



AAUW some NEWS

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

Supporting Hispanic Women

Wednesday, October 14th, 7:00 p.m.
Grove United Methodist Church,
490 West Boot Road, West Chester, PA

Meeting the challenges faced by immigrant women in Southern Chester County is one of the many goals of La Comunidad Hispana (LCH) in Kennett Square. Founded in 1973 by community members and clergy, this non-profit organization uses a multi-faceted approach to help the Hispanic members of our community. It has a health-care center providing primary health care that includes women's services. It offers adult education that includes classes in English as well as GED classes and preparation courses for citizenship tests. It provides legal assistance and help in finding employment.

Our speaker for the October 14th meeting will be Alisa Marie Jones, who is the President and CEO of La Comunidad Hispana. She will focus on the impact that LCH has on Hispanic women and girls in the area. We look forward to meeting Ms. Jones and to learning about the wonderful work done by her organization!

This meeting will be at the Grove Methodist Church at the regular meeting time of 7:00 p.m.

Eva Kaufmann
Co-Chair for Programs

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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Letter From the President

Hello Members,

After a warm and relaxing summer, Barbara and I are ready to go and hope you are all on board for a productive fall. We began with our well-attended August 27th retreat. The newsletter deadline preceded the retreat; therefore, by the time you read this, you already will have received an email describing what we accomplished at that event: our branch priorities for this year.

On September 9th, we conducted the first meeting of the year: our *Annual Potluck*. I always look forward to the potluck and all the great food our members make. Our speaker was Barbara Price, who has been involved at the state level of AAUW for many years. She helped us to “connect the dots” between our national, state and local organizations. Our branch committees and special interest groups outlined plans for the year while keeping in mind our branch priorities.

Our second meeting on October 14th will feature *Alisa Marie Jones from La Cominidad Hispania*. She will speak about the problems impacting Hispanic women in our community, which is a timely topic.

We are trying out fewer newsletters this year—four rather than seven. In addition to this edition, you will receive electronic newsletters in November, February, and April. Of course, we will send timely emails in between to keep you informed. Speaking of emails, our goal is to cut down on the number of emails you receive from AAUW. If you want to receive all the emails from national and state, then please contact me and I’ll add you to the forwarding list. Otherwise, you will not be burdened with more email.

You are all invited to the *East District Meeting of AAUW PA* on Saturday, October 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be held at Cedar Crest College in Allentown (an easy trip from West Chester). The meeting will focus on the gender wage gap. We also will hear further

information on coalition building. A registration form will soon appear on the state web site and will also be e-mailed to you when available. It would be nice to have a group from our branch attend.

I want to highlight the Members Helping Members Fund. The fund’s purpose is to help defray the cost of dues for members in temporary financial difficulty. We only have \$9 in the fund at this time, and we were not able to help all members in need this year. As a result, some had to drop their membership. Small donations would be appreciated and can be sent to Anne Anderko. Please see page 23 of your chapter handbook on how to help.

Finally, save the date for our Annual Holiday Party on Sunday afternoon, December 13th.

Enjoy this jam-packed newsletter. Thanks to the editors for a great job during a very busy time of the year for them.

Sue

Alice Lawson Scholarship

The Lit Group One sent a \$150.00 donation to the Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund in memory of Hilary Kennedy. Hilary was an active participant in this Lit group for many years.

Kay Philipps, Chair

Additional 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://chescocf.org/fund/alice-lawson-aauw/>

Starting Off the New Year with AAUW!

September is the beginning of our new year for AAUW and we started it off in style!

On September 9th, we met at the Grove Methodist Church and enjoy greeting new and old friends with our traditional pot-luck dinner. The event began early, at 6:30 p.m., to allow time to enjoy our meal.

Our meeting began at 7:30 p.m., starting with recognition for loyal members. Last year, we honored members who had participated in the chapter for 30 years or longer. This year we added those who have participated 25 years or more.

Our speaker, Barbara Price, came to us from the state level of AAUW. She spoke on the topic, "AAUW, National, State and Local: Connecting the Dots." Barbara has been an AAUW member since 1975 and in that time has held leadership positions at the local level in her branch in Levittown-Lower Bucks. She also has held state positions, including State Membership VP. She was elected to be president of the Pennsylvania AAUW in 1990 and used her term to focus on the issue of Educational Equity.

Following her term of office, Barbara held the position of Project Coordinator and worked on the Gender Equity Model (GEM), which involved providing in-service to teachers to make them aware of and to reduce gender bias in the schools. She continued conducting workshops at the state and national levels on a variety of leadership topics for women and most recently testified before a state-level policy hearing on the topic of pay equity.

We are thrilled that Barbara made time in her busy schedule to give us her views on the important work of AAUW!

Eva Kaufmann
Co-chair for Programs



September Potluck Attendees

Monthly Outreach

In the past we have supported various local non-profits. This year we have decided to support Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania. More information will be in the next newsletter.

You can learn more about this group by checking online: <http://laspa.org>
Information can also be found on our webpage (under Outreach)
<http://wccc-pa.aauw.net/legal-aid-society-of-southeastern-pa/>

Two Minute Activist

Don't forget your commitment 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!

Raising Indignation,

Empowering Education

tonya thames taylor, LAPP Chair

On Saturday, July 11, 2015 at the AAUW PA Summer Retreat at the Best Western County Cupboard Inn in Lewisburg, PA, I enjoy a roaring time learning as we, members of AAUW, share information, insight, and initiatives. We swap stories of how we rid ourselves of complicity, complacency, despair, and distraction when it comes to advocating for education for all children in Pennsylvania.

Admittedly, I am full of anticipation before arriving. As the newly appointed Legislative and Public Policy (LAPP) Chair of the AAUW West Chester-Chester County Branch, I did not know what to expect. It is my first encounter with other AAUW members outside of my branch and thoughts shared in literature, blogs, and twitter. The scenic drive to Lewisburg allays any nervousness and the friendly reception at the registration table ensures me that I have made a good decision in participating in this retreat attended by nearly 50 other women.

After a round of introductions and updates from AAUW-PA President Dot McLane, Ron Cowell of the Education Policy and Leadership Center, effectively using a well-conceived PowerPoint, engagingly and informatively shares information about funding and charter schools before lunch. He shares that Pennsylvania ranks #10 in the nation with expenditures per student (\$13,864), yet most of the funds are generated at the local level. In short, the state gives less funds than it once did (56% from local; 36% from state). As Cowell identifies the issues of the burden of local property tax, he parlays that into a shattering reality: students— some of whom have inadequate resources— are expected to perform equally on standardized tests. To demonstrate the gravity of the information he presents, he discusses the political crisis underscoring funding, debates and formulas used in public education funding, the impact of pension reform, as well as legislation involving charter and cyber schools. I am disheartened to learn

that most cyber schools are failing. As he talked and members share real experiences, I can not help but think, “children are not abstract experiments.” He is responsive to the myriad of the group’s questions and insights. And, as the first half of the presentation closes and we prepare for lunch, the group is fully charged about the information as we walk to the lunch location.

At the start of lunch that childhood nostalgic who-do-I-sit-with? moment surfaced. It quickly dissipates when I am invited to sit at the table with AAUW members by former president of Pennsylvania AAUW and current Bylaws Chair Barbara Price. Over lunch, we talk about policies, our interests, and why we have joined AAUW. As we participate in the ancient ritual of sharing and laughter, I become fast friends with all at the table. I have started lunch with strangers, but have ended it with kindred activists who enjoy being heretics as demonstrated by their stories.

Returning from lunch and listening to Cowell’s charge to know the legislation regarding education, this group of AAUW members are simultaneously indignant at the inequities of education and feel empowered to advocate in the realm of public policy. To end the retreat, AAUW-PA Public Policy co-chairs Toni Hoffman and Susan McNamara conclude by stressing the importance of coalition building, pay equity, and voters’ rights.

Overall, participating in this retreat is one of my GOOD decisions. I am empowered to be indignant. I arrived as an individual, but left knowing I am a part of a responsive community.





Annual Fundraiser

Another year, another fundraiser! You might ask why are we always fundraising when members pay \$75.00 each to join AAUW each year. Unfortunately, National AAUW takes \$49.00 and State AAUW another \$10.00, leaving only \$16.00 for each member that goes into our budget. We currently have 70 members registered, so do the math and see why we need to supplement our budget with fundraising efforts.

With that noted, we offered "Snackin' in the USA" at our September meeting with samples to try. It is a very simple fundraiser—12 different snacks from candy to nuts, all priced at \$7.00, for you to purchase and sell to your family and friends.

We will consolidate all the orders and have them shipped to one location with distribution at the November meeting. Brochures were handed out in September with all the details. In the early part of next year, we hope to have another fundraiser. We are still considering many options to help us with our money earning goals.

Please remember, we continue to collect used ink cartridges. Bring them to the meetings, and they will be recycled in the Staples Reward Program.

Thank you for your support!
Anne Anderko
Donna Golden
Fundraising Co-chairs

AAUW PA District East Meeting - October 3, 2015 Cedar Crest College, Allentown PA

Come meet Carol Tracy of the Women's Law Project at our District East Meeting on October 3rd. The meeting is from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Carol will be discussing Gender Equity which is one of our Public Policy issues. We will also have our Public Policy Gurus, Toni Hoffman and Susan McNamara to give us more information on GOTV and other public policy issues.

We would love to have every Branch in our District represented. Carol is a dynamic speaker and will be sharing valuable information on getting the state government on board with gender equity.

The registration deadline is September 30th. Registration form and directions to Cedar Crest College can be found at:

<http://aauw-pa.aauw.net/files/2015/09/Eastern-District-Meeting-Registration-Form.pdf>

A box lunch (optional) is available for \$16.00 – see registration form.

Martha Czop
AAUW PA, District East Coordinator

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 – Rosemary MacDonld rosemary.macdonald@verizon.net with the information.

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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Member News

Nancy Rumfield

One of our members, Nancy Rumfield, is currently having a solo exhibition in the Knauer Gallery at West Chester University. The exhibition is open until September 25th.

This exhibition is representative of some of her more abstract work in photography.

The gallery is located in the Swope Music Building and Performing Arts Center at WCU. The gallery is open to the public from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. There are two visitor parking spots in the parking lot off

of Matlack Street. For additional information call 610-436-2872 or visit wcupa.edu/cvpa/art/Exhibition.asp



About Member News -

If you have news that you would like to share with our organization, we would love to hear about it. This may be your accomplishments, research, performances, etc. Please send detailed information to the newsletter editors: aauwsumnews@gmail.com.

Thank you for sharing!

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 and President Elect. 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.

Guidelines for AAUW some

1. Deadline for articles is the 10th of the month prior to publication – October 10, January 10 and March 10 for 2015 – 16.
2. Board will develop outline/plan for newsletter.
3. Copies of each newsletter article must be sent to the President and the President Elect.
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 President 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 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 \$6.00 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 Sue Johnston, sjwj77@verizon.net.

Board Meetings

All Board meetings are open to the membership and are held at a West Chester location to be designated. 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, October 5th. The location will be announced.

Special Interest Groups

Couples Bridge

A chair is needed. Please contact Sue Johnston, sjwj77@verizon.net if interested.

Women's Social Bridge

Do you want to spend some time with fellow AAUW members by playing social bridge once a month? We are in the process of choosing a day and time. Please contact Sandy Alexander at frau.salexander@gmail.com or [610-363-7467](tel:610-363-7467) for more information or to be added to our email list.

Sandy Alexander

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 two book discussion groups meeting in the day and in the evening at different times of the month.

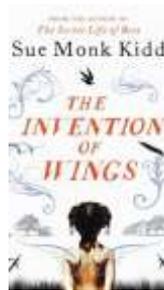
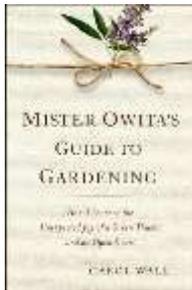
LIT I: Day Time Literature Group.

Lit One has changed its meeting time to the third Monday afternoon of each month. We meet at members' houses at 1 p.m. for refreshments. Discussion starts at 1:30 p.m. We read both fiction and non-fiction books that are selected by the members at our final dinner meeting in June. We welcome all members to join us in some lively and thought provoking discussions. Please call the hostess if you plan to attend. Any questions? Call chair Kay Philipps at [610-399-0697](tel:610-399-0697).

Our entire schedule for the year can be found on our webpage.

September 21, 2015 At 1 P.M.

Book: *Mr. Owita's Guide to Gardening* by Carol Wall. Our discussion leader and hostess is Sandy Alexander.



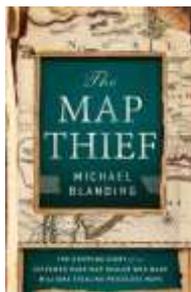
October 19, 2015 At 1 P.M.

Book: *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Our discussion leader and hostess is Elaine Burgess.

LIT II-Book Group

Lit Group II reads fiction with an occasional non-fiction book thrown in for our edification. We usually meet on the third Wednesday of the month, starting at 7:00 p.m. for conviviality. Discussions start at 7:30 p.m. We always welcome new members and would be happy to see some new faces this fall.

Our **September 16th** book is *The Map Thief* by Michael Blanding. It tells the true story of the charming antiquarian E. Forbes Smiley III, who made a fortune stealing maps from academic and other libraries. Our hostess is Jane Schultz. Her address is 1300 Amstel Way in West Chester. Please e-mail Jane (mjschultz46@hotmail.com) and Jean Speiser (jeanspeiser@gmail.com) to let us know you're coming.



Our **October 14th** book is *None of the Above* by I. W. Gregorio. The protagonist grew up comfortably as a girl only to discover in her senior year of high school that the truth was

much more complicated. This young adult book will have us examining what it means to be a boy, a girl and a bit of both. Dr. Gregorio is Fran Pierce's niece and will be the speaker for our November general meeting. Our hostess is Phyllis Dunn. Her address is 1035 North New Street in West Chester. Please e-mail Phyllis (dunn.phyllis@gmail.com) and Jean Speiser (jeanspeiser@gmail.com) to let us know you're coming.

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

FIG (Food Interest Group)

This group dines either at members' homes or in restaurants. The group usually meets on the second Saturday or Sunday of the month. Couples (unless otherwise specified), singles and new members are welcome to join us.

Scheduled events:

Sunday, September 20, 12:30 p.m. – Al Fresco Brunch hosted by Donna Eaves and Carla Grot at the home of Donna and Bob Eaves

Saturday, October 10, 6:30 p.m. (this is a tentative date) – Octoberfest Dinner at the home of Cathy and Dick Palmquist.

FIG members will receive email invitations. For more information or to join the group, contact Donna Eaves at [610-692-5277](tel:610-692-5277) or at deaves@live.com.

Great Decisions

For information contact Jacky Page at [610-359-9887](tel:610-359-9887) or jacquelinepage9@gmail.com

TIG (Travel Interest Group) –This group needs a leader. If you are interested in coordinating trips, please contact Sue Johnston at [610-363-8535](tel: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. Please contact Jean Speiser at JeanSpeiser@Gmail.com or [610-738-3363](tel:610-738-3363) for additional information.



402 Edgewood Drive, Exton, PA 19341.

September - October 2015 Newsletter

October 14 – Supporting Hispanic Women

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