

# ERIE PRESSIBLE

November 2024

## Children's Museum hosts our November meeting

World-class exhibits focused on STEAM – science, technology, engineering, art and math – are among the experiences we will be able to explore at the branch's Nov. 11, 6 p.m. meeting at expERIENCE Children's Museum, 420 French St., Erie.

Executive director Ainslee Ulmer Brosig will be our speaker.

Ainslie, the 2024 Women Making History Honoree, recently secured \$18.5 million for the museum, marking a significant milestone in her 10-year tenure.

She has not only transformed the museum into a thriving community asset but has also been actively involved in church volunteer work, served on the UPMC Hamot Board of Corporators, and contributed to the Penn State Behrend Women's Council. Ainslie was also honored as one of Erie's 40 Under 40 in 2018.



Ainslee Ulmer Brosig

expERIENCE Children's Museum has been named Erie's Choice for Museum in 2023 and the previous eight years. It has also won Erie's Choice for the Best Place to have a Birthday Party in 2017.

The recently remodeled facility welcomes over 60,000 guests annually.

We will be able to roam three floors housing over 25 hands-on exhibits focusing on the fun of recycling, tinkering, invention, taking flight, artistic expression, construction and more. The various stations are designed to encourage children to create, collaborate and innovate, all skills needed for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*Save the date!*

## Reserve now for holiday dinner!

The annual holiday luncheon will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Kahkwa Club beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Please make your reservation by Monday, Dec. 2, by sending a check for \$30 payable to "AAUW Erie Branch Inc." to Barbara Hutzelman, 3226 Rustic Lane, Erie 16506 (814-881-7339) or reserve online via our branch website [www.aauwerie.org](http://www.aauwerie.org) under the Events tab.

Please indicate your choice of:

- Salmon with a Cucumber Dill Sauce
- Grilled Chicken Breast with Velouté Sauce
- Zucchini Boat stuffed with Vegetable Ragout

More information will be in the December *Pressible*.

## President's Message

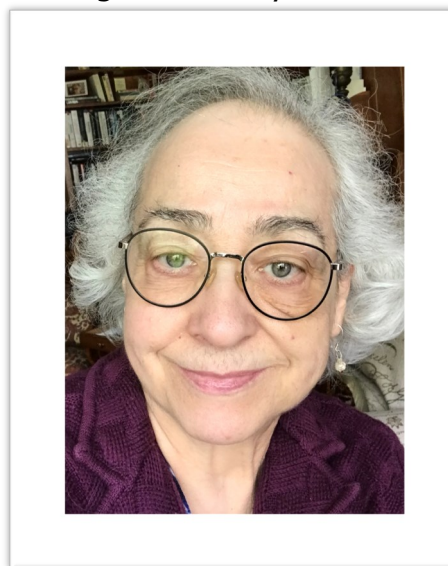
Greetings dear AAUW women,

Today, I wanted to recount my experience at the recent lunch hosted by the Afghan Community at their community center building last Sunday.

The Afghan families had invited immediate neighbors of the Center, which is in the Chestnut Hill area, for home cooked, authentic Afghan dishes. The neighborhood had welcomed the New Americans with donations of anything one needs after arriving with practically none of the essentials of living – seasonal clothing, furniture, household items, toys... all the things that are left behind when one escapes violence and oppression.

Of course there were kids, mostly of pre-school and elementary school age, with a few teenagers... Some of them sat across from the table from me and that is when I really began to have fun (not to discount the food ... Afghans know how to cook meat to perfection!)

First, there were three sisters, delightful in their ethnic garb and with henna tattoos, wearing glitter and bling to their hearts' content. They did not speak English well even though they were in school, but they loved to smile and wave hello to the guests, gleeful and bright-eyed. Then there was a fifth grader next to them, a boy, who spoke English almost perfectly. I asked him how he learned English. He just shrugged and said: "in school." He carried on a conversation with me about his mother's cooking. Then I asked what he would like to do when he is older. He said he plans to become a doctor... further, he plans to help his younger siblings to become doctors, each with a different specialty, one a dentist, so that they could fix any part of the body among themselves!! I gathered he had a big family... I saw a powerful brightness in this boy's eyes. He can imagine a future now because he is safe, with family, with a roof over his head and has a school to attend regularly. Would this have been possible if he were still in Afghanistan today? I can only hope that the girls will begin to dream big just like him. And I am proud of the work we do to welcome them, help them settle in, support the women in language proficiency and integrating with our way of living. More importantly, we have much to learn from them by doing things with the women of this community. They have skills in fiber arts, certainly are talented in cooking, some are seamstresses... Once they conquer the language barrier, and once they are comfortable stepping out of their homes, (one of the challenges women face) imagine how much we can learn from one another!  
Cheers!



Asuman Baskan



Loretta Seigley and Asuman Baskan were among the Erie Branch members who attended Harding School's recent STEAM Fair. Our AAUW STEAM grant helped fund the event. Branch members also plan to support the school's Trunk Or Treat Halloween event.

## Pay gap widens

We face a troubling setback: The gender pay gap has widened. Women working full-time now earn just **83% of what men earn** — a decline from last year's 84%. This amounts to a loss of **\$11,550** annually for each full-time working woman. While there have been gains in real earnings for both men and women, women, especially women of color, continue to be pushed into lower wage jobs.

## Erie Gives nets over \$4,700 for branch

Our branch would like to extend a very special thanks to those of you who support our mission and were able to generously donate to our branch on Erie Gives Day 2024.

Overall, Erie Gives had its best day ever. 513 nonprofits collected over \$9,709,602 in donations.

This year our branch received donations from 31 donors. Three of those donations came from non-members. In addition, Country Fair contributed \$146.20 to each non-profit organization, giving us \$4,521 in donations collected from Erie Gives.

With the additional prorated money that we received in Bonus Bucks from corporate sponsors, our branch received a total check of \$4,729.69 compared to the \$4,087.49 that we received last year from Erie Gives. The increase that we received this year was likely due to the Country Fair donation and the very generous donation of \$1,000 from one of our branch members.

This year many of our donations were made by check, which saved donors over 5 percent in processing fees. Our branch received \$1,800 in online donations on Erie Gives Day and \$2,721.20 from offline donations.

Please remember that donations can be made throughout the year to our Adella B. Woods funds, which enable us to award scholarships at our May dinner.

*By Candy Brown*



## Food and Friends presents a "Murder Mystery" dinner

Get ready to step into a world of intrigue and deception at our next event — a "Murder Mystery Dinner"!

As the meal begins, you'll receive clues and secret information about your character and the others at the table. But here's the twist: among you is a murderer! Throughout the dinner, you'll exchange clues, uncover secrets, and interact with your fellow "suspects." Through clever conversation and a keen eye for detail, it's up to you to piece together the puzzle. Can you figure out who the murderer is before they strike again?

Come prepared for an evening of fun, food, and a bit of mystery on Nov. 13 at 5 p.m. at Fairview Presbyterian Church, 4264 Avonia Rd., Fairview.

The cost is \$15, payable at the door and includes dinner and the game. Limit is 24 persons. Reservations will be taken by Cindy Belczyk by text or email: 814-873-5401 or belczykca@gmail.com by Nov. 9.

For questions or more information, call Anne Marie Kumhera at 440-670-5899.



Branch members enjoyed a tour of Wine Country as part of the Food and Friends study group's October event.

*Photos courtesy of Barb Hutzelman*







Photo courtesy Loretto Bellicini

Wine Tour Highlights



In September, Food and Friends study group sampled a variety of dishes at Saigon Nights before making their dinner selections.

Additions/  
Corrections

We have a new email address for Karen Miller.

It is  
Karenfreemanmiller@gmail.com

Please make a correction to your yearbook.



# Public Policy Highlights

Election Day, Nov. 5, 2024, is upon us. While much attention is focused on the most important presidential race, there are vital races all the way up and down the ballot. One US Senate seat and all 17 Pennsylvania seats in the US House of Representatives are on the ballot. In addition, all 203 PA House seats and 25 of the 50 Pa Senate seats are on the ballot also. Candidates elected to these offices will decide policy, enact laws and determine budgets that impact all of us.

The League of Women Voters' Vote411.org Voter's Guide provides a wealth of information, including a sample ballot based on your address, with candidate links and responses to important policy questions.

According to Gloria Blackwell, AAUW Chief Executive Officer, a number of issues vital to the AAUW Mission are on the line with the upcoming election and beyond.

We currently face a troubling setback: the gender pay gap has widened. Women working full time earn just 83 percent of what men earn—a decline from last year's 84 percent. This amounts to a loss of \$11,550 annually for each full-time working woman.

While there have been gains in real earnings across the board, women, especially women of color, continue to be pushed into lower wage jobs. Systemic barriers, such as the lack of paid leave, affordable childcare and strong pay equity laws keep women from earning their fair share. This pay gap hurts us, our families and our communities. We all have a role to play to continue pushing for equity and for opportunities appropriate for all women. As Americans, we cherish our right to vote to further goals that we support. Let's all join with our AAUW members at the polls on Nov. 5.

*By Loretta Seigley*



Members of the League of Women Voters Leadership Team chat with Karen Miller (top) prior to the October branch meeting, while Barbara Hutzelman takes a look at a quilt produced by members of the Lake Erie Fiber Arts Guild. The square in the middle row at right was crafted by branch member Barb Hauck .



# Branch Study Groups

**Book Discussion**

Book Discussion will meet on Thursday, Nov. 7, from 1-3 p.m. at Springhill 317.

**Food and Friends**

Food and Friends presents a "Murder Mystery" dinner on Nov. 13 at 5 p.m. at Fairview Presbyterian Church, 4264 Avonia Rd., Fairview. The cost is \$15, payable at the door. Limit is 24 persons. Reservations will be taken by Cindy Belczyk by text or email: 814-873-5401 or belczykca@gmail.com by Nov. 9.

**Global Friends**

Global Friends will meet for a Holiday Potluck Dinner on Monday, Nov. 25, at 6 p.m.

at Edie's home, 638 Vermont Ave. Please bring a dish to share.

**Gourmet**

Gourmet will meet at Bistro 26, 3556 W. 26th St., at 5 p.m. on Nov. 22. They have delicious desserts. Please reserve your place as soon as possible by calling Nickie Azicri at 814-835-3780 or 814-504-8258 or email to speedyzeek8@gmail.com There will be no Gourmet in December, however it will resume again in January. Hope to hear from you soon!

**Politalk**

Politalk will meet Nov. 21 at 2 p.m. at Asuman's home, 3838 State St.

## November 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 <b>Board mtg.</b> 6:30 p.m. Zoom	5	6	7 <b>Book Club</b> 1-3 p.m. Springhill 317	1 8	2 9
11 <b>Branch Mtg.</b> 6 p.m. experi- ence Children's Museum	12	13 <b>Food/ Friends</b> Murder Mystery 5 p.m. Fairview Presbyterian	14	15	16
18	19	20	21 <b>Politalk</b> 2 p.m. at Asuman's	22 <b>Gourmet</b> 5 p.m. at Bistro 26	23
25 <b>Global Friends</b> Holiday Potluck 6 p.m. at Edie's	26	27	28	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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