



AAUW some NEWS

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

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February 2019*



AAUW West Chester - Chester County Branch **Annual Brunch**

and presentation

Self-Reliance is the Fine Road to Independence

Mary Ann Shadd Cary, 1823-1893

Presented by Robyn Young,

Founder Hera's House & the "Marker Lady"

Saturday, February 9, 2019

10:00 a.m.

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

Robyn Young will describe the life of this accomplished black woman who was a teacher, editor, abolitionist, and lawyer from West Chester, PA

Refreshments: Branch members bring a brunch item that serves about 10 people; include a serving utensil and label your food item if needed to alert those with food allergies.

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

A blast of cold winter air makes me happy to have a day at home! The New Year always makes me yearn for order, and makes me want to pause and think about the many plans for the coming months. With AAUW there's always something going on!

Our February 9th meeting is our annual Saturday morning brunch. Please contribute a brunch item that serves about 10.

Our speaker that morning will be Robyn Young. According to Barb Lathroum, Robyn is the author of ***Women in Penn's Woods: A History of Women in Pennsylvania***. In this book, Robyn writes about 175 women who made significant contributions to Pennsylvania history. It is through Robyn's efforts that 21 of these women are now represented on roadside historical markers throughout the state. She has been appointed the executive director of Pennsylvania's Women's History Project. In October 2018, she became the Pa State Coordinator for the National Collaborative of Women's History Sites. At our meeting Robyn will be speaking about Mary Ann Shadd Cary, an accomplished black woman who was a teacher, editor, abolitionist and lawyer from West Chester in the 19th century. We are looking forward to this presentation, as it's impossible to imagine the obstacles this woman had to overcome to hold such prestigious positions at that time.

In addition to the speaker, we will have a White Elephant raffle. Members can buy raffle tickets and take chances on the items that they wish. It should be fun!

In mid-January a few members met at Mimi Jones' home to place labels on books that everyone contributed for the Laundromat Library League. Thanks to Toni Gorkin for her design that conformed to LLL's requirements, one that announced that AAUW was the donor of these books. We tallied a total of 480 books! Thank you to everyone who donated, and to

Mimi, who opened her home and then served a lovely lunch!



Labeling books for Laundromat Library League

The Travel Interest Group has arranged for several events in the coming months. Please keep an eye out for announcements from Sandy Alexander. Mary Marco is doing a great job lining up wonderful trips!

Consider volunteering for one (or two) of our up-coming events. See article below.

In April we will host the Girl Scouts at West Chester University for an introduction to community service projects. The girls, most of whom are 12-13 years old, will hear about the Resource Pantry and then engage in a brainstorming session to create their own service projects to meet the requirements of their Silver Award. We will be looking for about 6-8 members to help out. More details next month!

There are many more activities that beckon you in the pages of this newsletter. Make a resolution to try a new activity or volunteer your time to a good cause! Stay warm!

Eva Kaufmann (ekaufmann1@gmail.com)

Peggy Staarman (peggstaar@verizon.net)

Carol Kuniholm of *Fair Districts PA* Spoke to AAUW in January on Gerrymandering in PA

-- Jean Speiser

Carol Kuniholm, the founder of the all-volunteer organization Fair Districts PA, spoke at our branch meeting at Grove Church on Wednesday, January 9. She was motivated to found the group three years ago because of the remarkable inequities that Pennsylvania's highly-gerrymandered districts create in the Pennsylvania legislature as well as in our representation in Washington. She was inspiring, informative, and quite distressing.



Carol Kuniholm, founder of Fair Districts PA, spoke to AAUW on January 9 (Picture by Alice Lenthe)

She started out by explaining the difference between reapportionment and redistricting. Reapportionment is a decennial process when states gain or lose congressional seats based on the census. Pennsylvania currently has 18 seats in congress but is likely to see that number reduced to 17 after the 2020 census. Redistricting is how each state redraws its

electoral districts in response to the new numbers of seats.



Ms Kuniholm provided maps illustrating gerrymandering (Picture by Carol Zabriskie)

Ms. Kuniholm described gerrymandering as the manipulation of electoral maps for political purposes and said that without fair districts there can be no true representation. There are a number of techniques used to achieve a gerrymandered result even when the number of voters in each redrawn districts is approximately equal. For example, cracking means splitting a population and spreading its voters among several districts to create instant minorities, effectively disenfranchising those voters. Packing means drawing a district in such a way that a significant number of a particular minority resides in that one district although a more equitable voting plan might have members of that minority exercising influence in two or more districts.

The resulting disenfranchisement is demonstrated by seeing that in many Pennsylvania districts (close to 30%) there are uncontested races because the minority party cannot find a candidate to run when the result is not in doubt. Right now Pennsylvania's legislature is controlled by one party and only the leaders of that party really have any influence in (continued on next page)

Fair Districts PA (continued)



Harrisburg. Ms. Kuniholm estimated that although there are 253 legislators in Harrisburg, only 5 really have any say in the process. She also told us that no state is more gerrymandered than Pennsylvania, although North Carolina runs a close second. In order to change this state of affairs, Pennsylvania's voting systems and legislative processes need to be changed and that will only happen when the rules change. She urged all of us to get involved by communicating frequently and regularly with our party leaders and to be "focused, polite and relentless."

Nominations Wanted for Branch Awards

-- Peggy Staarman

Please remember that it is time to submit your nominees for the Branch Awards. The deadline for nominations is February 4th and we will vote at the brunch on Saturday, Feb. 9th. If you no longer have the form that I passed out at the January 9th meeting, it was attached to an email sent out January 19. You can email your nominations to me or mail them to my home address: 307 Benning Lane, Downingtown 19335. You do not need the permission of the nominee to nominate her. These are not jobs, but AWARDS that honor those who have worked hard to make our branch so successful. Thank you so much!

Nominations Needed for Alice Lawson Scholarship

The final form for the application for the 2019-2020 AAUW Alice Lawson Scholarship is on the branch website.

GETT ready: Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology on March 23, 2019

-- Mary Allain Smith

Get ready for the 19th annual GETT 2019 – Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology – at Phoenixville Area Middle School from 1:00 to 5:00 pm on March 23, 2019. Check out videos from years past and all the information at www.gettpa.org. The organizers expect that more than 900 girls will attend.

Jennifer Schultz will need volunteers to help at our EXPO table. Her email is attorneyjenn@gmail.com. She is doing States of Matter.

Even if you cannot volunteer, make a point to stop by and see the excitement.

GETT 2019 will include lots of new experiences including:

- Expanded GETT Expo area to include more spaces and classrooms filled with lots to explore
- GETT 2019 includes the "A" for Art in STEAM - Show the girls how the Arts are alive in STEAM careers at your company.
- A new Parent Resource Center to educate and excite parents about STEAM career opportunities for their girls

912 girls (5th to 10th grades), 324 parents and educators attended GETT 2018 to explore 106 Expo tables, each including unique hands-on activities. We are expecting even more attendees for GETT 2019!

Exciting Special Guest Emcee to be announced soon!

Testimonials from GETT 2018:

"The GETT experience was amazing!"

WCU Resource Pantry

-- Eva Kaufmann

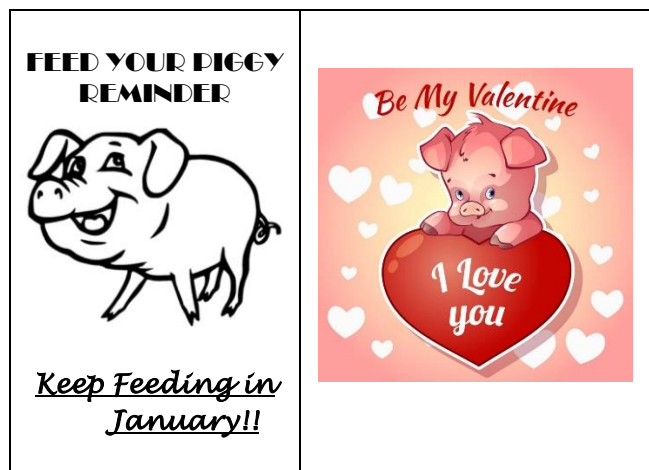
Last month our generous members contributed a record number of items for the Pantry. The trunk of my car and my back seat were totally packed with great contributions! Many people have expressed interest in seeing the Pantry. Now there's a way to get a quick overview! The social media team recently

approached the Pantry and offered to make a video of the place, and the result was a 2-minute film, which highlights the major areas of the facility. Here it is!

<https://www.facebook.com/WCUPA/videos/1970731833023771/>

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.

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.

Keep an eye out for an up-dated list of their needs, which will be e-mailed to members in the coming week.

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. GETT 2019:

volunteers are needed to assist Jennifer Schultz at our EXPO table. Her email is attorneyjenn@gmail.com. She is doing States of Matter.

Invitation to Visit Raiderbots

-- Peggy Staarman

Octavia Warren-Ward, a branch member and a Coatesville Senior High School science educator, recently sent information about her robotics team, the Raiderbots. Her team fostered the inception of four FLL (First Lego League) Junior robotics teams. One of the teams is an all-girls team (FIG3 FLL Junior Team) that includes two girls from a local shelter in Coatesville. The Raiderbots are eager to promote STEM activities with this team because this group of students has little or no access to STEM activities in school or at home. This team of girls works together to create "mini cities on the moon" and uses Lego WeDo kits to learn how to program rockets to move automatically. The Raiderbots team mentors the junior teams by helping with programming, building problem solving skills, promoting team building, and honing public speaking skills.

Octavia has extended an invitation to all branch members to visit her classroom on **Wednesday, February 13th from 6:00 to 8:00** to observe the FIG3 FLL Junior Team of girls who will show and explain to branch members many of the activities and concepts they have learned. The classroom is **Room 145 in Coatesville Senior High School, 11/12 Building, 1445 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville, PA 19320**. Please let Octavia know if you will be coming. **Her classroom phone number is 610-383-3730, ext. 81145 and her cell phone number is 610-842-9183**. If you are unable to reach Octavia, please let Peggy Staarman know and she will contact her about your attendance. I hope you will consider going to see this group of girls. Your interest and encouragement will mean a great deal to them. Thank you so much!

Find Mentoring Listings with The Connectory

STEM-specific mentors are especially important to break down stereotypes about who practices STEM and to demonstrate the diversity in career options. The process of teaching and learning STEM offers youth opportunities to make sense of the world they live in and prepare them for the future workforce. Links on The Connectory website can be used to search Volunteer Match for volunteer listings and opportunities to put your STEM skills to use as a mentor and help empower the next generation of innovators. Reach The Connectory at info@theconnectory.org or www.theconnectory.org.

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
610-793-3809

Branch Co-President
ekaufmann1@gmail.com

Terry Houle
610-269-7271

Co-Vice President for Program
thehoules2004@yahoo.com

Barbara Lathroum
610-321-9783

Co-Vice President for Program
blathroum@gmail.com

Patricia Schultz
610-436-9752

Membership Co-Vice President
pls@patriciaschultz.com

Phyllis Dunn
610-696-1079

Membership Co-Vice President
dunn.phyllis@gmail.com

Pat Bove
610-692-2742

Co-Secretary
pmbove@aol.com

Carol Haaf
610-299-8801

Co-Secretary
carolahaff@verizon.net

Anne Anderko
484-885-4943

Financial Officer
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 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: the February board meeting is rescheduled for Tuesday, February 5, at 7:00, at the home of Peggy Staarman.** 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

While it may be January 2019, April 2020 is just around the corner and it will be time for the AAUW PA State Convention. So you need to mark your calendars for **April 24-26, 2020** at the Best Western Premier **The Central Hotel and Conference Center in Harrisburg.**

AAUW Art Contest

The annual AAUW Art Contest is underway, and it's a terrific opportunity to display your work! Enter now and vote later for your favorite entries. This year, we will give special preference to entries that reflect AAUW's mission, vision and values:

1. Advancing equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy
2. Equity for All
3. Nonpartisan, fact-based, integrity, inclusion and intersectionality

Through February 7, submit an electronic version of your design to the [AAUW Art Contest web page](#). Your entry can be photography, a digital photo of your painting, drawing, sculpture, or any other form of visual art. AAUW members can vote for their favorite images once a day from February 12 until February 26. The winning entries as well as the artists' biographies will be featured on a collection of AAUW notecards that will be mailed to members this spring. For more information, to submit artwork, and to see last year's art gallery, please visit the [AAUW Art Contest web page](#).

AAUW Washington Update

-- Deborah J. Vagins, AAUW Senior Vice President of Public Policy & Research

This month we are celebrating two major accomplishments. First, the historic number of women joining the 116th Congress, many of whom — along with their male colleagues — ran and won on issues central to the economic well-being of families. This week we sent them [AAUW's federal legislative priorities](#) for the 116th Congress and will be working with them to advance these critical goals.

Second, on January 29, 2019, we will commemorate the tenth anniversary of the

enactment of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. That vital law restored the longstanding position that ongoing pay discrimination at work can be challenged regardless of when the discrimination began. But that law, critical as it is, is only one step on the path to ensuring women receive equal pay for equal work. New tools are needed to help close the pay gap. This week, I presented to the Democratic Women's Working Group, the caucus of all of the Democratic women House members, on why the Paycheck Fairness Act is the next step in ensuring equal pay. The AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps amplified this message by visiting House Republicans and Democrats, more than 200 offices, over the last two weeks.

The Paycheck Fairness Act will be reintroduced very soon and [we need your help](#) in getting even more members of Congress to support it. We are educating new legislators on the importance of the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#), and reminding everyone that Americans at the local, state, and federal level, regardless of

party, are demanding economic security for women and families.



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.

Items of interest in January included opportunities to provide input to the Department of Education against weakening Title IX.

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:

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, 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 February 18, 2019. The group will discuss *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*, by Gail Honeyman.

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. In February we'll be meeting on the 20th at Sarah Caspar's house in Downingtown to discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. Donna Eaves will lead the discussion. In the event of snow or postponement for any other reason, we'll meet the following Wednesday. Get in touch with Jean Speiser (JeanSp@Gmail.com) for more information. **Please note: our April book will be The Stone Diaries rather than Amity and Prosperity.**

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.



Our February TIG outing will be to the **Franklin Institute Vikings Outing** on February 25. We didn't get enough responses to get the group rate, but are looking forward to seeing the **Vikings Beyond the Legend** exhibit at regular admission price of \$35. Transportation: Train to Suburban Station walk or carpool. Meet at 10:00 a.m. entrance lobby (ground level door at the right of the Franklin Institute steps). Mary Marco has reserved a private room at TIR NA NOG, an Irish pub on the walking path back to Suburban Station. Please confirm your participation to Mary Marco so that she can let the restaurant know how many of us are coming!

Save these dates for other upcoming TIG outings:

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.

Meetings begin at 10 A.M. but scheduling may change (emails will announce) and members stay until around noon or can leave whenever necessary.

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. frangepierce@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.

February 2019 Newsletter

Brunch and Speaker: Robyn Young

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