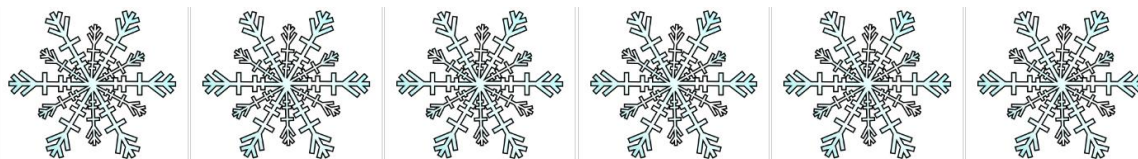




AAUW some NEWS

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

*Volume 64, Number 5
January 2019*



AAUW West Chester - Chester County Branch Gerrymandering in Pennsylvania: What Now?

Carol Kuhiholm, Director of Fair Districts

Wednesday, January 9, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Grove United Methodist Church
490 West Boot Road, West Chester, PA

Gerrymandering minimizes the voting power of an opposing party. The elected representatives in a non-gerrymandered district are more likely to respond to all its citizens' needs. Carol Kuniholm will provide an update on the fight for a constitutional amendment in PA which would place reapportionment in the hands of a non-partisan citizen committee.

Refreshments: Lit II and Mah-Jongg

Directions to Grove United Methodist Church, 490 West Boot Road, West Chester, PA 19380: From West Chester, take Route 100 North to Boot Road, turn left, and go toward the intersection of Boot Road and Whitford Road. The church is on the left before you reach the intersection. Find additional direction information at www.grovechurch.org or 610-696-2663.

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Letter from the Presidents

It's hard to believe 2018 is ending and 2019 is fast approaching. Our branch has added wonderful new members, our community outreach has grown, and we have enjoyed many branch activities. We are looking forward to more success this coming year.

We have witnessed the power of women in 2018. Our member Carolyn Comitta won a decisive reelection campaign for the PA House, District 156. In fact, a record number of women candidates were on the PA ballot. The US House of Representatives now has four female freshmen from PA after having no women representatives: Mary Gay Scanlon, District 4, Madeleine Dean, District 5, Chrissy Houlahan, District 6, and Susan Wild, District 7. Fifty seats in the PA State House are now held by women and women hold twelve seats in the PA State Senate.

There are so many women who have made a difference locally, nationally, and abroad this year. Our own branch has numerous members who have addressed a need in a community such as Arlene Rengert, President and founder of the Laundromat Library League, and Dr. Chiwoneso Tinago, a recipient of the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation Grant for her work in Africa to advance maternal and child health and our April speaker. In addition to our branch members, Susan Miner, the leader of Chester County Marching Forward; Ann Cummings, the President of Gun Sense Chester County; Kimala Price, AAUW Fellow and reproductive justice movement activist; Emma Gonzalez, the youth advocate for sensible gun legislation; Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg, protestor for action about climate change, are just a few more women seeking change. All these women want to create lasting movements, not just moments.

January will be a busy month. On January 2 we will have a board meeting at Grove United Methodist Church at 7:00. All members are

invited to attend. Our January 9th meeting will feature Carol Kuniholm, another woman activist and the Director of Fair Districts, who will give an update on the effort to combat gerrymandering in PA. Our legislative representatives help determine the success of our mission to advance equity for women and girls.

Phyllis Dunn will be hosting another Prospective Member Party on January 10th at Phyllis's home. In January we will also have a book drive to benefit the Laundromat Library League. Please bring your book donations to the January 9th meeting. The League especially appreciates books in Spanish and books featuring women and their achievements. Monetary donations will be accepted as well. Toni Gorkin has designed very attractive and informative AAUW labels that will be placed in the books. Mimi Jones will supervise the placement of these labels in the donated books. Thank you so much for your help.

We had such a wonderful holiday party at the lovely Ellerslie Farmhouse on December 9. It was the perfect beginning to the holiday season. Thank you to everyone who helped plan the afternoon and to all of you who brought such delicious appetizers and luscious desserts. We would also like to thank Kay Philipps who made the arrangements to hold our party at the farmhouse.

We wish you a joyous holiday season. To slightly paraphrase a Facebook posting by Mary Smith, we also hope your new year will be filled with good thoughts, kind people, happy moments, and unexpected blessings.

Eva Kaufmann (ekaufmann1@gmail.com)
Peggy Staarman (peggstaar@verizon.net)

Festive Gathering Started the Holiday Season

*Article by Jean Speiser,
pictures by Cathy Palmquist*



On Sunday, December 9, 2018, more than forty of our chapter's members, along with many spouses, significant others, and good friends, gathered at Ellerslie on the grounds of Crosslands in Kennett Square for a lovely holiday celebration. It was a time for good food, good conversation, and good cheer. No specific topic, no speeches, just general merriment. As always, the food was spectacular, ranging from appetizers provided by the general membership to desserts provided by elected board members. If you have never participated in this annual party, you might want to mark the second Sunday in December, 2019, in your calendar now. Eva Kaufman reports that we collected more than 25 gift cards for the Resource Pantry at West Chester University. She sends a great big "thank you" to everyone who contributed.



continued on next page:

Holiday Gathering (continued)



Prospective Members Party: Souper Dinner

-- 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
will be at the home of Phyllis Dunn.**

**Contact her at dunn.phyllis@gmail.com to
rsvp.**

WCU Resource Pantry

Our members donated \$490 in gift cards to the Resource Pantry at the December Holiday Party. Thank you!

Also, Eva Kaufmann forwarded the following thank-you from Catherine Pilling, Resource Pantry Coordinator at West Chester University:

"I wanted to say thank you so much for AAUW's donation of personal care products and winter attire we received yesterday! Our ambassadors spent a good amount of time just counting up all the amazing products and I'm happy to say that because of AAUW our bins are completely full of hats, gloves, and scarves for our students. These items were already being shopped for by our students yesterday. This donation could not have come at a better time for the Pantry and our students, what with the cold weather setting in. Thank you for your continual support of the Resource Pantry and please extend this thanks to everyone within AAUW!"

TIG Goes to Winterthur

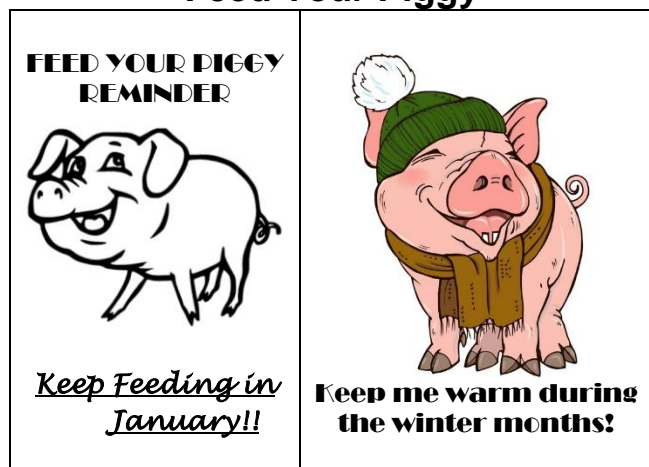
On December 12th 24 members and guests visited Winterthur for the Yuletide tour, followed by lunch at Buckley's Tavern.



See TIG under Interest Groups for information about upcoming events and dates. Lots more to come!

FUNDRAISING

Feed Your Piggy



Keep feeding your piggy to get rid of your loose change. 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.

Holiday Raffle

Thanks to all of our board members who donated the items for the Holiday Baking Basket. At our holiday party held on December 9, we raised \$138.00 in raffle tickets. Congratulations to Martina Ossman's husband Bruce on winning the basket. Happy baking! (Word has it he has promised to bake us cookies). Thanks to Trish Alfano for organizing this successful event.

Pecan Fundraiser Results

--Fundraising co-chairs Anne Anderko and Trish Alfano

Thanks to all of you that supported our 2018 Pecan Sale. We were able to raise \$783.00 towards our yearly goal. We raised an additional \$83.00 through generous donations from our members who did not buy pecans, but wanted to contribute. So we have a grand total of \$866.00!

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.
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.

Book Drive Planned for LLL

Happy New Year!

We are sponsoring a book drive at the January meeting. Please bring children's books, especially those featuring girls in leadership roles. Books in Spanish are also needed. If you don't have books to donate, a monetary gift is always welcome. We will meet in January to place labels on the books to let them know our chapter of AAUW has donated them.

Wilmington AAUW Branch Annual Book Sale Feb 22-24

The Wilmington branch of AAUW is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its sale of used books to fund college scholarships for women and is also preparing for a new chapter in its behind-the-scenes operations.

The Dollars for Scholars Used Book Sale is held at Concord Mall, 4737 Concord Pike, Brandywine Hundred, DE 19803. The sale runs 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 22-23, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24. Bad weather may curtail sale hours. Most items are \$1 to \$5, with collectibles up to \$100. Items are sorted into more than 50 categories on tables throughout the mall. The sale also includes audio books, DVDs, CDs, sheet music, puzzles, and ephemera. This year there are large selections of collectibles, literature, history, children's and local-interest books.

To mark the 50th year, all mass-market paperbacks will be just 50 cents. All day Saturday, Feb. 23, children's books are half price. Starting at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, most items are half price. On Sunday, Feb. 24, people can fill a \$10 bag with their favorites.

The sale has come a long way over the years, from \$320 in revenue the first year to supporting \$60,000 to \$100,000 in scholarships each year today. Leaders of the branch and its book room committee are working to reduce expenses to continue the sale. Information about free or low-cost space in the Wilmington area is desired and should be sent to aauwwilm@gmail.com. Volunteers interested in helping during the sale and collecting, sorting, pricing and boxing donations the rest of the year are asked to email aauwwilm@gmail.com.

For more information about the sale, visit <http://wilmington-de.aauw.net/booksale>, call 302-428-0939 or e-mail aauwwilm@gmail.com. The website has details about the scholarships that the sale funds and on how to make donations for future sales.

AAUW Mission Statement: *To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.*

Our Chapter:

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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 10th.

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 <https://wccc-pa.aauw.net/>. 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. **NOTE: On January 2 the board meeting will be at Grove United Methodist Church at 7:00.** All members are invited to attend.

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).

AAUW Pennsylvania

Ann Pehle, President of AAUW Pennsylvania, sends us the link to the December issue of the AAUW-PA *Keystoner* is below. Highlights include:

- Summary of GOTV activities around the state
- Another in the series of how to recruit members
- Report of Eastern District meeting
- NCCWSL scholarship recipient article about her experience
- And, much more.

<https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/files/2018/12/201812-Dec-AAUW-PA-Keystoner-E-news-min-compressed.pdf>



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.

Gun Sense Chester County News

--Peggy Staarman

Gun Sense Chester County evolved from the Chester County Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. That original organization was formed after the school shooting on December 14, 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. The sixth anniversary of that terrible day occurred just recently. House Democrats have announced they plan to introduce several bills to address gun violence. They will move to request federal background checks on all gun sales. Gun control groups believe that roughly one-fifth or more of gun sales do not include background checks. Democrats believe universal background checks will have bipartisan sponsorship because of the popular support for this kind of sensible gun legislation.

Gun Sense Chester County will hold a meeting on Jan. 29th at 7:15 at Westminster Presbyterian Church on 10 West Pleasant Grove Road in West Chester. The meeting will feature a review of plans to reduce gun violence. Members and guests will be encouraged to discuss education efforts and enacting laws that reflect consensus among those who own guns and those who do not.

STEM Scholarship Program

On Nov. 15, Lockheed Martin launched the STEM Scholarship program for high school and college undergraduate students planning to pursue a major in engineering and computer science. Beginning in 2019, 200 scholarships of \$10,000 per student will be awarded – renewable each year. The program will continue to add up to 200 new recipients each year for an investment of \$50 million over five years. Mentoring opportunities will be a key component of the program, and recipients will also be eligible for a Lockheed Martin internship following their freshman year in college. The application period opens on Jan. 15, 2019, and will be administered by Scholarship America, an organization with more than 60 years of experience designing and managing scholarship programs. If you know of anyone who would be a great fit for this program, visit [LockheedMartin.com/scholarship<https://politemail.us.lmco.com/PoliteMail/default.aspx?page=eKBxB_tKFUut9ZB0t8EPHA&ref_id=yYFr7A-ckUaLwrNvkWL92w>](https://politemail.us.lmco.com/PoliteMail/default.aspx?page=eKBxB_tKFUut9ZB0t8EPHA&ref_id=yYFr7A-ckUaLwrNvkWL92w) to learn more about eligibility requirements and to be notified when the scholarship application opens.

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 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](#).

Mah Jongg

For anyone interested in joining the Mah Jongg group, our next game night will be Thursday, January 3, starting at 7:00 pm. If you're interested, contact Jennifer Schultz at attorneyjenn@gmail.com for details. Newcomers are welcome - we can teach you how to play.

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 Phillips-
khp65hp@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

Lit Group II meets on the third Wednesday evening of the month at 7:00 PM. We gather 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.

In **February** we'll be meeting at Sarah Caspar's house in Downingtown on the 20th to discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. Donna Eaves will lead the discussion. In the event of snow or other icky weather, we'll meet the following Wednesday.

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 (frau.salexander@gmail.com), Mary Marco

(Mary.m.marco@gmail.com), or Jane McDowell (jlmcdowell@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.

On December 12th 24 members and guests visited Winterthur for the Yuletide tour, followed by lunch at Buckley's Tavern.

There weren't enough members signed up to get the group price for the Museum of the American Revolution on January 23, but we are still planning to go, so let Sandy Alexander know if you want to join us.

Save these dates for upcoming TIG outings:

January 26 - Curtis Symphony (8:00 pm)

February 4 - Franklin Institute/Viking Exhibit

March 6 - Barnes Foundation

April - Morris Arboretum

April 13 - Curtis Symphony (3 pm)

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.

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. franpierce@verizon.net

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! Don’t worry if you miss a walk; just show up the next Tuesday.” Contact Phyllis Dunn at dunn.phyllis@gmail.com to be added to the email contact list.



119 Llandoverly Drive, Exton, PA 19341.

January 2019 Newsletter

Gerrymandering in PA: What's Next

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