



AAUW some NEWS

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

wccc-pa.aauw.net



Deborah Steeves

Legal Aid of Southeastern PA

Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Grove United Methodist Church
490 West Boot Road
West Chester, PA 19380

The mission of *Legal Aid of Southeastern PA* is to provide quality legal representation to low-income people in Chester County and surrounding counties. It strives to empower these vulnerable people without legal representation to solve problems through legal education and increased access to the courts. It also works to change community practices and systems that cause or aggravate poverty.

Deborah Steeves, an attorney at Legal Aid, will speak to us about these services and how they especially help women. She also will highlight the necessary documents women should obtain throughout their lives. Deborah served as a Commonwealth Attorney for Westmoreland County and was Corporation Counsel in Stamford, CT. She graduated from the Stetson University College of Law and received her B.A. from the University of Texas.

Please join us for an informative evening about a vital service to our community.

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 or 610-696-2663.

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From the Co-Presidents

Dear Members,

Happy Fall!

As the leaves are falling and the weather is turning cool, meeting with our friends and fellow members at the various monthly AAUW activities warms ours hearts.

This is especially so when we're together at the interesting and exciting monthly programs!

Amy Worden, political and government reporter for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, delighted our members on Wednesday, October 8th with her insights into the workings of the Pennsylvania government in Harrisburg. She also confirmed that the "Old Boys Club" is still difficult for women to penetrate and reminded us that Pennsylvania needs women politicians!! Don't forget to attend the November 12th program , which again promises to be both interesting and informative.

Fundraising for the branch is well on its way! It's not too late to order from the Yankee Candle gift catalogue or to sell raffle tickets for the two valuable and wonderful gifts baskets to be raffled off at our December Holiday Get-Together!

Although the branch still needs co-chairs for the Travel Interest Group, being planned is a trip to hear the Curtis Institute graduates play at the Kimmel Center as well as attendance at one of West Chester University's "Travel Dinners".

LAPP has several members who are willing to share the work of Public Policy and Legislation. The branch, however, still needs LAPP co-chairs! Won't you consider taking on this leadership role?

Don't forget to check the handbook for all planned activities offered by the branch and the dates and topics of all general meetings. To check out any recent changes, the branch website at wccc-pa.aauw.net is always up to date with the latest information thanks to our web-mistress, Sandy Alexander.

Sue and I are grateful for all the work the board and all involved members do to make our branch successful, and we wish all of our members a "Happy Thanksgiving."

Dorothea and Sue

Legislation and Public Policy (LAPP) By Ann Duerr

At our October branch meeting, several members expressed interest in equal pay (Laura LaBuda), Common Core Standards (Carol Valentine and Bonnie Friedman, earlier by phone) and effects of poverty and other issues (Jen Schultz). Pat Schultz is our liaison to the League of Women Voters. I will remain a resource to these members, mainly new to our branch, and certainly others to promote action on issues relevant to the AAUW mission.

Wear your IT'S MY VOTE/ I WILL BE HEARD button that was available during a recent meeting. It is not too late to get buttons if you need more for the days before election. Let people know about issues that are important for women and girls. Keep encouraging all your family, friends, students, and strangers old and young to VOTE. Let's raise the voter participation rate in this very important mid-year election.

Support Understanding Common Core issues by visiting Senator Dinniman's website. Two articles on the website include "Dinniman Lists Corbett's 180 Degree Reversals on Common Core" and "Keystone Exams: All Common Core, No Common Sense". Please provide your input on this issue.

The gender wage gap narrowed only slightly in 2013; the median earnings across the board of women working full time, year round in the United States were just 78 percent of men's earnings. AAUW's publication, *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap* (2014), is available online.

Carol Metzker, author of *Facing the Monster*, thanks members who contributed to April's Dress for a Good Cause through gifts of dresses, jewelry, time or purchases. One result is computer upgrades for Dawn's Place, a nearby residence for survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

Keep alert to issues important to women and girls by being a 2 MINUTE ACTIVIST through the branch website at wccc-pa.aauw.net.

The Laundromat Library Project

The branch was asked if it is interested in joining this project in a supportive role. The lead women, Arlene Rengert and Karen Iacobucci, modeled the project, now in its second decade, after "The Laundromat Library League" in an Ohio city.

The goal of the project is to place a basket of books in local laundromats. The books are for kids who have no access to books. A bilingual sign will invite children "to take a book, return it when you can". The project involves no meetings and no bylaws or other structure.

Volunteers are needed to:

A: Twice a month drive to obtain the replacement box from West Chester Friends School and deliver books to the laundromats and bring the depleted box back to WCFS to be resupplied for the next run.

B: Prepare Boxes and come together one or two times a month to assemble the boxes, each labeled for a particular site.

C: Provide books that are in good condition and that are in English and/or Spanish for children of all ages.

If you are interested in getting involved contact Dorothea Lavigne at dlav43@aol.com or Sue Johnston at siwi77@verizon.com

Dorothea and Sue

Reminder -- Ongoing Monthly Donations

Each month, the branch identifies one of the organizations the past *Gateway to Equity Award* winners and collects much needed donations for that group.

During November we will support "Wings for Success."

Below you will find the organizations we support and the name of the branch member who will collect donations at the general meeting.

Domestic Violence Center: *Donna Golden* Pillows (new) and, in December, gift cards to Target, K-Mart, Staples, etc.

Wings for Success: *Laura LaBuda* Department store shopping bags, accessories (scarves, jewelry, hosiery, black handbags), and undergarments.

Dawn's Place: *Sandi Kwisz* Gift cards to Staples, Target or Walmart.

Thank you for all your generous donations!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please welcome our newest member -- *Tonya Thames-Taylor*.

Tonya is an Associate Professor of History at West Chester University. She specializes in Southern History.

Tonya Thames-Taylor (Anthony)
96 Virginia Avenue
Coatesville, PA 19320
Tougaloo College, B.A.; University of Mississippi, M.A., Ph.D
(610) 384-5174 (h); (610) 209-7825 (c)
tonya@tonyathames.com

Three other women attended our meeting as prospective members:
Andrea Hall, Joyce Libes, and Geri Lessley.

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).

AAUW Mission Statement

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

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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 *AAUW some* via e-mail and would be willing to do so, please contact Sandi Kwisz at SandraK98@aol.com

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 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 25th 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) 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*, 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 Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is on Tuesday, November 4th.

Special Interest Groups

Couples Bridge

Meets the 3rd 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.

AAUW branches are known for their book groups, and membership in a group often encourages continuing membership. The West Chester-Chester County Branch currently has three book discussion groups meeting in the day and in the evening at different times of the month.

Literature I: Our daytime group reads both fiction and non-fiction.

Lit I will discuss *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin. The discussion leader and hostess is Roni Mullen. We meet at 1 p.m. and the discussion will start at 1:30 p.m. Interested in attending? Please call or email Roni to let her know that you will attend. 610-436-0912, or ymullen@comcast.net.

Chair: Kay Philipps

Lit II Book Group: **Lit Group II fiction/non-fiction.** In November we are reading the *New York Times*'s best-selling novel *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline. The *Times* said that the novel describes the "appalling story of 1920s orphans swept off the streets of New York and sent to the Midwest, where their foster families were subject to scant official supervision."

Please note - there are other books by this name, so make sure you get the right one!
We will be meeting at 7:00 pm. on November 19 at Lyn Eaton's home in West Chester. For directions or more information, call Jean Speiser at (610) 692-3227 (work, preferred) or at (610) 738-3363 (home) or send an e-mail to 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, November 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the restaurant of the Days Hotel at 943 South High Street in West Chester. The book to be discussed is *I Am Malala; The Girl who Stood up for Education and was shot by the Taliban* by Malala Yousafzai. Copies of the book are available at Chester County libraries. Please contact Paula McGinness for additional information - 610-942-4852.

Finance Discussion Group

This group is currently not active – if you are interested please contact Sandi (610-793-3135) SandraK98@aol.com or Dorothea (484-315-8651) dlav43@aol.com

FIG (Food Interest Group)

This group 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, as well as new members, are welcome. There are no scheduled events for November or December.

If you are interested in joining, or in hosting a future event, please contact Donna Eaves at [610-692-5277](tel:610-692-5277) or at deaves@live.com.

Great Decisions

For information on the Great Decisions group, contact Jacky Page at 610-359-9887 or 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.

Contact Roselyn Cadoff (610-458-8813) or Sue Johnston (610-363-8535) for additional information and to be added or removed from the email list. Being on the list does not obligate you to attend any of the activities.

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.

Fundraising Alert

Why do we need to do fundraisers every year? Unfortunately, only \$16.00 of the dues we collect from each member goes to our branch. The balance is sent to national and state. We need additional funding to support all the worthwhile programs we advocate. If each of our members participates in the two fundraisers described below, we can meet our monetary goals. Please take the time to consider what we are offering and support your AAUW branch.

The *Yankee Candle Sale* is in full swing, and you have until Nov. 14 to get your orders in. You will receive your orders about two weeks later -- in plenty of time for holiday gift giving. Don't just buy for yourself--include your family and friends. ***Remember, we earn 40% on everything we sell!*** You can order online at www.yankeecandlefundraising.com, but you need to register our group number 990065897. All orders under \$100 will incur shipping charges, so send your orders to Donna Golden, 1302 Eagle Rd., West Chester, PA 19382 (610-429-0944 or goldendonna@verizon.net) along with your payment, and arrangements will be made for deliveries.

The raffle basket fundraiser is back --both the *Restaurant Basket* and *Pamper Yourself Basket* are back after last year's successful debut. Contribution sheets were circulated at the September 10th meeting, requesting members to solicit their favorite vendors for contributions. If you were not present, the vendor contribution sheet is attached at the end of this newsletter. We will be selling tickets at the October 8th meeting. If you need tickets or have questions about contributions, please contact Anne Anderko at ananderko@msn.com or 484-885-4943.

Please continue to save your used ink cartridges and bring them to the meetings for the Staple recycle program. Thank you!

Co-Chairs, Anne Anderko and Donna Golden

Holiday Basket Raffle

Due to the great success of last year's holiday basket raffle, which raised \$602.00, we are repeating this popular fundraiser. We need your help to meet our fundraising goals. The money we raise will help to fund the *Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund, AAUW Funds, NCCWSL-National Conference of College Women Student Leaders, GETT and PETT*. Did you know that from your \$75.00 dues, only \$16.00 is put into our operating budget? The remaining balance goes to AAUW national and state budgets.

Raffle Drawing: December 14, 2014

Where: December Holiday Social at the home of Carol Zabrislke

Purchase: Raffle tickets will go on sale starting at the Oct.8 meeting, \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00. You can sell to your family and friends. You do not need to be present to win.

What you win: Raffle of 2 Baskets – “*Pamper Yourself Basket*” – includes gift certificates from your favorite hair, nail, spa salons, and more totaling at least \$150.00 or more in value. “*Restaurant Basket*” – includes gift certificates from your favorite restaurants, coffee shops, delis totaling at least \$150.00 or more in value.

What can you do: When you go to your favorite business to get your hair done, eat out at your favorite restaurant, take a moment to ask if they can donate something towards the holiday gift baskets.
Deadline for donations is Dec. 5.

Please contact Anne Anderko, **484-885-4943, ananderko@msn.com** with any questions.

If you can help us, please fill out the bottom half of this sheet and return it to Anne Anderko.

***All donations need to be finalized by December 5th.**

I will try to get a donation from:

Restaurant _____

Coffee Shop _____

Deli _____

Hair Salon _____

Nail Salon _____

Spa _____

Other _____

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

**If you would like to donate an item for the baskets that would also be much appreciated.
Thank you so much in advance for your contribution towards this worthwhile “fun”draising project!*



AAUW Lansdale and Montgomery County Community College are hosting a FREE screening of the film Girl Rising on Saturday November 8, 2014 from 10 AM to Noon at the Science Center Theatre on the Blue Bell campus of Montgomery County Community College, 340 DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422.

Girl Rising advocates for the education of girls around the world, and especially in developing countries, a message that Malala Yousafzai, an education advocate and recent Nobel Prize winner for Peace, has been fighting to spread.

The film tells the stories of nine girls in countries from Haiti to Nepal who fought for their chance to go to school in spite of extreme poverty, natural disasters, and even forced labor. The film's narrators include Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Alicia Keys, and Liam Neeson.



“When girls are educated, communities thrive and economies grow.”

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2014

Montgomery County Community College Science Center Theatre

10 AM to Noon

FREE admission

Film rated for sixth graders and up

If you need additional information, please contact Dot McLane [215-570-2393](tel:215-570-2393) dotmclane@comcast.net

Montgomery County Community College,
340 DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

Science Center Theatre

Directions <http://www.mc3.edu/about-us/directions-and-maps/driving>

Campus Map <http://www.mc3.edu/about-us/directions-and-maps/map-cc>



1133 St. Finegan Dr., West Chester, PA 19382

November 2014 Newsletter

November 12th - Deborah Steeves

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