

# ERIE PRESSIBLE May 2023

## ***Annual Meeting and Dinner set at Nick's Place***

Reservations are due May 1 for Erie Branch's annual meeting and dinner. The event will be held Monday, May 8, 5:30 p.m. at Nick's Place, 12246 Edinboro Road.

Chicken Bruschetta, Grilled Salmon or Pork with Chutney are this year's menu choices. Requests for a vegetarian entree will also be honored. Cost is \$30.

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

Please indicate your preference when making your reservation with Sarah Larson, 1214 W. 39th St., Erie, PA 16509.

Reservations and payments must be received by May 1. Make checks payable to AAUW Erie Branch, Inc.

The bridge over I-90 on Edinboro Rd (Rt. 99) is out, so make sure to check your GPS to get the best route to Nick's Place from your home.

## **Scholarship winners to be feted at May dinner**

Erie Branch will be awarding \$13,500 in scholarships to six area women at the May dinner. Two types of awards will be given this year – Adult Scholarship Awards of \$3,000 per student and \$1,500 Refugee/Immigrant (RISA) awards. Three students have been selected for each type of award.

### **Adult Scholarship Winners:**

- Rebecca L. Stanopiewicz
- Skylar Mumford
- Brenda Medina

### **RISA Scholarship Winners:**

- Nadine M. Nguengo
- Alphonsine Rehema
- Nadia Mir Ali

The Scholarship Committee received five Adult Scholarship applications and three for the new RISA awards.

## ***Community School Tour set***

During our January Branch meeting, Julie Chacona from United Way offered to arrange a tour of a United Way Community School for our members this spring.

We have now received this invitation from Clare Weisenfluh, the United Way Development Services Coordinator. She, with input from Loretta Seigley, was able to schedule a tour at Harding Elementary School, 820 Lincoln Avenue, on May 18 at 10 a.m.

Our tour guide will be Shanna, Harding's Community School Director. The tour will last about one and a half hours.

I hope as many as possible will attend. An RSVP is needed by May 10 if you plan to come. Email me at [eldip@aol.com](mailto:eldip@aol.com) or call 814-602-6730.

*By Ellen DiPlacido*

## President's Message

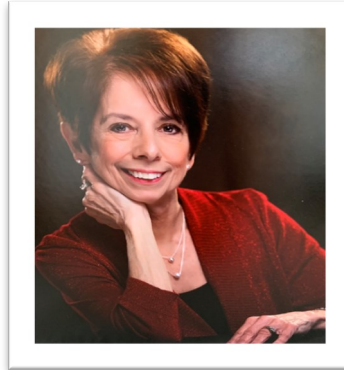
AAUW began in 1881. Its founder, Marion Talbot, was prompted to support a fund to help women have an opportunity to pursue a degree, which very few did have at that time.

Today, women outnumber men in earning degrees at nearly every level. However, our work is not done. Over the past 140 years, AAUW has become the leading voice in advancing gender equity in education and in workplaces everywhere.

Through **research, education, and advocacy**, AAUW is committed to ensuring that everyone gets the same opportunity to learn, earn, and lead.

AAUW's aim is to move women forward and we do that by fighting for and supporting our goals.

When you pay your dues you will be continuing to support a national organization that promotes equity for all women and girls. If you want to read more about AAUW National programs go to <https://www.aauw.org>. We will send you more information about renewing your dues in the near future.



Ellen DiPlacido

*Welcome to our new branch member!*

### **Anne Marie Kumhera**

We welcome our newest member, Anne Marie Kumhera, to our branch. Anne Marie spent most of her childhood in Cleveland, Ohio.

She loved telling stories as a child, so it was natural for her to get a teaching degree from St. John's Teacher's College of Cleveland. She supplemented this education with further classes in pre-med and biology. Anne Marie and her husband were both teachers and enjoyed traveling during their summer vacations. They visited all U.S. states except Hawaii and traveled in several European countries.

They have a son who teaches Medieval History at Behrend. After her husband passed away, Anne Marie moved to our area and now lives in Fairview with her son and his family. She enjoys cooking, reading, working with children, and always learning new things. She is thrilled to have found new friends in AAUW.

*By Edie Cultu*



## Erie Branch tours ECAT

Erie Branch members learned about the training and programs offered at the new Erie Center for Arts and Technology (ECAT) from executive director Daria Devlin (left, center). The tour of the facility was the Branch's April meeting.



## Branch President, president-elect attend Counterparts Meeting

Ellen DiPlacido and Loretta Seigley attended the statewide Presidents' meeting via Zoom on March 29.

Major topics discussed included Program Sharing, Summer Retreat Registration, Marketing efforts and Leadership Challenges.

Pennsylvania presidents are eager to continue program sharing among branches. During the past year, several branches (including Erie) have shared programs with other Pennsylvania branches. Advertisement and technical help are available to any branch wishing to share a program with other Pennsylvania branches.

Presidents were asked to encourage member attendance at the summer retreat "Women Together Fighting on the Front Line." The retreat will be held in Gettysburg on the campus of Gettysburg College July 28-29. Registration information is available on the AAUW Pennsylvania website.

The need for effective marketing to increase AAUW visibility was also discussed. Presidents were asked to invite members to submit brief articles to the *Keystoner*. An e-newsletter focusing on branch events is under consideration. The newsletter would be available to all members.

Leadership challenges currently experienced by Pennsylvania branches was a topic of major concern. Several branches have been unable to identify individuals who will agree to accept board positions. Branches have adapted either by electing two individuals to share one position (co-presidents for example), or by operating as a branch with a leadership committee rather than individual board members. The need to revise position descriptions was discussed. In some instances, position descriptions contain outdated language and can appear overwhelming. Presidents discussed the need to define "What is our essential Mission?" and to focus on essential elements to avoid burnout.

Presidents were requested to encourage members to attend the AAUW PA business meeting via Zoom on May 9.

*By Loretta Seigley*

## Just a reminder...

### 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 postcards 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*

## It's time to register for state business meeting

Don't forget to register for the Tuesday, May 9, annual business meeting for AAUW PA. This is a Zoom meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. and is scheduled for one hour.

To attend, register in advance:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUpc-GgqD4iHtN9LS6gKEA6zO5sY-SfdFzw>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

In addition, please vote in the **national AAUW Election 2023**. AAUW PA members received an email dated April 5. This email contains the link to vote as well as your unique Elector ID and Password. You must have these credentials to vote. You will be voting for bylaws changes that were shared with you earlier, as well as a slate of officers.

## Highlights from national

This past summer, the Coca-Cola Foundation renewed its support of our **Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative** for another year. This allowed us to expand our partnership with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), and others to reach even more women with our award-winning Work Smart salary-negotiation program and financial literacy training.

We also were thrilled to award **\$6 million** — our largest-ever amount—to women scholars and equity-based community projects in 2022-23. See [Fellows and Grantees](#).

# Branch Study Groups

## Book Discussion

Susan Roehrl will be reviewing "Caste" by I. Wilkerson on Thursday, May 4, at 1 p.m. at the Millcreek branch of the Erie County Public Library. Join us! Any member is welcome any time!

wood Park Picnic Area (behind the zoo). Husbands and children are invited.

Hamburgers and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

RSVP to Edie at 456-5406 or edie\_cultu@yahoo.com

## Games

GAMES for your BRAIN! will meet on the third Wednesday AND the last Saturday of each month from 2 – 4 p.m. at Susan Roehrl's home, 626 Mohawk Dr. Please RSVP by PHONE ONLY, 814-452-6158, to secure your space.

## Gourmet

Gourmet will meet at the Oyster Bar on Friday, May 19, at 5:30 p.m. Reservations are limited; contact Loretto Bellicini for reservations.

## Global Friends

Global Friends will hold its annual picnic on Monday, May 22, at 6 p.m. at the Glen-

## Politalk

Politalk will meet on May 18, 2 - 4 p.m., at Asuman's house, 3838 State St.

# May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <b>Board mtg.</b> 6:30 p.m. Zoom	2	3	4 <b>Book Discussion</b> Millcreek Library 1 p.m.	5	6
7	8 <b>Annual Meeting</b> Nick's Place, 5:30 p.m.	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 <b>Games</b> 2 p.m. at Susan Roehrl's	18 <b>Politalk</b> 2 p.m. at Asuman's	19 <b>Gourmet</b> 5:30 at Oyster Bar	20
21	22 <b>Global Friends</b> 6 p.m. at Glenwood Park picnic area	23	24	25	26	27 <b>Games</b> 2 p.m. at Susan Roehrl's
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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