



<p>AAUW some NEWS News & Views from the West Chester – Chester County PA Branch wccc-pa.aauw.net</p>
<p><i>Volume 65 Number 9 May 2020</i></p>

AAUW West Chester-Chester County Branch MAY 2020 "MEETING"

On our AAUW calendar is the meeting and banquet in May, one of the highlights of the year. We always take care of the official end-of-the-year business at these meetings, including the election and installation of officers and the approval of the budget. We also celebrate our achievements and honor the winners of branch awards, as well as the recipients of the Alice Lawson Scholarship and the Gateway to Equity Award.

Obviously we must modify our plans to adjust to the current situation. The meeting will still take place on the date planned, **Wednesday, May 13th at 3:00. It will be held virtually.** We have plans to use technology that will best meet our needs and would be very easy to use. In the week before the meeting we will provide instructions to access the meeting. We hope that everyone will attend!

-- Eva and Anne

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Letter from the President

Where to begin?

The world has totally changed in a few short months. Eva and I agree, wow, this was not what we signed up for! I am sure all of you have calendars that have become useless since almost everything has been postponed or canceled. As we find ourselves looking at our lives with a new prospective, it is good to know that we belong to an organization that believes in helping and persevering through difficult situations. We are a very caring branch that has always stepped up, and especially now we are here for each other and our community.

With each passing day, we look for a sign that life will soon return to normal. With the quiet and lessening of our day to day routines, many of us have found within ourselves a strength and determination. Hopefully, we feel secure in our homes, have the provisions we need (toilet paper), are catching up on some reading and rainy day chores, taking that daily walk, and reconnecting with old friends and family, albeit from a distance.

Please remember all of the front line workers from healthcare, delivery services, truck drivers, grocery workers, and all of the other jobs providing day to day services. Thank them in any way you can.

With all of that said, we will move forward and complete the fiscal year ending June 30th as best we can without holding our normal meetings and May banquet. We will use the power of technology to unite us. Please watch your e-mails for more information. So take some time to smell the roses and I hope to see you all sooner not later. Please be safe.

Anne Anderko
Co-President

News from the April Board Meeting – and Program Changes

The Board had its April meeting on April 1 via Webex, a telephone conference call. Fifteen members participated. Here are some of the highlights of the discussion and decisions that have been made about the changes required to our chapter programs because of the coronavirus.

Our regular **meeting for April** could not take place as previously announced. At this meeting we were planning to collect items for the **CYWA shelter in Coatesville**. This is the largest and neediest of the shelters we support. Mimi Jones had suggested supporting this shelter with monetary donations sent to her and which she would forward. Information was included in the April newsletter. You responded with amazing generosity (**see related article below**).

There was a lot of discussion about the **annual Banquet in May**. Originally scheduled for May 13, it will be a **virtual meeting (see page 1)**; detailed instructions will be sent for members to join by Zoom or by phone. Among the **official functions to be completed** by June 20, 2020, which will happen at the virtual meeting, we need to elect new officers and approve the budget for next year. In addition, we will congratulate the winners of the branch awards. We will honor the recipient of the Alice Lawson Scholarship and the director of the WCU Resource Pantry, the winner of our Gateway to Equity Award.

For the **Teapot Fund Raiser**, which was originally planned to finish at the May Banquet, we will ask for donations to be sent to the treasurer (**see related Teapot update article below**) and will send the funds out to the rest of the shelters. This will be our final donation to these organizations, which are going to be under extreme pressure to help ever more homeless people. Finally, we'll vote in the fall on the most attractive teapots!

(continued on next page)

April Board Meeting News and Program Changes (continued)

Anne and Suzy have prepared a rough draft of the **budget for next year**. The Board is reviewing the budget and making recommendations. In May we will present it to the members for comments and final approval.

At the April Board Meeting, Fran Pierce and Barb Lathroum requested an expenditure of \$500 for multiple copies of *Why They Marched* by Susan Ware, a book about the struggle for women's suffrage; the book is the focus of the **Chester County Reads About Suffrage** coordinated discussion event at Chester County Libraries in the fall. This donation will fund one copy for each of our County libraries. The Board approved this purchase. (See **related article** for how you can participate in Chester County Read about the Suffrage movement.)

On a brighter note, some of our **Special Interest Groups** have found ways to continue their

meetings virtually. Lit I, Lit II, and Mah Jongg are meeting using Zoom or on-line programs. It seems this crisis is pushing us to become more technologically proficient! (**Again, see related article.**)

Finally, with regard to **Membership Renewal in May**, the Board discussed a proposal to provide **support for members** who are experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic. No one should forego membership to our organization for financial reasons. The details are being worked out and are reflected on the **Membership Renewal form**, which is being sent out and is included **in this Newsletter**.

As you can see, our planning continues but we must continue to be flexible due to the present unfortunate circumstances. Please watch your e-mails to stay informed and reach out if you have questions.

Stay healthy!

Eva and Anne

Making a difference!

The pandemic is creating a very large negative impact on our community.

Several options to help have been communicated in emails and are included in this newsletter.

- **Chester County Hospital**

Chester County Hospital has a "Sign-Up Genius" for VOLUNTEERS to make food, sew masks, and offer other services; see the following link:

[Chester County Hospital Health Care Heroes](#)

Chester County Hospital also needs DONATIONS of specific critically needed materials as they ready for the "curve". See this link: [Support Chester County Hospital's COVID-19 Donation Center – Chester County Hospital - Penn Medicine](#)

Sandy Alexander is Keeping Us in Touch!

With social distancing, keeping people connected is important for our mental health as well. **Sandy Alexander** has been a very important resource in this way. She has helped Lit I and II and the Stitchers connect using Zoom, talking people through how to get connected and solve some technical glitches. She has also walked several members through how to register to play bridge online and set up two tables that will be playing every Friday morning. She has sent out many brain teasers to help the MahJongg newbies continue to learn MahJongg and many of them are practicing online. Two of them are even joining the evening MahJongg group playing online twice a month. She has also started a virtual TIG outing each week. Here are contacts for the special interest groups doing virtual meetings:

Lit I - [Janet Kane](#)

Lit II - [Jean Speiser](#)

Mah Jongg - [Jennifer Schultz](#)

The Stitchers - [Patricia Schultz](#)

Women's Social Bridge - [Sandy Alexander](#)

Gateway to Equity 2019-2020

Amazing Generosity: Over \$1,000

-- Mimi Jones



Mimi Jones presents checks totaling \$1,025 to Tamara Lyons at CYWA.

This year we chose as our Gateway to Equity Award Decade to Doorways, whose mission is preventing and ending homelessness in Chester County. Under the umbrella of Decade to Doorways our branch supported four shelters, each with its own unique mission. Safe Harbor helps single women and men, Friends works to find homes for families, The Domestic Violence Center aids victims of domestic violence and The Community Youth and Women's Alliance in Coatesville helps the homeless and the hungry. It seemed a daunting task to work to help four different organizations, but the response from our branch has been magnificent. We have donated so generously in the form of cash, household needs of every sort, and our time.

We especially thank Jane Schultz and Fran Pierce who were in charge of helping the Friends shelter, Peggy Staarman and Kim Levan who worked with Safe Harbor, Cathy Palmquist and Eva Kaufmann, who helped with Domestic Violence, and Elaine Burgess and Mimi Jones who worked with CYWA.

Tragically for us all, the spread of Covid-19 and the social isolation resulting from it prevented The Domestic Violence Center from holding their usual Gala fundraiser. Many of us had volunteered our help for this important event, and we hope the Gala can go forward sometime in the future. When that time comes, we will be there to help.

The virus also ended our branch's plans for wonderful end-of-the-year events, and it made it impossible to gather donations for CYWA.

We suggested that members send checks to help this organization, and the response was overwhelming. Our branch donated an amazingly generous \$1,025 to help the homeless. The people at CYWA were so very grateful. This is the neediest of the shelters we supported, and we cannot thank you enough for your kindness and generosity.

Our final fundraiser for the shelters is our Teapot Event. We will miss the fun of decorating the teapots, but because we cannot physically get together, we hope members can send a check in place of the filled tea pot. This money will be divided among Friends, Safe Harbor and Domestic Violence since we have already supported CYWA. It seems that in every crisis the best of us Americans step forward and help without asking for thanks and praise. Thank you all.

What We are Doing to Keep Busy: Making Masks . . . and Ways You Can Help

Our AAUW members have found a variety of ways to be helping our community during this pandemic. Here are a few examples.

Mary Allain Smith reports:

Our Coldstream Crossing Community is sewing and distributing masks. As of April 16 we have made almost 700. I have made 50 alone and sent to friends and relatives as well as health care. We have sent to **Exton Senior Living, East Pikeland EMS, Lankenau hospital, CHOP, Boston General, Spring Mill Assisted Living** and other requests.

Mary updated as of April 21: Coldstream Crossing is still sewing and delivering masks. Today I delivered to **Planned Parenthood** and 50 adult and children's masks to **Home of the Sparrow**. I did mention AAUW when I contacted them. So appreciative. We have made and donated at least 700 and still sewing. If anyone knows of other places with need, contact me, and I will see what I can do.



If you want another destination or two for homemade masks, get in touch with **Arlene Rengert** at arengert@gmail.com. “I don’t sew,” Arlene says, “but I am in touch with a group out of Grove Church that is making them for:
1) **people in prison**, where there are infected people and NO mask provision. They need hundreds, some ASAP and others on-going.

2) the **Home of the Sparrow** (women and girls without homes -- I’m pretty sure most AAUW folks know of it).

If this interests anyone be in touch and Arlene will connect you with the network to get what you make to those with needs with no human contact needed.”

Kim Levan also says, “If anyone is interested in making more masks, **the Hickman** is in desperate need of masks. They are located at 400 N. Walnut Street, West Chester. I am happy to drop them off to decrease others’ exposure.” Contact Kim at klevan@earthlink.net. **Jean Speiser** also has offered to deliver masks to them. Jean is making masks as well.

Beryl Goldman reports: Along with loads of other people in the community, I’ve made masks for the hospital personnel. **Chester County Hospital** provided the instructions and the material to make them. And, I must say they were very well-organized and had a great process to follow. In fact, I’ve spoken to many other people in PA and other states, and CCH seems to be one of the only ones that really had its act together to make more standardized masks.

New AAUW member **Elaine Greaney** wanted to let us know that “as a part of a quilt guild I have been making masks for **Chester County Hospital**. Also making masks for friends in my development. Made a bunch to send to my daughter in Pittsburgh. She is a PT at **Mercy Hospital**. Even though she is provided masks at the hospital she was in need of some to go out, plus family friends have needed them also. Looks like I’m also going to be making head coverings.”

Alice Lenthe reports:

“Well, a lot of my job is supporting **Villanova** through the pandemic, keeping students (the few who are still there and the ones who left a month ago), faculty and staff safe and (continued on next page)

Keeping Busy (Continued)

compliant with the regulatory changes as they occur. Trying to find masks, gloves, thermometers, and hand sanitizer. On a personal level, I have been writing thank you notes to



"health care heroes" and sending them to local hospitals to distribute. For me, the one interesting thing has been that now everyone knows what PPE means. Pre-pandemic, I always had to explain it!

Marian Stevenson reports: "I am washing, ironing and cutting flannel fabric for including in masks. We have a system in place for things to get around to those who are sewing. I had taken my sewing machine for long overdue cleaning and it is still there."



Lit II meets via Zoom on April 22.



Phyllis Dunn shared this picture of a Stitches' "Social Distancing" hike with Kim Glavin, Glen Sweet, Carol Zabriskie & others.



TEAPOT FUNDRAISER

This year we have had an on-going effort to save up loose change for our four shelters with our Teapot Fundraiser. With the pandemic causing disruptions in our banquet plans, we will have to adjust our collection of the money. **Instead of donating a teapot full of change, please send a check to our Treasurer** for the amount that you are willing to

donate. This will be our final donation to the shelters, which are under extreme pressure to help even more homeless people in Chester County. **Checks should be made out to AAUW WC-CC with "Teapot Fundraiser" on the notation line.** Please send checks by May 22, 2020 to: Suzy DeGeorge, 922 Sage Road, West Chester, PA 19382. The decorated teapots? We will vote on the most attractive Teapots in the Fall when we can once again meet together. Stay well, Trish Alfano & Marie Knox, Fundraising Co-Chairs



AAUW and the Chester County League of Women Voters will Co-Sponsor “ALL CHESTER COUNTY READS ABOUT WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE.”

NOTE: a flyer about the program is included at the end of this newsletter for you to share.

Reading is our signature! Members of AAUW are often asked when our “book sale” will be held because AAUW is so closely associated with reading, books, and book sales! We can capitalize on that reputation, whether our branch has earned it or not, by using it to encourage all citizens to read and to learn about the important

Our branch of AAUW along with the Valley Forge Branch and the Chester County League of Women Voters have agreed to collaborate with all the libraries and branch libraries of Chester County for an event called “ALL CHESTER COUNTY READS ABOUT WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE.”

The League of Women Voters has already donated one copy of the Young Adult recommended book, *Rightfully Ours: How Women Won the Vote*. Our branch of AAUW has agreed to fund \$500 worth of copies of the Adult reading-level book, *Why We Marched*. Our donation should be enough to purchase one copy for each of the branch and main libraries.

It’s just the kind of activity that members of AAUW enjoy and have participated in many times, and now is our opportunity to create our own group reading and learning event. An important part of our mission at AAUW is education on issues of importance to women – this historic event is certainly one of those issues!

You can be a part of this celebration and education event by signing up to be one of two outreach contacts to one of the 17 branch libraries within the Chester County Library System. Several members of AAUW have already jumped on board; we need you to respond by text or email in order to reserve your

spot as one of the contact persons for your local branch.

If you are willing to be one of two contact persons for your local library or one of those below, **contact Fran Pierce**. Someone from the Centennial Celebration team will contact you. Your responsibilities will include contacting the appropriate library staff person, presenting our proposal (that you will receive from the Celebration team), asking the library to help promote the reading of the chosen book, setting a date with the library for a discussion group of the book, and facilitating the book discussion or arranging for someone else from the library or from the branch to facilitate the discussion. Use the list below to select your favorite library and once you have done so, **please email Fran Pierce at franpierce@verizon.net, or text to 610-996-1748**. Just leave your name and cell phone or email along with the name of the library you would like to collaborate with.

Atglen Library
Kennett Library
Avon Grove Library
Malvern Public Library
Chester Springs Library
Oxford Public Library
Chester County Library Center
Paoli Library
Coatesville Area Public Library
Parkesburg Free Library
Downingtown Library
Phoenixville Public Library
Easttown Library and Info Ctr
Spring City Free Library
Henrietta Hankin Branch
Tredyffrin Public Library
Honey Brook Community Library
West Chester Public Library

Update from the West Chester Food Cupboard

-- Donna Eaves

I would just like to thank everyone who has already donated to the West Chester Food Cupboard or plans to, and to give a quick update. In the month of March we served over 800 families, well above our usual number, and about 10-20% of those were new clients. Just like you, we are having trouble ordering from our usual sources, but have been receiving great support from the Food Bank, Philabundance, from store donations, and in addition have found some new sources of food. We are operating on a drive through basis. Clients do not have to sign or get out of their cars and we are giving them a substantial amount of groceries, including produce, meat and dairy. **If you know of anyone who is out of work or suffering from food insecurity who lives in the West Chester Sch. District area, please spread the word that we are open with limited hours during the COVID crisis (8:30-11:30 T-Th-Sat but check our website in case of changes).** The only thing the person needs to enroll is a lease or utility bill with proof of residence and proof of children in the household such as birth certificates, SS cards, immunization or school records. AAUW has been a wonderful partner with the WCFC and your generosity is greatly appreciated! Everyone stay well and hopefully we can return to volunteering at the cupboard soon!

Laundromat Library League

-- Arlene Rengert

In March the Laundromat Library League was on an exciting roll, with over 225 sites in over 30 states! Most were (and still are) in Pennsylvania where a variety of organizations participate in its work. (Chester County AAUW is one of them, of course!)

Here is some activity not yet reported: Troop #4338, Girl Scout Service Unit # 637, collected 478 children's books by having a middle school dance hosted by the troop where attendees brought children's books to participate. Nick Kopec engaged his Boy Scout Troop in participating in

a book drive, and in construction of wooden collection boxes for use by organizations that hold drives. This was toward his Eagle Scout award. Book drives also were held by the West Chester Mother's Club, where Phil Tripp of the LLL picked up almost 500 books. Miller's Insurance Agency (Downingtown) did a well-publicized drive. The 5th Grade Student Council of Lionville Elementary also organized a major drive.

In addition to books received in book drives, the Laundromat Library League has been spending hundreds of donated dollars to purchase books in Spanish and with multicultural themes to enrich what comes in via the used book donations. Funds raised in last year's AAUW "Piggy" collection have helped with these purchases.

But then, alas, Corona crashed all activity. We weep that children are confined to homes that have no books for them. We lament that planned book drives had to be cancelled. We gather cobwebs on the collection boxes built by the Boy Scouts and on the thousands of books received in drives. Stewards of sites in new locations, such as in West Virginia, are ready to go but await the safety of invitation to enter laundromats to place books. We are "on hold."

In the meanwhile we continue reports on grants received and applications of future grants to enable us to purchase books in Spanish and those with multicultural content so that we can better enhance what we offer to children once progress is up-and-running. We continue to recruit laundromat participation once our volunteers are able to bring books there, and of organizations able to do children's book drives. If you have questions, offers of books, or -- especially -- knowledge of a laundromat that does not yet have a box of 60 LLL books in it, be in touch with Arlene Rengert, arengert@gmail.com. Let's jump-start the end of the crisis to get children's books to children!!!

Member Notes: Remembering Helen Reid

-- Cathy Palmquist



Editor's Note: Dr. Helen Grace Reid passed away on March 21, 2020. Her obituary is available from the Daily Local News.

Helen Reid was a longtime member of our branch, and through the years participated in many activities. I am sharing a few of the activities in which she was involved. What I most remember about Helen was her thoughtful participation for **several** years on the AAUW Scholarship Committee, helping identify, recruit, and recommend a non-traditional woman for the scholarship each year. She, Franne Sipple-Wetmore and I, along with two other AAUW members, would meet at one young mother's home for a long afternoon to pore over the scholarship applications.

Helen was a chemistry professor at West Chester University, so she knew of non-traditional

women among her students, and made the scholarship applications available to them. She also persuaded other professors to recruit applicants. With her help we usually had eight to 10 applicants, which made for **very** interesting discussions of, and difficult decisions by our committee.

Helen also worked with Carla Grot, with input from Donna Eaves, on a successful grant to secure funding to print the "Imagine the Possibilities" poster. And she was an avid bridge player!

Helen lived in a comfortable home on tree-lined Niels Street in the Borough of West Chester, prior to moving to Honey Brook. Since she was a widow, she offered housing to foreign students studying at WCU, and she often spoke about them like a proud parent and cheerleader. After her retirement, she was also active in APSCURF, the retired professors' union, of which she served as treasurer.

We remember Helen as an active, interesting, and caring AAUW member, indeed!

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

June 2 is the new PA primary election date.

Don't forget to apply for a mail-in ballot.

Apply Online at VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot

- **Mail-in ballot** – Any qualified voter may apply for a mail-in ballot. You may simply request this ballot without a reason.
- If you plan to vote using an absentee or mail-in ballot in the 2020 GENERAL PRIMARY held on 06/02/2020, **your completed application must be received in the county office by 5:00 PM on 05/26/2020.** The deadline to return your voted absentee or mail-in ballot is **8:00 PM on 06/02/2020.**

In order to request either ballot type (absentee or mail-in), you must be registered to vote. Please visit [Check Your Registration Status](#) to review your registration information

Membership Renewal 2020-2021

On the following two pages you will find the revised Membership Renewal form for 2020-21. This provides more clarification of the first section of the form. Please read carefully.

Please print the form and complete it, then send it with a check for your dues to Patricia Schultz by June 20th.

A few notes: we have listed the various membership categories. Some members get reduced dues because they have pre-paid the national dues in advance. Women who have been members for 50 years or more do not pay dues.

We have added a new category: Pandemic Relief Option

If you are among the many people who are experiencing financial strain due to the pandemic, we'd like to help you with your dues. In this blank write what you can afford to pay toward your dues, anything from \$1 to \$84. It is important to us that everyone can continue to be part of our branch!

To help our fellow members with their dues, we have added **Members Helping Members** to the form. If you are able to help out, consider contributing to this fund to benefit members of our branch.

Everyone: Please fill out the second page, which asks about your interests in branch activities. Please don't skip this or assume that we know what you did this year! We would like to be able to provide accurate lists to the Committee Chairs.

Thanks for your prompt attention to this!

Stay safe!

Eva and Anne

Renewal Form

2020-2021

Please complete and return this form with your dues. If there is anything that you wish to be kept confidential, please **CIRCLE** that item.

Please select only ONE of these:

- Yearly Regular Membership: \$85.00 (national, state and branch dues) \$ _____
- National Paid Life Membership: \$26.00 \$ _____
- Honorary Life Membership: \$0 \$ _____
- Pandemic Relief Option: if needed \$1--\$84 **Refer to the cover article** \$ _____

Optional Donation:

Members Helping Members Contribution \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Make checks out to AAUW West Chester - Chester County and mail to Patricia Schultz (address below)

Name _____
Last First

Preferred first name for handbook _____ Name of Spouse/Partner _____ (if you choose to include him/her in handbook)

Mailing Address

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ (9 digit)
Voting Township _____
Telephone (H) _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

<u>College/University</u>	<u>State/Country</u>	<u>Major Area of Study</u>	<u>Degree Earned</u>	<u>Year</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

AAUW Bylaws require that you have at least an Associate Degree. If you do, but you prefer not to list your college and other information above, please check here to verify that you do have a degree. _____

Occupation/Title/Company _____ Active? _____ Retired? _____

How did you hear about AAUW: Friend (name) _____ Other _____

Volunteer Experience/ Community Activities

Hobbies _____

Send newsletter via e-mail? Yes _____ use e-mail address above. No _____ use my mailing address.
Previous AAUW Member? _____ Member # _____ Branch? _____ Offices held? _____

**ACTIVITIES, INTEREST GROUPS AND PROJECTS
OF AAUW WEST CHESTER-CHESTER COUNTY BRANCH**

Name:	Please Check
Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund	
Annual Handbook	
Book Club 1 (3 rd Mon.(DAY)	
Book Club 2 (3 rd Wed.(EVE)	
Book Club 3 TBD	
Branch Facebook Page	
Branch News & Publicity	
Branch Website	
Bridge	
Community Outreach Programs	
Food Interest Group (FIG)	
Fundraising	
GETT (Girls & Technology)	
Historian	
Hospitality	
Laundromat Library League (LLL)	
Legislation & Public Policy (LAPP)	
Mahjongg	
Membership	
Newsletter Publication	
Nominating Committee	
The Stitches	
Travel Interest Group (TIG)	
Walkers	
WC Food Cupboard	

Return Form to:
Patricia Schultz
Co-VP Membership
235 Chatham Way WCPA 19380
610-436-9752
pls@patriciaschultz.com

Inquiries to:
Susan Skiles
Co-VP Membership
1033 N. New St. WCPA 19380
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whimziecieux@gmail.com

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 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.

Virtual Board Meeting May 6

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, MAY 6, at 3:00 p.m.** The Board is trying to set up a Zoom meeting with an option for a phone conference for those who prefer. All members are welcome to attend Board meetings. Email Eva or Anne if you want to participate.

A Virtual TIG: Brandywine Conservancy and Museum

Although TIG can't plan a real trip in the foreseeable future, they'll be sending out links for virtual trips and concerts. Here's a virtual trip for this week:

<https://www.brandywine.org/brandystone/art-environment/brandystone-home>

*"If you're going stir-crazy or just need a smile to brighten your day, the Brandywine has you covered on engaging virtual content to keep you entertained and feeling inspired during this trying time of quarantine. You'll find art and nature highlights that include virtual tours of our collection and special exhibitions (including several from the **Votes for Women exhibit**); at-home art activities for all ages; calming nature videos from our trails and preserves; informative blogs and conservation resources (like invasive species spotlights); recipes from the Millstone Café; and more.*



AAUW State and National News Stay Involved from Home

The following “Standing Strong Through Crisis” information is from the AAUW Mission and Action email newsletter. There were several member webinars at the end of April about the Coronavirus Crisis and AAUW response to it. That newsletter also invites members to **Vote by May 18** in the [AAUW National Election](#). You can learn more about **Supporting Voters Rights during Covid-19** by watching AAUW’s special member webinar on voters’ rights, which is posted [here](#).

STANDING STRONG THROUGH CRISIS

During this challenging time, AAUW stands together as a caring and connected community. For nearly 140 years, we have been there for one another and fought for the economic security of American women and families. We invite you to access our COVID-19 [Connected Community Initiative](#) to:

- Read CEO Kim Churches’ [full commentary](#) on the COVID-19 crisis.
- Watch a [video](#) from board chair Julia Brown and our [webinar](#) on how we’re addressing the pandemic.
- Learn how your fellow branch and state leaders are staying connected.
- Take our [short survey](#) to share your own stories.

Our work together to achieve equity has never been more important. Women are particularly vulnerable to financial shocks, since they’re paid less than men, shoulder a greater proportion of student debt, and have less saved for retirement. They also hold 54% of low-wage jobs, many of which have been eliminated or lack basic benefits. **We’ll soon roll out a special match from AAUW’s board of directors, national leaders, CEO Kim Churches and several AAUW staff to raise funds that will drive much-needed change**, including advancing policies to support paid sick leave and student-loan forgiveness.

Special Interest Groups

Note: Because of the Covid-19 Coronavirus Stay-at-Home/Safe Distancing orders, meetings have been cancelled, but some groups are exploring virtual meeting options. See related article above.

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 used Zoom for a virtual meeting on April 20 to share reviews of books members read recently. Plans are being made for a Zoom meeting in May and a virtual get-together to select next year's books in June. Any questions? Contact Janet Kane: jfentonkane@gmail.com or 610-399-1149.

LIT II: Evening Literature Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group

Lit Group II used Zoom on April 22 for a virtual meeting to discuss *Emma*, by Jane Austen. Plans are being made for a virtual meeting in May. 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. All TIG outings are on hold for the present, but an option for a virtual TIG is described earlier in this newsletter. 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.

See Virtual TIG to Brandywine Art above.

Stitchers Group

The "Stitchers" has started meeting every week or two via Zoom on Thursday mornings 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. Contact Pat Schultz for Zoom details.

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.

Let's All Read About...



WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

2020 is the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution - the amendment that granted women the right to vote!

Join in the effort to learn all about the long, 60-year struggle to win that right and about the struggles that continue today to keep voting available to all citizens.

READ WITH US...

Why They Marched

By Susan Ware

A collection of stories from notable suffragists along with some little-known, fascinating, and historically important people and events and happenings during the Suffrage Movement.

For other interests and reading levels, we recommend:

Ages Teens and YA - Rightfully Ours: How Women Won the Vote,
by Kerrie Logan Hollihan

Ages Elementary and Middle School - Around America to Win the Vote: Two Suffragists, a Kitten, and 10,000 Miles
by Mara Rockliff.

There are also many titles on voting and the suffrage movement for very young children and early Elementary-age readers.



119 Llandoverly Drive, Exton, PA 19341.

April 2020 Newsletter

May Virtual Meetings Planned

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