



AAUW some NEWS

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



AAUW West Chester-Chester County Holiday Party

Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 p.m.

At the home of Carol and Dane Zabriskie

121 Spur Lane, West Chester, PA 19382-8445

\$10 per person

Please join us for this year's holiday party at the home of Carol and Dane Zabriskie. You may park in the driveway or on the street.

Members are welcome to bring guests, significant others, friends, and/or potential new members. The event is a fundraiser for our branch. Raffle tickets for two very special baskets, "Pamper Yourself Basket" and "Restaurant Basket", will be on sale, and the drawing will take place near the end of the party. You do not need to be present to win.

Members with last names beginning with A through L should bring appetizers, and members with last names beginning with M through Z should bring desserts. Please choose a dish that will not need to be reheated and remember to bring serving utensils for your dish. We will provide wine and non-alcoholic beverages.

Please use the tear-off form provided with the invitation that you will find in the newsletter to RSVP. Please send a check payable to AAUW-WCCC and the form to Peggy Staarman, 307 Benning Lane, Downingtown, PA 19335 by December 8.

January Meeting: This meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Grove United Methodist Church. It will feature representatives from three local theaters who will speak about their theaters and their community outreach programs. Please read the information about the program in this newsletter. *Read more on Page 5.*

Contents

<i>From the Co-Presidents</i>	2	<i>Legislation & Public Policy</i>	4	<i>Fundraising</i>	6
<i>District meeting</i>	2	<i>LWV and Common Core</i>	4	<i>Board Meetings</i>	8
<i>55th Anniversary</i>	3	<i>GETT</i>	5	<i>SIG's</i>	8,9
<i>Community Outreach</i>	3	<i>January Meeting</i>	5	<i>Holiday Party Form</i>	9

From the Co-President

Happy Holidays!

It is hard to believe that this is the December/January newsletter. Time flies, when you're having fun! This year's programs have not only been informative but also fun! Thanks to the imagination and effort of Peggy and Eva, program co-chairs.

Join fellow branch members and guests to celebrate at the ever-popular Holiday Party on **December 14th** at **2 p.m.** at the home of *Carol and Dan Zabriskie*. See the invitation on the front page for all the details. The form can be found on page 9.

You will also have the opportunity to share in this season of giving by bringing a gift card or cards of \$10 or more from Target or Staples. The gift cards will be collected in a basket provided for that purpose and distributed to Dawn's Place, December's targeted recipient.

It is also the time of the year to honor members who are working or have worked hard to make our branch successful. This is your opportunity to nominate a deserving member. You do not need the nominee's permission! Watch for a **separate mailing this month**, with nomination forms and further details.

A majority of members at the November meeting voted to continue the tradition of holding the May banquet at a club or a restaurant. Several venues for the banquet are being explored at this time.

The December "Keystoner", the quarterly newsletter from AAUW-PA, has been forwarded to all members. Don't miss reading the article about Mary Pinkney, our branch member.

A big thank you to the Newsletter staff, to Lyn Eaton, and to all who contribute to making the newsletter a success. Thank you, Sandy, for keeping members informed by maintaining and updating the branch website.

Sue and I are looking forward to a productive and successful 2015, and wish all our members a joyous and restful holiday and a prosperous and healthy New Year!

Dorothea and Sue



District Meeting: October 18th, 2014

The West Chester-Chester County branch hosted a very successful AAUW-PA East District meeting on Saturday, October 18, 2014. Fifty-two Pennsylvania members had registered, including fifteen from our branch.

The topics "*Is Public Education Fairly Funded?*" and "*Does your district get its fair share?*" were addressed in detail by the speakers Susan Gobreski and Ian Gavigan. They explained the system of school funding and patiently answered all audience questions. Thanks to Fran Pierce for getting such talented and informative speakers.

The branch could not have successfully hosted the meeting without Mary Smith, Anne Anderko, Donna Eaves, and Carole Valentine. Mary Smith suggested and organized the rental of the wonderful venue, the Uwchlan Meeting House. She also helped decorate with flowers and balloons to make the room festive and inviting. Anne Anderko received all registrations and kept the financial records. Donna Eaves carefully and accurately checked in attendees on the day of the event. Donna also helped to pick up the pre-ordered lunches. Carole Valentine arrived early to help set up and stayed to help restore the meetinghouse to its original state.

Thank you to all who do so much to make our branch activities a success!

Dorothea

West Chester-Chester County Branch Celebrates 55th Anniversary!

Our branch celebrated its 55th anniversary at the September meeting with the theme "Our Past, Our Present and Our Future." Sandra Norris, Secretary of AAUW of Pennsylvania, was there to give our co-presidents a certificate acknowledging this milestone. Donna Eaves, our branch historian, displayed scrapbooks and other memorabilia reflecting the rich history of our branch. Some of our long-standing members spoke about their experiences in the early days, describing formal tea parties, social events, and travel and political issues that sometimes strengthened or sometimes split the organization. Betty Bradford, Kay Philipps, Martina Ossman, Donna Eaves, Cathy Palmquist, and Mary Pinkney shared their favorite recollections with the group. The most significant change, according to Martina, has been the changes in the ease of communication since the days when ditto machines were used to print information for members.

Our branch has 19 women who have been members for 35 years or longer with Alice DelDuco holding the record for the longest membership, having joined AAUW in 1959, even before the West Chester branch was formed. Co-Presidents Dorothea and Sue handed out certificates and a rose to honor those members.



Co-President Dorothea giving Cathy Palmquist her certificate.



Members honored: (from left) Donna Eaves, Mary Pinkney, Cathy Palmquist, Kay Philipps, Roselyn Cadoff, Marina Ossman, Betty Bradford, and Elaine Burgess.

Community Outreach

Donations

Thanks so much for your continuing support by donating items to:

Dawn's Place (the branch 2014 Gateway to Equity Award recipient) is a safe and secure residential program that helps women who are making the journey from commercial sexual exploitation to a life of freedom, choice, and independence. Learn more about Dawn's Place at www.ahomefordawn.org.

Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (DVCCC) has helped over 30,000 survivors of domestic violence in the Chester County community since 1976. DVCCC empowers survivors of domestic abuse by providing information and support as they reclaim their lives. For more information about DVCCC, go to www.dvccc.com.

Wings for Success (the branch 2012 Gateway to Equity Award recipient) helps women by providing workplace appropriate clothing, guidance and workshops as they face the challenge of securing a sustainable income. More information about Wings for Success and client success stories can be found at www.wingsforsuccess.org.

See Donation Opportunities on Page 4.

Legislation and Public Policy (LAPP) By Patricia Schultz

AAUW November Elections Results

Curious about how women fared in this past election? Check out this link for full details.
<http://www.aauw.org/2014/11/06/state-ballots-2014/>
State Ballot Measures: How Women Fared in 2014

On Election Day, AAUW's and friends' voices were heard loud and clear on ballot initiatives on issues including the minimum wage, paid sick days, and equal rights. Here's the rundown on how our issues fared in state elections.



The League of Women Voters
of Chester County, PA



League of Women Voters of Chester County PA

November 4, 2014

In a poll of PA Women at the *PA Conference for Women*, the following issues are ranked in the order of importance:

1. *Equal Pay for Equal Work* (Eliminate the Pay Equity Gap)
2. Fairly Funded Quality Public Education
3. Stop the Sale of Democracy - Overhaul Campaign Finance. See More on LWVCC Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/LWVofChesterCounty

Common Core

PA Department of Education seeks input on academic standards

The PA Department of Education (PDE) has launched a website for the public to provide input on PA Core Standards:
www.paacademicreview.org/

At present, the site consists of Grade Three standards in English Language Arts and Math only. However, PDE promises the site will be updated with English Language Arts and Math for Grades 4-8 and Algebra 1 and Literature for Secondary levels by mid-November. The interactive website also provides sample questions from state tests and will remain open through mid-January 2015 so that all stakeholders are afforded the opportunity to provide feedback to PDE.

AAUW Outlook

Many of you receive this but if you haven't read it yet, here's the electronic link:
<http://www.aauw.org/who-we-are/outlookmag/>.
This edition is very enlightening about Contraception, Sex Ed, Sexual Assault, and Violence Against Women. Please forward it to those women and girls who may benefit from reading these articles.

The AAUW and the LWVCC websites and Facebook sites are invaluable for up to date information about national, state and local activities and issues.

In the season of giving consider these **Donation Opportunities**

December: Dawn's Place

Gift Cards will be collected at the holiday party. Sr. Terry Shields, president of Dawn's Place, has suggested gift cards to Target that can be used to purchase basic personal items. Also, gift cards to Staples can be used for office supplies.

January: The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (DVCCC)

The DVCCC Wish List can be found at:
<http://www.dvccc.com./youcanhelp/wishlist.html>

February: Wings for Success

Accessories – scarves, jewelry, hosiery, undergarments, black handbags, and department store shopping bags.



January Meeting:

Our Local Theaters

Jan. 14, 2015 at 7:00

*Grove United Methodist Church
490 West Boot Road, West Chester, PA*

Representatives from three of our local theaters will speak about their productions, their missions, and their guiding principles. Each theater company believes that the plays it presents bring people together and provide opportunities for reflection, discovery, and celebration. Each company extends its mission by offering arts education and outreach programs.

Wendy Bable from *People's Light and Theatre Company* in Malvern will highlight this year's season and give information about the arts program for youth. *People's Light* is one of Pennsylvania's largest professional non-profit theaters. Now in its 40th season, the theater has a resident company of artists and offers seven to nine plays per season.

Wilmington Drama League is one of the oldest community theaters in the nation. Last year, the theater celebrated its 80th year. *Kathy Buterbaugh* will speak about this year's plays and the unique place that this kind of theater holds. Neighbors and friends combine their talents and energy to inspire all of us.

The Barley Sheaf Players is a community theater in nearby Lionville. A representative will discuss the shows and the effort to promote and encourage the dramatic arts in our region. The theater members continuously look for ways to reach out to the community through complimentary tickets to women's shelters and other organizations, special appearances, and food drives.

Please join us for a delightful and inspirational evening featuring artistic achievement and community spirit.

GETT 2015:

Location and Date Confirmed

by Mary Allain Smith (pangea49@comcast.net), GETT Committee and PETT Director

It has been quite a challenge trying to find the perfect location for our 15th year celebration of GETT (Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology). March is a tough month to book a school. We tried for pi day (3.14.15) but that was not in the cards. We now have March 21, 2015 as our date and we'll return to Great Valley High School. The GETT event was held at this location for two years. We are planning for a new and improved format which has become popular in other parts of the country for girls STEM events. I will get more information as our planning sessions become more involved now that our location has been set.

I will continue as the chair for the PETT (Parent/Educator Exploring Tomorrow's Technology) portion of the GETT program. Volunteers will be needed for the day and possibly for the set-up the eve before as the date gets closer. Please free up your calendars and plan on being part of our celebration. If you have any connections with local companies for funding, prizes, and promotional giveaways please let me know so we can contact them.

For those of you not familiar with GETT or PETT, GETT is an event created by a group of educators and businesswomen, myself included, who saw the need for girls to be encouraged to prepare for a future in IT. Fifteen years and as many events later, it has become a successful STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) event with over 500 girls in grades 6-12 and their parents and educators attending yearly.

PETT is a project of our AAUW Branch, which received a Community Action Grant from Association to pursue the opportunity to give parents and educators the information and encouragement they need to help their girls succeed in STEM. Graham Boose (deceased), Valerie Connors and myself together wrote the grant in 2013 to be used in the 2013-2014 fiscal year. There are many events for girls but the

parents and educators, who are so instrumental in the lives and futures of girls, seemed to be ignored. The PETT committee would like to continue planning and implementing. To do this additional funding sources are needed. If you have a contact within an organization or business that would be willing to support us financially, please let us know. We would love to hear from you. Visit and share our website at www.aauwgirlsstemcenter.org



Fundraising Report

Raffle Tickets—Holiday Basket Raffle

Don't forget to sell your raffle tickets for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The drawing will take place on December 14th at the Holiday Party. You need not be present to win. We have two baskets with the themes "Pamper Yourself" and "Restaurant." The baskets are overflowing with wonderful prizes and gift certificates worth \$400.00 or more. If you haven't purchased your tickets yet or sold them to your family and friends, contact Anne Anderko at ananderko@msn.com or at 484-885-4943. Tickets then will be made available to you.

Yankee Candle Sale

Way to go! Thanks to all of you who purchased Yankee Candle merchandise. We surpassed our expectations and earned \$802.76 with total sales of \$2135.00. We earned 40% on everything we sold. Thanks to Donna Golden, our chairperson, for coordinating this successful fundraiser.

Last, please continue to save your used ink cartridges and bring them to the meetings for the Staple recycle program.

Co-Chairs,
Anne Anderko and Donna Golden

Membership Outreach

Your Records with the National Association can be accessed by contacting:
--Helpline Phone (800) 326-2289 or
--Internet and email: The website for national AAUW is <http://www.aauw.org/>.
You'll need your membership number, which can be found on the address label of the Association publication (Outlook).

AAUW Mission Statement

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

<i>Norma George</i> 610-872-7567	Newsletter Co-Editor ngeorge@cheyney.edu
<i>Tamara Hollins</i> 610-399-2256	Newsletter Co-Editor thollins@cheyney.edu
<i>Nancy Rumfield</i> 610-399-0388	Newsletter Co-Editor nrumfield@gmail.com
<i>Newsletter email</i>	aauwsumnews@gmail.com
<i>Sue Johnston</i> 610-363-8535	Branch Co-President sueearlj@verizon.net
<i>Dorthea Lavigne</i> 484-315-8651	Branch Co- President dlav43@aol.com
<i>Eva Kaufmann</i> 610-793-3809	Program Co-Vice-President ekaufmann1@gmail.com
<i>Peggy Staarman</i> 610-269-4866	Program Co-Vice-President peggstaar@verizon.net
<i>Barbara Lathroum</i> 610-321-9783	Membership Co -Vice-President blathroum@gmail.com
<i>Carol Habig</i> 610-431-9987	Membership Co -Vice-President whabig@verizon.net
<i>Nancy Dore</i> 610-7250-459	Recording Secretary 4dores@comcast.net
<i>Laura LaBuda</i> 610-888-9509	Corresponding Secretary labudalaura@aol.com
<i>Anne Anderko</i> 484-885-4943	Financial Officer ananderko@msn.com
Branch Website	wccc-pa.aauw.net

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. If you are not already receiving *AAUW some* via e-mail and would be willing to do so, please contact Dorothea Lavigne via email at dlav43@aol.com

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 Co-Presidents. 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.

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.



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.

Member News

Membership Highlights – can you help?

The board has voted to include a "Members Highlights" section in the newsletter. We know that we have many talented and gifted members. This is why we are asking all members who may be participating in an exhibit, playing in a concert, or any member who has a special talent or has received an honor, to submit that information using the guidelines on page 6. If you know of a member who might be too shy to mention her accomplishments please share this special news by sending us the information. Of course we love to have photographs as well.

Thank you!

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 7:00 p.m., are over by 9 p.m., and are usually on the first **Tuesday of the month**. The next meeting is on January 6, at the home of Dorothea Lavigne. *Change of location is due to WCU being closed for vacation.*

Special Interest Groups

Literature I: Our daytime group reads both fiction and non-fiction. We will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be on *Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 1:00 pm*. We will meet at Mary Pinkney's home. Sue Johnston will lead our discussion of the book *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce. Please let Mary Pinkney know whether or not you will attend. Her e-mail is marypinkney100@gmail.com, and her phone is [610-388-3704](tel:610-388-3704). We welcome new members. Call Chair Kay Philipps ([610-399-0697](tel:610-399-0697)) if interested.

Lit II Book Group: We do not meet in December. Our next meeting will be 7:00 p.m. on *Wednesday, January 21* when we will discuss *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys. The book is cast as a prequel to Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*, telling how the mad woman in the attic got there. You do not need to read or re-read *Jane Eyre* to understand and enjoy this thought provoking book. Our hostess is Jane Schultz at 1300 Amstell Way in West Chester. For more information and/or directions, e-mail or call Jean Speiser at JeanSpeiser@Gmail.com or 610-738-3363.

Non-Fiction Group: This discussion group is for those who like reading non-fiction of all types. The group meets in alternate months on the third Monday of the month in the restaurant of the Days Hotel on the edge of West Chester. Members choose discussion books based on interests and topics for discussion. Members interested in knowing the titles and dates of upcoming discussions are invited to contact Paula McGinness at 610-942-4852 or

pmcginness@verizon.net to be put on the notification list. It is not necessary to attend every meeting. You must be a member of the Branch to join.

Finance Discussion Group: This group is currently not active – if you are interested please contact Sue Johnson (610-363-8535) sueearlj@verizon.net or Dorothea (484-315-8651) dlav43@aol.com

FIG (Food Interest Group): This group dines either at members' homes or restaurants. The group usually meets on the second Saturday or Sunday of the month. Couples (unless otherwise specified) and singles as well as new members are welcome.

Next event: **Saturday, January 10, 6:30 p.m.** – Soup and salad dinner at the home of Betty and Wally Bradford. FIG members will receive email invitations. For more information or to join the group, contact Donna Eaves at 610-692-5277 or at deaves@live.com.

Great Decisions: For 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 composed of members who like to go on day trips. All members and guests are welcome, but some trips may be limited to fewer participants. Presently, the group does not have a coordinator. However, some members have expressed willingness to plan an event:

January 25, Sunday: Curtis Institute Symphony, 3 p.m. at The Verizon Center. Carole Valentine (610-436-0912 or cnsvalentine@gmail.com) will facilitate.

March 17, Tuesday: Travel Dinner and Travel Adventure Film Series – Elaine Burgess will facilitate.

May (date to be announced): Tour of historic house in Philadelphia – Jennifer Schultz will facilitate.

If you are interested in being the coordinator for this group, please contact Dorothea or Sue.
Contd. Page 9

This is NEW!

Special Interest -- Craft Group Work on your own project or join us as we create items for the children at the Domestic Violence Center. Members could also knit or crochet to make hats or blankets for the children at the shelter, and we're contemplating making a

group baby quilt to be finished by Mother's Day. You need only minimal sewing skills for the quilt project. We are asking participants to be responsible for just one 10 ½ square and you don't even need to buy supplies. Please contact Jean Speiser at JeanSpeiser@Gmail.com or 610-738-3363 for additional information.



You Are Invited to Attend
AAUW West Chester & Chester County Branch's
Holiday Party

At the home of
Carol and Dane Zabriskie
121 Spur Lane,
West Chester, PA 19382-8445

Date: Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 p.m.

The drawing for the Holiday Raffle Baskets will be at the end of the party.

Cost: \$10 per person

This event is a fundraiser for our branch activities and projects. Beverages are included.

Your Contribution:

If your last name begins with A through L, please bring an appetizer.

If your last name begins with M through Z, please bring a dessert.

RSVP by sending the completed form with a check payable to AAUW-WCCC

Peggy Staarman,
307 Benning Lane,
Downingtown, PA 19335 *by December 8, 2014.*

I/We will attend the Holiday Party on Sunday, December 14.

Member's Name _____

Name of Guest(s) _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ \$10 per person - Checks should be payable to AAUW-WCCC



121 Greenbriar Drive, West Chester, PA 19382-6108

December 2014 – January 2015 Newsletter

December 14, Holiday Party

January 14, Our Local Theaters

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