



**AAUW
West Chester-
Chester County
2020-21
Leaders**

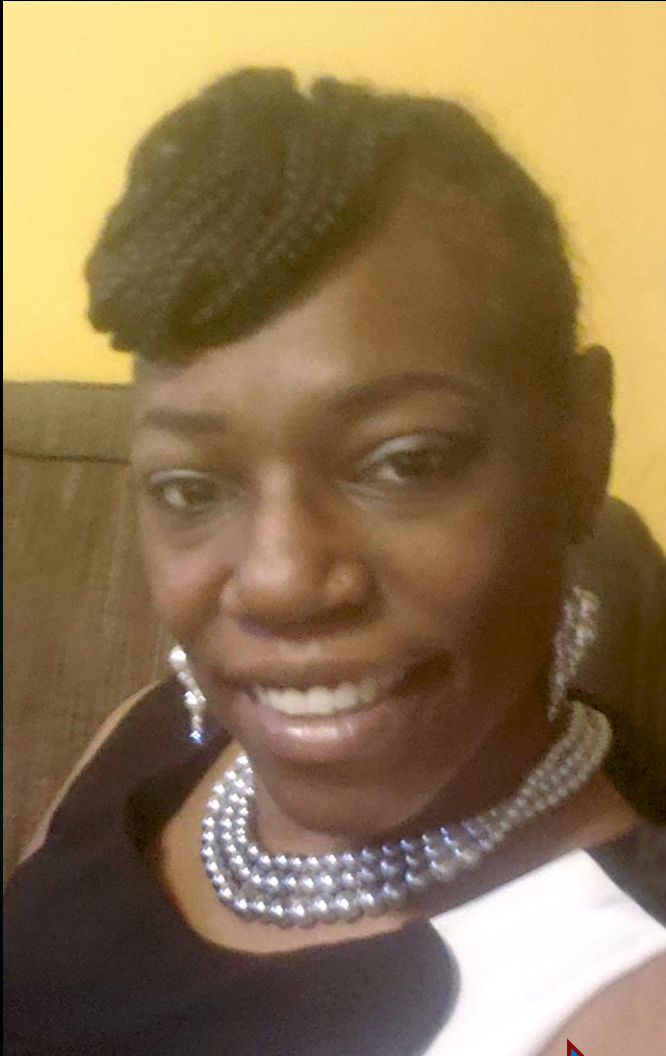


Officers are (top row from left) Anne Anderko and Janet Kane, co-presidents, Barbara Lathroum, programco-vice president, Diane Dougherty, recording secretary, and (bottom row from left) Patricia Schultz, membership co-vice president, Carol Haaf, corresponding secretary, and Suzy DeGeorge, treasurer. Not pictured Jean Speiser, program co-vice president, and Susan Skiles, membership co-vice president.



Eva Kaufman, outgoing branch co-president, is pictured alongside the gifts purchased with donations from members. In addition to the two floral baskets for Eva's porch, Anne Anderko purchased and cleverly arranged a "Pandemic Basket," containing toilet paper, hand sanitizer, a "lockdown" bottle of wine, and several gift certificates on behalf of grateful branch members. Eva ended her two-year term on a challenging note, when the coronavirus pandemic hit the nation early in 2020, and sidelined many ambitious, service-oriented activities of branch members. Despite the challenges, Eva and Anne continued to lead the branch in supporting the Decade to Doorways program and four shelters, the West Chester Food Cupboard, and other community activities. She was an enthusiastic, tireless cheerleader for the branch and its members, and along with Anne, provided outstanding leadership.

Alice Lawson Scholarship Winner



Enter

Mykia Bridgett received the \$1,500 scholarship awarded annually by the West Chester-Chester County branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). The scholarship, awarded to a non-traditional female student, is named for the late Alice Lawson, a lifelong AAUW member who joined AAUW branches wherever she and her husband moved. Alice was offered an opportunity to enroll in college by a nun at Seton College, when her family did not have money for college after educating her four older siblings, and the Depression came along.

Mykia started her journey in higher education in 1993. After marriage and children (including a foster child) interrupted her schooling, she returned to school, earning an AA from Community College of Philadelphia. While enrolled in the Temple University Bachelor in Social Work program, she reached the maximum in allowed loans. Again, she persevered, working to clear her debt and enrolled at West Chester University in 2019. "I wanted my children to see me succeed," she said. Her hope is to provide a group home for teens who are about to "age out" of the foster system, but who have few plans for their futures. "I am so grateful and emotional to have someone believe in me," she said, upon receiving the scholarship. "I was ready to give up."

Gateway to Equity Award



WCU Resource Pantry Receives Gateway to Equity Award

For the third time, branch members have selected the West Chester University Resource Pantry to receive the Gateway to Equity Award for 2020-21. The annual award *honors an individual, group or organization that has shown by action and philosophy the promotion of the AAUW mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.*

The Resource Pantry mission is to eliminate barriers to degree completion for students with financial need by providing access to resources, while empowering students to learn independent living skills, and achieve long-term stability. The program has grown from a small closet of food supplies to four rooms of dedicated space at the university, serving over 200 students per week.

Pam Frontino, Associate Director of Service-Learning and Volunteer Programs at West Chester University, manages the pantry. With a bachelor's degree in political science from Susquehanna University, and master's in sustainable international development from Brandeis, she is also involved with the WCU Sustainability Committee



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"TREMENDOUS GRATITUDE"

Lauren Baker, a staff member of Chester County's Decade to Doorways (D2D) program offered "tremendous gratitude" to our branch and its members for assistance to the county's homeless prevention program, beginning with support of their "Be the Key" reception, when she spoke at the virtual "May Banquet." "Your organization and its members made a significant impact on our service providers," she said, citing positive comments she received from Jennifer Lopez, director of Friends Assn. for the Care and Protection of Children. "Your recent generous monetary donation to CYWA (Community Youth and Women's Alliance shelter) is most appreciated, as well as your monthly endeavors on behalf of the three other shelters to whom you provided support. What you've done and what you do is truly appreciated. It's been a privilege to work with you," she said in closing. Co-president Eva Kaufman mentioned that the funds raised in our upcoming "Teapot Fundraiser" will go to D2D shelters to help with the needs of the homeless.



Enter

**AAUW – WEST CHESTER
CHESTER COUNTY
TEAPOT FUNDRAISER**

**OVER \$1,500
DONATED TO:**

Friends Association
for the Care and
Protection of Children

Safe Harbor

Domestic Violence
Center
of Chester County

