



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

Volume 57, Number 1 September 2013

Welcome Back! Annual September Pot Luck Supper



Wednesday, September 11th, 2013
 6:30 P.M.
 Grove United Methodist Church
 490 W. Boot Road, West Chester

Join us for our traditional kick-off of the new program year. Reconnect with old friends, meet our new AAUW officers, members and guests, and share some delicious homemade dishes. Bring a friend to introduce her to AAUW and learn about all the activities and projects we have to offer for the 2013-2014 program year. Also, we will hear from member Valerie Connors about the AAUW Community Action Grant awarded to our branch to fund a new initiative, Parents-Educators Exploring Tomorrow's Technology (PETT), and how you can get involved.

We have changed the dish donation assignments again so that you can share a new type of dish. Please bring a quantity that serves approximately 6 people.

- Members with last names from A through G, please bring a casserole.
- Members with last names from H through P, please bring a dessert.
- Members with last names from Q through Z, please bring a salad.

Please note: New Members and Guests do not need to bring a dish.

Directions to Grove United Methodist Church, 490 Boot Road, West Chester, PA 19380. From West Chester, take Route 100 North to Boot Road; turn left and follow toward the intersection of Grove Road/Whitford Road. The Church is on your left before you reach the intersection. Additional information at www.grovechurch.org or 610-696-2663.

Contents

<i>From the Co-President</i>	2	<i>Women's Equity Day</i>	4	<i>Mission</i>	7
<i>A. Lawson Scholarship</i>	2	<i>PETT</i>	4	<i>Membership</i>	8
<i>Fundraiser</i>	3	<i>Legislation & Public Policy</i>	5,6	<i>Board Meetings</i>	8
<i>Equity Award Winner</i>	3	<i>May Banquet</i>	6	<i>SIGs</i>	8, 9

From the Co-President

Dear Members,

I hope you had a relaxing and fun summer with family and friends. It seems like just yesterday that I was saying “see you in September.” September has always been my start of a new year and from childhood, I enjoyed starting fresh with new things – clothes, notebooks, pencils, calendar and a bright outlook. I have the same positive feeling as we start our new program year.

During the summer, Jean Speiser and Peggy Staarman, our Co-Vice Presidents for Program, have been busy coordinating our exciting line up of programs. Be sure to check the program schedule in our new Handbook which you will receive at the Welcome Back Potluck Supper on Sept. 11th. The handbook has a new look but it is still the place to find all the important information about our branch including the members’ directory. Thanks to Sandy Alexander for her hard work in putting the handbook together. Also, in the summer, the board and other committee members met at our annual summer retreat to review the past year and set new goals in many areas for the 2013-2014 program year. Look for a report in the October newsletter.

I have been very fortunate in sharing my role as co-president with such capable women – Fran Pierce and Dorothea Lavigne. Last year I enjoyed sharing responsibilities with Fran and learned a great deal. I look forward to continuing in my role as co-president with Dorothea Lavigne. Dorothea brings a lot of experience to the position and a strong commitment to our mission. She has a wonderful sense of humor and it’s been fun getting to know her as we have met this summer to discuss AAUW business.

New to the board this year are Carol Habig and Laura LaBuda. As Co-Vice Presidents for Membership, Carol and Jane Schultz will work together to continue to develop branch membership. Laura LaBuda will take on the responsibility of Corresponding Secretary.

I hope you will join me in thanking Carol and Laura for taking on these two very important positions.

As the new program year begins, think about the ways that you can make the most of your membership in AAUW—attend program meetings and bring a friend, check out a board meeting, join a committee or Special Interest Group, help with fundraising, volunteer at GETT and PETT events, be a two minute activist, and stay informed -- by reading AAUWSome and the Handbook and logging on to our website: wccc-pa.aauw.net with links to AAUW and AAUW PA.

Please always feel free to contact your co-presidents and board members with questions and suggestions. I’m looking forward to seeing you at many branch events.

Sincerely,
Sandi Kwisz

Donation to the Alice Lawson Fund

Kay Philipps *Social Duplicate Group* donated \$270.00 to the Alice Lawson Fund, which provides a scholarship to a non-traditional student at a local college/university. The donated funds were received from November 2012 through July 2013. The duplicate group consists of both AAUW and non-AAUW members. Participating AAUW members are Betty Bradford, Carol Habig, Cynthia Fischer, Jane Schultz, Martina Ossman, Mary Pinkney, Mary Smith, and Kay Philipps. This group meets once a month during the day. Members interested in joining should call or e-mail Kay Philipps.

Contributions to the Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund can be sent to:

Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund
Chester County Community Foundation Inc.
28 Market Street, West Chester, PA 19382

Online contributions to the Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund can be made at:

<http://www.chescocf.org/funds/Fund%20purpose/Alice%20Lawson%20Scholarship%20Fund.htm>.

Flower Power Fundraiser



Our spring Flower Power fundraiser raised \$682 to support branch activities. Thank you for making it such a success!

Because it was so successful as well as an easy and fun way to raise funds for our branch, we are starting off the year with a quick fall FlowerPower fundraiser. If you love seeing colorful blooms after a drab winter, this sale is for you. The fall catalog features bulbs and roots that you can plant in fall for flowers that bloom in the spring – daffodils, tulips, alliums, hyacinths, Mariposa Lilies and many more. You are sure to find something for your garden or a gift for a friend. Our branch receives 50% on every sale.

There are two easy ways to order. For online sales, go to our branch website wccc-pa.aauw.net and click on the FlowerPower logo at the top of the page. It will take you directly to our account. Then follow the step-by-step directions to place your order.

If you prefer making purchases by mail order, fall catalogs and order forms will be available at the September Program Meeting. Just complete your order on the provided form; include payment (cash or checks made to AAUW-WCCC); and return both to the October Program Meeting.

Don't forget to invite friends and families to make a purchase too. With your help we can reach our goal of \$400 and get our fundraising efforts off to a good start.

Gateway to Equity Award Winner

This year's recipient of AAUW's Gateway to Equity Award is the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls. The award is given to an individual or organization in our community that has advanced equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, or research. Chester County Fund for Women and Girls is a great fit with AAUW's mission and a wonderful choice for the Award. The Fund is dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls and all members of the Chester County community through grantmaking, education, and community collaboration.

Since its beginning in 1996, the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls has awarded over \$1.9 million in grants to more than 58 agencies throughout Chester County "to strengthen the physical well-being, safety and economic freedom of women and families in diverse communities across our county." In both 2005 and 2010, the Fund commissioned the *Blueprint Report* to collect data focusing on the economic, social and health status of women and girls in Chester County. Three key areas of concentration for its grantmaking initiatives are: Girls' Positive Development, Women and Girls' Economic Security and Women and Girls' Health and Safety. You can read more about the report and the Fund at www.ccwomenandgirls.org.

We look forward to our association with the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls in the coming year.



Chester County
FUND for WOMEN and GIRLS

Women's Equality Day



Women's Equality Day was recognized in Chester County with a proclamation issued by the Chester County Commissioners. From left, Commissioner Terence Farrell, League of Women Voters of Chester County President Susan Carty, AAUW West Chester Co-President Sandi Kwisz, representatives from the Chester County Women's Commission, Commissioner Kathi Cozzone and Commissioner Ryan Costello. From the County of Chester Proclamation: " hereby proclaims August 26, 2013 as *Women's Equality Day* in Chester County recognizing the hard work and perseverance of the pioneers who helped secure women's suffrage, and honoring the work of all organizations that are dedicated to raising awareness of, and taking positive action on issues that impact the lives of women and girls in Chester County."

What's on the Branch Website?

Have you checked out the calendar on the branch website recently? Click on any bold number to see what's going on that day. Then click on the event name for a more complete description. Want to see what Lit I and Lit II are reading this month? Click on the date for the third Wednesday or the fourth Thursday. Click **again** to see the book cover and read a brief description. Check out the Saturday or Sunday plans for the Food Interest Group each month. Want to get your SIG or committee event on the calendar? **Email webmaster Sandy Alexander at aauwchestco@yahoo.com.**

AAUW Awards Grant to Our Branch

Thanks to the creativity and excellent grant-writing skills of our members Graham Boose, Valerie Connors, and Mary Smith, our branch was recently awarded a \$7,000.00 Community Action Grant by AAUW. The grant will fund a new initiative, Parents-Educators Exploring Tomorrow's Technology (PETT), in response to the needs expressed by parents who attended Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology (GETT), a one-day STEM event for girls that has been held every March in Chester County for the past 13 years. PETT will provide parents and educators with information, resources, contacts, and strategies to nurture K-12 girls who are interested in the STEM fields. PETT will bridge the gap between girls' desire to pursue STEM studies and the support needed from parents and educators to realize this goal.



Co-Directors of PETT

A newly created website, www.aauwgirlsstemcenter.org, provides valuable information and suggestions for parents and educators as well as links to STEM resources that are available on a local, regional and national level. The program directors also have formed a PETT Planning Committee comprised of branch members and community women passionate about empowering girls in STEM. We congratulate Mary and Valerie, the PETT program co-directors pictured above, for recognizing the need for this program, which has received funding and recognition from AAUW national. To learn more about PETT, please visit the website or contact Valerie or Mary.

Legislation and Public Policy (LAPP)

Ann Duerr

The 2013-2014 LAPP goals will be determined at the August 29th Leadership/ Board Meeting and then posted on the West Chester/ Chester County website at wccc-pa.aauw.net .

Become a 2 Minute Activist by checking the local website (under AAUW Links) that connects you with your local representatives regarding relevant issues, which presently are immigration and STEM. Provide us with feedback.

AAUW Washington Update is e-mailed weekly from the National Office. Mary Dorsey-Bunnell, Co-Chair, will edit the material, e-mail our membership information regarding our goals, and provide alerts needing immediate action. If you want the entire Update, please let us know. If you prefer not to have this information, your name will be deleted.

Our team includes Whitley Harbold, Linda Lang, and Peggy Staarman plus any interested member.

Students Offer Opinions on Education

Ann Duerr, AAUW Legislation and Public Policy Committee

On March 21st, 2013 a PA Senate Education Committee public hearing, organized by Senator Folmer (R), Majority Chairman, and Senator Dinniman (D), Minority Chairman, was held at the STEM Academy in Downingtown. This is the first time the committee has designated a hearing specifically for students' and parents' input on their schools, on their curriculum, and on the overall direction of education in Pennsylvania.

The hearing included testimony from 10 high school students from the public and nonpublic schools in Coatesville and Downingtown areas including Downingtown High Schools East and West, Downingtown STEM Academy,

Coatesville Area Senior High, Center for Arts and Technology Brandywine, and Bishop Shanahan and Collegium Charter School. Students were selected to represent a variety of backgrounds, grades, genders, GPA's, and ethnicities.

The group agreed that standardized testing is necessary; however, the majority of students thought too much time was focused on teaching to the test. Providing different levels of testing for special needs students, the advanced student, and ESL students would be more appropriate. Being tested right after completing a course such as biology instead of waiting two years would be helpful.

Most students thought that the teacher evaluation proposal based on 50% test scores and on 50% observation should be weighted heavier on observation than on test scores and that even student input should be considered. Some students are poor test takers but do well in the classroom.

Students rate teachers highly who are passionate about their respective subjects, present new ways of thinking, allow students to discover their own best system of learning styles, are open to input, and are actively engaged in their students' lives.

Suggestions for improving their education included more civic activities; projects involving collaboration; longer class periods for advanced courses; getting help for younger, non- motivated students (harder to change when older); balancing classwork involving technology; updated textbooks; and focusing more on handwritten assignments instead of papers typed using software programs where spelling and grammar corrections are done for you.

Answers to Sen. Folmer's inquiry of what is the definition of success included doing what makes you happy; feeling good about yourself, giving back; being the best you can be; being self confident; being dedicated to your goals; being able to motivate yourself and others;

following your dreams; and being happy with who you are where you are.

Both Senators thought the hearing was insightful and refreshing since the loudest voices they heard on the committee were from interest and lobbying groups. Senator Dinniman summed up the hearing by stating: "We are trying to create a student and parent voice across the commonwealth and in the end we believe that not only will it improve education but it will improve public support". Hearings also were conducted in three other areas of PA.

Branch Annual Meeting and May 2013 Banquet

Members and guests attended the 2013 AAUW West Chester Annual May Banquet to celebrate our successful 2012-2013 program year, install new officers and announce award winners. Special thanks to branch member, Phyllis Dunn, who made the arrangements at the West Chester Country Club. It was a special evening to look back over the year and recognize our accomplishments.

As part of the business meeting, officers were elected and installed. Molly Scott, chair of the nominating committee thanked Kay Philipps, Sue Ciorletti, Roni Mullen and Elaine Burgess for serving on the committee and announced the nominees. The new elected officers are: *Carol Habig*, Co-Vice President for Membership; *Peggy Staarman*, Co-Vice President for Program, *Laura LaBuda*, Corresponding Secretary; and *Dorothea Lavigne* and *Sandi Kwisz*, Co-Presidents. The new officers were installed by Cathy Palmquist, a previous branch president. Cathy added a special touch by presenting flower seeds to new officers as each pledged to work toward the growth and development of our branch.

The banquet was a night of awards recognizing many for their outstanding achievements. Sue Johnston and Mimi Jones, chairs of the Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund, announced our annual recipient, Kristen Merk. Kristen, a student at Immaculata University in Healthcare

Management, was present at the banquet to accept the scholarship, which is given each year to a nontraditional student.

Co-President Fran Pierce introduced the nominees and announced the winners for each of the branch awards. The **TEAL Award** is given in recognition for a recent term contribution by an unsung branch member, or to a recent or new branch member who exemplifies the spirit of AAUW. Our nominees were: Sandy Alexander, Valerie Connors, Ann Duerr and Tamara Hollins with the award going to *Sandy Alexander*. *Mary Smith* received the **Branch Outstanding Woman Award**, which is given to a member who is chosen for meritorious service to our branch and to the community over multiple years. Other members nominated for this award were: Donna Eaves, Norma George and Nancy Rumfield. Nominees for the **Peg Anderson Award** were Donna Eaves, Norma George, Mary Smith and Yvonne Peiffer. The Peg Anderson Award honors a longstanding member who has served in many different capacities over the years and continues to inspire and support current members. *Donna Eaves* is this year's recipient of the prestigious Peg Anderson Award. Congratulations to all the outstanding nominees and award winners!

Our branch selected the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls as this year's **Gateway to Equity Award** recipient. The award is given to an organization in our community that has advanced equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, or research. Heidi McPherson, President of the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls, and Lisa Hancock, Director of Development, attended the banquet. Upon accepting the award, Heidi McPherson thanked our branch and remarked that "... we share a common commitment to equity for women."

The program also included special recognition along with our heartfelt gratitude to Fran Pierce for her dedicated leadership of our branch. It was a great night to enjoy each other's company, acknowledge our accomplishments, recognize our members and reflect on future goals to continue the success of our branch.

AAUW Mission Statement

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

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Branch Website wccc-pa.aauw.net

Guidelines for AAUW some

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 Co-Presidents.
4. Articles should be less than 340 words (1 column in 12 pt.) and sent as .doc (Word) files whenever possible.
5. Program information should be available for publication in the month prior to the event.
6. SIG information should be specific (when, where, leader, contact info., program or book).

7. Photos should be sent in .jpg format and should be the best quality possible. Leave cropping to the editors when possible.

8. Editors must keep newsletter to 10 pages or less (5 printed front and back).

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

10. Editors and Co-Presidents 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 *some* 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 *some* via e-mail and would be willing to do so, please contact Sandi Kwisz at SandraK98@aol.com

Read The Keystoner Online

AAUW PA The Keystoner, is a quarterly newsletter published by AAUW PA serving AAUW branches throughout Pennsylvania. It is available by online and paper delivery. All branch members with e-mails are currently signed up to receive The Keystoner online. Members who indicated on their membership form that they would prefer to receive a paper copy of our monthly branch newsletter will also receive a paper copy of The Keystoner. The Keystoner will be sent from the mailbox of the co-president (SandraK98@aol.com). If you did not receive the summer Keystoner sent in mid August, please contact SandraK98@aol.com.

Shape The Future Membership Campaign Continues for 2013-2014

Individuals, not previously an AAUW member, can join AAUW National as a new member for only \$24.50. State and local dues bring the total membership dues to **\$45.50** for their first year of membership. Contact Jane Schultz, Membership VP, with names of potential members.

Membership News

Welcome to our newest member!

Anne Anderko (John)
908 Pine Valley Circle
West Chester, PA 19382-5299
Profession: Office Manager
Degree: The Pennsylvania State University, BA
Phone: c: (484) 885-4954 o: (610) 692-1810
Email: ananderko@msn.com

Membership Outreach

Your Records with the National Association can be assessed by contacting:

--Helpline Phone (800) 326-2289 or
--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 29 of the branch member handbook). In addition, you can find your Membership Number on the address label of the Association publication (Outlook).



Because our members are so important to us, we want to keep in touch. Do you know of a member who needs to receive a get well note or card of support? Please contact our Corresponding Secretary Laura LaBuda (labudalaura@aol.com) with the necessary information.

Interested in submitting an article or have information to share?

We need your News!

The co-editors of *AAUWsome News*, are delighted to bring you this issue of the newsletter, but ... *We continue to need input from members!!* Please send *articles* as Word documents. Forward your news articles to the *gmail account: aauwsumnews@gmail.com*, indicating the topic and month in the subject box and cc the President. This is a shared account, so the co-editors can access your email and keep their work or personal mailboxes from getting filled. It also makes collaborating easier.

Remember that articles for a given month of the newsletter are due on the 10th of the preceding month. Please provide all necessary information with your submission.

Branch Board Meetings

All Board meetings are open to the membership and are held at the *Women's Center at West Chester University*. Meetings begin at 7:15 pm, are over by 9, and are usually on the first Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is on Tuesday, October 1st.

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.

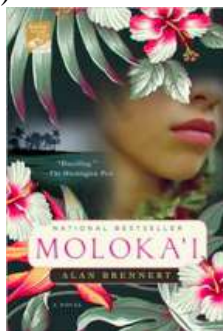
Lit I, Afternoon Book Discussion: Meets on the 4th Thursday. Please contact Elaine Burgess, 610-383-7018 if you plan to attend. The next meeting will be on September 26, 2013 at 1:00 pm. The group will discuss *Moloka'i* by Alan Brennert.

"This richly imagined novel, set in Hawai'i more than a century ago, is an extraordinary epic of a little-known time and place—and a deeply moving testament to the resiliency of the

human spirit.

Rachel Kalama, a spirited seven-year-old Hawaiian girl, dreams of visiting far-off lands like her father, a merchant seaman. Then one day a rose-colored mark appears on her skin, and those dreams are stolen from her. Taken from her home and family, Rachel is sent to Kalaupapa, the quarantined leprosy settlement on the island of Moloka'i. Here her life is supposed to end—but instead she discovers it is only just beginning. With a vibrant cast of vividly realized characters, Moloka'i is the true-to-life chronicle of a people who embraced life in the face of death. Such is the warmth, humor, and compassion of this novel that "few readers will remain unchanged by Rachel's story" (mostlyfiction.com).

Hostess: Mary Pinkney Leader: Mary Pinkney (610-388-3704)



Lit II Book Group: Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will take place on September 18th when the group will discuss the book *The Orchardist* by Amanda Coplin. The discussion leader will be Marie Dunne, and the hostess, Phyllis Dunn. 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.

Non-Fiction Group: The Non-Fiction Book Discussion Group will meet on Monday, September 16, 2013 at 7:00 in the restaurant of the Days Hotel, 943 S. High Street, West Chester. The book for discussion will be 'A Covert Affair; Julia Child and Paul Child in the OSS' by Jennet Conant. There are 8 copies in the Chester County Library System and it should be easy to obtain by placing a hold at your local library. Please call me if you have difficulty obtaining a copy of the book or need

more information about the location. Paula McGinness, [610-942-4852](tel:610-942-4852) or [610-273-3303](tel:610-273-3303).

Finance Discussion Group

This group is currently not active – if you are interested please contact Sandi (610-793-3135) SandraK98@aol.com or Dortha (610-429-450) dlav43@aol.com

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 Donna Eaves at [610-692-5277](tel:610-692-5277) or deaves@live.com.

Great Decisions

For more information on the Great Decisions group, contact Jacky Page at 610-359-9887 or jacquelinepage9@gmail.com

TIG (Travel Interest Group): AAUW TIGers

The Travel Interest Group is a group who like to go on day trips. We will plan several trips before the end of the year as well as three to four in winter and spring 2014. Trips are open to all members and guests. Some are limited in numbers.

Saturday, September 21. What We Sow: Mural, Market and Garden Tour in Kensington area. We will tour Greengrow Farm, a factory site turned into a thriving urban garden and CSA, other gardens and murals (by trolley) in the Kensington area. Cost is \$28 for seniors and \$30 for adults. Contact person is Sue Johnston, sueearlj@verizon.net or 610-363-8535.

A November trip is planned to Michener Museum to see the special Grace Kelly Exhibition.

You can call Roselyn Cadoff (610-458-8813) or Sue with any questions. If you are not on our email list and would like to be or wish to be removed from the list please contact Sue. Being on the list does not obligate you to attend any of the activities.

1133 St. Finegan Dr., West Chester, PA 19382

September 2013 Newsletter

Annual September Pot Luck Supper

September 11th, Grove United Methodist Church

wccc-pa.aauw.net

AAUW Mission Statement

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

AAUW Vision Statement

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

AAUW West Chester – Chester County Branch Vision Statement

The West Chester-Chester County Branch will

- Actively recruit members who support Association goals.
- Nurture these members through active Interest Groups, through monthly meetings with intellectual and social merit, and through member support.
- Sponsor at least one project per year with volunteers and with funds to promote Association and branch goals.
- Sponsor at least one local scholarship per year for a nontraditional student
- Support programs for training and self-development of branch members to promote Association goals.
- Raise funds through community projects and member gifts to support Association goals.

Since its first meeting in 1881, AAUW has been a catalyst for change. Today, with more than 100,000 members, 1,000 branches, and 500 college and university partners, AAUW contributes to a more promising future and provides a powerful voice for women and girls—a voice that cannot and will not be ignored.

www.aauw.org www.aauwpa.org wccc-pa.aauw.net

