



## AAUW Easton (PA) Branch

### CALENDAR

#### Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, January 28

#### Branch Meetings

Saturday, January 31

Saturday, February 21

Wednesday, March 25

Saturday, April 18

Tuesday, May 12

#### Board Meetings

Monday, January 26, 5 pm

Home of Christina McFadden

#### IN THIS ISSUE

Presidents' Pen	2
Evening at Williams Center	3
Upcoming Opportunities	4
Interest Groups	5
Annette Stoddy	5
Public Policy	5

### 2026

“Only about 25 percent of how long we live is dictated by genes. The other 75 percent is determined by our lifestyles and the everyday choices we make.”

Dan Buettner

## The Easton Edition

### Easton, PA Branch Newsletter

#### The Blue Zones Project Lehigh Valley

##### Speaker: Todd Nemura

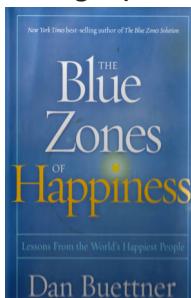
Saturday, January 31, 1 - 3 pm

Palmer Branch Library

1 Weller Place, Easton, PA

Come for some warm **AAUW Easton** fellowship and a spirited discussion! Guests are cordially invited and refreshments will be served.

What are [Blue Zones](#)? They're areas across the world purported to have the healthiest, longest-living populations. First identified by Dan Buettner, a National Geographic Fellow and founder of the Blue Zones



organization, these five regions have captured global attention:

- Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica
- Ikaria, Greece
- Okinawa, Japan
- Loma Linda, California
- Sardinia, Italy

The goal of the Blue Zones Project Lehigh Valley is to help people live better and longer through community transformation programs that improve overall health outcomes. But the program is not without controversy, which makes for great conversation!

Todd Nemura, Director of the Blue Zone work in the Easton Area, will give an overview slide presentation. We'll explore what makes these communities special and discuss the ideas behind books like '*The Blue Zones of Happiness and Thrive*', as well as the [Netflix docuseries on Blue Zones](#).

Whether you're a skeptic or a believer, join us for an engaging discussion about longevity, health, and what it all means for our community!

## From the Presidents' Pen Greetings!

Dear Easton Branch AAUW members,

Happy New Year! We hope this coming year will be a very good one for you and your loved ones. We look forward to seeing you this winter at our Saturday, January 31st 1 pm program at Palmer Library, which will explore the concept of Blue Zones. Our featured speaker will be Todd Nemura, Director of Community Transformation for Blue Zones Activate Easton, whose goal it is “to empower everyone, everywhere to live better longer.”

We are also excited about our annual Williams Center event on Feb. 21st, which promises to give you a most stimulating evening of dance, Hawaiian chant & percussion, as well as original cello and multimedia scenic design. This is also a much-needed fundraiser for our Scholarship Fund, and guests are cordially invited. On Wednesday, March 25 we will host our very successful and inspirational Girls Recognition Night.



Your dedicated Board is planning some creative membership development ideas, including some fun “Meet and Greet” programs in April and September. We are also starting to plan our upcoming **100th anniversary** celebration next fall. Please contact one of our Board members if you would like to be more involved in this event, or if you would like to share some of your experiences in **AAUW Easton Branch** from past decades. We would love to hear stories about earlier times in the history of **AAUW Easton**, and so appreciate our longtime members.

Our Best,  
Christina and Phyllis



## Annual Evening at the Williams Center

Saturday, February 21, 8pm  
Lafayette College, 317 Hamilton St  
Williams Center for the Arts

### ***Native Intelligence/Innate Intelligence***

**Bear witness to stories from varied identities, weaved together in celebration of difference and unique individuality.**

**Native Intelligence/Innate Intelligence** is the second work in a trilogy by Christopher K. Morgan that began with Pōhaku (2016) and will conclude with N(8)tive Enough (tentative premiere in 2025).

**Native Intelligence/Innate Intelligence** incorporates dance, Hawaiian chant & percussion, original compositions for cello, and multimedia scenic design to examine ancestry, home, and belonging. Research for the work began by questioning the word native, an identity that has become politically charged and is frequently a weapon of colonization. Collaborators explored the origins of instinct, nature vs. nurture, which aspects of our identities are shaped by our environment, and how our ancestry impacts our personalities and identities.

Everyone is invited to attend a Tapas Dinner at the Finger's home, 118 E Wayne Ave, Easton, at 5:30 pm. If you can, bring a Tapas (savory appetizer, salad, etc.,) to share, and we'll enjoy an assortment of delicious tastes. If you are too busy to cook, please just come with your smiling faces and have a fun evening. Parking is available on the side street (Kemmerer St) and in the carport (near kitchen) so you don't have to walk up the hill.

Tickets are \$30. A portion of each **AAUW** ticket goes towards local scholarships. Spouses and friends are welcome. Please reserve tickets by February 10.

Please send reservations by February 10 to: Rosemary Baker 2625 Anthony Court Easton, PA 18045 Make checks payable to: **AAUW Easton Branch**

---

Order Form: Evening at the Williams Center February 21, 2026

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tickets for Native Intelligence/Innate Intelligence: \_\_\_\_\_ (qty) @ \$30. Each

Additional Donation for Scholarship Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

Total of check enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to **AAUW Easton Branch**)

Will you be attending Tapas prior to the event at the Finger's? \_\_\_\_\_

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

**Saturday, January 31, 2026 at 1-3 pm**

Palmer Branch Library  
1 Weller Place, Easton, PA

### **AAUW Meeting (with refreshments) and Blue Zones Program Panel Discussion**

Blue Zones Project Lehigh Valley has a goal to help people live better, longer through community transformation programs that lower healthcare costs, improve productivity, and boost national recognition. We will discuss local initiatives as well as the 5 zones in the world: the Nicoya Peninsula region of Costa Rica; Ikaria, Greece; Okinawa, Japan; Loma Linda, California; and Sardinia, Italy.

**Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 5:30 pm**

Tapas at Home of the Fingers 118 E Wayne Ave, Easton  
Native Intelligence at Lafayette College, 317 Hamilton St.  
Williams Center for the Arts, Room 108  
Parking is free at the visitor parking deck behind Markle Hall

### **Tapas and “Native Intelligence”**

See form on page 3 to order tickets for “Native Intelligence”.

**Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 6:30 pm**

Lafayette College Science Center

### **Girls’ Recognition Night**

Don’t miss this inspirational evening!

**Saturday, April 18, 2026 at noon**

**Luncheon with 50-year members**

**Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 6:30 pm**

**Scholarship Awards Night!**

## Our Annual Holiday Party



Even though we had our first real snow of the winter season and unfortunately some of our valued members couldn’t make it, our December holiday party was a lot of fun and a good chance to reconnect and chat. We’ve been busy working on our lobbying efforts and our educational meetings and interest groups that we haven’t had much time to just visit. Thanks so much for longtime member Joan Kicska for opening her beautiful home for this special gathering. We wish everyone a happy and healthy 2026!

## Interest Groups

Connect with your community through **Easton Branch** interest groups. Whether you're looking for stimulating conversation, networking opportunities, or ways to support others, there's a place for you. Suggest new group ideas, show up to an event or call to join, everyone is welcome.



### Bridge

**Chair:** Rosemary Baker  
**Loc:** Contact Rosemary  
 All members welcome



### Mah Jongg

**Chair:** Randi Blauth  
**Date:** Jan 12, 1:30pm  
 Jan 26, 1:30pm  
**Loc:** Wegmans, Rt 248



### Tapas Dining

**Chair:** Phyllis Finger  
**Date:** Feb 21, 5:30pm  
**Loc:** 118 E Wayne Ave

## In Memory of Annette Stoody

Annette Stoody was a brilliant educator and will be remembered as a dedicated member of the **AAUW Easton Branch**. She served the branch for a good many years, with competence and enthusiasm. She held several offices, both Treasurer and Chair of our Book Fair, and probably more. She was also active in other ways in the Easton community, both as a volunteer and as a frequent supporter of Arts events at Lafayette College. Please know that our condolences are with Howard McGinn and the extended family.



## Public Policy Priorities for 2026

**AAUW** members submitted comments to the Department of Treasury regarding the “voucherstyle tax credit” system proposed in the July 4, 2025 tax and spending policies bill (“The Big Beautiful Bill”). **AAUW** supports strong public schools and is especially concerned about the implications that this bill would have for our public school system where the vast majority of America students are educated.

There are many issues that will need our attention in 2026 as we continue our support for affordable and inclusive higher education, a strong K-12 public education system, and our opposition to using public funds for nonpublic schools. **AAUW** supports curricula that is accurate, science-based, and free from censorship or bias and civil rights protections. Of course, we stand for equity in STEM/STEAM training and stronger vocational and technical opportunities. Our public policy stresses efforts toward pay equity, support for all caregivers, increased retirement security, and women’s health care.

Advocacy and legislative work is important at all three levels — Federal-level issues (such as the voucher-style tax credit issue) is communicated through National, and our State Chairperson coordinates needed action regarding Pennsylvania issues, and our members of our branch work on issues from our local perspective. For detailed information on policy priorities, please take a look at the **AAUW National** and **AAUW Pennsylvania** websites. We still need a person who is interested in public policy to chair this committee and write a short piece for our Easton Edition. Please contact one of our co-presidents if you would be interested in this very important position. We encourage our members to contact their legislators through letters, email, and phone calls. We can make a difference!.

# American Association of University Women

<b>AAUW National</b>	<b>800.326.2289</b>	<a href="http://www.aauw.org">www.aauw.org</a>
Easton Branch		<a href="http://easton-pa.aauw.net">easton-pa.aauw.net</a>
Co-Presidents		<a href="http://easton-pa.aauw.net/contact">easton-pa.aauw.net/contact</a>
Financial Team	Christina McFadden	
Membership Team	Phyllis Finger	
Easton Edition	Becky Goldenberg	<a href="http://easton-pa.aauw.net/contact">easton-pa.aauw.net/contact</a>
	Jan Schwartz	<a href="http://easton-pa.aauw.net/membership">easton-pa.aauw.net/membership</a>
	Sharon Trimble	<a href="http://easton-pa.aauw.net/contact">easton-pa.aauw.net/contact</a>

**AAUW** advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

In principle and in practice, **AAUW** values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to members to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national orientation, disability, or class.

The **AAUW** Funds include the Educational Opportunities Funds (formerly a part of the **AAUW Educational Foundation**) which help us to advance equity for women and girls through programs such as American and International Fellowships and Community Action grants.

**AAUW Funds** also include the **Legal Advocacy Fund** which provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sexual discrimination, the **Leadership Programs Fund** (formerly the **AAUW Leadership and Training Institute**), the **Eleanor Roosevelt Fund**, and the **Public Policy Fund**.

Easton  
Pennsylvania  
Branch

PO Box 1464  
Easton, PA  
18044-1464  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Easton (PA) Branch

