

Join us for **A HOLIDAY** PARTY







Sunday, December 9th, 3-6 PM Ellerslie Farmhouse** At Crosslands, Kennett Square



Cost: \$15.00 @ person

Please RSVP promptly to Anne Anderko - see RSVP FORM on last page Email: ananderko@msn.com 908 Pine Valley Circle, West Chester 19382 - Phone: (484) 885-4943 Checks payable to AAUW-WCCC Branch.

MENU: Bring an appetizer to share for 10-12 people. The elected Board will provide desserts. Wine, sodas, coffee and tea will be available.

GIFTS: We are collecting gift cards to Giant, Target, Walmart, Wawa to benefit the WCU Resource Pantry. Cash donations are also welcome.

FUNDRAISER: Buy RAFFLE TICKETS to win a Festive Holiday Basket filled with Cookie-making Tools, Toothsome Ingredients, and other Holiday Treats, including TWO Tickets to Longwood Gardens.

****** Directions to Ellerslie Farmhouse are on the RSVP form on last page. ******

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AAUW some NEWS

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

wccc-pa.aauw.net

Volume 64. Number 4 December 2018

Letter from the Presidents

The holidays are upon us, and everybody's busier than ever. Cards, decorating, cookies, parties, gifts ... the list is endless, especially for women, who traditionally take on most of the responsibilities for making the season a success.

At this busy time, be sure to take time for yourself: enjoy the music, enjoy the goodies, enjoy the beautiful lights and decorations. Take a child to a concert. Go see the fabulous displays at Longwood Gardens, at Winterthur, or at the Brandywine River Museum. Take a house tour. Have a leisurely lunch or a glass of wine with friends. Take a ride at night to see the lights in your neighborhood. Enjoy the festivities!

AAUW will help to make the season bright. Our Holiday Party is on Sunday, December 9, at Ellerslie in Kendall Crosslands, off Route 926. Be sure to sign up, using the form in this newsletter.

We are also focused on the many members of our community who are struggling, and we contribute in many ways. Here are ways you can help our neighbors:

- Donate a gift card for a student through the WCU Resource Pantry. Last year we got cards to be used for local businesses.
 Wawa cards were very popular, especially for students who need gas to drive to work.
 We will collect the cards at the Holiday Party, or you can send them to Eva Kaufmann.
- Pledge to volunteer at the West Chester Food Cupboard. We have a group who helps out one evening a month. Contact Anne Anderko for details.

• Keep an eye out for inexpensive children's books! We will collect the books at the January meeting to donate to the Laundromat Library League. Or consider a monetary donation, so that the LLL can purchase specific books.

Fran Pierce's husband Bob is offering his gorgeous calendars to our members for \$20. Contact Fran to order one in time for the Holiday Party. They make wonderful gifts!

Our next meeting will be on January 9, with Carol Kuniholm, the Director of Fair Districts. She will provide an update on the fight to eliminate gerrymandering in Pennsylvania. Come hear about the progress and the challenges of this amazingly effective organization!

Kudos to our membership chairs, Phyllis and Pat! We welcome the new members that they have brought to our branch! Phyllis will be hosting a PMP at her home on Thursday, January 10, a "Souper Dinner." We all need to help grow our membership: think about a friend or neighbor who might enjoy our group, and invite her to this wonderful event!

We wish you wonderful holidays with friends and family!

Eva Kaufmann (<u>ekaufmann1@gmail.com</u>) Peggy Staarman (<u>peggstaar@verizon.net</u>)

Remember 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:

> January 10, 2019 "Souper Dinner"...soup & salad

> > 1 4 5

November Meeting: Maternity Care Coalition

--Jean Speiser Lonnese Bodison and Hannah Daly of the Maternity Care Coalition in Philadelphia presented an informative and thoroughly enjoyable program describing what the organization does and a brief summary of its history. Since its founding in 1980 with a goal of improving "maternal and child health and wellbeing through the collaborative efforts of individuals, families, providers and communities," it has provided services to nearly 100,000 families. MCC now has branches in Philadelphia and in Bucks, Delaware and Montgomery Counties. They'd be delighted to work in Chester County as well.



Hannah Daly and Lonnese Bodison of the Maternity Care Coalition show Terry Houle the package of information they hand out.

The organization's primary means of providing services is through home visits with infants and families, and they can continue providing services until the baby turns three. Staff members support families by providing information about such topics as ageappropriate expectations and discipline, educating new mothers about the importance of establishing bonding by through skin-to-skin contact and breastfeeding, improved nutrition, safe sleeping, and talking with and reading (though Ms. Bodison told us that reading is now called "book sharing") to children. Staff will go along on medical visits and can act as advocates for their clients to health care professionals where appropriate. In addition they advocate with non-clients such as employers and legislators. For example, they work with employers to explain the importance of providing a quiet and private space – not a bathroom – where working mothers can breastfeed their children or pump their milk for later use.

MCC staff make their visits in highly visible "Momobiles."

Additional Meeting Report

--Jean Speiser

Barb Lathroum reported on the AAUW Eastern District Meeting she attended in Doylestown on November 3. The speaker was a Bucks County Magisterial District Justice who has created an innovative program to help addicts appearing in front of her by coordinating support services and finding beds in rehab for them.

Anne Anderko and Trish Alfano reported that our branch realized approximately \$783 from the pecan sale. They also reminded us of the piggy bank fundraiser where each of us with a blank pig is asked to decorate it for the May Banquet. In addition there will be an innovative white elephant raffle at the February brunch. Members are encouraged to bring small items they don't want but that might appeal to another member. It sounds like fun.



TIG Goes to Concert

AAUW Members attended an amazing concert by the Curtis School of Music orchestra at

Immaculata College on October 27.

FUNDRAISING Feed Your Piggy

We started the new "Feed Your Piggy" Campaign by handing out porcelain piggies to all members who attended recent meetings. You are invited to feed your piggy 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. At our May 8, 2019 pulled pork/BBQ feast you will return your "filled" pig and we will have a contest for the best decorated pigs.

Wildlife Calendar

Fran and Bob Pierce have generously offered to support our branch with the sale of calendars that feature Bob's beautiful photography of birds and wildlife. Bob was one of our presenters last year and many of us were eager to buy his 2018 calendar. Now Bob and Fran are making his 2019 calendars available as a fundraiser for our branch. Thank you, Bob and Fran!

Orders were taken at the November 14 meeting. A flyer with ordering information was emailed out and is **also included at the end of this Newsletter.** The calendars will be available in time for the Holiday Party, or you can order as late as December 15 for the New Year. The calendars are \$20 each. Make your check payable to AAUW-WC-CC and mail it to Anne Anderko, adding \$5 for each if you need to have it mailed to you.

Laundromat Library League

--Arlene Rengert

Last week we received almost 2000 donated books! Thanks to Hankin Library and West Chester Friends School for leftovers from their recent sales, to the Avon Grove Lion's Club, and to various individuals!

Last week the Lang Family Foundation awarded the Laundromat Library League a monetary grant to initiate LLL sites in 20 states that are not contiguous to Pennsylvania!! These new sites must be established in 2019. NOW is the time for everyone reading this to ponder whether they know someone in another state who is the kind of person who might recruit and/or steward children's books in a laundromat or two. We have a two-page "how to start a branch" document on our website -- or I can send it on request. And remember, the LLL can provide all the books and other materials.

Finally, we have two new sites in a poor neighborhood in West Philadelphia, thanks to Ruth H., and one coming soon just across the river in New Jersey--adding to the 125 site total we announced in early November. And so we grow!!!

Thanks to all of you who are making this happen!!!

Book Drive Planned for LLL

This year our branch is planning a book drive to benefit the Laundromat Library League. We suggest that while you're out shopping this holiday season, you should keep an eye out for children's books. Second hand stores and yard sales are also a great source of gently used books! We will be collecting the books at our January meeting. We will also welcome monetary donations that LLL can use to purchase books.

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.

At the December Holiday Party we will be collecting **gift cards** to Giant, Target, Walmart, and Wawa to benefit the WCU Resource Pantry. Cash donations are also welcome.

- 2. West Chester Food Cupboard: A monthly program has been set up 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. For more info see www.laundromatlibraryleague.org.

4. Camp Dreamcatcher

Camp Dreamcatcher provides no cost therapeutic and educational programs to HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families. This year the Chester County-West Chester branch of AAUW sponsored a donation box for Camp Dreamcatcher at the November meeting. "Thank you for your generous support of Camp Dreamcatcher's Holiday Program. I appreciate your willingness to help provide these children and teens with gifts for the holidays," says Kim Levan.

5. GIST program at the Helicopter Museum: GIST (Girls in Science & Technology) is a bi-weekly science-based enrichment program that meets for two hours on Saturdays at the Helicopter Museum in West Chester. This program offers girls the opportunity to learn science through hands-on activities and experiments mentored by female college students mentoring in STEM disciplines. The program, now in its 9th year, has a demonstrated track record of success, with large percentages of alumni reporting it was an important factor in encouraging them to pursue a STEM career.

Paul Kahan, Educational Programming Manager at the Helicopter Museum, has opportunities to help in three areas: 1) public speaking on your career; 2) mentoring / guidance to the college students conducting the program, and 3) monetary donations. If interested, contact Paul Kahan at <u>pkahan@americanhelicopter.museum</u> or (610) 436-9600 **AAUW Mission Statement:** To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Our Chapter:

Toni Gorkin	Newsletter Editor
610-363-7627	tgorkin@comcast.net
Newsletter email	aauwsumnews@gmail.com or tgorkin@comcast.net
Peggy Staarman 610-269-4866	Branch Co-President peggstaar@verizon.net
Eva Kaufmann	Branch Co-President
610-793-3809	ekaufmann1@gmail.com
Terry Houle 610-269-7271 Barbara Lathroum 610-321-9783	Co-Vice President for Program <u>thehoules2004@yahoo.com</u> Co-Vice President for Program <u>blathroum@gmail.com</u>
Patricia Schultz 610-436-9752	Membership Co-Vice President pls@patriciaschultz.com
Phyllis Dunn 610-696-1079	Membership Co-Vice President <u>dunn.phyllis@gmail.com</u>
Pat Bove	Co-Secretary
610-692-2742	pmbove@aol.com
Carol Haaf 610-299-8801	Co-Secretary <u>carolahaff@verizon.net</u>
Anne Anderko	Financial Officer
484-885-4943	ananderko@msn.com
Branch Website	wccc-pa.aauw.net

Newsletter

Please let your editor know if you are interested in any of the tasks we need help with for our media or have other ideas. Contact me at 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^{th} .

How to submit: Please send your articles as MS Word documents to me, Toni Gorkin, at tgorkin@comcast.net or gmail account: aauwsumnews@gmail.com.

Facebook Page

Have you checked our Facebook Page? Thank you to Alice Lenthe for getting it up and running.

Chapter Web Page

And check the Web Page at <u>https://wccc-pa.aauw.net/</u>. Thank you to Sandy Alexander for managing it.

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.

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).

Member News

-- Patricia Schultz/ Phyllis Dunn We added two new members to our organization after the latest PMP! Thanks to those who brought their friends to the gathering and to the branch meeting. If a person joins within 30 days of the PMP she will receive a discount in the membership dues and will pay \$50.50. A very good incentive to attend a PMP and join this year!

Our newest members are Donna Pyne referred by Arlene Rengert, Mary McCloskey referred by Patricia Schultz, Mary Schearer, and Janet Turner, referred by Phyllis Dunn. Membership forms are available at every meeting. If you need one sooner just contact Patricia or Phyllis.

An addendum to the Handbook including contact information for new members was emailed out in mid-November.

AAUW-PA Education Committee

--Fran Pierce

As a member of the AUW-PA Education Committee I have been pleased to work on several projects with the exceptional women on this committee from all over Pennsylvania. We have read and critiqued proposed legislation and have helped the State Board make decisions about whether or not to take a Public Policy decision on any particular proposed legislation. We have also put together a policy for all branches in the state that will help to guide them in making decisions about reaching out to young people in public schools.

This particular matter came to AAUW-PA from a branch that had been criticized for excluding girls from charter schools in the branch scholarship competition. In order to reflect AAUW's opposition to the diversion of public school funds (i.e., vouchers, charter funding formulas, and business tax credits) to fund alternative public schools, and AAUW's concern for the lack of accountability or adherence to civil rights laws that must protect all students, a policy needed to be written that would help branches make decisions on these matters.

The policy that resulted, after several meetings and multiple edits submitted by several committee members is summarized below:

- a. Recognition and/or awards are open to students who:
 - i. Have demonstrated the Program's specific criteria (as set and administered by the Branch)
- b. Regarding public charter schools, Branches
 - i. Are not required to [proactively] contact public charter or cyber-charter schools because:
 - There is no way of knowing if a student from the school district(s) specified in your program is attending a public charter school, and
 - 2. Contacting all public cyber charter schools registered with the Pennsylvania Department of

Education would be an administrative burden.

- ii. Are required to send the standard appeal letter to a public charter school <u>if contacted by that school as long as</u> <u>the following criteria are met</u>.
 - The public charter school must demonstrate they serve an equal proportion of vulnerable students as the nominee's district. Vulnerable students include: students who are economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, English Language Learners, students experiencing homelessness, and students in the dependency and delinquency systems.
 - 2. The public charter school must demonstrate they serve an equal proportion of students whose disabilities require high-cost services as the nominee's district.

The above is only a brief summary of the policy. The full policy will be distributed to all branches by the AAUW-PA Board.



Reminder as always: 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. From AAUW's Mission and Action Newsletter:

Join the Fight to Protect Title IX

The Department of Education is expected to propose sweeping changes to Title IX this month, and reports indicate the proposed rule could infringe on students' civil rights and roll back critical protections for victims of sexual harassment and assault in schools. We'll need all hands on deck to fight back. Take AAUW's pledge to stop the Department of Education from any effort to weaken Title IX. We'll provide you with timely reminders, tools, talking points and resources to maximize your impact once the Department of Education kicks off the regulatory process.

Special Interest Groups

Women's Social Bridge



The AAUW Chester County-West Chester Branch Women's Social Bridge meets once a month at 1 pm 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!

The dates for 2018-2019 are:

January 18 February 15 March 15 April 19 May 17 June 21 July 19 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 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. FIG members will receive invitations by email. For more information or to join the group, contact Donna Eaves, FIG chair. We are looking for members who would like to host or plan a meal at a restaurant in 2019. Please contact Donna if you are 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 Phillipskhp65hp@verizon.net

Lit Group I meets at 1:00 pm on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting will be January 21, 2019. The group will discuss *Everything I Never Told You*, by Celeste Ng.

LIT II: Evening Literature Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group

Jean Speiser - <u>JeanSp@gmail.com</u>

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. The next book that Lit Group II will be reading is *The Paying Guests* by Sarah Waters who has been short-listed for the Man-Booker prize three times. It's the story of a genteel but impoverished family with a large house in London a hundred years ago who take in lodgers. We'll meet at 7:00 PM on January 16 with a snow date of January 23. Fran Pierce will lead the discussion at Jean Speiser's house. Get in touch with Jean (JeanSp@Gmail.com) for more information.

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

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

(<u>frau.salexander@gmail.com</u>), Mary Marco (<u>Mary.m.marco@gmail.com</u>), or Jane Mc Dowell (<u>jlmcdowell@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.

TIG Outing to Winterthur

Join TIG on **December 12** for a Yuletide tour of Winterthur followed by lunch at Buckley's Tavern. Check your email or the branch website for the sign-up sheet. We need 15 participants to get the \$19 group ticket price. Deadline to sign up is <u>November 14th</u>.

Upcoming event - **January 23**: TIG outing to the Museum of the American Revolution. \$31 includes museum admission, a lecture entitled "Revolutionary Women: Writing about War" and a box lunch from Brûlée.

Needlework Group

The Needlework Club_meets regularly on the First Friday morning of each month. Many of us used to do needlework of various kinds but have to some extent forgotten how to knit, or crochet, or crewel, or embroider, etc. If you are in that category, or are an experienced needleworker who just wants a space and time to concentrate on working on a project, please join us! There are also some among the group who have always wanted to learn one of these skills but have never had the time to do so. Well, there is no time like the present!

PLEASE join us any time – even if you just want to see what our group is all about, you are welcome to come and experience a session to see if it's what you are interested in!

Meetings for the next several months are at the dates and homes of the members listed. All meetings begin at 10 A.M. and members stay until around noon or can leave whenever necessary.

December 7 – Home of Pat Schultz January 4 – Home of Jean Speiser February 1 – Home of Fran Pierce March 1 – Home of Barb Lathroum April 5 – Home of Toni Gorkin

Please contact Fran Pierce if you have any questions or would like more details about the upcoming meetings. <u>franpierce@verizon.net</u>

Walkers Group

The group plans to meet on Tuesdays at the Trestle Bridge Trail (officially the Brandywine Meadows Trail) off Rt. 322 near Downingtown. Parking is in the lot near the Trestle Bridge. They will leave promptly at 9 A.M. You can walk as fast and as far as you would like. Expect lots of talking and laughter. No emails will go out; just show up and be ready to shove off at 9:00 A.M.

"We don't walk in the rain or snow," says organizer Phyllis Dunn; "drizzle, yes . . . snow and rain, NO! No other emails will be sent out to remind anyone," she adds, "just show up and be ready to shove off at 9am on Tuesdays. Don't worry if you miss a walk; just show up the next Tuesday."

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



Cost: \$15.00 @ person

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FUNDRAISER: Buy RAFFLE TICKETS to win a Festive Holiday Basket filled with Cookie-making Tools, Toothsome Ingredients, and other Holiday Treats, including TWO Tickets to Longwood Gardens.

****DIRECTIONS** to Ellerslie:

From WC take 202 South. Turn West on Rte. 926. Go approximately 6 miles. Turn left into Crosslands. Take first left. Turn into parking lot 9. Go up hill and Ellerslie is the brick farmhouse at the top of the hill. OR from WC take 52 south. Turn east onto Rte. 926. Turn right into Crosslands and take first left. Follow sign to Ellerslie.

I, _____, plan to attend the Holiday Party. Enclosed is a check for ______ tickets @ \$15.00.

Send your check and this slip to Anne Anderko, 908 Pine Valley Circle, West Chester 19382.

AnAAUW Exclusive !! Here's a Sueak Peek at the and the second seco 2019 Calendar

These make wonderful gifts for friends, relatives, or nature-lovers of all ages, for the upcoming holidays or in the New Year! Bob is making them available as a fund-raiser for our branch.

Will be available in time for the Branch Holiday Party on December 9th, or you can order as late as December 15 for the New Year. Just \$20 each. Make check payable to: AAUW WC-CC, and mail with order form to Anne Anderko, 908 Pine Valley Circle, West Chester, PA 19382, if you did not order at the November meeting. NOTE: If we must mail it to you, please add \$5.00 each.

Name	Phone number
I would like to order	Calendars at \$20 each.
I will pick up at	Holiday Party (Or you can make arrangements to pick it up through Fran Pierce)
Please mail the	calendar(s) to me at the following address:
	Add \$5 per calendar for postage - # x \$5 =
	Total of check \$
	11 P a g e



119 Llandovery Drive, Exton, PA 19341. December 2018 Newsletter Holiday Party 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 www.aauwpa.org wccc-pa.aauw.net