



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

Volume 55, Number 5 March 2012

A Chester County Woman of History
Wednesday, 14th

7 p.m. Networking and Nibbles
7:30 p.m. Program
Grove United Methodist Church

Have you ever eaten at the “Vickers Tavern” in Lionville? If so, you have been inside the home of one of Chester County’s prominent early families where Sara Louise Vickers was born in 1841 and where she grew up.

Sara was raised in Lionville and educated at Millersville Normal School, now known as Millersville University of Pennsylvania. Her family, for several generations before her, manufactured clay pottery – a tradition that was carried on until very recently at the Vickers Tavern which is now a well-known restaurant in Lionville.

Sara eventually married John Oberholtzer, a former teacher who operated the local Willowdale Mill, now known as the Mill at Anselma. Sara was a writer and poet, and used her talents in her activism as a Quaker whose family had been active in the abolitionist movement when she was a child. Later in her life, Sara became active in the Women’s Temperance Movement which eventually served as the foundation of the Women’s Suffrage Movement.

Gwyn Rowland, Executive Director of the non-profit that restored Anselma Mill and now operates it as an historic site, will speak to us about the fascinating life of Sara Louise Vickers Oberholtzer as well as the history and present day uses of the mill.

Remember – March is ***Membership Development Month!*** Bring a friend with you to the meeting and get a free ticket for the prize from AAUW!

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

Hello members!

All the recent political talk about raising or not raising taxes makes me think about our own dues to AAUW. No one likes to pay more than they are already paying for anything, and I am sure that includes your AAUW Membership! But how can we work together to keep our dues where they are?

I am declaring the month of **March** to be “membership recruitment month” for AAUW West Chester-Chester County. That’s a very simple way for us to keep our branch healthy and viable and to ensure that we will have satisfied members, strong new leaders and stable dues for the foreseeable future.

It sounds great, but just how do you do that? I have personally recruited more than six (6) members to our branch, and I don’t do that just by hoping that someone I know will join or by telling them about an interesting program we are going to have. Oh, yes, I do those things, but more importantly, I am proactive in recruiting members.

What does it mean to be a proactive recruiter? It means very simply not waiting for members to fall in your lap, and not expecting people to join an organization because it’s a nice thing to do! Here are specific, concrete things you can do to recruit a new member:

- **Identify Possible Members** - Look through your various directories – email, work, church, other clubs you belong to, holiday card list and neighborhood. Choose one or two possible interested people from each one – give yourself the challenge to find at least one from each list!
- **Get In Touch** - Make it a point to be in touch with that person. Invite her to lunch, have her over for coffee, or send her an email to “catch up” on your friendship. Or pick up the phone and call her to chat.
- **Get Reacquainted** - Start out by asking what she’s been doing lately. What has she been involved with? Has she retired recently? If so, even better! Do you know what she did for a living? What she does as a hobby? How she spends her leisure time?

- **Listen** to her responses and find a link to something that AAUW is doing or that is part of our mission. Will we be hosting an upcoming program on something she is interested in? Is she looking for a volunteer opportunity? Listen and suggest AAUW!
- **Reach Out** and send her a note by email or a copy of our latest newsletter by email or hard copy. Send her a link to our website as well as the state and national websites: www.aauw.org , www.aauw-pa.org , or wccc-pa.aauw.net .
- **Invite Her**, and better still escort her to our next program, your SIG group meeting, or even a board meeting.

And remember, from now through June, all new members can join for just \$45.50, and will remain members until June 30 of 2013!! To encourage your involvement in this venture, anyone who brings a friend to any of our upcoming events or meetings through the end of this program year will be put into a drawing for an AAUW gift item. Anyone who gets a friend to actually join our branch will receive one of the brand new, teal enamel AAUW pins in addition to being entered into the drawing.

Start now! Invite a friend to the March meeting to hear about Sara Vickers Oberholtzer and Anselma Mill, or to volunteer with you for “GETT” on March 24, or attend “The Faces of Immigration” program that we are co-sponsoring with the League of Women Voters on April 26.

I look forward to meeting all the new members you will bring to our branch in the next few months!

Sincerely,
Fran Pierce, President



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 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 this 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). 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 newest member!

Dr. Linda Stevenson
West Chester University
Ruby Jones Hall #206
West Chester, PA 19383

Home: 1036 Black Rock Road,
Gladwyne, PA 19035

Phone: 610 649 3421

E-mail: Lstevenson66@aol.com

Interests: Public Publicly, Immigration, Great Decisions, and Domestic Violence Center

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. **Claudia Mosso, Keystoner Editor**

Domestic Violence Center

At the March meeting Sue Ciorletti will be collecting ladies' packaged underwear in average sizes. Questions? Contact Sue at 610-344-0245. Thank you for your support.

GETT is almost here! GETT ready to volunteer!

Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology's scheduled event is March 24, 2012 at Great Valley High School. Registration opened on February 12th and this year's GETT will be bigger and better than ever. Come join the fun and volunteer! Volunteering at GETT 2012 is a great way to sharpen public speaking experience, donate time for a great cause and develop material to round-out a resume...did I mention there's free breakfast and lunch? In the past AAUW has been involved in bag stuffing, registration, flag leaders, lunch monitor, etc. Please check out GETT on our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/gettpa>.

GETT's morning Keynote Speaker is Gayle Laakmann McDowell, founder and CEO of CareerCup. Gayle has worked at Microsoft, Apple, and Google and is author of "The Google Resume", which offers advice on getting hired at the world's top tech companies. Gayle has a Bachelor and Master's degree from University of Pennsylvania, and a MBA from U.Penn's Wharton School of Business.



Karen Cantrell-Borda

GETT's afternoon speaker will be Karen Cantrell-Borda, founder of the original GETT 12 years ago.

If you can help on the day before for bag stuffing and set-up at 4:00 at Great Valley High School or the day of the event on March 24th please email me at pangea49@comcast.net. If you need more information you can also call Mary Smith of the GETT Committee at 610-269-3375. Please encourage potential participants to register as space is running out! See you there....

AAUW West Chester-Chester County Annual Awards

AAUW-PA has revamped its awards categories and requirements, and will be announcing award winners at the upcoming April convention in Pittsburgh. Every branch is encouraged to choose those from their branch members who are notable for their work or commitment to our mission. Members were solicited for nominees. At our February meeting of the branch Board of Directors, we voted on those to be honored.

The award titles, requirements, nominees and winners are:

Outstanding Woman

The recipient is a member who is chosen by the branch for meritorious service to our branch and to the community *over multiple years*.

Our branch nominees were: Elaine Burgess, Leslie Wachob and Sue Ciorletti.

Our winner for 2011-12 is **Leslie Wachob**. Leslie is a past-president of our branch, has been our fundraising chair for several years, and serves as the AAUW-PA Treasurer.

“TEAL” Award

This recognition is for a recent-term contribution by an unsung branch hero, or a recent or new branch member exemplifying the spirit of AAUW. This new award honors the member as someone who has made a big difference in something important to our branch *within the last year*.

Our branch nominees were: Linda Lang, Valerie Connors, Adale Sholock and Sandy Alexander.

Our winner for 2011-12 is **Linda Lang**. Linda is a recently new member who became active almost from the beginning of her membership. She has become our official photographer and chronicles all our activities and events. She decided to make a film of the GETT event last year, without being asked, and produced a wonderful documentary of that day. She is also now our branch Secretary.

Gateway to Equity

This award recognizes a person or organization in our community that has advanced equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy or research. The award is traditionally given out on March 8, International Women’s Day.

Our branch nominees were: The Chester County Fund for Women and Girls, The Chester County Domestic Violence Center, Wings for Success and the West Chester University Women’s Center.

Our winner for 2012 is **Wings for Success**. This organization provides clothing, mentoring, tutoring and job-hunting skills for women who are entering the workforce without the needed skills to succeed.

Special Honoree

Each branch is encouraged to recognize a longstanding member who has served in many capacities over the years and continues to inspire and support those who are now leaders and members.

Our branch nominees were: Graham Boose, Yvonne Peiffer, Mary Smith and Peg Anderson (posthumously.)

Our winner for 2011-12 is **Graham Boose**.

Congratulations to all the winners as well as to all the nominees – your AAUW sisters think the world of you! Thank you for your service and inspiration.

Wings for Success

To find out more about our **Gateway to Equity** Award winner visit:

<http://wingsforsuccess.org/>



You may be able to volunteer or donate!

Voices of Immigration in Chester County

April 26 Forum to Highlight Voices of Immigration in Chester County

- *What are the experiences of Immigrants who settle here?*

- *What's happening with proposals for immigration reform?*

America has made little headway on immigration reform since a committee of members from the Chester County chapters of the LWV and AAUW and Leagues around the country studied the issue a few years ago. (find LWVUS positions on immigration at <http://www.lwv.org/search/content/Immigration>).

In fact, since then immigration reform proposals have failed in Congress, several states like Arizona have placed restrictions on immigrants prompting US Supreme Court consideration, and a package of anti-immigration bills has been introduced in the Pennsylvania Legislature. Candidates for national and statewide offices continue to debate the treatment of people from other lands, especially those without documentation.

Too often, the voices of individuals who have migrated to the United States are lost in fiery rhetoric. Consequently, the Chester County LWV and AAUW chapters are teaming up with the Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC) - Pennsylvania's only statewide immigrant's rights organization - to sponsor **"Voices of Immigration in Chester County" on Thursday, April 26, 2012 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the West Chester Council Chamber in the West Chester Borough Offices, 401 East Gay Street, West Chester.** (Parking in the rear).

This program features immigrants from Mexico, India and Puerto Rico. Hear from a mushroom farm supervisor, an Indian professional, a young undocumented woman who has lobbied for the adoption of the Dream Act, a federal and state act that would provide a path to citizenship for young immigrants who complete a college degree or serve in the military, and an immigration attorney who represents clients throughout Chester County.

Learn about proposals before Pennsylvania lawmakers now, and about what we can do to promote fairness. Plan to attend on April 26th.

For more information, contact Linda Lang or Ann Duerr (AAUW) or Betsey Cullen (LWVCC).

Come Along With Me!

No, it's not the old love song by Andy Williams, but instead it's an invitation to join some of our branch members on a road trip to the **AAUW-PA State Convention** in April. For a minimal cost, you can experience what a statewide AAUW convention is all about, and have an impact on the future of AAUW here in Pennsylvania.

The 83rd Convention of AAUW-PA will be held at the Radisson Hotel, Green Tree, in Pittsburgh from April 13 through 15th. The program and workshops are shaping up to be interesting and informative with some fun thrown in for good measure! Tours are being organized for off-times, and an Equal Pay Rally where we will join with partner organizations promises to be exhilarating.

Some of the workshops and sessions include topics from progress on *Marcellus Shale* initiatives and a report on the Status of Women, to sampling how other branches have succeeded in various efforts in their STEM initiatives and membership growth.

Please think about joining us for this weekend that promises to be a wonderful opportunity for networking with strong, activist women from across our state! We will be registering as a group, so contact branch president, Fran Pierce, if you are interested. franpierce@verizon.net or 610-594-0625. For more information about the convention, go to www.aauwpa.org.



Alice Lawson Scholarship

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) West Chester Branch will again be awarding a \$1000 scholarship to an undergraduate student 25 years of age or older. The deadline for the application is March 26, 2012 for the 2012-2013 academic year.

We invite eligible students from West Chester University, Cheyney University and Immaculata University to submit an application. Eligibility requirements and application forms are available at wccc-pa.aauw.net under scholarships. You may also contact Mimi Jones at danandmimi1@verizon.net or Sue Johnston at sueearlj@verizon.net for further information.

You will find more information and be able to make a donation online at the Chester County Community Foundation website: <http://www.chescocf.org/Funds/Fund%20purpose/Alice%20Lawson%20Scholarship%20Fund.htm>
You can also make a donation by sending a check to: Alice Lawson Scholarship c/o CCCF, 28 West Market Street, West Chester, PA 19382

Ways and Means

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

Did you know?

The **National Girls Collaborative Project** has a website for information about STEM? This link will take you to what's going on in PA. <http://www.ngcproject.org/pa/index.cfm>

Website Update: There's a link for that!

By Sandy Alexander



Hopefully, you have had a chance to take a look at the new branch website. You can find it at: <http://wccc-pa.aauw.net/>

The area on the right hand side of the page has many useful links.

- At the very top is a section for **Branch News**. Links to information about current issues are located here.
- Just below the Branch News is a **Calendar of Events**. Any date that is in bold is a link. Click it to find out what's happening on that date. If you then click on the name of the event, you will see full details.
- Below the Calendar of Events is a section for AAUW Links. Here you can see national issues and take action by clicking on the link for **2 Minute Activist**.

If you want to add any information or links to the website or if you have pictures to share, please email webmaster Sandy Alexander at wccc.aauw@gmail.com.

Legislation and Public Policy (LAPP)

By Ann Duerr

We have identified a few concerns with Governor Corbett's public school funding proposal for 2012/13:

- 1) Funding to public schools would decrease by \$80 million in addition to the \$860 million last year, which brings total back to the 2008 budget level.
- 2) Twelve Pennsylvania school districts are on the verge of bankruptcy, including Chester Upland, Reading, and Allentown.
- 3) The lack of education is in direct relationship to the large prison population - costing approximately three times more per

inmate then educating a student in public schools.

Get involved with ***Partners for Public Education*** (partnersforpubliced.org) for legislative updates and community projects. Watch for LAPP ALERT e-mails.

Kathy Neary will organize our involvement with voter registration at the March 14th AAUW meeting. If you can spare an hour on March 17th join the LWV at the Exton Mall between 11 AM and 3 PM. LWV Legislative Directories for 2012 will be available.

On April 17th we will partner with the WCU Women's Center and Club for their Pay Equity Bake Sale between 11 AM and 2 PM. Baked goods, one hour of your time selling and informing visitors about pay inequity, or doing both, will help raise money towards purchasing the Center's affiliation with AAUW. Sign-up at our March 14th meeting.

Chester County Library System Moving You FORWARD

Chester County Library System (CCLS) libraries are playing an essential role in the context of five 21st Century literacies, which are: 1) Basic Literacy, 2) Information Literacy, 3) Civic and Social Literacy, 4) Health Literacy 5) **Financial Literacy**.

In this edition of AAUW SUM we are focusing on **Financial Literacy**. The CCLS plays an important role in helping citizens become informed consumers as well as helping individuals, small businesses, and other organizations contribute to the economic vitality of our community by stimulating innovation, entrepreneurship and economic development.

Public libraries in the CCLS contribute many resources to workforce development strategies. The combination of public access computers, enhanced workforce collections, and training and outreach partnerships give these libraries a unique position as a resource for community-wide workforce development efforts.

The libraries' career and employment resources prepare workers with new technologies. Many people entering the workforce rely on libraries in the CCLS to get them online. To learn more about workforce development events at a CCLS library near you, go to www.ccls.org and select *Find an Event*

CCLS' small business resources and programs lower barriers to access to current data. Whether providing information on regulations associated with incorporating a new business or locating critical information, CCLS provides more business resources than ever before. Check out the CCLS online and ***Business and Career Center*** at http://www.ccls.org/cwo/Find_a_Resource/Business Be sure to read the *Business News* newsletter, a quarterly publication, aimed at informing the business community and library customers about the libraries' business resources and services.

Many libraries have a selection of federal and state tax forms, instructions & publications for individuals. Tax information is also available online by visiting www.ccls.org > Find a Resource > Websites by Subject > Taxes

The CCLS broadly impacts our community's economic health by providing local businesses with cost-effective access to information, educating our workforce and increasing community vitality.

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.



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, March 6th.

Upcoming Meeting

March 21st, 7:00 pm.

The guest speaker at our next meeting will be Robert Struble, Jr., Watershed Conservation Director, Brandywine Valley Association. He will address conservation initiatives and local environmental concerns in Chester County. Grove Methodist Church.

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.

Lit I, Afternoon Book Discussion: Meets on the 4th Thursday. The Lit I group will meet on March 22, 2012 at 1:00 PM to discuss *American Mania - When Enough is not Enough*. This book, by Peter Whybrow, presents a clear vantage point from which to understand the extraordinary achievements and excessive consumption of the American people. Eleanor Sinclair is the hostess. Please let hostess Eleanor Sinclair know if you plan to attend, by calling 610-436-8151.

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

The Lit II group will meet on March 21, 7:00 pm. The book selection is *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan. Please note this change. Leader: Fran Pierce; Hostess: Lyn Eaton.

For the April 18 meeting, 7:00 pm, the book selection is *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* by W.E. DuBois. Leader: Fran Pierce; 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.

Lit III, Monday Evening Nonfiction Book Group

The Non-Fiction Book Group will hold its next discussion on Monday, March 19, 2012 at the Magnolia Grill in the Chester County Book Company, West Goshen Shopping Center, at 7:00 PM. The discussion book is *Catherine the Great* by Robert K. Massie. Please place a hold at area libraries for a copy of the book. You may call Paula McGinness for more information at 610-942-4852 (home) or 610-273-3303 (work).

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

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions group will meet at the Chester County Book Company on March 12, at 1:30 pm. The topic for discussion is American National Security since 9/11. Leader: Kathryn Retallick.

TIG (Travel Interest Group): AAUW TIGers

The Travel Interest Group is composed of those who like to go on day trips. Trips are open to all members and guests; space may be limited. Please call or email Sue Johnston (610-363-8535, sueearlj@verizon.net) if you are interested.



West Chester-Chester County PA Branch
717 Hunt Club Lane, Chester Springs, PA 19425
March 2012 NEWSLETTER
Meeting is Wednesday, March 14th, 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

www.aauwpa.org

www.aauwchestercountypa.org