



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

Volume 55, Number 3 November/December 2011

People Helping People:
The Volunteer English Program of Chester County
Wednesday, November 9th
Grove United Methodist Church
7 p.m. Networking and Nibbles
7:30 p.m. Program

This month's AAUW program will feature Linda Grosse, Executive Director of the Volunteer English Program of Chester County. Linda will explain how this almost-all-volunteer program has been able to change the lives of non-English-speaking adults in Chester County. Also speaking will be Sandy Kwisz, a VEP tutor and a longtime member of our AAUW branch, along with Elizabeth Kwisz, her daughter.

In recent years, the number of non-English-speakers has burgeoned in our county, and newcomers are eager, contrary to some popular beliefs, to learn to speak our language. Unfortunately, because so many of these newcomers are here due to harsh economic circumstances, they must work every spare hour they have and often cannot afford tutoring or classes in the English language. And without knowledge of English, these newcomers are at a distinct disadvantage when they attempt to find work, housing, transportation and avail themselves of the many services they need. This is especially true for parents of children who are in our public schools and who must know how to communicate with teachers and other education providers.

The VEP program has produced many touching stories during its existence – come and be inspired by both the tutors and the stories about foreign-speaking clients who have made great strides while participating in the VEP. You will long remember the courage and hard work of some of these hopeful participants!

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,

If you were unable to attend our October meeting, you missed a really fabulous program! We were honored to have Roberta Winters from the PA League of Women Voters do a very thorough and informative explanation of the details of the Marcellus Shale issue. You might think such a scientifically based topic would be dull -- it was anything but! Our presenter used an excellent power-point that included a few videos to cover all the basic information that many of us really did not know before, or did not thoroughly understand. Ms. Winters also left handouts that are extremely informative and contain the necessary websites and other research data in order for anyone who is interested to learn more on her own.

This subject, like so many others, helps us to realize how important it is for all of us to look at the issues facing our local municipalities, our state and our nation, and to educate ourselves on them. Then we **must** make the effort to vote! Not just in those big, presidential elections every four years, but in every election at every level! We have seen firsthand that government goes well beyond who sits in the White House – without thoughtful, intelligent and honest people at all levels of government, from school board to the Senate in Washington, our country will not have the leadership it needs in these complicated times.

On a lighter note, this month's newsletter brings you news of our annual fundraisers: the book sale at the Chester County Book and Music Company on November 15th and the Nut and Candy Sale beginning this month. Look for the order form for nuts in this newsletter. Our Holiday Party is once again being planned, and this year we will return to the lovely and convenient *Art Association of Chester County* for our festivities on Saturday, December 10 beginning at 6:30 p.m. There is also a reservation form for that party within these newsletter pages, so don't forget to complete that and send it in! You should also invite your

spouse or a guest to go with you – this is a perfect way to introduce a possible future member to the other women who make our branch such an enjoyable and worthwhile place to belong!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our meeting on November 9th and again at our Holiday Party on December 11.

Sincerely,
Fran Pierce, President



Fran Pierce

Holiday Home Tour to benefit West Chester Public Library

On December 10th, 13 beautiful and historic homes located in the northeastern area of the West Chester Borough, will open their doors to welcome you and the holidays. Built between 1836 and 1948 most are within easy walking distance of each other.

Tickets are on sale now for \$25 and on the day of the tour \$35. Tickets can be purchased at the West Chester Public Library, 415 North Church St. or at Chester County Book & Music Company in the West Goshen Shopping Center. Tickets can also be bought online at www.wcpubliclibrary.org or by contacting AAUW members, Phyllis Dunn (610) 696-1079, or Donna Eaves (610) 692-5277. Grab your friends and have some good ole' holiday fun while helping out the historic West Chester Public Library.

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 Elaine Burgess at danb@chesco.com.

We need your News!

The co-editors of AAUW SUM, Norma George and Nancy Rumfield, are delighted to bring you the November/December 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. ***News for January 2012 is due December 1st***. 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

Welcome new members!

Dr. Tamara Hollis
510 N. Lemon St. Apt. D8
Media, PA 19063
thollins@cheyney.edu
610-399-2256 (W)
484-326-8430 (H)

Assistant Professor of English
Cheyney University
Education: Claremont Graduate University,
MA, PhD, Cultural Studies & English;
Bennington College, MEA, Writing and
Literature; Hendrix College, BA, Art

~~~~~  
Susan Schwed  
605 Brecknock Drive  
Exton, PA 19341  
610-363-6542 (H)  
484-596-4910 (C)  
e-mail: [ksschwed@verizon.net](mailto:ksschwed@verizon.net)

Teacher  
Education: Queens College, BA, Education  
Elmira College, MA, Education

## Renewal for 2011-12

Joyce Marr  
11 Treaty Dr.  
Chesterbrook, PA 19087  
484-320-8310  
E-mail: [joycemar789@comcast.net](mailto:joycemar789@comcast.net)

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

The center had a big flood on their lower level, and is in need of pillows, twin sheet sets, and baby wipes. Sue Ciorletti will collect these items in November and gift cards in small denominations in December. Thank you for support.



*Thank you for your donations!*



## **It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard – Voter Education And Elections News**

*Ninety-Six Year-Old Woman Denied Voter ID Card Because She Didn't Have Her Marriage License*

This year, Tennessee followed several other states to pass a voter identification law that will go into effect for the 2012 election. Voting rights advocates and civil rights groups, such as the NAACP and ACLU, oppose voter identification laws because they marginalize poor, elderly, and minority voters who are less likely to have government-issued photo IDs. One such example has recently occurred: Dorothy Cooper, a 96-year-old Chattanooga resident, was denied a voter ID card for failing to produce her marriage license.

Cooper wanted to ensure she would have the necessary ID to vote in next year's elections. She provided a rent receipt, a copy of her lease, her voter registration card and her birth certificate. Typewritten on the birth certificate was her maiden name, Dorothy Alexander. The clerk denied Cooper her free ID at the Cherokee Boulevard Driver Service Center because she did not have her marriage certificate, which would document her legal name change. Cooper doesn't have a driver's license because she never learned how to drive. Under the Tennessee law, until she produces a certified copy of her marriage license Cooper will not be able to vote at polls on Election Day 2012.

AAUW believes it is vital for everyone, especially women, to be able to vote. AAUW is proud to launch a serious investment in getting out the women's vote for the 2012 election. Through the campaign, *It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard*, we will work to educate women across the country about the rights and privileges that are at stake in the upcoming election. We will increase the volume and direction of women's voices and commit ourselves to getting women to the polls in record numbers.

## **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 please contact Mary A Smith of the GETT Planning Committee for more information at 610-269-3375 or [Pangea49@comcast.net](mailto:Pangea49@comcast.net).

We're nuts about pecans!!



### *Pecans Are Coming*

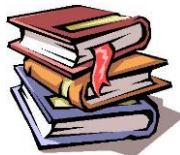
We will be arriving for the November meeting! Call Leslie Wachob to go dancing with these stars.

## Ways and Means

*Pecans* are to arrive for November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Place your orders on the enclosed flyer and email or call Leslie Wachob by November 7<sup>th</sup>. She is leaving for Spain on the 8<sup>th</sup> but some nice person will have the orders at the meeting.



*Book Fair & Sale* takes place on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at Chester County Book and Music Company. Items that may be purchased are books, gift-wrap and cards and pre-ordered books if picked up the day of the sale. Bring a friend. Go to the specially marked register and ask for assistance. We receive 15% of receipts for our scholarship.



*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](mailto:rbs857@yahoo.com)

## In Review - Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Extraction Presentation

By Peggy Staarman

"Though she be but little, she is fierce." (A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act 3) During the AAUW October meeting, diminutive Roberta Winters revealed her passion about protecting Pennsylvania's interests concerning the Marcellus Shale natural gas extraction. Her very informative presentation entitled "Rock and Roll" gave an overview of the history of this underground rock formation and the

development of the fracking technology that has evolved over decades to extract the gas from the shale.

Although natural gas is a cleaner, carbon-based fuel that may promote energy independence, provide jobs, and generate revenue, the extraction of the gas could have significant impact on Pennsylvania water resources, air quality, the economy, and the land itself. The League believes that Pennsylvania government policies should promote the protection and wise management of natural resources since they are the common property of all Pennsylvanians.

Ms. Winters ably addressed many questions and urged each of us to take a position after examining the facts. She encouraged AAUW members to contact their legislators to ensure transparency in all stages of production, to establish oversight, to encourage a sufficient fee structure on gas extraction, and to protect public health and the environment. If you would like to read the position statement of the League, view the study guides, or access related resources, go to [www.palwv.org](http://www.palwv.org).

## Member Notes and News

### 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, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Upcoming Meeting

#### December Holiday Party

This year's party will be held on December 11, 6:30 – 10:00, at the Chester County Art Association in West Chester. *See form on page 9 for details.*

### Special Interest Groups

#### Couples Bridge

Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:whabig@verizon.net).

## Book and Discussion Groups

**Lit I, Afternoon Book Discussion:** Meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday. The Lit I book discussion group will meet on November 17, 2001 at 1:00. The hostess is Hilary Kennedy, 610-269-5205. We will discuss "American Mania" by Peter Winslow. The next meeting is January 26, 2012. The hostess is Roni Mullen 610-436-0912. We will discuss *Snowflower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See.

Please note: the new leader of Lit I is Roni Mullen 610-436-0912, Vmullen@Comcast.Net

**Lit II, Fiction and Non-Fiction:** Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

*November 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm – Room* by Emma Donaghue; Leader: Peggy Staarman; Hostess: Donna Eaves;

*January 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm - Cutting for Stone*, by Abraham Verghese; Leader: Phyllis Dunn; Hostess: Jean Speiser;

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](http://live.com).

**Lit III, Monday Evening Nonfiction Book Group**— The Non-Fiction Book Group will hold its next discussion Monday, November 21, at the Magnolia Grill, Chester County Book Company, West Goshen Shopping Center, at 7:00 PM. Our discussion book is *Last Call; the Rise and Fall of Prohibition* by Daniel Okrent. Please place a hold at area libraries for a copy of the book. You may call Paula McGinness for more information, 610-942-4852 (home) or 610-273-3303 (work).

## Great Decisions

This group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 1:30 pm. If you are interested please contact Jacky Page: 610-359-9887 or [martin\\_page@msn.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. If interested please contact Betty Bradford at 610-363-7974; [wdbrad@verizon.net](mailto:wdbrad@verizon.net)

## TIG (Travel Interest Group): AAUW TIGers

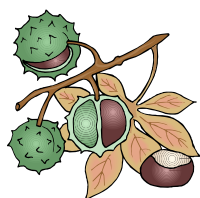
TIG has two events planned for December.

On *December 11* we will attend the *Vox Amadeus* presentation of *The Messiah* at Daylesford Abbey in Paoli at 4:00 PM, with a potluck brunch at the home of Graham and Barry Boose before the concert. Cost of the concert is \$25/adult and \$20/senior.

On *December 16*, we will tour two of the Fairmount Park Houses that will be decorated for Christmas. One is the Woodford built by William Coleman in 1756-58, a Philadelphia merchant and close friend of Benjamin Franklin. This Georgian-style house is very elegant. The other is Cedar Grove built by Elizabeth Coates Paschall in 1748-50. It was a summer residence for five generations of her family and contains many of the original family furnishings. Each tour lasts about an hour. At 11:00 AM, prior to visiting the houses, we will meet for lunch at Rembrandts. Cost is \$16 (\$8 per house) and does not include the cost of lunch. We need 15 people for the group tour.

These trips are open to all members and their guests. Please call or email Sue Johnston (610-363-8535, [sueearlj@verizon.net](mailto:sueearlj@verizon.net)) or Roselyn Cadoff (610-458-8813, [racadoff@verizon.net](mailto:racadoff@verizon.net)) as soon as possible, if you plan to join us. We will try to arrange carpools, as needed.





## PECANS AND CANDY ARE HERE !!



The pecans, walnuts, cashews and candy  
have arrived – **Just in time for your Holiday**

**Baking and Gift-Giving!!**

Orders will be available at the  
November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Please call or email Leslie Wachob by November 7 and your order will be ready for you to pick up at the  
AAUW Meeting on November 9.

Everything will also be available at Special Interest Group meetings.

***This year we are asking every member to help to raise money  
during this fund raiser not just by purchasing for herself, but by  
reaching out to friends and neighbors to sell a few more of these  
high-quality, excellent products. Please use the order form below to  
gather orders from friends.***

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone or E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

| # I am ordering                | Price                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| _____ Pecan logs               | @ \$4 each = \$ _____ |
| _____ Chocolate covered pecans | @ 8 each = _____      |
| _____ Caramel pecan clusters   | @ 8 each = _____      |
| _____ Pecans (1# bag)          | @ 10 each = _____     |
| _____ Cinnamon glazed pecans   | @ 8 each = _____      |
| _____ Glazed Pecans            | @ 8 each = _____      |

Total of my order = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please bring a check made out to:  
AAUW West Chester-Chester County  
(not to Leslie Wachob)*

*Or Send your check to Leslie at:  
1201 Porter Street  
Chester Springs, PA 19425*

Any Questions or To Place Your Order, Contact Leslie Wachob  
[Rbs857@yahoo.com](mailto:Rbs857@yahoo.com) 610 458-1837





**You Are Invited to Attend The AAUW  
December Holiday Gathering**

**AT:** *The Chester County Art Association  
100 North Bradford Avenue  
(Bradford Avenue at Market Street)  
West Chester, PA*

**ON:** *Saturday, December 11*

**TIME:** *6:30 to 10 p.m.*

**COST:** *\$15 Per Person - \$25 Per Couple*

*This event is a fundraiser for our scholarship fund.  
Beverages are included in your ticket price.*

**Please bring an Appetizer to share!**

**RSVP - Nancy Dore, [4dores@comcast.net](mailto:4dores@comcast.net), or 610-725-0459.**  
**Mail Completed form to Nancy at: 3 Thayer Drive, Frazer, PA 19355**  
**or bring this form with your check to the membership meeting on November 9.**

**Car Pooling is available**  
*Indicate your needs on the form below*

-----  
*I/We Will Attend the Holiday Party at the Chester County Art Association  
on December 11*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Or Email \_\_\_\_\_

Carpooling - I can drive people \_\_\_\_\_ -or- I need a ride \_\_\_\_\_  
Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *(Make checks payable to AAUW not to Nancy Dore)*  
(\$15 per person or \$25 per couple)

**I will bring \_\_\_\_\_ to share at the party.**



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

## ***November/December 2011 NEWSLETTER***

Meeting is Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.aauw.org)

[www.aauwpa.org](http://www.aauwpa.org)

[www.aauwchestercountypa.org](http://www.aauwchestercountypa.org)