

STAYING CONNECTED DURING THE PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 virus has resulted in most of us feeling displaced and at odds with the need to stay “socially distant.” It goes against our human nature. However, even though our spring programs are cancelled and our Used Book Sale is postponed, there are ways we can stay connected. In addition to emails and texts, there’s nothing quite like a good old-fashioned phone call. Pull out your branch *Handbook/Directory* and thumb through it with a plan to call some members you haven’t seen in a while, or maybe a member who you haven’t met before! Membership VP **Jennifer Karch** has led the way placing several friendly check-in calls each week.

Some of us have gone farther in our outreach. A quick drop-off of books to read, baked goodies, ice cream from Meyer Dairy, and a gift of a homemade mask are among the many acts of kindness we’ve been the recipients of or initiated during this pandemic.

AAUW State College members **Talat Azhar** and **Star Campbell** have responded to the plight of several Penn State Humphrey Fellows who have essentially been stranded here until they can return to their countries. The Fellows do not have accessible transportation, so Talat and Star have repeatedly stepped in to shop for them and help out where possible. It feels good to help neighbors in need.



SPRING PROGRAMS MAY BE RESCHEDULED

There were some wonderful speakers committed to joining us this spring. We hope to be able to reschedule some in the upcoming year, which commences in September. Be sure to visit our website towards the end of August for updates: <http://www.aauwstatecollege.org/events.html>



BRANCH USED BOOK SALE POSTPONED

In late March, we learned from Penn State that all campus events would be cancelled until further notice due to the virus, including our annual Used Book Sale, which had been slated for May 9-12. This is the first time in 59 years that the book sale will not be held as planned! We will make every effort to reschedule the sale for later this year, but only if and when it is safe to do so. The Used Book Sale Committee and the board are now reviewing options. Because of space limitations at the Book Workshop, book donations will not be accepted until after a sale is held.



CCCHS VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED IN MAY 3rd CDT ISSUE

The April Centre County Council for Human Services Volunteer of the Year dinner was cancelled because of the virus, but our appreciation for the many contributions made by this special group of volunteers remains the same. Our branch honorees, **Sherry Crassweller** and **Suzanne Kerlin**, are being recognized

for their many years co-leading Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Used Book Workshop. Be sure to read the May 3rd issue of the *Centre Daily Times* to “meet” all the honorees..

MEMBERSHIP *matters*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2020-2021

Your membership in AAUW matters! It makes a powerful voice even louder on critical issues affecting women and girls.

Maintain social distancing guidelines by renewing ONLINE!

During the last week of April, you will receive an email from memberinfo@aauw.org, just for you, with your specific member information. You will be asked to follow a link directly to AAUW payment software to use your credit card to make payment. Please follow the instructions provided. You will receive an email confirmation upon completion.

Renew by May 30th and take advantage of the opportunity for a matching gift - Give a gift to the annual fund when renewing and AAUW National will 100% match your gifts. Avoid long lines at the post office, save postage and a paper check – renew online.

—Jennifer Karch, Membership Vice President

CONGRATULATIONS TO AAUW STATE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Our Award & Scholarship Banquet has been cancelled due to COVID-19. We congratulate this year’s scholarship recipients (listed below) and wish them the very best as they continue their studies.

—Suzanne Kerlin and Falene Hamilton, Scholarship Committee Co-chairs



ANNA BAKER is a full-time student enrolled at Penn State studying for an accounting degree in the five-year Bachelor of Science/Integrated Master of Accounting program. Before being accepted at Penn State, Anna spent her first year at South Hills School of Business and Technology. Anna is employed at a local homeless shelter. She will work this summer for a large accounting firm in an internship program. Her long-term goal is to work as a Certified Public Accountant in one of the big four accounting firms. Anna will be awarded the Evelyn Chostner Marboe Scholarship.



KIMISSE KING is a part-time student in the College of Education at Penn State studying for a Bachelor’s degree in Rehabilitation and Human Services. Kimisse is a single parent of four boys. She is a full-time employee of Centre Safe, and an active member in several community organizations working towards social justice in the region. Her long-term goal is to complete a Master’s degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and to become a Licensed Professional Counselor. She wants to continue her passion for working with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, trauma survivors, and underserved populations. Kimisse will receive the

Simmons-Jansma Project Renew Grant.



EL (as she likes to be known) is enrolled at the South Hills School of Business and Technology in the Software Development and Programing program. Prior to coming to the United States, El was enrolled for three years in a Clinical Psychology degree program at Tehran’s University of Science and Culture in Iran. El is a single parent of a 5-year-old daughter. Her goal is to obtain employment in the field of software that will provide safe access to help, especially in cases of domestic violence. El will receive the Suzanne McCrae Kerlin Scholarship.

KARI HOY is a full-time student enrolled at Penn State, graduating in December 2020 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology. Kari would like to obtain a PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. She

would like to consult and perform research to improve organizational work environments. Kari works part-time at Subway and has been involved with THON for the past 15 years.



DESTINY HUGHES is a full-time student at South Hills School of Business and Technology studying for an Associate's Degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Destiny is a single parent of two girls. Once she obtains her Associate's Degree, Destiny hopes to work as a sonographer and continue her studies to receive a Bachelor's degree in Applied Health Sciences at the online campus of Pennsylvania College of Technology. This would qualify her for a managerial position to mentor others and oversee department operations.

Kari and Destiny will equally share the AAUW State College Branch Scholarship.



PPFD GRANT UPDATE

The branch Philanthropic Priorities and Funds Distribution (PPFD) Committee has reviewed community grant applications for 2020 and will bring recommendations to the AAUW State College board at its May meeting. Details forthcoming.

—Connie Wheeler, PPFD Co-Chair

BRANCH MEMBERS AS COMMUNITY LEADERS RESPOND TO COVID-19 CRISIS

AAUW State College members Michele Crowl and Molly Kunkel have stepped up in responding to the pandemic through the organizations they lead. **Readers:** If you are aware of other members who have helped make a difference in the community through an initiative responding to COVID-19, please send details to connieschroeder@gmail.com.



Michele Crowl is Executive Director of Discovery Space. The Rivet, a Discovery Space program, has been collaborating within the [MASC Initiative](#) through Penn State to offer materials and machines to aid in prototyping respirators, respirator gaskets, face shields, and a low-cost ventilator. They have worked directly with [Actuated Medical](#) (AMI) to produce hundreds of face shields. The Rivet is a drop-off point for community-made PPE (personal protective equipment) items. Learn how to help: <https://therivet.org/covid19-ppe/>.



Molly Kunkel is Executive Director of the Centre Foundation. The Foundation recently announced a gift of more than \$500,000 to help local non-profits who had to cancel signature fundraisers and events because of the coronavirus pandemic. About \$250,000 was provided by [the Knight Foundation](#), while another \$125,000 was provided by the Centre Foundation. More: <https://www.centredaily.com/news/coronavirus/article241742181.html>.

On **May 12-13**, Centre Foundation will hold CentreGives, the online giving campaign that helps scores of non-profits in our community. For details: <https://centregives.org/>



STEM GRANT FUNDS ENVISION PROGRAM

Over 100 middle-school and high-school participants from across Pennsylvania came together on February 29th for *ENVISION: STEM Career Day Supporting Young Women*, organized by the Office of Science Outreach at Penn State. The participants engaged with keynote speakers, Yasha Duggal and Latisha Franklin, who talked about their inspiring journeys into science and answered questions from the young women. The participants attended three hands-on science workshops designed and conducted by Penn State faculty, students, and staff,

who eagerly shared their research and career insights. Throughout the day-long event at the University Park campus, attendees networked with professional scientists, bonded with college-aged mentors, and enjoyed lunch and group activities that included a fun photo booth.

Note: *The Penn State Envision organizers extend their gratitude to AAUW State College for their continuing support of this annual event and for encouraging young women to seek out careers in STEM.*



SUMMER MATH PROGRAM OFFERED VIRTUALLY

M.A.T.H.H. (*Magical Adventures of Talented Heroines and Heroes*), our summer math program for elementary age students, is offered virtually this year, in coordination with Schlow Centre Region Library. It will be held on **July 14, 21, and 28th, 3:30 pm each day**. This program was inspired by the *Let's Read Math* program,

<http://letsreadmath.com/>. Sessions include: July 14 - Polygons and Shapes - Books: *The Greedy Triangle* by Marilyn Burns and *Grandfather Tang's* by Ann Tompert; July 21 - Measuring - Books: *Inch by Inch* by Leo Lionni and *Measuring Penny* by Loreen Leedy; July 28 - Shapes in Nature - Books: *Bubbles Float, Bubbles Pop* by Mark Weakland, *Wanda's Roses* by Pat Brisson, *Swirl by Swirl* by Joyce Sidman.

Please share this with parents of elementary school students and contact M.A.T.H.H. coordinator Candace Davison, ccd2@psu.edu, for details. A registration link will be provided in June.



PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL PRIMARY MOVED TO JUNE 2; ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 26

The General Election Primary in Pennsylvania has been moved to June 2. If you plan to vote via absentee ballot your completed application must be received in the county office by 5:00 pm Tuesday, May 26. The deadline to return your voted absentee or mail-in ballot is 8:00 PM on Tuesday, June 2.

More: <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/OnlineAbsenteeApplication/#/OnlineAbsenteeBegin>



EDUCATING IN A TIME OF QUARANTINE

The COVID-19 virus quarantine has changed the way we do almost everything. One of the biggest impacts has been on the operations of public schools. Online instruction brings a wide variety of content to students, but it also brings certain security risks: educational services often collect large amounts of data from "end users." Some districts and companies have banned a popular videoconference platform because of privacy and security concerns.

The U.S. Department of Education has privacy guidelines found at www.studentprivacy.ed.gov. For example, school districts should have policies and procedures to evaluate and approve proposed online educational services; transparency is encouraged and parents should be informed of how student data is being handled.

Be sure your connected devices are protected. A good publication on Cyber Safety is found at https://rems.ed.gov/docs/Cyber_Safety_K-12_Fact_Sheet_508C.PDF. Also, Stay Safe Online, <https://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/>, has basic information about online safety. A list of the top 10 videoconferencing platforms is found at <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/top-10-zoom-alternatives-for-video-conferencing/>.

Many online activities are now available for children, and our branch Education Committee found a few good sources of information to help evaluate online education. The Institute for Educational Sciences, at www.ies.ed.gov/, has activities for students and families. The Laurel Springs School, an online private school in Pennsylvania, has a "best practices" online teaching manual available to download for free: laurelsprings.com/best-practices-for-teaching-online/.

The manual contains free resources for teachers and parents alike. Let's hope we are soon back to classroom instruction. Have fun, stay safe, and don't forget to practice good cybersecurity!
—Carol Hodes, AAUW State College Education Committee



FAIR DISTRICTS PA--CENTRE COUNTY UPDATE

During this time of stress due to the COVID-19 it is difficult to concentrate on other concerns. But the work of Fair Districts continues. We still have a system of drawing legislative and congressional districts that encourages gerrymandering when our districts are redrawn in 2021, and our legislators are busy with legislative issues related to the COVID-19. Our goal to change the way districts are drawn in 2021 must continue.

Fair Districts PA leadership recommend that we communicate with our legislators via email or letter. Begin your note with a thank you for their work dealing with COVID-19 issues. Next, thank them for signing on or request they sign on as co-sponsor to HB 22 and HB 23 or SB 1022 and SB 1023. Please also ask that they encourage their fellow senators (or representatives) to move these bills along in the legislative process.

Representatives Rich Irvin and Scott Conklin are co-sponsors and Kerry Benninghoff and Stephanie Borowitz are not. Jake Corman has not signed on to either senate bill. **CENSUS REMINDER:** Be sure you have submitted your census information and encourage anyone you come in contact with to do the same.

—Sue Johnston, (484) 467-7640, suearlj@comcast.net



AAUW PENNSYLVANIA CANCELS JULY CONVENTION

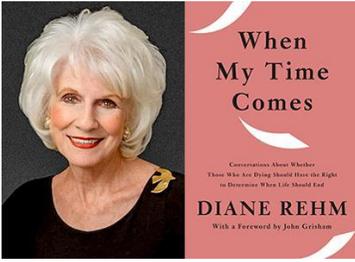
Because of COVID-19, the biennial AAUW Pennsylvania Convention, rescheduled for July, has been cancelled. If you had planned to attend, be sure to cancel your hotel reservations.



AAUW NATIONAL RETOOLS WEBSITE

For the past several months, AAUW has been working on a new website that launched officially in mid-April. The redesign seeks to prominently convey our organization's mission of inclusion and relevant information with a high impact and bold look. The old site, with 15,000 pages, was reduced to 250 pages.

Check it out at <https://www.aauw.org/>.



AAUW 2020 VISION SERIES OPENS WITH DIANE REHM

On April 16, Diane Rehm, one of America's best-known NPR personalities, joined AAUW CEO Kim Churches for a wide-ranging conversation that touched on everything from the COVID-19 quarantine to the joys of having a job you love. Rehm spent time on sensitive issues associated with death and dying, the subject of her recent book, *When My Time Comes*. Access the interview: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/diane-rehm/>

New Member Welcome

MARY ANN BLAIR – mablair1001@gmail.com

Mary Ann is originally from Pittsburgh (proud Pitt grad in English Literature) but has lived most of her life in State College, with a few years in Greensboro, NC. After varied jobs that include being a legal assistant, an office manager, and a short stint as an AAA tour counselor, she recently retired as a contracts coordinator in Penn State's Office of Technology Management. She is currently catching up on gardening and reading (along with the rest of the world!) and navigating space with husband Bill who retired at the same time. She is looking forward to learning the ins and outs of our fabulous book sale as well the AAUW mission.

Have You Heard?

Best wishes to **Kim Cavanagh**, who has moved back to Connecticut.

Sympathy to the family of AAUW State College member **Molly Gregory**, who died on February 20 at Foxdale Village.

Sympathy to **Chriss Schultz**, whose mother-in-law Elizabeth Wall died on March 28 in State College.



Bellefonte
Art Museum
for Centre County

BELLEFONTE ART MUSEUM EXHIBITION: CELEBRATING OUR WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT

Even though the Bellefonte Art Museum is temporarily closed because of the COVID-19 virus, its spring exhibitions are accessible through their website, including a powerful one titled *Celebrating Our Women of Achievement*. The show celebrates 24 local women who are making important contributions to the quality of life in our community in various fields of endeavor.

The women featured in the show include four AAUW State College members: **Anne Ard, Mimi Barash Coppersmith, Carol Eicher, and Victoria Sanchez**. We are proud to have such accomplished women in our midst. View it here: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2528484050697120>

Women leaders are doing a disproportionately great job at handling the pandemic.

It's too early to say definitively which leaders will emerge as having taken enough of the right steps to control the spread of coronavirus -- and save lives. However, a disproportionately large number of leaders who acted early and decisively were women. Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/14/asi/women-government-leaders-coronavirus-hnk-intl/index.html>

—Leta Hong Fincher for CNN, April 16, 2020

Branch news may be sent to Newsletter Editor Connie Schroeder, connieschroeder@gmail.com. Thank you.