

Our Bodies, Ourselves revisited is topic of September meeting

AAUW Erie Branch is holding its September program at the Cancer Wellness Center, 2212 West 15th Street, Unit 104, Erie, on Saturday, Sept. 9. at 10 a.m. We will have an opportunity to greet friends, hear about the wonderful programs scheduled for this year, and sign up for our various study groups.

The program will be a presentation from Dr. Carla Picardo, M.D., MPH and Michelle Jones, LCSW, AASET certified Sex Therapist. The title of their presentation is "Our Bodies, Ourselves Revisited."

Dr. Picardo specializes in women's midlife health services and is certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and in General Preventive Medicine and Public Health by the American Board of Preventive Medicine. She is presently practicing at UPMC Magee-Womens Midlife Health Center and is affiliated with UPMC Hamot.

Dr. Picardo completed her medical degree at Wake Forest University School of Medicine and residencies at Oregon Health Sciences University Hospital and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is also a former AAUW scholarship winner.

Michelle is a licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified Sex Therapist with extensive experience serving adults. Her areas of specialty include anxiety, depression, emotion management, relationship/couples issues, and sexual concerns/sex therapy. Michelle believes that therapy is a place for acceptance, compassion, growth, and change.

We look forward to seeing you all on Sept. 9! Please park in the large parking lot directly off of Pittsburgh Avenue, just south of 12th St. and directly across from U-Haul. The 15th Street address is actually their back door.



Carla Picardo M.D.



Michelle Jones LCSW

By Sarah Larson and Sharmin Khundker

Save the date!

Bring a guest or two to our public meeting in October! Dr. Christopher Grey will speak Monday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. to introduce us to the exciting programs at the Erie County Community College! This is a public meeting so invite your friends, neighbors, and family!

President's Message

I am pleased to welcome all AAUW Erie Branch members to the 2023-24 year.

In June, I attended the AAUW Pennsylvania Summer Retreat in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Joining AAUW members from all walks of life and from all over the state was a great experience. We shared branch news and experiences, learned about creative practices from Breakout Session presenters and heard from AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell, who discussed the "What, How and Why of AAUW Public Policy Priorities."



Loretta Seigley

We all left for home with a renewed realization that we represent a powerful force focused on improving the lives of women and girls.

AAUW began in 1881, when few women had an opportunity to earn an academic degree. Today, more women than men earn degrees, but important work remains.

AAUW continues to be a leading voice for gender equity in all facets of society by focusing on research, education and advocacy.

The AAUW Mission to Advance Equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research is aligned with these priorities.

We have an exciting year ahead. Planned programs promise to bring to light many services that support and educate women in our community. Our annual Scholarship Awards will assist women to pursue educational advancement. Study Groups will promote a forum for discussion about issues such as Diversity, Education and Governance and many other important topics of interest.

Let's begin this year with a renewed focus to continue the work begun 140 years ago.

Let's begin this year with a renewed focus to continue the work begun 140 years ago by AAUW. In the words of our AAUW Value Promise, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.



New program year underway

New Branch President Loretta Seigley (right) received the gavel from Immediate Past President Ellen DiPlacido at the Board's meeting in June.

A unique chance to support our branch while shopping!

Boscov's is once again holding its "Friends Helping Friends" fundraising event, open only to non-profits.

We have a unique opportunity to earn money for our branch with minimal effort and at no cost to the branch while benefiting our members, family, and friends. Too good to be true? Not really.

Here's how it works. We sell 25 percent off shopping passes at \$5 each. The branch keeps *all* of the money. The pass is valid for Boscov's merchandise on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., in-store only.

Buy one for yourself, to give or to sell some to your friends and family. It's win-win! Passes will be available at the September branch meeting or contact Barbara Hutzelman 814-881-7339 or Claudia Mosso 814-520-4076.

By Barbara Hutzelman

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Study groups list plans for new year

A variety of study groups, chaired by the following individuals, will be offered in the branch for 2023-2024:

Book Discussion meets on the first Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Millcreek branch of the Erie County Public Library. Facilitator is Sarah Larson sarahellenlarson@gmail.com or phone at 585-403-1366.

Global Friends meets the fourth Monday of the month, generally at the home of facilitator Edie Cultu, 638 Vermont Avenue. RSVP to edie_cultu@yahoo.com or phone 814-456-5406.

Gourmet generally gathers on the fourth Friday of the month at a restaurant selected the prior month. Facilitator is Nickie Azicri. She can be reached at speedyzeek8@gmail.com or by phone at 814-504-8258.

Politalk meets on the third Thursday of the month between 2 and 4 p.m. at the home of facilitator Asuman Baskan, 3838 State St., abaskan@neo.rr.com or phone at 814-282-8277.

Games for the Brain! has a new meeting date this year, on the second Wednesday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. at the home of facilitator Susan Roehrl, 626 Mohawk Ave. Reservations are required and can be made by calling her at 814-452-6158.

By Candy Brown, Study group coordinator

September 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4	5 Board mtg. 6:30 p.m. Zoom	6	7 Book Millcreek Library 1 p.m.	1 8	2 9 Branch Mtg. Cancer Well- ness, 10 a.m.
11	12	13 Games 2 p.m. at Su- san Roehrl's	14	15	16
18	19	20	21 Politalk 2 p.m. at Asuman's Gourmet 5:30 at Torero	22	23
25 Global Friends 7 p.m. at Edie's	26	27	28	29	30

Branch Study Groups

Book Discussion

This month we are reading "Someone Else's Shoes" by popular author Jojo Moyes.

We will meet Thursday, Sept. 7, at 1 p.m. at the Millcreek branch of the Erie County Public Library.

We would love to have you join us! Contact me if you have questions - Sarah Larson, 585-403-1366, sarahellen-larson@gmail.com

Games for your Brain!

Games for your Brain! will meet on **a new day**— the second Wednesday of each month — from 2 to 4 p.m. at Susan Roehrl's home, 626 Mohawk Dr.

Please RSVP by PHONE ONLY, 814-452-6158, to secure your space.

Global Friends

Global Friends will meet Monday, Sept. 25, at 7 p.m. at Edie's home, 638 Vermont Ave. Alivia Haibach will present the program on Egypt. Questions? Call 814-456-5406

Gourmet

Gourmet will meet on **Thursday**, Sept. 21, at 5 p.m. at Torero in Peach Street Marketplace. This first meeting was arranged by Ann Marie Kumhera.

Please note the change in day and reserve ASAP by calling group facilitator Nickie Azicri, 814-835-3780, 814-504-8258 or speedyzeek8@gmail.com

Politalk

Politalk will meet on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2 - 4 p.m., at Asuman's house, 3838 State St.

Learn — Dig deeper into the issues

Addressing Pay Equity in the States

The Department of Labor Women's Bureau issued a new analysis on the gender and racial wage gap, including data by occupation, age, and educational attainment, along with information on states' policies related to equal pay and pay transparency protections. It's important to examine data on a local level, as each state has its own gender pay gap and unique needs that shape lasting policy changes. In this year of state advocacy, AAUW will provide the tools you need to be a champion for pay equity.

To date, there are 16 states, plus Puerto Rico, with salary history bans, and eight states with laws requiring salary range transparency in job announcements. AAUW has long fought against the use of salary histories; relying on salary history to set future salary assumes that prior salaries were fairly established in the first place. Ending this practice will go a long way in our fight for pay equity. In March, the Biden-Harris administration convened state legislators who are working to advance bills that would prohibit the use of salary history by employers in setting pay, along with other pay transparency legislation.

The Women's Bureau released a new analysis and issue brief highlighting salary history bans as an effective tool to reduce gender and racial wage gaps in the United States.

Public Policy Highlights

Women2Women is the only women's organization that briefs Congress directly on issues important to women. Sign up for their emails to express your opinion about woman-related issues. They are even starting a book club... See <https://www.w2tour.com> for more information.

Pennsylvania's primary election system is a closed shop: Only registered Democrats or Republicans can vote in races that affect the lives of every Pennsylvanian. In April State Senators Dan Laughlin, R-Erie, and Lisa Boscola, D-Northampton, formally introduced legislation that would allow unaffiliated voters to participate in taxpayer-funded elections. The measure is now before the Senate's State Government Committee. Pennsylvania is one of only nine states that bar independent voters from participating in primary elections.

Watch for a new documentary called "97-The Fight for the Freedom to Read"... Jodi Picoult, author, three students and film's producers were interviewed to express outrage at book banning in this country and how it is affecting students' lives. See www.97documentary.com for the making of this film and when it will be available.

By AAUW PA Harrisburg's Kathy Gates

From AAUW National Public Policy Staff:

Title IX anniversary last month:
 ...The Gender Equity in Education Act introduced: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/geea/>
 ...AAUW signed a coalition letter urging the Department of ED to finalize **Title IX** rules before the 2023-23 school year.

Equal Rights Amendment—in a very challenging situation right now, now closely associated with repro rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and more dramatically caught up in culture wars.

By: Ellen DiPlacido — Erie Branch Public Policy Chair

Want to get involved?

Stay engaged this year with national's Two-Minute Activist tool!

You can also check out letters, comments, testimony and legal briefs on national's website to learn more about AAUW's positions and advocacy efforts.

Erie Branch Book group to meet Sept. 7

If you have been thinking of joining the AAUW Book Group, this would be a great time to do so. Our first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 7, at 1 p.m. at the Mill-creek Branch of the Erie County Public Library.

Our selections include current bestsellers, classics, historical fiction and nonfiction. We consistently have engaging discussions of the month's selection.

This month we are reading "Someone Else's Shoes" by popular author, Jojo Moyes. We would love to have you join us! Contact me if you have questions - Sarah Larson, 585-403-1366, sarahellenlarson@gmail.com

ERA proposal reaches 100 year mark

*T*his year marks the 100th anniversary of the introduction of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which would provide a constitutional guarantee that all men and women are truly equal under the law. The ERA has now met all the requirements for ratification by Congress.

AAUW national now calls for the 28th Amendment to be formally published as part the Constitution and asks members to contact legislators to affirm the ERA as the 28th Amendment. Having the ERA in effect could help move pay equity legislation through Congress, provide additional support for new and existing protections to address sex-based discrimination in schools and in the workplace, and access to reproductive health care. This year, ERA has gained new momentum.

In March, the first-ever Congressional Caucus for the Equal Rights Amendment was launched. In May, we saw the Senate take the first vote on ERA in decades. And most recently, we saw the introduction of the ERA Now resolution, which directs the Archivist of the United States to affirm the ERA as the 28th Amendment of the United States Constitution, certify the state ratifications, and publish it in the Federal Register. It is the first time ever that ERA legislation will be led by women in both the House and the Senate together!

Tell Congress to make this the year of victory: affirm the ERA as the 28th Amendment!

National now calls for the 28th Amendment to be formally published as part the Constitution of the United States.



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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