



## AAUW some NEWS

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

wccc-pa.aauw.net

*Volume 64, Number 1  
September 2018*

## AAUW West Chester - Chester Branch Pot Luck Brunch and Meeting

**Wednesday, September 12, 2018  
6:00 p.m.**

**Grove United Methodist Church**

### ***Our Branch: Past, Present, and Future***

*Long time members will reflect on what members have valued about AAUW over the last almost 60 years: programs, fellowship and fun.*

*Presidents Peggy Staarman and Eva Kaufmann will fill us in on where we are as a branch and what the future may bring.*

*Last Names A-H, Entrees  
Last Names I-P, Desserts  
Last Names Q-Z, Salads/Sides*

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](http://www.grovechurch.org) or 610-696-2663.

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## ***Letter from the Presidents***

“That old September feeling left over from school days, of summer passing, vacation nearly done, obligations gathering, books and football in the air... Another fall, another turned page: there was something of jubilee in that annual autumnal beginning, as if last year’s mistakes had been wiped clean by summer.”

Wallace Stegner, [Angle of Repose](#)

I love Wallace Stegner’s writing and this quote reflects what I feel about September, summer passing, and a chance for a new beginning. As the West Chester-Chester County Branch begins its new session, Eva and I look forward to a promising year of reaffirming traditions, strengthening current relationships, and continuing popular activities. However, we hope to develop new partnerships with community organizations, expand special interest groups, and create new traditions.

Our members’ achievements have been many since our last general meeting. State Representative for the 156<sup>th</sup> District Carolyn Comitta, who was recently endorsed by President Obama, is running for reelection. Patricia Schultz was elected to a Democratic Committee Person position for her precinct. Toni Gorkin was appointed to the Uwchlan Township Environmental Advisory Board. Chiwoneso Tinago won a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Award to develop and test a community-based peer intervention for adolescent mothers in Zimbabwe. Octavia Warren Ward was featured in an article in the Daily News as a participant in GETT and an advisor to the Coatesville Raiderbots, a competitive robotics team. There are so many others whose accomplishments are also noteworthy.

**National AAUW** proposed three bylaw changes late this spring. Members voted to institute staggered terms of office for the AAUW Board of Directors on a three-year rotation. Members defeated a proposal to open the board to people who may not be AAUW

members and they rejected a proposal to eliminate the degree requirement for members. National AAUW Public Policy priorities are adopted every two years. They establish the federal action issues on which AAUW members focus their efforts.

For 2017-2019, National AAUW advocates two broad public policy efforts. The first is to achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women. National hopes to achieve this goal in six ways such as advocating for fairness in compensation and benefits, enforcing employment anti-discrimination statutes, and strengthening programs to improve post-secondary education. The second effort is to guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society. Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil rights, self-determination of one’s reproductive health decisions, and freedom from violence are three of the seven advocacy methods. Please refer to the National AAUW website for a complete list.

**AAUW-PA** also has set public policy priorities for 2018-2020. Please refer to the AAUW-PA website for details about AAUW-PA’s four main goals:

- To enable members and all citizens to participate in a representative democracy and self-governance
- To support a quality system of public education
- To improve the economic self-sufficiency of all women
- To improve the operation and self-sufficiency of government

Before our regular meetings begin in September, members of the West Chester-Chester County Branch will set goals that will be aligned with National and State public policy goals. On **Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, the board will meet at Grove Methodist Church in Fellowship Hall from 6:00-9:00.** *(Continued on next page)*

## *Letter from the Presidents (continued)*

During our first hour, we will determine our goals for the year while we enjoy a light dinner. The regular meeting will start at 7:00. Please remember that **board meetings are open to any member**. You do not need to be an officer or committee chair to attend and we welcome new ideas and suggestions.

Over the summer, Anne Anderko and Trish Alfano have developed plans for a unique fundraising drive, Phyllis Dunn and Patricia Schultz will reveal their PMP ideas for the year, and Eva Kaufmann and Mimi Jones will discuss their new Community Outreach Committee.

We hope that strengthening the ties with our present community partners and forming relationships with other community organizations will be primary goals. We have developed partnerships with the Laundromat Library League, the West Chester Food Cupboard, the Girl Scouts of Eastern PA, the WCU Resource Pantry, and GETT. We look forward to building those commitments. However, many of our members are involved in other community organizations and activities. We wish to reach out to organizations in line with our mission to

advocate and educate on behalf of women and girls. Voter registration, gerrymandering, public education, a woman's reproductive rights, environmental concerns, pipeline safety, and sensible gun legislation are just some of the issues that many community organizations tackle and that mirror AAUW's public policy concerns. We invite our members to help our branch form more alliances.

We would like to thank Alice Lenthe for her donation of a computer to the branch. It will be so convenient to have our own computer when guest speakers require one for their presentations. We also thank Alice for setting up our branch Facebook page. It was not easy to do, but, like Elizabeth Warren, she persisted!!

Our Special Interest Groups are many and strong. Perhaps you might like to join the new walking assembly or the mahjong group. If you would enjoy forming another Interest Group, please contact the Co-Presidents. We welcome new ideas for learning or just fun! Please contact Eva or me if you have suggestions, questions, or concerns. We look forward to an evolving and exciting year.

Peggy Staarman ([peggstaar@verizon.net](mailto:peggstaar@verizon.net))  
Eva Kaufmann ([ekaufmann1@gmail.com](mailto:ekaufmann1@gmail.com))

## **Back by popular demand: PMP's - 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, our PMP's are a perfect venue to introduce them to our organization. The 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:

**September 11, 2018**

**Happy Hour at Avalon Restaurant, 116 East  
Gay Street in West Chester 5-7 pm**

**November 13, 2018**

**Mix & Mingle at The Social 5-7pm**

**January 10, 2019**

**"Souper Dinner"...soup & salad**

(You will be notified later about PMP's to be held in April & June)

*\*As a current member of AAUW all you have to do to attend these parties is bring a potential member with you. We will introduce your guest to new members who have joined in the past year and those members who will be in attendance with their prospective member. It's a great way to get to know one another in a more intimate and relaxed setting conducive to building friendships. To save a spot for you & your prospective member just email Phyllis Dunn at: [dunn.phyllis@gmail.com](mailto:dunn.phyllis@gmail.com)*

## FUNDRAISING – What’s New and Old for 2018-2019

At our September 12 meeting we will kick off two fundraising projects for the coming year.

### **Feed Your Piggy**

We will start with the new “Feed Your Piggy” Campaign, where we invite you to get rid of your loose change in the next nine months. It may seem like an insignificant amount to you, but when we combine the contents of all the banks, we’ll have a nice sum to add to our treasury. In addition, everyone will receive their own porcelain piggy, so get creative and decorate your piggy!

We will culminate this fundraiser at our May 8 Banquet, a pulled pork barbecue feast with all the fixings to be held at Carol Haaf’s house. There we will collect the pig banks and hold a contest for the most innovative decorations; yes, prizes will be awarded to the top three winners. So we look forward to a fun fundraiser and filled piggys!

### **Pecan Sale**

The old is the return of the Pecan Sale. It has been a proven winner for the past two years, so all of the candied favorites and plain pecans for cooking will be offered again with an early November delivery for holiday gift giving. We will be sending out an online form with all the information. Please forward it to your family and friends who may be interested in some tasty pecans.

Please remember that although dues have increased to \$85.00, only \$16.00 goes back to the branch. By participating in these fundraisers, we can raise the funds to support the worthwhile programs for young girls and women. We thank you for your continued support.

*Fundraising Co-chairs: Anne Anderko, Trish Alfano*

## **MAKING A DIFFERENCE! WATCH THIS SPACE!**

*Editor’s Note: We instituted this column as a regular feature in the newsletter to keep you informed about opportunities to become involved in activities that support our community. So watch this space!*

### **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. 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.

### **3. 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](http://www.laundromatlibraryleague.org).

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ We have children's books ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

## We need Laundromats!

### Can you help?

The Laundromat Library League was established in 2014 to make children's books available to children that may not have books at home. We now have "Laundromat Library Boxes" in over 115 sites, primarily in Pennsylvania, but also in 12 other states.



Each decorated box invites adults to "take a book, read it with a child, take it home, return it if and when convenient or pass it on." We have been successful in obtaining book donations of all levels, from toddler through teen.

We need help locating laundromats, and especially obtaining contact information of the owner or manager who can give permission for placement. We promise regular tending of the box twice a month, and that the Library Boxes contain only children's books – no promotional material of any kind.



If you can connect us with one or more laundromats, and especially if you can help tend the Library Box, please contact:  
[LaundromatLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:LaundromatLibrary@gmail.com) or call 610-696-2282

For more information visit [www.laundromatlibraryleague.org](http://www.laundromatlibraryleague.org) ...and follow us on Facebook 

NOTE: Pat Schultz is our liaison from whom members can get information as well as the website

### **AAUW Mission Statement:**

*To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.*

### **Our Chapter:**

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Branch Website	<a href="http://wccc-pa.aauw.net">wccc-pa.aauw.net</a>

### **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.

NOTE: The September Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 5, at 6:00 p.m., at Grove United Methodist Church.

## **About the Newsletter: You can help! (a letter from the editor)**

---Toni Gorkin

The success of the newsletter depends upon you, the Chapter members. Thank you for the past year of providing timely and informative articles. I hope this will continue into the coming year.

Several of you have expressed interest in helping out with the Newsletter, and your help is very much welcome. There are several tasks, in addition to actual production, that need your help:

- Report on our monthly meetings and write up the speaker's presentation; this helps spread the useful information out to those who could not attend.
- Take pictures. Please provide them in .jpg format.
- Write up articles about recent and upcoming events, volunteer activities, etc.; especially provide information about how members can become involved. Try to provide the information well in advance.
- Keep us up to date on SIG schedules
- New: report on National and State initiatives; help us expand our involvement

Please let me know if you are interested in any of these tasks, or have other ideas. Contact me at [tgorkin@comcast.net](mailto:tgorkin@comcast.net).

**About timing:** The newsletter comes out on the first of each month. While I have been able to accept articles up to the last week of the month, it helps to have them by our "official" deadline of the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**How to submit:** Please send your articles as MS Word documents to the gmail account: [aauwsumnews@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsumnews@gmail.com).

## **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 [advocacy@aauw.org](mailto: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.

## **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!

To have your name added to the e-mail list, contact Sandy Alexander at [frau.salexander@gmail.com](mailto:frau.salexander@gmail.com).

### **Couples Bridge**

A chair is needed. Please contact one of the presidents 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.

For more information or to join the group, contact Donna Eaves, 610-692-5277, or [deaves@live.com](mailto:deaves@live.com).

## **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](mailto:khp65hp@verizon.net)*

Lit Group I meets at 1:00 pm on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting will be September 16, 2018. The group will discuss *Pachinko*, by Min Jin Lee.

## **LIT II: Evening Literature Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group**

*Jean Speiser - [JeanSp@gmail.com](mailto:JeanSp@gmail.com)*

Lit Group II meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday evening of the month in members' houses in the West Chester-Downingtown area.

At the June meeting / annual pot luck we chose the books for the next 12 months. On July 18 we read *The Elephant Whisperer* by Lawrence Anthony with Graham Spence. On August 15 the group met for a daytime meeting at the home of Dorothy von Gerbig, to discuss *White Houses*, by Amy Bloom. On September 19 we will meet at the home of Fran Pierce to discuss *Nine Parts of Desire*, by Geraldine Brooks.

For further information please get in touch with Jean Speiser at [JeanSp@Gmail.com](mailto:JeanSp@Gmail.com).

## **Great Decisions**

We work with a book produced by the Foreign Policy Association called *Great Decisions* (cost \$30 ). It contains 8 topics and questions for discussion. Some topics this year include China's geopolitics, Turkey, and Global Health Issues. One person leads and all look for additional material. We meet at the West Chester Diner at 2:00 pm and generally spend approx. 2 hours. The first half hour is social. We usually meet on the second Monday in the month, but since we are a very small group we can be flexible. We would welcome new members.

For information contact Jacky Page at 610-359-9887 or [jacquelinepage9@gmail.com](mailto: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 Alexander ([frau.salexander@gmail.com](mailto:frau.salexander@gmail.com)), Mary Marco ([Mary.m.marco@gmail.com](mailto:Mary.m.marco@gmail.com)), or Jane McDowell ([jilmcdowell@gmail.com](mailto:jilmcdowell@gmail.com)) 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.

## **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 [dunn.phyllis@gmail.com](mailto:dunn.phyllis@gmail.com)  
to be added to the email contact list.



119 Llandoverly Drive, Exton, PA 19341.

*September 2018 Newsletter*

*Pot Luck Dinner and Chapter Meeting*

wccc-pa.aauw.net

#### **AAUW Mission Statement**

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

#### **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](http://www.aauw.org) [www.aauwpa.org](http://www.aauwpa.org) [wccc-pa.aauw.net](http://wccc-pa.aauw.net)