**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.”

“Yvonne was always ready to help anybody 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.”