



**AAUW SUM**  
 News & Views from the  
 West Chester – Chester County PA Branch  
[wccc-pa.aauw.net](http://wccc-pa.aauw.net)

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Volume 56, Number 1 September 2012

**September is Pot Luck Supper Time !**

**Wednesday, September 12**  
**6:30 P.M.**  
**Grove United Methodist Church**  
**490 Boot Road, West Chester**

Join us for our traditional kick-off of the new program year. Reconnect with old friends, meet our new AAUW officers, members and guests, and share some delicious homemade dishes. Bring a friend to introduce to AAUW and learn about all the activities and projects we have on tap for the 2012-13 year. There will also be some fun activities after dinner including get acquainted exercises, interest group updates, and a presentation about a wonderful opportunity to mentor young women in Chester County.

We have changed the dish donation assignments again so that you can share a new type of dish. Please bring a quantity that serves 5 people.

- Members with last names from A through G, please bring an appetizer or salad
- Members with last names from H through P, please bring a casserole
- Members with last names from Q through Z, please bring a dessert

**PLEASE NOTE: NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS DO NOT NEED TO BRING A DISH**

RSVP no later than September 7, 2012, to Nancy Dore at (610) 725-0459, or [4dores@comcast.net](mailto:4dores@comcast.net), or Jean Speiser at [JeanSpeiser@gmail.com](mailto:JeanSpeiser@gmail.com).

*Directions to Grove United Methodist Church, 490 Boot Road, West Chester, PA 19380. From West Chester, take Route 100 North to Boot Road; turn left and follow to the intersection of Grove Road/Whitford Road. The Church is on your left before you reach the intersection. Additional information at: [www.grovechurch.org](http://www.grovechurch.org) or 610-696-2663.*

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## ***From the Presidents***

September, 2012

Dear Members and Friends,  
I find it surprising to be writing a welcome message for the September, 2012 issue of the AAUW West Chester-Chester County newsletter. Becoming Co-President was not on my list of things to do when I retired; however, being open to opportunities for growth was part of my plan! Membership in AAUW offers all of us many wonderful opportunities to continue to learn and grow. As it says on our website, "AAUW is a gateway and an invitation to hear great speakers, share cultures, discuss literature, meet others with similar interests, and volunteer in the community." I hope you will join us this year at programs and special events – maybe participating in a branch committee is in your future!

I look forward in my role as Co-President to joining all of you in advancing equity for women and girls. I share with you one of my favorite quotes:

*"Women, whether subtly or vociferously, have always been a tremendous power in the destiny of the world."* ~Eleanor Roosevelt~

Sincerely,  
Sandi Kwisz  
Co-President



Dear Members and Friends,  
Sandi and I are now sharing the responsibility of leadership of the West Chester-Chester County Branch. She has already spent hours working to learn all the necessary information to make her an effective Co-President – I am deeply grateful for her dedication and commitment to the branch! With her help, this year will another successful and enjoyable year, and even more of you will become actively involved in the workings of the branch.

We are extremely fortunate to have a branch that is vital, active and interested, and that has truly been a tribute to the members and leaders over the years. It is my pleasure and honor to also welcome a new Membership Vice President, Jane Schultz; a new Program Vice President, Jean Speiser and a new Treasurer, Molly Scott. Please join me in thanking these special women when you see them at our meetings – where I look forward to seeing many of you also!

Sincerely,  
Fran Pierce  
Co-President

Domestic Violence Center  
At the September meeting Sue Ciorletti will be collecting small denomination gift cards. Questions? Contact Sue at 610-344-0245. Thank you for your support.

## **Chester County Library System Moving You FORWARD**

*By Peggy Wadsworth*

Chester County Library System (CCLS) libraries are playing an essential role in the context of five 21st Century literacies:

- Basic Literacy
- Information Literacy
- Civic and Social Literacy
- Health Literacy
- Financial Literacy

In this edition of AAUW SUM we are focusing on the final literacy, Civic and Social Literacy. The CCLS libraries play an important role helping citizens and students gain the knowledge and skills to improve their education, to enhance their job skills and to participate fully in a digital society.

### *Why is Civic and Social Literacy important?*

In a survey that asked twelve questions on well-publicized current events, 18-to 29-year-olds had an average of only 5.5 correct. Nearly half could not name the Speaker of the House

or the president of Russia. Less than half of all Americans can name all three branches of the government. (PA Forward, Pennsylvania Library Association, 2012, accessed 5/10/12, [www.paforward.org](http://www.paforward.org) )

A wide spectrum of programs and services are offered at CCLS libraries to support and strengthen Civic and Social Literacy.

- Learn what programs are being offered at a CCLS library near you by going to [www.ccls.org](http://www.ccls.org) and selecting *Find an Event*.
- Be sure to check out Mango Languages – our online fast, easy and effective way to learn to speak a foreign language.
- Check out the inviting public facilities that provide space for small group and community gatherings and educational programs
- And more...

In 2011, 24,000 people gained knowledge and skills to improve their lives and contribute effectively to their community, government and society and to connect with one another through discourse by attending the many and varied programs offered by CCLS libraries.

So join in with us and let's move FORWARD together with the rest of Pennsylvania, so that we can continue to be the healthiest, wealthiest and wisest County in the Commonwealth. The Chester County Library System is here to partner with you; Read, Connect and Discover what we have and help us spread the word.

## **Panel Highlights Immigration Issues**

Rekha Doraiswamy, one of the panelists in the "Voices of Immigration" presentation on April 26, reflected:

'The evening's flow was well planned. Betsey Cullen's brief but thorough introduction of immigration issues and the problems they create for families were brought to life by Gabriela's story. My story showed how idealism and relative fairness had prevailed in earlier decades, but that these same

values were now under threat because of a changing perception of outsiders. Ubel Velez's clear analysis and explanation of the immigration law and procedures reinforced our remarks, which were in turn reinforced by Nelly Jimenez-Arevalo's and Susan Kim's urgings to be vocal about the issues, especially among voters. Linda gathered some great questions, showing audience awareness of issues and sensitivities. Many of you attending from sponsoring organizations had done a lot of publicity and research work - thanks for helping the panel convey some powerful messages!"

An event summary, as covered by the Daily Local, can be found at <http://www.dailylocal.com/article/20120501/NEWS01/120509985/panel-reviews-local-importance-of-immigration-laws>

Kudos to committee members Betsey Cullen, Meryle Rothman and Tina Girdwood from the LWV, Fran Pierce, Linda Lang, Donna Eaves and Ann Duerr from the AAUW and Susan Kim from the Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition.

## **Alice Lawson Academic Scholarship**

The winner of the 2012/2013 Alice Lawson Academic Scholarship is Gloria Branch, a student at West Chester University with a major in Sociology. Gloria, who is an experienced professional with 7 years in the social service field, expects to finish her degree in June of 2014. She is the fourth of seven children and the first to graduate from high school and go on to college, thus demonstrating her belief that education is the surest way out of poverty. In her letter of thanks, Gloria said "I have no one to help me with funds and have sometimes had to borrow textbooks from classmates – this scholarship will really help me! "

Gloria has shown her passion for helping people through her volunteer work for Habitat for Humanity, her projects to support academic study and student retention, and her work with American Sign Language. We feel that she will make excellent use of the scholarship.

***MERRIMENT, MAKEOVERS AND  
MIRACLES:  
WINGS FOR SUCCESS PARTNERS  
WITH AAUW***

Wings for Success, a Chester County nonprofit organization that prepares disadvantaged women for employment by providing them with work-appropriate attire, wardrobe guidance and workshops, will hold its third annual fundraising event on October 25th from 6-8PM at the Chester Valley Golf Club in Malvern.

The AAUW, West Chester Branch, has adopted Wings for the 2012-2013 year and is a Community Partner for “*Merriment, Makeovers and Miracles*”. It will be an evening of “merriment” where attendees enjoy an evening of fun with friends, a silent auction, and great food and beverage. It also includes a makeover magazine and features miracles through the eyes of clients.

This year, Wings has created its first ever annual Woman of Influence Award. The Award honors those individuals who exemplify Wings for Success’ core values of commitment, community, and resourcefulness. Popular QVC Program Host, Lisa Robertson, has been selected as the first recipient.

All attendees will receive the “*Wings Makeover Magazine*”, also new this year. It

### **Branch Board Meetings**

All Board meetings are open to the membership and are held at the Women’s Center at West Chester University. Meetings begin at 7:15 pm, are over by 9, and are usually on the first Tuesday of the month.

### **Special Interest Groups**

Couples Bridge

Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday evening monthly at a member’s home. We are a social group and welcome all who like to play. Contact the chair, Carol Habig, at 610-431-9987 or e-mail her at [whabig@verizon.net](mailto:whabig@verizon.net).

features the latest tips and trends on a variety of topics such as fashion, finance, eyewear, hair coloring, career changes and more. “When we talk to people about doing makeovers for our clients, their response is often: I’d like a makeover myself!” says Mary Pat Knauss, Board President. “So, with our magazine, we’re giving them ideas they can use.”

Annually, Wings for Success prepares over 600 disadvantaged women for competitive employment primarily in hospitality, administration, retail and healthcare. By creating a professional outward image, Wings helps women grow their inner self-image to feel confident at job interviews, succeed in the workplace and become financially self-sufficient.

Wings for Success is a non-profit, and as such, is in need of much more than in-kind clothing contributions. There is a real and tangible need for in-kind service expertise (i.e. Marketing, Administrative, Legal) as well as financial support through monetary contributions. The “*Merriment, Makeovers and Miracles*” fundraiser is a way to emphasize the value and impact support makes on Wings’ clients. For more information about “*Merriment, Makeovers and Miracles*” and for other ways to offer your support and expertise to the Wings mission, please contact Connie Rose, Event Chairperson at [Events@wingsforsuccess.org](mailto:Events@wingsforsuccess.org) or visit [www.wingsforsuccess.org](http://www.wingsforsuccess.org)

**Lit I, Afternoon Book Discussion:** Meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday. Please call Elaine Burgess, 610-383-7018. Please let Elaine know if you plan to attend.

**Lit II Book Group** meets on September 19, and will discuss the book *The State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett. The group leader is Marie Dunne, and the hostess for this meeting will be Phyllis Dunn.

### **Non-Fiction Group**

The Non-Fiction Book Group will discuss the book *Quiet, The Power of Introverts in a World that Can’t Stop Talking* by Susan Cain at a date and place to be determined. Please check area

libraries for a copy of the book. You may call Paula McGinness for more information, 610-942-4852 (home) or 610-273-3303 (work). New members are always welcome, and can join the group by contacting Donna Eaves at [610-692-5277](tel:610-692-5277) or [deaves@live.com](mailto:deaves@live.com).

### **Finance Discussion Group**

The Finance Discussion Group meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Participants are invited to bring related articles. For information contact: Leslie Olson, 610-793-2938 or [olsonfour@verizon.net](mailto:olsonfour@verizon.net).

### **FIG (Food Interest Group)**

Dining around, usually at a member's home. This group is co-ed, singles welcome. Each member brings a dinner item. The group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. If interested please contact Betty Bradford at 610-363-7974; [wdbrad@comcast.net](mailto:wdbrad@comcast.net)

### **Great Decisions**

For more information on the Great Decisions group, contact Jacky Page at 610-359-9887 or [martin\\_page@msn.com](mailto:martin_page@msn.com).

### **TIG (Travel Interest Group): AAUW TIGers**

The Travel Interest Group is composed of those who like to go on day trips. We will plan several trips before the end of the year as well as three to four in winter and spring 2013. Trips are open to all members and guests. Some are limited in numbers.

Friday, September 21. 11:00 am Tour of Gardens for Sculpture in Trenton, NJ with lunch at one of the restaurants on the grounds. Cost is \$10 for seniors and \$12 for adults. Contact person is Sue Johnston, [sueearlj@verizon.net](mailto:sueearlj@verizon.net) or 610-363-8535.

You can call Roselyn Cadoff or Sue with any questions. If you are not on our email list and would like to be or wish to be removed from the list please contact Sue.



## **Membership**

*Welcome to our newest members!*

Marie Dunne  
Donna Golden  
Whitley Harbold  
Dr. Lynette McGrath  
Andrea (Randy) Meyle  
Hlonipha Myambo  
Dr. Tammy Russell  
Debbie Snyder

## **AAUW'S 130th Anniversary Campaign**

Please continue to spread the word! Although this ended June 30, 2012, the rates have been extended through November 30.

Graduate students can join for \$18.81

## **Shape The Future Membership Campaign Continues For 2012-2013**

Individuals, not previously an AAUW member, can join AAUW National as a new member for only \$24.50. State and local dues bring the total membership dues to \$45.50 for their first year of membership. Contact Jane Schultz, Membership VP, with names of potential members.

## **Membership Outreach**

Your Records with the National Association can be assessed by contacting:

--Helpline Phone: 800 326 2289

--Internet and email: The website for national AAUW is <http://www.aauw.org/>. Once you have accessed the site go to the Member Center. Have your Membership Number available to change your record information (see directions on page 35 of the branch

member handbook). In addition, you can find your Membership Number on the address label of the Branch Handbook that will be distributed in September.

#### AAUW Mission Statement

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

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## Guidelines for AAUWSUM

1. Deadline for articles is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month unless noted in newsletter.
2. Board will develop outline/plan for newsletter.
3. Copies of each article must be sent to the President.
4. Articles should be less than 340 words (1 column in 12 pt.) and sent as .doc (Word) files whenever possible.
5. Program information should be available for publication in the month prior to the event.
6. SIG information should be specific (when, where, leader, contact info., program or book).

7. Photos should be sent in .jpg format and should be the best quality possible. Leave cropping to the editors when possible.

8. Editors must keep newsletter to 10 pages or less (5 printed front and back).

9. Editors must consult with President or designee if newsletter is too long.

10. Circulation Chair will determine number of copies to be printed.

11. Board will review and decide list of Friends who receive printed copies.

12. The newsletter should go to the printer by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. Copies should include the Circulation Manager, Person who distributes the e-mail version, and, if requested, other named designees.

## Help AAUW Save Money

Each year our editors put together eight informative, attractive, and news filled issues of our AAUW SUM newsletter. At current prices, printing and mailing costs exceed \$1.50 a piece per issue, costing over \$12.00 per member per year. For several years, many AAUW members have received their copies via e-mail. Through e-mail they receive the news as soon as it is published. By eliminating the paper copy, they are also making a contribution to a greener environment. If you are not already receiving AAUW SUM via e-mail and would be willing to do so, please contact [Fran Pierce](mailto:franpierce@verizon.net) at [franpierce@verizon.net](mailto:franpierce@verizon.net).

## We need your News!

The co-editors of AAUW SUM, are delighted to bring you this issue of the AAUW SUM newsletter, but ... *We continue to need input from members!!* Please send *articles* as Word documents. Forward your news articles to the *gmail account*: [aauwsumnews@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsumnews@gmail.com), indicating the topic and month in the subject box and cc the President. Norma and Nancy share access to this account, it keeps their work mailboxes from getting filled and makes the process of collaborating easier.

Remember that articles for a given month of the newsletter are due on the 12th of the preceding month. Please provide all necessary information with your submission.

## Get Your Keystoner Online!

The *Keystoner* is the State AAUW Newsletter - switch to receiving it online. You will receive an e-mail notice of the posting with a table of contents and a link to a downloadable copy.

Help the environment and the state organization, plus no waiting for delivery. Archived issues also. To sign up just fill in the blanks at: <http://www.aauwpa.org/keystoner.html>

## AAUW May Banquet 2012

If you were not able to attend the AAUW Banquet and Annual Meeting, you missed a great time! The West Chester Country Club on South High Street in West Chester was the host facility and our members turned out over 70-strong to dine together and celebrate our successes of the 2011-12 program year.

Our program featured three of our own members who are accomplished artists: Dr. Nancy Rumfield, photography professor at WCU; Carol Habig, botanical illustrator; and Roselyn Cadoff, painter in acrylics and oils. Each artist said a few words about her work, her interest in art and her pursuit of her artistic vision, and exhibited a selection of their work during the dinner.

The Scholarship Committee led by Mimi Jones and Sue Johnston announced our annual winner. The awardee is Gloria Branch, a 29 year-old student at West Chester University who has struggled to complete her education without any other financial support. Ms. Branch was unable to attend but has been invited to attend one of our meetings this year.

Fran Pierce, Branch President, also announced the winner of the Outstanding Woman award to be Graham Boose, whose commitment to the branch is evidenced by her continual assistance with such projects as our Annual Handbook. During the meeting the branch members in attendance elected a Co-Vice President, Sandi Kwisz, a Co-Vice President for Programs, Jean Speiser, a Vice President for Membership, Jane Schultz, and a Treasurer, Molly Scott.

“Wings for Success,” the career-readiness and makeover organization that helps women re-

entering the job force, was selected as the branch “Gateway to Equity” award winner this year and three members of their board attended the banquet and received the award.

It was, by all accounts, a sparkling and stimulating evening, and one that helped to close out a very successful program year for our branch! If you missed this one, plan to attend next year!



**Award being presented to Wings for Success**

## Legislative and Public Policy

Members of this committee set three goals at the Leadership Retreat held on August 29. We will continue our library advocacy efforts. We want to help the library implement its strategic plan to increase convenience for library customers, to use technology to serve customers and staff, to provide state of the art community spaces, to engage in community outreach, and to strengthen organizing competencies. The library's Peggy Wadsworth has written articles for our newsletter and will continue to be our liaison with the Chester County Library System. Our second goal is to closely monitor legislation that targets our public educational system. Proposed funding cuts may force school districts to cut core programs. Our third goal is to help “Get Out the Vote” and to make Pennsylvania residents aware of the Voter ID requirements. We plan to partner with the League of Women Voters. We will submit articles to the newsletter and to the web site to keep members informed about these three goals and any other legislation or public policy matters that may be of interest to our members.

We are very happy to have some new committee members and we encourage others

to join us in our effort to keep AAUW members informed.

Peggy Staarman



West Chester-Chester County PA Branch  
717 Hunt Club Lane, Chester Springs, PA 19425

*September 2012 Newsletter*

Meeting is Wednesday,

[wccc-pa.aauw.net](http://wccc-pa.aauw.net)

#### AAUW Mission Statement

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

#### AAUW Vision Statement

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

#### AAUW West Chester – Chester County Branch Vision Statement

The West Chester-Chester County Branch will

- Actively recruit members who support Association goals.
- Nurture these members through active Interest Groups, through monthly meetings with intellectual and social merit, and through member support.
- Sponsor at least one project per year with volunteers and with funds to promote Association and branch goals.
- Sponsor at least one local scholarship per year for a nontraditional student
- Support programs for training and self-development of branch members to promote Association goals.
- Raise funds through community projects and member gifts to support Association goals.

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Since its first meeting in 1881, AAUW has been a catalyst for change. Today, with more than 100,000 members, 1,000 branches, and 500 college and university partners, AAUW contributes to a more promising future and provides a powerful voice for women and girls—a voice that cannot and will not be ignored.

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)   [www.aauwpa.org](http://www.aauwpa.org)   [wccc-pa.aauw.net](http://wccc-pa.aauw.net)