



AAUW some NEWS

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

Volume 66 Number 4
December 2020

AAUW West Chester-Chester County Branch *Holiday Festivities at Longwood* Monday, December 7, 2020

We will meet there at 5:00 p.m.

From there we can all enjoy the Gardens at our own level of comfort.



Contents

<i>December Holiday at Longwood</i>	1-2	<i>Gateway to Equity – WCU Resource Pantry – Gift Cards</i>	5	<i>Member News and Notes: Holiday Door Tour and Appeal</i>	7
<i>Presidents Letter</i>	2	<i>Black Women of Chester County in Action</i>	5-6	<i>Member News and Notes: Members Win State Elections</i>	7
<i>November Meeting: Fredda Maddox</i>	3	<i>Membership</i>	6	<i>Member News and Notes: Fund Raising With Masks</i>	8
<i>Financial Procedures</i>	3-4	<i>Laundromat Library Book Drive</i>	6	<i>Member News and Notes: Milkweed Seed Sowing Video</i>	8
<i>Pecan Sales</i>	4	<i>Mission Statement and Our Chapter</i>	6	<i>AAUW State and National News</i>	9
<i>Greatest Needs Giving</i>	4	<i>Newsletter, Facebook, Web Page</i>	7	<i>Special Interest Groups</i>	10

Letter from the President

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

[Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

We have just experienced one of the most bruising and intense elections of our time. Sadly, we still face a divided nation in which harsh rhetoric prevails. The words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. remind us that only light and love can combat darkness and hate. In the next month we have three religious and cultural celebrations to help us focus on the light: Christmas on December 25, Hanukkah which begins on December 10, and Kwanzaa from December 26 to January 1. While not everyone will observe the same traditions or beliefs, we can take heart to know that our broader community is heading into the season of the year when light trumps darkness and love defeats hate.

In that spirit of light, our branch is looking forward to our socially distant holiday celebration which will be in the form of a visit to Longwood Gardens to meet up outdoors and to enjoy the fabulous Holiday Display. A separate invitation to the event was circulated and, hopefully, you have your tickets already. If you have questions, please contact Jane McDowell (jlwmcowell@gmail.com). Since we do not have a business meeting in December, this outing will provide a wonderful opportunity to see (**in person!!**) the friends we have missed so dearly during the pandemic.

As always, we ask your support for our community outreach efforts during this time of gift giving and celebration. Since many of us may have fewer social activities for which to prepare food or bring hostess gifts, members may want to give extra support to our Gateway to Equity organization, the WCU Resource Pantry. Details on how to contribute to the Pantry, as well as other organizations that we support, are found in this Newsletter.

Given the current scale of the pandemic, it appears that we will be Zooming our meetings and interest groups well into 2021. Please take advantage of all of the opportunities presented by our organization to keep you connected with AAUW.

Best wishes to all of you for a holiday season filled with peace, light and love.

Janet



Holiday Festivities at Longwood Monday, December 7th

If you haven't done so already, please consider joining us for a get-together at Longwood Gardens on December 7th. Make your reservations now for 4:00 or 4:30 timed tickets. This outing will allow our members to enjoy this world class display in a socially distanced way. We will meet in the Beer Garden area at 5:00 p.m. From there we can all enjoy the Gardens at our own level of comfort.

If you are need of complimentary tickets, contact Jane McDowell, jlwmcowell@gmail.com **If you are using one of the complimentary guest tickets, you DO NOT need a time slot for entry; just show the pass at the entry gate.** Once you enter the Gardens, you may stay as long as you wish. Once you leave the Gardens, there is no re-entry.



November Meeting: Fredda Maddox Spoke on Challenges of Being a Woman in Law Enforcement

-- Jean Speiser

Fredda Maddox, Chester County's sheriff, spoke to us on November 11 on the topic of women in law enforcement. An unusually large number of members attended the virtual meeting. Perhaps the size of the audience can be attributed to the ease of attending virtually or to the interest that the speaker aroused, but it was a pleasure to see that so many of us were there. Sheriff Maddox is the first Black sheriff in Chester County and the first Black female sheriff anywhere in Pennsylvania.

Sheriff Maddox brings great depth through a very rich and varied background to her position. An attorney with more than 20 years' practice under her belt, she previously served as a Pennsylvania state trooper and was one of the first female state troopers in Chester County. She had also worked as a narcotics agent for the Bureau of Narcotics in the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office.

She had not intended to be the first anything, but did know where she wanted her career and qualifications to take her. On many occasions she encountered what she described as a "good ol' boy network" and found it difficult to break through. For example, when she first applied to be a state trooper, although she had taken the requisite training and had passed all the pre-acceptance requirements, she was turned down because of her height. At that time state troopers had to be 5'11" or taller, a requirement that effectively precluded all but a very few female applicants. As Sheriff Maddox told us, the excuse for that requirement was that a sheriff needed to be able to subdue a possible bad actor. But someone who has the physical attributes and ability to do that should be qualified, regardless of her height. It took a lawsuit for that requirement to be dropped.

Even today it is difficult for a woman in Chester County to move ahead in law enforcement. For example, there is only one female police chief in Chester County. In order to serve on a police

department, an applicant requires specific training at a police academy and that training is expensive. When a police department has pre-approved an applicant, the department often pays for the training. But if an applicant does not know anyone in a department, that department is less likely to pay for training. This results in an inequity that is gradually being eroded although the truth is that people often hire others who resemble them in some way.

Sheriff Maddox suggests that an effective way to approach issues like this is to form a network akin to the old boy network. Join organizations where women you want to know belong, communicate as much as possible with others like you, educate people about what you and people like you can do. Persevere.

Financial Procedures

-- Anne Anderko

Back in August, a successful audit was conducted and the recommendations listed below were suggested to the board. At the November board meeting, these recommendations were approved and will be printed in next year's handbook. We want to thank Glen Sweet, Cathy Wilson and Suzy DeGeorge for their thorough work on this audit. Below is a list of recommendations that will now become procedures for ongoing branch financial matters.

1. Documentation shall be provided to the treasurer in the form of an invoice, contract or receipt prior to any disbursement of Branch funds. Any disbursement over \$200 needs approval of second signatory.
 2. No funds shall be disbursed which are not budgeted without express approval of the board. Members seeking reimbursement for budgeted items must submit documentation to the treasurer prior to being reimbursed. Members seeking reimbursement for non-budgeted items must have the necessary documentation and secure Board approval prior to being reimbursed.
- (Continued on next page)

Financial Procedures (continued)

3. No funds shall be disbursed by wire transfer.
4. Receipt and disbursements shall be recorded in the excel spread sheet/financial software program in the precise amount and date paid with the exception of the upcoming fiscal year dues received and paid to national and state AAUW which should be recorded in the fiscal year in which these funds are budgeted.
5. No funds shall be advanced for any purpose. (For example, dues shall not be paid to National AAUW or the State on behalf of any member who has not paid annual dues to the organization.)

Fund Raising Committee: Pecan Sale – Limited Supplies Remain

Greetings from your “virtual” fundraising committee.

MANY THANKS to all who participated in the annual Pecan Fundraiser. It was great to see so many “masked” members in person when they came to pick up their orders in the parking lot at Grove United Methodist Church.

We currently have a profit of approximately \$925 and hope to make it to \$1,000. We still have a limited stock of 2 of the items including: Plain Pecans (\$13.50/bag) and Cinnamon Glazed Pecans (\$10/bag). If you are interested in making a purchase then please email Trish at BA1004@comcast.net
Orders will be filled based on when the emails are received and stock available.

We thank you for your continued support.
Fundraising Co-chairs: Trish Alfano & Marie Knox



Greatest Needs Giving Reminder: Matching Donation!

Just a reminder if you would like to help the branch achieve one of the stars in the 5 Star Recognition Program, the goal is to increase our Greatest Needs Giving to AAUW National by 25%. We were just notified that **through December 31, AAUW’s board, committee leaders and staff will match – dollar for dollar – every donation, now up to \$40,700, giving your yearend gift TWICE the impact.**

With your DOUBLED gift, AAUW National will:

- Demand Congress approve **long-overdue financial relief** to the millions of Americans devastated by the pandemic, which disproportionately harms women and people of color.
- Push policymakers to pass the **paid leave and equity laws** that women and people of color desperately need to endure this crisis without losing their jobs or being forced to work sick.
- Offer **career development programs**, tools and networking to women who are low-wage workers, students and recent college grads.
- Center **racial equity** in all of our work.

If you would like to help, please send your donations by December 31, 2020 to Deb Roney, 11078 Carriage Hill Road, Huntington, PA 16652-5550 and make it out to AAUW Funds-Greatest Needs Giving. Thank you for your continued support.

Gateway to Equity: 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). If you choose to donate items from the Amazon Wish List, please remember to include that this is a gift from AAUW.

Winter Information

Per the Website, the Resource Pantry is now closed, but will be open on the following Wednesdays from 10am-2pm:

- December 9th
- December 16th
- January 6th
- January 13th
- January 20th

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.

Donate Gift Cards



It has become a tradition for our branch to make a donation to our Gateway to Equity award winner each December. If you would like to help out, please donate gift cards in the amount of \$10 each, as many as you wish. Cards for local businesses such as Wawa, supermarkets, or simply Visa cards are always welcome.

Eva Kaufmann will be happy to collect the cards at Longwood Gardens on December 7th, when we meet to tour the Christmas displays. If you do not plan to attend, you can mail the cards to her at 717 Isaac Taylor Dr, West Chester, PA 19382.

Black Women of Chester County in Action

-- Peggy Staarman

The mission of Black Women of Chester County in Action is to improve the economic well-being and health of Black women and girls in Chester County through education, advocacy, and leadership. The organization's Our Voice Should Be Heard initiative embraced this mission by reaching out to underserved women about the importance of completing the census and voting.

With the help of other community organizations, the group distributed informative literature in both English and Spanish in packets that also contained items such as hand sanitizer and masks. OVSBH participants hosted game nights on Kahoot, organized Watch Parties, shared videos of community leaders on social media sites, initiated a "sister-to-sister" phone chain, and helped with voter registration drives. (continued on next page)

BWCC in Action (continued)

Our WCCC Branch of AAUW helped with the success of this initiative by generously donating \$250 from branch funds and \$375 from individual donors for a total donation of \$625. Cheryl Miles, the Chairwoman of BWCCA, asked me to extend her gratitude to the branch. She will acknowledge the donations with thank-you notes as soon as possible. The kindness and generosity of our members continue to benefit many worthwhile Chester County organizations. Thank you so very much.

Laundromat Library League October/November Book Drive

-- Peggy Staarman

Although many of our activities have been curtailed by the COVID-19 virus restrictions, the generosity of our branch members continues. Anne Anderko loaded numerous boxes of books delivered to her house and to Toni Gorkin's house into my car at the pecan distribution on Saturday, Nov. 14. These books were added to my collection of about 200 books, so we will be able to make a significant donation to the book supply of the Laundromat Library League. Our wonderful members also contributed \$595 so that

the LLL can buy books in Spanish and those featuring minority characters.

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.

MEMBERSHIP

-- Patricia Schultz & Susan Skiles

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.

*Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much.
- Helen Keller*

AAUW Mission Statement:

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

Our Chapter – 2020-2021:

<i>Toni Gorkin</i> 610-363-7627	Newsletter Editor tgorkin@comcast.net
<i>Newsletter email</i>	tgorkin@comcast.net
<i>Anne Anderko</i> 484-885-4943	Branch Co-President ananderko@msn.com
<i>Janet Kane</i> 610-399-1149	Branch Co-President jfentonkane@gmail.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>	Membership Co-Vice President

610-436-9752	pls@patriciaschultz.com
<i>Susan Skiles</i> 610-431-4278	Membership Co-Vice President whimziecieux@gmail.com
<i>Diane Dougherty</i> 610-363-9399	Recording Secretary joedidoc@gmail.com
<i>Carol Haaf</i> 610-299-8801	Corresponding Secretary carolahaaf@verizon.net
<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.

Website

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

Holiday Door Tour and Appeal

Benefitting the West Chester Public Library

-- Donna Eaves

This year, due to COVID, the historic West Chester Public Library has replaced their major fundraiser, the holiday home tour, with a **Holiday Door Tour and Appeal**. The Door Tour will run from **Saturday, December 5, to Saturday, December 12**, and will feature front doors and porches throughout West Chester borough decorated for the holidays, with every religious and ethnic tradition represented.

To participate, you can make a donation in any amount to the library's Holiday Appeal. For your donation you will receive a booklet with a tour map, a list of scavenger hunt items to look for (fun for the whole family!) and an entry into a Holiday Raffle drawing which will take place on Saturday, December 12 at 3:00 pm (no need to be present). Since the tour is self-guided, your "ticket" gives you the flexibility and safety of participating any time during the eight days of the tour. Many of our members have volunteered as hosts and/or attended the home tour in the past. We hope that you will continue to support the library in making this fundraiser a success at a time when the library's needs are greater than ever. The bonus is that you can stay safe while enjoying a fun activity outside on your own schedule! Please help spread the word to family and friends about the Door Tour

and Appeal. For additional information, tickets to the tour, including additional raffle tickets, or donations, visit the West Chester Public Library, 415 N. Church Street, or their website at wcpubliclibrary.org. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Sad News

Rachel Mullin, a long time member, has passed away. Martina Ossman, also a long time member, is her sister. We will put biographical information in our January newsletter.

AAUW members win state elections

-- *Cathy Palmquist*

State Representative for the 156th Legislative District and AAUW member **Carolyn Comitta** won her race for the State Senate from the 19th District in the recent November election. Comitta beat her opponent 57 percent to 42 percent to take over the position held for many years by popular Senator Andrew Dinniman, who is retiring. She will serve a four-year term.

Dianne Herrin, Mayor of the Borough of West Chester, and a new member of our AAUW branch, won her bid to replace Comitta as State Representative of the 156th Legislative District, beating her opponent 55 percent to 44 percent. She will serve a two-year term. Both women will be sworn into their offices in January 2021. Congratulations to these members on their significant, important wins!

Raising Funds With Masks



Mary Smith is one of our members who has been making masks during this pandemic. She has raised almost \$200 for our chapter and also donated masks to the Chester County Youth. Jane Schultz donated toward the

materials. The masks are \$7.00 each. If anyone would like one, please let Mary know at pangea49@comcast.net. Thanks to all who have contributed.

Milkweed Seed Sowing Video and Free Seeds



Toni Gorkin is featured in a video instructing how to sow milkweed seeds on the Uwchlan Township website. The video is in response to interest generated by the Milkweed Garden at Uwchlan planted this year as part of the

Heart of Uwchlan project Toni is leading. The purpose of the project is to introduce native plants and sustainable gardening practices to the township and its community. Here's the link to the video:

<http://uwchlan.com/309/Milkweed-Planting-Workshop>. Toni is offering free common milkweed seeds to the community, in the lobby of the Uwchlan Township Admin offices. She can also send packets to AAUW members; contact her at tgorkin@comcast.net. Toni also just graduated to full certification as a PA Master Naturalist at their annual meeting this month.



News from State and National

Information from the November Newsletter to Branch Presidents:
Two changes must be on your radar during FY21

Dues Increase

Every AAUW member received an email, on October 30th, from Julia Brown, AAUW Board Chair, announcing an increase in Individual Member dues for the next three years. The dues will rise by \$3 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, \$5 for FY 2023 and \$5 for FY 2024, making the total dues amount for those years \$62, \$67 and \$72, respectively. This topic is covered more extensively in the December Keystoner. Current life members will not be affected by this change. New life memberships acquired after July 1, 2021, will reflect the higher dues' amounts. College and university membership fees will remain unchanged. Pennsylvania dues

will remain \$10 for upcoming FY22 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022).

Membership Education Requirement

Proposed change to AAUW bylaws to remove the education requirement for membership will be in the AAUW national election in Spring 2021. Since Kim Churches' very candid discussion on December 5, 2019, the need for this change has been shared with members. More information will be forthcoming as part of the AAUW national election process.

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 is meeting virtually 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. We will not meet in December; our January book is *Giver of Stars*.

LIT III: Daytime Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group

This group meets 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 virtual only hiatus until conditions improve. Contacts are: Sandy Alexander (frau.salexander@gmail.com), Mary Marco (Mary.m.marco@gmail.com), or Jane McDowell (jlmcdowell@gmail.com).

Virtual Escapes

As winter approaches, you may be looking for a virtual escape from the confines of your home. Check out this link (<https://www.wildjunket.com/armchair-travel-how-to-travel-without-leaving-home/>) for 45 fun ideas for how to "travel" without leaving home. Tour a museum, visit a UNESCO site, take a digital hike in a National Park, read travel-related books or blogs, learn a new language, watch travel-related shows on Netflix and more!

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. Please join us for creative stitching & interesting conversations! Patricia will send reminders each week. For the remainder of the year we will meet at 10:00 a.m. as follows:
Weds: 12/9,12/23; Thurs: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.

December 2020 Newsletter

Holiday at Longwood Gardens

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