



AAUW some NEWS

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

Volume 62, Number 2

March 2017

#MyLifeMyLabel Campus Action Project

Ms. Tia S. Brown, MPH
Wednesday, March 8, 7:00 p.m.
Grove United Methodist Church

Our guest speaker for the March meeting is Tia S. Brown, MPH, Associate Director of Health and Wellness Programs at Cheyney University. She is also project advisor for the #MyLifeMyLabel Campus Action Project at the university. It is a multi-tiered programmatic effort aimed at tearing down the stereotypes and resulting biases against women, but also the sub-group of women of color, as well as the biases that women have against each other. The project's goal was to reduce stereotypes by targeting how young women view themselves, view the possibilities available to them and by motivating them to define for themselves who they are and their value to society. The project received a 2014-15 AAUW Campus Action Project grant and some of you may have met Ms. Brown when she was a presenter at the AAUW State Convention last spring. We will learn about this project and the current re-vamped program at Cheyney University.

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 or 610-696-2663.

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Letter from the President

Barbara Lathroum

Hello Members,

March seems to be approaching like the proverbial Lamb rather than the usual Lion. Lovely weather is making me all the more eager for spring!!

March is Membership Month.

All of us know energetic women who would be good prospective members and now, many of our friends are looking for ways to support women and girls. Joining our branch of AAUW is the perfect solution! Let's make a special effort to bring a prospective member to the March 8th meeting. You will receive a raffle ticket for each guest you bring, AND if they join, you will get another ticket toward the special gift basket we will raffle off at the May 10th Banquet. Further, any one whom you can persuade to join before March 15th will get a great bargain on dues. See Peggy Staarman's Membership news on page 8 of the Newsletter.

The AAUW Effect.

The cover of one of the recent Outlooks heralded the "AAUW Effect" on its cover and showed a pebble landing in a pool with rings expanding out from the splash point. This is a great metaphor for how small individual actions contribute larger goals like safeguarding and expanding opportunities for women and girls.

In April, we are introducing a new feature to this Newsletter. I know many of you feel overwhelmed by decrees and legislation coming out of Washington and Harrisburg that jeopardize the health, education, and welfare of women and girls on so many fronts! Fortunately, a groundswell of opposition has arisen to protest against measures undermining these rights and opportunities. In the next issue of the Newsletter, there will be a section devoted to "**What We Do**". Whether it is writing a few postcards, making a phone call,

visiting a legislator's local office, writing a Letter to the Editor, joining a "Huddle", encouraging an acquaintance to run for school board, supporting local progressive candidates, or participating in a rally, we want to hear about it. Send us a photo of an event you attended. Let us know of an upcoming event. Share an interesting article or progressive website with the Branch. If you had a conversation with a neighbor about the importance of the ACA, let us know. Later we can look back and see how our small "pebbles" contributed to our mission.

And the Winner Is...

Here are the election results from the voting at the February banquet. Jennifer Schultz has won the Member Making a Difference Award. The Newsletter staff -- Norma George, Toni Gorkin, and Nancy Rumfield -- are the Outstanding Women of our Branch. The Peg Anderson Award will go to Yvonne Peiffer posthumously. These awards will be formally presented at the May Banquet on May 10th. The Gateway to Equity Award this year goes to The West Chester University Resource Center.

Save the Dates:

- March 25: GETT at West Chester East High School, 12-4 PM. Volunteers needed. Go to gettpa.org to sign up.
- April 3rd: *Start Smart* session. Ballroom 2B in Sykes at West Chester University, 6:00-8:00PM. Volunteers needed. Tonya thames-taylor will be holding training sessions in March. More information to come.
- May 10: Banquet at Timothy's of Exton, 6:00-9:00. Details to come.

Remember that March is Membership Month!

Hot Topics in Education: Charter Schools

- Toni Gorkin summarizing from talk by Fran Pierce

At the February 11 brunch meeting of the AAUW West Chester/Chester County Chapter, Fran Pierce gave a very informative presentation on the impact of charter schools in public education. Fran focused on how they



Fran Pierce

pull critical funding from public schools while not necessarily providing better educational outcomes. She stressed the critical need for charter school reform in Pennsylvania. She encouraged us to find out the positions on education held by our state and U.S. legislators and to vote.

The issue of charter schools has become even more important in today's Trump administration political environment, with the selection of Betsy DeVos, a champion of charter schools, for Secretary of Education. DeVos is an advocate for vouchers, which use tax dollars to subsidize private schools, including the religiously affiliated.

While the meeting was very well attended, and many of our chapter members have experience as teachers or in other roles in education, for some of us the information was new and enlightening, so I am summarizing it here.

Fran began by providing a history of public school education in the United States, which provided important insight into the present situation. Fran noted the emergence of the idea of education for all as a means of creating equality and responsible citizens in the 1860's. Although it is still primarily the responsibility of local communities, public education first received Federal help during the Depression with F. D. Roosevelt. By the end of World War II, rapid expansion of schools beyond eight grades and development of consolidated schools allowed small communities to provide

better facilities. In 1953, Eisenhower added Education to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and signed, in 1958, the National Defense Education Act, infusing Federal money into expansion of math, science, and foreign language studies. In 1965 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) passed, formalizing how states could receive Federal money and referencing other Federal Laws such as the Civil Rights Act.

President Carter elevated Education to Cabinet level status in 1980. But the election of Ronald Reagan, who had campaigned on the dismantling of the Department of Education, meant, in Fran's opinion, the "beginning of the end for quality public education in the United States." Reagan set up the "National Commission on Excellence in Education," which produced the report "A Nation at Risk," laying the groundwork for the criticism of all public schools by stating that America's public schools were "terrible." In 2001, G. W. Bush renamed the ESEA and "No Child Left Behind" was born.

Schools were required to test selected grades in a base year; that score was deducted from 100% and the difference divided into ten years until 2012. Schools thereafter had to improve by that percentage each year in order to "make Annual Yearly Progress or AYP."

Fran pointed out that even very good schools, whose initial tests showed more than 90% of students achieving high scores, were required to improve by percentages each year that would make 100% of their students earn top scores by 2012. She pointed out that this scenario is based on such a flawed concept that even very good schools would eventually have to fail in their attempts to reach 100%, thus making them "failed schools." Once labeled "failing," schools could then be penalized in various ways, one of which was to force schools to provide students with the "choice" of a charter school.

Fran then outlined the charter school situation in Pennsylvania. According to the PA Public Charter School law, while an independent public charter school must be established as a public, non-profit organization, it can be managed by a for-profit company, whose finances might not be scrutinized. As a result, the majority of charter schools are operated for-profit. Educational failure is not a reason to deny a charter, and there is no provision to rescind the charter of a failing charter school. Charter schools get the same amount of funding per child that regular district spends per child, but charter schools face fewer rules: up to 25% of teachers in charter schools can be Non-certified teachers, and charter schools are not subject to AYP improvement requirements.

Most important, as Fran stated, “multiple studies have shown that charter schools, while taking *billions* from public schools, *seldom do even as well* as the public schools in the same geographic areas.”

Specifically in Chester County, eight charter schools are currently functioning. In 2011, these 8 charters took out of the regular public schools at least \$61,825,737 in education funding, plus \$1,978,900 in transportation funding. No charter schools in Chester County have consistently scored as well as the regular public schools, per specific PSSA statistics provided by the PA Department of Education public information service for West Chester, Avon Grove, and Kennett Square school districts.

Fran summarized the effects of charter schools on public schools:

- Continued cuts in available funds have decimated some districts.
- Precious learning time is spent on teaching kids how to take tests better.
- Morale has continued to plummet among teachers whose schools are labeled “failing.”

In Pennsylvania, there are 10 school districts near or in financial collapse that cannot make their AYP and 8 more that are in financial distress but so far have met their AYP. Fran pointed out that while Pennsylvania has a

governor who is trying to protect public schools, the state desperately needs charter school reform, and it is important to vote in primary elections coming in the spring.

Lastly she urged us to be a source of information for the ignorant. When you hear people say “our public schools are terrible,” she urged, be the one to gently say “no, they really are not.” Fran provided handouts that provided facts and talking points about whether charter schools are better than regular public schools. One major learning from these facts is that the obvious goal is reduction of poverty and improvement of education.

For copies of the handouts or additional fact sheets, email Fran at franpierce@verizon.net.



Note: The AAUW Action Network (AAUW Action Network advocacy@aauw.org) has sent out the following statement about the confirmation of Betsy DeVos:

“AAUW cannot stand for a Secretary of Education who does not fully support upholding and enforcing civil rights protections for all our students. Now more than ever, we must hold our legislators accountable for votes they cast and demand that they protect the rights of women and girls.”

They urge that you find out how your senators voted and send them a message now. If they voted yes on DeVos, express your disappointment. If they voted no, thank them for standing up for a strong public education system that protects the civil rights of all students. The Secretary of Education is responsible for enforcing the policies that protect students from discrimination. But Secretary DeVos has been conspicuously silent on the importance of Title IX and other civil rights laws. *Our lawmakers must stand up for a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity. Urge them to do so now!*

Diversity in Action Council: Community Conversation Held

Cathy Palmquist

The Diversity In Action Council (DIA) held its first Community Conversation of a planned three conversations to discuss issues of concern to residents of the Greater West Chester area. Held at the Melton Center, planners and discussion leaders were (from left, picture below) Mike Stevens, board member at the Melton Center, Carmen Lesesne, West Chester Area School District, Steve Sewell, Rev. Kyle Boyer, youth pastor at Mt. Carmel Church, and Mayor Carolyn Comitta, who is a member of the West Chester - Chester County Chapter of AAUW.



The mayor welcomed the attendees and gave a brief description of the DIA, it's mission and purpose, before introducing members of the DIA. Ms. Lesesne and Rev. Boyer explained the purpose and expectations of the evening program, and then showed a three episode video of "The Messy Truth," consisting of interviews with Republicans and Democrats done by Van Jones, a reporter with CNN. After each episode, attendees filled out individual response sheets in which they wrote answers to three sections: "This resonated with me...", "This challenged my thinking...", and "My reflections..."

After all three episodes were shown, attendees broke into groups of five to six people and discussed their written comments. After about

10 minutes, everyone regrouped and shared some thoughts from their groups. Thoughts shared included the need to work on educating people so they understand issues, learn how to find truths/the truth about issues rather than passing on gossip, being respectful even when we disagree, and seeing the larger picture of our country, not just focusing on our own communities.

Thirty residents pre-registered for the event, over 100 people attended, including AAUW member Cathy Palmquist. The planners are putting together the second of three Community Conversations. If anyone is interested in attending Community Conversations #2, which will probably be held around March 25th, they can contact Cathy Palmquist, by phone or email, for time and location.

GETT Needs Volunteers

Mary Smith

GETT is right around the corner and will need volunteers. Registration has opened and will be open to 700 girls grades 5-10. 11th and 12th grade girls are invited to be ambassadors. We will not be starting the event until 12:00 but will need volunteers. We are at WC EAST High School on March 25th, 2017. Much of this year's event will be an EXPO and our AAUW Branch will be doing Origami and STEM. Jennifer Schultz is our chair and has already had a training session. Please contact Jennifer if you would like to join in.

There will also be opportunities for the girls to attend a hands on workshop at certain intervals. Volunteers should register online at gettpa.org. you will find what is available to register for and the time slots. **IF YOU ARE HELPING AT THE AAUW EXPO TABLE YOU DO NOT REGISTER ONLINE!**

If you need any other information you can contact Mary Smith at 484-924-9320 or at pangea49@comcast.net.

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.

Reminder: 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 under the *Scholarship/Grants* tab. You may also contact Mimi Jones at danandmimi1@verizon.net or Patti Barker at 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

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

Upcoming Fund-Raiser—Painting With a Twist

Anne Anderko

AAUW members are invited to sign up for a fun fund-raiser / get together on March 21 from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. at the Exton Painting with a Twist location. See the invitation form at the end of this newsletter.

IMPORTANT: We need at least 15 people signed up to secure a private studio for our group. Please e-mail Anne ASAP (deadline is March 10) to let her know if you can attend. You can ask your friends and family to join you. Once there are 15 or more participants, Anne will e-mail everyone and at that time, you can send her your checks made out to AAUW. Hope you can join us!

Here's what Painting with A Twist is all about: In a studio environment, the instructor will give each of us a canvas with outlines of the painting we will each paint with oils. Over the 2 hours period, she will go through the painting step by step so that by the end you will have your masterpiece. Everyone is working on the same painting. The plan is to pick a landscape - something that hopefully everyone will enjoy. It is a social get together and the group will come a 1/2 hour before to enjoy some light refreshments. You can go to their website www.paintingwithatwist.com/exton and it will give you a good overview. Feel free to contact Anne if you have any other questions.

Collaboration with the Girl Scouts of America

by Eva Kaufmann

What does AAUW have in common with the Girl Scouts? Well, we both love cookies.... In a deeper sense we both support the expansion of opportunities for women and girls. We support educational opportunities, equal pay, expanded political participation and representation.

In December Barb Lathroum, Mimi Jones and I met with three members of the Southeast region of The Girl Scouts (GSA) to see if there were

areas in which our two organizations could collaborate. Rita Lee (Board member), Melanie London (Community Outreach), Kim Fraite-Dow (CEO, Southeast region) met with us and discussed the many areas of common interest. It was exciting to work with such enthusiastic women!

Here is what came out of the meeting:
The Girl Scouts are very interested in working with our branch on issues that we support.

1. The Girl Scouts will support the organization that we have designated as our annual Gateway to Equity, which is The House in Phoenixville this year. They are willing to collect household items for them, using our list of needed items.
2. They would be willing to collect books for the Laundromat Library. They suggested that the girls could write a comment about why they liked the book to promote a sense of connection with the next reader of the book.
3. The Girl Scouts are already aware of the GETT program, and are encouraging their girls to attend.
4. The Girl Scouts would be willing to help pack food boxes with us at the Chester County Food Bank. We are currently working on finding a date that would work for both groups, including a film on hunger in America to begin the day.

The Girl Scouts could also use our help!

- Traditionally stay-at-home moms were the leaders of many troops, but with so many moms working full-time, troops are having a hard time finding leaders. New arrangements are now common with two or more part-time leaders sharing the job.
- The Girl Scouts would be thrilled to have women from our branch volunteer to help out a troop on an occasional or a regular basis.
- Local troops are always looking for speakers and activities for the girls. If you have a talent that you would like to share, consider volunteering to speak to

a group of girls in our area. What is your talent? Origami? Gardening? Math tricks? Yoga? Bowling? How to make your favorite appetizer? How to build a bridge with spaghetti? (That is actually the topic of a local elementary school science club!)

I'm sure you can think of many creative and fun ideas! We plan to establish a Speakers' Bureau with the talents of our members! Think of a topic you would like to offer, and sign up. You can contact Eva Kaufmann or sign up at the next meeting. I'd like to get at least ten members to sign up.

The Girl Scouts are excited about working with us, and this could be the beginning of a fruitful collaboration!



Cheryl Messere

The Staff and Volunteers sincerely want thank AAUW for your support this year. The House is a place for women to heal. Reminder: Donations for the Phoenixville Women's Outreach: The House -- Bring to any Branch meeting:

- Dish soap
- Dish towels
- LED light bulbs low watt
- Dryer sheets
- Kleenex
- Coffee (loose, not "capsules")

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 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.

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.

Membership News

Peggy Staarman (Vice President for Membership)

We are delighted to welcome three new members to our branch. All of them enjoyed our brunch and Fran's presentation about educational trends and the history and development of charter schools. Two current national members who have attended other meetings as guests recently joined our branch. *Deborah Liczwek* and *Victoria Heimann* have shown great interest in some of our activities such as GETT and Start Smart. *Alice Lenthe* joined as a brand-new member to AAUW and is also interested in GETT as well as other groups and projects! I will distribute a handbook addendum about each of our enthusiastic new members at the March meeting! I know all of you will give Deborah, Victoria, and Alice warm greetings when you see them!

AAUW is offering a national membership discount from January 1 until March 15 through its Shape the Future Program. Anyone who is new to AAUW or has been an inactive member for at least two years will be offered a half-price national dues discount of \$24.50 instead of the usual \$49. Membership will begin in March and will not expire until June of 2018. State dues of \$10 and local dues of \$16 will remain the same. Shape the Future also allows a new member a half-year membership through March 15. National dues are \$12.25, state dues are \$5.00, and local dues are \$16. However, this half-year membership ends in June, 2017. If a current national member joins after March 15, she must pay full price, but her membership will be good through June of 2018.

I received a lovely note from *John Peiffer*, *Yvonne Peiffer's* husband. Yvonne's memorial service will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 104 South Village Avenue in Exton on Saturday, July 15 at 11:00 a.m. Those of you who knew Yvonne may want to attend.

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.

Mary Pinkney Celebrates 103rd Birthday



A group of longtime AAUW friends of Mary Pinkney (seated center front), helped her celebrate her 103rd birthday with a champagne luncheon in her honor at Crosslands. Joining in the celebration of this remarkable AAUW member were (standing from left) Kay Philipps, Dot von Gerbig, Donna Eaves, Lyn Eaton, Martina Ossman, Rachel Mullin, Cathy Palmquist, and (kneeling from left) former AAUW member Patty Fisher. Patty turned 70 on Mary's birthday and was feted at the celebration also. The luncheon kicked off with a champagne toast to the birthday ladies. The party was held a few days after Mary returned from a cruise of the Panama Canal - wow!

Carolyn Comitta – Champion for the Environment



State Representative Carolyn Comitta speaks with members of Penn Environment, Sierra Club and League

of Conservation Voters at a meet and greet with constituents in the 156th District

“We only get one planet, and we need to protect her,” is the position of AAUW member and State Representative Carolyn Comitta. Carolyn will be a champion for Mother Earth, and will fight to uphold our PA Constitution which includes, amongst our many rights, the right to clean air and water. Rep Comitta will work with other state representatives, and environmental groups such as Penn Environment, Sierra Club and League of Conservation Voters, to ensure that Pennsylvania is upholding our rights. Consider helping ensure that Rep Comitta continues to work for us, by viewing her website at <http://www.carolyncomitta.com/> or donating to her campaign.

Jennifer Schultz is Candidate for Judge in Philadelphia

Branch member Jennifer Schultz is a candidate for Judge of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. In support of her campaign, a wine and cheese fundraiser, Jenn4Judge, is being held on Sunday, March 12, 2017, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the home of Mary A. and Walter Smith. Contribution checks may be made out to Friends of Jenn for Judge.

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, March 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 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 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!

This group meets monthly and is composed of both AAUW and non-AAUW members. Contributions received go toward the Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund provided to a non-traditional student. We recently contributed \$148.50 bringing the total amount since 2012 to approximately \$1500.00. Since the annual scholarship provided is \$1500.00 we have actually provided one scholarship. Congratulations to all who contributed while having fun playing bridge.
Kay Philipps

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*

Literature I

Our daytime Literature group meets the third Monday of the month at 1:00 p.m. for refreshments followed by discussion beginning at 1:30 p.m. We read both fiction and non-fiction. Our March book is *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant. Eva Kauffmann is our discussion leader and Sandy Alexander is our hostess. On April 17th we will discuss the *Children Act* by Ian McEwan. Dorothy von Gerbig will lead the discussion and Kay

Philipps will host. On May 15th, we will discuss *The Dream Lover* by Elizabeth Berg. Carla Grot will be our discussion leader and Eva Kaufmann our hostess. We welcome new members. Please call the hostess if you plan on joining us. Questions? Call Kay Philipps, Chair.

LIT II: Evening Literature Group –
Literature II - Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group -
Jean Speiser - 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. **NOTE: the schedule has changed:** On March 15 we'll be discussing *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayer. We'll be meeting at Barbara Lathroum's house in Downingtown at 7:00 PM. On April 19 we will discuss *Fates and Furies* by Lauren Goff at the home of Mimi Jones. On May we will discuss *The Husband's Secret*, by Liane Moriarty, at the home of Phyllis Dunn. Our annual pot luck will be on June 14 at the home of Fran Pierce. 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:

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. 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

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 19th 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. Carol Zabriskie hosted the second meeting on Thursday, February 16 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., and lively

discussion of potential good books to read accompanied knitting and quilting.

We'll meet again on March 16 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. (note the time change) at Patricia Schultz's house, 610 Chatham Way, West Chester. RSVP to Patricia at (610)436-9752 so she can arrange parking. Plan to bring something you are knitting or stitching; we will chat and have tea while we work.



PAINTING WITH A TWIST

Date: Tuesday, March 21

Time: 2:30-5:00

Cost: \$42.00 (includes painting and light refreshments)

Where: Exton Painting With A Twist, 596
N. Pottstown Pike, Exton

Deadline is March 10

Please mail your checks (made out to AAUW West Chester, Chester County Branch) to:

Anne Anderko
908 Pine Valley Circle
West Chester, PA 19382

Anne can be reached at ananderko@msn.com, 484-885-4943

Name_____E-Mail_____

Number Attending_____

Total Enclosed_____

Proceeds to benefit AAUW Branch



402 Edgewood Drive, Exton, PA 19341.

March 2017 Newsletter

March 8, 2017 – #MyLifeMyLabel

Campus Action Project

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