



<p>AAUW SUM News & Views from the West Chester – Chester County PA Branch</p>
<p>Volume 55, Number 4 January 2012</p>

Lyme Disease - Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

Grove United Methodist Church

7 p.m. Networking and Nibbles

7:30 p.m. Meeting and Program

Chester County, known for its scenic charm and rich history, is also known as an epicenter for Lyme disease. Barely known a few years ago, there is evidence that Lyme disease has existed in some form for at least one hundred years. The highest concentration of Lyme disease, whose reporting is now mandatory by the Center for Disease Control, is in northeastern U.S., with the highest incidence in Chester County and surrounding areas. The incidence is increasing, especially in children, and is associated with the changing loss of natural diversity in our wildlife and the increase in the white-tailed deer population, a host for the tiny deer tick that transmit the disease.

Lyme disease can affect the skin, joints, nervous system, heart, and eyes. Unfortunately the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease is also a topic of controversy and conflicting professional differences. The symptoms of Lyme disease may mimic other diseases and as a result is often misdiagnosed. The lack of a reliable test can delay treatment, and health care professionals and insurers differ in their opinions of the seriousness and duration of the disease.

Douglas W. Fearn, president of LDASEPA (Lyme Disease Association of Southeastern PA), will speak on the topic of Lyme disease at our January 11 meeting. He will address the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of Lyme disease and the importance of associating with a Lyme literate health care professional. Fearn is an active electrical engineer who manages his own business and spends significant time writing about Lyme disease and tick-borne diseases. He is the author of the LDASEPA booklet *Lyme Disease and Associated Diseases: The Basics*. Over 200,000 copies have been given to doctors, support groups and individuals. He and his family are currently battling Lyme disease. Plan to attend this timely program. His information will be of value to us personally and as information to share with others.

Grove United Methodist Church, 490 W. Boot Road, West Chester, PA 19380; 610-696-2663. From West Chester, take Route 100 North to Boot Road; turn left. Grove United Methodist Church is located at the intersection of West Boot Road and Grove Road. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.grovechurch.org>

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From the President

Dear Members,

I send you all my very best wishes for a New Year filled with Peace and Joy! I am always hopeful at this time of year that our efforts on behalf of the rights and dignity of women the world over will meet with success, but I am also filled with the desire to make this year more productive in achieving those goals!

We have many opportunities here in our country, and those opportunities are not just for accomplishing our personal goals as citizens, but also opportunities to influence those who would make decisions for women less fortunate than we, both here and in other countries.

My amazing trip to the United Nations on November 29 impressed upon me how very much we take for granted – especially here in our prosperous Chester County! I don't know about the rest of you, but I find it very difficult to enjoy all the good fortune in my life when I know that so very many others are denied the things I take for granted. That's one reason why AAUW is important to me: it is a way for me to join with others who care about the things I care about, and to work with them to make an impact on the world that might make a difference in days to come.

Next month we will have the opportunity to learn about one way that AAUW is working to have an impact on the lives of others. Our February brunch, in addition to being a wonderful social event with excellent food and time for socializing, will also educate us about the program we call "GETT," that has been a project of AAUW West Chester-Chester County for the past eleven years. An excellent film, created by our own branch secretary, Linda Lang, will be just one part of the program. If you have often wondered what GETT is all about, here's your chance to learn and be inspired by the young women who have experienced it!

And don't forget that every month Sue Ciorletti, Domestic Violence Center Liaison, gives us the opportunity to help women who

are suffering from domestic abuse by donating small household items to the Chester County Center. Look for her announcement elsewhere in this newsletter and in every branch newsletter.

If you haven't already done so, may I suggest that this year, your New Year's Resolution could be to do something just once every week to make the world a better place. It can be something as simple as donating baby diapers to the Domestic Violence Center, or take a little more thought and write a letter to the editor about an issue that affects our earth. You could even volunteer to help AAUW with a project or two that will have an impact on people, legislation or the environment. You can choose what it is that you do, but whatever you do, I know that you will get as much out of it as you put into it!

I look forward to seeing all of you over the next several months and I send you my best wishes for a Happy New Year, 2012.

Sincerely,
Fran Pierce, President



Fran Pierce

Planned Parenthood History

Fran shared this article via email – if you missed it, take a look. It is hard to believe that history of such importance is still sitting in archives waiting to be "revealed" to the world. <http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/newsdesk/2011/11/planned-parenthood.html>

Branch News

AAUW Mission Statement

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

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Guidelines for AAUWSUM

1. Deadline for articles is the 10th of the month unless noted in newsletter.
2. Board will develop outline/plan for newsletter.
3. Copies of each article must be sent to the President.
4. Articles should be less than 340 words (1 column in 12 pt.) and sent as .doc (Word) files whenever possible.
5. Program information should be available for publication in the month prior to the event.
6. SIG information should be specific (when, where, leader, contact info., program or book).
7. Photos should be sent in .jpg format and should be the best quality possible. Leave cropping to the editors when possible.
8. Editors must keep newsletter to 10 pages or less (5 printed front and back).

9. Editors must consult with President or designee if newsletter is too long.

10. Circulation Chair will determine number of copies to be printed.

11. Board will review and decide list of Friends who receive printed copies.

12. The newsletter should go to the printer by the 25th of the month. Copies should include the Circulation Manager, Person who distributes the e-mail version, and, if requested, other named designees.

Help AAUW Save Money

Each year our editors put together eight informative, attractive, and news filled issues of our AAUW SUM newsletter. At current prices, printing and mailing costs exceed \$1.50 a piece per issue, costing over \$12.00 per member per year. For several years, many AAUW members have received their copies via e-mail. Through e-mail they receive the news as soon as it is published. By eliminating the paper copy, they are also making a contribution to a greener environment. If you are not already receiving AAUW SUM via e-mail and would be willing to do so, please contact [Fran Pierce](mailto:FranPierce@verizon.net) at franpierce@verizon.net.

We need your News!

The co-editors of AAUW SUM, Norma George and Nancy Rumfield, are delighted to bring you the January issue of the AAUW SUM 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. Norma and Nancy share access to this account, it keeps their work mailboxes from getting filled and makes the process of collaborating easier.

Remember that articles for a given month of the newsletter are due on the 12th of the preceding month. Please provide all necessary information with your submission.

Membership Outreach

Your Records and Communication With the National Association

Helpline Phone: 800 326 2289

Internet and email: The website for national AAUW is <http://www.aauw.org/>. Once you have accessed the site go to the Member Center. Have your Membership Number available to change your record information (see directions on page 35 of the branch member handbook). Type in your Membership Number and set up a password. Make a note of your password for future communications. In addition, you can find your Membership Number on the address label of the Association publication, *Outlook*, or call either Carol or Barbara (Co-Membership VPs).

Membership News

If you know of a recent college graduate, invite them to join under our special "Give A Grad A Gift" program. This is for a free 1-year National membership. If you pay \$26, they can become a branch/state member.

Get Your Keystoner Online!

The *Keystoner* is the AAUW-PA Newsletter. Switch to receiving the *Keystoner* online. For each issue, you will receive an e-mail notice of the posting with a table of contents and a link to a downloadable copy of the issue, which can be printed or read on the computer screen. Getting the *Keystoner* online helps the environment and saves the state organization money and no waiting for delivery. To sign up just fill in the blanks at:

<http://www.aauwpa.org/keystoner.htm>

Members can check the archived issues online at the same site. *Kathy Quinn, Keystoner Editor*

Domestic Violence Center

At the January meeting Sue Ciorletti will be collecting Light bulbs and larger size Pampers (3,4,5). Thank you for your support.

GETT's Moving Along

Mark your calendar -- *Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology* for 2012 is scheduled for **Saturday, March 24, 2012.**

GETT events provide effective, interactive and informative sessions for girls in grades 6-12, their parents and educators throughout the Delaware Valley. The speakers and activities are carefully chosen to encourage participants to explore first-hand the exciting and rewarding STEM career potentials in a wide range of interesting fields.

As in the past, GETT 2012 will be free to participants. Our goal is to provide a professional and worthwhile event for all participants attending the event at the Great Valley High School, Malvern, PA on Saturday, March 24, 2012.

We hope you or companies with which you may have connections will help support the event to empower and inspire girls to understand the opportunities for career options in technology. We would very much appreciate financial support or tangible contributions. Any support is welcome. Volunteers will also be needed to help the day of GETT as AAUW has for the past 11 years. A list of volunteers will be compiled after the first of the New Year.

If you have any questions, are interested in making a contribution or have a company or organization who would be interested in contributing please contact Mary A Smith of the GETT Planning Committee for more information at 610-269-3375 or Pangea49@comcast.net.



Public Policy and Legislation

By Ann Duerr, Chair

The *Public Policy and Legislation Committee* members this year are Ann Duerr, chair, Linda Lang, Kathy Neary, Jean Speiser and Peggy Staarman. The committee appreciates help from any AAUW member throughout this year.

The following objectives have been identified for 2011-2012:

- Support legislation regarding funding for public education.
- Promote participation in activities that support public libraries, which are essential resources for education, community building and economic development.
- Publish up-to-date information on the Marcellus Shale environmental impact.
- Cooperate with the League of Women Voters (LWV) - Chester County to increase voter registration and inform women of the issues.
- Promote support for outreach to West Chester University Women's Center and events to raise awareness for pay equity.

Peggy Staarman reports the EPA is now weighing rules requiring disclosure of the chemicals used in hydraulic-fracturing fluids and how much information will be made public.

Peggy Wadsworth, the Community Advocacy Coordinator and Joe Sherwood, the new Executive Director, met to establish mutual goals of the Chester County Library System and AAUW. See the article about *PA Forward Initiative*, by Peggy Wadsworth included in this newsletter. Expect short e-mail updates regarding the committee's goals and sites for further information.

Awards from AAUW and AAUW-PA

This year let's put the West Chester-Chester county branch of AAUW back on the map by honoring some of our members who have worked hard to make our branch so great, and who may not get much recognition for their work.

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

Once you have a person in mind, for one award or multiple members covering all the awards, send me their names anytime before January 11th. You will have the opportunity to vote on your choices at the January 11th membership meeting. There will also be an email ballot sent out after the meeting for those who could not attend.

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

2) **TEAL Award** - A new, AAUW-PA award, that honors a member for new or ongoing contributions to the success of our branch. This should be someone who is either a new member or who has only been active for a year or two. Or, it could even be just a new member who embodies the mission of AAUW and is supportive and enthusiastic of our activities.

3) **Gateway to Equity Award** – This award goes to someone who is *outside* of our branch, someone from one of our local communities who has worked to “advance equity for women and girls.” Think about recent news reports perhaps, or someone who is just “always there” when women and girls need help. It could also be someone who has worked prominently for many years to improve the status of women and girls but has not been honored for her work.

Last, but certainly not least, there is an open invitation from AAUW-PA to bestow a special award on someone in our branch who should be recognized for her current or past work. This could even be a deceased member or a member who can no longer be active but has retained her membership to support us.

Libraries Have the Power to Move *PA Forward*

Submitted by Peggy Wadsworth; from *PA Forward Toolkit* an initiative of the Pennsylvania Library Association

As our state and nation struggle with economic shifts, some permanent, we all ask, “*How will Pennsylvania build a better future of job growth, opportunity, and community vitality?*”

Those who work at or with Pennsylvania’s libraries already know that an educated public with better access to information is key. Libraries have been at the center of Pennsylvania’s communities, providing the critical connections.

Now it’s time to let the rest of Pennsylvania know – and ensure that libraries take their rightful place as leaders of a vision that requires a unique combination of new technology, community access, and commitment to learning.

In early 2012, The Pennsylvania Library Association will launch its 21st Century Literacies Initiative, *PA Forward* to give voice to what the library community already knows, and what other states throughout the nation are also recognizing. With the right support, libraries are ideally positioned to become the community centers of information, technology, and learning that will fuel educational and economic opportunity for all of our citizens.

Libraries have moved far beyond just being book repositories. They’re agile institutions serving real-life needs. The *PA Forward* initiative highlights the library’s role in the context of five essential 21st Century Literacies:

- **Basic Literacy** – Libraries can push Pennsylvania to achieve one of the highest literacy rates in the country and a better-trained and more skilled workforce.
- **Information Literacy** – Libraries can help all Pennsylvanians learn how to use online resources and current technology to improve their education, to enhance their job skills, and to participate fully in a digital society.
- **Civic and Social Literacy** – Libraries can give citizens of all ages the knowledge and skills

they need to improve their lives, to contribute effectively in their communities, and to participate in civil discourse.

- **Health Literacy** – Libraries can play an important role in helping citizens actively manage their own and their family’s well being, making them effective partners with their health care providers and reducing costs.
- **Financial Literacy** – Libraries can help citizens become informed consumers and guide individuals, small businesses, and other organizations to contribute to the economic vitality of their communities.

In the coming editions of AAUW SUM you will learn more about each of the five literacies and how the member libraries of the Chester County Library System provide resources and services to ensure that Chester Countians will be successful as citizens, parents, students, employers, employees and consumers.

You will also learn how you can help ensure responsible funding for public libraries by helping spread the word that the Chester County Library System is an essential resource for education, community building and economic development. Literacy levels will not improve without libraries – and libraries must have sufficient resources to play that vital educational role in all five literacies. More information about this initiative can be found at <http://pala.affiniscape.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=476>

Holiday Party Pics



Ways and Means

We have some great nuts and candy to help celebrate Valentines Day. I will have the goodies at the next meeting or give me a call or email and I will deliver.



The 50/50 Raffle will be arriving at the January meeting so bring your dollars. Carol Habig was the happy winner of the last raffle.

Recyclables -Don't forget to bring your old ink cartridges to meetings. We have made over \$100 to date through this endeavor and it is *Green*. To participate in any of our fundraisers, please contact Leslie Wachob at 610-458-1837 or rbs857@yahoo.com

February Brunch – Note Change of Date to February 18th!!

Due to conflicts with other activities at our brunch location, this year's brunch will be held on Saturday, February 18, instead of on Saturday, February 12, as it is listed in the AAUW Branch Handbook!! Please remember to note this change on your calendar!

We will once again be using the lovely meeting hall of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity, 212 South High Street, West Chester and will begin with the brunch at 10 a.m., followed by our program.

A fabulous video, filmed and produced by our own branch Secretary, Linda Lang, will be shown. The video shows all the activities that AAUW West Chester-Chester County participates in as part of GETT (Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology.) GETT is now in its 12th year of encouraging middle and high school girls from schools all around the area to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

We will also hear from the two young women from West Chester University who were funded by our branch to attend last year's National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Kristina Brown and Angelica Rivera-Ortiz will tell us first hand of their experiences at the conference.

You will be able to park at meters along High Street as well as in the parking lot across the street next to the Methodist Church – just be sure to have a few quarters with you for the meters! We also encourage car-pooling to minimize the number of vehicles needing parking spaces.

Our annual brunch is always well attended -- don't miss out! This is also a **“Shape the Future”** event, so invite a friend or two. Those who join during February and on into the spring of this year will receive a **significant** discount and an extended membership year!

Admission is only \$5 - pay at the door, but you must make a reservation no later than Friday, February 10! We also ask all members to provide something for the brunch table so that the admission fees can benefit our programs. Breads, rolls, yogurt and egg dishes are just a few of the items we've enjoyed in previous years. Complete information will also be printed in the February newsletter.

To RSVP or for answers to questions about the brunch, please contact one of the following: Elaine Burgess – 610-383-7018 or danb@ccis.net; Nancy Dore – 610-725-0459 or 4dores@comcast.net or Fran Pierce – 610-594-0625 or franpierce@verizon.net.

Branch Board Meetings

All Board meetings are open to the membership and this year will be held at the Women's Center at West Chester University. Meetings begin at 7 pm, are over by 9, and are usually on the first Tuesday of the month. Upcoming: Tuesday, January 4th via conference call.

Upcoming Meeting

NOTE FEB CHANGE OF DATE!!

February Brunch! Saturday, February 18, instead of on Saturday, February 12, as it is listed in the AAUW Branch Handbook! We will once again be using the lovely meeting hall of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity, 212 South High Street, West Chester and will begin with the brunch at 10 a.m., followed by our program. See page 7 for details.

Special Interest Groups

Couples Bridge

Meets the 3rd Saturday evening monthly at a member's home. We are a social group and welcome all who like to play. Contact the chair, Carol Habig, at 610-431-9987 or e-mail her at whabig@verizon.net.

Book and Discussion Groups

Lit I, Afternoon Book Discussion: Meets on the 4th Thursday. The Lit I book group will meet on January 26th at 1:00 at Roni Mullen's house to discuss *Snowflower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See. This is a book about the friendship of two women in 19th century China. The group will meet again on February 23 to discuss *Blessings* by Anna Quinlan. Please call Roni Mullen at 610-436-0912 if you would like to attend. Please note: Roni Mullen is the new leader of Lit I and can be reached at vmullen@comcast.net.

Lit II, Fiction and Non-Fiction: Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

January 18th, 7:00 pm - *Cutting for Stone*, by Abraham Verghese; Leader: Phyllis Dunn;

Hostess: Jean Speiser;

February 15th, 7:00 pm - *The Ghost Map* by Steven Johnson; Leader: Donna Eaves;

Hostess: Fran Pierce

New members are always welcome, and can join the group by contacting Donna Eaves at [610-692-5277](tel:610-692-5277) or deaves@live.com.

Lit III, Monday Evening Nonfiction Book Group— The Non-Fiction Book Group every other month at the Magnolia Grill, Chester County Book Company, West Goshen Shopping Center. Contact Paula McGinness for more information, 610-942-4852 (home) or 610-273-3303 (work).

Great Decisions

This group meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 1:30 pm. The Great Decisions group will meet at the Chester County Book Company on January 9th at 1:30 p.m.

Topic: *The Caucasus*; Leader: Jacky Page.

If you are interested please contact Jacky Page: 610-359-9887 or martin_page@msn.com

Finance Discussion Group

The Finance Discussion Group meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Participants are invited to bring related articles. For information contact: Leslie Olson, 610-793-2938 or olsonfour@verizon.net.

FIG (Food Interest Group)

Dining around, usually at a member's home. This group is co-ed, singles welcome. Each member brings a dinner item. The group meets the 2nd Saturday of each month. If interested please contact Betty Bradford at 610-363-7974; wdbrad@verizon.net

TIG (Travel Interest Group): AAUW TIGers

The first event of 2012 for the TIG will be Tuesday, February 28. We plan to attend the Travel Adventures presentation and dinner titled East African Safari at West Chester University. The cost is \$8 for the presentation and \$29 for the dinner. The dinner is composed of dishes eaten in East Africa. The presentations are always interesting and the dinners delicious and well worth the cost. These trips are open to all members and their guests. Please call or email Sue Johnston (610-363-8535, sueearlj@verizon.net) if you plan to join us.



West Chester-Chester County PA Branch
415 Sunset Hollow Rd.
West Chester, PA 19380

January 2012 NEWSLETTER

Meeting is Wednesday, January 11th, 7:00 pm

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

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www.aauwchestercountypa.org