



## AAUW some NEWS

News & Views from the  
West Chester-Chester County PA  
Branch

wccc-pa.aauw.net

### February Brunch AAUW West Chester-Chester County Saturday, February 14, 10:00 a.m. Grove United Methodist Church 490 Boot Road, West Chester, PA

Our branch's February Brunch is one of our most anticipated events. This year's date is Saturday, February 14 starting at 10:00 a.m. We will meet at the same location as our monthly meetings, Grove United Methodist Church. If the meeting must be cancelled due to inclement weather, we will e-mail all members with e-mail addresses and the announcement will be posted on our website: [wccc-pa.aauw.net](http://wccc-pa.aauw.net). Members who do not have e-mail will be notified by phone. There is no snow date.

We ask members to bring a brunch dish that will serve six to eight people - no need to sign up in advance. Please bring your food at serving temperature since we cannot heat what you bring. Don't forget to bring a serving utensil.

The admission is \$5.00 per person. The proceeds will benefit the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County. The Center provides intervention, education, outreach, and advocacy to address the issues of domestic violence. Monetary donations are used to buy supplies such as dry goods, baby needs, detergents, and general cleaning supplies for the temporary housing that abuse victims often need. We encourage you to bring a friend or two who may be interested in learning more about and possibly joining AAUW. Members who join in February or later may be eligible for reduced-rate membership in the year they join.

Our program will feature young college women who will discuss organizations and issues important to them. Felicia Orendorff, our student representative from West Chester University, will speak about the Association for Women's Empowerment (AWE). She has asked several other WCU undergraduates to accompany her. Last year's college panel presentation was the most highly rated in our survey, so we anticipate another stimulating and informative discussion. Fran Pierce will be our facilitator again. Please join us for a delightful morning of fellowship, discussion, and a delicious brunch!!!

Directions to Grove United Methodist Church, 490 West Boot Road, West Chester, PA 19380: From West Chester, take Route 100 North to Boot Road, turn left, and go toward the intersection of Boot Road and Whitford Road. The church is on the left before you reach the intersection. Find additional direction information at [www.grovechurch.org](http://www.grovechurch.org) or 610-696-2663.

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## ***From the Co-Presidents***

Dear Members,

The new year is still fresh, but it's well on its way as is our branch! This is a new beginning with new opportunities to get involved and a new chance to keep all those resolutions that were not kept during the old year.

To close the old year, members happily celebrated at the annual Holiday Party! The snacks were delicious, and our hosts, Carol and Dane Zabriskie, most generous and gracious. A sincere and heartfelt thank you to them for opening their beautiful home and for making all of us feel so welcome! The donations of gift cards for Dawn's Place collected at the party amounted to a generous \$200.

Two gift baskets, so beautifully arranged and stocked by Anne Anderko and Donna Golden, were raffled off. Thanks to all the hard work of our fundraising chairs, the branch is in the black for 2015 and will be able to support important programs. The branch is fortunate and grateful to have capable members like Anne and Donna actively involved.

Our first meeting and program on Wednesday January 14, 2015, started the new year off with a bang! Three speakers, one from People's Light Theater, one from the Barley Sheaf Players, and one from the Wilmington Playhouse, informed those present about the speakers' theaters and all the activities and programs sponsored by the theaters. The weather was freezing outside, but the atmosphere inside was definitely not. All three speakers kept attendees entertained with their story telling skills and their lively personalities. Peggy and Eva: KUDOS!



The next meeting, our February brunch, promises to be another fun event! Please read the information about the brunch, sign up, and bring a friend!

Although there is no TIG chairperson, on January 23rd members lunched in town prior to hearing a concert at the Kimmel Center. Carole Valentine stepped up and organized this outing! Great Job Carole! Elaine Burgess invites members to attend the next TIG event in March at West Chester University.

LAAP also needs a chairperson. Meanwhile, Anne Duerr is keeping us informed and Laura LaBuda has taken responsibility this month by writing an article for this newsletter. Thank you, Anne and Laura.

Mary Smith has been working hard to help organize the annual STEM event. The branch appreciates Mary's hard work and effort on behalf of the branch for PETT and STEM. Don't miss her article!

Members voted for Branch Awards recipients at the last meeting and electronically. You will be getting an e-mail announcing the results.

The May Banquet this year will be held at Penn Oaks Golf Club. The membership voted for the club option rather than a catered dinner or a potluck style dinner at the Church. Additional information will be published as we get closer to the date.

As you can see, we have a very active branch. It's time for all members to reflect on what contribution she can make to help the branch thrive. *It Takes A Village!* The nominating committee will be meeting in March and will be contacting members to fill the slate of officers. This year, take a chance and share your talent by serving as a branch officer, as an appointed branch officer, or as a committee chairperson.

*Dorothea and Sue*

## GETT 2015 Registration to Open February 14th

By Mary A Smith, STEM/STEAM Liaison

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual *Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology (GETT)* event will be held on March 21, 2015, at Great Valley High School. This year we are adding the arts to GETT, since the arts are using more and more technology. STEM will now be referred to as STEAM. The change in venue will make for a milestone event.

GETT is an opportunity for parents, girls, and educators to learn the facts about how technology careers can be fulfilling, fun, and rewarding personally, professionally, and financially. The event also provides an excellent way for girls to meet and interact with successful women and educators who are positive role models.

This year the event will be open to 600 girls as well as 150 parent/educators. On-line registration opens February 14<sup>th</sup> at <http://www.Gettpa.org>. If you know of girls in the tri-county area who would like to attend, encourage them to register early.

We are planning a *Hands-On Expo* from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. followed by a keynote address and groups sessions for additional hands-on experiences. Parents/educators will be included in the Expo with their daughters/students so they understand what the girls' experience.

I also am chairing the Parent/Educator (PETT) sessions with various speakers and interactions with the men and women of STEAM.

Currently I am seeking volunteers from our membership. The hours for the event are 8:00 and 3:00 p.m. If you are not available for the entire day, you can volunteer for certain hours. I am proposing that our AAUW branch have a table at the Expo and do the straw rockets we did at Chester County Library's Mini-Maker Fair. I definitely will need 4-5 members to assist with the straw rockets (no experience necessary).

Past volunteers can attest to the satisfaction of being a part of such an amazing event. As I have stated in past years, I was part of the original committee that was formed 15 years ago. This was a group of 8 women and myself at CB Technologies, with an interest in seeing young women involved with IT careers.

GETT began in Chester County Pennsylvania in 2001 as a response to the underrepresentation of young women in the computer and information technology fields. This volunteer-driven SEPA regional project has now expanded its scope, introducing technological and STEAM careers to girls. This project was designed for Southeast Pennsylvania girls in grades 6 through 12 and their parents, teachers, and counselors to learn about careers in the dynamic fields of technology.

GETT has had partner events in Philadelphia (BioScience) and in Casper, Wyoming at Casper College. This year the Lansdale Branch will have a STEM event in Montgomery County, which will include our Parent-Educator Exploring Tomorrow's Technology (PETT) component.

The AAUW - West Chester / Chester County Branch annually supports GETT. You can help by sharing contacts for funding or identifying young women interested in the Hands-on break-out sessions. Please contact me at [pangea49@comcast.net](mailto:pangea49@comcast.net) or call me at 484-924-9320.

AAUW members who are interested in volunteering for the GETT event can do so at: <http://gettpa.org/volunteer/>. *Everyone who plans on volunteering at GETT on March 21st must sign up using this link.*

*Members signing up must mention AAUW and then email Mary at [pangea49@comcast.net](mailto:pangea49@comcast.net) so Mary can add their name to her list of volunteers.*

Also, if you are interested in *assisting Donna Golden at the EXPO table*, you must mention this when volunteering so you will not be scheduled elsewhere during that time frame.

## Legislation and Public Policy (LAPP)

By Laura LaBuda and Ann Duerr

### *Passion For Action:*

#### *Empowerment Of Women 2015*

In a recent “Huffington Post” article dated 12/24/14, Elizabeth McLaughton, a former Wall Street lawyer, states, “2015 is going to be a year when we see powerhouse women rise”. Her predictions include:

Powerhouse women will dominate the beginning of the 2016 Election.

Powerhouse primary breadwinner women will lead the push for equal pay.

Powerhouse women, especially those who are mothers, will focus on creating healthier, more balanced workplace policies.

Powerhouse women will focus efforts to reduce “unconscious bias” which stops women with most talent from losing out on jobs.

Powerhouse women’s influence will increase on the international stage.

Check the article for further details regarding women and women’s issues dominating the national and international stage.

*Our Branch Website* – [wccc-pa.aauw.net](http://wccc-pa.aauw.net) - provides information for all of us to be *Powerhouse Women*. An excellent article under AAUW News Feed is titled “Life After the Revolution; Tunisian Women’s Economic Empowerment”.

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Don’t forget to Mark your calendars!  
Equal Pay Day 2015 will fall on  
Tuesday, April 14th.

*Other Resources:* [www.aauw.org/tag/equal-pay/](http://www.aauw.org/tag/equal-pay/)

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Make a New Year’s Resolution to be a frequent Two Minute Activist, making your voice heard in Congress regarding education, economic security, and civil rights. Using our website (under AAUW Links) is so easy!

## Alice Lawson Scholarship

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) West Chester Branch will be awarding \$1,500.00 from the Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund to an undergraduate student 25 years of age or older. We invite students from West Chester University, Immaculata University, Cheyney University, and Lincoln University to submit an application. The deadline for applying is March 28, 2015. Eligibility requirements and application forms are available at [www-pa.aauw.net](http://www-pa.aauw.net) under the activities tab.

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

Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund  
Chester County Community Fund  
West Chester, Pa. 19335

Online contributions can be made at:

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

### **Reminder - Ongoing Monthly Donations**

Each month, the branch identifies one of the organizations we support and collects donations specific to that group. Some of organizations are among the past *Gateway to Equity Award* winners.

Below you will find the organizations we support and the name of the branch member who will collect donations at the general meeting.

#### **February**

##### **Wings for Success:** *Laura LaBuda*

Department store shopping bags, accessories, such as scarves, jewelry, hosiery, black handbags, and undergarments.

#### **March**

##### **Domestic Violence Center:** *Donna Golden*

New pillows and gift cards to Target, K-Mart, Staples, etc.

#### **April**

##### **Dawn’s Place:** *Sandi Kwisz*

Gift cards to Staples, Target or Walmart.

*Thank you for all your generous donations!*

## Donations for February... Wings for Success

Department store shopping bags, accessories, such as scarves, jewelry, hosiery, black handbags, and undergarments.

*Laura LaBuda*

*Thank You!*

## Fundraising Summary

### *Yankee Candle-*

We've finalized our numbers, and our total profit for the Yankee Candle Sale was \$852.78! This is well beyond our original expectations; we are thrilled with the results. Thanks to all of you who supported this fundraiser. A special "Thank you" to Donna Golden, who oversaw this Fund Raiser. We welcome your ideas for fundraising next year and eagerly await your suggestions.



### *Holiday Basket Raffle -*

The holiday raffle netted \$578.00 in total profit. Our holiday basket raffle featured two special baskets – the *Restaurant Basket* and *Pamper Yourself Basket*. Both overflowed with gifts and gift certificates and each were worth over \$400.00. The baskets were raffled at the holiday party on December 14. *The Restaurant Basket* was won by my co-worker, Chris Caldwell, and *The Pamper Yourself Basket* was won by our own Phyllis Dunn.

A special "Thank you" goes to my co-chair, Donna Golden, who spent much time seeking

donations for the baskets. "Thank you" also to our members Ann Duerr, Phyllis Dunn, Donna Eaves, Carol Habig, Sandy Kwistz, Cathy Palmquist, Fran Pierce, Jane Schultz and Jean Speiser, all of whom helped obtain gift certificates or contributed items towards the baskets.



Here is a list of all the companies who provided items for the baskets. Please remember to frequent their establishments and thank them for their generosity. *Restaurant Basket:* Applebee's, Arianna's Café, Core de Roma, Fellini's Café, Green Street Grill, Olive Tree, Panera Bread, Sidebar, Starbucks, and Three Little Pigs. *Pamper Yourself Basket:* Anytime Fitness, La Difference, Longwood Gardens, Macy's, Novello Salon, and Salon West Endz. Special thanks to The Print Shop for printing all the raffle tickets at no charge.

Anne Anderko

Donna Golden

## Ongoing Fundraising Effort

*This is an easy one...*

Please continue to save your used ink cartridges and bring them to the meetings for the Staples recycle program.

*Thank you!*

## Membership Outreach

Your records with the National Association can be accessed by contacting:

--Helpline Phone (800) 326-2289 or

--Internet and email: <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.*

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Branch Website	<a href="http://wccc-pa.aauw.net">wccc-pa.aauw.net</a>

## 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 Sandi Kwisz at [SandraK98@aol.com](mailto:SandraK98@aol.com)

## Guidelines for *AAUW some*

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 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 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.



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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## **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 Tuesday, March 3rd.

## **Special Interest Groups**

AAUW branches are known for their book groups, and membership in a SIG often encourages continuing membership in the branch. The West Chester-Chester County Branch currently has three book discussion groups meeting during the day or evening at different times of the month.

**Literature I: This daytime group reads both fiction and non-fiction.** The February meeting will be held at Martina Ossman's house on Thursday February 26th at 1pm. Elaine Burgess will lead the discussion on *A Well-Tempered Heart* by Jan-Philipp Sendker. Please let Martina know if you will be attending. Her phone number is [610-793-1469](tel:610-793-1469).

**Reminder:** Please bring short story selections that we may want to read for our May selection. Short stories need to be available from the library. Voting will take place at our February meeting. New members are always welcome. Questions? Call Kay Philipps at [610-399-0697](tel:610-399-0697) or e-mail her at [khp65khp@verizon.net](mailto:khp65khp@verizon.net).

## **Lit II- February Meeting**

Since our January meeting was delayed a week because of snow, there's only three weeks between the January and February meetings. It's not far away. We'll be reading *The Social Conquest of Earth* by Edward O. Wilson with discussion leader Dot von Gerbig. The author addresses fundamental questions about humanity: What are we, where did we come from, and where are we going? Given Professor Wilson's career studying ants (he's probably the only myrmecologist to make the New York Times' best seller list) he addresses these issues by comparing ants and humans. The result is a thoroughly thought-provoking book.

*From Jean:* We're meeting at my house starting at 7:00 on Wednesday, February 18, with a snow date the following Wednesday, February 25. I'd be happy if you let me know whether you're coming, but you're welcome even if you don't RSVP. And, as always, new members are encouraged to join us. *Jean Speiser, 809 Denbi Court, West Chester, PA 19382, (610) 692-3227 (o), (610) 738-3363 (h), JeanSpeiser@Gmail.com*



## **March Meeting**

The book for March is *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd, a fictionalized account of Sarah Grimké, a southern-born abolitionist and early suffragist. The story follows Hetty

"Handful" Grimke, a Charleston slave, and Sarah, the daughter of the wealthy Grimké family. The novel begins on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership over Handful, who is to be her handmaid and follows the next thirty-five years of their lives. Join us on Wednesday, March 18, starting at 7:00 PM. We will be meeting at Peggy Staarman's house, 307 Benning Lane, Downingtown, 19335. New members are always welcome. Please call Jean Speiser at [610-738-3363](tel:610-738-3363) or e-mail her at [JeanSp@Gmail.com](mailto:JeanSp@Gmail.com) for more information. Snow date is Wednesday, March 25.

**Non-fiction Book Discussion Group:**

The next discussion will be Monday, March 16, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. (Location to be determined). The book to be discussed is *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. This book has been chosen by Longwood Gardens for discussion. Watch for their programming. Copies of the book are available at Chester County libraries. Please call Paula McGinness for more information at 610-942-4852.

**Finance Discussion Group:** This group is currently not active – if you are interested please contact Sandi (610-793-3135) [SandraK98@aol.com](mailto:SandraK98@aol.com) or Dorothea (484-315-8651) [dlav43@aol.com](mailto:dlav43@aol.com).

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

*There will be no FIG meeting in February. You are encouraged to attend the branch brunch on Saturday, February 14.*

Sunday, March 15, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. – Hors d'oeuvre party at the home of Mary and Walt Smith. 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](mailto:deaves@live.com).

**Great Decisions**

For information on the Great Decisions group, contact Jacky Page at 610-359-9887 or [jacquelinepage9@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelinepage9@gmail.com)

**TIG (Travel Interest Group): AAUW TIGers**

*Join AAUW and Travel To India With West Chester Travel Adventures*

**Tuesday, March 17, 2015**

**Dinner 5:30 p.m.** Sykes Auditorium, WCU Campus **Dinner Cost: \$35.00**

Buffet dinner includes: Mango and mint paneer with pita and naan bread, mushrooms with feta cheese and tandoori spices, vegetable samosas with curry yogurt sauce, tandoori chicken with lemon dahi and mild spices, lamb curry stew with baby potatoes and root vegetables, murgli biryani saffron rice with chicken, tumeric potato cake with scallion and sesame, mango yogurt mousse, water /iced tea /wine /coffee /tea

**Program 7:00 p.m.** Presented by Rick Ray in Sykes Auditorium, WCU Campus.

**Program Cost: \$10.00**

*Make checks payable to: WCU Foundation.*

*Mail payment by March 9, 2015 to:*

*Elaine Burgess, 15 Wildflower Court, Gordonville, PA 17529 [\(717\) 768-0706](tel:717-768-0706)*

*Tables will be reserved for attending AAUW members.*

**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](mailto:JeanSpeiser@Gmail.com) or 610-738-3363 for additional information.





121 Greenbriar Drive, West Chester, PA 19382-6108

## February 2015 Newsletter

*February 14, Brunch, Grove United Methodist Church*

[wccc-pa.aauw.net](http://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.

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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)   [wccc-pa.aauw.net](http://wccc-pa.aauw.net)