

ERIE PRESSIBLE March 2023

Cancer wellness support is on March agenda *Please note change in location*

The Erie AAUW Branch's March meeting will feature the Erie Cancer Wellness Center.

The meeting will be held Saturday, March 11, 10 a.m. at the **Erie Cancer Wellness Center located at 2212 West 15th Street, Unit 104**, Erie, PA 16505. Please note this is a change from our original program of Yoga for Seniors due to a scheduling conflict.

Center executive director Sarah Humphrey will speak and conduct a tour.

She has been Executive Director of the ECWC since October 2021. The facility opened its doors on Sept. 26, 2022, with a mission to support those living with cancer and the people that care for them through free programs and services that promote physical, emotional, and mental healing.



Sarah Humphrey

Sarah has been a nurse for almost 30 years and had a passion for wellness, disease prevention and how the mind and spirit play a role in health and wellness.

She graduated from Case Western Reserve University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Mercyhurst University with a Master of Science in Nursing/Integrative Leadership. Sarah worked at the Cleveland Clinic for many years before moving to Erie and practiced in the areas of emergency medicine and gynecologic & surgical oncology.

After moving to Erie, Sarah was Nurse Case Manager and Program Recruiter at the Dean Ornish Program for reversing heart disease, before moving to the former Regional Cancer Center, where she initiated the Community Awareness & Outreach Program, a cancer survivorship program for patients and families. After the RCC was dissolved, she helped develop and lead the Oncology Navigation program at AHN Saint Vincent Cancer Institute.

Sarah knew an important piece of cancer care was missing, however, and that is the support programs that help people live through their cancer journey. With the help of a dedicated Board of Trustees, the Erie Cancer Wellness Center was formed. Sarah is so excited to offer these services to the greater Erie County community.

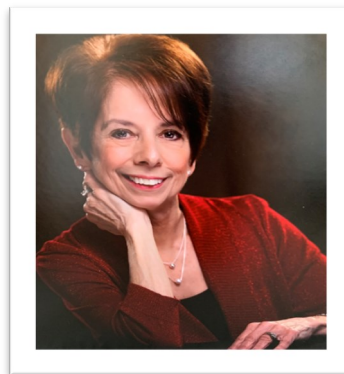
By Sharmin Khundker and Sarah Larson, program co-chairs

President's Message

The January 2023 issue of the *Keystoner's* book recommendation was "*The Colors of Courage; Gettysburg's Forgotten History*" by Margaret Creighton.

I decided that I wanted to read this book for a couple of reasons.

First of all I do not know much history about the Battle of Gettysburg beyond Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Also Patty Stromberg -- AAUW Bradford, described the author's message as a story of immigrants, women and African Americans living in and around Gettysburg during the Battle and the "unimaginable circumstances" they dealt with.



Ellen DiPlacido

The book did not disappoint me. Creighton's documented history about women's roles in the Battle of Gettysburg was "lost in the North-South commemoration of manhood." Truth be told "women at Gettysburg fought too and after the Battle some of them resisted social dictates that said what they did in the summer of 1863 should be kept quiet." Secondly, AAUW PA's Summer Retreat Program theme is "Women Together -- Fighting on the Front Line." July marks the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. I hope that we will have members interested in attending. Let me know.



Summer Retreat is from July 28-29, 2023, at Gettysburg College, 300 N. Washington St., Gettysburg, PA. Lodging is provided by the Gettysburg Wyndham Hotel, 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, PA. The Retreat Program begins on Saturday at 9:30am and closes after a 3 p.m. reception. There are options for pre- and post-Retreat tours of Gettysburg's historical sites.

RESERVATIONS WILL OPEN ON MARCH 15, 2023!

Public Policy Matters

Discussion points offered on proposed amendments to state Constitution which may go to voters

Erie County State Senator Dan Laughlin is the prime sponsor of PA Senate Bill 1, which proposes three constitutional amendments which could go to the voters in May or November if passed by the full Senate and House. Differing versions are currently under consideration by the two bodies.

The bill proposes: lifting the statute of limitations for some survivors of childhood sexual assault, allowing them to go after perpetrators in court; requiring ID to vote, and allowing the legislature to override a governor's regulation more easily.

Voter ID is a priority in Pennsylvania's Republican-controlled Senate and is seen as a basic step to ensure election integrity. Some voter rights groups are opposed, aiming to make voting easier, not more difficult. House Democrats oppose any effort to make voting harder. A 2021 Franklin and Marshall College poll suggested that 74 percent of all Pennsylvanians support photo ID requirements for voting.

Senator Laughlin believes that having voter ID requirements will ease the fears of voters who believe in mass fraud. The question then becomes why the public might be losing faith in elections and why they believe the way they do.

The issue at hand is: Are these claims of widespread voter fraud fact or fiction? The key driver in the debate over Voter ID laws is whether or not such laws are intended to prevent voter fraud or whether the laws themselves are a form of government-endorsed action intended to suppress the vote of specific populations.

Discussion point: What is the right move forward?

Does the Voter ID requirement change election outcomes in the 30 or so states that have established the law?

Many states charge a fee to obtain state-issued photo IDs. Then, to get an ID, an individual must show documentation, like a birth certificate, which may also cost money to obtain.

So what is the right answer? Perhaps soon, Pennsylvania voters will have to decide.

By Loretto Bellicini

In memoriam

Linda Tozier, a member of the at the North Hills, Pittsburgh, branch, who from time to time was liaison to the Erie Branch while serving at the state, and national levels, passed away Feb. 18.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Condolences may be sent to her son, Bob, his wife, and two daughters at 2500 Matterhorn Dr., Wexford, PA 15090

Linda had three passions — Bucknell University, AAUW, and her son and his family. Linda's contributions to AAUW were summed up in the Special Honoree award presented to Linda in April 2021.

Public Policy Update

provided by PA State Public Policy committee

Election News:

Primary Election: PA is having its municipal elections this cycle and there are important positions up for election. School Board: Most school boards will have at least 5 seats up for election and please note that the primary is a very important process for school boards since most candidates cross-file – meaning they are on both ballots. Supreme Court Justice: Due to the death of a member in the fall, there is one seat on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court that needs to be filled. This seat is important for all of us to consider as so many AAUW issues such as education and reproductive rights are finding their way into the judicial system.

Education News:

2023 is an election year for School Board Director positions, and there is no better time to watch, listen, and act locally. Over the past years, several school board directors started to take actions to implement book bans, curriculum interference, and sports bans. These issues are front and center locally in your school boards. School boards often operate under the radar because of insufficient scrutiny or news coverage. The Central Bucks School District exploded into national news. AAUW Doylestown members are now attending school board meetings and advocating locally.

Economic Security News:

Pay-Gap Analysis Highlights Disturbing Trends

AAUW published a recent update to the Simple Truth, its signature report on the gender pay gap. The analysis shed light on the devastating effect of the pandemic on women’s economic security.

In 2021, (the most recent data available) all women workers took home only 77 cents for every dollar all men workers did. It was agreed by all groups working on pay equity to include those in full- and part-time roles in calculating the pay gap. In addition, more women than men worked part-time (59% vs 41%), positions that earn less per hour and have reduced access to family-friendly benefits like paid leave.

We still do not have the breakdown of the pay gap by congressional districts due to limited staff. However, we do have some specific Pennsylvania data as reported by the National Women’s Law Center.

In The Wage Gap, state by state. Pennsylvania is ranked 24th among all the states. Pennsylvania men earned \$62,096 in 2021. Women earned \$50,272 for a pay gap of 81 cents for all women.

Comparing the pay rate for specific groups to every dollar of a white non-Hispanic man, we find the following percentage gaps in Pennsylvania.

Asian women	Black women	Latina	Native American	white non-Hispanic women
85.3	66.2	55.5	64.5	78.5

The calendar for all Equal Pay Days for 2023 is still not available.

Equal Pay Day for all women will be Tuesday, March 14, 2023, which symbolizes how far into the year women must work to make as much as men during the previous year.

Ever wondered what AAUW Greatest Needs Fund is for ... ?

We all do our best when it comes to participating in fundraisers such as our Branch events and on Erie Gives Day, because we know there is much work still to be done in supporting girls' and women's education, career development and advocacy for women's rights and equity. But we often think the money raised is primarily for scholarships... and much of it is, indeed, restricted to be used for scholarships.

However, AAUW's work goes far beyond granting scholarships. We support research (such as the impact of student debt on women), we engage lawmakers to influence policy involving women (such as pay equity) and we offer training to women for equity in the workplace (such as salary negotiation techniques) and girls' education in STEM fields. We communicate with society at large on women's issues (such as social media, print and electronic media.)

Most recently, AAUW participated in the White House Equal Pay Summit. The National Office also has a weekly call placed to the White House Gender Policy Council and engages with the UN Entity for Gender Equality & the Empowerment of Women as well the UN Commission on the Status of Women. They were present at the Women's History Month Celebration hosted by Nancy Pelosi and at the Institute for Women's Policy Research Power Summit. All of this is work as important as granting scholarships. All of this is work that must continue...and it takes both volunteerism and money to accomplish. The Greatest Needs Fund is the **unrestricted** reserve of funds used to meet the operating costs for these continuing AAUW projects, so AAUW can fulfill its promise in policy advocacy and research. Please consider donating generously....

By Asuman Baskan

Branch Presidents' Counterparts Meeting report

Ellen DiPlacido and Loretta Seigley attended the statewide Presidents' meeting via Zoom on Jan. 30. Major topics discussed included Branch STEM Programs, plans for the July Retreat and program updates.

Branch presidents in attendance described many exciting STEM programs designed for middle and high school girls by AAUW members in their Branches. Programs included the support of local college and university faculty, as well as professional women currently employed in STEM fields. The programs, with interesting titles such as "Trailblazers", "STEM Camp" and "Girls' Recognition," include a variety of activities including science and engineering experiments, computer demonstrations and hands on experiences, as well as opportunities to hear about STEM careers from women who are working in the field. Participants who described their programs were asked to write abstracts explaining how the programs functioned and any problems they may have encountered. The abstracts will be added to the AAUW Pennsylvania website and will be included in future *Keystoner* publications.

Plans for the Summer Retreat, "Women Together Fighting on the Front Line," were discussed. The Retreat will be held in Gettysburg on the campus of Gettysburg College July 28-29, 2023. Program updates included a reminder that Strategic Plan revision work is now underway. Members are asked to e-mail Cindy Hall, AAUW Pennsylvania President, if interested in volunteering to assist with this project. Issues regarding National's 5 STAR Program were discussed. Several Branch representatives reported that, after submitting their 5 STAR report, information about their status was never received. Cindy Hall will investigate the status of the program.

Cindy Hall thanked Ellen DiPlacido and the AAUW Erie Branch for their willingness to share our September program. On Feb. 9, Dr. Lena Surzhko Harned updated her talk and slide presentation on war torn Ukraine as a webinar which was available to members of all Pennsylvania Branches.

By Loretta Seigley

Erie neighborhoods get multi-faceted help

SSJNN presenters speak at branch's February meeting

"Revitalizing a Neighborhood, Empowering its People" is the goal of the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, branch members learned at February's Zoom meeting.

Presenters were Executive Director Heather May Caster, Neighborhood Manager Margarita Dangel, and Sister Phyllis Hilbert SSJ, Neighborhood Advocate.



SSJNN serves the needs of impoverished residents in several of Erie's oldest neighborhoods. The group, initially focused on the Little Italy neighborhood, now spans an area roughly bounded by East Avenue and Cranberry Street between 12th and 26th streets.

Neighbors are met one on one, starting with a neighborhood dinner. The group partners with St. Paul's Church to meet residents' emergency needs like diapers, toilet paper and bags of food. Work with children and youth is done via various activities including arts, crafts and refurbishing and providing bicycles. Bicycle tours of the neighborhoods are held.

Over 300 bikes have been provided to refugees from Afghanistan.

The group also works with neighbors via 10 community gardens, two orchards and one urban farm which can change the poverty cycle., organizers say. A weekly farmers market is operated during the growing season.

SSJNN also runs Genesis Housing, which teaches people to save for, buy and maintain a home, participates in neighborhood revitalization and beautification and façade improvements. To date six murals, three art fences, 18 sculptures and five art benches have been created. Several blighted properties have been stabilized. Another was demolished to make way for a future greenhouse.

The agency is currently starting a new six-year cycle and is seeking more partners and funding.

It's your AAUW, and your voice counts

This spring AAUW members will be asked to vote on amendments to the national by-laws recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee. In accordance with AAUW's bylaws, every AAUW member has the right to comment on proposed changes to the bylaws before they are put to the membership for a vote. Members may also propose changes to the Public Policy Priorities.

On April 5th voting will open and continue through May 15th, ending at 5:00 pm ET. (Online voting is encouraged; aauw.org/national-election.)

Vote results will be announced online on May 17. The comment period to change the AAUW bylaws and Public Policy Priorities ended on Jan. 27.

Branch Study Groups

Book Discussion

Book Discussion will meet Thursday, March 2nd, 1 p.m. at Millcreek Mall branch of the Erie County Library. "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict will be reviewed by Nicki Azicri.

The program will be on events offered in Erie. Speaker will be Emily Fetcko, Director of the Erie Downtown Partnership.

Gourmet

Gourmet will meet at Bob's Steakhouse, 1101 Peninsula Dr., on Friday, March 24. Further details will follow by email.

Global Friends

Global Friends will meet on Monday, March 20, (note change of date!) at 7 p.m. at Edie's home, 638 Vermont Ave.

Politalk

Politalk will meet on Thursday, March 16, from 2 to 4 pm, at 3838 State St.

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Book Discussion Millcreek Library	3	4
5	6 Board mtg. 6:30 p.m. Zoom	7	8	9	10	11 Branch mtg. 10 a.m. Cancer Wellness
12	13	14	15	16 Politalk 2 p.m. at Asuman's	17	18
19	20 Global Friends 7 p.m. at Edie's	21	22	23	24 Gourmet Bob's Steakhouse	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.

Published by: American Association of University Women — Erie Branch, Inc.
Branch email: eriebranchaauw@gmail.com
Editor email: eriepressible@gmail.com
Facebook: @AAUWEriePA
Web page: <http://www.aauwerie.org>

JEFFERSON

EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

Erie's Think Tank for Community Progress
 Examine the Past. Study the Present. Explore the Future.
 Visit us at www.JESerie.org. 3207 State Street, Erie, PA 16508



Compliments of
Dusckas
Funeral Home, Inc.

2607 Buffalo Road
 899-7656
 Nancy E. Dusckas, FD
 Supervisor

536 West Tenth Street
 452-2456
 Gary J. Cumming, FD
 Supervisor

www.dusckasfuneralhome.com

Chris Spoto
 image master

2827 West 26th St.
 Erie, PA 16506

☎ 814.838.6255

☎ 814.838.6676

✉ copyrightprinting@verizon.net

copyrightprintingerie.com



COPYRIGHT
 PRINTING | GRAPHICS | SIGN SOLUTIONS