



AAUW some NEWS

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

*Volume 63, Number 5
December 2017*



AAUW West Chester - Chester County Branch Holiday Party

*Sunday, December 10, 2017
2:00 to 6:00 p.m.*

**At the home of Terry and Tom Houle
310 William Salisbury Drive, Downingtown, PA 19335**

You are invited to join us for our annual holiday celebration. This fundraising event is a time to meet with friends in a holiday atmosphere and enjoy delicious appetizers, drinks, and desserts. Please bring an appetizer with a necessary serving utensil. Board members will provide an assortment of desserts. Wine and soft drinks will be available.

Since our holiday party is also a fundraiser for our branch, each attendee is asked to make a contribution of \$15. In addition, gift cards or checks to benefit this year's Gateway Award winner, the WCU Resource Pantry, would be appreciated. Send checks/reservation to Ann Anderko at 908 Pine Valley Circle, West Chester, PA 19382-5299. (See reservation form at end of the newsletter.)

How to Win in Life when the Aces Are High

**Wednesday, January 10, 2017
7:00 p.m. – NOTE corrected date.**
Grove United Methodist Church
490 West Boot Road, West Chester, PA

Jan Mitchener, Director of Arts Holding Hands and Arts, Inc., will speak about DAHHA'S efforts to build resilience through expressive and healing arts for children dealing with adverse childhood experiences.

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Letter from the Presidents

Dear Members,

We will celebrate the holidays with our annual holiday party that will be held at Terry and Tom Houle's house on Sunday, December 10 at 2:00. Please refer to this newsletter for information about this festive and popular event. A reservation form is included. We thank the Houles for hosting again! We would also like to thank Anne Anderko for the success of the holiday pecan sale that benefits the branch. We also offer our thanks to members who purchased the pecans. Kay Philipps, Martina Ossman, Cathy Palmquist, Marian Stevenson, Nancy Naeve (our newest 50+ year member), and Carla Grot (another 50+ year member this year) made generous donations to this fundraiser as well. Thank you!!

The 2017 general election certainly reflected the power and effectiveness of women! All four women candidates for Chester County row offices won their elections and women in township and school board contests defeated incumbents. There is still a need to persuade citizens to exercise their right to vote and to educate themselves about the candidates and their positions. A 31.78% turnout of eligible voters in a general election needs to be improved.

Another woman candidate has emerged. Chrissy Houlahan has announced her candidacy for Pennsylvania's 6th Congressional District. She supports many positions held by AAUW. She sees the important need of access to quality and affordable health care for all, she wants to pass legislation addressing paid family and medical leave, and she knows climate change is real and poses many threats to our environment and well-being. As a former chemistry teacher in North Philadelphia, she supports fully funded public schools. We encourage you to check her website.

Unfortunately, the Women's Forum featuring women candidates for political offices must be postponed until early next fall. Learning about the obstacles facing women running for

political positions may help formulate a plan of support for these activists. We appreciate the effort of our Public Policy Coordinator and AAUW/University Member Representative tonya thames taylor to arrange the forum. Tonya is also working on the Start Smart Workshop that will be held in the spring on April 9. This workshop is designed specifically to teach women how to negotiate salaries for new jobs. We have also scheduled another spring activity. Our "Tea and Conversation" with the Girl Scouts will be held on April 8.

We had hoped to sponsor a Draw the Lines PA contest to address the gerrymandering problem in PA. However, the Committee of 70 is awaiting grant funds to support the development of the program. Decisions about the contest will be made in January, so AAUW-PA has asked the branches to avoid planning until the fall of 2018. We spoke with Holle Canatello about the contest as well as issues facing our branch and ways AAUW-PA can help.

Governor Wolf appointed our own Carolyn Comitta and State Representative to be a member of the Women's Commission. She requested to speak at one of our meetings to talk about the objectives of the Commission and to seek input from our members. In addition to our scheduled speakers, Carolyn will make a presentation on Wednesday, March 14. We will have no business meeting.

We would also like to remind our members that two meeting dates are incorrect in the handbook. We will meet on Wednesday, January 10 and Saturday, February 17.

We wish you a lovely holiday season and we hope to see you at our December party.

Sincerely,

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

Pecan Sale Recap

I want to thank everyone that participated in this year's pecan sale. We raised \$623.52 towards our yearly fundraising goal. For those of you who purchased the plain 16 ounce pecans, I am including a recipe that our member Nancy Dore uses with great success.

Anne Anderko

CANDIED PECANS

*1 lb pecans
½ C sugar
1 egg white
1 tsp cinnamon
1Tbsp water
½ tsp salt*

*Mix egg white and water until frothy.
Add pecans and mix to coat.
Mix together sugar, cinnamon, and salt.
Add to pecans and mix to coat.
Spread on greased cookie sheet and bake 1 hour at 225 F, stirring every 15 minutes.*

Girl Scouts Build Girls of Courage, Confidence, and Character

Chapter members gathered on November 8 to hear from Kim Fraites-Dow, CEO of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania, and other representatives about "The Girl Scouts Today: Successes and Challenges in a Changing World." Kim outlined the mission of the Girl Scouts of Eastern, PA. Driven by an engaged community of volunteers, the Girl Scouts will encourage service, learning, and leadership skills for over 50,000 members in the region.

Kim noted a State of Girls Report by the Girl Scout Research Institute about the changes in demographics, state of the family, and physical and emotional health of girls between 2007 and 2016. Although PA's ranking of girls' wellbeing of 17th in the US is an improvement, the Girl Scout organization will play an important role in continuing that

improvement. Kim outlined key goal outcomes of the Girl Scout leadership experience: strong sense of self, positive values, challenge seeking, healthy relationships, and community problem solving. She described several Gold Award projects carried out by girls that identified and met a need in their community, noting that these projects are often more difficult than the Boy Scout Eagle Award projects.



Inspiring visit from representatives of Girl Scouts of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Pictured with Chapter Secretary Eva Kauffman : Kim Fraites-Dow, (GSEP); Eva Kauffman; Maureen Maier (GSEP); Trish Convo (GSEP); Mimi In (GSEP). We look forward to collaborating with these women to benefit girls in our region.

Kim described the four columns of the program, including STEM, Outdoors, Life Skills, and Entrepreneurship. She emphasized that Girl Scouts encourage girls to become leaders. More women in high levels of policy formalization and decision making will help address our current leadership crisis. The all girls environment combined with caring leadership of adult mentors and alumnae role models contribute to leadership skills.

Kim and her staff invited our members, most of whom participated in the Girl Scouts, to become involved as volunteers. Our AAUW chapter had suggestions for follow-ups. We have already taken some steps to continue the relationship, including "Tea and Conversation" with the Girl Scouts to be held on April 8.

Support the WCU Resource Pantry

-- Eva Kaufmann

This month we are collecting gift cards for the students at the Resource Pantry. Cards to Wawa for gas, to supermarkets, or to retail stores such as Target, Bed, Bath, and Beyond are welcome. Bring them along to the Holiday Party!

We will also collect the little gifts that come from Clinique, Estee Lauder, and other cosmetic manufacturers. If you have new lipsticks, lotion, mascara, etc., that you don't intend to use, donate them to the Pantry. They would be great little luxuries for the holidays!

Many thanks for your on-going generosity!

Resource Pantry Needs List:

Clothing

Coats, jackets and other winter wear for both men and women.

Personal Care:

Tissues

Toilet paper

Women's deodorant

Women's razors

Toothpaste

Lotion

Shampoo & Conditioner

Other supplies:

Paper towels

Small bottles of laundry detergent

Reusable Shopping Bags

School Supplies:

Notebooks

Also consider:

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

Gift cards such as:

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.

"PMP" Prospective Members Parties Continue

--Phyllis Dunn

Our PMPs are just the right size to allow potential members the time to ask questions and casually get to know some of our current members. The next PMP will be **"A Chat N' Chew" (spaghetti dinner) on January 9th** at Phyllis Dunn's home. Just email if you and your prospective member want to attend so I can prepare & have enough wine ready. dunn.phyllis@gmail.com

In February & March, because of the unpredictability of the weather, there will not be any PMPs. But mark your calendars for a **"POP UP Happy Hour" on April 23**. Three days prior to the event (to be held in or near West Chester), I will email the Happy Hour location to all who have responded. If you like living on the edge, not quite sure what will happen, then the April 23 Happy Hour is for you. We will be sure to have some fun!

On **May 9th, the AAUW May Banquet** will take place. 1-1 1/2 hours prior to the banquet, we will have a **mixer** before we attend the banquet. Let me know if you would like to attend and I can send out the Banquet form to you. More on that to come.

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



Laundromat Library League

-Arlene Rengert & Terry Houle

The Laundromat Library League is having a fundraiser on December 7 at SNAP Pizza in Exton -- the LLL will receive FIFTY PERCENT of what supporters spend on food and beverages from 5 to 9 when they turn in the flyer at the end of this issue or show it on a device when they pay. Come and support this worthy cause!!!

See the next to last page of this newsletter for the flyer to use at SNAP Pizza in Exton on December 7 that will benefit the Laundromat Library League!

AAUW Mission Statement

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

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wccc-pa.aauw.net

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.

Board Meetings

Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month; the next one is December 6. They are held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. 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. Meeting location will be announced as needed.

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. 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.

AAUW Members Meet Candidate



Pat Bove, Peggy Staarman, and Mimi Jones met with Chrissy Houlihan at NARFE meeting

Several AAUW members attended Peggy's husband's NARFE (National Association of Retired Federal Employees) meeting, where they listened to Chrissy Houlahan explain her purpose for running and policy issues. AAUW members will be invited to hear Ryan Costello, who will be invited to speak at another NARFE meeting.

Francophone Group

Nancy Dore

I belong to an informal Francophone group that meets one Sunday each month. I will be hosting the group on Sunday, January 21 from 2 to 5 PM. Anyone is welcome to come. If you have any questions, please contact me at [6107250459](tel:6107250459).

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 date for 2017 is 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

Lit I: Monday Afternoon Book Group

This group meets on the third Monday of the month to discuss books of both fiction and non-fiction. On November 20 the group discussed Ta-Nehisi Coates' book, *Between the World and Me*.

The chosen books for the rest of the year are: *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 Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group

Jean Speiser - JeanSp@gmail.com

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

We will not meet in December. On January 17 we will discuss *My Brilliant Friend*, whose author uses the name Elena Ferrante.

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:

Please join us if you would like to join others as we all work individually on various kinds of needlework projects! Some are knitting, some doing quilting or crewelwork, so anything you are doing or would like to learn, we are probably doing some of that!

This group is meeting regularly now, on the last Friday of the month at the home of one of our members. In December our meeting will be on Friday, December 29. Our host is Pat Schultz whose address is 235 Chatham Way, West Chester, PA 19380..



Dine at SNAP Custom Pizza and present this coupon or display it on your smart phone when you pay for your meal.

SNAP Custom Pizza will donate 50% of the proceeds to:

Laundromat Library League

WHERE: *Snap Custom Pizza*
291 Main Street, Exton PA 19341
(Near Barnes and Noble at Exton Main Street)
484-875-5800

WHEN: **Thursday, December 7, 2017, 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

In addition to signature and custom pizzas, the menu offers a variety of interesting signature and custom salads and 'grain bowls' (e.g. quinoa).



Happy Holidays!

AAUW West Chester-Chester County Branch's Holiday Party

Sunday, December 10 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

At the home of Terry and Tom Houle
310 William Salisbury Drive, Downingtown, PA 19335

You are invited to join us for our annual holiday celebration on *December 10th* at the home of Terry and Tom Houle. This fundraising event is a time to meet with friends in a holiday atmosphere and enjoy delicious appetizers, drinks, and desserts.

Please bring an appetizer with a necessary serving utensil. Board members will provide an assortment of desserts. Wine and soft drinks will be available. Since our holiday party is also a fundraiser for our branch, each attendee is asked to make a *contribution of \$15*. In addition, gift cards or checks to benefit this year's Gateway to Equity Award winner, the WCU Resource Pantry, would be appreciated.



I/We will attend the Annual Holiday Party on December 10 at the Houles.

Name _____

Guest _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

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

Checks should be payable to:

AAUW-WCCC (AAUW West Chester-Chester County Branch)

Send to:

Anne Anderko, 908 Pine Valley Circle, West Chester, PA 19382-5299



402 Edgewood Drive, Exton, PA 19341.

December 2017 Newsletter

Holiday Party

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