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## AAUW some NEWS

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

*Volume 65 Number 5*  
*January 2020*

**AAUW West Chester-Chester County Branch**  
***"There's hope for bold, bipartisan action on climate"***

Presented by Matthew Zencey,



**Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Grove Methodist Church**

The Citizens Climate Lobby is pressuring Congress to pass legislation that will protect Americans from the effects of climate change and that will help arrest further environmental damage.

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 President

First and foremost, Eva and I wish you a very Happy New Year. I hope you all enjoyed your holiday with friends and family and are ready to leap into 2020! At recent AAUW gatherings, I have had many members comment to me on the positive energy, a spark that can be seen in our many branch activities and accomplishments. We have definitely generated a momentum that is encouraging both veteran and newer members to step up and get involved in many programs and special interest groups. We encourage all our members to build on this energy.

We have a lot planned for 2020 with four excellent programs at our monthly meetings covering a myriad of topics from climate change, understanding issues facing black women and girls in Chester County, new initiative in Chester County for young women focusing on civic education and government and the experiences of women running for office. Add to that our wonderful special interest groups that add new activities monthly. Look for e-mails from the Food Interest Group

(FIG) and Travel Interest Group (TIG) throughout the coming year.

With that said, we will be tested in the third week in March (see accompanying article) to volunteer to make The Power Weekend one for the books and celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. With 90 members strong and growing, we will all need to participate in this milestone weekend. I know our branch is up for the task. So don't forget to put March 28 and 29 on your calendars either the old fashioned way or on your phones.

Eva and I look forward to a very busy, enterprising year and look forward to your involvement in all of this year's activities that are planned. You may want to put your sneakers on!

Anne Anderko/Co-President  
Ekaufmann1@gmail.com  
January 2020

## Holiday Party

-- Eva Kaufmann



The holidays are the times we set aside our work and relax in the company of friends and family. And so we enjoyed our fabulous club with a party at Ellerslie, the stately home in Crosslands. About forty of our members, some with spouses, attended the lovely event, hosted by Barb Lathroum and Jean Speiser, our Program VPs. The decor was festive and the

food and drink delicious! Trish Alfano held a raffle for a beautiful gift basket full of items highlighting the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, which was generously provided by Fran Pierce, along with some wine and chocolate goodies. The lucky winner was Jane McDowell.



We didn't forget about those less fortunate at this time of year. Members brought gift cards for people in the four homeless shelters. We raised \$315, which, along with the raffle money, will enable us to send each shelter \$100, enough for a small gift for 40 people. Many thanks to Kay Philipps for setting up the event! It was a lovely way to begin the season of good cheer!

## Power Weekend March 28-29

**Ladies, mark your calendars! The weekend of March 28th and 29th will be the AAUW Power Weekend!**

**Three big events** will occur that weekend:

1. GETT
2. the Gala for the Domestic Violence Center
3. Our celebration of the 60th Anniversary of our branch

**GETT (Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology)** is a program for girls in grades 4 through 10 in which hands-on activities engage girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Last year there more than 900 girls attending, and this year is expected to draw even more. Mary Smith has been engaged in this event since its inception 20 years ago, and our branch has supported the program financially and with volunteers to run activities and help with providing information to parents.

The date is **Saturday, March 28th**, and the program runs from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This year it will be at Great Valley High School in Malvern. We would like to continue our support of this wonderful program with **8-10 volunteers**.

**The Domestic Violence Center** is one of the four shelters that we are supporting. In lieu of products for the residents there, the director,

Dr. Dolly Wideman-Scott, has asked if we could provide volunteers to help out with their huge annual Gala, which raises funds that the shelter relies on each year. Your Community Outreach Committee has already spent hours on helping with mailings for the event, and in follow-up activities including phone calls and collecting gift baskets for the raffle.

The Gala is another matter: Dolly will need 25 or more volunteers to help out at the Gala on the afternoon and evening of **March 28**. The duties will include setting up tables, checking in the guests, and selling raffle tickets. Our Community Outreach Committee is not large enough to handle all of these jobs, so we will need your help! **We would like to be able to offer 15-20 volunteers for this event.**

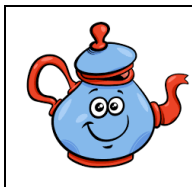
Our third event is all fun and no work: **the celebration of our 60th Anniversary as a branch**. You will be receiving information regarding this lovely event, which will be held in a facility at Crosslands in the afternoon of **March 29th**. Please plan to attend what promises to be a wonderful affair!

We are asking that our members volunteer to help with either GETT or the Domestic Violence Center Gala, and that everyone will attend our own wonderful anniversary party! It should be a wonderful POWER WEEKEND!

Eva and Anne

## Fundraising Update

### Teapots



**Fill your teapot reminder**

We started the new "Fill Your Teapot" Campaign by handing out porcelain

"teapot planters" to all members who attended the October/November meetings. You are invited to get rid of your loose change between now and next

May. It may seem like an insignificant amount to you, but when we combine the contents of all the donations, we'll have a nice sum which will be donated to the 4 shelters we are sponsoring this year. At our May 13, 2020 banquet you will turn in your donation and your decorated teapot and we will have a contest for the most creative teapots. Teapots will be available again at the January meeting or you may also contact the Fundraising Co-chairs: Trish Alfano & Marie Knox

## **Fundraising (continued): White Elephant Raffle Items Wanted**

At our Annual Brunch in February 2020, we will be adding a FUN-raiser activity. We are seeking donations of "White Elephant" items that will be raffled off during the Brunch. These items should be something you have around the house that you no longer need but think others might enjoy. The item must be small enough to be displayed on an 8 1/2" x 11" piece of paper. (Examples: costume jewelry, ceramic bowls, knick-knacks, candle holders, a small present you would like to re-gift, etc.) If you have an item you would like to donate, please contact us and if possible, bring the item to the January monthly meeting (or let us know what you will be bringing to the brunch so we are able to have the spaces set up).

Thank you for supporting AAUW programs.  
Trish Alfano & Marie Knox  
[BA1004@comcast.net](mailto:BA1004@comcast.net)

## **Membership News**

-- Patricia Schultz & Susan Skiles

**Membership** - Patricia Schultz & Susan Skiles  
Wow! We now have 90 paid members with several more we've contacted! Our goal for the next year is 100 members in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the suffragettes who won the right to vote for women in 1920! Only 13 to go!

## **January PMP**

### **Thursday, January 23rd, 6-8 PM**

The **January PMP** is scheduled at home of Susan Skiles 1033 N. New Street, West Chester. We are treating everyone to **Dessert Delites! Watch your email for the invite.** We hope that each of you will talk to your friends about our branch. Bring someone to a meeting as a guest & let them meet our group. Invite a friend to attend a special interest group with you, it's a more intimate way to get to know us.

Feel free to contact either of us with any questions.

Patricia: 610-436-9752

[pls@patriciaschultz.com](mailto:pls@patriciaschultz.com)

Susan: 610-431-4278

[whimziecieux@gmail.com](mailto:whimziecieux@gmail.com)

## **Members Attend CYWA Open House**

-- Peggy Staarman

Several AAUW members attended the "Rebirth Open House of the Community Youth and Women's Alliance" on December 12. This organization is one of the four partners of Decade to Doorways that our Branch is supporting through our Gateway to Equity Award. Mimi Jones, Elaine Burgess, and Peggy Staarman enjoyed talking with Debbie Bookman, the Vice-President and Treasurer of the Board of CYWA and the Prothonotary-Elect of Chester County.



*Elaine Burgess, Mimi Jones, Debbie Bookman, and Peggy Staarman visit at open house to CYWA.*

The CYWA provided a lunch for the attendees before a program that featured presentations about CYWA's Shelter, Family Center, and Samara House, a treatment facility in Coatesville that specializes in heroin addiction. Samara House tries to meet the needs of mothers and their children by promoting ways to build a healthy family. Our branch strongly supports the CYWA that serves women and their children who seek help because of poverty, abandonment, abuse, mental health, and addiction challenges.

## **AAUW Volunteers Help at LLL Fundraiser**

*-- Peggy Staarman*

Barnes and Noble in the Main Street Shopping complex provided free gift-wrapping for purchased items to help local community organizations raise funds. The Laundromat Library League participated in this fundraising activity on Sunday, December 22. Marie Knox, Trish Alfano, Pat Schultz, Suzy DeGeorge, Sarah Caspar, Jean Speiser, Pat Bove, Yvonne Heckman, Toni Gorkin, and Peggy Staarman volunteered along with some LLL members and friends and relatives of Peggy to wrap items at different times during the entire day. Jessica Moyer, who baked our beautiful 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake and attended our November meeting, also helped.

A sum of \$328 was donated by Barnes and Noble customers in appreciation for the gift-wrapping service and for the mission of the LLL. This money will enable the LLL to purchase children's books in Spanish and those that feature minority characters. The Laundromat Library League thanks these volunteers who have aided in the LLL effort to promote literacy. The LLL thinks all children should have their own books to advance reading skills, to learn about their world, and to become responsible citizens.



## **Domestic Violence Center of Chester County**

*-- Peggy Staarman*

The Domestic Violence Center is one of the four partners of Decade to Doorways, our Gateway to Equity Award winner. Mimi Jones, Jean Speiser, Lyn Eaton, and Peggy Staarman volunteered on December 17 and 18 to make follow-up reminder calls to businesses that expressed interest in donating goods and services to the DVC fundraiser that will be held on March 28, 2020.

The Domestic Violence Center has requested help from our branch members to promote, prepare, and serve at this major fundraiser that will be held in Phoenixville. More follow-up calling, preparation and mailing of invitations, the silent auction basket set-up, and preparations of name tags are just some of the necessary jobs. If you would like to volunteer some days between January and March, please contact Eva Kaufmann, Cathy Palmquist, Mimi Jones, or Peggy Staarman.

## Making a difference! Watch this space!

- **March 28th and 29th AAUW Power Weekend (see related article above):**

**Help with GETT:** 8-10 volunteers needed Saturday, **March 28th** from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 to run activities and help with providing information to parents. Contact Mary Smith.

**Gala for the Domestic Violence:** 15-20 volunteers to help out at the Gala on the afternoon and evening of **March 28**. Also help is needed to prepare. If you would like to volunteer some days between January and March, please contact Eva Kaufmann, Cathy Palmquist, Mimi Jones, or Peggy Starman.

- **West Chester Food Cupboard:**

We continue to encourage members to volunteer at the West Chester Food Cupboard at 431 S. Bolmar Street on the last Monday of each month from 6:30 to 7:30. Volunteers are needed to complete tasks like stocking shelves, bagging produce, separating large items into smaller

containers, or doing whatever is needed. Our volunteer number increased a bit last month, but additional volunteers are always welcome. Members who are interested in volunteering or who would like more information about this truly worthwhile cause should contact Jean Shervais at [jshervais@verizon.net](mailto:jshervais@verizon.net) or call 610-431-9066.

- **Community Warehouse Project of Chester County (CWP)**

Founded by the Rotary Club of West Chester, this 501c3 organization's mission, "Helping Us Turn Empty Houses into Homes" works with individuals and/or families coming out of a shelter program, suffering from poverty or other hardship who are unable to afford new or used furniture. CWP collects and redistributes donated furniture and household items to needy folks in the county. The CWP is located in Downingtown, and drop-off day is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. For further information about donating items or funds, directions to CWP or volunteering, **call 484-473-4360**. To have someone come to your home and advise you on items, contact Jeannie McGinn, 484-343-4577. NOTE: Bed frames are **always** needed.

### *AAUW Mission Statement:*

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

#### ***Our Chapter – 2019-2020:***

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## **Newsletter**

The newsletter is published by the first of each month. The deadline for submissions is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. Please send emails to [tgorkin@comcast.net](mailto:tgorkin@comcast.net). Thank you to everyone who contributes to these issues; it can't be done without you! -- *Toni Gorkin*

## **Facebook Page**

Don't forget to check our Facebook Page. It's **AAUW Chester County PA**. Thank you to Alice Lenthe for getting it up and running.

## **Chapter Web Page**

Thank you to Sandy Alexander for updating the chapter Web Page at <https://wccc-pa.aauw.net/>.

## **Member News and Involvement / Items of Interest**

### **Bridge Group Donates to Scholarship**

Kay Philipps reports that since the beginning of 2019, the social duplicate group donated \$225.00 to the Alice Lawson Scholarship Foundation.

### **TIG Visits Nemours Estate**



Mary Marco reports the Travel Interest Group visited the Nemours Estate in Wilmington on Tuesday, December 17th. We had a really great turnout (two people are not pictured) and a fun day. Lunch was at the Harvest Grill in Glen Mills.

NOTE: Be sure to share your photos with Sandy to keep the content fresh and inviting!

## **Trifold Brochure**

The trifold brochure that describes our chapter has been updated and has been printed. It's a good tool to use when exploring interest with potential new members.

## **Board Meetings**

Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at Board members' homes. The next board meeting will be **THURSDAY JANUARY 2, 2020**, at the home of Cathy Palmquist, at 7:00 p.m. All members are welcome to attend Board meetings.

## **Mary Pinkney**

Mary Pinkney, a long-time member of our branch, passed away on Monday, December 9th. The Memorial Service for Mary will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 2:00 pm in the William Penn Lounge at Crosslands main building.

Last spring we were happy to celebrate Mary's 105th birthday. For more about Mary's life, please read the article in our March 2019 newsletter."

Mary was born in 1914 in Louisville Nebraska, attended Central High School in Omaha, then the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. She transferred to University of Illinois to study City Planning. There she was taught chemistry by her future husband, Paul Pinkney. After their marriage, they moved to Wilmington DE where he did research at the DuPont Experimental Station, eventually moving to DuPont facilities in Niagara Falls NY and Memphis TN. After their three children were grown, Mary earned a graduate degree in English Literature from the University of Buffalo before Paul was transferred back to Wilmington. They moved to Westtown PA

around 1965, and Mary taught English at both high school and college levels. Mary and her **Mary Pinkney (continued)** husband learned and taught windsurfing. They traveled together to many Windsurfer World Championships, and in 1981 in Japan, Mary won first place in the Women's Master Class in the Windsurfer World Championships in Japan in her 60s.

Mary was an AAUW member of this branch since 1968. She was very active in AAUW, as well as in the community, advancing equity for

women through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. She wrote biographies of West Chester area women of note for "*Pennsylvania Women in History, Our Hidden Heritage*," published in 1983 by the Pennsylvania Division of AAUW. Her branch activities earned her an Outstanding Woman award, and she was twice recognized with a Named Gift to the AAUW Educational Foundation.

## 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. We play contract bridge and change partners after 6 hands.



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).

The dates for 2019-2020 are:

January 17  
February 21  
March 20  
April 17  
May 15  
June 19  
July 17

### 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](mailto: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 or dinner on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. Couples (unless otherwise specified) and singles, as well as new members, are welcome. **Next event: Sunday, January 26, 5:00 PM** – A Mexican themed dinner, hosted by Carol and Dane Zabriskie. FIG members will receive invitations by email. For more information or to join the group, contact Donna Eaves, FIG chair, at 610-692-5277 or [deaves@live.com](mailto:deaves@live.com). We are also looking for members who would like to host or plan a meal at a restaurant in the upcoming months. 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 Lit I Book Group meets at 1:00 pm on the third Monday of the month. For the **January 20** meeting the group will read *State of Wonder*, by Anne Patchett. The meeting will be at the home of Pat Bove and Eva Kaufmann will lead the discussion. Any questions? Contact Janet Kane: [jfentonkane@gmail.com](mailto:jfentonkane@gmail.com) or 610-399-1149.



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

Lit Group II welcomes new members. Please get in touch with Jean Speiser

([JeanSp@gmail.com](mailto:JeanSp@gmail.com)) for more details.

Lit Group II will meet January 15 at the home of Fran Baliotti to discuss *Empty Mansions*, by Bill Dedman. Fran Pierce will lead the discussion.

## **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.

## **Stitchers Group**

The "Stitchers" meet the first Friday of each month at 10AM. We're meeting at the home of Carol Zabriskie on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. In connection with the 4 shelters that we are sponsoring this year we have discussed making hats or scarves for the homeless. I have an easy crochet pattern for both & Carol Zabriskie will help with those who knit. If you wish to make blankets or afghans for children that's fine too. We bring our stitching projects to work on as we chat. We welcome your skills, whatever they may be. Please join us, it's an enjoyable morning. Watch your email for a reminder.

## **Walkers Group**

The group meets 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 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. 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.

*January 2020 Newsletter*  
*Citizens Climate Lobby*  
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.

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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)