

Art is focus of branch's April meeting

The April meeting of AAUW Erie Branch is scheduled for Monday, April 14, at 7 p.m. Members will have an opportunity to tour The City Art Gallery and Lena's Artistry located at the performing Arts Collective Alliance (PACA) 1503 State St., Erie.

Our tour will be led by Lena Logvina, artist and owner of the gallery.

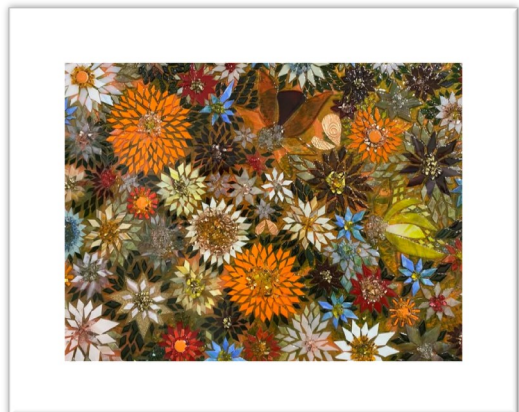
Born in Kiev, Ukraine, Lena moved to the United States at the age of 18. She enrolled in Wilkes University and received a bachelor's degree in international studies, focused on Eastern European Cultures. During her college career, Lena created art and jewelry, winning many awards for her beautiful designs.



Lena Logvina showcases several of her works at a gallery event.

As an entrepreneur and gallery owner, Lena's jewelry, mosaics and other works of art are owned by people from all over the world. She has curated countless shows, showcased many local artists, created a youth camp and mentored both student and adult artists. Lena's work has inspired many artists to unleash their creativity.

City Gallery is described as an essential gathering space for a variety of types of artists: visual arts, painting, sculpting, as well as jazz and music performers. Its main purpose is to connect the various arts all in one place and all at the same time.



Join AAUW Erie Branch members and enjoy Lena's beautiful art and celebrate her vision and her powerful impact on the Erie community. Parking will be available on either side of State Street.

President's Message

Friends,
Finally spring has sprung after a long and hard winter!
This is also the season for renewal of both our mission and our serving members, so I write to put two things on your radar screens...

The first is our main mission, namely, supporting women's education. Locally, the most important way in which we do this is by offering scholarships to women in two separate groups: One, traditional women of Erie County who meet academic standards and need this support to finish college. Two, New American women whose access to higher education requires a different set of eligibilities. Both are clearly described on our branch website, eriebranchaauw.org.

The application deadline for both of these scholarships is April 4th. It is time for us to identify deserving women and encourage them to apply.

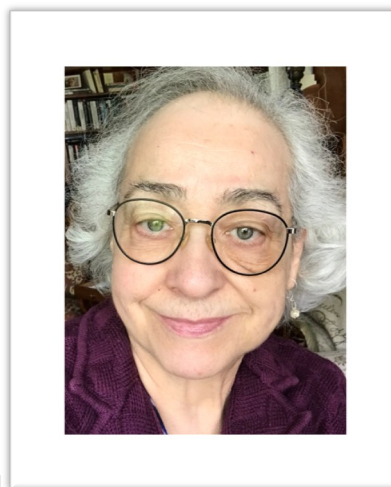
The Chair of our Scholarship Committee is Matasha MurrellJones and she will be happy to answer any questions you or the potential applicants might have... Let's all help get the most qualified pool of applicants so our hard-raised funds go further.

The second issue is service to our Branch. This is also the season for renewing board members. For the last few years many of the sitting members have merely switched positions on the board to keep it going. This is not sustainable... nor should it be, for the simple reason that any board needs new and fresh ideas, faces and energy.

Many of us are approaching our 8th year of continuous board service, and it is prohibited by our bylaws to go beyond. Therefore, when approached by the Nominating Committee, please consider seriously serving on the board. The time commitment, if anything, has abated, as we do so much online these days. Even more so, the collaboration among members of the board is phenomenal, everyone helping everyone else... Just bring along your new ideas and spirit of service to women, the rest is easy!

Hope you enjoy spring weather and hope to see you soon at our branch meeting.

Asuman



Asuman Baskan

Branch now taking applications for \$15,000 in scholarships

The Erie Branch board again allocated up to \$15,000 for this year's scholarship award programs.

Allocations will be divided between two programs, one geared towards women working towards their bachelor's degree at an accredited college or university and another assisting refugee and immigrant women working towards an ESL/GED.

Erie County women who are full or part-time students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program accredited by the Middle Atlantic States Association must be an Erie County resident age 24 or older, be working toward their first undergraduate degree and have completed at least 24 credit hours. They must have a GPA of at least 3.0.

The refugee and immigrant scholarships are for Erie County refugee or immigrant women who came to the United States within the last 10 years. Applicants must be an Erie County resident and must use the funds for an English or ESL/GED program.

Applicants for all scholarships must not have previously received an AAUW scholarship award.

Applications are available on the Branch website and, when completed, can be emailed to scholarshipaauw@gmail.com **Applications must be sent electronically by April 4, 2025 or postmarked no later than April 4, 2025.** Recipients will be notified by April 30. If you have questions, please email to scholarshipaauw@gmail.com.

Save the date for May banquet!

Erie Branch will hold the spring dinner on May 12 at Nick's Place, 12250 Edinboro Road.

The event begins at 5:30 p.m.

More information will be in the May *Pressible*.

National increases annual dues

Membership dues have increased by \$2, effective April 1, 2025.

Total annual dues are now \$107. Of this amount, Branch dues are \$21, PA dues \$12 and National, \$74.

National dues are fully tax deductible.

Dues can be paid at the May dinner.

Public Policy Highlights

Recently AAUW Pennsylvania members received an urgent message from Cindy Hall, AAUW Pennsylvania President. Her message detailed concerns about troubling changes currently occurring in the Department of Education.

Because education for women and girls is essential to our AAUW Mission, I am re-sending the letter as this month's Public Policy news to ensure that it was received by all members and to give members an opportunity to review these vital concerns again.

By Loretta Seigley

Dear AAUW Pennsylvania Members and Friends,

Last night, the Trump Administration, led by Linda McMahon, took the first massive step toward dismantling the Federal Department of Education with the firing of 1,300 workers. The impact of these cuts on top of those who had already been let go brings the total close to 1,500 employees or roughly half the department's workforce. The impact of this cannot be overstated.

The Education Department and its various departments oversee K-12 and higher education. The Education Department's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services supports and protects families with children who have disabilities. The DOE Office of Civil Rights (OCR) ensures that all applicable laws, regulations, and case precedents are followed to protect special education students and other vulnerable populations by guaranteeing access to quality education options. In addition, the OCR is charged with upholding Title IX, essential for women and girls.

The Education Department operates these elementary and secondary education programs:

--Title 1 provides support to school districts with proportionally larger numbers of low-income families and helps to supplement the lower revenue these districts receive from property taxes. This funding is essential to ensure a level playing field for all children.

--Two federal programs support education with an eye toward the future: Title II provides support for teacher training and professional development, while Title IV - School Improvement Programs- rewards school districts adopting innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

--Title III resources are used to support students who are English Language Learners, essential for our democracy and economy.

--The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (I.D.E.A.) provides financial and other support to school districts enabling them to offer special education services for their students.

On the Higher Education side, students from lower and middle-income families receive support through federal work-study, grants, student loans, and Pell Grants.

The Department operates several critical programs for college students and career training:

Con't. on Page 5

Public Policy Highlights

Con't. from Page 4

Financial Aid is the largest portion of the Education Department's funds allocated. Aid comes in several forms from student loans and grants to work-study programs.

--Pell Grants support students from low-income families and are supplemented by other forms of aid.

--Career and technical training and adult education programs also receive support from the Education Department.

It is hard to imagine what our country will be like if all this support vanishes. Higher education will only be available to students from the wealthiest families. Schools will struggle to educate students with disabilities. Districts will have no other option but to raise property taxes. States will be required to step up and fulfill these obligations or vital programming will be cut.

The Department of Education ensures fair and equitable education for all Americans, The Department and its mission are critical to the livelihood of all Americans as well as our global competitiveness. With half of its workforce fired and a speculated shutdown drawing near, disaster could be imminent

We urge you to contact our federal legislators, regardless of party. Tell them we expect them to stand for our children and our future.

Please use this link to find their contact information in Washington, DC.

Find Your Members in the U.S. Congress | [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) | Library of Congress

Cindy Hall (State College)
President, AAUW Pennsylvania
Sandra Miller (Easton/Bethlehem)
Public Policy Chair, AAUW Pennsylvania

Welcome to our
new member!

We have a new member, Jeannine Stearns! Please add her to your contacts.

Jeannine Stearns

5491 Bluestone Drive, Fairview 16415
312-282-1939
jestearns10@gmail.com

Jeannine earned a BA in Economics with an East Asian Studies Minor from Macalester College and a Masters in Organizational Management with Human Resources Specialization from Cappella University.

Family Care Act co-sponsors are now being sought in PA

At some point in our lives, most of us need to take time off work to care for our children, loved ones, or ourselves. Pennsylvanians deserve the flexibility to care for their families without risking their livelihoods.

Ask your legislators to support working families by cosponsoring the Family Care Act today!

The Family Care Act would establish a paid family and medical leave program, providing up to 20 weeks of leave.

Library offers April programs

Erie County Library System's Blasco Library is offering a number of programs in April:

April 7th -- 6 PM Make your own beach glass jewelry

April 10th -- 6 PM Invasive Species in the Great Lakes

April 21st -- 6 PM Make your own sea turtle

Please check the library website for more information or to register.

Branch Study/Interest Group news

Food & Friends lists variety of upcoming programs

Food & Friends will explore Finding the Vikings at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, at the Lincoln Community Center Library 1255 Manchester Road.

You and your guest(s) are invited to join Glenn Kumhera, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History at Penn State Behrend, as he leads us on an expedition to the Norse past.

The Vikings are synonymous with the Middle Ages and for two centuries they appeared everywhere from what is today Canada to Turkmenistan. References to their religion and sea-faring exploits have become part of popular culture. But what do we really know about them?

Discoveries made over the last fifteen years have significantly changed what we know about the Vikings. In this interactive session, we will look at what has been found, how it was, what it has done to our image of these warrior-explorer-businessmen, and why so much knowledge about the Vikings is elusive.

For more information text AnneMarie Kumhera at 440-670-5899 or email annemarieku@gmail.com

LOOKING AHEAD

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS FROM FOOD AND FRIENDS:

May 20: Herb Hunters. Ever wondered what wild herbs are growing right under your nose? Join us for a fascinating Herb Walk at Presque Isle, where you'll uncover the hidden power of plants, learn surprising uses for them and maybe even find your new favorite tea or remedy!

For more information or reserve your spot, please contact by text, email or phone: Asuman Baskan at 814-282-8277 or irrepressibleturk@gmail.com

June 21 at 5:30 pm: LAUGHTER IS SERVED.

A mouthwatering feast and a hilarious Comedy Dinner Theater: **HOLY CANNOLI!** will have you laughing all night. Good food, great company, and guaranteed fun. **We have 24 reserved spots so it's first come!** Reserve your seats by sending in your name (number attending) and a check for \$43, which covers dinner and live theater for each person to Karen Miller at 3625 Bellaire Drive Erie PA 16506. For information, call, text, email Karen at 814-602-8081 or karenfreemanmiller@gmail.com

New computer class to start in May or June

Our upcoming class to protect ourselves from computer scams is being planned through the Erie County Library, whose program director has said class would be starting in May or June. She said that its planning is a multistage process with lots of steps. Specifics will be included in an upcoming *Pressible*.

If anyone who has not yet signed up would like to be notified, there is still time to add your name to the list. Call or write me, Loretto Bellicini, 814-449-8839, loretto.bellicini1@gmail.com.

Branch Study Groups

Book Discussion

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

On the program: Polish History, Culture, and Current Affairs by Krystyna Medeksza and Regina Jaworski.

Food and Friends

Food & Friends will explore Finding the Vikings at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, at the Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd.

Gourmet

Gourmet will meet on April 25 at 5 p.m. Since our February meeting was cancelled, we will meet again at Firebirds Wood Fired Grille, 680 Millcreek Mall.

For more information text AnneMarie Kumhera at 440-670-5899 or email annemarieku@gmail.com

If you plan to attend, please call Nickie Azicri to reserve your place. Call my home phone, 814-835-3780, or cell, 814-504-8258.

Global Friends

Global Friends will meet on Monday, April 28, at 7 p.m. at Edie's home, 638 Vermont Ave.

Politalk

Politalk group will meet on April 17 at Asuman's home 3838 State St., 1 - 3 p.m.

April 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Book Club 1-3 p.m. Springhill	4	5
7 Board mtg. 6:30 p.m. Zoom	8	9	10	11	12
14 Branch mtg. 7 p.m. City Art Gallery	15	16	17 Politalk 1-3 p.m. at Asuman's	18	19
21	22 Food & Friends 1 p.m. at the Lin- coln Community Center Library	23	24	25 Gourmet 5 p.m. at Firebirds	26
28 Global Friends 7 p.m. at Edie's	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.

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

friends of the erie county library

The Friends of the Erie County Library is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to the support and advancement of the Erie library system. Become a member and get involved to be a "Friend" to your library.

facebook.com/EriePAFriendsOftheLibrary
erielibraryfriends.org

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