



AAUW some NEWS

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

Planning For The Future Of Longwood Gardens

Ready for spring? Think Longwood Gardens!

Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 p.m.
Grove United Methodist Church,
490 West Boot Road, West Chester, PA

Our program for the April 8th meeting features Sharon Loving, Horticultural Department Chairwoman of Longwood Gardens. We've seen major changes and exciting exhibits at Longwood in the past few years. This presentation will give us an inside view of the direction in which this premier botanical garden is heading.

As the head of the Horticulture Department, Sharon Loving leads a staff of more than 70 employees who are responsible for producing and maintaining the world-renowned horticulture displays and landscapes on Longwood's 1,077 acres. She plays a major role in the strategic direction of the organization including its vision for land stewardship, master planning, capital improvement projects and the annually changing themes of seasonal displays and exhibits at Longwood.

Sharon will provide an overview of Longwood Garden's 100-year history, with a focus on current and upcoming exhibits. This presentation also includes insight into Longwood's sustainability efforts, capital projects and vision for the future. Among her topics will be a discussion of the Main Fountain Garden Renovation.

Facilitator: Ann Duerr, Refreshments): Lit Group I

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 directions at www.grovechurch.org or 610-696-2663.

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From the Co-Presidents

Dear Members,

The March program on the ancient art of Feng Sui brought a fresh and exciting topic to the branch. The charming presenter was definitely knowledgeable and informative about the subject. I have been looking at my furniture placement with new discernment. Employing the principals of Feng Sui, I am creating, hopefully, a more harmonious home. Thank you, co-chairs, for organizing another outstanding program!

As I reflect on the 2014-15 AAUW year, I am proud to have had the opportunity to work with so many talented and accomplished women! Their hard work and involvement have made this another banner year for the branch. Although the weather this winter and spring has been mostly cold, the Branch meetings and activities have been warm and inviting. Without the many contributing members, the branch would not have had the engaging monthly programs with delicious snacks, nor the many scrumptious FIG events, the card clubs to keep our members playing, the book clubs to help us discover new authors and subject matters, the travel interest group to open our world to new adventures. In October 2015, the branch reached out beyond its Chester County borders and hosted a very well attended and successful "AAUW Eastern District Meeting". In September the branch celebrated its 55 year anniversary by honoring long standing members and reflecting on lessons of the past.

Branch members are not only involved in social activities, but also support altruistic endeavors. Annually, the branch awards the Alice Lawson scholarship and this year the branch established the "AAUW WC-CC Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund, a grant for Chester County Public schools, elementary to secondary levels, to support environmental programs. This new award is being funded by a generous donation received from the estate of Harriet Jarosh and honors Harriet's spirit and interest in the environment. Two of our Branch members in conjunction with the Women League of Voters served on a panel to discuss

"Equal Pay" issues. The annual GETT event served to educate and to make over 500 hundred girls, as well as educators and parents, aware of the opportunities in technology careers. Members contributed monthly much needed items to support The Domestic Violence Center, Wings for Success and Dawn's Place, as well as children's books for the newly established "Laundromat Project". April 14th branch members will support the "Equal Pay" event to be held at West Chester University. The branch is able to award these scholarships and able to keep functioning due to the successful efforts of the co-chairs for fundraising.

Communication with members was maximized by posting branch activities on the branch website and publishing a monthly newsletter!

As we look forward to the April meeting, the May banquet and installation of new officers, I realize that my job is almost done. Thank you branch members and especially board members and chairpersons for your support and contribution of time and effort throughout this term. I wish Sue and the new board continued success and another banner year for the branch!

Dorothea



Eva Kaufmann with Marge Richards presenter at the March meeting, Feng Shui consultant & director of the Awareness Group.

AAUW at WCU

By Fran Pierce

The students of the Association for Women's Empowerment (AWE) have voted to join their organization with AAUW national. I have begun to work on that and will have the jointure completed by the end of this school year so that the students may join next year under the new organization.

We are now planning the activities for "*Equal Pay Day*" which is on **Tuesday, April 14**, and the students will have a full complement of volunteers working at the event. This year's activity will build on last year's success that allowed us to reach approximately 250 students who came through the line at the university's Lawrence Center Dining Hall.

This year we will be asking students to respond to a question regarding gender pay equity by placing a sticker on a graph that indicates their answer, whether it's *yes, no, or I don't know*. By using posters that will hang on the wall, the results will be much more visible to all those traveling through the dining hall than the beakers we used last year for a similar question and answer activity.

Our goal for this event, as always, is to educate students about the continuing existence of a gender pay gap as well as of the pay gap between workers of various ethnic backgrounds. Our branch's contribution to the event will, as usual, be baked goods. The Women's Center will be providing zip-lock bags for the baked goods on which will be glued colored stickers with a fact about the continued existence of pay disparity between women and men, and among minority groups in the U.S.

This year, WCU will provide individual zip-lock bags for our bakers; each bag will already have an educational fact attached to it. This will cut down on the last minute preparation of the baked items by the students and will also assure that the cleanliness of the baked products is not compromised.

Don't forget to Mark your calendars!

Equal Pay Day 2015

Tuesday, April 14th.

Other Resources: www.aauw.org/tag/equal-pay/

Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology's (GETT) 15th Year Anniversary Deemed a Fantastic Success!!!

By Mary Smith, STEM Liaison & 15 year GETT Committee Member

It was a great 15th year celebration for GETT at Great Valley High School with over 550 girls and 200 parents and educators in attendance! This included the pilot 5th grade girls from Phoenixville, Great Valley and West Chester school districts. Mother Nature threw in a little curve ball on Friday but as we all know, women do not get rattled! Every year it just gets better and better as well as bigger and bigger.

Along with AAUW, some of the sponsors included Vanguard, DVHIMSS, CCWIB, H&R Block, SEI, Paoli Hospital, AGI, Sikorsky Helicopter, First Resource Bank, Fulton Bank, Meridian Bank, M&T Bank, Susquehanna Bank, Waste Management, and Bancorp Bank. AAUW became a Silver sponsor this year with a contribution of \$500 from the AAUW budget as well as an additional \$500 from the PETT grant, targeted for transportation for participants from Coatesville.

Once everyone had registered, they proceeded to pick up a grab and go breakfast and enter the hands-on Expo! This is the first year this was offered with great success. Over 45 companies and educators showcased short, STEM-related, hands-on activities as the girls and their parents explored the Expo. Our branch, spearheaded by Donna Golden and her volunteers presented a hands-on session making polymer balls that bounce. Once the EXPO was over, the girls proceeded to the main event which included a keynote speaker (Science Cheerleader Devon Williams) and then off to their break-outs. The

parents and educators proceeded to their sessions which included Micromessaging to Reach and Teach Every Student™ presented by Elizabeth Tran of NAPE; a STEM panel consisting of Mary Figgatt, Epidemiologist Fellow with the CDC, Charlot Barker, Assistant Director of Technology Support at the Chester County Intermediate Unit (and Mary's mother), Christine DiPaulo, Innovation Specialist at String Theory Schools in Philadelphia, and Closing Comments by Dr. Anne Sourbeer Morris, Managing Member of A. Morris Consulting, LLC and Moderated by Clare Novak, Executive Coach and Leadership Development Consultant; Getting it Right the first time... Finding the College that 'Fits' your Daughter and Making Sure You and She are Prepared for Today's Higher Education presented by Dr. Monica Zimmerman and Rudy Treichel, Part 2 of Micromessaging for the educators; lunch with Science Cheerleader and IT professional Devon Williams; Hands-On mini EXPO providing the parents and educators with the opportunity to do many of the same activities their girls experience.

Before the day ended the girls and adults were invited outdoors to see a Helicopter Lift-off provided by Sikorsky Helicopter, one of our major sponsors. End of the Day Rally featured keynote, Jen Croneberger, lots of prizes awarded and the video "You Can be Anything". I must give a shout out and thank you to all the AAUW West Chester Branch members who volunteered: Donna Golden, Anne Anderko, Carol Valentine, Nancy Dore, Dorothea Lavigne, Sue Johnston, Betty Bradford, Octavia Warren-Ward, Hagar Nero, Taj Nero (one of the girls hands-on sessions), Terry Houle, Fran Pierce, Eva Kauffman, Nancy Day and Barbara Lathroum (please forgive me if I missed anyone). Our branch, with PETT support, provided PETT bags, stylus pens, paper pads, "Why So Few" executive study and "The Simple Truth", about the gender pay gap. We are already planning for next year. If you were one of the lucky ones to attend GETT, let us know what you thought. Check out our webpage at www.aauwgirlsstemcenter.org.

Fundraising

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

Nominating Committee Report:

Members of the nominating committee, Cathy Palmquist, Lyn Eaton, Donna Eaves, Sandi Kwisz and Jean Speiser are pleased to offer the following slate of officers for 2015-16.

President-elect: Barbara Lathroum

Program Co-vice president: Mimi Jones (two years)

Membership Co-vice presidents: Donna Golden (two years) and Peggy Staarman (1year-completing the term of Barbara Lathroum)

Members will vote for the new officers at the May Banquet.

Alice Lawson Scholarship

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) West Chester Branch will be awarding \$1,500.00 from the Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund to an undergraduate student 25 years of age or older. We invite students from West Chester University, Immaculata University, Cheyney University, and Lincoln University to submit an application. Although the deadline for this year has passed, you should consider who you know who might be eligible for next year. Eligibility requirements and application forms are available at www.pa.aauw.net under the activities tab.

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

Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund
Chester County Community Fund
West Chester, Pa. 19335

Online contributions can be made at:

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

Two Minute Activist

Don't forget your New Year's Resolution to be a frequent *Two Minute Activist*. Make your voice heard in Congress regarding education, economic security, and civil rights. Using our website (under AAUW Links) is so easy!

Branch Award Recipients

Branch Spotlight Award – Anne Anderko and Peggy Staarman

Outstanding Branch Member – Donna Eaves

Peg Anderson Award – Mary Smith

Gateway to Equity – Legal Aid of Southeast Pennsylvania

Congratulations to the deserving winners!

Reminder -- Ongoing Monthly Donations

Each month, the branch identifies one of the organizations from the past *Gateway to Equity Award* winners and collects much needed donations for that group. Here are the organizations we support and the name of the branch member who will collect donations at the general meetings.



For April:

Dawn's Place: Sandi Kwisz

Items will be collected for Dawn's Place.

Items needed are as follows:

Household Items: Large trash bags, toilet paper, tissues, napkins, laundry and dish detergent, dryer sheets, and disinfecting wipes

Nonperishable Food: Coffee, sugar, cereal bars, creamer, and tuna fish

Office Supplies: Gift cards to Staples and Target

For the Dawn's Place Wish List, fundraising events, and other ways to help, check out the website at www.ahomefordawn.org.

Thank you!



For May:

Wings for Success: Laura LaBuda

Support Wings for Success!

With the new expansion to Kennett Square, please help by contributing an item to this organization, which continues to help women achieve autonomy, success, and confidence!

Monetary and accessory donations are needed to help dress clients for workplace interviews. These items help put the finishing touch on the outfit for the Client.

New undergarments and bras
Hosiery
Jewelry
Black handbags
Spring Scarves

Contact Laura LaBuda with any questions.

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

Upcoming Events: Save The Date...

Pennsylvania State Annual Meeting

April 10-11, 2015

Members interested in attending this event can visit the AAUW-PA website to get details and to register.

PA State Annual Meeting cont'd.

AAUW-PA 86th Annual Meeting
April 10-11, 2015

Ramada Conference and Golf Hotel
1450 South Atherton Street,
State College, PA 16801
(814) 238-3001,
www.ramadasc.com

April 14th - Pay Equity Day at West Chester University

Contact **Fran Pierce** 610-594-0625 or franpierce@verizon.net, if you can donate some bake goods or help on that day.

Voter Registration Help Needed:

The WLV have asked for help with registration on April 11th at Exton Mall.

If you can help, even for an hour, please contact Mary Lou Dondero 610-692-3299.

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 Anne at ananderko@msn.com.



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 information.

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

Tamara Hollins
610-399-2256

Newsletter Co-Editor
thollins@cheyney.edu

Nancy Rumfield
610-399-0388

Newsletter Co-Editor
nrumfield@gmail.com

Newsletter email

aauwsumnews@gmail.com

Sue Johnston
[610-363-8535](tel:610-363-8535)

Branch Co-President
siwi77@verizon.com

Dorothea Lavigne
484-315-8651

Branch Co- President
dlav43@aol.com

Eva Kaufmann
610-793-3809

Program Co-Vice-President
ekaufmann1@gmail.com

Peggy Staarman
610-269-4866

Program Co-Vice-President
peggstaar@verizon.net

Barbara Lathroum
[610-321-9783](tel:610-321-9783)

Membership Co -Vice-President
blathroum@gmail.com

Carol Habig
610-431-9987

Membership Co -Vice-President
whabig@verizon.net

Nancy Dore
610-7250-459

Recording Secretary
4dores@comcast.net

Laura LaBuda
610-888-9509

Corresponding Secretary
labudalaura@aol.com

Anne Anderko
[484-885-4943](tel:484-885-4943)

Financial Officer

Branch Website wccc-pa.aauw.net

Guidelines for *AAUW some*

1. Deadline for articles is the 10th of the month unless otherwise 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.

Interested in submitting an article or have information to share?

We need your News!

The co-editors of AAUWsomeNews, 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.

Member News

Sad News...

Cynthia Fisher a longtime member of the AAUW WC-CC passed away on Saturday March 14, 2015.

In memory of Cynthia, a book in her honor will be donated to the Chester County Library. Please send all suggestions for an appropriate book to honor her to dlav43@aol.com or to Sue at sjwj77@verizon.net.

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 regular meetings are on Tuesday, April 7th and Tuesday, May 5th.

Special Interest Groups

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 fiction and non-fiction book group. Thursday Afternoon (Lit I, monthly, 4th Thursday, except November) Lit One reads both fiction and non-fiction books that have been selected by members of our group. We meet in members' houses. All AAUW members are welcome. Please call Kay Philipps if you plan on attending or if you need further information. Her phone number is 610-399-0697. Her email address is khp65khp@verizon.net.

We will meet on Thursday, **April 23rd** at Kay Philipps's house at 1 p.m. for refreshments. Discussion of our book, *Zeitgeist* by Dave Eggers, will be led by Eva Kaufmann at 1:30 p.m.

We also will meet on Thursday, **May 28th** at 1 p.m. Sandy Alexander will be both our hostess and discussion leader. We will be discussing *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri. Please contact Sandy to let her know whether or not you will attend this meeting.

LIT II-BookGroup

New members are always welcome. Please call Jean Speiser at [610-738-3363](tel:610-738-3363) or e-mail her at JeanSpeiser@gmail.com for more information.

Lit Group II's April meeting is scheduled for **April 15, 2015**. The book to be discussed is Man Booker award winner Penelope Lively's

The Photograph. The Photograph starts with a widower's discovery of a picture of his wife in an unexpectedly intimate setting with another man, and the reader learns what the widower's search into the story behind that picture reveals. In the extraordinarily unlikely event of snow or other weather-related problems, we'll meet the following Wednesday (April 22). Our hostess will be Mimi Jones (26 Blakely Drive in Downingtown). We will gather at 7:00 p.m., and as always we welcome new participants.



On Wednesday, **May 20th**, Lit Group II will be discussing *The Pursuit of Love* and *Love in a Cold Climate*, both by Nancy Mitford. We'll be meeting at Phyllis Dunn's house, 1035 North New Street in West Chester. As usual, we meet at 7:00 and start talking at 7:30. Amazon says this about the two books: "Few aristocratic English families of the twentieth century enjoyed the glamorous notoriety of the infamous Mitford sisters. Nancy Mitford's most famous novels, *The Pursuit of Love* and *Love in a Cold Climate*, satirize British aristocracy in the twenties and thirties through the amorous adventures of the Radletts, an exuberantly unconventional family closely modeled on Mitford's own."

Non-fiction Book Discussion Group

The next discussion will be Monday, **May 18, 2015** at 2:00 pm at the home of Kay Phillips, 248 Greentree Drive, West Chester. The book being discussed is *The Innovators; How A Group Of Hackers, Geniuses, And Geeks Created The Digital Revolution*. Copies of the book are available at Chester County libraries. Please call or e-mail Paula McGinness for more information, 610-942-4852.

Finance Discussion Group

This group is currently not active – if you are interested please contact Sue Johnston at 610-

363-8535; sjwj77@verizon.net.

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), singles, and new members are welcome.

No FIG meeting in April.

Next events:

Sunday, May 31, 2015 at 12:30pm – Brunch at the home of Jane and Don Schultz.

Sunday, June 14, 2015 at 4:00pm – Flag Day Picnic at the home of Sue and Earl Johnston, co-hosted by Marguerite Pond.

FIG members will receive email invitations And dates to additional events. For more information or to join the group, contact Donna Eaves at 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) – If you are interested in coordinating a trip, please contact Dorothea Lavigne at 484-315-8651: dlav43@aol.com or Sue Johnston at 610-363-8535; sjwj77@verizon.net

Special Interest – Craft Group :

Work on your own project or join us as we create items for the children at the *Domestic Violence Center*. Members could also knit or crochet hats or blankets for the children at the shelter, and we're contemplating making a group baby quilt to be finished by Mother's Day. You need only minimal sewing skills for the quilt project. We are asking participants to be responsible for just one 10 ½square and you don't even need to buy supplies. Please contact Jean Speiser at JeanSpeiser@Gmail.com or 610-738-3363 for additional information.

Equal Pay Day 2015
Tuesday, April 14th



**AAUW West Chester –
Chester County Spring Banquet**

**Join Your AAUW friends for
Our Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony**

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Place: Penn Oaks Golf Club

150 Penn Oaks Drive, West Chester, PA19382

610-399-0501

Penn Oaks Drive is off of Route 202 South of Route 926 in West Chester

<http://www.pennoaksgolfclub.com/directions/>

Menu Choices:

Chicken Marsala over Angel Hair Pasta

or

Shrimp Scampi over Angel Hair Pasta

Dinner will include a house salad, dessert, coffee, tea, iced tea, and lemonade.

Open Cash Bar until dinner.

Cost: \$30.00 per person

Don't forget to invite a guest to join in the fun!!

RSVP: Send the form below by **May 1st** to: Dorothea Lavigne,
121 Greenbriar Drive, West Chester. PA 19382-6108

I/We will attend the *Annual Spring Banquet on May 13th* at the Penn Oaks Golf Club.

Please circle your dinner choice.

Name _____ Chicken Shrimp

Guest _____ Chicken Shrimp

Enclosed is \$_____ for__ per person(s). Check Number _____

Send a check payable to **AAUW West Chester-Chester County (AAUW- WCCC)** to Dorothea Lavigne, 121 Greenbriar Drive, West Chester, PA 19382-6108. For additional guests, please attach additional form with names. Thank you.

~Deadline for reservations is May 1st. Please no walk-ins or add ons after this Date.



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

April- May 2015 Newsletter

April 8th – Longwood Gardens

May 13th - May Banquet

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.orgwww.aauwpa.orgwccc-pa.aauw.net