



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

*Volume 66 Number 3
 November 2020*



AAUW West Chester-Chester County
 Branch presents

“Women in Law Enforcement”

Wednesday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. (Zoom meeting)

Fredda Maddox

Sheriff of Chester County

Our speaker will talk about the difficulties when serving
 in a male-dominated profession.

ZOOM instructions will be emailed in advance

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Letter from the President

Hard to believe the holiday season has begun! We can be thankful that nature forges on oblivious to our current health crisis with a beautiful fall with crisp temperatures and colorful leaves. I hope all of you can get out and enjoy this special time of year. With December around the corner, we will not be holding our annual Holiday party due to pandemic restrictions and concern over indoor events. In lieu of this, the board is excited to announce that we are planning a social distancing holiday alternative, see separate article with all the details!

As we move into November, I feel it is safe to say that many of us are anxious about our country's future with the upcoming election and ongoing pandemic. In the midst of all the turmoil, belonging to an organization like AAUW helps to ground us and gives us a daily purpose no matter what the final outcome of the election may be.

Janet and I are very excited about the goals the board has created for 2020-2021 fiscal year. Some of the highlights include working on a possible online tutoring program for underserved students, retaining our 90 plus membership roster, growing our LAPP (Public Policy & Legislation) program to further educate our members on important issues, and our continuing support to our many community outreach programs (West Chester Resource Pantry, Laundromat Library League, West Chester Food Cupboard, CYWA, and Black Women of Chester County in Action).

I can't emphasize enough the power of communication during the absence of physical meetings. I hope you will continue to use your handbook as a reference, read the monthly newsletter, keep abreast of e-mails, and attend our monthly ZOOM meetings. If you have cannot attend the meetings, we are recording them and they will be made available for your viewing. Janet and I wish you all a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Anne Anderko

Holiday Festivities at Longwood – Save the Date: Monday, December 7th



SAVE THE DATE! Our Holiday Party takes a new form this year: a get-together that will take place at Longwood Gardens, allowing our members to enjoy this world-class display in a

socially distanced way. We will meet there at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 7th. From there we can all enjoy the Gardens at our own level of comfort.

Consider ordering your tickets early, since Longwood will be limiting the number of guests. If you have a membership that includes guest passes, invite an AAUW friend to join you!

More details to follow!

Meeting Zoom Info Note and October Meeting

NOTE: To support recording of our meetings for those who cannot attend, unique information for each of our monthly chapter Zoom meetings will be sent out. Watch for the email.

If you missed a meeting, **links to the recordings are being posted in the Members Only section of our Branch website.** The password to view that page and to view the video are the same as the password printed in your 2020-2021 Handbook-on the inside of the front cover.

Below is just a short recap of the meeting. Many of the topics discussed have been sent out to you in separate e-mails. Also, all these programs will be explained in detail in this November newsletter. (continued on next page)

October Meeting (continued)

If you need further clarification or cannot find an e-mail, feel free to contact Anne or Janet.

Guest Speaker

Mauve Kelly for GirlGov gave an excellent power point presentation on the work they are doing with young high school girls in civic engagement advocating policy change. See related article.

Business Meeting

5 Star Program Update

This program was created by AAUW National to promote all branches across the nation to create goals in alignment with National's mission statement.

Goal - Communications & External Relations - achieved

Goal – Advancement – we have achieved 90% of our branch membership. The second part of this goal is to increase our Greatest Needs Giving to AAUW National by 25%. The Greatest Needs Giving Fund allows AAUW to respond rapidly through communications and advocacy and to critical issues affecting women as they emerge. Greatest Needs is also what fuels our groundbreaking research and effective advocacy work to pass fair-pay laws and other key equity legislation. See related article below about making a donation.

Community Outreach Programs

There are three opportunities for you to support our Branch and its activities:

- Resource Pantry at WCU
- Black Women of Chester County in Action
- Laundromat Library League
October/November Book Drive

We hope that at least one of these will resonate with you and you will be able to help. See related articles and *Making a Difference* section in this newsletter.

October Meeting: GirlGov

-- Jean Speiser

Maeve Kelly, the communications and program associate at the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls, presented our October 14 program. She spoke compellingly about GirlGov Chester County, the CCFWG's program focused on policy, advocacy and civic engagement that is designed to help young women develop advocacy skills. She was accompanied by one of the program's members.

Girls in grades 10 through 12 usually participate in two meetings a month, but in 2020-21 meetings have been occurring weekly. This year GirlGov is concentrating on environmental justice, immigration rights, reproductive rights, and violence prevention. Prospective members, who come from schools throughout Chester County, apply through written applications and interviews. 10th and 11th grade girls can participate for a second year if desired. This year 20 slots were available.

Ms. Kelly also spoke briefly about the parent organization, CCFWG, which is 23 years old and in that time has awarded over \$3,500,000 to 80 different organizations. Current recipients include Moving Her Forward, Black Women of Chester County, and Friends Association.

The Resource Pantry at West Chester University

The Resource Pantry at West Chester University provides items for all students in need, including the Promise students who are unaccompanied, homeless and foster youth. We have supported the Pantry in the past and are happy to support them again this year as our Gateway to Equity Award winner. We encourage those who wish to help, to donate items from the Pantry's Amazon Wish List, at

<https://www.wcupa.edu/services/civicEngagementSocialImpact/pantry/>

or from the **Pantry's Most Needed Items list** (from their website and listed below). If you choose to donate items from the Amazon Wish List, please remember to include that this is a gift from AAUW.

Instructions to donate from the Amazon Wish List:

- Visit the [WCU Resource Pantry Wish List](#)
- Select items from the list you wish to purchase and proceed to checkout.
- Select the "WCU Resource Pantry" shipping address.
- In the gift message box, please include the following information:
 - Your name
 - Your address
 - Your email address
 - Your affiliation with WCU (i.e. friend, student, parent, faculty, staff)
 - Your phone number
- Select your method of payment.
- Place your order.

Following is the Pantry's Most Needed Items List

Shelf-Stable Food

- Oatmeal
- Rice/grains (quinoa, lentils, etc.)
- Hearty soups
- Snack items (crackers, nuts, raisins, popcorn, etc.)
- Peanut butter
- Jelly/jam
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce

- Granola bars
- Canned vegetables (green beans, peas, corn, tomatoes, carrots, etc.)
- Canned tuna
- Canned chicken
- Canned fruits
- Condiments (ketchup, mustard, relish, salad dressing, etc.)
- Applesauce
- Meal kits
- Ramen noodles
- Oil (canola/vegetable, olive, etc.)
- Chili

Please keep food donations in original packaging in case the expiration date is not printed on the individual items.

Fresh Food

- Eggs
- Bread
- Fresh Fruit (apples, oranges, bananas, etc.)
- Yogurt
- Fresh Vegetables (tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, carrots, etc.)

All perishable food donations must be unopened, unexpired products. Please keep food donations in original packaging.

Personal Care Items

- Reusable shopping bags
- Lotion
- Body wash
- Deodorant
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Laundry pods
- Dryer sheets
- Dish soap
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Toothbrushes/oral care
- Soap (bar and pump)
- Shaving lotion

School Supplies

- Backpacks
- Notebooks
- Folders
- Pens and pencils

Clothing – no clothing is needed at this time.

Contact the Pantry at pantry@wcupa.edu for assistance in making a donation.

Laundromat Library League October/November Book Drive

Our AAUW Branch is having a book drive in October and November to benefit the Laundromat Library League. The LLL's mission is to provide books to children who may have few or no books in their homes. With over 200 sites, the need for replenishing our book supply is constant.



Please take your donated books to Toni Gorkin whose address is 119 Llandoverly Drive, Exton or to Anne Anderko who lives at 908 Pine Valley Circle, West Chester. They will provide boxes in which to place your books so that person-to-person contact is not

necessary. Please notify them before delivering your books. You can contact Toni by e-mail (tgorkin@comcast.net) or phone (h:610-363-7627

c:484-868-1872) and Anne by e-mail (anandero@msn.com).

Peggy Staarman will collect the books from Toni and Anne and label each with the LLL sticker that says, "Read It. Love It. Pass It On" and acknowledges the AAUW gift.

If you would prefer to give a monetary donation, you can write a check to the Laundromat Library League and mail it to Peggy Staarman at 307 Benning Lane, Downingtown, PA 19335. Monetary donations do allow the LLL to buy books in Spanish that are in great demand. Please contact Peggy at peggstaar@verizon.net or by phone (610-269-4866) if you have any questions. The LLL greatly appreciates the continuing and enthusiastic support of our AAUW branch.

Black Women of Chester County in Action

-- Anne Anderko

The mission of Black Women of Chester County in Action is to impact the economic well-being and health of Black women and girls in Chester County through education, advocacy, and leadership. We heard about their mission at a chapter meeting last year.

Because the mission of Black Women of Chester County in Action's mission closely parallels AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research and because we believe this drive to educate underserved women about the census and

voting is so important, your Branch board voted to donate \$250 to BWCCA.

We hope that some of you may want to donate individually to support the initiative. We would love to match the \$250. If you would like to donate, please make your check out to OIC (Opportunity Industrialization Center). In the memo portion, please write BWCCA#OVSBH and gift of WCCC Branch of AAUW. Please mail your checks to Peggy Staarman, 307 Benning Lane, Downingtown, PA 19335. I will mail all checks to the treasurer of BWCCA, Joyce Chester. Thank you for your support.

Greatest Needs Giving



Our branch is currently working on the 5 Star Recognition

Program that was created by AAUW National. The purpose of the program is to help align all the branches across the United States to direct their

energies toward specific goals that are in line with National's mission statement. The goals are broken down into 5 different areas. To achieve the Advancement Goal, we need to retain 90% of our branch membership and submit annual dues by September 30, 2020 which we have completed. We also need to increase greatest needs giving by 25% from last (continued on next page)

Greatest Needs Giving (continued)

year's totals by December 31, 2020. To complete the second part of the goal for greatest needs giving, we would need an additional \$400.00 to increase our contribution by 25% over last year's donation.

The Greatest Need Giving fund allows AAUW National to respond rapidly through communications and advocacy to critical issues affecting women as they emerge. Whether it's a new threat to Title IX, an opportunity to partner with employers, or the dawn of a social justice movement like #Me Too, these funds help address these issues. When donations are not restricted to fellowships or specific projects, National AAUW has the dollars they need to pivot as the national dialogue shifts.

We are asking you if you would like to give to AAUW National this year to please make your donation by December 31, 2020. You would send your check to Deb Roney, 11078 Carriage Hill Road, Huntington, PA 16652-5550 and make out it out to AAUW Funds-Greatest Needs Giving. Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

MEMBERSHIP

-- Patricia Schultz & Susan Skiles

We now have 91 members! Thanks to Marie Knox, our newest member is Dianne Herrin, Mayor of West Chester Borough, and candidate for PA House of Representatives in District #156. <https://www.herrinforpa.com/about>. We will know shortly after this publication if she wins her seat. As mentioned at the meeting we are focusing on **RETENTION** this year but are always eager to add new members! The fee for new members is **\$55.50. A great deal!** We hope that **EACH OF YOU** will talk to your friends about our branch and send us their contact information so we can speak to them directly.

Fundraising - Pecan Sale Limited Supplies Remain

Greetings from your "virtual" fundraising committee . . . Trish Alfano & Marie Knox. Thank you to all who have placed orders. We still have a limited stock of 3 of the items including: Extra Large Pecan Halves (\$13.50), Cinnamon Glazed Pecans (\$10), and Pecan Caramel Clusters (\$9). If you are interested in purchasing then please email Trish ASAP at BA1004@comcast.net **Orders will be filled based on when the emails are received and stock available.**

We have arranged to use one of the church parking lots for pick-up on Saturday, November 14th, between 1-3 pm. Enter the parking area in front of church and follow signs to pick-up area in the upper lot to the left of the church building. Please wear a mask and remain in your car. Your orders will be passed to you. If you prefer to pick up directly from Trish, please email (BA1004@comcast.net) to make arrangements.

We thank you for your continued support.

Results of Online Tutoring Program (OTP) Survey

-- Janet Kane

Thank you to everyone who responded to the AAUW Online Tutoring Program (OTP) survey and voiced support for providing online tutoring to underserved students. All 31 of the respondents who completed the survey agreed that OTP is in keeping with our Branch's mission. Twenty members, with a broad background of experience and interest, have agreed to serve as tutors. We are delighted to let you know that Karen Moynihan and Nancy Paist-Riches have agreed to be our Co-coordinators!

Our next step in the process will be to reach out to community agencies with whom we have relationships to determine if this is the best avenue from which to recruit students. Additionally, since tutors will need to have child abuse and criminal (continued on next page)

Online Tutoring (continued)

background clearances, prospective tutors will be working to provide documentation of their status.

Thank you again, for your support of this project. If you are still interested in becoming a tutor and have not begun receiving direct communications about OTP, please feel free to contact either Nancy Paist-Riches (nancy.paist-riches@hotmail.com) or Karen Moynihan (karenmoynihan@live.com).

Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund

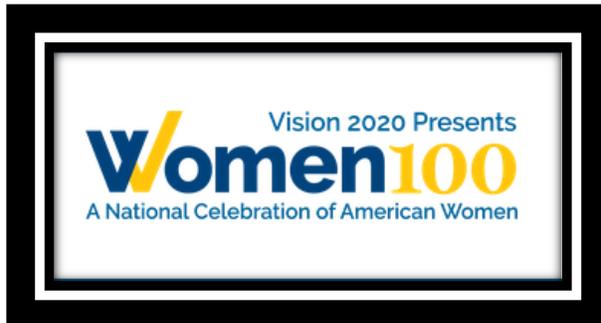


Jenkins Arboretum received a grant from the AAUW Chester County Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund of \$250 towards the purchase of vests with accessories for children to use exploring. The picture above shows the vests with the labels identifying our contribution.

The Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund also granted \$250 to the Heart of Uwchlan project. Chapter member Toni Gorkin is leading this project to introduce native plants to the Uwchlan Township park and educate the public on ecological sustainable gardening practices. The project has planted a milkweed garden and a streamside garden and is laying out Learning Stations to educate children and their families about nature using sites in the park.

Watch for announcement of a virtual workshop on how best to sow milkweed seeds for your own garden; seeds will be available at the Uwchlan Township Building in the Admin lobby.

TIG Virtual Tour Highlights Equality for Women



Visit this link to see the “Seat at the Table” exhibition currently installed at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia:

https://women100.org/virtualexhibition/?utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20201015_Ovation&utm_content=version_A&utm_no=94058&sourceNumber=249462

This narrated video tour of Seat at the Table takes you through the exhibition, following three college students as they explore the history of women’s quest for economic, political and social equality with men — and learn where things stand today, 100 years after American women won the right to vote. To access the multimedia content about 18 pioneering women that is on the touchscreens at the exhibition, go to [Women100.org/seatatthetable](https://women100.org/seatatthetable).



AAUW Mission Statement:
**To advance gender equity for women and girls through research,
 education, and advocacy.**
Our Chapter – 2020-2021:

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|---|--|
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| <i>Susan DeGeorge</i> | Financial Officer suzydegeorge@yahoo.com |
| <i>Branch Website</i> | wccc-pa.aauw.net |

Newsletter

The newsletter is published by the first of each month except for the summer months. 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 Home Page
Redesigned**



Programs



Special Interest Groups



Community Outreach



AAUW Work Smart Workshops



AAUW Economic Security Focus



Advocacy

Our Branch Website has a re-designed Home Page! There are icons to take you to the parts of the website you need to find. Check it out at wccc-pa.aauw.net. Also, a reminder: The website and Facebook page are most effective if they have up-to-date information. It is our public face. If you are sending Toni pictures for the web page, make sure to copy them to Sandy at frau.salexander@gmail.com and Alice Lenthe at alicelenthe@gmail.com. Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words!

Member News and Notes

Carolyn Comitta Honored by PA Library Association

AAUW member and State Representative Carolyn Comitta has just been named 2020 Elected Official of the Year by the Pennsylvania Library Association. Carolyn was nominated by the Chester County Library System for her many years of support for libraries, beginning when she was an elementary school teacher and advocated for a school library.

She supported funding for libraries when she was the Mayor of West Chester, and always spoke passionately on behalf of the roles that libraries play. In the PA House, as a member of the Education Committee, she has requested increased library funding from the Department of Education. Congratulations, Carolyn, on this most recent, deserved award!

GunSenseUs

-- Peggy Staarman

GunSenseUs is an all-volunteer, non-partisan, and non-profit organization that works to reduce gun injury and gun deaths in the United States. The GunSenseUs agenda of B.E.T. is designed to enhance safety for gun owners and non-gun owners through policies that polls show over 70% of both groups support. Please contact your PA legislators to ask them to support the following bills:

B=Background Checks HB 673 SB88

These bills would require a buyer to pass a background check for every gun purchase. Presently, long guns (shot guns and rifles) may be privately sold without background checks.

E=Extreme Risk Protection Order HB1075 SB90

A police officer or family member could ask for a court order to temporarily remove guns from a person who shows harm to himself or herself or to others. Fourteen states have passed ERPO laws.

T=Training HB1753 SB1255

Gun buyers would be required to pass a one-time safety certification. The certification would ensure mastery of gun handling and safe gun storage. Presently, an individual can buy a gun with no knowledge of gun types, gun laws, safe handling, or safe storage.

GunSenseUs believes the surest way to enact policies that can increase safety for all is to elect candidates who support those policies. You can check the website gunsenseus.org to see if your candidate has endorsed the B.E.T. agenda. If your candidate's name is not listed, please contact him or her to see if the candidate supports B.E.T. Thank you for helping to create a safer community.

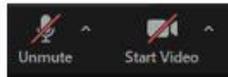
Zoom Tips and Tricks

Whether you are using a computer, a tablet or a smartphone, here are some icons (symbols) you might see at the top or bottom of your screen after you join a Zoom meeting.

Your camera and microphone are turned on.



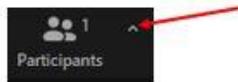
Your camera and microphone are turned off.



Click on the microphone or camera icon to switch between on and off.

Once the meeting has started, it is a good idea to turn your microphone off. If you are using a computer or a device with a keyboard, you can hold down the space bar when you want to talk.

In a large meeting, you may be asked to raise your hand to speak. To do this, locate the Participants icon. Click on the little symbol on the right to find the Raise Hand option and click there.



There is also a Chat feature in Zoom. You can click on the chat icon to open the Chat panel where you will be able to type a message.

Special Interest Groups

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

Women's Social Bridge

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

Contact is Kim Glavin at kimglavin@comcast.net

FIG (Food Interest Group)

On hiatus until further notice. 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 three book discussion groups meeting in the day and one 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 using Zoom for a virtual meetings. The schedule of books is posted on the chapter webpage. Contact: Janet Kane: jfentonkane@gmail.com or 610-399-1149.

LIT II: Evening Literature Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group

As usual, we meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30. Right now we are meeting virtually; contact Jean Speiser (JeanSp@Gmail.com) for the Zoom link. On

November 18 we will discuss Michelle Obama's *Becoming*. We will not meet in December; our January book is *Giver of Stars*.

LIT III: Daytime Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group

This new group will meet on the first Tuesday of each month. The schedule is also posted on the chapter internet page. Contact: Carol Haaf 610-793-5086 or carolahaaf@verizon.net

TIG (Travel Interest Group)

The Travel Interest Group is on hiatus until conditions improve. Contacts are: Sandy Alexander (frau.salexander@gmail.com), Mary Marco (Mary.m.marco@gmail.com), or Jane McDowell (jilmcdowell@gmail.com).

See article above on TIG Virtual Tour Highlights Equality for Women

Walkers Group

The group is not meeting as a group for now, but Walkers are encouraged to walk on their own and use safe distancing practices. Contact: Phyllis Dunn at dunn.phyllis@gmail.com

Stitchers Group

Stitchers is meeting via ZOOM at 10:00 A.M. Please join us for creative stitching & interesting conversations!

ATTENTION: We have added Wednesdays to our stitching calendar! Not to worry, I will send you reminders each week. For the remainder of the year we will meet:

Weds: 11/11,11/25, 12/9,12/23

Thurs: 10/22,11/5,11/19,12/3,12/17,12/31

Please mark your calendars and join us for creative stitching & interesting conversations! Contact Patricia to be added to the mailing list. pls@patriciaschultz.com.



119 Llandoverly Drive, Exton, PA 19341.

October 2020 Newsletter

Virtual Meeting Nov 11: Women in Law Enforcement

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