



AAUW some NEWS

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

Volume 60, Number 2
November, December 2015 & January 2016



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 13 at 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15 per person

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

Your Contribution:

If your last name begins with G through Z, please bring an appetizer.

If your last name begins with A through F, please bring a dessert.

Donations: We will be collecting cash donations for clients of Legal Aid Society.

RSVP by sending the completed form found on **Page 9** with a check payable to AAUW-WCCC by December 8, 2015



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Letter From the President

Hello Members,

I hope you all have been enjoying this gorgeous fall, I certainly have. Unfortunately fall does not last forever and soon it will be cold and snowy. However we can look forward to our Holiday Party on December 13, a time when we can get together and enjoy each other and the tasty appetizers and desserts you all contribute.

The invitation is included in this newsletter.

Our October speaker prompted me to look on www.aauw.org, the national AAUW web site to see if anything was written about Hispanic/Latina women. Under the leadership tab there is a current article “Qué Pasa USA? The State of the Latina” reviewing Latina’s or the lack of in government. Under the Economic Justice tab I found the following article, “How Would You Like to Work the Same Hours for Half the Pay? That’s the Gender Pay Gap for Latinas.” Both these articles are eye opening and well worth reading.

Barb Lathroum, tonya thames-taylor and I recently attended the Eastern District Meeting and heard a very informative session on Gender Equity. See Barb’s summary in this newsletter.

Look on our web site, wccc-pa.aauw.net, for minutes of our August 27th Board Meeting. We will continue to post minutes after they are approved by the board. You are all invited to attend board meetings held after and before the first Tuesday of each month except December.

The revised By-laws that Fran Pierce and Jean Speiser have worked so hard on are being emailed to you in three parts. Please read and comment. After all parts are distributed and commented on, we will vote on acceptance in a membership meeting.

We need a photographer. Everyone enjoys seeing photos in the newsletter, but we do not

have anyone designated to take them. If you like to take pictures, please bring your camera to the membership meetings. Photos at other events such as FIG would also be welcome. Be sure to save the date for our February 13 Brunch, always a fun and informative event.

Sue



West Chester Public Library’s Holiday Home Tour

The 5th Annual Holiday Home Tour to benefit the beautiful & historic West Chester Public Library will take place on Saturday, December 5th from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The tour will present 10 beautifully decorated homes in the northeastern section of West Chester. This walking tour features “the old & the new”, spanning 151 years of home building history in & around West Chester. The homes date from 1836-1987. Each carries its own special charm and history.

Mark your calendar and join us as we enjoy the homes whose owners have graciously opened their doors to benefit West Chester Public Library’s Holiday Home Tour. Tickets are on sale at the Library (415 North Church St. West Chester, PA 19380) or online at www.WCPublicLibrary.org.

The snow date is Sunday, December 6, 2015



Our January Program: Self-defense for Women

When Mimi and I reviewed the suggestions for programs last summer, we found one for self-defense for women. Every woman needs a few techniques to fight off an attacker! *Great idea*, we thought. I knew exactly whom to ask to present the program. My daughter-in-law, *Christina Kaufmann*, is quite an expert on this topic and will be our presenter for our program on *January 13*.

Chrizzie works as an instructor for the *Rising Sun Martial Arts (RSMA)* school in Rising Sun, Maryland. She also handles marketing for the school, manages demonstrations for special occasions, runs a summer camp, and gives private lessons. Chrizzie began her training as a teenager, and after sixteen years of practice, recently was awarded her 5th degree black belt. This honor gives her the prerogative of opening her own school as its Grand Master should she ever choose to do so.

There are several styles of martial arts in the United States, most of which are derived from Japanese and/or Korean practices. The style taught at RSMA is mixed martial arts, which includes elements of Tae Kwon Do, Ninpo, Aikijujitsu, Kyoshujitsu, and Verbal Judo.

Chrizzie plans to show us how even the smallest woman can use brain against brawn to defend herself if attacked. Every woman needs to know how to disable an attacker with a few simple moves. Wear something comfortable! This may prove to be the most fun and valuable program of the year!

Eva Kaufmann

SAVE the DATE!

Our annual brunch meeting will be on Saturday morning, February 13.

Dr. Juliana Mosley, Vice President of Student Affairs at Lincoln University will be our speaker. Her topic will be race matters.

More details will be in the next newsletter!

Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, our Gateway to Equity organization this year

United Way of Chester County has recognized Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania as its 2014 Partner Agency of the Year. Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania provides free, high quality civil legal assistance to low-income and senior residents of a four-county area that includes Chester, Bucks, Montgomery and Delaware Counties. United Way of Chester County cited Chester County's Legal Aid for offering legal assistance to the community and noted that Legal Aid increased its outreach through United Way's Financial Stability Center with monthly legal clinics and educational workshops.

Fundraising Update

We have just concluded our first fundraiser "Snackin in the USA". All orders will be distributed at the Nov. 11 meeting. If you cannot make the meeting, other arrangements will be made. We sold 156 bags totaling \$1092 in sales. We realized a total profit of \$567.84 plus \$70 in donations for a grand total of \$637.84. Thanks to all of you who participated in this fundraiser.

Coming in February is a Pampered Chef Fundraiser slated for February 16th with a snow date of February 23rd. We will keep you informed of the details as we move closer to the date. For now, please put it on your calendars.

Lastly, please remember we continue to collect used ink cartridges so bring them to the meetings and they will be recycled in the Staples Reward Program.

Thank you for your support!
Anne Anderko & Donna Golden
Fundraising Co-chairs

Two Minute Activist

Don't forget your commitment to be a frequent *Two Minute Activist*. Make your voice heard in Congress regarding education, economic security, and civil rights. Using our website (under AAUW Links) is so easy!

District East Meeting

By Barbara Lathroum

On October 3rd, Sue Johnston, tonya thames-taylor, and I attended District East Meeting at Cedar Crest College in Allentown. The meeting was comprised of two sessions: one on public policy for gender issues presented by Carol Tracy, Director of the Women's Law Project headquartered in Philadelphia, and one on influencing public policy makers using personal narrative. Susan McNamara and Toni Hoffman, who chair Legislation and Public Policy for AAUW-PA, presented the second session.

Carol Tracy began by explaining what Women's Law Project (WLP) has accomplished and what it is now doing in Pennsylvania and the nation to improve economic security, health, and political representation for women. Pennsylvania was rated 32nd in the nation for gender equity as revealed by a recent Kaiser Health Survey. Our state was given the grade of D+ for women's economic autonomy, D in political leadership, and F for progress in women's health issues.

There is a glimmer of hope in the Pennsylvania legislature for women's health, however. Rep. Dan Frankel revived Women's Health Caucus. According to Women's Law Project (womenslawproject.org), Women's Health Caucus is "a bipartisan, pro-choice group of lawmakers committed to promoting evidence-based policy solutions to real problems facing Pennsylvania women and families". This group recently drafted a legislative package of bills called Pennsylvania's Agenda for Women's Health.

Ms. Tracy also discussed the under-reporting of rape, estimating that 40% of rapes are never reported. While rape kits are collected, most languish unprocessed in police department storerooms. Victims are interrogated, but many rapes are never investigated. Despite the WLP's successful challenge to the FBI's definition of rape and the subsequent broadening of that definition, police may arbitrarily classify sexual assaults as "non-criminal cases" with comparatively mild sentences, if any. Ms Tracy recommends we view the documentary "The Hunting Ground", which was released last February to select theaters and available on YouTube, Netflix, and other venues. It should be broadcast on CNN sometime this month. (I have not been able to find out exactly when.) The documentary is an expose of rapes on campus, institutional cover-ups, and disturbing social consequences for the victim.

The second session of the day concerned in part a technique for more effective advocacy of public policy called webbing. The technique involves identifying persons of influence in one's community and then connecting each person to organizations and other individuals with whom he/she has strong associations. Toni and Susan emphasized the power of personal narratives when we use them to persuade. Another public policy initiative for AAUW-PA is to Get Out The Vote. Toni and Susan would like to see branch members registering voters all year long every year. They created a helpful chart as a tool for persuading voters to vote in the off years. Sue sent this chart to all members in early October.

What a pleasant and stimulating way to spend a drizzly, dreary Saturday. I encourage more members to attend regional meetings.

Did you know?

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 – Rosemary MacDonald
rosemary.macdonald@verizon.net with the information.



GETT and PETT

GETT Ready for GETT 2016!

Can you believe it has been 16 years since I sat around a table at CB Technologies representing AAUW and discussing how and why we should encourage girls to pursue IT as a career choice?

The 16th year of Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology -- is in the planning stage. *GETT will take place on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at West Chester East High School.* Registration will open on February 14th, 2016. Mark your calendars and set aside those days to be a part of the best GETT ever.

We are opening the event to 600 girls in grades 5-10 for the hands on sessions, with the hopes of encouraging girls in grades 11-12 to attend as *student ambassadors*. Last year's EXPO was so successful that we are expanding it. Because of last year's feedback, the EXPO will be in the gym at WC East. AAUW had a great table last year with Donna Golden and her *Volunteers** making polymer balls. We are invited back again this year and will be calling for your help for the event itself as well as for help at the EXPO table.

If you are not familiar with GETT, it is a one day event held within Chester County to encourage girls and their parents and educators to pursue careers in STEM. It is, and has always been, a hands-on venue to show girls that they can do anything they set their mind to do. For more complete information and a video of last year's GETT, you can go to <http://www.GETTPA.org>. AAUW West Chester-Chester County has been an important

part of GETT for 16 years, providing volunteers, research studies, and funding. AAUW's branch board has, once again, pledged \$500 to GETT 2016.

I will be stepping back as lead chair on the *Parent/Educator Committee*. Instead, I will mentor and assist the new chairperson. In an upcoming meeting I will ask for volunteers. If you have questions regarding GETT or suggestions for a hands-on activity that we can provide at the EXPO, you always can contact me at pangea49@comcast.net.

***Note for Volunteers:**

Pennsylvania has implemented a new law regarding any volunteer who has contact with children. Certain individuals, in order to work or volunteer with children, are required to obtain clearances that may include the following:

- PA Child Abuse History Clearance
- PA State Police Criminal Record Check
- FBI Criminal Background Check

To learn which clearances you need to volunteer or work with children go to <http://www.KEEPKIDSSAFE.pa.gov>. Be prepared if you ever are asked to work with children. **Background check fees have recently been waived for volunteers.** For employment purposes the fee has been reduced from \$10 to \$8.

Individuals seeking clearance can go directly to <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home> to create an individual account and apply for their child abuse clearance electronically. Organizations also can manage PA Child Abuse History Clearances online for their employees and volunteers at the same website.

I am researching how to manage clearances as an organization, since we have other opportunities that may occur in the future.

I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you.

Mary A. Smith, STEM Liaison

AAUW Mission Statement

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

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Member News

Sandy Alexander will be playing the first movement of a clarinet concerto at the fall concert of the *Rose Tree Pops Orchestra* Sunday, November 22, at 3:00 pm. She would love to see some friendly faces in the audience. The concert will take place at the Marple Presbyterian Church at 105 N. Sproul Road, Broomall, PA .

Directions: Rte. 476 to Exit 9, west on Rte. 3 (West Chester Pike) toward Broomall, north on Rte. 320, left at first traffic light, church will be on your right. No admission charge. Donations appreciated. Plenty of free parking.

About Member News

If you have news that you would like to share with our organization, we would love to hear about it. This may be your accomplishments, research, performances, etc. Please send detailed information to the newsletter editors: aauwsumnews@gmail.com.

Thank you for sharing!

Guidelines for AAUW some

1. Deadline for articles is the 10th of the month prior to publication – October 10, January 10 and March 10 for 2015 – 16.
2. Board will develop outline/plan for newsletter.
3. Copies of each newsletter article must be sent to the President and the President Elect.
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 President 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.

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 and President Elect. 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.

Help AAUW Save Money

Each year our editors put together 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 \$6.00 per member per year. For several years, most of our 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 Sue Johnston, sjwj77@verizon.net.

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).

Board Meetings

All Board meetings are open to the membership and are held at a West Chester location to be designated. 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 two board meetings are Tuesday, January 5 in room 210 at Grove United Methodist Church and Tuesday, February 2 in room 010B Sykes Union, West Chester University.

Special Interest Groups

Couples Bridge

A chair is needed. Please contact Sue Johnston, sjwj77@verizon.net if interested.

Women's Social Bridge

Do you want to spend some time with fellow AAUW members by playing social bridge once a month? We are in the process of choosing a day and time. Please contact Sandy Alexander at frau.salexander@gmail.com or [610-363-7467](tel:610-363-7467) for more information or to be added to our email list.

Book Groups:

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

LIT I: Daytime Literature Group – Fiction and Non-Fiction

Lit One has changed its meeting time to the third Monday afternoon of each month. We meet at members' houses at 1 p.m. for refreshments. Discussion starts at 1:30 p.m. We read both fiction and non-fiction books that are selected by the members at our final dinner meeting in June. We welcome all members to join us in some lively and thought provoking discussions. Please call the hostess if you plan to attend. Any questions? Call chair Kay Philipps at [610-399-0697](tel:610-399-0697).

You can find the entire schedule for LIT I for the year on our webpage.

http://wccc-pa.aauw.net/files/2015/07/Lit-I_III_Fall_2015.pdf

LIT II: Evening Literature Group –

Fiction and Non-Fiction

Lit Group II reads fiction with an occasional non-fiction book thrown in for our edification. We usually meet on the third Wednesday of the month, starting at 7:00 p.m. for conviviality. Discussions start at 7:30 p.m. We always welcome new members and would be happy to see some new faces.

Our **November 21st** book is *Vintage Munro* by Alice Munro, a selection of five of Munro's short stories published to celebrate Munro's 2013 Nobel Prize. Donna Eaves will lead the discussion. Our hostess is Lyn Eaton. The location is at 1389 Station Place in West Chester. Please RSVP both to Lyn (610-696-3172 or wleaton2@aol.com) and Jean Speiser (JeanSpeiser@Gmail.com).

Our **January 20th** book is Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. You may have read it in high school. See what you think of it now. Dot von Gerbig will lead the discussion. Our hostess is Terry Houle. The location is at 310 William Salesbury Drive in Downingtown. Please RSVP both to Terry (610-269-7272 or thehoules2004@yahoo.com) and Jean Speiser (JeanSpeiser@Gmail.com).

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 for more information.

Literature III - Nonfiction Book Group

This group meets Monday Evening (Lit III, every 2 months, starting in Sept., 3rdMonday)

The next discussion is scheduled for Friday, November 13, 2015 at a place to be determined. The book being discussed is *The Hotel on Place Vendome* by Tilar J. Mazzeo. Copies of the book are available at Chester County libraries.

Please contact Paula McGinness for more information at 610-942-4852 or pmcginness@verizon.net.

FIG (Food Interest Group)

This group dines either at members' homes or in restaurants. The group usually meets on the second Saturday or Sunday of the month. Couples (unless otherwise specified), singles and new members are welcome to join us.

Great Decisions

For information contact Jacky Page at 610-359-9887 or jacquelinepage9@gmail.com

TIG (Travel Interest Group) –This group needs a leader. If you are interested in coordinating trips, please contact Sue Johnston at 610-363-8535; sjwj77@verizon.net

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 hats or blankets for the children at the shelter. Please contact Jean Speiser at JeanSpeiser@Gmail.com or 610-738-3363 for additional information.

*****(Please detach)*****



AAUW West Chester & Chester County Branch's Holiday Party

Please **RSVP** by sending this completed form with a check payable to AAUW-WCCC by December 8, 2015. Send to:
Anne Anderko, 908 Pine Valley Rd., West Chester, PA 19382

I/We will attend the Holiday Party on Sunday, December 13, 2015

Member's Name _____ Name of Guest(s) _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ \$15 per person - Checks should be payable to AAUW-WCCC



402 Edgewood Drive, Exton, PA 19341.
*November, December 2015 &
January 2016 Newsletter*
December 13 – Holiday Party
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