



## 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 Meeting: November 10th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. on ZOOM **Afghanistan: Why Should We Care?** **An Outsider's View from Inside** presented by Wendy Summer

Afghanistan, a landlocked central Asian country, was for centuries a major trading artery and has long resisted foreign invasion and domination. Formal education, established by the monarchy during the end of the first quarter of the 20th century, has had stops and starts as various ruling factions elbowed their way to power. With the bloody Afghan civil war beginning in 1989 and then the advent of the Taliban in 1996, the education system ground to a halt. Today the majority of Afghan men and women are illiterate.

In April 2006 Wendy Summer traveled to Afghanistan to help women entrepreneurs build their nascent businesses. She started ZAANHA, (which means women in the Dari language), whose mission became sending illiterate Afghan working street boys and girls to school. ZAANHA's programs are funded by the sales of beautiful scarves and shawls made primarily by master craftspeople in Nepal and India. With the fall of Kabul on August 15th, Wendy turned her attention to evacuating and resettling the people she worked with. She will tell you about those efforts.

In lieu of Wendy bringing scarves and shawls to an in-person meeting, she will be opening up her home on Wednesday, December 1st from 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm to display the items for purchase. More information will be coming to you in the near future.

-- Beryl Goldman

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## ***Letter from the President***

***“When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully,  
everyone is blessed.”***

— Maya Angelou

As we come into the season of Thanksgiving, we stop to consider the many blessings that fill our lives: family, friends, economic security and, most of all in these difficult times, health. We ponder ways in which we can give to people who are less fortunate. For our Branch members, giving to others is an integral part of their identity. So far this year, members have contributed items to help Afghan refugees, donated over 30 new coats to Home of the Sparrow, made cash contributions to Branch initiatives and provided books for the LLL. You are an awesomely generous group!

We are also grateful that we have had three events held at Thornbury Farm, where we have had an opportunity to meet and engage in conversation with our fellow members. Unfortunately, as the weather turns colder and COVID is still a concern, our November meeting will be held via ZOOM. It will be an extremely interesting meeting presented by Wendy Summer who will share her experience in helping Afghan women to become

entrepreneurs. For more information on this month's program, please see Beryl Goldman's article on page 1.

We are also grateful for your support of the pecan sale. Anne Anderko shared that we are almost sold out! Since we are meeting via ZOOM this month, see further information in this Newsletter regarding pickup of your pecans. I do not bake so I did not buy any pecans; however, I am happy to “test” any of your baked goods (LOL)!

As we look beyond Thanksgiving, we are thinking about our Holiday social event which will be held at Longwood Gardens on Wednesday, December 8th (reservations at 4:00 – meet at 4:30). We plan to meet outdoors for some conversation; those who wish to go into the conservatory to see the holiday display can do that and those who do not wish to be indoors can enjoy the beautiful light display. More details can be found in this Newsletter.

Thank you for all you do to support our Branch and may you be blessed with good health, love of family and fellowship of friends in the coming holiday season.

Janet Kane



### ***Holiday Social Gathering Wednesday, December 8th Longwood Gardens Reserve for 4:00 PM and Meet at 4:30 PM***

Come and enjoy outdoor socializing at beautiful Longwood Gardens followed by enjoying the conservatory or tree lights (depending on your comfort level with going indoors). We will meet at a common spot (TBD) inside the gardens for conversation and possibly a hot drink at your pleasure. Longwood members will need to make a reservation (we suggest 4:00 PM) but those entering on complimentary tickets may enter without a reservation.

Based on the generous response of members, we have approximately 18 complimentary tickets which should cover the number of members who would like one. Complimentary tickets will be available at the Pecan Sale pick-up on Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM at Grove Methodist on a first come basis.

If you have volunteered tickets, please contact Janet at [jfentonkane@gmail.com](mailto:jfentonkane@gmail.com) to let her know how you would like to get the tickets to her. Maybe scan and send via email.

## ***Home of the Sparrow***

### ***Reminder: Fashion Show October 26th***

The Home of the Sparrow dinner and fashion show will be held at the Desmond Hotel in Malvern on October 26<sup>th</sup>. This year our own Sandra Harrelson has volunteered to be among the

models of the fashions. To join AAUW members, when you register, select the "AAUW Party." Tickets sell out quickly! Get your tickets here: <https://POP.givesmart.com>

### ***Fall Pecan Fundraiser Update and Delivery***

*-- Fundraising Chairs:*

*Anne Anderko, Marie Knox*



Thanks to all of you for your support of this year's pecan fundraiser. Since we are not meeting at the church for our November meeting, we ask that you come to Grove Methodist Church located at 490 W. Boot Road, West Chester on November 16<sup>th</sup> to pick up your orders from 1:00 to 3:00 in the upper parking lot.

Lastly, there are some pecans left to sale - 13 cinnamons at \$10.00 and 3 caramels at \$9.25. If you are interested in any additional quantities or have not ordered as of yet, please e-mail me with your order, [ananderko@msn.com](mailto:ananderko@msn.com) . You can pay for your order on the 16th.

### ***Canine Partners for Life: October Program***

Tonya DiPilla of Canine Partners for Life and Alice the dog demonstrated skills at the October program. Below, Alice demonstrates how a trained dog can assist a wheelchair bound person to pay by presenting the purse to the cashier. We were fascinated to learn the variety of skills and sensitivities the dogs can use to improve the lives of people who are disabled or subject to health problems, for example warning of impending seizures. Tonya noted that volunteer activities are available for those interested. We enjoyed the chance to pet Alice.





## **Strategic Plan: Goals Set for 2021-2022**

*-- Cathy Palmquist*

At the October meeting, chapter president Janet Kane reviewed the goals for the coming year based on the Board's newly completed strategic plan. The goals reflect the organization's growing involvement with community groups that support AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

Among the upcoming goals for the 2021-2022 year, the branch will continue its involvement and support of the Laundromat Library League, West Chester Food Cupboard, National Conference for Women Student Leaders, West Chester University Food and Resource Pantry, and Community, Youth and Women's Alliance (CYWA). The branch also supports girls in STEM and other science related activities, such as GETT- Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology, Work Smart and Pay Equity programs, support of fair districts and fairness in education through their Legislation and Public Policy (LAPP) program, and annual Alice Lawson Scholarship, awarded to a non-traditional woman attending college.

New this year will be the collection of books for Afghan refugees, expanded support for environmental programs, and support of the

recently adopted Gateway to Equity awardee, Home of the Sparrow (HOS), for which the branch is purchasing winter coats for HOS women and children. Branch leaders are also planning to add a DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) position to the board.

The branch will continue efforts to retain and grow its membership, providing programs and activities that reinforce AAUW's powerful advocacy and leadership in equity and education. Outreach and activities in 2020 earned the branch three-star recognition from the National AAUW.

*Right: Janet reviews the goals set in the Strategic Plan.*



## **Membership News**

*--Trish Alfano & Kim Glavin, Co-VPs Membership*

### **Prospective Member Parties (PMPs)**

We had a very successful Prospective Member Party (PMP) at Thornbury Farms. Fifteen ladies attended including four new members who joined during Covid and two prospective members. We had a pleasant afternoon meeting new friends, sharing our AAUW experiences and dining on delicious desserts baked by Trish and Kim.

If you missed the September and October PMPs, we will be having an evening event in March. Please invite members and friends to your home for a Zoom party for the November monthly meeting to view our interesting program on Afghanistan.

### **AAUW Free Membership Raffle**

We would like to announce a new program to promote recruitment of new members. If you invite a friend to a meeting (Zoom meeting), PMP (Prospective Member Party), or SIG (Special Interest Group), you and your guest will be entered into a drawing for a free membership. Please notify Trish or Kim so that we can enter you and your guest into the raffle. The winner will be announced at the May Banquet!

## **Laundromat Library League**

*-- Peggy Staarman, LLL Board Member*

### **Friends Helping Friends Day**

On behalf of the Laundromat Library League Board of Directors, I would like to thank the AAUW West Chester-Chester County Branch members who participated in the Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day by either purchasing a coupon or generously donating money in lieu of a coupon. It was a successful presale, and many coupons were sold the day of the event. Friends of the LLL as well as Branch members enabled the LLL to receive about \$500 that will help buy books in Spanish as well as those with minority characters. We are so grateful for your support of our mission to give books to those children who have few or no books in their homes.

### **Fall Book Drive**

Thank you also to members who have donated books and/or money to the Branch fall book drive. The drive continues through November, so we will accept donations through Nov. 30. You can deliver your books to Peggy Staarman ([peggstaar@verizon.net](mailto:peggstaar@verizon.net)) or Anne Anderko ([ananderko@msn.com](mailto:ananderko@msn.com)) by the last day in November. Please email or text Peggy or Anne before you deliver your books. If you would rather give a monetary donation, please make the check out to the Laundromat Library League, and mail it to Peggy Staarman, 307 Benning Lane, Downingtown, PA 19335. Again, thank you so very much!

## **MEMBER NEWS AND NOTES**

### ***In Memoriam: Diane Dougherty***

*-- Peggy Staarman, Jean Shervais*

Diane Dougherty was a modern woman who lived life to the fullest. She was both a loving wife and mother of three children but was equally invested in her teaching career. Everyone who knew Diane loved her sense of fun and respected her academic and professional abilities. As a teacher in the Coatesville Area School District, Diane reached out to hundreds of students over many years. She was also both a Writing and Literature Fellow of the National Writing Project and taught many teachers through PAWLP, the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project, at West Chester University. Diane was truly a master teacher because she always remembered to put her students first. Her knowledge and desire to be a better teacher also led Diane to co-author two books on teaching and literacy.

The wife of a school principal and the department chair in her own school, Diane and her loving husband Joe raised three children who have also approached life with the same sense of balance and respect for others. At Diane's memorial service, her daughter Amy and her two sons Eddie and Mark expressed



how their mother's love of literature and poetry inspired them. She and her son descended the Spanish steps in Rome and discovered the house where John Keats once resided. Looking out of the window, Diane cried realizing she was viewing the same scene that this revered poet once saw. Diane and Joe loved their grandchildren and (continued on next page)

### **Diane Dougherty (continued)**

continued to make the world a better place by inspiring them as well. She wrote a poem for her grandchildren on each of their birthdays. At the service, her granddaughter described the joy she had when Diane took her to many American museums. Diane regretted that she

was unable to take her abroad, but her granddaughter felt as though she had seen the world by visiting those museums with her treasured grandmother. Diane will be remembered for her passions for travel, opera, and all aspects of the world around her. May we all aspire to such a life well-lived.

## ***LAPP (Legislature and Public Policy): Fair Districts***

*Thanks to Marie Knox of the LAPP committee for sighting the column written by Lowman Henry October 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Daily Local News criticizing PA Fair Districts on redistricting:*

*<https://www.dailylocal.com/2021/10/03/lowman-s-henry-democrats-changing-the-rules-of-redistricting/>) She spearheaded a response that is included below.*

October 18, 2021

Dear editor,

This letter is in response to the column written by Lowman Henry on redistricting in Pennsylvania. He inaccurately characterized Fair Districts PA as an organization run by the Democrats, concerned with wresting control from the Republicans in power. Fair Districts is a bipartisan organization concerned with giving power back to the voters. Districts today are being drawn by politicians whose main concern is keeping their seats and their power. Of course the politicians in control get the most seats and those are Republicans today but I'm sure if the Democrats were in control the same thing would probably happen. That's why Fair Districts wants the lines to be drawn by a bipartisan group of citizens who have nothing at stake except free and fair elections.

Pennsylvania is a highly gerrymandered state. The Republicans have managed to maintain control over the legislature by creating districts in their favor where they do not even have to run for office or respond to their constituents because there is never a chance of them being voted out of office except in a primary. Even though the Democrats have the advantage in voter registration in PA, the districts are gerrymandered to concentrate the Dems into fewer areas. When there are statewide elections, such as for governor, the Democrats have the advantage. This is a matter of numbers, not one side being given an unfair advantage as in the legislative races.

Signed by Marie Knox. . . Jean Speiser . . . Dorothy von Gerbig . . . Deborah Liczwek . . . with their addresses.

## ***Community Warehouse Project***

*-- Anne Anderko*

In 2017 the Community Warehouse Project of Chester County (CWP) opened its doors and began serving as a furniture bank for disadvantaged Chester County residents. Each week, CWP provides furniture and household items to an average of six local families and/or veterans who are transitioning from temporary housing into their very own home. Thanks to community donations CWP provides beds, sofas, dressers, coffee tables, pots and pans, silverware, vacuums, kitchen tables and chairs,

coffee pots, microwaves, curtains, towels, sheets, and more to individuals in need.

The veterans and families served are referred by caseworkers from human service agencies throughout the county. CWP works with over 60 local agencies, including the Coatesville VA, Home of the Sparrow, Open Hearth, Children Youth and Family Services and more. The process begins when CWP receives a request for items from a caseworker with one of these agencies on (continued on next page)



## Community Warehouse Project (continued)

behalf of their client. From there CWP contacts the client and arranges to help with what they need to get started in their new home. The items are then delivered at no cost to the clients.

Please keep CWP in mind the next time you downsize, clean out your attic or look to refresh your space. A household item no longer wanted could mean the world to someone in need. In

addition, CWP accepts financial donations to help offset the cost of delivery and purchase new bedding/pillows, and more. They are also happy to collect gift cards to pass on to the families they serve. Thank you for your support! If interested, the website is [communitywarehouseproject.com](http://communitywarehouseproject.com), 484-473-4360. They ask that you send a photo of furniture donation via the website. Upon arrival, all donations may be dropped off the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from 9 to 2 PM.

## Members Participate in Women's March October 2

Several members attended the Women's March on October 2 at the Historic Chester County Courthouse Steps on High Street in West Chester. They found the speakers inspiring.



## AAUW Mission Statement:

**To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Our Chapter – 2021-2022:**

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## Newsletter

The newsletter is published by the first of each month. The **deadline for submissions is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month** to ensure the issue can be distributed on the first of the next month. Please send emails to [tgorkin@gmail.com](mailto:tgorkin@gmail.com) -- **note use this email address**. 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 running it.

## Website

Check it out at [wccc-pa.aauw.net](http://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 Gorkin pictures for the newsletter, make sure to copy them to Sandy Alexander at [frau.salexander@gmail.com](mailto:frau.salexander@gmail.com) and Alice Lenthe at [alicelenthe@gmail.com](mailto:alicelenthe@gmail.com). Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words!

## Board Meeting

The monthly AAUW board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 3 at 7:00 via ZOOM.

## Special Interest Groups

**Note: emerging concerns with the Delta variant of the Covid-19 Coronavirus is impacting plans for some interest groups to meet in person. See specific notes below and be sure to stay in contact with your group leader and watch emails for last minute changes.**



### Women's Social Bridge

The Bridge group is now playing on the 3rd Friday of the month. We will be meeting in person or playing on BridgeBase Online. Decisions will be made on a month-to-month basis based on group preferences. We start at 10:00 a.m. Anyone interested in joining us should contact Sandy Alexander contact Sandy Alexander at [frau.salexander@gmail.com](mailto:frau.salexander@gmail.com).



### Couples Bridge

A chair is needed. Please contact one of the presidents if interested.

### Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg is meeting online on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM and on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 PM Contact is Kim Glavin at [kimglavin@comcast.net](mailto:kimglavin@comcast.net)

### FIG (Food Interest Group)

Food Interest Group (FIG) explores new foods through thematically planned potlucks or at a local restaurant. Partners and singles welcome Will resume monthly as COVID situation permits. Contact: Donna Eaves, FIG chair, at 610-692-5277 or [deaves@live.com](mailto: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 **via Zoom**. The list of books is published on the Branch web page. We are reading ***Leaving Time*** by Jodi Picoult. Pat Schultz is leading the discussion. Date: November 15 at 1:00 on Zoom. Please join us for a lively discussion. Pat will send a notice with the link.



Contact: Patricia Schultz,  
[pls@patriciaschultz.com](mailto:pls@patriciaschultz.com), 610-436-9752

## **LIT II: Evening Literature Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group - NOTE DATE CHANGE**

We usually meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Our November 17 meeting is canceled due to our leader being unavailable. We have decided that we will meet Wednesday, December 1 on Zoom, at 7:00 p.m. The book remains to be John Grisham's *Soolry*, with Fran as our leader. This gives you more time to read the book. Hope everybody can attend.

Contact: Carol Zabriskie,  
[nowaycjz@gmail.com](mailto:nowaycjz@gmail.com).

## **LIT III: Daytime Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group**

This group meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 1:00 PM. The list of books is published on the Branch web page.

As of publication, the group will meet on November 2 at 1:00 PM **by Zoom**. Carol Haaf is leading us in a discussion of *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk* by Kathleen Rooney.

Contact: [carolahaaf@verizon.net](mailto:carolahaaf@verizon.net).

## **TIG (Travel Interest Group)**

Travel Interest Group (TIG) explores interesting regional sites and events via day trips. Monthly trips TBA as plans are made, possibly resuming in October, depending on Covid conditions.

Contacts are: Sandy Alexander ([frau.salexander@gmail.com](mailto:frau.salexander@gmail.com)), Mary Marco ([Mary.m.marco@gmail.com](mailto:Mary.m.marco@gmail.com)), or Jane McDowell ([jlmcdowell@gmail.com](mailto:jlmcdowell@gmail.com)).

## **Walkers Group**

The Walkers Group meets on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. sharp at the address below. Contact: Phyllis Dunn at [dunn.phyllis@gmail.com](mailto:dunn.phyllis@gmail.com)



## **Stitchers Group**

The Stitchers Group will meet **via Zoom** every other Thursday at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom. The **November dates are 4 and 18**. We are anxious to meet some new stitchers, quilters, knitters, crocheters or cross stitchers. We meet on Zoom at 10AM. Come join us, enjoy sharing your talents & your conversations. Pat will send a notice with the link.

*Patricia Schultz*  
610-322-0514 [pls@patriciaschultz.com](mailto:pls@patriciaschultz.com)

## **Great Decisions**

The group meets at the West Chester Diner from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on selected (2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>) Mondays; contact: Beatriz Wee at [beatrizti12@gmail.com](mailto:beatrizti12@gmail.com).

"Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves (1) reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book (sold annually by the Foreign Policy Association), and (2) meeting to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today."

Our group is still discussing the 2020 book topics and will skip TO the 2022 book when it is published. For illustration purpose, the 2021 book topics are:

- Global Supply Chains and National Security
- Persian Gulf Security Issues
- Brexit and the European Union
- Struggles Over the Melting Arctic
- China's Role in Africa
- The Korean Peninsula
- Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic
- The End of Globalization?



119 Llandoverly Drive, Exton, PA 19341.

*November 2021 Newsletter*

*Afghanistan: Why Should We Care?*

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](http://www.aauw.org) [www.aauwpa.org](http://www.aauwpa.org) [wccc-pa.aauw.net](http://wccc-pa.aauw.net)