



## AAUW some NEWS

News & Views from the  
West Chester – Chester County PA Branch  
[wccc-pa.aauw.net](http://wccc-pa.aauw.net)

*Volume 62, Number 1*

*February 2017*

## February Brunch and Meeting *Hot Topics in Education*

*with Fran Pierce*

Saturday, February 11, 10:00 a.m.  
Grove United Methodist Church

As a new administration takes office in Washington, public education is one issue that will take center stage again. We are delighted to welcome our own Fran Pierce to speak to us about issues in education that will be of interest to us all. The current popular opinion of public education is that it is failing our students and needs major reform even though reform efforts have been going on for 25 years. Fran will help us understand how this opinion was formed, and what charter schools, the single biggest result of the reform movement, have done to create the present education system.

Fran has had a busy career in various aspects of education. She has a Master's Degree in Education and extensive further training in Adult Learning Theory, Organizational Development, Leadership Development and Mediation and Conflict Resolution. Fran spent 33 years as a UniServ Representative from PSEA where she created a peer mediation program and authored a "Prescriptive Portfolio" that allows paraprofessionals in education to reach the "highly qualified status" as required by the "No Child Left Behind" law. After retirement, Fran created her own consulting business, TalkWorks, Inc., that delivers educational consultant and workforce skills to non-profits and small businesses.

Fran is an appointed member of the Chester County Women's Commission, was a member of the board of directors of the YMCA, was Program Chairman and President of AAUW, and is currently president of the Youth Council of the Chester County Workforce and Investment Board. We look forward to hearing her expertise on today's hot topics in education following our delicious brunch.

### **Branch Members should provide a brunch dish to serve 6 to 8 people**

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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## Letter from the President

Hello Members,

In the 1970s, I belonged to a women's history discussion group with six other women. Women's history was considered a fairly radical discipline then, so we called ourselves S.W.A.T. or Seven Women Agitating Together. Perhaps we should devise a colorful nickname for A.A.U.W. --- the American Association of Uppity Women perhaps? This might change people's perceptions of our group and attract more and younger women to join our present young-at-heart members. I just want to remind you that **March is Membership Month**.

Nominations for Awards: At our January meeting, I distributed Awards Nomination Sheets. Our meeting ran so long that many of you had no time to fill them out on that night. We vote on these awards at the Brunch on Saturday, February 11th, so time is of the essence. Please mail me your award nominees or email (or text) them to me as soon as possible. I have sent everyone an email with the details. Thanks.

If you are like me, I always enjoy the February Brunch with all the camaraderie among members and guests as well as the luscious food provided by us all. Please bring a breakfast or luncheon dish, a salad or fruit, breads or a dessert. If possible, let Mimi know what you are bringing so that one kind of dish does not predominate. Fran Pierce will speak and lead a discussion on "Hot Topics in Education." With the backlash against testing, the rise of cyber schools, and the push to privatize education, Fran has chosen a timely subject. I read a superb article by an Ohio teacher who correlated test scores with socioeconomic characteristics. Among wealthy students the scores place the U.S. 3rd in the world; middle class student scores put the U.S. among the middle rank countries; but for those in poverty, the scores place the U.S. near the bottom. And sadly, the number of American children living below the poverty line has dramatically increased.

I am writing this epistle after Saturday's Women's March on Washington and sister marches all over the world, including Antarctica! A number of our branch members participated in marches in Washington and Philadelphia. The marches were exceptionally well-organized. Marchers of all ages, sexes, and races were positive, polite, and orderly, simply expressing our concerns as women and minorities. What an experience! As we marched down East Capitol Street to the Mall in Washington, residents opened windows to wave, and people lined the streets cheering with us. As we approached the East face of the Capitol, we gazed down at the Mall filled with a sea of pink hats and homemade signs. Later, we marched down Pennsylvania Avenue, past the Trump Hotel to the White House. When women organize, things get done!

*Barbara Lathroum*

## GETT READY



Registration for GETT READY, an interactive full-day program on March 25, 2017, for girls in grades 5 – 10, their parents, and educators opens on February 14, 2017. The event is held at West Chester East High School. Registration is at [www.2017GETT.eventbrite.com](http://www.2017GETT.eventbrite.com).

The participants will meet women role models and participate in hands-on activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. They will partake in over 60 interactive activities during the GETT Expo, choose between a variety of in depth break-out sessions, and discover new ways to connect their passions to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The video "GETT 2016 Short Recap" is available on the website [gettpa.org](http://gettpa.org).

# Women's March on Washington D.C.

As Barbara Lathroum noted in her President's Letter above, several members of our chapter marched in the Women's March on Washington on January 21<sup>st</sup>. The photos below, from Barbara and Eva Kaufmann, tell a small part of the story.



## 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!

Note: AAUW (and numerous other organizations we may belong to, such as National Audubon Society and Sierra Club) are making it easy to send letters to your senators, using links on their websites and pre-authored sample letters, to express support for the ACA, to ask not to approve Scott Pruitt as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), or expressing other opinions about issues at the forefront today. Be sure to check the websites of your favorite organizations.



## PA and Branch Award Nominations

It is time again to honor the members who have worked hard to make our branch so remarkable. Please think about whom you will nominate for each of the awards below. You do not need the permission of the nominee to nominate them --- these are not jobs, but AWARDS!

Please Nominate Members for 2017 PA and Branch Awards ASAP. Award nomination forms were handed out at the January meeting. Please complete and submit them by mail or email to Barbara Lathroum as soon as possible.

The deadline for nominations is **February 9, 2017**. All past awardees are listed in the Handbook.

## Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund for 2017-2018

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) West Chester Branch will be awarding \$1500 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.

Eligibility requirements, application forms and the deadline for applying will be available on the AAUW Chester County web site [wccc-pa.aauw.net](http://wccc-pa.aauw.net) under the *Scholarship/Grants* tab. You may also contact Mimi Jones at [danandmimi1@verizon.net](mailto:danandmimi1@verizon.net) or Patti Barker at [pptbarker@gmail.com](mailto:pptbarker@gmail.com). *The deadline for applying is March 31, 2017.*

Contributions can be sent to:  
Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund  
Chester County Community Fund  
West Chester, Pa. 19335

On line contributions can be made at:  
<http://www.chescocf.org/funds/Fund%20purpose/Alice%20Lawson%20Scholarship%20Fund.htm>

## AAUW Members Learn About *STEM Opportunities*

*Barbara Lathroum*

On Wednesday, January 11, the West Chester-Chester County Branch of AAUW met to learn about STEM opportunities for girls in Chester County. The AAUW has been a strong advocate for educating girls in the sciences and providing them with opportunities to investigate careers in all aspects of technology. We were delighted, therefore, to welcome three women who have been instrumental in reaching girls with information about the fulfilling and exciting careers they can pursue in many scientific fields.

Our first panel member was Jennifer Carling. Jennifer represented the Girl Scouts and spoke about the STEM opportunities offered by this group. She is also part of the current Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology (GETT) planning committee. She will also be taking over our own Mary Smith's role as Chairperson of the adult portion of GETT we know as PETT (Parents Exploring Tomorrow's Technology).

Our second speaker, Andrea Vaughn, M.Ed., is Project Manager of the School to Careers Program at the Chester County Intermediate Unit. She has served on the GETT committee for several years, along with our third panelist, Patti Van Cleave.

Patti has chaired strategic parts of the initial planning of GETT events and has connections with other STEM events for Chester County youth. She manages the Chester County Economic Development Council's (CCEDC) Youth Career Exploration Program, which holds events providing school-age children with opportunities to explore careers in agriculture, energy, healthcare and other STEM related fields. We were pleased and fortunate to have these three women share their experiences with us.

**In Memory of  
Yvonne Mae Peiffer**



Our Branch of AAUW has lost one of its most active and energetic members. Yvonne Mae Peiffer passed away on December 3, 2016 after a two-year battle with Stage IV stomach cancer.

Yvonne was branch President in 1977-1979 and she again stepped forward in 2006-2007 to help lead our organization. An active member of Great Decisions, Yvonne facilitated a program in conjunction with the *League of Woman Voters on the Philadelphia Global Water Initiative*. Two months before her death, she led the discussion on Global Affairs at the Great Decisions meeting.

During her forty-four years as a member she participated in our book sales, recycling program, Teenage Parents program, Reading is Fundamental in the West Chester School District, and headed the Project Speaking Out and Being Heard. She was Chairperson of the Public Policy committee and kept Branch members informed through her detailed newsletter articles. In 1980, she was awarded both The Outstanding Branch Member and honored with Named Gifts to the Educational Foundation.

Yvonne's interest in AAUW began in 1960 when she received a scholarship from a local chapter in Maryland that allowed her to start her college education.

Yvonne, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, achieved other credentials including the Diplomat in Clinical Social Work. One of her greatest achievements was developing and

initiating the *Post Adoption Services Program* for Chester County Department of Children, Youth, and Families. This program was well known throughout Pennsylvania and replicated not only in our state, but nationally. Our county received much recognition for this innovative program and much needed help for families adopting children who have experienced trauma in their earlier lives.

Yvonne's concern and caring for others was evident throughout her life. Along with her husband, she volunteered in the court's Guardianship program, served in a fact-finding commission concerning the status of offenders in the Pennsylvania Detention Center and the Probation Department. She was the quintessential volunteer and a true AAUW member advocating for equal pay for equal work by baking, transporting, selling and educating community members on the importance of this inequity. She spoke out on the right of women to choose, and the importance of economic empowerment of women.

Yvonne was an inspiration to many and will be greatly missed. A Memorial Service will be held in the summer at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lionville.

*Special Tributes:*

"Yvonne was a strong advocate for adoption and services to adoptive families. She inspired her staff and graduate students during her 16 years at the Chester County Department of Children, Youth and Families. She practiced and taught social work skills, including family counseling to many DCYF staff. Yvonne led by example and helped staff to stretch beyond their comfort zones to try new ideas in parenting, in counseling, and in giving professional presentations. Under her direction DCYF provided support groups, search services and counseling to hundreds of families and children. She was recognized as the Pa Adoption Professional of the Year during her time at DCYF. Yvonne's compassion, guidance and leadership continue to demonstrate long term benefits in many lives today."

In Memory of Yvonne....cont'd.

“Yvonne was always ready to help anybody to solve their problems and trying to cheer you up. She was a great friend.”

“Yvonne’s contributions to the Teenage Parents Program were enormous, mostly because of her caring concern for the pregnant or parenting teens. She was a tremendous proponent for evaluations, and chuckled heartily when we read the teens’ evaluations of a particular program which she and I had considered of great value, but the teens thought was “pie in the sky.” Yvonne had a knack for seeing and finding a way to address the needs of others while always maintaining her sense of humor. Her contributions to her greater community were unmatched.”

## **“START SMART” Workshop To be held on April 3rd**

The West Chester-Chester County Branch of AAUW and A.W.E. (student affiliate at West Chester University) will hold the second START SMART Workshop on April 3rd 5:30-8:00 pm at WCU’s Sykes Ballroom. The workshop is aimed at graduating seniors and others soon to be looking for jobs. Dr. tanya thames-taylor and Jennifer Schultz will be leading the workshop. They are looking for volunteers from our branch to help them facilitate the program. Last year, the START SMART session attracted 63 participants.

START SMART and WORK SMART are programs developed by the National AAUW for women to learn negotiating skills when seeking employment and promotions. Women tend to undervalue themselves in the job seeking process taking salaries and benefits that are offered. Men will more likely negotiate their salaries, benefits and other conditions of employment. This partly explains the gap between men’s and women’s salaries. Women earn roughly 80% of what a man earns for the same work. This imbalance is much worse for women of color. The program has attracted much public interest. For example, the mayor of Boston has offered the Work Smart program to all of its female city employees.

## **THE YOUTH CENTER UPDATE**

*Fran Pierce*

I wanted you all to know that the women who direct the *Youth Center* express such deep and sincere appreciation for all the gifts. They related to me that this year there is a young woman who was there at this same time last year. Despite finding herself back at the Youth Center for the holidays, instead of being disheartened, she was hopeful and said that here she felt safe! She also asked if perhaps this year they would receive that “big bag of presents” like the one she received last year? When they told her “yes,” she was pleased to be there.



It is a little thing that each of us does, but together, I think we make a difference to them.

Lastly, I wanted to let you know of the card I included this year in each bag. I wrote the following:

“Sometimes life throws you a curve ball, but you have the strength inside you to make a fresh start in the upcoming New Year. Happy Holidays from a group of women who wish you the very best. We believe in you and know that you can do great things in your future!”

*Thank you all for your help and support on this little project; it is deeply appreciated!*



# The United State of Women Summit

AAUW members heard a vibrant and inspiring report from Tammy Williams on The United State of Women Summit at the AAUW program meeting on Wednesday, November 16. Tammy was one of over 5000 women who were invited to the Summit in June, 2016, at which all issues that impact women were discussed, not just the potential election of a woman president.

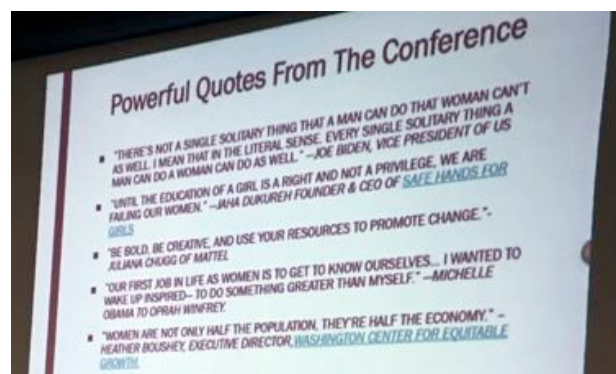


Tammy outlined the six pillars of issues that were discussed at the Summit, infusing her personal history and passion as well as noting the local impacts of the issues as she spoke.

- **Economic Empowerment:** discussion at the Summit addressed equal pay, paid sick leave and paid family leave, child care, health care, and economic and political participation. Tammy noted that Pennsylvania had fallen to 49<sup>th</sup> in the USA - - and that the US is 99<sup>th</sup> out of 185 countries in the world -- with respect to women elected to government. She stressed the importance of increasing representation by women in government as a change agent.
- **Health and Wellness:** key issues at the Summit included the spending power of Baby Boomer women on health care, the need for global coverage, and the role of the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") coverage.
- **Educational Opportunity:** Tammy noted discussion at the Summit was about early childhood education, STEM education for girls, and free community college. She showed a video that told how much girls around the world desired education.

- **Violence Against Women:** The Summit discussed protecting students from sexual assault; other topics were domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and human trafficking. Tammy noted the need to reduce the national rape kit backlog.
- **Entrepreneurship and Innovation:** The Summit discussed the need for training and counseling women entrepreneurs, increasing access to credit, investing in innovation, and women's involvement in global entrepreneurship. Tammy noted her own personal experiences with business leadership and entrepreneurial activity.
- **Leadership and Civic Engagement:** Tammy noted the need for more support for women in business and public sector leadership, and the increase in women's voice and visibility that is needed at the state and intermediate levels.

At the end of the review of the Summit, AAUW members joined in a spirited question and answer session with Tammy. Members



expressed their concerns with the direction of initiatives that impact women, with the recent election results. Tammy stressed that the best way to keep moving forward with women's issues was to join the movement. She recommended exploring the website for the United State of Women. She mentioned the Women's March on Washington to take place January 21<sup>st</sup>, stressing the purpose was to talk about what President-Elect Trump should hear about the needs of women – not to protest, but to communicate what is important to us. Tammy finished with the words, "Today we'll change tomorrow."

## Introduction to Islam and to Muslims Course

Sunday Evenings - Starting February 26th

Arlene Rengert

Back in 2007-8 Grove United Methodist Church offered a 10-week set of evening lessons on Islam and Muslims. Given the times and the misperceptions of Muslims that are 'out there,' Grove is offering these sessions again. The series of 10 classes is free and open to all in the community that have interest. Advanced registration is required.



The classes, held in Zuschnitt Lounge upstairs at Grove United Methodist Church, are 6:30-8:30 Sundays starting February 26<sup>th</sup>. A flyer with more detail and registration information will be available at the February AAUW meeting, or members can request an electronic copy from Barb Lathroum. AAUW member Arlene Rengert is one of the "logistical coordinators" of the class and can respond to questions, but in the early weeks of February she will be away from regular communication so do email your questions but be prepared to wait several days for a response.

You can also call or email your registration Donna/Jerry Pyne: 610-256-7963, [dspyne@gmail.com](mailto:dspyne@gmail.com) or Arlene Rengert: 610-696-2282, [arengert@gmail.com](mailto:arengert@gmail.com). Advanced registration is required. No class on Easter Sunday. The class is expected to fill.



Cheryl Messere

The Staff and Volunteers sincerely want thank AAUW for your support this year. The House is a place for women to heal. And in the words of a resident....

*"The House" Just like home plus....When I first entered The House after being released from a behavior hospital, I felt blessed. I almost had to go to Safe Harbor where you had to be out of the place from 7am-9pm. I was so scared, as I know drugs are in these shelters. I am an addict in recovery with over 4 years clean & sober. The house is a safe, warm and loving atmosphere. It is truly heaven-sent and blessed.*

*The Director and Executive Director are very caring women. The House loves you until you can love YOURSELF. They provide everyday necessities and then some. You have a nice warm bed, a nice shower (or bath) and breakfast and dinner are provided. What more could a person ask for? They set you up with Any and All help you need. I once was suicidal now I LOVE LIFE! They help you to see your SELF WORTH once again! The House is a true blessing in my life!*

*I thank God for sending me here.*

*The following is a poem I wrote that expresses my gratefulness!*

*Once I did not want to live.*

*Now I see I have love to give.*

*I once was lost and now I am found.*

*I love life and Kiss the ground.*

*The House is my serenity and hope.*

*NEVER again to do dope!*

*The women there are a true inspiration,*

*They help you get through ALL your frustrations.*

*I love them and will be forever grateful for their love.*

*They are earth's angels sent from above.*

*I love The House and all it stands for,*

*I could NOT ask GOD for anymore.*

*The blessings start and do not stop.*

*God, and The House rise you to the TOP!*

To the Members of AAUW,

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for the variety of donations you have given us throughout the year and now at Christmas. It is all well needed and we thank you very much. Thanks to people like you all, with a compassionate heart. We feel worthy again. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for "adopting The House". Sincerely, "The Gals" of The House, Phoenixville Women's Outreach



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

Bring to any Branch meeting:

- Washcloths
- Dish soap
- Dish towels
- LED light bulbs low watt
- Dryer sheets
- Kleenex

### **AAUW Mission Statement**

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

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## Guidelines for AAUW some

1. Deadline for articles is the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

*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.

## Membership News

*Peggy Staarman (Vice President for Membership)*

Many of you know that Yvonne Peiffer passed away recently. A past President of our branch, Yvonne, always kind and generous, participated in our activities until shortly before her death. A tribute to Yvonne appears in this newsletter.

On a happier note, the branch congratulates West Chester-Chester County Branch member and West Chester Mayor Carolyn Comitta on her election to the PA House of Representatives from the 156<sup>th</sup> District. She won a very close race with incumbent Dan Truitt. She was declared the winner on December 16 after a recount.

Tri-folds that explain our branch mission, list our accomplishments, and delineate our activities are available to any member who would like to help publicize our branch. Please invite neighbors, friends, and relatives to our meetings and interest groups. Please let Peggy Staarman ([peggstaar@verizon.net](mailto:peggstaar@verizon.net)) know if a guest attends your interest group activity so that she can contact this prospective member, supply her with a tri-fold, and give her an application for membership.

At our general meetings, please remember to donate your loose change to the Laundromat Library Project. The Project leaders appreciate any extra income that enables them to supply books to needy children.

## 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).

## West Chester's New Theater to Offer Travel Films, Ted Talks, Music, & Dramatic Productions

*Arlene Rengert*

The Pennsylvania National Guard Armory, built in 1916, has stood nearly vacant in the center of West Chester, for quite a while. A few years ago a nonprofit group purchased it (for \$760,000) and has now turned the 10,990-square-foot building into a theatrical complex. It opened officially on December 31 with a giant party attended by over 550 people. The largest venue inside is the Knauer Theater for the Performing Arts. It is here that the Travel Film series, formerly at West Chester University and attended by many AAUW members, will resume. The first in the Tuesday evening series will be April 25th and will feature Marlin Darrah, one of the favorite presenters of travel films on the WCU stage. For information on other 2017 films and with any other questions contact Arlene Rengert ([arengert@gmail.com](mailto:arengert@gmail.com); 610-696-2282).

The Uptown Alliance, the organization that raised the \$2-3 million to renovate the building, also has regular jazz music offerings and this March-April will present the Resident Theater production of Spamalot. Ted Talks and improvisation programs are also in the planning. To be on the email list to receive news of offerings and events email to [info@uptownwestchester.org](mailto:info@uptownwestchester.org).

Or visit the website: [www.uptownwestchester.org](http://www.uptownwestchester.org).

Advance purchase of tickets via the website is encouraged. Food also is available by advance purchase, and there is a full bar on the premises. (Yes, drinks may be carried into the theater; each of the new and very comfortable theater seats is equipped with a cup holder.) For most performances (including the travel films) the bar and dining area is open for 1-2 hours prior to the program so people can gather and chat. It may be possible to get the use of a nearby, smaller room for a pre-program AAUW gathering.

Parking is at metered spaces in the open lot just west of the building, on the street, or in a nearby parking garage. The building, located at 226 North High Street, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

## 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](mailto:aauwsumnews@gmail.com).

## 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, February 1, 2017. The Board will meet at West Chester University, **Sykes Room 257**.

## Special Interest Groups

### Couples Bridge

A chair is needed. Please contact Barbara Lathroum [blathroum@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:khp65hp@verizon.net)*

**Literature I** will meet Monday February 19, 2017 at 1:00 pm for refreshments and 1:30 pm for our discussion of the book *Handle with Care* by Jodi Picoult. Elaine Burgess will lead the discussion. Our hostess is Martina Ossman. Please call Martina to let her know if you will be in attendance. We welcome new members to our daytime literature group.

Our March book will be *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant. Eva Kaufmann will lead our discussion on March 20, 2017 and Sandy Alexander will be our hostess. Any questions, please contact Kay Philipps, Chair.

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](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](mailto:JeanSpeiser@gmail.com)*

**Lit Group II**, focusing on fiction with occasional non-fiction thrown in, meets on the third Wednesday of each month for lively and often opinionated discussion. On February 15 we'll be discussing *The Secret Place* by Tana French. Ms. French, an American-born Irish writer, uses the formal structure of a detective story to explore the human condition. This month she addresses teen-age girls and their hopes, aspirations and problems. Since all of us were once teenage girls, we should find this book easy to relate to, even those of us who do not generally enjoy detective fiction. We'll be meeting at Peggy Staarman's house in Downingtown at 7:00



PM. Email Jean Speiser (JeanSP@Gmail) for more information.

### **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.

#### **Next Events:**

**Sunday, February 26 at 4:00pm –**

Winter Get-away dinner hosted by Peggy and Bill Staarman.

**Saturday, March 18 at 4:00pm –**

St. Patrick's Day dinner at the home of Mimi and Dan Jones.



FIG members will receive invitations by email. For more information or to join the group, contact Donna Eaves, #610-692-5277, or [deaves@live.com](mailto:deaves@live.com). We are looking for members who would like to host or plan a meal at a restaurant in Spring or Summer. Please contact Donna if you are interested.

### **Great Decisions**

For information contact Jacky Page at 610-359-9887 or [jacquelinepage9@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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 19<sup>th</sup> century Chester County at the Chester County Historical Museum).

Anyone interested in seeing Thornton Wilder's "The Matchmaker" at People's Light please contact Barb Lathroum ([484-995-2008](tel:484-995-2008)) or Jean Speiser ([610-738-3363](tel:610-738-3363))

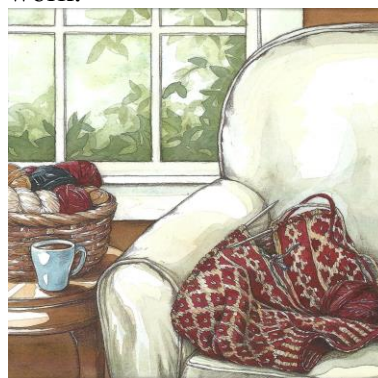
We are looking into a Saturday or Sunday matinee. To get the group rate, we need ten or more people to sign up.

I was thinking Saturday, Feb 25, at 2 PM; Saturday, March 4 at 2 PM; or Sunday, March 5, at 2 PM. Remember that friends and husbands are welcome.

### **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 **January 26, at 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** Carol Zabriskie has graciously offered her house for the second meeting: Thursday, February 16 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to [blathroum@gmail.com](mailto:blathroum@gmail.com) or call her cell, 484-995-2008 if you wish to attend; plan to bring something you are knitting or stitching; we will chat and have tea while we work.





402 Edgewood Drive, Exton, PA 19341.

*February 2017 Newsletter*

**February 11, 2017 – Annual Brunch**  
*and Hot Topics in Education*

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)