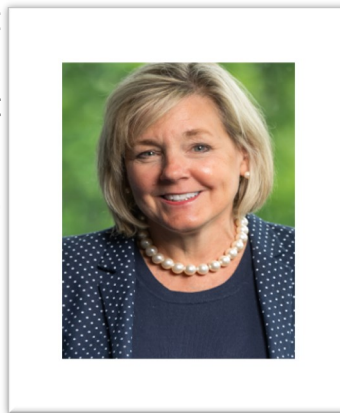


Role of Community Schools in Crushing Poverty topic of January Zoom meeting

The role of Community Schools in Crushing Poverty will be discussed at the Branch's January meeting, to be held on Monday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Julie Chacona, Chief Development Officer at United Way of Erie County, will discuss a brief history of Erie schools and how the United Way's Community Schools initiative eliminates non-academic barriers to learning in 16 elementary and middle schools throughout Erie County.



Julie Chacona

United Way's Community Schools initiative brings a wide range of resources into individual schools to support students and their families. (See the graphic outline on P. 4.)

All support focuses on removing barriers to learning so children can be successful in school. Thanks to the support, Community Schools become hubs, rich with resources for student and families.

Julie graduated from Boston College with a Bachelor of Arts in Writing Communications. Her past career experience includes work at St. Vincent Health Center and at Edinboro University. She believes that working in both Health Care and Education environments have provided motivation for her current role in "crushing poverty."

Her inspiration is the belief that "Education changes behaviors and is the pathway to and through a rich and meaningful life. Working together, members of the Erie community may help to open doors to endless opportunities." This program will be via Zoom, so check your email for the link! Please see instructions for connecting to Zoom on P. 3.

By Loretta Seigley

Welcome to three new members!

We are very pleased to welcome several new members to our branch!

Matasha Murrell Jones

Matasha grew up in Rochester, NY. She has earned a doctorate in Organizational Leadership and is currently working as a lead faculty member in the business department of Herzing University. Matasha is married and has a son. When she is not busy working, she enjoys the arts, singing, playing the piano and sports such as skiing and tennis. She also enjoys traveling and learning about other cultures. She has been fortunate to have lived on three continents.

Gloria Pulford

Gloria is originally

Con't. on P. 3

President's Message

BELONGING: A DEEPER DIVE

I attended (via Zoom) "Belonging: A Deeper Dive." This program is a part of AAUW's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plug and Play Programming. It is AAUW's way to help Branches understand the difference between Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

AAUW hopes that in turn Branches create programs and events around topics included in the DEI plan.

There is a multitude of helpful information in the Toolkit. I am just going to relate some of the information that was included in the discussion around Inclusion and BELONGING.

Diversity has those characteristics that make each of us unique.

Equity gives fair/equal access regardless of diversity.

Inclusion refers to behaviors and actions that make us "feel welcome or not." Inclusion is essential to the success of our diversity efforts. The act of including relates to accommodating people who have historically been excluded because of race, gender, sexuality or ability. AAUW recommends adding BELONGING to DEI.

Diversity is a fact. Numbers are what they are. Inclusion is a choice. You decide whether to include someone or not. Diversity and inclusion aren't what matter; belonging is what counts. Just because someone is included in our organization doesn't mean they feel they belong.

Belonging is a feeling of being accepted, valued and useful. Belonging means that everyone is treated and feels like a full member of the larger community. It is a feeling of security, support, acceptance and identity. Pat Wadors said it well "D & I may capture your head, but Belonging captures your heart."

AAUW's goal in presenting this Toolkit is to help branches achieve better attendance, better communication and create teams that put monumental effort into innovation and collaboration.

DO THE BEST YOU CAN UNTIL YOU KNOW BETTER. THEN DO BETTER--
-Maya Angelou



Ellen DiPlacido

New members

Con't from P. 1

from Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, the home of the famous groundhog. She went to Pittsburgh to get a degree in psychology and anthropology at Carlow College. Following college she worked for Head Start in Punxsutawney and then in Erie.

She also worked for the IU and ended her 35 year instructional career teaching learning support in North East. Gloria is married and has a daughter in Florida and a grandson in Erie.

Ann Bomberger

Ann earned a bachelor degree from Allegheny College and doctorate from SUNY Stony Brook. She currently works at Gannon University, teaching writing and African American and women's literature. Ann has lived in Meadville, Atlanta, Massachusetts, Long Island, and even Ankara, Turkey and has now lived in Erie for six years.

Ann has a daughter who is a freshman at Mt. Holyoke College. Ann sings with the Erie Philharmonic chorus and likes to read and go for walks with her puppy.

In memoriam

Diane Wisniewski's husband, Richard, died on December 1, 2022, after a long illness.

AAUW Erie Branch members send their condolences to Diane and her family.

HOW TO USE ZOOM

Download Zoom

Zoom is a program that runs on your computer, phone, or tablet. You must download this program from the Zoom website. The free version of Zoom should meet all your needs.

Download for Windows: go to zoom support website: <https://zoom.us/support/download> and the installation program will download to your computer. It will be in your download folder.

Run the program to install Zoom and you should see an icon on the desktop.

There are also links on the Zoom support/download page, if you want to install the apps on an iPhone, iPad or Android phone or tablet.

HOW TO ATTEND A ZOOM MEETING

When you receive an email invitation for a Zoom meeting, the email will include a 'Join Meeting' link. Click the link and your Zoom Program will open.

As you join the meeting, you will be asked to use your computer microphone. When the video starts, make sure you click on the video button at the bottom of the screen. There is also a microphone at the bottom of the screen that allows you to mute or unmute your microphone.

For demonstrations on how to use Zoom, you may want to look at these videos:

How to download Zoom:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0xEEvYnGfg>

How To Join Zoom Meeting on PC / Laptop: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIkCmbvAHQQ>

[How to join a meeting by phone or tablet:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0p7owVgdz8) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0p7owVgdz8>

By Loretto Bellicini



This graph illustrates how assistance from the community helps local schools to address non-academic needs which affect student success.

Fact or Fiction — How you can differentiate them

FACT or FICTION — How can YOU determine which is which when various claims pop up in our Facebook feed, shows we are streaming, or other media? Distortions of truth and scurrilous allegation ads have divided us with stories so shocking that we wonder, “Can that really be true?” Social media has made these ads easily shared and when they go viral, disinformation is treated as fact. It is not easy to check some statements for truth or falsehood.

Searching Google or DuckDuckGo does not offer only factual information. Unless there are non-partisan accessible resources we can use to check for accuracy and a contextual frame of reference, these pop ups can create illusions that even outlandish allegations are true. There are non-partisan, non-profit resources that analyze accuracy and are trustworthy and unbiased.

One is a guide to How to Fact Check Like a Pro that can be found at <https://www.lexisnexis.com/pdf/nexis/Nexis-webinar-how-to-fact-check-like-a-pro.pdf>. Published through Lexis/Nexis, a data-driven public information collection for credible and balanced research, it guides to fact checking sites that are ethical, credible, and accurate.

To evaluate the current political leanings (left or right) of major news organizations and to broaden your perspective by perusing multiple viewpoints, use the website All-Sides.com <https://www.allsides.com/media-bias/media-bias-chart>. This guide can help determine media bias.

FACT-CHECKING SITES: **FactCheck.org** <https://www.factcheck.org/> Established by Walter Annenberg as a non-profit, non-partisan organization of scholars whose mission is to monitor media and content for factual accuracy and reduce deception in American politics. Monitors news stories and political content in media outlets and researches readers’ questions. **Politifact.com** <https://www.politifact.com/> A non-profit journalism foundation whose stated purpose is to rate the accuracy of statements by political candidates and elected officials. Methods are based on ethical principles and best practices for journalists. **ProPublica.org** <https://www.propublica.org/> Non-profit Pulitzer award winning independent journalism site whose mission is to expose abuses of power and dishonesty in government and business. Tracks congressional votes, financial information, and candidate statements.

Courtesy of the Public Policy study group, AAUW Bethlehem Branch



Branch's presentation to state convention shown at holiday luncheon

Erie Branch's traditional holiday luncheon was enjoyed by 37 members and guests.

Ellen DiPlacido and Loretto Bellini presented the PowerPoint program they and many other members created last year to present at the AAUW State Conference this past summer. Showcasing pandemic survival strategies, it showed how our Branch used Zoom to hold meetings, conduct projects with partner organizations and continue study group sessions while not being able to meet in person.

Our traditional holiday collection for AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund netted \$330 this year.



Student chapters, program sharing discussed at recent state Presidents' Meeting

Ellen DiPlacido and Loretta Seigley attended the bimonthly Statewide President's meeting via Zoom on Nov. 21. Major topics for discussion included needed support for student chapters, branch leadership issues and program sharing across state chapters. Support for University student AAUW chapters is currently weak and chapters are having difficulty maintaining and growing membership. In the past, student chapters have been one avenue for AAUW to recruit younger members. Several Pennsylvania chapter presidents have referred this issue to the State Board.

Support to sustain existing chapters and the need to encourage the development of new university chapters is currently under discussion by the board. Branch leadership continues to be an issue of concern. Several state branches have established leadership committees and other branches have merged virtually in an effort to share leadership responsibilities. This issue will be included as an area for discussion at the biannual retreat to be held this year on July 29th in Gettysburg.

We are fortunate to maintain strong leadership in Erie and the planned discussion may produce creative ideas to support our future leadership teams. Efforts to share mission-based programs across the state continues. Plans include sharing our September program featuring Dr. Lena Surzhko Harned, who spoke about the War on Ukraine. This program will be shared with Pennsylvania branches as a webinar in the spring.

Announcements included the revision of the State Board Handbook, which includes the description of all board positions. The revised handbook will be available on the Pennsylvania website in April. Work on revisions to the State Strategic Plan will begin in January. Volunteers are needed. Members are asked to e-mail Cindy Hall, AAUW Pennsylvania President, if you are interested in volunteering to help with this project.

Pennsylvania Presidents and others present at the meeting conveyed much deserved congratulations to AAUW Erie Branch as we celebrate 120 years. The hard work and continued support for the AAUW mission by current members and by so many women in our past has led to our strong and resilient branch.

By Loretta Seigley

International Institute thanks Branch members for donations

We received a letter of thanks from the International Institute for all our donations for their Thanksgiving bags of food for the refugees.

This is a quote from the letter:

"Dear AAUW Members, Thank you for your generous donation of assorted rice, lentils, dried beans, and stuffed animal toys. They were a great supplement for this year's Thanksgiving baskets for families who were experiencing their first holiday in the U.S."

Thanks to all of you for donating!

Edie

Book Club ready for 2023

What a wonderful luncheon Susan prepared for us! What a good discussion about "Tom."

2023's book schedule lists January and February meetings on Zoom. In March we will be back to the Millcreek Library.

Just as a reminder, Nicki Azicri and I have switched months. Nicki will be presenting "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict on March 2. I will be presenting "Women Rowing North" by Mary Pipher on April 6.

By Sarah Larson

Branch Study Groups

Book Discussion

AAUW Book Group is scheduled for Jan. 5 at 1 p.m. It will be a Zoom meeting. We are reading "The Mountains Sing" by Nguyen Phan Mai. The reviewer will be Lorraine Wellington. A Zoom link will be sent to anyone interested in joining us!

Global Friends

Global Friends will meet Monday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. at Asuman's home, 3838 State St., Erie (please note the change in location!) The program will be on Turkey Today.

Gourmet

TBA

Politalk

Politalk will meet Thursday, Jan. 19, 2-4 p.m. at Asuman's house, 3838 State St.

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Book Discussion Zoom 1 p.m.	6	7
8	9 Branch mtg. 7 p.m. Zoom	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Politalk 2 p.m. at Asuman's	20	21
22	23 Global Friends 7 p.m. at Asuman's	24	25	26	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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