Please RSVP by PHONE ONLY, 814-452-6158, to secure your space. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED VIA PHONE.

March meeting at Cancer Wellness Center is informative



Scholarship applications

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rolled in a baccalaureate degree program accredited by the Middle Atlantic States Association. Applicants must be an Erie County resident age 24 or older, be working toward the first undergraduate degree, have completed at least 24 credit hours, and have a GPA of at least 3.0.

The Refugee and Immigrant scholarships are for Erie County women who are full- or part-time students enrolled in an accredited college/university. An applicant must be a refugee or immigrant to the United States within the last 10 years, be an Erie County resident, and be accepted at an accredited college or university.

Applicants for both programs must not have previously received an AAUW scholarship award.

Applications will be evaluated on academic achievement, financial need and a biographical essay. Once completed, applications must be sent electronically to scholarshipaauw@gmail.com or be postmarked by April 7 to AAUW Scholarship, P.O. Box 9264, Erie, PA 16505

Recipients will be notified by April 23.

Questions may be emailed to scholarshipaauw@gmail.com.

Nominating Committee

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included in the slate of candidates or recommend someone, please contact a member of our nominating committee.

This committee consists of Loretto Bellicini, Christy Rieger and Edie Cultu.

The slate of candidates will be presented at the May Branch meeting, so it is important to respond as soon as possible if you want to be considered for one of the open positions.

In memoriam

Patricia Dietly, an Honorary Life Member of the Erie Branch of AAUW, passed away on Feb. 28, 2023.

Patricia attended Lake Erie College and graduated from Cornell University. She was very active in many organizations throughout the Erie area, serving on multiple boards.

A service was held at the First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant.

Memorials may be made to Erie Home for Children and Adults, 226 East 27th St., Erie, PA 16504.

Save the Date!

Annual Meeting and Dinner

May 8, 5:30 p.m.

Nick's Place - 12246 Edinboro Rd.

Cost - \$30

Includes a veggie appetizer, house salad, one entree, rice pilaf, green beans almondine and fresh strawberry shortcake with homemade pound cake.

Choose one of three entrees:
Chicken Bruschetta Grilled Salmon or Pork with Chutney

Reservations and checks must be sent to Sarah Larson, 1214 W. 39th St, Erie, PA 16509 by May 1. Make checks payable to AAUW Erie Branch, Inc. Please indicate your choice of entree. Also indicate any dietary restrictions.

We will have information about how to make reservations online on our new website in the May *Pressible!*

Ten names needed to boost this year's Erie Gives fundraiser

Ten names. That's what I need from you.

This is an opportunity to increase our coffers and enable us to give out more in scholarships.

I'm talking about Erie Gives. AAUW Erie is now a designated 501(C)3 organization, making us eligible to join the Non-Profit Partnership and raise money for scholarships on the annual Erie Gives Day.

AAUW Erie benefits from the community-wide promotion leading up to the event, in which people are encouraged to be in a philanthropic state of mind. We also become eligible for the Non-Profit Partnership's match - an additional percentage of all the contributions that we received.

We have been doing this project for several years and have pretty much made it an inside job. Most of the money that we received has come from own members. But, if we treat this event like our fundraisers of the past (such as Holly Trail and Lunch and Literature) where we reach out to our friends and family to join us in our efforts to raise money for scholarships, we will be able to award more money to deserving women and girls. And that will benefit the entire community.

What I'm suggesting is to not only send out post cards to our members alerting them to Erie Gives Day, but to send post cards to an additional 10 friends and family members for each member. In fact, I'll do the inviting. But I need your list of 10 contacts with an address (email or postal). You don't have to qualify your friends or family as "good" donors. This is an exercise in numbers. I just need you to help me spread the word.

In June I'll send a postcard to everyone on your list to let them know that Erie Gives is coming soon, on Aug. 8, and ask them, if they're planning to participate, to make AAUW Erie one of their choices.

I would like to have your list of ten names and addresses by Memorial Day. Sooner if you can.

By Loretto Bellicini

2023-2025 State officer election instructions

Voting for the nominees for State Board positions is now open and runs through April 30.

The AAUW Pennsylvania 2023-2025 Nominations and Elections Committee recommends the following slate to fill the open terms on the AAUW Pennsylvania Board:

Membership Vice President: Karen Wellin, Valley Forge Branch

Finance Officer: Ann Echols, State College Branch

Secretary: To be announced

This year there will be NO live voting during the annual meeting on Zoom. Please vote by Sunday, April 30. The election will be certified at the 2023 Annual Meeting on May 9.

Members of the AAUW PA Nominating Committee are: Susan Norris (Valley Forge Branch), Nominations Committee Chair; Kathy Quinn (Makefield Area Branch), Eastern District; Cathy Wieland (Lebanon Valley Branch), Central District; the late Linda Tozier (North Hills Pittsburgh Branch), Western District; Alternates: Pat Markowski (Carlisle Branch) and Loretta Seigley (Erie Branch).

ONLINE VOTING: INSTRUCTIONS:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023AAUWElection>

Click on the above link or paste this link into your browser. Online voting is available through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, April 30.

Clicking this link will bring up an initial screen that will include instructions and three boxes asking for voting confirmation information: 1) first name; 2) last name; and 3) AAUW affiliation: branch name, C/U rep, or National membership. This information will NOT be connected to your vote. Voter names and AAUW affiliation are required only to verify that you are a current paid AAUW PA member and that you are not voting multiple times.

Clicking the "next" box on the first screen will bring up the actual ballot. Be sure to hit "Done" at the end to record your votes. Note: If you have already voted, you will not be able to access the ballot.

Membership Vice President is responsible for planning, coordinating, implementing, and reporting membership activities. The full position description is on page 14 of the AAUW PA Board Handbook. *Finance Officer* is responsible for planning, directing, and documenting the financial matters of the state. The full position description is on page 16 of the AAUW PA Board Handbook.

Secretary is responsible for keeping the official record of the state.

Branch Study Groups

Book Discussion

Millcreek Mall library, April 6, 1 p.m. The book "Women Rowing North" by Mary Pipher will be reviewed by Sarah Larson.

Games

Members of this new group meet at 626 Mohawk Drive on the third Wednesday AND the last Saturday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m. Hostess Susan Roehrl has many board games, but you can choose to play card games, etc. Please RSVP by PHONE ONLY to 814-452-6158.

Global Friends

Global Friends will meet Monday, April 24, at 7 p.m. at Edie's home, 638 Vermont Ave. The program will be a Turkish cooking lesson. Questions? Contact edie_cultu@yahoo.com

Gourmet

TBA

Politalk

Politalk will meet April 20, 2 to 4 p.m. at Asuman's house, 3838 State St.

April 2023

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 Board mtg. 6:30 p.m. Zoom	4	5	6 Book Discussion Millcreek Library 1 p.m.	7	1 8
9	10 Branch mtg. 7 p.m. ECAT	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Games 2 p.m. at Susan Roehrl's	20 Politalk 2 p.m. at Asuman's	21 Gourmet TBA	22
23	24 Global Friends 7 p.m. at Edie's	25	26	27	28	29 Games 2 p.m. at Susan Roehrl's
30						

Impact of recent school funding ruling unknown

A long-awaited ruling on how Pennsylvania funds its public schools could have a seismic impact on state finances in the coming years as policymakers face a multibillion-dollar funding disparity.

A Commonwealth Court judge ruled Feb. 7 that Pennsylvania's school funding system so badly underfunds poor districts that it violates the State Constitution.

An appeal to the state Supreme Court is possible. But should the ruling stand, new Gov. Josh Shapiro (D) and the divided Pennsylvania legislature will be faced with an enormous challenge with no prescribed solution. So far, lawmakers are saying little about what lies ahead.

Study groups enjoy recent get-togethers



Gourmet gathered to sample the cuisine at MiScuzi recently



Global Friends recently met recently to hear Niken Astari Carpenter speak



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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