



AAUW some NEWS

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

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October 2017

AAUW West Chester - Chester County Branch ***Understanding Islam and Muslims*** Iftekhar Hussain

Wednesday, October 11, 2017
7:00 p.m.
Grove United Methodist Church
490 West Boot Road, West Chester, PA

Iftekhar Hussain, originally from Bangladesh, is a teacher and scholar who has participated in interfaith initiatives in over sixty churches, synagogues, mosques and local county night schools over the past decade and has served on many related boards and committees. A resident of Pennsylvania for almost thirty years, he serves as Friday service leader at suburban mosques in the Delaware Valley. By profession, he is a consultant in the pharmaceutical industry traveling in the Asian Pacific and in Europe. Please join us for an interesting and timely discussion about Muslims in the world today.

Refreshments: Lit 1, Great Decisions interest groups

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

How lovely September can be! I wonder when it will arrive. Presently, it's 85 degrees and the weekend is supposed to be even warmer. However, Barb Lathroum welcomed another granddaughter, Evelyn, and Fran Pierce became a first-time grandma to Clara, so September has indeed arrived for them in a delightful way! Here's to a wonderful October with *fall* weather!

On September 16, members shared their culinary talents at the Saturday brunch. We enjoyed the variety of delicious food as well as talking with friends after the summer hiatus. Angela Scully gave an enthusiastic overview of West Chester's newest theater venue, the Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. We thank Mimi Jones and Terry Houle, our Program Vice Presidents, for arranging Angela's presentation. We would also like to thank Mimi and Anne Anderko for transporting supplies, arranging the tables, decorating them with pretty flowers, setting up the coffee and tea, and making sure everything was in order before the members arrived. They also cleaned up the room and packed the supplies when the brunch was over.

Considering the extra duties that many members take on, Barb and I hope to persuade a few members to form a hospitality committee to transport and replenish supplies. Each SIG group would still be responsible for contributing refreshments, setting up, and cleaning up. Although Barb and I volunteered to do the transporting, we would really appreciate others taking over this job. If you would like to help, please contact either of us and receive our everlasting gratitude.

The board met on Wednesday, September 6, to set our goals for the year. Our first goal is to increase our membership and to retain those who have joined. In June of this year, we had increased the number of members to 82. Unfortunately, due to a variety of reasons, many did not renew their memberships over the summer. Phyllis Dunn, our energetic Co-Vice President for Membership, is holding a series of Prospective Member Parties to help acquaint women with our branch, to meet some of our members, and to persuade them to join or, at least, come to a meeting. The first PMP was held on September 26 at Phyllis's house. The next PMP is on November 8 at the Avalon Restaurant in West Chester. There will be a "Happy Hour" at the restaurant before the branch meeting. Please invite

someone who may be interested in our branch and its activities to join you.

Our second goal is to address gerrymandering by supporting the Fair Districts organization. In conjunction with this effort, we will also support a Get Out the Vote initiative because it is important to elect legislatures who value fair districts as well as other issues important to women such as Title 9, Equal Pay, Voting Rights, and environmental and financial regulations. In addition, AAUW-PA has joined the Committee of 70, an independent, non-partisan advocate for better government in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, to address gerrymandering. A tool kit is being developed to encourage high school, community members, and community college students to use free software to draw their own district lines. AAUW-PA will supply money and planning help. Branches can participate by donating funds and supplying volunteers to run a "Draw the Line" event. Please consider helping with one of these projects. To participate, call either Peggy or Barb.

Sandy Alexander has been our Handbook Chairperson for seven years. The Handbook is an important communication tool and we thank her so much for her commitment to the branch. Sandy will take over as our website administrator, so she will continue to volunteer her time and talent. We are delighted that Dorothea Lavigne and Jenn Schultz have volunteered to take on the 2018-2019 Handbook. Please note that the January meeting date is Jan. 10, not Jan. 11 as stated in the handbook and the Feb. Brunch will be on Feb. 17, not Feb. 7. As two of Sandy's editors, we apologize to her and the membership for missing these errors.

At our September meeting, Anne Anderko spoke to the membership about the importance of the pecan sale this fall. Only a small portion of our dues benefits the branch, so we depend on fundraisers to support our activities and programs. Anne e-mailed an order sheet and passed out order forms at the brunch. She will take orders until October 20 and will deliver them at our November 8th meeting. Please contact Anne if you have any questions. Victoria Heimann will be managing other important fundraising activities later in the year.

Thank you so much for continuing to support our branch and its mission. Barb and I welcome your suggestions and your attendance at our board meetings held the first Wednesday of every month.

Peggy Staarman (peggstaar@verizon.net)
Barbara Lathroum (blathroum@gmail.com)

Members Learned About Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center

AAUW West Chester/Chester County chapter members gathered at the Grove Methodist Church on Saturday, September 16 for a pot luck brunch to start off the new year of events. Members heard from Angela Scully, Uptown! Theater's Executive Director, about the "most exciting seats in West Chester."

The Uptown! Theater is an alliance formed to promote cultural and civic experiences through theater, music, dance and film in West Chester. The theater is located in the Armory building, renovated at a cost of \$5 million and renamed the Uptown! Performing Arts Center in thanks for a gift from the Knauer family. Events are presented on the theater's three stages with performances from its Resident Companies and the West Chester Studio for the Performing Arts. Angela noted the high professional quality of the performances by the Resident Companies, five of which were founded by women. They include:

- Opera Tutti, featuring a variety of opera performances;
- Latin Programs, presenting singing, dance, plays and movies;
- Better Than Bacon, improv comedy shows;
- Jazz Cocktail Hour, featuring local and national jazz artists;
- Nickerson-Rossi Dance, contemporary/modern dance;
- Resident Theatre Company professional theater;
- Windish Music & Production live concerts; and
- WC Studio for the Performing Arts, providing children's classes and camps.

Since it opened in January, 8000 tickets have been sold, and 13,000 people have been in the building. Frequently programs sell out, for example, Spamalot, performed this past spring. Angela noted with enthusiasm that "something is happening there every day!" As an example, she distributed the schedule for September.

Angela pointed out that the Uptown! Speakers Series is held every third Tuesday, the venue is licensed for TEDx talks, and a classic movie series is held on Mondays. Space can be rented for

performances and events; there is a bar that has a liquor license and features craft and local beers and locally brewed whiskey and rum.

The organization is non-profit, and welcomes members. Please use the theater's website to learn about the schedule, the purchase of tickets, and other information; go to uptownwestchester.org.

Before joining Uptown!, Angela was the Executive Director of the Darlington Arts Center in Garnet Valley and Singing City Choir in Philadelphia, as well as holding other positions in the regions. In addition to her work with nonprofits, Angela is a self-taught artist whose work can be found in galleries and coffee shops around the Philadelphia area.

Introducing -- the "PMP" *Prospective Members Parties*

--Phyllis Dunn

Do you have a friend or do you know someone who has voiced interest in knowing more about AAUW? If so, we now have the perfect venue to introduce them to our organization. Our *Prospective Members Parties* are just the right size to allow potential members to ask questions and casually get to know some of our current members. Just join us for any of the parties listed below.

November 8, 2017...

Happy Hour @ Avalon Restaurant,
followed by the Branch Meeting at 7 pm.

January 9, 2018...

Chat & Chew... a Spaghetti Dinner!

*Watch for updates on parties to be held in April & June

To attend any of these parties simply bring a potential member with you. We will limit the size, 12-15, so it stays intimate and conducive to building friendships.

To save a spot for you & your prospective member just email Phyllis Dunn at dunn.phyllis@gmail.com.

Fall Fundraiser – PECANS – PECANS – PECANS!

Our fall fundraiser is in full swing so please take a moment to order your pecans for yourself and holiday gift giving. We had to preorder the pecans based on what we sold last year. When they sell out, they are gone. Get your orders in early to get the best selection.

We will send out the order form again soon for anyone that may have misplaced the e-mail. Again, we encourage you to send the form to your friends and family. It really is a great product. If you have any questions, please e-mail Anne at ananderko@msn.com.

As always, we appreciate your support.
Anne Anderko & Victoria Heimann

Reminder: A Change in Our Meeting Hospitality

Starting in October, refreshments are donated by members of interest groups. Lit I is contributing and setting up refreshments for the October 11th meeting, and cleaning up afterwards. This shouldn't be too burdensome, since many of us jump in to help out in this process and will continue to do so.

Leaders of SIGs, please communicate this change to your groups when you remind them about refreshments. Make sure two people will volunteer to come early. Either Peggy or Barb will also arrive early with the necessary coffee pots and other supplies. A checklist of duties for setting up and closing down the meeting will be taped to the boxes of supplies. We appreciate your help.

Support the WCU Resource Pantry

-- *Eva Kaufmann*

Our AAUW Chapter's Gateway to Equity Award winner this year is the West Chester University Resource Pantry, an organization that supports homeless students and low-income mothers who are students at the University. Our support takes the form of monthly contributions to this worthwhile organization. Tori Nuccio, the director, says priorities are currently for the following items:

Personal Care:

- Tissues
- Women's deodorant
- Women's razors
- Tooth paste
- Paper towels
- Small bottles of laundry detergent

School Supplies:

- Notebooks

Also consider:

Individually wrapped snack/on the go food, such as Granola bars, nuts, & breakfast bars

Gift cards to help cover some living expenses that have come up for these students in the past.

Some good examples would be:

- Wawa for gas
- Bed, Bath, and Beyond: For cooking supplies, bedding, dorm needs, etc.
- Target: cooking, attire, and any school supplies we do not have
- Amazon: same concept as BB&B & Target but can also help with textbooks.

AAUW Handbook is Now Available in Print and Online!

The Handbook is now uploaded on our website - wccc-pa.aauw.net. Click on "About Us" and then "Handbook" in the drop-down menu. The password is *aauwsome*. The printed Handbooks were also distributed at our first board meeting, Wednesday, September 6th, and at the brunch on September 16. Please pick up your copy at the next meeting if you haven't obtained it yet.

Fund for Women and Girls “Yes, All Women!” Part II Scheduled

Come and contribute to an important dialogue with women of all generations, discussing how we can work together during a period of history when we cannot afford to stand divided. The Chester County Fund for Women and Girls is holding a follow-up to their successful “Yes, All Women” event last spring. The forum will occur on Tuesday, October 17th from 5-7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church of West Chester, 130 West Miner Street in West Chester. To RSVP, call 484-356-0940 or email Maeve at mkelly@ccfwg.org.

The conversations will be facilitated by Juliana Mosley, PhD. The women attending the forum will discuss how women can leverage our commonalities rather than stand divided based on our differences. Cathy Palmquist raved about last spring’s forum and encourages us all to attend.



Cathy Palmquist went to the first program that Fund for Women and Girls did on this subject, “Yes, All Women!”, held last spring, and she reports it was awesome! “Do join us for Part II!” Cathy urges.

YES, ALL WOMEN!
Part II

Come and contribute to an important dialogue with women of all generations, discussing how we can work together during a period of history when we cannot afford to stand divided.

This forum is a follow-up to our successful “Yes, All Women!” event last spring. We are pleased to welcome back Juliana Mosley, PhD, as facilitator of the conversation.

WHEN
Tuesday, October 17
Registration: 4:45 pm
Program: 5:00-7:00 pm

WHERE
First Presbyterian Church
of West Chester
130 West Miner Street
West Chester, PA 19382

RSVP
Call 484-356-0940 or email
Maeve at mkelly@ccfwg.org

How can women leverage our commonalities rather than stand divided based on our differences?

Let’s take the first step. Together.

An Introduction to Islam and Muslims through History and Scripture: Evening class starting September 17

-- Arlene Rengert

In 2007 and 2008 and again last fall this 10-week series of classes was offered at Grove Methodist Church, open to all with interest. Each time the room was full. It is offered again this fall, starting September 17. Islam and the Muslim culture are taught from historical and scriptural perspectives, with much active discussion. The course covers the foundations of the religion and the economic, political and cultural institutions that arose in Muslim societies. It covers the Golden Age of Muslim civilization and then its decline. Contemporary issues faced by Islam and Muslims will be covered toward the end of the course. A final unit will be the involvement of the U.S. in the Muslim world and its ramifications.

The class is held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sunday evenings in Grove's upstairs Zuschnitt Lounge, and people are encouraged to arrive between 6 and 6:30 for coffee and light conversation and to be seated for a prompt start at 6:30. Advanced registration is required. Call or email your registration to logistical coordinators Donna/Jerry Pyne and Arlene Rengert (610-696-2282), or email toadultforum@grovechurch.org. Please provide your email address and phone at the time of registration. A confirmation notice with additional logistical information will be emailed to you the week prior to the class start.

This class is open to all with interest, so do feel free to share the opportunity with neighbors and friends.

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.

Board Meetings

Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, starting October 4, then November 1, etc. They are held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Meetings are at West Chester University in Room 257 of the Sykes Student Union Building at 110 W. Rosedale Ave., West Chester, except for the January 3 meeting, which will be held at Grove UMC. Any other change of meeting location will be announced as needed.

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.

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 expressing opinions about issues at the forefront today. Be sure to check the websites of your favorite organizations.



Reminder: The AAUW Action Network (AAUW Action Network advocacy@aauw.org) continues to send out statements about the legislation under consideration in Congress. Read the President's Letter, at the beginning of this newsletter, for examples of National and AAUW-PA priorities. The Action Network statements explain how each piece of legislation impacts the interests of women and girls. You are encouraged to read these emails or read the statements on the AAUW Action Network website and contact your representatives accordingly.

Membership News

Welcome new and renewed members! I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the first meeting in September. We are grateful for your membership and hope you will participate in the incentive programs to introduce new members to our AAUW branch. If you have any questions please contact me, *Patricia Schultz* at pls@patriciaschultz.com phone: 610-436-9752

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.

Prepare for Upcoming November 7th Election

Many AAUW Branch members have been active in support of the upcoming November 7th election, canvassing, providing biographical information about candidates, and supporting voter registration.

One note: On November 7th, 2017, there will be ballot question HB 1285 Constitutional Amendment Homestead Exclusion that would amend the Pennsylvania Constitution, clearing the way for legislators to eliminate property taxes for homeowners. Voters should consider carefully how they vote on this ballot question. While it sounds good in theory, getting rid of property taxes would strip vital funding from school districts, police, and fire companies. The state funds a little over 40% of any given school district's budget. That leaves local communities to make up for what the State doesn't provide. Without a way to raise taxes, school districts won't be able to meet the educational needs of their community. For more information see website <https://actionnetwork.org/campaigns/november-7th-ballot-question-vote-no?source=direct> link.

Special Interest Groups

Women's Social Bridge



The AAUW Chester County-West Chester Branch Women's Social Bridge meets once a month at 1:00 p.m. for two to three hours of friendly bridge. If there is one table, we play party bridge; if there are two or more tables, we play contract bridge. We meet at a member's home; locations are sent in e-mail reminders each month. All are welcome!

Remaining dates for 2017 are:
October 20
November 17
December 15

To have your name added to the e-mail list, contact Sandy Alexander at frau.salexander@gmail.com.

Couples Bridge

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



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

In September, Fran Sippel-Wetmore led us in a stimulating discussion of *Dead Wake*. We sat outside on Carla Grot's beautiful patio while we discussed the ramification of the sinking of the Lusitania. On October 16th at 1:00 p.m. we will gather at Elaine Burgess's house to discuss *Stoner* by John Williams, a New York Review Book that has been described with many superlatives including a statement "The most beautiful book in the world" and almost "a perfect novel." Carla Grot will lead the discussion.

Please call Elaine at 1-717-768-0706 to let her know whether or not you will be at her house. Do join us as we travel through a colorful autumn day to Elaine's. Call Kay Phillips, Chair, if you would like to carpool.

The chosen books for the rest of the year are: *Between the World and Me*, *Bears in the Street*, *Hillbilly Elegy*, *Just Mercy*, *Ordinary Grace*, and *The Other Einstein*. Additional information about these books can be found on our website. Questions? Call or email Kay Philipps, Chair, at (610) 399-0697 or khphilipps@verizon.net.

LIT II: Evening Literature Group – Literature II - Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group –

Jean Speiser - JeanSp@gmail.com

Lit group II always meets on the third Wednesday evening of the month.

On October 18 we will read *News of the World*, by Paulette Jiles. Jean Speiser will lead the discussion; we will meet at the home of Donna Eaves.

On November 15 we will discuss *Drift: the Unmooring of American Military Power*, by Rachel Maddow. Peggy Staarman will lead the discussion, at the home of Carol Zabriskie. If you want more information please get in touch with Jean Speiser (JeanSp@GMail.com).

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.

We are looking for members who would like to host or plan a meal at a restaurant in the upcoming months. Please contact Donna Eaves 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).

Needlework Group:

This group includes all forms of needlework – *knitting, crochet, embroidery, applique, quilting, needlepoint* and any other needlework members would like to share. The group will meet on the last Friday of the month; time and location will be emailed. Contact Barb Lathroum if interested.



empowering women since 1881

402 Edgewood Drive, Exton, PA 19341.

October 2017 Newsletter

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