



AAUW some NEWS

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

wccc-pa.aauw.net

Volume 61, Number 5

December 2016 – January 2017



AAUW West Chester & Chester County Branch's Holiday Party

Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 p.m.

At the home of Terry and Tom Houle

310 William Salesbury Drive, Downingtown, Pa. 19335

You are invited to join us for our annual holiday celebration on December 11 at the home of Terry and Tom Houle. This fundraising event is a time to meet with friends in a holiday atmosphere and enjoy delicious appetizers, drinks and desserts. Each attendee is asked to bring her choice of an appetizer, with serving utensils as needed, to share with the group. Members of the AAUW Board will provide an assortment of desserts. Wine and soft drinks will also be available.

Since our holiday party is also a fundraiser for our branch and each attendee is asked to make a contribution of \$15. In addition, gift cards or checks to benefit this year's Gateway to Equity Award winner *The House* would be greatly appreciated. *Please see last page for an RSVP form and additional details.*

January Meeting: *Stem Opportunities for Girls in Chester County* -- This meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Grove United Methodist Church. The panel for this presentation will include Andrea Vaughn, Med, CPP, Project Manager for School to Careers of the Chester County Intermediate Unit and Jennifer Carling from Advanced GeoServices of West Chester.

Contents

<i>Holiday Party & January Meeting</i>	1	<i>Donations for The House</i>	3	<i>Members Special Notes:</i>	7
<i>President's Letter</i>	2	<i>Laundromat Library League Fund Raiser: Dine Out at Iron Hill</i>	4	<i>Chester County Youth Center</i>	7-8
<i>Fund Raising</i>	2	<i>TIG December Outing</i>	5	<i>Board Meetings</i>	8
<i>Safety Pin</i>	2	<i>Mission Statement</i>	5	<i>SIG's</i>	8,9
<i>AAUW PA District East Meeting</i>	3	<i>Membership News</i>	6,7	<i>Holiday Party RSVP form</i>	10

Letter from the President

Hello Members,

The barrage of pre-election ads has evaporated, and the nation will have a new president for better or worse. We have seen a rise in the number of racist and misogynistic attacks met with minimum concern from the president-elect. We see largely peaceful demonstrations by those who fear increased discrimination, possible deportation, and public abuse. All across the country, women are wearing safety pins which symbolize their solidarity with victims of racism, misogyny, homophobia and religious discrimination. Many women are planning to participate in a Million Women March on Inauguration Day and have increased contributions to Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, and the Southern Poverty Law Center. AAUW members are not giving up and will continue to promote policies that protect women and others from discrimination and abuse. I have signed up to receive a recording of an AAUW online discussion planned for November 16 on ways we can respond to threats that may lie ahead. I will relay some of these suggestions to our members in the weeks to come.

This month, Terry Houle will host our annual Holiday Party in lieu of our regular monthly meeting. The Party is on Sunday, December 11 from 2 to 5 PM. The cost is \$15 per person and funds will go toward our projects. At the party, we will collect gift cards for residents of The House, the Phoenixville Women's Outreach facility for homeless women. Suggested cards are those from Giant, Redners, Staples, Target and Kmart.

December is such a joyful season and an opportunity to enjoy friends and family. Let's not forget helping the less fortunate with contributions to local food pantries, the Laundromat Library League, homeless teenage girls residing in the Chester County juvenile facility, and other worthy organizations. Have a wonderful holiday season. Let's welcome in the new year with enthusiasm and hope!

Barbara Lathroum

Fundraising – Pecans & More!

Thanks to all of you that participated in our fall pecan fundraiser that was distributed at the Nov. 16 meeting. We were able to raise \$625.60 that will go back into our budget to support so many worthwhile programs for women and girls! If you were not able to come to the Nov. 16 meeting to pick up your order, other arrangements will be made to get delivery to you.

We need your help. Last year, we did a Pampered Chef fundraiser which generated \$241.00. We were hoping to do something similar through another company that would donate a portion of their sales to our organization. If any of you know of a company that is willing to do this, please contact me with their information. I can be reached at ananderko@msn.com.

Thanks again for all your support!
Anne Anderko & Donna Golden

Safety Pins

In the wave of reactions to the U.S. presidential election, safety pins have taken on a new meaning in the country. Some Americans are wearing safety pins as a symbol of solidarity with victims of racism, homophobia and religious discrimination.

People have spoken out on Twitter to say that their safety pins show that they are an ally to marginalized groups. "My [#SafetyPin](#) shows I will protect those who feel in danger bc of gender, sexuality, race, disability, religion, etc. You are safe with me," actor Bex Taylor-Klaus tweeted.



The safety pin symbolizes solidarity among women concerned about the safety of women and others from misogyny, xenophobia and racism. While some have said the safety pin is a silent protest against the election, others have stressed that the safety pin is not a political statement but a humanitarian statement that shows you stand against bigotry and hate.

AAUW PA District East Meeting

Submitted by Peggy Staarman

On Oct. 22, I attended the AAUW PA District East Meeting held at Delaware Valley University. The meeting focused on the crime of sexual assault, especially on college campuses. Jessica Rice, a representative of the Victim Services Center of Montgomery County, spoke about her agency's services. In addition to giving aid and counseling to victims of sexual abuse, the Center also provides advice about court preparation and offers support groups for the individual and the whole family. She defined rape as an attempt to do some kind of sexual act without the consent or awareness of the individual.

In PA, there are two separate rape charges: rape, a more severe charge, and sexual assault, a lesser crime. She included statistical information about sexual assault. For example, a sexual assault occurs every two minutes, one in five women on college campuses are sexually assaulted, two out of three rapes on campus are committed by a known assailant, and it is the most unreported crime.

Chief Albert DiValentino of the Jenkintown Borough Police praised the Victim Services Center. Because of the Center's advocacy, he said that police have striven to be more sensitive to victims of crime. He lamented the underreporting of sexual abuse, but understood that such a frightening experience coupled with a lack of trust in the justice system prevents many victims from going to the police. He asserted that colleges and universities do not comply with the Clery Act that requires all colleges and universities that participate in federal financial aid programs to keep and disclose information about crimes on their campuses.

Because clothes of a victim are usually confiscated for evidence in the hospital's emergency room, there is a need for "care packages" that contain undergarments, cosmetics, sweat pants, and other essentials.

Many attendees thought that assembling these packages might be a worthwhile project for the AAUW branches.

Barbara Price, the AAUW PA Public Policy Chair, also spoke about public policy issues such as pay equity, Get Out the Vote efforts, and election protection organizations such as AAUW, Common Cause, the ACLU, and the League of Women Voters.

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!



Reminder: Donations for the Phoenixville Women's Outreach: *The House*

Bring to the November 17 meeting:

- Gift cards to Giant Food, Redner's, Staples, Target or K-Mart
- Laundry detergent, Dawn dish detergent, dryer sheets
- Tissues, toilet paper, paper towels
- Hair products (including those designed for black hair), hairspray, lotions
- Hair brushes and combs
- Folger's coffee, flash drives for computers, printer ink (Brother LC101 black, LC103 color)
- Tall kitchen plastic bags, one-gallon Ziploc bags, Clorox or Lysol wipes
- Stamps, flashlights, light bulbs (40, 60, 3-way)

Laundromat Library League Fund Raiser: Dine Out at Iron Hill

Terry Houle

The Laundromat Library League has a critical need for funds at this time. This need includes the expenses of incorporating as a 501c3, the purchase of book stickers and other materials, and, always, books in Spanish. So here is one fundraiser: on Monday November 28th (the Monday after Thanksgiving) the Iron Hill Restaurant in West Chester will give the LLL 20 % of what its supporters spend on food as long as a coupon (see next page) is handed in with payment. This applies to lunch, dinner, and take-out.

It is possible to have a table with several people and to have separate checks (but each needs the coupon). So please consider gathering some friends, family, or members of an organization you belong to, and having a social dining experience all for a good cause!!! Iron Hill is on the northwest corner of High and Gay Streets in West Chester. Share the LLL with a neighbor and give them a coupon or two ... you get the idea.

Of course you in farther places can't do this. We will plan on a second dine-out in December, and would consider a restaurant in Downingtown or the Coatesville area if any of you wish to recommend one that has a generous dine-out program. (Many restaurants do this but only give 10 % to the organization.)

Laundromat Library League

Coupons may not be distributed on Iron Hill premises.
On-site solicitation will result in termination of your event.
Redeem only at Iron Hill Brewery in West Chester, PA
Offer Valid 11/28/16 ONLY

GIVE 20%...means dine with us on Monday, November 28, 2016, and we'll donate 20% of your food bill (excluding alcoholic beverages, gratuity and taxes) to Laundromat Library League. Thank you for your support.

(reservations strongly suggested)

IRON HILL BREWERY & RESTAURANT
3 WEST GAY STREET WEST CHESTER, PA 19380 610 738.9600 WWW.IRONHILLBREWERY.COM

Laundromat Library League

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December TIG Outing

Christmas Village in Philadelphia

*Experience a German holiday tradition
without leaving the country!*

What: Christmas Village in Philadelphia

When: Friday, December 9

Where: Meet at Whitford Station to take the 10:22 am train, arriving 11:20 at Suburban Station; return home before rush hour

Contact: Let Sandy Alexander know if you will be attending - 610-363-7467 or frau.salexander@gmail.com

What is Christmas Village?

Christmas Village in Philadelphia is an outside Holiday market event in Center City Philadelphia, which is modeled after the traditional Christmas Markets in Germany. Vendors in more than 80 wooden booths will sell traditional European food, sweets and drinks. This is a great shopping experience.

Food Options

Where to start? We've got all the German goodies: Bratwurst (3 kinds) with Sauerkraut, Schnitzel with Potato Salad, Leberkäse (German meatloaf), Berlin style Curry Wurst, fresh roasted almonds and German Gingerbread, Gluhwine (mulled wine), a wide assortment of non-alcoholic cold and hot beverages and so much more. There are also plenty of choices available for vegetarians which include vegetarian Doner, baked cheese on a stick, German Pretzels, Potato Pancakes, Belgian Fries, sweet and savory crepes and waffles, and such.

For more information, check out <http://www.philachristmas.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 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.

AAUW Mission Statement

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

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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 Secretary – Eva Kaufmann, ekaufmann1@gmail.com, with the information.

Guidelines for AAUW some

1. Deadline for articles is the 10th of the month prior to publication – e.g., October 10, December 10, January 10, etc.
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. Be sure to provide names of the people and description of the happening in the photo.
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.

Membership News

Peggy Staarman (Vice President for Membership)

Sharing the Benefits and activities of AAUW:

An informative and attractive trifold designed by Eva Kaufmann and Toni Gorkin was distributed to all members at the November meeting.

The trifold explains our mission statement, hails our accomplishments, tells about our community outreach, and gives information about our Interest Groups and special projects.

Please share these trifolds with friends, relatives, and anyone who might enjoy the benefits and activities of our West Chester-Chester County branch. Thank you, Toni and Eva, for creating such a fine advertisement for our branch.

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).

Member Special Notes

The newsletter editors continue to include news about our AAUW chapter members in this newsletter.

Many of our members are involved in other projects that also support women's issues, support our community, or express their passion and creativity. This is an opportunity to tell us what you are doing, and where appropriate, to share involvement.

Please see the *AAUW some* guidelines for sending your articles and information to the newsletter's gmail account -- aauwsumnews@gmail.com.

Arlene Rengert and Fran Pierce: **Chester County Youth Center – Donation Opportunity and Presentation**

About the Chester County Youth Center

Perhaps you know the Chester County Youth Center as the county's secure detention facility for youth aged 10-21 who are alleged and adjudicated delinquents. You would be correct: almost 50 youth (males and females) are incarcerated there. The CCNY also maintains an electronic home monitoring program, administered in cooperation with the Juvenile Probation Department, in which some youth are released from detention to return home where they have limited access to the community but still be able to attend school or work.

However, perhaps you do not know that some residents of the CCYC have no criminal charges and are living there because the CCYC offers a secure place to live for female youth with no other homes. The females aged 10-21 in this "non-secure shelter program" attend schools and other age-appropriate activities, and have highly structured daily supportive programs within the CCYC. They also receive medical, dental, psychological, psychiatric, and diagnostic services.

They are at the Center because they have nowhere else to go because they have been removed from their homes, or their parents are in prison, or someone in their house has been a problem to them, or they have run away. These 10-15 girls and young women are not "adjudicated," but they have to stay in this center until other arrangements can be made. Usually that is approximately 6 months, but often they stay a few months, go back home, then return for another stint – it's a very sterile environment. One AAUW member works to brighten their December holidays.

Donation Opportunity

For over 8 years AAUW member Fran Pierce has collected gift items for these shelter residents. She has a list of items so that each resident receives the same items, but not identical ones. Fran simply asks friends and acquaintances to select a few items from her list and purchase them for the shelter residents. Many that have participated in the past are AAUW members. *For the list and to participate contact Fran at franpierce@verizon.net.*

Related Presentation

Fran works with and through Carrie Avery, Program Director at CCYC. Ms. Avery will be giving a *presentation on December 4th at Grove Church's Sunday Morning Adult Forum, 11-12 a.m.* The Forum is a small group that meets in an upstairs lounge, and is open to anyone with interest regardless of any religious affiliation. Her topic is "Balanced and restorative justice overview; comparing juvenile and adult systems."

Following that Forum hour, those interested will carpool to the CCYC where Ms. Avery will lead a 30 minute tour. AAUW members are welcome to come to the presentation and/or to come just to have the tour. However, prior registration for the tour is requested: be in touch with Arlene Rengert, arengert@gmail.com or 610-696-2282.

Board Meetings

All Board Meetings are open to the membership. Board Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month, 7-9 pm. The next Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7. Except for January, the Board will meet at West Chester University, **Sykes Room 257**. The board will meet at Grove United Methodist Church in January.

Special Interest Groups

Couples Bridge

A chair is needed. Please contact Barbara Lathroum blathroum@gmail.com if interested.



Women's Social Bridge

Women's Social Bridge meets at 1:00 p.m. on the third or fourth Friday of the month.

Upcoming 2016-2017 dates are December 16, January 27, February 17, March 24, April 28, and May 19. Please email Sandy Alexander at frau.salexander@gmail.com if you'd like to be on the email mailing list. All are welcome!

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 in the evening at different times of the month.

LIT I: Daytime Literature Group –

Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group- Kay Phillips-
khp65hp@verizon.net

Lit One meets the third Monday of the month during the day at member's houses. We read both fiction and non-fiction. In January the group will read *Dreamland*, by Sam Quinones.

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

http://wccc-pa.aauw.net/files/2016/07/LIT_ONE_AAUW-2016-2017.pdf

LIT II: Evening Literature Group –

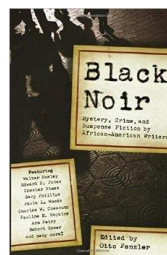
Literature II - Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group -
Jean Speiser - JeanSpeiser@gmail.com

Lit Group II meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. for conversation and nibbles, with the discussion starting at

7:30. We usually read fiction but also occasional non-fiction.

We always welcome new members so please join us to see if we're a good fit for you. There's no commitment. Jean Speiser sends out reminders about a week in advance, so let her know if you are interested in getting those reminders. You can reach her at JeanSpeiser@Gmail.com.

In November the group read *Black Noir*, a collection of mysteries by black writers edited by Otto Penzler.



In January the group will read *The Husband's Secret*, by Liane Moriarty. **Note:** This is a change in the schedule. The group will read *My Beloved World*, by Sonia Sotomayer, in April instead of January.

FIG (Food Interest Group)

This group dines around either at a member's home or at a restaurant. The group usually meets on a Saturday for dinner or Sunday for brunch on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. Couples (unless otherwise specified) and singles, as well as new members, are welcome. As events are scheduled, FIG members will receive email invitations.

On November 13 the group attended a Harvest Brunch at the home of Donna and Bob Eaves. For more information or to join the group, contact Donna Eaves, #610-692-5277, or deaves@live.com.

We are looking for members who would like to host or plan a meal at a restaurant in 2017. Please contact Donna if you are interested.

Great Decisions

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

TIG (Travel Interest Group)

The Travel Interest Group is composed of members and their guests who like to go to interesting places and often enjoy a meal together before or after. We usually do something 7 or 8 times a year.

A visit to the Christmas Market in Philadelphia is planned for December (see related article on page 5). Contact Sandy Alexander if you will be attending at:

frau.salexander@gmail.com or 610-363-7467

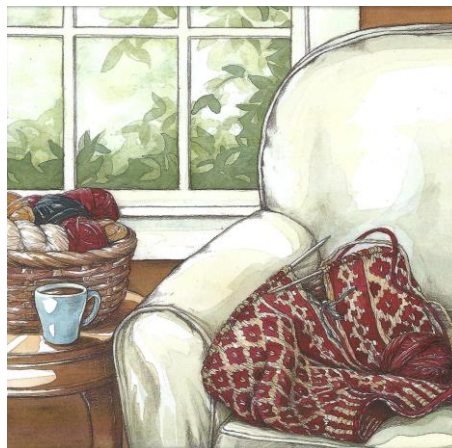


Also, please contact Barbara Lathroum if you want to be on the list for future events. Being on the list does not obligate you to attend any trips. Anyone is welcome to coordinate an event or trip they are interested in. Examples are historic house tours, museums, interesting collections (e.g., we enjoyed a collection of women's costumes in 19th century Chester County at the Chester County Historical Museum).

Needlework Group:

This group includes all forms of needlework – *knitting, crochet, embroidery, applique, quilting, needlepoint* and any other needlework members would like to share. Barbara Lathroum will host a meeting at her home on **Wednesday, November 30, at 7:00 p.m.**

Note: This is a change from previous announcements, as interested members are more able to attend an evening meeting. Please RSVP to her at 610-321-9783 or blathroum@gmail.com if you wish to attend; plan to bring something you are knitting or stitching; we will chat and have tea while we work.





Please join the
**AAUW West Chester and Chester County Branch
for Our Annual Holiday Party**

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Date: Sunday, December 11, 2016

Place: The home of *Terry and Tom Houle*
310 William Salesbury Drive
Downingtown, Pa. 19335

Cost: \$15 per person – will defray some party costs
and also the event is a branch fund raiser.

In addition, gift cards or checks to benefit this year's Gateway to Equity Award
winner The House are welcome.

Please bring an appetizer with a serving utensil to share.

RSVP: Send the form below by December 2, 2016 to:
Anne Anderko
908 Pine Valley Circle
West Chester, Pa. 19382-5299



I/We will attend the Annual Holiday Party on December 11 at the Houles

Name _____

Guest _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ @ \$15 per person Check Number _____

Checks should be payable to AAUW-WCCC (AAUW West Chester - Chester County Branch)
Send to: Anne Anderko, 908 Pine Valley Circle, West Chester, PA 19382-5299



402 Edgewood Drive, Exton, PA 19341.

December 2016 – January 2017 Newsletter

December 11, 2016 – Holiday Party

January 11, 2017 – STEM

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