



**AAUW some
NEWS**

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

*Volume 65 Number 8
April 2020*

AAUW West Chester-Chester County Branch

Due to Covid-19 Coronavirus

Stay at Home / Social Distancing Orders

*The April Meeting, Events, and Special Interest Group
Meetings are cancelled*

*Please check the chapter website wccc-pa.aauw.net for
updates and announcements.*

The password is in the front inside cover of your Handbook.

*Also watch your emails for schedule changes and virtual
meetings*

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Letter from the President

Now I can relate to Sleeping Beauty. It seems that the entire world is going to sleep around us. Stores closed, meetings cancelled, shows postponed, everything that we looked forward to a few weeks ago is in a state of suspension. We look forward to the day that everything will wake up again and our life will be back to normal. When will that day come?

The challenge is to make productive use of our time instead of sleeping it away. We can tackle projects around the house: cleaning out closets or the garage, finishing that vacation photo album, starting a new crafty project, getting the garden ready, reading those magazines from Christmas, picking up that book on the end table, taking leisurely baths and long walks, all those things that our busy schedules have pushed out of our list of priorities. No excuses anymore! Ironing? Well, no. I have to draw the line somewhere!

I love the creative ways people are dealing with the social distancing. I have friends who meet on the deck and share a bottle of wine every afternoon, dispensed by one person, while sitting a full six feet apart!

Our branch is also in a state of suspension. Our meetings, our dinners, our fun events, our charitable work ... all cancelled or postponed. But there's good news, too: we can continue our support of the community in other ways. We can reschedule our events. We can keep in touch with each other and be there to support each other in cases of distress. We are an organization of friends.

Let's find productive things to do, keep a smile on our face, and enjoy the opportunity for a slower pace. When everything is back to normal, we may look nostalgically at this unusual time of our lives!

Stay healthy!
Eva Kaufmann
Co-President

Supporting the Community Youth and Women's Alliance

The month of April is designated as the month to support CYWA, one of the four shelters we are supporting this year. The coronavirus has complicated life for all of us, and especially for those who are helping the homeless and the needy. Because our branch meeting and other gatherings have been canceled due to the virus and because the CYWA helps so many people living on the edge, we ask that those able to donate to our shelters, do so by a check made out to CYWA with a notation on the check that the donation is coming from AAUW. Please send your check to me and I will see that CYWA gets them.

This is a difficult time for all of us, but I know how generous and compassionate you are, and I am proud to be a part of this group. We look forward to the time when we can meet and celebrate our branch together.

Mimi Jones
26 Blakely Road
Downingtown, Pa. 19335

Gateway to Equity Award: WCU Resource Pantry

-- Eva Kaufmann

It is my pleasure to announce that as a result of our recent vote on branch awards, our Gateway to Equity Award winner for the next year is the West Chester University Resource Pantry. This will be the third time we will have supported this outstanding organization. The first time was in 2017-18, then again in 2018-2019.

The Resource Pantry opened in 2016 as a result of the initiative of Tori Nuccio, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, who specialized in supporting Unaccompanied Youth. This term refers to students who have aged out of the foster care system and who have no family support, as well as students who are homeless for other reasons. She realized that these students suffered lack of food during school breaks and summers. With the help of the

Resource Pantry (continued)

WCU Foundation, she opened a small Resource Center for these students.

Here is part of an article from our February 2018 AAUW newsletter:

- In 2016-17, 82 students took advantage of the Pantry with a total of 260 visits.
- So far in 2017-18 (as of early January), 266 students have used the pantry with a total of 664 visits. The current average is 113 visits per month.
- In terms of gender, 20% of the students are male and 80% female. The managers of the Pantry are puzzled by the disparity. They decided to hire a male student or intern next year to help run the place, as it is staffed by only women right now. The manager hopes to make the male students more comfortable.
- 62% of the students live on-campus.
- The Pantry distributed 2,517 pounds of food since the beginning of the school year. The Chester County Food Bank is the primary source of food. Fresh food is available through various sources, including from a greenhouse on campus.

Fast forward to 2020, and here are some numbers from a recent publication of the Pantry:

- On average, the Pantry serves 200 students per week—a \$500 contribution provides one student with food or personal supplies for one month.
- During the current academic year there have been:
650 students served
3,905 visits to the Resource Pantry
More than 10,000 pounds of food distributed.

Clearly the organization has grown, as has the need experienced by students. We are delighted to support such a meaningful organization!

UPDATE TO BRANCH ACTIVITIES

*For those of you who may not have seen the update emails from Eva, here's a repeat of the latest information. Eva notes: "It is anticipated that many more changes and cancellations will occur if the virus continues to control our ability to meet together. Instead of sending out frequent notices, I will ask you to **consult our website, wccc-pa.aauw.net, to check on activities and announcements.** The password is in the front inside cover of your Handbook."*

Eva reported, "As you may have seen on our website, **the meeting scheduled for April 8th has been cancelled**, or should I say, postponed. We were planning to have Fredda Maddox, newly elected to County Sheriff, to speak on the topic of women running for elected office, as well as officer Frushella to speak on the topic of scams. We have asked our program VPs to reschedule them, as well as our March speaker, Maeve Kelly, from the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls, for our fall meetings. Check the website for announcements in this fluid situation!

The 60th Anniversary celebration was cancelled, as you already know. We got many comments from our members, most of them in favor or having the celebration in the fall, as if in defiance of the virus and what it has done. We will explore the possibility of having it at Crosslands as originally planned, if they are willing to have outside groups on their campus again in the fall.

Anne and I have spoken about the calendar for April. It is clear from reports about the virus that we will not be able to schedule events in the coming month. We have decided to **CANCEL ALL EVENTS IN APRIL.**

The next major event is our **May Banquet**, at which we culminate our year with approval of the budget and election of officers. It is too early to tell if we will be able to have the banquet as planned, and the Board will make *(continued on next page)*

Update to Branch Activities (continued)

decisions when we meet on April 1st. It may be necessary to postpone the event a month and have it in June, if the facility and the caterer are available. Stay tuned!

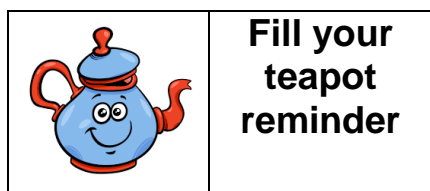
Our Board will have a virtual meeting on April 1st. Details will be provided to Board members. If you would like to join the meeting, let us know, and we will be happy to include you.

The state AAUW-PA convention scheduled for April has been postponed to July 13-15. If you would like to attend, you can register on the state website. I will be going and would welcome company for the ride to Harrisburg and

a roommate at the hotel. Call me before you register. And, finally some good news: I am happy to announce that **our Gateway to Equity winner for next year is The WCU Resource Pantry!** This is an unexpected selection, since we have supported them twice in the past. They will be thrilled to get this news."

AAUW T-Shirt Sale

Just a reminder for those of you that may have missed out on the AAUW T-Shirt sale. Good news, we bought some extra sizes just in case you forgot to place your order. We have sizes small through large available for \$9.99. Please e-mail Anne, ananderko@msn.com if you would like a t-shirt. Checks should be written out to AAUW-West Chester County Branch.



**Fill your
teapot
reminder**

TEAPOT FUNDRAISER – DID YOU DECORATE YOUR TEAPOT YET?

We are getting closer to our May Banquet and we want to remind you again about the importance of the Teapot Fundraiser. This is a major fundraiser and all the money collected will be donated to the 4 shelters we are sponsoring this year. Whether it be the loose

change around your home, or cash or a check please remember to donate.

The May Banquet includes a contest for the most creatively decorated teapots. "Thanks to" the COVID-19 restrictions a planned "paint your teapot" get together in April does not look possible, but since many of us now have more free time on our hands and are staying at home, this is the perfect time to get the creative juices going and decorate your teapot. Here are some ideas:

Stay well,
Trish Alfano & Marie Knox
Fundraising Co-Chairs

MAKE IT PRETTY



MAKE IT FUN



USE IT AS A PLANTER



USE IT AS A VASE



USE IT FOR YOUR CLUTTER



Making a difference! Watch this space!

- **West Chester Food Cupboard:**

I hope you are all well and staying healthy in these strange times. I wanted to let everyone know that although the Food Cupboard is open, we will NOT be volunteering this month.

Donna Eaves, our contact person, just let me know that there are sufficient daytime volunteers (probably because so many people are home from work), so there is no need for any of us to risk going to the Cupboard. I'll be sorry to miss the volunteer hour, which always goes quickly since you are all so hard-working and pleasant to be with. As we are doing with everything else, we will just have to wait and see what next month holds.

In the meantime, if anyone would like to make a monetary contribution, you can send a check directly to the following address: **West Chester Food Cupboard, 431 S. Bolmar Street, West Chester, PA 19382.** Checks should be made out to West Chester Food Cupboard. Stay well.

Sincerely,

Jean Shervais

jshervais@verizon.net

Home: 610-431-9066 Cell: 484-883-3521

- **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's drop off day in Downingtown is the 3rd Saturday of each month. Another location for drop-off is in West Chester. 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:

<i>Toni Gorkin</i> 610-363-7627	Newsletter Editor tgorkin@comcast.net
<i>Newsletter email</i>	tgorkin@comcast.net
<i>Eva Kaufmann</i> 610-793-3809	Branch Co-President ekaufmann1@gmail.com
<i>Anne Anderko</i> 484-885-4943	Branch Co-President ananderko@msn.com
<i>Barbara Lathroum</i> 610-321-9783	Co-Vice President for Program blathroum@gmail.com
<i>Jean Speiser</i> 610-738-3363	Co-Vice President for Program jeansp@gmail.com
<i>Patricia Schultz</i> 610-436-9752	Membership Co-Vice President pls@patriciaschultz.com
<i>Susan Skiles</i> 610-431-4278	Membership Co-Vice President whimziecieux@gmail.com
<i>Pat Bove</i> 610-692-2742	Co-Secretary pbove@aol.com
<i>Carol Haaf</i> 610-299-8801	Co-Secretary carolahaaf@verizon.net
<i>Susan DeGeorge</i>	Financial Officer suzydegeorge@yahoo.com
Branch Website	wccc-pa.aauw.net

Newsletter

The newsletter is published by the first of each month. The deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month. Please send emails to 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/>. 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 a VIRTUAL meeting on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, at 3:00 p.m.** All members are welcome to attend Board meetings. Email Eva or Anne if you want to participate.



2020 AAUW PA State Convention

The Convention has been postponed to July 13-15. Following is the statement from the Convention Coordinators.

The AAUW-PA Board has been following the developments related to the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus and considering options related to our upcoming April Convention. We take the health and well-being of our members and invited guests as our highest priority. We also must consider the financial well-being of our organization. Through discussions with the Central Hotel and Conference Center, we have determined that the best course of action is to **postpone the Convention until July 13, 14, 15.**

We recognize that this is disappointing, but we are PERSISTENT WOMEN after all, and determined to make the best of these circumstances! After learning that cancelling the convention outright would leave us with significant financial liability, the Central Hotel offered us alternative dates for our event. The only weekend dates available are during Thanksgiving and just prior to Christmas, so we have chosen a Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday time slot in July.

PLEASE VOTE!

Because it will not be possible to provide a venue for on-site voting for Board candidates, you will need to vote EITHER online or with a paper ballot. PLEASE remember to vote. You'll find all the information you need here: <https://aauw-pa.aauw.net/about/nominations/>

REGISTRATIONS AND RESERVATIONS:

If you have already registered for the April Convention, we have transferred your registration to the new dates. If you need to cancel that registration, send an email to aauwpaconfcoord@gmail.com. If you have already booked a hotel room, the Central Hotel has transferred that reservation to the new dates for the convention automatically. Contact the Hotel (717-561-2800) directly if you need to cancel your reservation with no penalty.

We look forward to a successful and engaging convention and hope to see you there!

Special Interest Groups

Note: Because of the Covid-19 Coronavirus Stay-at-Home/Safe Distancing orders, April meetings have been cancelled. Some groups are exploring virtual meeting options. Watch for emails and check with your Interest Group's coordinators.

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. The social bridge group will not be meeting until further notice.

Couples Bridge

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

Mah Jongg Newbies

Nine AAUW members attended 2 sessions to learn to play Mah Jongg with Donna Eaves, Kim Glavin, Mary Smith and Sandy Alexander. While we can't meet daily, some of us are paying online and Sandy is sending out a daily email with a practice hand to analyze. Contact is Sandy at frau.salexander@gmail.com.

FIG (Food Interest Group)

This group dines around either at a member's home or at a local restaurant. The group usually meets on a Saturday 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.

Invitations with all details will be emailed to FIG members about one month before the event. Please wait for your invitation to RSVP. For more information or to get on the mailing list, contact Donna Eaves, FIG chair, at 610-692-5277 or deaves@live.com.

Book Groups:

AAUW branches are known for their book groups, and membership in a group often encourages continuing membership. The West Chester-Chester County Branch currently has two book discussion groups meeting in the day and in the evening at different times of the month.

LIT I: Daytime Literature Group

Fiction & Nonfiction Lit I Book Group meets at 1:00 pm on the third Monday of the month. Lit I is exploring a virtual meeting option to discuss *Grandma Gatewood's Walk*, by Ben Montgomery, on March 30. Any questions? Contact Janet Kane: jfentonkane@gmail.com or 610-399-1149.

LIT II: Evening Literature Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group

Lit Group II is exploring a virtual meeting option to discuss *Emma*, by Jane Austen. If you are not already receiving emails from Lit

Group II, please let Jean Speiser (JeanSp@gmail.com) know that you are interested so that you can be informed of any schedule changes or modifications.

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. However, all TIG outings are on hold for the present. 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.

Stitchers Group

The "Stitchers" usually meet the first Friday of each month at 10:00 AM. 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. Meetings will resume when social distancing regulations permit.

Walkers Group

The group usually 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 to be added to the email contact list.

NOTE from Phyllis: *AAUW Walkers are suspended as a group for now but Walkers are encouraged to walk on their own and use safe distancing practices. We will let everyone know when the ban is lifted.*



119 Llandoverly Drive, Exton, PA 19341.

April 2020 Newsletter

Meetings Cancelled

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