



AAUWsome NEWS
 News & Views from the
 West Chester – Chester County PA Branch
 wccc-pa.aauw.net

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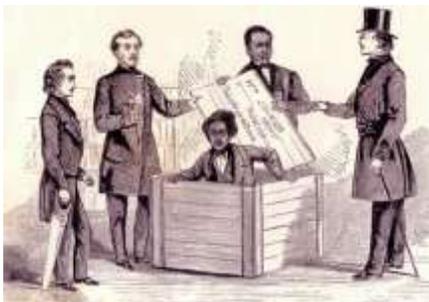
February Brunch
The Underground Railroad

Grove United Methodist Church
 Saturday, February 9th, 2013
 10:00 am

In recent years our branch's *February Brunch* has become one of our most anticipated events. This year, we will learn about the *Underground Railroad* and why it is one of the greatest and most revered events in our country's history. Chester County played an active role in the Underground Railroad and Kennett, Pennsylvania is thought to have been the hub of the Underground Railroad in the mid-1800's. Michelle Sullivan from the *Kennett Underground Railroad Center* will speak to us about the origin of the Underground Railroad and the role that local Quakers and African Americans played in it.

This year's date is Saturday, February 9. The event will start at 10 AM, and we will be meeting at the same location where we have most of our monthly evening meetings – the *Grove Methodist Church* at 490 West Boot Road, West Chester. There is plenty of free parking at the church.

We are asking all members to bring a dish suitable for brunch that will serve six to eight people. No need to sign up in advance. Admission is \$5.00 a person. Please invite a friend or two who might be interested in learning more about and possibly joining the AAUW. New members who join in February or later pay only \$45.50 for a membership that goes all the way through June, 2014.



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From the Co-President

Dear Members,

You might be wondering why you are receiving this month's newsletter in hard copy when you have received it in the past by email.

We at AAUW know all too well that the amount of electronic information we all receive continues to increase. We are also aware that, with the constraints on our time, it is much too easy to just skip over those emails that we get used to seeing month after month – and perhaps after receiving the AAUW newsletter for several months, you might skip over it in your email box when you are very busy.

Well, if you've ever done that, we want to remind you about what you have been missing! We are sending this once-a-year paper copy to remind you to take the time to read your newsletters online in the coming months.

This month, note the great program that will be held at our ***Brunch on Saturday, February 9th***. This is also a chance for you to attend an AAUW program if you are unable to attend our evening events due to work constraints, babysitter needs, or difficulty driving at night. This meeting is for you!

The *Saturday Brunch* is also a great time for you to invite a friend to accompany you to the program – this will be a *Shape the Future* event, which means that if your friend decides to join within the next few months, she will pay just \$45.50 for a membership that will last through **June of 2014!**

There's also a unique opportunity for all members in this issue – you can nominate someone for one of our Annual Awards. See page 3 for descriptions and send in the form!

So much is happening at AAUW West Chester-Chester County that you won't want to miss one single event! So don't be left out – make sure you read every page of this newsletter!

Sincere good wishes,

Fran Pierce, Co-President
AAUW West Chester-Chester County

What's Important to You?

By Yvonne Peiffer

- Having clean water to drink and use?
- Having a sanitation system that gets rid of waste?

How have these “givens” in the United States helped you to stay healthy, become educated, and feel safe? Do you think that all people in the world should have access to fresh water, sanitation, education, and safety? If you answer that all the above are important, then plan on attending the *6th Annual Philadelphia Global Water Initiative (PGWI) Conference “Gender and Water Leading Beyond the Burden”* being held at the University of PA Wharton School – Jon M. Huntsman in Philadelphia on Tuesday, April 9th, 2013 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This one-day conference will highlight and share best practices and solutions relating to *women, water, and the sanitation crisis* worldwide.

Some of us have already signed up to attend. Interested? Go to <http://pgwi.org>, follow the links to “Conference Information”, and sign up; then read PGWI's 2012 annual report of projects supported, countries and groups involved, and more.

*Do you remember the Water Conference our Branch sponsored along with the LWVCC on Nov. 14th, 2009, as part of educating ourselves about the 8 UN Millennium Development Goals? Then our Branch became a Collaborator with PGWI in January 2010 with the goal of supporting the mission of PGWI. Need some refreshing on Public Policy's work in this area from 2009-2012? I'll be writing an article with more information for the March 2013 “AAUW some Newsletter”. Stay tuned!



Nominate a Member for an Award!!

Please think about whom you will nominate for each of the awards below. You don't need the permission of the nominee for this – these are not jobs, just AWARDS!!

Once you have a person in mind, for one award or multiple members covering all the awards, you can send me their names anytime *before February 15th*. Our winners will be honored at the AAUW-PA Annual Meeting in April, and our branch will announce them and honor them at our May banquet.

1) **Branch Outstanding Woman** - Who from our branch do you think should be honored by this award for meritorious service over *multiple* years of work? This might be someone who has served quietly for years and will soon be completing her term. Or it could be someone who worked for the branch in past years but has never been honored. *Last year's honoree was Leslie Wachob.*

2) **TEAL Award** - An AAUW-PA award that honors a member for new or ongoing contributions to the success of our branch. This should be someone who is either a new

member or who has only been active for a year or two. Or, it could even be just a new member who embodies the mission of AAUW and is supportive and enthusiastic of our activities. *Last year's honoree was Linda Lang.*

3) **Gateway to Equity Award** – Look around – outside our branch. This award goes to a group, organization, or company from *outside* of our branch, who has worked to “advance equity for women and girls.” Think about recent news reports perhaps, or someone who is just “always there” when women and girls need help. It could also be someone who has worked prominently for many years to improve the status of women and girls but whom we have not officially recognized. The winner of this award will be invited to attend our May banquet, and we will work to assist that organization for one year. *Last year's honoree organization was “Wings for Success.”*

4) **Peg Anderson Award** – This is our *special, new, branch award!!* This award recognizes a longstanding member who has served in many capacities over the years and continues to work in the background and to inspire and support those who are now leaders and members. *Last year's honoree was Graham Boose.*

Please return this form to Fran Pierce or Sandi Kwisz, or bring it with you to the next meeting.

Note: You can nominate in just one category or in all 4.

My nominees for the awards are:

* Branch Outstanding Woman

* TEAL Award

* Gateway to Equity Award

* Peg Anderson Award

Thank you for your nominations!

Ways and Means

Our fundraising efforts include recycling *used ink cartridges*. Please bring these to the meetings. Mary Smith will be collecting these and dropping off on a regular basis. Email questions to: pangea49@comcast.net.

News from Legislative and Public Policy Committee

by Ann Duerr

Supporting legislation to fund public education is one of the committee's goals. In accordance with this goal, Fran Pierce and Peggy Staarman accompanied Ann Duerr to State Senator Andy Dinniman's office in West Chester on **January 8th** to discuss Ann's proposal to publicize the outstanding projects, educational pursuits, and other accomplishments of public high school students to Pennsylvania's representatives and senators. We hope knowledge of these student achievements will encourage our legislators to fully fund our public schools and not divert public money to charter or private schools.

Senator Dinniman, the minority chair of the Senate Education Committee for the 2013-2014 legislative session, suggested we might incorporate Ann's idea with his effort to promote advocacy by students. The first of his meetings will focus on students in schools in Harrisburg, Lebanon, York, and Reading, some of which are schools in distress. We will schedule another meeting with the Senator in the near future to define clearly how our AAUW branch can address with our own goal his effort to encourage responsible student participation in the legislative process.

Our AAUW branch will participate again in *West Chester University's Equal Pay Day Bake Sale* that will be held on Tuesday, April 9. We will ask volunteers to bake cookies as we join with the University Women's Club and the Association for Women's Empowerment to publicize the lack of equity in women's salaries.

You can use our own website (wccc-pa.aauw.net) to find links to the state and national AAUW legislative and political action interests and efforts.



Alice Lawson Scholarship

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) West Chester Branch will again be awarding the Alice Lawson Scholarship in the amount of \$1000 to an undergraduate student 25 years of age or older. We invite eligible students from *West Chester University, Cheney University, Lincoln University, and Immaculata University* to submit an application. Eligibility requirements, application forms, and the deadline for the application are available at wccc-pa.aauw.net.

Contributions to the Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund can be sent to:

Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund
Chester County Community Foundation Inc.
28 Market Street
West Chester, PA 19382

Online contributions to the Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund can be made at:

<http://www.chescocf.org/funds/Fund%20purpose/Alice%20Lawson%20Scholarship%20Fund.htm>.

Domestic Violence Center

Donations for February and March for the Domestic Violence center will be crib sheets (new) twin sheets (new) and twin blankets (used/clean or new). These are the same items requested last month, but it is what they can use at this time.

Contacts: Donna Golden: 610-344-0245; goldendonna@verizon.net or Marie Dunn at 610-431-0641; marie1227@comcast.net

GETT 2013 Registration to Open on February 14th

Mary A Smith, GETT committee and AAUW Liaison

The 13th Annual Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology (GETT) event will be held on March 16th, 2013 at the new, state of the art Phoenixville Middle School. Planning for the one-day event is under way. Once again I will be asking for volunteers for the day of the event to staff the parent/educator event, flag ladies, lunch servers or whatever GETT may need. We are planning for over 500 girls and 150 parent/educators to attend.

On-line registration will open February 14th at <http://www.itagpa.org>. If you know of girls in the tri-county area who would like to attend, then make sure they get registered early. I am making a list of those members who would like to be involved. Many who have volunteered in the past can attest to the satisfaction being part of such an amazing event brings them. I have been involved and am part of the original committee from 13 years ago, when we sat in a boardroom at CB Technologies with 8 other women trying to figure out how to encourage young women to get into the IT careers. Little did we know we would be creating such a long living event. It just goes to show you how one idea can spark a movement.

Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology began in Chester County, Pennsylvania in 2001 as a response to the under-representation of young women in the computer and information technology fields. GETT, a volunteer-driven SEPA regional project, has now expanded its scope, introducing the universe of technological and STEM careers to girls. GETT is an exciting, enlightening, and educational workforce development project designed for Southeast PA girls in grades 6 through 12 and their parents, teachers, and counselors to learn about careers in the dynamic fields of technology. GETT has had partner events in Philadelphia (BioScience) and in Casper, Wyoming at Casper College.

Why is GETT Important?

Although technology has a huge impact in shaping our society, the latest statistics indicate that girls shy away from technology careers. Careers in technology are financially rewarding and influential, but, unfortunately, the number of women entering these fields continues to decline. In 2003, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Educational Foundation Report, "Women at Work", highlighted the need for advanced education for women in the computer and information fields. Without this training, the technological gender gap will continue to grow. According to recent research from the Information Technology (IT) Association of America, women now represent barely one-quarter of IT workers.

GETT is an opportunity for parents, girls, and educators to learn the facts about how technology careers can be fulfilling, fun, and rewarding personally, professionally, and financially. GETT also provides an excellent way for girls to meet and interact with successful women and educators who are positive role models.

The American Association of University Women - West Chester Branch supports GETT on an annual basis.

If you have any contacts for funding or if you know any young women who would like to be part of the hands on break-out sessions or would like to volunteer, please let me know at pangea49@comcast.net or at 610-269-3375.



Branch Supports STEM for Women & Asks for Your Help March 16th

For many years (at least as far back as 1991), our branch has actively supported pay equity for women and girls throughout their lifetimes. One of our major thrusts has been to help girls keep their career options open by not closing the doors in junior high school on math and science courses, thus limiting their choices of careers in high-paying fields such as banking and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

“Math is hard,” said Mattel’s Barbie many years ago. This perception remains true today and may be applied to science, technology and engineering. In addition, being a pre-teen/teen “girl geek” is difficult for social reasons.

You have a chance to make a difference! *Girls Exploring Tomorrow’s Technology* (GETT) has been supported by branch volunteers and funds for 13 years. This year, the one-day event will be held in Phoenixville on Saturday, March 16. Please contact Mary Smith, branch liaison, to let her know you will help on the big day in welcoming and registering girls, parents, and educators. There are also other volunteer opportunities interacting with the GETT girls.

Research is showing that the support that can be provided by the parents, caregivers, and educators in the life of a “girl geek” can significantly influence her resolve to overcome obstacles, both academic and social, in her path. A seminar to teach caregivers and educators the skills and strategies to provide this support is a part of GETT. You can help here, also.

In addition, under the leadership of Mary Smith, our liaison to GETT; Val Connors, a new member with extensive experience in running girls summits; and Graham Boose, a past winner of an AAUW Community Action Grant, the branch has applied for a one-year AAUW grant to expand the current GETT component for parents, caregivers, and

educators. If we get this, we’ll need branch support here, too. If you are interested in either GETT on March 16th or future efforts, please let Mary or Val know. Mary Smith, pangea49@comcast.net, or 610-269-3375; or Val Connors, valerieconnors@gmail.com, or 484-237-8767.



Mama Juggs - Friday, March 1st

“*Mama Juggs* is an award-winning one-woman play that addresses issues of breast cancer and body image through inspiring dramatic performance. *Mama Juggs* also deals with the public health disparities that exist between races and classes . . . as well as body-image taboos surrounding breasts. This emotionally gritty performance features comedy, acapella gospel, improvisations, and audience interaction . . . while offering slices of both urban and southern Black culture.”

The event takes place on March 1, 2013 between 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at West Chester University's Sykes Theater.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Adale Sholock, the Director of Women’s Center and Institute for Women at West Chester University. She can be reached at 610.436.2122 or at asholock@wcupa.edu.

Also, visit the Mama Juggs website: <http://mamajuggs.com/> or the WCU Women’s Center: www.wcupa.edu/womenscenter.



Membership News

Welcome to our newest member!

Laura LaBuda
Home Address: 827 Winters Avenue
Hazelton, PA 18202
Profession: Human Resources Manager
Degree: West Chester University, BS
Villanova University, MA
Phone: 610-888-9509 (c)
E-mail: lauralabuda@aol.com
Interests: health/fitness, volunteerism,
women's issues/legislation,
reading, crafts, cooking

MMM has returned!

... *March is Membership Month*

Beginning with our *February Brunch*, we are encouraging each branch member to bring a guest(s) to our branch meetings. For each guest you bring, you will receive an entry ticket into our drawing for a \$50.00 gift certificate from AAUW's merchandise catalog! When your guest(s) joins AAUW, you will receive an additional entry ticket.

Congratulations to last year's winner, Elaine Burgess. Good luck everyone!

AAUW Wilmington's 44th Annual Dollars for Scholars Used Book Sale

More than 50,000 used books will be sold at the 44th annual *Dollars for Scholars Used Book Sale*, sponsored by the Wilmington branch of the American Association of University Women, to benefit college scholarships for Delaware women.

Most items are 75 cents to \$5, with collectibles up to \$100. The sale runs Feb. 28-March 3, 2013, at Concord Mall, 4737 Concord Pike, Brandywine Hundred, DE 19803. The sale also includes DVDs, CDs, VHS tapes, vinyl records, sheet music, puzzles, and ephemera. The sale starts at 10 a.m. (11 a.m. on March 3)

and ends at 9:30 p.m. (5 p.m. on March 3). Of special interest -- a large donation by the local Ninth Street Book Shop after its recent move to smaller quarters and 250+ books on Jewish-related topics (religion, history, culture and literature) from the collection of a respected local lawyer.

Items are sorted into more than 50 categories on tables throughout the mall. On Sunday, the branch will sell people a bag they can fill from all categories (except for collectibles).

For more information, visit www.aauwwilmington.org/booksale.html, call (302) 428-0939 or e-mail aauwwilm@gmail.com. The website has details about the scholarships that the sale funds and on how to make donations for future sales.

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. The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 5th.

Special Interest Groups

Couples Bridge

Meets the 3rd 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.

Lit I, Afternoon Book Discussion: Meets on the 4th Thursday. Please contact Roni Mullen if you are interested –610.436.0912 or VMulen@comcast.net

Lit II Book Group: Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will take place on February 20 when the group will discuss the book *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. The discussion leader will be Donna Eaves, and the hostess, Peggy Staarman. 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.

Non-Fiction Group: Meets every two months.

Contact Paula McGinness for upcoming readings and location information. 610-942-4852 (home) or 610-273-3303 (work) or pmcginness@chesco.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.

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 2nd Saturday of each month. If interested please contact Donna Eaves at [610-692-5277](tel:610-692-5277) or deaves@live.com.

Great Decisions

For more information on the Great Decisions group, contact Jacky Page at 610-359-9887 or martin_page@msn.com.

TIG (Travel Interest Group): AAUW TIGers

On *February 1st*, we will travel to Doylestown, PA to visit the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle. Lunch will be in Elkins Gallery at the museum and will be hosted by a curator. The Mercer Museum depicts everyday life in the pre-industrial age, and Fonthill is the amazing concrete castle that was the home of Henry Mercer. The cost, including lunch, is \$30.

On *April 9th* we will travel to West Chester for the WCU Travel Adventures Film "Along the Royal Inca Road" and dinner featuring foods of the area.

On *May 19th* will be a guided tour of Kennett Underground Railroad sites.

More detailed information will be sent to TIG members. All are welcome. If you are interested in being a TIG member contact Sue Johnston: sueearlj@verizon.net or 610.363.8535.

Get Your *Keystoner* Online and Help the Environment

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 Mission Statement

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

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Guidelines for *AAUW some*

1. Deadline for articles is the 10th 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 25th 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 some* 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 some* via e-mail and would be willing to do so, please contact [Fran Pierce](mailto:FranPierce@verizon.net) at franpierce@verizon.net.

Membership Outreach

If you wish to review your records for the *AAUW National association* check out <http://www.aauw.org/> or use the *Helpline Phone* at 800-326-2289

Once you have accessed the site go to the Member Center. You will need your Membership Number 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 Association publication *Outlook* or on the label of your branch handbook.

Interested in submitting an article or have information to share?

We need your News!

The co-editors of *AAUWsome News*, are delighted to bring you this issue of the 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, indicating the topic and month in the subject box and cc the President. This is a shared account, so the co-editors can access your email and keep their work or personal mailboxes from getting filled. It also makes collaborating easier.

Remember that articles for a given month of the newsletter are due on the 10th of the preceding month. Please provide all necessary information with your submission.



Photos by Linda Lang



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

February 2013 Newsletter

**Underground Railroad Presentation,
February 9, Grove United Methodist Church**

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.

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 www.aauwpa.org wccc-pa.aauw.net