

Crime Victim Center is featured in April

Please note change in date, time, location

On Saturday, April 13, at 10 a.m. AAUW Erie Branch members will have an opportunity to visit The Crime Victim Center of Erie County at 125 W. 18th St.

Amy Blackman, Co-Assistant Director and Director of Preventive Education, will discuss the agency's focus on changing the impact of crime and lifting voices of survivors, their families and neighbors.

The Crime Victim Center's services include Preventive Education for elementary and middle school students, Court Advocacy and Innovative Healing Programs such as Hope on Horseback to help victims process trauma.

A graduate of Kent State University and SUNY Stony Brook, Amy has been providing educational programs and training for over 20 years.

She is currently a certified trainer of mandated reporters through the Pennsylvania Coalition to advance Respect and chairs the Pennsylvania Association of Sexual Assault Center's Educational Committee.

In her daily work, Amy strives to empower others of all ages to make a difference in their community in ways both large and small.



Amy Blackman

Plan to Vote!

AAUW National will put a bylaw change on open membership up for a vote. Balloting takes place April 3 through May 15.

Open membership means that the education requirement would be removed from requirements for AAUW membership.

Watch your email for more information on this topic to be provided by National and by AAUW PA.

Branch recognized

AAUW Erie Branch has been recognized by AAUW National for three of our program components: Communications and External Relations, Programs, and Governance and Sustainability.

The recognition came through AAUW National's Star Program, which rewards branches for aligning their work with the AAUW Strategic Plan and initiatives that foster the mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls. Erie received three of a possible five Stars.

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President's Message

As I begin to write my April *Pressible* letter, I am reminded that our AAUW Erie Branch monthly meetings will be changing over the next few months.

Instead of visits to important community agencies and educational campuses, in May our focus shifts to the Annual Dinner Meeting and Banquet and then to the Potluck Picnic in June.

Meetings this year have featured interesting speakers who have provided information about healthcare, education, services for women, efforts to improve city neighborhoods and a most interesting exploration of Erie's history. At the same time, meetings have given members a chance to mix and mingle with each other.



Loretta Seigley

Our April meeting once again will provide important information about efforts to reduce crime and its impact on our community. The realization that this month will be our final community visit for the year prompted me to think about how fortunate I am to belong to AAUW Erie Branch!

As a member, I have so many opportunities to learn and to grow, to give back to my community in a variety of ways and to meet so many other members who care about and are willing to support our AAUW Mission to advance equity for women and girls.

Beyond our local AAUW Branch, we are fortunate to have many opportunities to expand our knowledge about Public Policy, Diversity, Leadership and many other topics through communication such as the *Keystoner* and a variety of webinars shared by AAUW Pennsylvania and AAUW National.

In addition to a shift in AAUW activities, of course we are also experiencing a pleasant seasonal shift. I hope you all will enjoy warm, sunny days as our beautiful Erie Spring arrives!

Scholarship applications due April 5

Erie Branch is again offering scholarships. Up to three \$3,000 scholarships are available to qualified adult applicants enrolled in a baccalaureate program and up to two \$1,500 awards under the refugee and immigrant program. Completed applications for both programs are due by April 5.

The \$3,000 scholarships are for Erie County women who are full or part-time students enrolled 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 awards 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 5 to AAUW Scholarship, P.O. Box 9264, Erie, PA 16505. Recipients will be notified by April 25.

Questions may be emailed to scholarshipaauw@gmail.com.

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Congratulations to our Mercy Center Honorees!

Congratulations to AAUW Erie Branch members Erin Fessler, Barbara Hauck, and Linda Staszewski, who were named 2024 Women Making History Honorees by The Mercy Center for Women.

Honorees are recognized for the countless ways they affect and influence lives in the community.

It is wonderful to see our members recognized for working to improve the Erie community and the lives of those who call Erie home.

5-Star

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We should be proud that AAUW Erie has been recognized and that our efforts are celebrated" Branch president Loretta Seigley said.

"The award is indeed thanks to our Board members who work tirelessly to support our efforts and to all members who work tirelessly to plan, coordinate and carry out initiatives in line with the AAUW Mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, philanthropy and research. Many thanks to all AAUW Erie Members!"

Public Policy Highlights

2024 Equal Pay Day Full Calendar

- Overall Equal Pay Day (EPD) — March 12
- Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Women's EPD — April 3.
- LGBTQJA AND Equal Pay Awareness Day — June 13
- Black Women's Equal Pay Day — July 9
- Mom's Equal Pay Day — August 7
- Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHP) Women's Equal Pay Day - Aug. 28
- Latina Equal Pay Day — Oct. 3
- Native Women's Equal Pay Day — Nov. 21

EXERPTS FROM EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF RACE AND GENDER

Racial and gender-based inequities persist in the United States' education system. Their effects are clear.

In K thru 12 schools, Black students are punished more harshly and more frequently than white students for similar offenses.

Data from the U.S. Department of Education finds that Black girls are significantly more likely than White girls to be suspended or receive referrals to law enforcement... AAUW supports policies like the Counseling Not Criminalization Act, which provide money and resources to schools, and increase the presence of mental and behavioral health personnel in schools. These steps have shown to improve educational outcomes, increase attendance and graduation rates, and lower the rates of suspension and expulsion.

Additionally, women still face discriminatory employment practices and inadequate legal protection at work. This is why AAUW continues to fight for stronger pay equity laws, improved paid leave and child support, and collection of wage data that helps identify ongoing areas of gender and racial discrimination.

The bottom line is this: We need to address when and where sexism and racism intersect to truly foster equity for all women.

Meghan Kissell, Senior Director, Policy & Member Advocacy

A win for closing the gender and racial pay gaps was recently announced: the White House is banning the use of current or past pay when determining the salaries of new federal employees. This means the country's largest employer will halt a practice known to foster discriminatory pay and allow it to follow an individual throughout their career. Federal contractors may soon follow a similar rule in the future and may be required to post salary ranges in job listings, as proposed by the White House.

Women's paychecks, and the respect for our value in the workplace, should be positively impacted. It was fitting that these announcements came on the 15th anniversary of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

Branch Study Groups

Book Discussion

The AAUW book group will meet on Thursday, April 4, at 1 p.m. at the Parkside Regency at South Shore, 322 Washington Place, Erie.

Susan Roehrl will be leading the discussion on "Other Minds" by Peter Godfrey. We will be gathering in the community room on the second floor.

Global Friends

Global Friends will meet with the Afghan women at the new Afghan community center in April. The date will be an-

nounced by email. Contact Edie (edie_cultu@yahoo.com) if you are not on her email list.

Gourmet

Gourmet will meet at Syd's Place, 2992 W. Lake Road on Friday, April 26, at 5 p.m. Please call Nickie Azicri at 814-835-3780 or email speedyzeek8@ gmail.com.

Politalk

Politalk will meet on Thursday, April 18, at 2 p.m. at Asuman's home.

April 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Board mtg. 6:30 p.m. Zoom	2	3	4 Book 1 p.m. at Re- gency at South Shore	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13 Branch meeting 10 a.m. Crime Vic- tim Center
15	16	17	18 Politalk 2 p.m. at Asuman's	19	20
22	23	24	25	26 Gourmet 5 p.m. At Syd's Place	27
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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