



## AAUWsome NEWS

News & Views from the  
West Chester – Chester County PA  
Branch

wccc-pa.aauw.net

*Volume 59, Number 1*

*September 2014*

# Welcome Back!



### *Annual September Potluck Supper*

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Grove United Methodist Church

490 West Boot Road

West Chester, PA 19380

6:30 PM

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 her to AAUW and to learn about all of the activities and projects we have to offer for the 2014-2015 program year. To mark our branch's 55<sup>th</sup> year, several long-time members, including our centenarian Mary Pinkney, will share some AAUW memories.

We have changed the dish donation assignments so you can share something new. Please bring a quantity that serves approximately 6 members.

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

Please note: New members and guests do not need to bring a dish.

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

#### **Contents**

<i>From the Co-Presidents</i>	2	<i>New Officers</i>	4	<i>Mission</i>	5
<i>Membership Greetings</i>	2	<i>Community Outreach Donations</i>	4	<i>Board Meetings</i>	7
<i>AAUW Summer Retreat</i>	2	<i>Harriet Jarosh Family Grant</i>	5	<i>SIG's</i>	7
<i>Legislation &amp; Public Policy</i>	3	<i>Meet Our Members</i>	5	<i>Fundraising Alert</i>	8

## ***From the Co-Presidents***

Welcome Back Members,

It seems that only yesterday that we were saying, "See you in September". September has always been a start to a new school year and all the new clothes and school supplies, a new season, and a new chance to get it right!

In September, our West Chester-Chester County AAUW Branch starts a new year as well. We have an exciting year planned for you! Plan to attend as many programs as you can, starting with the traditional "Potluck Super" on **Wednesday, September 10th at 6:30**. This event is always well attended and gives everyone a chance to socialize and catch up with the latest news.

All monthly programs are listed in the new handbook, which you will receive at the Welcome Back Potluck Supper.

Thanks to Sandy Alexander and her committee for all the hard work involved in putting the handbook together. The handbook includes the member's directory (as of June 30) and a list of all SIG's and monthly programs. The **handbook** along with the **wccc-pa.aauw.net** website are valuable resources for members were they may locate all important information about our branch and its many activities.

Sandi Kwisz has been a dedicated leader the past two years, and working with her as co-president has taught me a great deal. I will miss Sandi's kind and thoughtful manner but am also excited to have such a capable women as Sue Johnston working with me as co-president this year.

New branch officers this year are Eva Kaufmann, Barbara Lathroum, Nancy Dore and Anne Anderko. Eva has been working with Peggy Staarman to plan the monthly programs.

Barbara Lathroum and Carol Habig will be working to continue to develop branch membership.

Nancy Dore is our new Recording Secretary to keep minutes, and Anne Anderko as Finance

Officer has the daunting task of keeping the branches finances in order. Please join us in thanking them for taking on these very important positions.

At this time, the Branch still needs someone to step up and lead the very important **Public Policy & Legislation** committee:, which was so ably headed by Ann Duerr in the past, and **TIG** (the Travel Interest Group), which was headed by Sue Johnston. Take this opportunity to be active in your branch and help us to continue to flourish by volunteering for these positions. Just contact your co-presidents for further information.

Always feel free to contact your co-presidents and board members with ideas, suggestions, and questions. We look forward to seeing you at branch programs and events.

*Dorothea Lavigne  
Sue Johnston*

### ***Membership "Greeters"***

We need 2 or 3 members to help greet prospective members and make them feel more comfortable. Greeters could introduce them to other branch members and make sure they have signed the visitors' log. Carol and I are sometimes busy with name tags and handbooks, and we may not notice a new face right away.

Contact Barbara Lathroum at 484-995-2008 (email: [blathroum@gmail.com](mailto:blathroum@gmail.com)) OR Carol Habig at 610-431-9987 (Email: [whabig@verizon.net](mailto:whabig@verizon.net))

### **Report from AAUW PA Summer Retreat in Lewisburg**

If you have the opportunity to attend a state event, then take it. Meeting so many committed and experienced women from around the state is worth a Saturday. Anne Anderko and I certainly found it so.

The major portion of the morning was spent on National/State updates and on AAUW

Fundraising policies and guidelines (available at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)). One PA push is to promote STEM through many programs, including Tech Savvy, which is funded by an \$84,000 grant from Verizon and \$250,000 grant from Alcoa.

Another state emphasis is on strengthening and increasing college/university partner members and mentoring leaders. It was announced at the event that a state student advisory council is to start in Pennsylvania.

The emphases for Pennsylvania public policy are equal pay/economic self-sufficiency, Common Core State Standards, and Get out the Vote. There are people at the state level who will provide resources to help accomplish goals in these areas of emphasis.

Forming coalition partners to advance the mission and vision of AAUW was the topic in the afternoon. Representatives from the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition gave an informative presentation.

AAUW West Chester-Chester County Branch will be hosting the AAUW East District Meeting on October 18th. The subject will be Common Core State Standards. All are invited.

Sue Johnston

## **Legislation and Public Policy (LAPP)** By Ann Duerr

Great News! Gov. Corbett signed SB75 into law July 2, 2014. SB75 extensively revised the definition of human trafficking, increased penalties of perpetrators, and strengthened support for survivors.

At our August branch "retreat", the brainstorming group for the LAPP committee discussed plans for the upcoming 2014-2015 year. I will continue as a resource person; however, we are seeking to fill the chair/co-chair position(s) and a standing committee. The role of the chair is to:

- develop a branch public policy plan consistent with the priorities of AAUW and AAUW-PA and
- keep members informed of these priorities and the action that needs to be taken

Patricia Schultz and Bonnie Friedman have volunteered for the committee. We encourage others to join us so an interested passionate member will fill the chair position!

Pam Ewing, PP representative from national AAUW, stated that the hot button issues from Capitol Hill are gearing up for the 2014 elections, campus sexual assaults, and equal pay.

AAUW-PA also stresses being an informed voter and Common Core education issues. The PA Eastern Meeting will be held on October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Uwchlan Meeting House with Senator Dinniman speaking on the positive and negative aspects of Common Core.

Our branch will partner with League of Women Voters (LWV) for the November election regarding voter registration and being an informed voter. You can help LWV with registration on September 20<sup>th</sup> at Exton Square Mall on the 2nd floor near the children's area.

Project Vote Smart begins a new interactive website early September that represents freedom from the billions of dollars candidates now spend abusing facts and manipulating voters emotionally instead of informing them intellectually. The link [VoteSmart.org](http://VoteSmart.org) will be available nationally on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

There is much more to report next month. Meanwhile, check Sandy Alexander's website at [wccc-pa.aauw.net](http://wccc-pa.aauw.net). At the website, Public Policy includes AAUW Links and 2 Minute Activist. Also, we need your input—what is important to you regarding LAPP?

\*\*\*

Be a 2 Minute Activist (check branch website)

\*\*\*

## **Congratulations and Thanks to our new Officers**

Here is the list of those who are **new** to the board, or who have graciously agreed to serve in a **new position** as officers and/or Chairpersons for the next program year.

Co-President: **Sue Johnston**

[sjwj77@verizon.com](mailto:sjwj77@verizon.com) 610-363-8535

Program Co-Vice Presidents: Eva Kaufmann

[ekaufmann1@gmail.com](mailto:ekaufmann1@gmail.com) 610-793-3809

Membership Co-Vice President: Barbara

Lathroum [blathroum@gmail.com](mailto:blathroum@gmail.com)

610-321-9783

Recording Secretary: Nancy Dore

[4dores@comcast.net](mailto:4dores@comcast.net) 610-725-0459

Corresponding Secretary: Laura LaBuda

[labudalaura@aol.com](mailto:labudalaura@aol.com) 610-888-9509

Finance Officer: Anne Anderko

[ananderko@msn.com](mailto:ananderko@msn.com) 484-885-4943

Fundraising Co-Chair: Donna Golden

[goldendonna@verizon.net](mailto:goldendonna@verizon.net) 610-429-0944

Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund: Patti Barker

[Syracusefan1@verizon.net](mailto:Syracusefan1@verizon.net) 610-458-7344

*A special thanks to our Nominations Committee:*

Kay Philipps, Chair; Patti Barker; Elaine Burgess; Jean Speiser and Carol Zabriskie.

## **Alice Lawson Fund**

The Social Duplicate Club composed of both AAUW Members and non-AAUW Members contributed \$272.00 to the Alice Lawson Fund from monies received between August 2013 and August 2014.

AAUW Members participating in this group are Betty Bradford, Cynthia Fischer, Dorothea Lavigne, Martina Ossman, Kay Philipps, Mary Pinkney, Jane Schultz, and Mary Smith. Members who would like to be on our substitute list may contact Kay Philipps. Contact information is in our Handbook.

## **Community Outreach Donations**

Over the past several years, our branch has made monthly item contributions to Domestic Violence Center of Chester County. This program year, we will add Dawn's Place and Wings for Success to our list. Both organizations are branch Gateway to Equity Award recipients. All three organizations help change women's lives.

We will alternate each month with the following schedule:

*Dawn's Place:* September, December, and March

*Domestic Violence Center:* October, January, and April

*Wings for Success:* November and February

*Dawn's Place* is a safe and secure residential program that helps women who are making the journey from commercial sexual exploitation to a life of freedom, choice, and independence.

*The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (DVCCC)* has helped over 30,000 survivors of domestic violence in the Chester County community since 1976. DVCCC empowers survivors of domestic abuse through information and support as they reclaim their lives.

*Wings for Success* has helped more than 7,500 women as they face the challenge of securing sustainable income. By providing workplace appropriate clothing, guidance and workshops, Wings for Success gives confidence to women as they enter the workplace.

The branch newsletter AAUWsome and branch website – [wccc-pa.aauw.net](http://wccc-pa.aauw.net) - will keep you informed of the items that will be collected at our monthly membership meeting. Thank you for your continued support!

Donna Golden, Sandi Kwisz and Laura LaBuda.

## Harriet Jarosh Family Grant

As you know, last year our branch received a generous gift of \$10,000 from the Harriet Jarosh family, allowing for an environmental education fund in her name to be established. In January of 2014, a committee consisting of Nancy Dore, Donna Golden, Carla Grot, Eva Kaufmann and Sandi Kwisz met in order to establish the guidelines and an application form for the fund. We met monthly until May and worked out the following details:

The primary objective of the Fund is to support environmental education projects and activities for students in the Chester County Public Schools. "Hands-on" projects should promote school and community environmental awareness.

All 12 school districts in the county were contacted. We targeted grades 4 through 8 for the year 2015 and will award an amount of up to \$1,000 to the final recipient.

A detailed application form and grant guidelines will be available on our website in January. The committee will meet as needed and in the spring of next year select the winner.

### For September - Dawn's Place:

Paper products, such as toilet tissue, facial tissue, napkins, and paper towels

### Ongoing - Wings for Success

Department store shopping bags are needed. You can bring these to any of our meetings.

Gift cards to Target, K-Mart, Staples, etc. are acceptable each month.

*Carla Grot*

## Meet Our New Members

Welcome to our newest members: **Bonnie Friedman, Kristina Hopton, Hagar Nero, Patricia Schultz, and Dorothy Von Gerbig.** Their information is included in the handbook.

### Membership Outreach

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

--**Helpline Phone** (800) 326-2289 or

--**Internet and email:** The website for national AAUW is <http://www.aauw.org/>.

You'll need your membership number, which can be found on the address label of the Association publication (Outlook).

**Quick Contact Info for Branch, below:**

#### AAUW Mission Statement

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

*Norma George*  
610-872-7567

Newsletter Co-Editor  
[ngeorge@cheyney.edu](mailto:ngeorge@cheyney.edu)

*Tamara Hollins*  
610-399-2256

Newsletter Co-Editor  
[thollins@cheyney.edu](mailto:thollins@cheyney.edu)

*Nancy Rumfield*  
610-399-0388

Newsletter Co-Editor  
[nrumfield@gmail.com](mailto:nrumfield@gmail.com)

*Newsletter email*

[aauwsumnews@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsumnews@gmail.com)

*Sue Johnston*  
610-363-8535

Branch Co-President  
[sjwj77@verizon.com](mailto:sjwj77@verizon.com)

*Dorothea Lavigne*  
484-315-8651

Branch Co-President  
[dlav43@aol.com](mailto:dlav43@aol.com)

*Eva Kaufmann*  
610-793-3809

Program Co-Vice-President  
[ekaufmann1@gmail.com](mailto:ekaufmann1@gmail.com)

*Peggy Staarman*  
610-269-4866

Program Co-Vice-President  
[peggstaar@verizon.net](mailto:peggstaar@verizon.net)

*Barbara Lathroum*  
610-321-9783

Membership Co -Vice-President  
[blathroum@gmail.com](mailto:blathroum@gmail.com)

*Carol Habig*  
610-431-9987

Membership Co -Vice-President  
[whabig@verizon.net](mailto:whabig@verizon.net)

*Nancy Dore*  
610-725-0459

Recording Secretary  
[4dores@comcast.net](mailto:4dores@comcast.net)

*Laura LaBuda*  
610-888-9509

Corresponding Secretary  
[labudalaura@aol.com](mailto:labudalaura@aol.com)

*Anne Anderko*  
484-885-4943

Financial Officer  
[ananderko@msn.com](mailto:ananderko@msn.com)

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

## 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. If you are not already receiving the *AAUW newsletter* via e-mail and would be willing to do so, please contact Sandi Kwisz at [SandraK98@aol.com](mailto:SandraK98@aol.com)

## Guidelines for *AAUW some*

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 Co-Presidents.
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. Editors and Co-Presidents 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.



Because our members are so important to us, we want to keep in touch. Do you know of a member who needs to receive a get well note or card of support? Please contact our Corresponding Secretary - Laura LaBuda ([labudalaura@aol.com](mailto:labudalaura@aol.com)) with the necessary information.

*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](mailto: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.



## **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 7:00 p.m., are over by 9 p.m., and are usually on the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is on Wednesday, September 3rd.

## **Special Interest Groups**

### **Couples Bridge**

Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday evening each month 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).

### **Lit I, Afternoon Book Discussion:**

Lit group one meets the fourth Thursday afternoon of the month at 1:00 pm at a member's home. We read both fiction and nonfiction.

September 25: *Guests on Earth* by Lee Smith  
Leader: Martina Ossman  
Hostess: Sue Johnston (610- 363-8535)  
New members are always welcome. Call the hostess if you plan to attend.  
Chair: [Kay Philipps \(610-399-0697\)](mailto:KayPhilipps@verizon.net)

**Lit II Book Group:** Lit Group II is reading *The Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan for our September 17th meeting. It tells the true story of the young women who worked on the atomic bomb during World War II at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. It is available in paperback, on Kindle, and at the Chester County Library. Our hostess is Pat Schultz (1135 Merrifield Drive, West Chester, [610-436-9752](tel:610-436-9752)). We start at 7:00 p.m. For more information and directions, contact Jean Speiser at 610-692-3227(o), 610-738-3363(h), or [JeanSpeiser@gmail.com](mailto:JeanSpeiser@gmail.com).

**Non-Fiction Group:** The Non-Fiction Book Group meets on the third Monday in alternate months. The next discussion will be Monday, September 15, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the restaurant at the Days Hotel at 943 South High Street in West Chester. The discussion title has

not yet been determined, but you may call or email Paula Mcginness for more information at 610-942-4852 or at [pmcginness@verizon.net](mailto:pmcginness@verizon.net).

### **Finance Discussion Group**

This group is currently not active – if you are interested please contact Sue (610-363-8535) [sjwj77@verizon.net](mailto:sjwj77@verizon.net) or Dorothea (484-315-8651) [dlav43@aol.com](mailto:dlav43@aol.com)

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

This groups dines around either at members' homes or restaurants. The group usually meets on the second Saturday or Sunday of the month. Couples (unless otherwise specified) and singles are welcome.  
Next event: Sunday, September 14, we will be having brunch at a local restaurant. Details will be announced to FIG members via email invitations. New members are welcome. Please call Donna Eaves, [610-692-5277](tel:610-692-5277), or at [deaves@live.com](mailto:deaves@live.com). for more information.

### **Great Decisions**

For information on the Great Decisions group, contact Jacky Page at 610-359-9887 or [jacquelinepage9@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelinepage9@gmail.com)

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

The Travel Interest Group is composed of members who like to go on day trips. Trips are open to all members and guests. Some are limited in number.

The group is presently inactive as there is no chair. Please contact Dorothea Lavigne or Sue Johnston if you are interested. Co-chairs would be great as we usually do six to eight activities a year!

### **Interested in a Craft Group?**

A number of our members have indicated they enjoy doing crafts, so the board would like to encourage the formation of a new *Special Interest Group* focusing on crafts and/or hobbies. The group could work on one craft such as quilting, jewelry making, or calligraphy or the group may want to incorporate a number of crafts. If you are interested in joining or leading this type of interest group, please contact Peggy Staarman 610-269-4866 or [peggstaar@verizon.net](mailto:peggstaar@verizon.net).

# Fundraising Alert

Our committee is getting ready to launch our fundraising projects that we will present at the September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Last year it was flowers; this year, think candles! We will partner with the best and well-known candle company, *Yankee Candle*. The sale will run from September 10th to November 14th, so you will receive the candles in time for holiday gift giving. We will make 40% profit on everything we sell, and you will be able to order online.

Our other fundraiser will be the repeat of Holiday Basket Raffles that was well received last year and netted a \$602.00 profit. We again will ask for your help soliciting your favorite vendors for contributions for the “Restaurant and Pamper Yourself” Baskets. Tickets will go on sale at the October 8th meeting.

Last but not least, we are still recycling those old ink cartridges so don't throw them away! Please bring them to the meetings for pick up. We have partnered with Staples recycle program and receive \$2.00 for every used cartridge.

Thank you for all your help on these important fundraising events.

Co-Chairs,  
Anne Anderko and Donna Golden

## **Upcoming AAUW-PA Meeting:**

The West Chester County-Chester County Branch is hosting the annual AAUW-PA meeting on **Saturday, October 18, 2014**. Keep that date open and watch for upcoming details from AAUW-PA.

### **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.

\*\*\*\*\*