



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

Volume 55, Number 5 February 2012

**AAUW February Brunch!**  
**Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am**

***We GETT it – Do you?***

Meeting Hall - Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity  
212 South High Street, West Chester, PA

You've heard about it, but do you really know what GETT is all about? Do you want to know why our AAUW branch is so excited and involved with this project? GETT, you may have heard, stands for "Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology." But what happens at GETT?

Our February brunch offers you the chance to find out and to see for yourself how perfectly this wonderful program fits into the mission of AAUW. In March of this year, girls from all over the Delaware Valley will converge on Great Valley High School to see, listen and explore options for careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The day offers them dynamic, hand-on learning activities and opportunities to meet inspiring role models who actually work in a broad variety of technical fields.

Our branch photographer, *Linda Lang*, took video of the GETT event last year. She has produced a really fabulous, fascinating film about the program, which will be the highlight of our brunch program. Don't miss this opportunity to socialize with many interesting women from AAUW, enjoy a scrumptious brunch buffet, and learn about GETT and other programs *in which* our branch participates for the benefit of girls and young women of our community. It's an unbeatable combination at an unbeatable price, just \$5.

You will pay at the door, but you *must reserve your spot by Sunday, February 12!!* Please contact one of the Program Vice-Presidents – Elaine Burgess at [danb@ccis.net](mailto:danb@ccis.net) or 610-383-7108, or Nancy Dore at [4dores@comcast.net](mailto:4dores@comcast.net) or 610-725-0459. This is one of our "*Shape the Future*" events, so please invite a friend or two. New memberships will receive a significant discount!

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity is located at 212 South High Street, West Chester. It is at the corner of High and Barnard Streets. There is metered street parking as well as a public lot very nearby on High Street. Bring a few quarters for the meters!

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## ***From the President***

Dear Members,

I know that I am not typical, but I *love* winter! Bear with me here – I will try to explain what it is that makes this time of year so special for me.

- I love that it gets dark early and gives me an excuse to sit in my book-nook and read with my favorite quilt over my feet, sipping a cup of hot tea.
- I love that the world seems to be hibernating and people stay close to home, resting up for the explosion of activities in spring.
- I love that at this time of year we look forward to our idealized images of Spring and Summer – imagining those days will be more perfect than they could ever really be!

And as AAUW Branch President, I love winter because I get the urge to take stock of the last year and have time to examine what things are going well and what I want to do in order to make a change that will still have time to flower before the end of the program year.

In that “taking stock” vein, I am encouraged that we continue to attract new members who are active and interested in supporting the branch in many ways, and I am pleased at the quality of the programs we have offered and the great turnouts we’ve had.

I am absolutely thrilled by the way new leaders have emerged and grown into their positions and now lead us to explore new issues and actions that we may not have thought about before.

There are other areas that I am excited about expanding – such as our college/university partnerships and our involvement in mission-focused projects. I am also hopeful that we will be able to nominate some of our members for recognition by AAUW-PA, and get more of

our members to attend state meetings and conventions.

I hope that you will give some thought to where we are as a branch and where you would like to see us go. Be ready – I might come up and ask you that question at our February brunch – Saturday, February 18 at 10 a.m. in West Chester! Hope to see you there!

Your president,  
Fran Pierce



*Fran Pierce*

## **League Of Women Voters**

### ***The Faces of Immigration***

*Save The Date - Thursday, April 26th*

How are immigrants contributing to Chester County and Pennsylvania and how welcoming are we?

We are co-sponsoring an event with the *Chester County League of Women Voters* and the *Pennsylvania Immigration & Citizenship Coalition*. The program, *The Faces of Immigration* will help to educate the public on issues surrounding this volatile subject.

As co-sponsors, AAUW is promising to help to circulate the invitation and encourage our members and friends to attend -- men and women alike. The program will feature several recent immigrants, an immigration attorney and others who have had experience dealing with this issue.

*Date:* Thursday, April 26th

*Location:* West Chester Borough Hall, 401 E. Gay Street, West Chester, PA

\*Contact AAUW coordinators Ann Duerr and Linda Lang for time and other information.

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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** at [franpierce@verizon.net](mailto:franpierce@verizon.net).

## ***We need your News!***

The co-editors of AAUW SUM, Norma George and Nancy Rumfield, are delighted to bring you the February 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](mailto: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. 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 to our New Member!

*Marie Dunne*

1210 Boulder Lane

West Chester, PA 19382

Telephone (610) 431-0641

E-mail: [marie1227@comcast.org](mailto:marie1227@comcast.org)

Education: BSN, University of VA  
(Retired Nurse)

Interests: GETT; Great Decisions

## 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 February meeting Sue Ciorletti will be collecting gift cards. Questions? Contact Sue at 610-344-0245. 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. Registration opens February 14<sup>th</sup>!**



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](mailto:Pangea49@comcast.net).

\*Learn more about GETT at the Feb. Brunch!

## **Legislation and Public Policy (LAPP)**

Even though the PA legislators did not pass the school voucher bill in 2011, this and other bills affecting public education could still be voted on in 2012. The governor may propose even deeper public school funding cuts when he unveils his state budget in February. The General Assembly returns Jan. 24. Stay tuned to LAPP ALERT.

Children reading to dogs? Check out the Chester County library article on basic literacy and how therapy dogs help children read in comfortable settings. Share positive library experiences with friends, teachers and legislators.

Make your great-great grandmother proud! Help turn out the women's vote in 2012. On March 17 we will support a LWVCC voter registration drive at the Exton Square Mall from 10AM-3PM. Contact Linda Lang for more information.

According to the Kiplinger Letter (12/30/11) women will make up the majority of the US workforce sometime in 2012, although much of the growth is due to lower paying jobs. However they are making gains, holding 52% of all managerial and professional jobs. Education is the key. Over the past few years, women have earned 60% of all bachelor's and master's degrees awarded in the US. On April 17, AAUW joins with the Women's Center at West Chester University for Equal Pay Day to emphasize that women make only 77% of what men earn.

Penn Environment and Earth Justice are two more websites that provide information on the environmental impact of drilling the Marcellus Shale for natural gas. Drilling can require up to 30 million gallons of water a day. Seismologists say that evidence links Ohio earthquakes to waste disposal from gas drilling in PA's Marcellus. Let your legislators know your concerns.

To access AAUW's Public Policy Program, Legislative Agenda, Congressional Voting Record: <http://www.aauw.org/Take Action>. Two Minute Activist can also be accessed from that same site.

## **Update on Lyme Disease at January Meeting**

*By Elaine Burgess*

Whatever medical condition one may have, the presence of Lyme intensifies and worsens it. During our January meeting, Doug Fearn of the Lyme Disease Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania gave a thorough and knowledgeable presentation on the topic of Lyme disease and associated diseases. Chester County has one of the highest incidence rates of Lyme disease in the country. Unfortunately, this disease is often misdiagnosed and minimized in its treatment. Fearn explained that the initially Lyme disease may manifest itself in flu-like symptoms. However, the occurrence of Lyme is generally highest in the warmer months of the year, which are generally not the months associated with flu. The range of symptoms varies greatly, and blood tests are notoriously unreliable. Less than half of those with Lyme, which is a bacterial infection, had the significant bulls-eye or any sort of rash as the result of a tick bite.

Lyme disease is especially difficult to treat and to diagnose. Standard treatment involves a short-term use of antibiotics, but many individuals do not respond to those medications and may develop chronic Lyme conditions and require longer care. Treatments are also controversial and it is often difficult to find a Lyme literate medical professional. The Lyme Disease Association can help advise and direct individuals to appropriate resources. They can be accessed through their website [www.LymeDiseaseAssociation.org](http://www.LymeDiseaseAssociation.org) or by calling (610) 388-7333. The SEPA chapter also meets on the third Wednesday of every month at the Kennett Friends Meetinghouse.

## Chester County Library System Moving FORWARD

By Peggy Wadsworth

Chester County Library System (CCLS) libraries are playing an essential role in the context of five 21st Century literacies, namely:

- Basic Literacy
- Information Literacy
- Civic and Social Literacy
- Health Literacy
- Financial Literacy

In this edition of AAUW SUM we are focusing on Basic Literacy. So what exactly is Basic Literacy? It is the ability to read and write. Key to all literacy is reading development, which involves a progression of skills that begins with the ability to understand spoken words and decode written words, and culminates in the deep understanding of text.

The CCLS member libraries respond to the evidence linking early literacy to long-term educational and economic success by providing services and resources that support literacy. One just has to read the description of the Literacy Classes/Storytimes offered at the Easttown Library & Information Center to understand our commitment to basic literacy:

*“Join us as we foster the skills your child needs in preparing to read. Stories, songs, instruments and movement all synchronize in nurturing your family’s love of books and in preparing your child for a lifetime of learning. All classes are designed for attendance by both youth and parents/caregivers”.*

Story times and children’s literacy programs are offered at all member libraries.

PAWS for Reading, being offered at the Atglen Public Library and several other libraries throughout the CCLS, is another program that allows children to improve reading and communication skills by reading aloud to a therapy dog. Children read individually to trained therapy pets (and their handlers) in a library setting where they can feel comfortable and confident — and have fun!

To learn more about early literacy events at a CCLS library near you, go to [www.ccls.org](http://www.ccls.org) and select *Find an Event*. These early literacy services are the first link in a chain of investments needed to build the educated workforce that leads to a healthy economy.

So let’s move **FORWARD** together with the rest of Pennsylvania, so that we can continue to be the healthiest, wealthiest and wisest County in the Commonwealth. The Chester County Library System is here to partner with you -- Read, Connect and Discover what we have and help us spread the word.

## Website Update

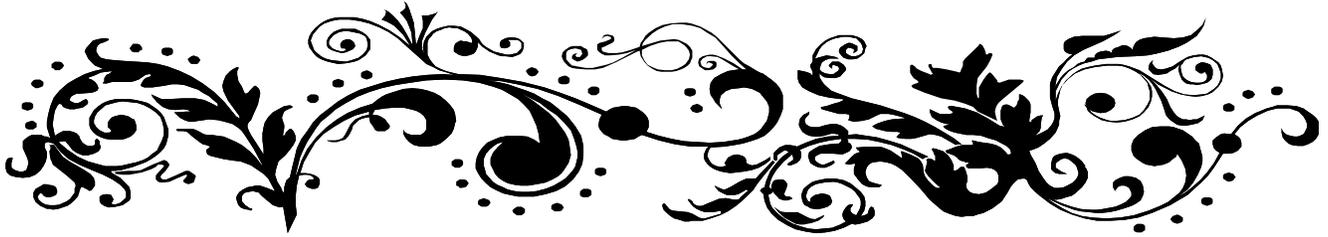
By Sandy Alexander



Our website has a new look! It is now hosted by AAUW National and the new address is [wccc-pa.aauw.net](http://wccc-pa.aauw.net). Some new and improved features are:

- a calendar for every month where you can click on the date to find more information about meetings and SIG activities
- a “contact us” page that will allow you to send news items information directly to the person who needs it without having to look up an email address!
- a slide show of photos
- a password-protected copy of the handbook for easy access
- much more, in addition to all of the content previously found on the website!

Please share our website with friends who are prospective members so they learn more about the wonderful opportunities the West Chester-Chester County AAUW provides! If you have any photos you would like included or suggestions regarding the website, please email webmaster Sandy Alexander at [wccc.aauw@gmail.com](mailto:wccc.aauw@gmail.com).



*You Are Invited*

*By:* AAUW West Chester-Chester County

*To:* Brunch and Entertainment

*Date:* Saturday, February 18

*Time:* 10:00 a.m.

*Place:* Trinity Episcopal Church Meeting Hall  
212 South High Street, West Chester  
(Corner of High & Barnard Streets)

Come and enjoy a delicious, full brunch and a film and discussion about  
GETT (Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology)

*You've heard about it, but what is it about? How many girls attend?  
Where is it held? How long has it been going on? Why are we involved as a branch? What does the  
day look like?*

A film taken at last year's GETT program by our own talented filmmaker, Linda Lang, will be shown, followed by a short discussion to answer your questions and explain the project and why we are involved. Also featured will be another outreach of our branch, NCCWSL. The two young women who attended last year's 3-day leadership program in Maryland on scholarship from our branch will be present to give us a short summary of what they learned, why this program is so important and why we should continue to support it.

Admission is just \$5 - payment is taken at the door.  
This is a fundraiser for our many outreach projects.

Please bring something to share – rolls, bread, a casserole or something else that is yummy for brunch!

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED!!**

RSVP to: Elaine Burgess [danb@ccis.net](mailto:danb@ccis.net) or 610-383-7018  
Nancy Dore [4dore@comcast.net](mailto:4dore@comcast.net) or 610-725-0459

## Ways and Means

We have some great nuts and candy to help celebrate Valentines Day. Leslie will have the goodies at the next meeting you may call or email your order, and she will deliver.

**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)

## Scholarship Funds

Donations since April 2011 from my *Duplicate Bridge Group* totaled \$245.00. This money has been sent to our treasurer with the understanding that it be sent to the *Alice Lawson Fund* or used in conjunction with that fund to provide a scholarship for a nontraditional student. Members of the Duplicate Bridge Group are both AAUW and non-AAUW women. On behalf of our Branch I thank all those who have contributed.

*Kay Philipps*

TIG Event for February 2012  
Tuesday, February 28, 2012

### East African Safari Travel Adventure

sponsored by

*West Chester University Foundation*  
Sykes Union

Theme Dinner at 5:30 PM in Sykes Ballroom C

Film at 7:00 PM in Sykes Theater

Cost: \$29 for dinner, \$8 for film

#### Dinner Menu:

Tanzanian Crabmeat Stew

Kenyan Tomato & Spring Onion Salad

Serengeti Chicken Stew with Sadza Dumplings

Rawandan Beef Kebobos with Hot Sauce

Nairobi Lentils

Bananas and Split Pease

Pineapple Fool

Coffee, Tea, Water, Wine, Ice Tea

You may attend either or both.

Please make check payable to *WCU Foundation* and mail to Sue Johnston by **February 15, 2012.**

## 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, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Upcoming Meeting

### March 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm.

Tucked away in the northeastern corner of Chester County, Anselma Mill is more than a remarkable example of surviving colonial-era technology; it was the backdrop for the lives of five families. One of its inhabitants was Sara Louisa Vickers Oberholtzer. She was born in Lionville in 1841 and later married John Oberholtzer, who operated the local mill, but her real story is astonishing and inspiring.

Come and learn all about the Mill at Anselma and the fascinating life of this woman who was a poet, Quaker activist, wife and mother. The meeting will be held at Grove United Methodist Church, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, March 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7 pm.

## 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).

**Lit I, Afternoon Book Discussion:** Meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday. The Lit I book discussion group will meet on February 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss *Blessings* by Anna Quinlan. On March 22<sup>nd</sup> the group will discuss *American Mania* by Peter Whybrow. Please contact Roni Mullen at 610-436-0912 or [vmullen@comcast.net](mailto:vmullen@comcast.net) for time and place.

**Lit II, Fiction and Non-Fiction:** Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.  
February 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm - *The Ghost Map* by Steven Johnson: Leader: Donna Eaves:  
Hostess: Fran Pierce

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm - *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* by W.E.B. Duois. Leader: Fran Peirce; Hostess: Lyn Eaton.

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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 1:30 pm. The Great Decisions group will meet at the Chester County Book Company on January 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:martin_page@msn.com)

## Finance Discussion Group

The Finance Discussion Group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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. Find the menu and more details on page 8. Please call or email Sue Johnston (610-363-8535, [sueearlj@verizon.net](mailto:sueearlj@verizon.net)) if you plan to join us.



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

***February 2012 NEWSLETTER***

Meeting is Saturday, February 18th, 10:00 am.

**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)