



AAUW some NEWS

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

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AAUW West Chester-Chester County Branch
Presents

"We Are Women, Native American Women: Beyond Commercial Imagining"

By Shinnecock Staysea Hutchings-McCutcheon

Wednesday, January 13th at 7:00 p.m.
ZOOM Meeting

Sinnecock Staysea Hutchings-McCutcheon will discuss reservation life and the issues
faced by Native American Women. Facilitated by tonya thames-taylor.

ZOOM instructions will be emailed in advance

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Letter from the President

I am sure most of us are glad to see that 2020 has ended and hopefully in this New Year, the promise of better things to come is on the horizon. Our country will again see great changes in the coming months. We will see the inauguration of a new president and its administration and the continued roll out of a vaccine to fight the ever-present pandemic. Through it all, we will continue to wear our masks, keep social distancing, wash our hands, and curtail our everyday activities. None of us have a crystal ball, but with each passing month, the hope is life will take on a more “normal” appearance.

Through all of this, I am happy to say that our AAUW branch has weathered the storm and with 91 members strong we have made a difference in the many causes we support. Janet and I want to thank you all for your generosity towards the many causes we assist. Your donations do make a difference.

As we enter into the New Year, we also want to pay tribute to two of our members that we lost in 2020. It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Rachel Mullin and Marian Stevenson who were veteran AAUW members. Please see their accompanying articles in this newsletter.

With 2021, we had all hoped that physical meetings would resume, but unfortunately that is not the case. We foresee that at least through March, we will continue with ZOOM board and branch meetings. We will continue to work on our fiscal goals and hope you can help in completing them.

Lastly, it is a New Year with a new vision. We all must hope for the best and help others not as fortunate along the way. Again thank you for all you have done.

-- Anne Anderko

Five Star Recognition Progress

-- Anne Anderko

We are on our way to achieving stars for our branch! We recently received the following communication from National AAUW on our first star.



“Dear AAUW West Chester-Chester County (PA) Branch,

I hope this finds you all safe and well! I’m reaching out to share that your branch achieved a star for the Communications & External Relations area of the Five Star Recognition Program. Congratulations! AAUW West Chester-Chester sets a wonderful example of how we can use our virtual platforms to promote gender equality and advance opportunities for women and girls. Your branch will be recognized for this achievement in the January 2021 national Membership Matters news hub. Thank you for your participation in the Five Star Recognition Program! We look forward to your continued success. . .”

We are working on the Advancement Star next, based on our chapter’s contribution to National’s Greatest Needs Giving campaign. We hope to have that achieved soon.



Holiday Gathering at Longwood Gardens December 7



The Resource Pantry at West Chester University

-- Eva Kaufmann

Our branch once again stepped up to support the students served by the WCU Resource Pantry, collecting \$535 in gift cards as a special holiday gift! Each year we collect gift cards for the recipient of our Gateway to Equity Award. With the restrictions and limitations of the COVID pandemic, I wasn't sure if we could collect as much as before, but in fact, our contributions exceeded that of previous years!

There are 24 Promise students on campus over the winter break, students who came out of foster care, without families to care for them during vacations. There are about 170 other students on campus for various reasons. The dining hall stopped serving meals on November 30. To make matters worse, the director of the Pantry recently resigned, leaving the job to the director of the Center for Civic Engagement and Social Impact, Dr. Seth Jacobson. I met Seth when I dropped off the first of our gift cards, and he told me he is in the process of reorganizing the management of the Pantry. He was extremely grateful for our long-standing support.

The following information comes from him:

- As of November 30th (when the campus transitioned to full remote operations for the remainder of the fall semester and through the

winter break), the dining halls and standard food services became unavailable. To support food insecure students over these weeks, the Pantry implemented Operation SNOW – and will remain open 1 day a week:

- **Operation SNOW (Student Needs Over Winter):** Back in October, we launched this collection campaign to ensure that our Promise Program students have up to 8 weeks' worth of food and personal care supplies. On November 19th, donated food and personal care items were packaged and delivered to the residence halls. This year, we had a surplus of donations for Operation SNOW. Therefore, the packages are available for other students (with need) living on campus to pick up, as well.
- We are also preparing to launch a new program next week that will provide select students with gift cards to local grocery stores that provide delivery services.

Many thanks to all of our generous contributors for providing these special treats for the students. Knowing that someone cares is just as important as the gift card itself!

Laundromat Library League: Book Drive Delivered Over 400 Books

-- Peggy Staarman and Arlene Rengert

Our wonderful members contributed over 400 books as a result of the November Book Drive. They also contributed \$595 so that the LLL can buy books in Spanish and those featuring minority characters.

Arlene reports LLL has been getting books to many sites, including some in New Hampshire, Illinois, California, and Arizona. (The latter are in Navajo County, Arizona's poorest county and home to many Native Americans.) We have many sites in

Pennsylvania and recently got full new boxes to two sites in West Philadelphia and other areas. In this area we distribute books to children in other ways than just laundromats. Examples include families served by the Spanish Health Ministry in Kennett Square (where gift packets are handed out by staff), and mothers who have been rescued from trafficking and reside in Dawn's Place.

MEMBERSHIP

-- Patricia Schultz & Susan Skiles

We remember and honor those women our branch lost in 2020. 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.

TWO MEMBERS PASS



Rachel Cochlin Mullin, 89, a volunteer who worked for her community, women in politics and people with disabilities, died Saturday, November 21, 2020. She was born on Amethyst Farm in West Chester to James Joseph Cochlin and Martina Coyle Cochlin.

Rachel attended St Agnes school for 12 years and went on to the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science where she graduated with a BS in Pharmacy, one of only a few women to graduate in 1953. She went on to be a role model and to foster the love of pharmacy practice in her son and two of her grandchildren, who also graduated from pharmacy colleges. She practiced as both a community pharmacist at DeHaven's Pharmacy in West Chester and as a hospital pharmacist at Chester County Hospital.

Rachel was committed to improving her community and devoted her talents to many good organizations. She was a member of the East Bradford Township Planning Commission for 20 years and served as vice chair. She was member of the West Chester Area Municipal Authority Board from 1971 through 1998. She was also on the board of Embreeville Center.

Rachel continually supported other women to achieve their goals. She was past president and board member of the West Chester branch of the American Association of University Women. She was awarded AAUW's "Woman of the Year" in 1990.

She was a Democratic committee person in East Bradford Township for many years and supported

women in politics. Rachel ran for the office of Chester County Commissioner and served as campaign treasurer and campaign chair for other women political candidates. Rachel was an early advocate for people with disabilities. She demonstrated this by serving as a board member of the Chester County Association of Children with Learning Disabilities. She also was an officer for the Delaware Valley Society for Infantile Autism.

Marian Elliott Stevenson

Marian Elliott (nee Irvine) Stevenson, died on December 5, 2020. She is survived by her husband, Robert W. Stevenson, Sr. and two sons, Robert Jr (Louise) and Eric R., a brother, R. Allen Irvine (Ann), cousins, nieces, and nephews.



She graduated from Lower Merion High School. Ardmore, PA. She received a B. S. in Business Teaching from Drexel Institute of Technology and when typewriting became keyboarding, she went back to school for a M.S., in Library and Information Science at Drexel University. She was a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, American Association of University Women, ALA and PA Library Association. She was a member of Magic Needles, Bible Study, Book Discussion and Church Librarian at Westminster Presbyterian Church, West Chester, PA.

Members of our AAUW chapter remember Marian for her commitment to her community, her devotion to education, and her many interests as a member of our chapter. She will be missed.

LLAP Members Publish OpEd Piece on Gerrymandering

-- Jean Speiser

On December 18 the Daily Local News published an Op Ed piece written by Sarah Caspar, Marie Knox, Barbara Lathroum, Deb Liczwek, Karen Moynihan and Jean Speiser, all of whom are members of our AAUW chapter's LAPP (Legislation and Public Policy) committee. All six are involved with LAPP's gerrymandering initiative and wrote because unless and until the procedural rules change, no gerrymandering reform will be passed in Harrisburg in 2021. The members urge you to write both to your state representative and your state senator, urging reform of the procedural rules before anything else is addressed in the new state legislature. Find your legislators here:

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/index.cfm>; for more information about this problem visit FairDistrictsPA.org.

Here's the text of the Op Ed piece:

We support reforms in Harrisburg. Every new legislature's first task is voting on procedural rules. These rules usually hand control of all legislation to a very few people who get complete power to decide what bills will be presented to the House or Senate.

If they do not like a bill, it goes nowhere and never comes up for a hearing or a vote. Our local legislators have their hands tied. They cannot vote a bill out of committee to discuss it on the floor without the approval of the leaders.

Pennsylvania has one of the least productive legislatures in the country, passing only five to seven percent of the bills introduced each year. Even bills that have majority bipartisan support have a hard time making it out of committee.

One example is "Victoria's Law," intended to prevent pet stores from selling puppy mill dogs. This bill took many months to get a hearing and still hasn't passed. A less popular bill has almost no chance of a hearing, let alone a vote, even when there's broad support.

If fairer rules applied, members of both parties would have more say in what gets voted out of committee and discussed by all the legislators. The only way to prevent just a few legislators from hijacking the process is to stop these restrictive rules.

Please contact your legislators today to urge them to vote against the usual restrictive rules when Pennsylvania's House and Senate reconvene in January, and to support rules that will allow our legislators, whatever their party, to have a voice in the passage of new bills. Find your legislators here: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/index.cfm>; for more information about this problem visit FairDistrictsPA.org.

Sarah Caspar, East Brandywine; Marie Knox, East Goshen; Barbara Lathroum, Upper Uwchlan; Deborah Liczwek, East Bradford; Karen Moynihan, West Chester; Jean Speiser, East Bradford
The authors are members of the West Chester-Chester County Branch, the American Association of University Women.

Member News and Notes

Masks, Masks, and More Masks!


-- Mary Smith

Mask maker, Mask maker, Make Me a Mask . . . This year has been a long and arduous one with a pandemic we could never have imagined. In March, we all experienced a different form of living, one with a mask to prevent us from spreading and us from getting the Covid19. Our Coldstream Crossing Development reached out to inquire as to how many would be interested in helping to make and distribute cloth masks. I responded, and the rest is history. Little did I know it would go this far and this long. We have sewn and donated over 5,000 masks. We have donated to first responders, hospitals, healthcare workers, the Navaho Nation, schools, friends, and relatives. I have sewn over 650 masks myself. I have sort of become a maskaholic!


Since this is the 100th anniversary of the women's right to vote I began sewing "Votes for Women" masks and since our branch has not had any real way to generate money, I decided to make and donate masks. The proceeds stay with AAUW; So far, branch members have purchased \$149.00 in masks. I have also been sewing Rosie masks of red polka dots which were also sold for AAUW. Yes, I am still sewing and, yes, there are still Votes for Women masks for sale at \$7.00 each. This is my small way I can contribute to the branch and within my community. I have the God given talent of being able to sew so I am using it. Please mask up and stay safe.

tonya thames-taylor spoke December 7 on Black Lives Matter


tonya spoke via Zoom on Black Lives Matter to the Chester County History Center on December 7.

**Chester County
History Center**
presents...

**History Speaks:
Black Lives Matter**
Dr. tonya thames-taylor
Dec. 7 - 7pm via Zoom



From a twitter hashtag to a decentralized, international movement, #BlackLivesMatter galvanized America into a conversation regarding race and justice. Please join this conversation to measure how the activism of #BlackLivesMatter relates to historic outliers who moved from the margins to the center.



Women's Suffrage Mural in West Chester

If you are traveling in downtown West Chester, be sure to check out the Women's Suffrage Mural Project located at 119 E. Market Street. On November 2 elected officials, community leaders, and residents joined the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls (CCFWG), West Chester Public Arts Commission (PAC), and Zukin Properties to unveil mural to honor the hundredth anniversary of the 19th amendment.



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

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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!

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

HAPPY 2021!

ATTENTION: Patricia will send reminders each week.

Every other Weds beginning: 1/06/21

Every other Thurs beginning: 1/14/21

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.

January 2021 Newsletter

Native American Women

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