



AAUW some NEWS

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

Volume 67 Number 4
December 2021

AAUW West Chester-Chester County Branch Holiday Social Gathering: Wednesday, December 8th, 2021 at Longwood Gardens



Reserve for 4:00 pm; meet
at 4:30 pm
at the Beer Garden

Enjoy outdoor socializing at Longwood Gardens and enjoy the conservatory or tree lights (depending on your comfort level with going indoors). We will meet at the Beer Garden 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, complimentary tickets have been made available to members who wish to attend. Please contact Janet at jfentonkane@gmail.com if you need a pass.

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Letter from the President

*"Yet my heart loves December's smile as much
as July's golden beam; then let us sit and watch
the while the blue ice curdling on the stream."*

- Emily Jane Brontë

I, for one, both dread and love December. It is the end of another year, which forces me to put my life into perspective and assess my "accomplishments". December brings the darkest days as well. Contrastingly, it brings celebrations, family and friends, and sharing. It also is the turning point of darkness – as daylight begins to lengthen and light returns.

I hope, as we complete the 2nd year of this pandemic, the end of the year will lighten that burden too! I look forward to gathering together after the coldest days are behind us. For in working together, we build on one another's energy and accomplish astounding things. Not to be deterred by Covid, we will gather at Longwood at 4:00 PM on December 8th to welcome another set of holidays and greet the upcoming New Year. May weather and health be in our favor – I for one need this celebratory gathering. Please come; through our many Longwood members we can make tickets available. And may the prospective members that Kim Glavin graciously entertained at her home on October 27th join us at Longwood also!

One of the newest members of our branch shared that what really convinced her to join our branch is the amazing level of engagement she sees in our members. She is right! Having participated in other organizations, I too continue to be amazed at how willingly members step up to help with whatever tasks need accomplishing or needs to be fulfilled. Two recent examples are the coat drive and the book drive for the Laundromat Library League. We succeeded in providing 40 coats to women and children at Home of the Sparrow. Additionally, thanks to you, we added over \$600 to the Laundromat Library League treasury through Boscov's Friends Helping Friends. And even though we have another month for the LLL book drive, many books were already donated, and members gave generous monetary support. Our branch continues to make a difference for women in our community.

Ultimately, the work we do together helps me see that in fact I have been a part of a great organization that accomplished much good over these past 11 months. Thank you!

May your holidays be filled with joy, family and friends!

-- Deb Liczwek

Membership News

We had another very successful PMP in October, resulting in four new members! Fifteen ladies attended, including six guests. We enjoyed a continental breakfast while meeting new friends and sharing our AAUW experiences.

We have also added several new members who learned about our organization from our visibility in the newspaper and on our website.

We would like to welcome our ten new members who have joined this year:

Lisa Barnes, Nicole Carter, Terry Daniele, Barbara Gallagher, Melinda Hardie, Caroline Leland, Amita

Mohan, Debi Morrison, Wendy Summer Pugh, and Randi Shellenbarger.

We are very excited to work together to further our mission and make new friends!

We hope you will be able to welcome our new members in person at Longwood Gardens on December 8th!

Trish Alfano & Kim Glavin
Co-VP's -- Membership



Fall Pecan Fundraiser Update and Delivery

-- Fundraising Chairs:

Anne Anderko, Marie Knox

Thanks to all of you that supported our annual pecan sale. We still have 5 bags of cinnamon pecans at \$10.00 to sell. Once they are sold, our total profit will be \$1011.43. For our newest members who did not get a chance to participate, the pecans come in holiday packaging and make great stocking stuffers and hostess gifts. If interested, please e-mail me at ananderko@msn.com.

November Meeting: Wendy Summer gave "An Outsider's View from Inside"



Wendy Summer, founder of ZAAANHA, spoke to our chapter via Zoom on the topic of "Afghanistan: Why I Keep Going Back." Wendy described how her first trip in 2006, with an organization that was setting up business owners to help teach business skills in post-conflict countries, led to her returning to the country for a total of 16 times. She recounted how her experiences led to the formation of three programs to help secure education for underserved children, especially girls, in a country suffering from extensive illiteracy. Ultimately, this led Wendy to establish ZAAANHA to help fund the programs.

(Left: Wendy with her son Mahir displaying scarves sold by ZAAANHA))

She described the warmth with which she was received by Afghans and told how she found her growing appreciation of the hardness of life there, even for those educated and starting businesses. For example, Wendy made contact with a woman with a dress shop and found herself offering to pay half the costs for school for their daughters when the family could only afford to send their son to private school. She saw the street children who were fortunate enough to be getting at least a marginal education unable to do their assignments because they couldn't afford pencil and paper like other kids. Despite the importance

of education, 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.



Wendy started ZAAANHA, (which means women in the Dari language), whose mission became sending illiterate Afghan working street boys and girls to school. ZAAANHA's programs are funded by the sales of beautiful scarves and shawls made primarily by master craftspeople in Nepal and India. Per the website, "ZAAANHA's merchandise is meticulously hand made

from fine natural materials including cashmere, silk, linen and cotton. Many (CONTINUED on next page)

Wendy Summer (continued)

of our artisans still practice age old techniques resulting in distinctive products of remarkable beauty and quality.”

Wendy described three programs funded through ZAANHA:

- The ZAANHA Fund came into being after Wendy learned that thousands of indigent Afghan children were unable to go to school because they had to work on the streets to support their families. A sponsorship program provided the \$30 / month to support the family with the money the child would earn on the street so they had the time to go to school.
- Rumi school - Wendy's contact took her to this school, where she met the founder Mirweis. They started a private school program to identify children with promise, and she paid to help them.
- Silk business - Wendy discovered the long and storied tradition of making silk; she learned from Nasima how girls in one village wanted to learn to use computers, but they could not go to Kabul to learn without male escorts. Wendy started raising money, went to India, obtained fine cashmere scarves, and uses portions of sales to raise money to send kids to school in Afghanistan. Nasima's pilot for 6 students led to over 100 girls being taught by

Roya, a student who graduated. When she married, Roya's husband helped start a school in their new location.

Left: ZAANHA's logo. "ZAANHA means woman in Dari, one of the principle languages of Afghanistan. The logo was inspired by an ancient Central Asian motif, a "hooked" sun. It symbolizes energy and rebirth . . . "



With the fall of Kabul on August 15th, Wendy turned her attention to evacuating and resettling the people she worked with. Working tirelessly with various contacts, she was able to get at least 20 people safely to Mexico. If you missed the program, the recording is on our website.

SEASON OF OUTREACH

Coats Donated to Home of the Sparrow

Right: Community Outreach Co-Chairs Mimi Jones, Peggy Staarman and Eva Kaufmann delivering 41 winter coats to Michelle Venema for moms and children. The coats were donated by the generous members of AAUW.



Wendy Summer's Trunk Show for AAUW: Shop the Silk Road bazaar for holiday gifts December 1

Cashmere, cashmere blend, silk and fine wool scarves and more are handmade in Nepal and India and Uzbekistan. Proceeds from the sale of all products help us to provide food and fuel for people in Afghanistan for the upcoming cold winter months. Checks, credit cards and cash accepted. Learn more at www.zaanha.com.

Date: Wednesday, December 1

Time: 3:30 PM to 7 PM

Place: Wendy's home at 119 Cloverly Lane, West Chester

Refreshments will be served!
See you there!

NOVEMBER Outreach Opportunities

Our chapter members were invited by our Outreach Committee to take part in several opportunities to support local organizations during the Holiday season.

Turkeys for Home of the Sparrow

Members could donate a turkey a turkey, including some free of charge from grocery store points, by delivering them to the Chester County Food Bank in Eagleview, labeling it for Home of the Sparrow and a gift from AAUW. A Home of the Sparrow staff member picked up the turkeys from the Food Bank.

Giving Tuesday Home of the Sparrow Winter White Out

Members were also invited to participate in Giving Tuesday (November 30) by donating to the Home of the Sparrow's Winter White Out. Government assistance does not cover necessary household items. For clients of Home of the Sparrow the cost of these essentials can be overwhelming. A list of household items, including cleaning and laundry products and store gift cards, was sent out on November 10. Items were to be delivered to Eva Kaufman, Peggy Staarman, or Mimi Jones before November 30 so they could take the donations to Home of the Sparrow on Tuesday.



DECEMBER Outreach Opportunities

Home of the Sparrow - Gift Cards

In December the Outreach Committee will be collecting gift cards for Home of the Sparrow. Gift cards are preferred for supermarkets or Wawa (for gas). They will be collected at Longwood Gardens the evening of our visit there on December 8th. If you prefer, you could mail the cards to Eva Kaufman, Peggy Staarman, or Mimi Jones.

Chester County Youth Center

Nancy Dore is again collecting holiday gifts for the girls at the Chester County Youth Center. Even though this is not an official branch project, many members have contributed over the past 15 years. A list of items was sent out in an email from president Janet Kane on November 10. The items listed below (**enough for 6 girls**) are requested. Any monetary contributions will be used to either purchase items on the list or gift cards.

Please contact Nancy Dore (610-725-0459, ncdore@gmail.com, 3 Thayer Drive, Frazer PA 19355) before purchasing to avoid duplications.

Pajama pants	Shampoo and	Candy or snacks,
Socks	Conditioner	individually
Slippers	Shower gel	wrapped
Thermal T-shirts	Lip gloss	Stationery
Plain white T-shirts, long or short sleeved	Lip balm	Journals
Head bands	Small area rug	Pens and pencils
Hair clips - large or very small	Twin size comforter or throw	Markers or colored pencils
Toothbrush and toothpaste	Pretty pillowcases	Coloring books or drawing pad
	New stuffed animal	Puzzle books
		Playing cards
		Craft kits

**WARMEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND
HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON!**

Thank You from the Laundromat Library League

-- Peggy Staarman, LLL Board Member

I have used a library theme to redecorate my dining room. Over 600 books, all donated by AAUW members, line the perimeter of the room. They will find a new home next week when I take them to the Laundromat Library League's storage site in West Chester. The Laundromat Library League (LLL) thanks you so very much for the multitude of books the West Chester-Chester County Branch has given to build and replenish the supply of books that 270 laundromats need. Each book box in each site has 50 to 60 books that cover reading levels from age 2 to 16.

In addition to the overwhelming response to requests for books, branch members have also given \$590 in financial support to the LLL. Those

generous funds will enable the LLL to buy books in Spanish and those that feature minority characters. Book donations for these books do not meet the demand, so the LLL is very thankful for the opportunity to purchase them.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the LLL, I thank you for your tremendous generosity. If you would like to join the network of over 770 volunteers and helpers who support our mission to provide books to children who may not have access to books, please contact me (peggstaar@verizon.net) or send an email to laundromatlibrary@gmail.com. For more information, visit our website: www.laundromatlibraryleague.org or check out our Facebook page: Laundromat Library League.

West Chester Public Library Presents Two Holiday Tours

-- Donna Eaves

West Chester Public Library and presenting sponsor CTDI invite you to have double the fun on the library's two big tours for 2021: the Holiday Home Tour and the Holiday Door Tour. All proceeds from the tours will benefit the West Chester Public Library.

Holiday Home Tour

Returning for the 10th year, the perennially popular Holiday Home Tour will take place on Saturday, **December 4, from 10 am to 3 pm** and will showcase seven homes decked out for the holidays on the North side of the borough. Ranging from petite to grand, Victorian to mid-century modern, the homes blend original details with modern updates and display the homeowners' art, collectibles, and antiques. Holiday Home Tour attendees are also invited to tour the West Chester Friends Meeting House and will receive free admission to the Chester County History Center and a complimentary Holiday Raffle ticket.

Tickets for the Holiday Home Tour are \$40 each and are available online and at the library main desk. To protect the health of our Holiday Home Tour homeowners, attendees must provide proof of COVID vaccination with a vaccine card or its image either on the day of the Tour or the day before. Tour attendees may present their vaccination proof at the

library on December 3 from 10 am to noon or December 4 from 9 am to noon, or alternatively, at the first home they visit on the Tour.

Holiday Door Tour

The family-friendly Holiday Door Tour, which started as socially distanced replacement for the Holiday Home Tour in 2020, is coming back this year **Saturday, December 4 through Sunday, December 19**. This self-guided event will feature dozens of West Chester doors and porches decorated by their owners in holiday finery. Since it takes place outdoors, no masking or vaccination proof is required for the Door Tour. To attend, make a donation of any size to the library's Holiday Appeal. Donors will receive Door Tour maps, an entry in our Holiday Raffle, and a list of scavenger hunt items to look for among the decorations. Tour-goers can go on any or all of several scavenger hunts for specific items among the decorations in different areas of the borough.

Holiday Raffle prizes include a framed print of "The Reading Room" by acclaimed West Chester artist John Suplee, a lottery ticket tree, a book-page holiday wreath, tickets to Longwood Gardens, and tickets for next year's Holiday Home Tour. The drawing will take place on December 21 at 4:45 pm. Feel free to contact Donna Eaves, deaves@live.com, if you would like further information.

MEMBER NEWS AND NOTES



Home of the Sparrow Fashion Show

Our own Sandra Harrelson modeled beautiful outfits at the Home of the Sparrow fashion show held at the Desmond Hotel in Malvern on October 26th. Among supporters attending were twelve members of our branch. See more pictures on our chapter's Facebook page.

Member Recognized as PA Master Naturalist

Toni Gorkin was recognized at the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Master Naturalists November 13-15 for achieving 500 hours of volunteer service. Toni leads the Heart of Uwchlan project to introduce more native plants to the Uwchlan Township office park and educate the public on environmentally sustainable practices. She will be happy to provide seeds and education on growing milkweed and other native plants to help gardeners host beneficial pollinators. She also serves on the Uwchlan Township Environmental Advisory Council.

AAUW Mission Statement:

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

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Patricia Schultz 610-436-9752	Corresponding Secretary pls@patriciaschultz.com
Susan DeGeorge	Financial Officer suzydegeorge@yahoo.com
Branch Website	wccc-pa.aauw.net

Newsletter

The newsletter is published by the first of each month. The **deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month** to ensure the issue can be distributed on the first of the next month. Please send emails to 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. 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 and Alice Lenthe at alicelenthe@gmail.com. Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words!

Board Meeting

There is no monthly AAUW board meeting in December. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at 7:00 via ZOOM. All members are welcome to attend.

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.



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 kinglavin@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.

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 not meeting in December, so there is lots of time to read. We are reading *Libertie* by Katlyn Greenidge for our meeting on January 17, 2022, 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, 610-436-9752

LIT II: Evening Literature Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group

We usually meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. We will meet on January 19, 2022, on Zoom, at 7:00 p.m. The book will be *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson. Dot von Gerbig is the discussion leader. Contact: Carol Zabriskie, 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. The group will meet on January 4 at 1:00 PM by Zoom to discuss *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race* by Walter Isaacson.

Contact: carolahaaf@verizon.net.

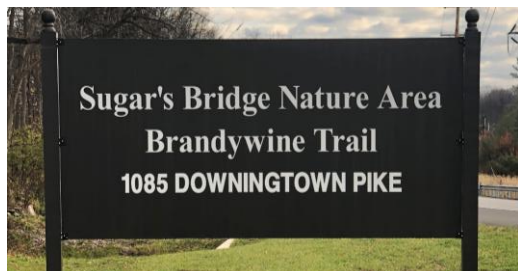
TIG (Travel Interest Group)

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), Mary Marco (Mary.m.marco@gmail.com), or Jane McDowell (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



Stitchers Group

The Stitchers Group will meet **via Zoom** every other Thursday at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom. The dates are December 2 and 16. 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

Great Decisions

The group meets at the West Chester Diner from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on selected (2nd or 4th)

Mondays; contact: Beatriz Wee at 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.

December 2021 Newsletter

Holiday Gathering 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