

# AAUW some NEWS

News & Views from the West Chester – Chester County PA Branch

wccc-pa.aauw.net

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# *Enjoy Your Summer!* See you again in September!

Officers Installed at Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony of the AAUW West Chester - Chester County Branch May 9, 2018



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# Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony Held on May 9

--Jean Speiser

The West Chester-Chester Country branch of the AAUW celebrated the conclusion of another rewarding year with our annual meeting and banquet on May 9 at Timothy's in Lionville. We also met there last year and Timothy's lived up to the high standard set then. Mary Smith coordinated the event with Timothy's catering staff and we enjoyed a delicious buffet topped off with a tempting choice of small pastries for dessert.

# Gateway to Equity Award: WCU Resource Pantry

--Jean Speiser

We selected the West Chester University Resource Pantry as our Gateway to Equity awardee for the second year in a row. Kate Collyer, an assistant director in the Office of Learning and Volunteer Services at West Chester, talked about where the Resource Pantry was at the beginning of the 2016-2017 academic year and where it is now. There has been amazing growth.



Chapter Co-President Peggy Staarman presents the Gateway to Equity Award for 2019 to Kate Collyer for the West Chester University Resource Pantry.

In August, 2016, the Resource Pantry met needs for food and other necessities for approximately 50 students and at the end of this academic year was able to continue to meet those needs and expand what it offers to approximately 400 students. The Resource Pantry helped to remove significant barriers to the recipients' academic success and focused not only on food needs but also met needs for personal care items and clothing as well. Thanks to the generosity of a number of donors, including our branch, the Resource Pantry was able to offer greatly expanded hours, move to a new and improved location, educate the students about nutrition, offer informal counseling and direct students to more formal counseling, as well as to improve the recipients' financial literacy.

Ms. Collyer commented that the emphasis is on supporting the whole student and, for the first time, the Resource Pantry was able to maintain office hours during the summer although for reduced hours.

The Resource Pantry continues to ask for particular items, so please keep an eye out for such requests in each edition of the newsletter.

# **Outstanding Women Award**

The Outstanding Women Award was presented to Barbara Lathroum. Barb was noted for her service as President of the chapter for three years, for her involvement in almost every activity of the chapter, and for her dedication to AAUW goals at all levels. Barb will continue her active leadership into the coming year as Program Co-Vice President.

## **Member Making a Difference**



Co-President Peggy Staarman presented this year's Member Making a Difference Award to Phyllis Dunn for her efforts in bringing new members to our chapter. Phyllis demonstrated energy, innovation, and warmth in her efforts, and her PMP (Prospective Member Parties) were a huge success.

# The Peg Anderson Award

This year's Peg Anderson Award was presented to Cathy Palmquist.



Barbara Lathroum presents the Peg Anderson Award to Cathy Palmquist.

# Alice Lawson Scholarship

Diane Dougherty presented this year's Alice Lawson Scholarship to Quiana Daniels, who came with an outstanding recommendation. Quiana is a Dean's List student at West Chester University seeking a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. She has been described by one of her teachers as "one of the most engaged students I have taught in my twelve years of teaching."



Diane Dougherty presents the Alice Lawson Scholarship to Quianna Robinson.

Quiana is exceptional in all areas displaying initiative, motivation, reliability, creativity, leadership, and communication skills. In addition to pursuing her studies full-time, Quiana, a mother of two, is employed as a hair stylist in Philadelphia. She also serves as an executive board student member on the West Chester University Women's Commission, is the co-founder and member of the executive board of Super Moms of WCU, and serves as the Secretary, Membership Chair, and member of the executive board of the Association of Black Social Workers at the University. She has been recognized as a Phi Alpha Honoree and is both a Charlotte Newcomb Award and an Ann John Award recipient.

As a Social Work Fellow in January of 2018 Quiana worked in the office of Philadelphia Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown, where she was responsible for research for the legislative process as well as assisting with constituent services. She participated in the Undergraduate Conference in Atlanta, GA. Her goal is to serve as a member of the PA State House of Representatives.

## National Bylaws Changes Discussion Scheduled; Vote Deadline is June 9

A meeting is scheduled for June 4 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Eva Kaufmann to discuss the proposed changes to the National AAUW Bylaws. The meeting is in advance of the deadline for members to vote on the bylaws by June 9. Note: the text of the proposed changes were included in the April 2018 chapter newsletter.

# Election and Installation of Officers for 2018-2019

Fran Pierce reported from the Nominating Committee and presided over the very important business of election and installation of officers of the AAUW West Chester-Chester County Branch. See picture on the first page of the newsletter. We are fortunate to have such dedicated and able members to take on the responsibilities that make our chapter successful.

Co-Presidents: Peggy Staarman and Eva Kaufmann

Program Co-Vice Presidents: Terry Houle and Barbara Lathroum

Membership Co-Vice Presidents: Patricia Schultz and Phyllis Dunn

Co-Secretaries: Pat Bove and Carol Haaf

Treasurer: Anne Anderko

Eva's home is at 717 Isaac Taylor Drive, West Chester. Please RSVP to her if you plan to attend at (6t10) 793-3809 or <u>ekaufmann1@gmail.com</u>.

# New Member Orientation Scheduled

On the evening of June 4th, Phyllis Dunn will be hosting a new member orientation at 6:00 at her house (1035 North New Street, West Chester). Please bring an appetizer to share. We'll address questions about the branch and encourage suggestions about activities and monthly programs. New members will be the focus, but "old" members will be welcome to share their experiences and to listen to new ideas. Phyllis's e-mail is dunn.phyllis@gmail.com.

#### Membership Dues are Due June 22, 2018

*to ensure that you are listed in the 2018-2019 Handbook.* 

Please mail your check and Membership form to: Patricia Schultz 235 Chatham Way WCPA 19380

If you have not paid your dues, look for an email from Patricia with the form attached.

#### Finding Value in your AAUW Membership

--Phyllis Dunn

Let's face it...it's hard to sit down and write out that \$85 check for your yearly dues to AAUW. There is so much out there pulling at our purse strings that sometimes it is just easier to let things slide....especially dues memberships.

BUT STOP! Let's talk value and why we DO renew our membership. Besides the obvious mission of AAUW to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research, we want to work and play with women who value our mission. But all work and no play makes for a lackluster organization and OUR AAUW is a dynamic one.

Why? What sets us apart and boosts us to a higher level? We have many, many interest groups which our members enjoy...a place to share ideas and sometimes see things differently all while making some new friends. Through our interest groups we connect to the future through the simple act of conversation and the exchange of ideas. The value of your membership can be found in our varied & dynamic interest groups. They include Book groups (fiction & nonfiction), Great Decisions, Food Interest, Needlework, Social Bridge and American Mahjong, Travel, Walking Club, and a fledgling Golf group.

Let's not forget our informative and stimulating monthly meetings where current topics of interest are presented by outside speakers who are authorities in their field. Also don't forget our community service work with West Chester University's Resource Pantry, the Girl Scouts, Laundromat Library League and the Food Cupboard. And let's not forget our scholarship program!

Soooo, if you take your yearly \$85 membership and divide it by the number or activities you take part in...voila...you have your value! Attend just 2 AAUW functions a month, say the monthly meeting and one interest group activity...that only cost you \$7 or \$3.50 each. (continued on next page) (Much more economical than a gym membership and a whole lot more fun too.) Do more activities and the cost is even lower. Pay your dues and attend NOTHING... your dues are very expensive!!!

I suggest you get the most out of your AAUW dollar by being involved, join some groups and just see how many friends you will make. It's such a great way to keep abreast on what is happening with women near and far.

So if you are on the fence about re-joining our great group of women, sit down and calculate what the value of your membership dollar really is. I'm sure you will see that the value of being a member of AAUW far outweighs not being informed and involved. Stay involved and AAUW proud.

### Collaboration: AAUW and Girl Scouts collect books for Laundromat Library League

-- Eva Kaufmann

To celebrate International Children's Book Day in April, AAUW and the Girl Scouts of Eastern PA collaborated to collect children's books for the Laundromat Library

League. Representatives of the three groups met recently at the Wash 'N' Fold on Gay Street in West Chester to deliver the books. Bill Rettew, a reporter from the Daily Local, came to take pictures and to write about this unique effort.

Maureen Maier, VP for the GSEP, brought huge boxes of books, 418 in all, each with a note by the donor. Becca Taylor-Storm, age 11, came in her Girl Scout uniform to talk about the importance of reading. She believes that all children should have books of their own. Our branch, which contributed 241 books and which has supported the LLL since it began in 2014, was represented by Peggy Staarman and Eva Kaufmann. The owner of the Wash 'N' Fold, Carol Scott, who is also involved in Girl Scouts through her daughter, was pleased to have the event in her laundromat, which was one of the first (continued on next page)

# Collaboration: AAUW and Girl Scouts (continued)

businesses to have a box of books for kids through this program. Accepting the books was Arlene Rengert, one of the co-founders of the LLL.



*Pictures at left: Top: Delivery of the books. Bottom: Becca Taylor-Storm being interviewed.* 

It was a very successful event, and all participants expressed the desire to make book collections an on-going effort. The LLL has expanded to laundromats in several states and is now placing books in prison waiting rooms in our area. Arlene expressed her gratitude to our branch and to the Girl Scouts for their generous contributions.

The LLL now boasts sites at 109 laundromats which offer library boxes. Sixty-four are in Pennsylvania; 18 are in New Jersey and the rest spread out among ten other states, including Arizona and California. There are 215 volunteers who manage the flow of books and check the boxes to refill them as needed.

#### **Chester County Envirothon**

-- Eva Kaufmann The Academy at West Fallowfield Christian School was awarded the overall Champion of the Chester County Envirothon on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at Hibernia County Park. Along with 15 other high school teams and one exhibition team, they were tested on five environmental stations and became this year's overall winner! They will move on to represent Chester County in the Pennsylvania Envirothon at Susquehanna University and Camp Mount Luther on May 22 and 23rd 2018.

This year The Academy at West Fallowfield Christian School A was the overall winner in three of the stations: Aquatics, Forestry and Wildlife. Downingtown East came in second overall and Great Valley A team came in third with the highest score in the Current Issue station. The highest station score in Soils was earned by Conestoga A team.

The Chester County Conservation District and the Chester County Facilities and Parks conducted the Chester County Envirothon at Hibernia County Park. This annual environmental educational event drew students in grades 3 - 12 from public, private, parochial, and home schools throughout the county. These five student teams studied all year long to compete in Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Outdoor Safety, Wildlife, and the Current Issue of Grassland and Pasture Management.

Our AAUW West Chester – Chester County branch is responsible for managing the Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund, set up in her honor by her family to pay tribute to the work that Harriet did in the field of environmental advocacy in our area. She was the first to set up a recycling center In West

Chester. The branch has a standing committee, led by Nancy Dore and Carla Grot, who manage the funds. For the past three years the committee has chosen the Chester County Envirothon as the recipient of our \$1000 donation. With more than 400 students a year participating in a program to study the benefits of environmental protection, this is money well-spent. Harriet would be proud!

# **MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

- 1. West Chester University Resource **Pantry**: This organization is our Gateway to Equity Award recipient for a second year. This organization assists poor and homeless students at WCU. You can help by contributing supplies for the Pantry at our monthly meeting. Watch for an email before the each meeting with an update on needed items.
- 2. We are setting up a **tutoring service for** students at the Resource Pantry. If you would be willing to tutor a student, contact Eva Kaufmann. (ekaufmann1@gmail.com). This commitment will be for at least twice a month on or near WCU campus. Study skills, paper writing, and similar topics are needed as well as specific subjects.
- 3. West Chester Food Cupboard: Donna Eaves has set up a monthly program to help out at the Food Cupboard that is located on Bolmar Street. Volunteers will spend an hour after the Food Cupboard has closed its doors for the day to sort through donations and to stock shelves. Contact Anne Anderko (ananderko@msn.com) if interested in helping.
- 4. Laundromat Library League: LLL places library boxes of children's books in laundromats as a way to get books into homes that may have few or none at all. Book donations are important, and LLL has frequent fund raisers. See www.laundromatlibraryleague.org.

#### **AAUW Mission Statement**

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

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Interested in submitting an article or have information to share?

#### We need your News!

Please send *articles* as Word documents. Forward your news articles to the *gmail account:* <u>aauwsumnews@gmail.com</u>, indicating the topic and month in the subject box and cc the President.

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.

#### Guidelines for AAUWsome

1. Deadline for articles is the  $15^{th}$  of the month prior to publication.

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 or .docx (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. They are held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Generally they are held at West Chester University in Room 257 of the Sykes Student Union Building at 110 W. Rosedale Ave., West Chester. Changes in meeting location will be announced as needed.

#### Welcome New Members

-- Patricia Schultz

Carol Barkovsky is a retired teacher, loves to read, travel and explore. She attended the PMP at the Ice House Museum.

Marie Knox is my precinct partner as an East Goshen Democrats Committee Person. She is a retired Call Center Engineer. Marie loves poetry writing, biking and reading plus is interested in helping our branch with the Newsletter and the Handbook.

Both will be assets to the branch and are anxious to meet the rest of the members.

### 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 that can be found on the address label of the Association publication (Outlook).



Reminder: The AAUW Action Network (AAUW Action Network <u>advocacy@aauw.org</u>) 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.

## Special Notes from Members

The newsletter editors continue to include news about our AAUW chapter members in this newsletter. This is an opportunity to tell us what you are doing, and where appropriate, to share involvement.

# **Gun Violence**

-- Peggy Staarman

After the recent tragedy at Santa Fe High School in Texas, there is renewed energy to address the problem of gun violence in the United States. Right now, there are two open hearings on gun bills in the PA House Judiciary Committee. *SB501* is a domestic violence bill that was passed in the PA Senate and written by Senator Tom Killion, a Republican. It would force anyone with a Protection from Abuse Order to have guns taken away within 24 hours. *House Bill 2227*, written by Todd Stevens, would allow authorities to take guns away from anyone who is deemed a danger to himself of others.

Please consider calling or emailing Chairman Ron Marsico (717-783-2014, rmarsico@pahousegop.com) to ask for a prompt vote on these two bills. If you are a constituent of Becky Corbin, please contact her (610-524-5595, bcorbin@pahousegop.com). She is on the House Judiciary Committee. She did not cosign HB 2227 even though it was written by a Republican and Chairman Marsico himself is a cosigner. She sponsored a domestic violence bill that makes strangulation a felony crime, so it's reasonable to assume she would like to take guns away from a domestic abuser.

Two other gun violence related bills have also been introduced. *HB 1400* provides a background check for *EVERY* gun purchase and *HB 1872* bans bump stocks. A bump stock is a firearm accessory that increases the rate of fire for a semiautomatic weapon.

Gun Sense Chester County is holding a meeting on May 30 at 7:15 at Goshen Friends School, 814 N. Chester Rd. in West Chester. This program will provide insight into the differing levels of gun-related violations and where and how enforcement and prosecution decisions are made. Jonathan Long, a former assistant district attorney and an attorney with Buckley, Brion, McGuire, and Morris, will be the speaker. A representative from the Westtown East Goshen Regional Police Department will also answer questions about the enforcement of gun laws.

On July 25 at 7:15 at the Downingtown Friends Meeting House, 800 East Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, Gun Sense will hold a meeting about the costs of gun violence. The group will discuss the economic losses incurred by individuals and their communities due to gun violence. Attendees will also learn of the emotional toll gun violence causes.

# **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! Dates for 2018 are:

> June 22 July 27

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

#### **Couples Bridge**

A chair is needed. Please contact Barbara Lathroum <u>blathroum@gmail.com</u> if interested.



#### 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 event: Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 pm –

Cocktail Party hosted by Kay Philipps and Martina Ossman at Ellerslie House, a farmhouse on the grounds of Crosslands Retirement Community in Kennett Square. More details and invitations will be emailed to FIG members, but all branch members are welcome. For more information or to join the group, contact Donna Eaves, #610-692-5277, or <u>deaves@live.com</u>.

#### **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 Phillipskhp65hp@verizon.net

Our next meeting will be an evening dinner meeting on June 18th to choose books for next year. Any questions, please contact 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 meets at 7 PM on the third Wednesday evening of the month in members' houses in the West Chester-Downingtown area.

On May 16, Lit Group II read and discussed The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See. Our hostess Phyllis Dunn provided us with Chinese puer tea from a tea cake like that in the story, steeped at five time intervals!



Sampling Chinese puer tea at Lit II meeting

Our June meeting is our annual pot luck and book selection event when we choose the books for the next 12 months. PLEASE NOTE: the date for this meeting in the handbook is wrong. We are meeting on **June 20** at Fran Pierce's house; we are not meeting on June 13! For further information please get in touch with Jean Speiser at JeanSp@Gmail.com.

#### **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.

Please contact Sandy Alexaander (<u>frau.salexander@gmail.com</u>) 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.

#### **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!

All meetings are on the first Friday of each month, beginning at 10:30 A.M. Needlework Group Meeting locations for 2018: June 1 - Fran Pierce, 717 Hunt Club Lane, Chester Springs, PA Please email your hostess to let us know if you are coming.

#### **NEW! Walkers Group**

This group has met twice to walk trails in West Chester area. Walks are on easy trails with markers at half mile intervals; you can walk as far or as fast as you want. Lots of camaraderie and conversation makes it go easier!

Contact Phyllis Dunn at <u>dunn.phyllis@gmail.com</u> to be added to the email contact list.



This group walked the Trestle Bridge Trail on Route 322 on May 14, 2018



This group walked the trail at Skelplevel Road & Rt. 322 on May 21.



119 Llandovery Drive, Exton, PA 19341. June 2018 Newsletter Enjoy the Summer 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