



## AAUW some NEWS

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

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February 2022



AAUW West Chester-Chester County Branch meeting:

### INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN AND FAMILIES IN CHESTER COUNTY

Wednesday, February 9th, 2022

7:00 p.m. - ZOOM meeting

**Mark Butler**, Executive Director of Family Service of Chester

**Amy DeFonzo**, director, Exchange Club Family Center

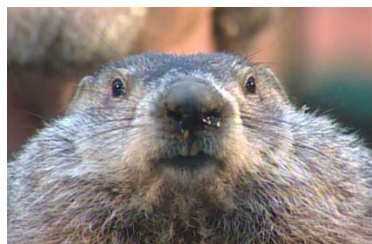
**Johnna Goodridge**, director, Family Prevention Programs

The mission of Family Service of Chester County is to provide life-changing individual and family support by removing barriers and providing access to counseling, case management, youth services, and family programs. **See related article** inside this issue of the newsletter.

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## Letter from the President



Welcome February!  
Other than it being a  
unique Pennsylvania  
ritual, I hold no  
belief in  
Punxsutawney Phil's  
predictions. BUT

Ground Hog Day, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, marks the halfway point of winter. It means that we have weathered (pun intended) another winter. Hopefully you, your families and friends continue to stay healthy.

Sadly, our February brunch is not to be. Based on your feedback from the survey, the latest Covid variant, omicron, has dampened our collective concern about gathering. However, we will be able to hear Mark Butler, Executive Director of Family Service of Chester County speak. He will speak to us via ZOOM at our regularly scheduled Wednesday evening meeting: 7PM, February 9<sup>th</sup>. The mission of Family Service of Chester County is to provide life-changing individual and family support by removing barriers and providing access to counseling, case management, youth services, and family programs. ***Please update your calendars. It will definitely be a worthwhile presentation.***

### **FEBRUARY BRUNCH Canceled /Meeting Rescheduled due to COVID OMICRON**

The annual February pot-luck brunch is a highlight of our AAUW calendar. It is a chance to mingle with our friends and enjoy delicious food prior to an interesting speaker. Sadly, due to COVID Omicron, we are not able to hold this event this year and have moved our meeting to February 9<sup>th</sup> (our regular meeting day and week) at 7:00 via Zoom.

Thank you to all the members who responded to a survey regarding their comfort with an in-person event. Out of 58 respondents, 66.7% indicated that they were not comfortable with meeting in-person while 33.3% said they were. Given these numbers, the board felt that it was prudent to cancel the event and re-schedule the speaker (see article on Family Service of Chester County). We are still looking forward to our year-end May banquet and the board will be seeking an outdoor location so that, even if COVID is still haunting us, we can be together. Thank you for your understanding.

See article below, "Put on a Happy Face," for a way to support Home of the Sparrow in February. We truly made a difference contributing coats, and frozen turkeys, as well as contributing to the fun at their fashion show! Stay tuned for possible late winter, early spring needs.

Your nominations will soon be requested. The Board worked diligently on codifying the process for member awards. The detailed map of the process will be yours soon and made available electronically. For new members, annually our branch honors 3 members: The Member Making a Difference Award, The Peg Anderson Award, and the Member Making a Difference Award. Additionally, the branch selects an organization or person who exemplifies our mission and awards them with our support. Home of the Sparrow was this year's Gateway to Equity Awardee.

Finally, please let Mimi Jones know if you have any interest in a leadership position on the Board. It is a fantastic way to get to know other members!

-- Deborah Liczwek

### **SHARE YOUR RECIPE**

Even though we are not going to be able to meet in person for our traditional February brunch, and therefore we will not be able to share all the wonderful food that our members prepare and bring, we can at least share the recipes. Send your recipe either as a Word Document or a PDF to Jean Speiser ([JeanSp@Gmail.com](mailto:JeanSp@Gmail.com)) no later than February 16. Be sure to include your name and the source of the recipe, whether it's something from Julia Child, the back of a Bisquick box, or your great aunt Gertrude's turnip souffle. Jean will gather what she has received and is aiming to send it out by the end of February. Please make sure that what you send is in final form and does not require editing or proofreading.

-- Jean Speiser and Beryl Goldman,  
Program co-chairs

## Home of the Sparrow: “Put on a Happy Face”



Home of the Sparrow is hosting a “Shopping Day” for the women they serve. They need items to be used for handouts at the event. The organization has asked us to collect the following items:

- Fingernail polish
- Nail files
- Makeup
- Hair clips or scrunchies
- Chapstick
- Lipstick
- 99-cent reusable shopping bags from TJ Maxx, Home Sense, or Marshalls or any sturdy reusable bag

Homeless and underserved women often cannot afford to buy these personal items. Women who face the stress of homelessness because of unexpected expenses, bankruptcy, medical bills, or other crises frequently lose self-esteem. We believe feeling good about their appearance can help boost their morale and their confidence. We would love to make Home of the Sparrow clients “Put on a Happy Face.”

Because our AAUW meetings are still being held on Zoom, we cannot collect the items at gatherings. **Anne Anderko** ([ananderko@msn.com](mailto:ananderko@msn.com)), **Eva Kaufmann** ([evakaufmann1@gmail.com](mailto:evakaufmann1@gmail.com)), and **Peggy Staarman** ([peggstaar@verizon.net](mailto:peggstaar@verizon.net)) have

**volunteered to receive the items at their homes.** Please contact them before dropping off your donations. We would like to collect the items by February 28 so that we can take them to the Home of the Sparrow offices before the event.

Thank you so very much for the tremendous support you have given to Home of the Sparrow this year. Your continuing donations and service will help our Gateway to Equity Award Winner provide supportive housing, budgeting advice, eviction prevention, and other resources to vulnerable women in our community.

-- Mimi Jones, Eva Kaufmann, and Peggy Staarman, Community Outreach Committee

### Thank You Letter from Home of the Sparrow



January 4, 2022

AAUW of Chester County  
119 Llandoverly Drive  
Exton, PA 19341

Dear Friends,

Of all the many wonderful and worthy organizations in our region, you selected Home of the Sparrow as the recipient of your kindness - thank you!

It's not common knowledge that over 34,000 Chester County residents live below the poverty line. Thank you for knowing there are people in need and for trusting us to use your donation wisely to help our women, mothers, and children in the best possible ways!

With gratitude,

*Kathleen*  
Kathleen Sanger  
Director of Development  
[Ksanger@homeofthesparrow.org](mailto:Ksanger@homeofthesparrow.org)

*AAUW friends -  
thru your a million for your  
generous support of  
Home of the Sparrow!  
Best, Meghan*

Date Received: 12/10/2021, Donation: Store Gift Cards

Date Received: 11/30/2021, Donation: Donations of household supplies and cleaning products via the Giving Tuesday Campaign  
Gift Value: \*

\* While, according to IRS regulations, you will not be allowed to declare the value of your donation from our acknowledgment, we can say that, but for your generosity, we likely would have had to expend approximately \$800.00 plus \$250.00 for what you gave as an in-kind contribution. These are dollars saved which we are able to apply directly to support the programs and services we provide for the well-being of those whom we serve in our community. Thank you!

No goods or services were received for this donation.

Home of the Sparrow is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. EIN# 23-2775004.

\*The official registration and financial information of Home of the Sparrow may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



## BRANCH MEETING FEBRUARY 9TH AT 7:00 on ZOOM: INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN AND FAMILIES IN CHESTER COUNTY

**Mark Butler, Executive Director, Family  
Service of Chester County**  
**Amy DeFonzo, director, Exchange Club  
Family Center**  
**Johnna Goodridge, director, Family  
Prevention Programs**



Family Service of Chester County provides residents with many important support services. The organization's mission is to "provide life changing individual and family support by removing barriers and providing access to counseling, case management, youth services and family programs" (<https://www.familyservice.us/>). Of its eight programs, Exchange Club Family Center, Familias Unidas, and the Strengthening Families Program are most closely aligned with AAUW's mission to support the education and well-being of women and girls.

The **Exchange Club Family Center** is an intensive, long-term program designed to reduce the risk of child abuse. Social workers work with low-income, at-risk families to address short-term needs such as food, clothing and shelter as well as create a long-term plan that will lead to education, employment, and improved parenting skills. A unique feature of the Exchange Club is that it involves trained parent mentors who can model good parenting skills in the family's home.

**Familias Unidas** is a prevention program designed uniquely and specifically for Hispanic families and youth (ages 12 – 17) to prevent problem behaviors including: drug use, smoking, risky sexual behaviors and conduct disorders. The objective of Familias Unidas is to increase parents' involvement in their children's schools, with their peers and overall family bonding and cohesion.

Similarly, **Strengthening Families** provides support to parents and youth (10-14) to help the youth avoid risky behaviors and avoid negative peer pressure. Research shows that this program improves family relationships, decreases family conflict and leads to lower rates of substance abuse among this age group.

At our branch meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom, we will hear details about Family Service of Chester County as an organization as well as the impressive results of its programs. Please be sure to join us.

### ***Chester County Youth Center Thank You!***

-- Nancy Dore

On Monday, December 20th I delivered 6 large tote bags filled with an assortment of wrapped gifts for the girls at the Chester County Youth Center. We have received a warm thank you from the Director of the Chester County Youth Center for our generosity in brightening Christmas for the girls. I would also like to thank everyone who helped make this project a success.

## JANUARY MEETING: IMAGEN and Native American “Girl Societies”

### The Indigenous Adolescent Girls' Empowerment Network (IMAGEN)



IMAGEN supports Native American girls by providing tools to establish sacred matrilineal neighborhood spaces for “Girl Societies.”

Knowledge is shared between generations. Girls receive weekly support with topics sovereignly chosen by each Society including:

- Tribal history and cultural lifeways led by community Elders
- Social, spiritual, educational, health and economic connections and skills.

Girl Society group mentos across Indian Country join the IMAGEN Circle, which gathers monthly online to provide mutual support.

Join us! [www.imagen-network.org](http://www.imagen-network.org)

and men forced from hunting to farming, a traditional women’s role.

IMAGEN is viewed as a platform to:

- Restore inter-generational connections & indigenous culture,
- Rekindle indigenous matrilineal leadership structures and social support networks,
- Empower healing in an indigenous manner from historical and modern traumas.

Lisa pointed out challenges to indigenous girls and women. Many girls become the primary caretaker of a household/family and may live without a parent or grandparent, so they have high levels of responsibility. Yet they have fewer financial assets and skills than males, and many Native “youth” programs have a male gender bias.



### IMAGEN Process

- Co-learning with tribal communities
  - Advisory council of AI/AN women
  - Large grants to several Native-controlled organizations
  - 68 COVID-19 micro-grants to 44 communities
  - 138 AI/AN women trained to start and operate Girl Societies
  - Bi-weekly virtual IMAGEN Circle gatherings since Mar 2020

Source: K Hallman, IMAGEN Salon Gathering, 09Mar2021; L Polen, K Garibay, K Hallman, IMAGEN Webinar, 20Oct2020.



The speakers described the IMAGEN process and outlined how it is different (see above and below).

Lisa Polen and Kelly K. Hallman, PhD, presented the story of IMAGEN to the January 12 meeting. Kelly, a member of the Cherokee Nation, is Founding Director of the Indigenous Adolescent Girls' Empowerment Network (IMAGEN), an initiative with Native American partners to establish local “Girl Societies.” She has designed and evaluated girl-centered programs throughout the Americas and in sub-Saharan Africa since 2001 and is a Senior Associate at the Population Council and research advisor to the StrongHearts Native Helpline and the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center (NIWRC).

Lisa, who holds a Master of Public Health Degree, has over 15 years of experience developing, implementing, and evaluating adolescent and reproductive health programming both internationally and domestically.

The “Girl Societies” they are forming are collective mentored female spaces for networking, skills building, and intergenerational cultural transmission in Native American communities in the Southwest U.S.

To set the stage for the need for IMAGEN, they outlined the chronology of indigenous female power loss in the U.S. through disease, colonization, and treaties in 1600-1799, when male-produced goods rather than female-produced goods took on value. In the 1800’s native cultural-spiritual practices were made illegal, indigenous people were forced onto reservations, and land was allotted in private parcels

## HOW IS IMAGEN DIFFERENT?

- We equip Native communities to make female inter-generational networks
  - more accessible to the least connected
    - Foster girls, violence survivors, incarcerated, at risk for school dropout, gender-expansive.
  - reliably & systematically offered
  - intentionally protective
  - keep Native culture as primary focus
- Gender- and life-stage responsive
- Tribal sovereign determination of content
- Suite of tools
  - Planning, implementation, assessment
- Continuous operational support



Photo: Vladimir Badikov, Voice of America.

Source: Kelly Hallman, Stephanie Martinez, Lisa Polen, Angel del Valle. 2020. *Reclamation: Returning to Matrilineal Traditions, Building a New Generation of Indigenous Girl Societies*. NY: Indigenous Adolescent Girls' Empowerment Network (IMAGEN). Brief 6.

## JANUARY MEETING: IMAGEN (continued)

The “Girl Societies” are based on native talking circles, and regular meeting times and reliable accessibility are important. Each Society has two mentors, one a more experienced youth mentor and the other a more experienced elder mentor to provide cultural history and learning activities. The group splits into two age groups. The focus of the work the speakers were doing to form and support “Girl Society” formation was geographically on reservations in South Dakota and in Minnesota.

The Covid pandemic of course had an impact on the “Girl Societies.” The activity had to become more virtual. They found ways to get cell phones and tech support to hold weekly virtual meetings.

They also got micro-grants to support the Native American girls during the pandemic (see below). The speakers noted how calls among mentors became important energizing moments, as they shared innovations and kept a free-form flow of ideas that was a lifeline during the pandemic.

## COVID-19 MICRO-GRANT ACTIVITIES



- Mentors purchased, assembled, delivered to Native girls and their families
  - food boxes
  - cooking supplies & ingredients
  - soap, hand sanitizer, wipes
  - diapers, baby wipes to teen mothers
  - feminine hygiene supplies to deep rural girls
  - fabric & supplies for girls to sew face masks
  - spiritual supplies, prayer bundles, etc.
  - social, emotional, physical wellness kits
  - mobile phones and data plans
- Mentors convened virtual group circles for girls
  - sewing instruction
  - cooking together
  - prayer and healing
  - instructions to produce cultural objects
  - self-defense, physical fitness classes
- Emergency cash grants to poorest girls

Lisa Polen, Kelly Hallman, Stephanie Martinez, Kassel Franco Garibay. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.15118.48963/2>

Kelly described the impact of IMAGEN, not only providing a new platform for Native female advancement in Indian Country, but also influencing donors and NGOs to focus on Native girls. She concluded the talk with suggestions about how to be an ally to IMAGEN, by visiting the IMAGEN website ([WWW.IMAGEN-NETWORK.ORG](http://WWW.IMAGEN-NETWORK.ORG)), donating, learning the real history of indigenous people, and calling out misconceptions and stereotypes. Acknowledge whose land you are on, they encouraged, by going to <https://native-land.ca/>.

They recommended viewing the film *The Lakota Daughters*, a documentary film featuring IMAGEN, and provided a list of resources. A vigorous questions and answers session followed.



- Preview (90-sec): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MIV4V1pLXg>
- Documentary (33-min): <https://youtu.be/H5hpuifMj7U>
- Film panel with Q&A, upon request: [info@imagen-network.org](mailto:info@imagen-network.org)



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## Resources

- [The Lakota Daughters](#), documentary film featuring IMAGEN. VOA, 2020
- [Without a Whisper](#), Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Influence on Early American Feminists. Katsitsionni Fox, 2020
- [Tribal Nations & the United States: An Introduction](#). National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), 2020
- [A Conversation With Native Americans on Race](#). New York Times, Op-Docs, 2018
- [An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States](#). Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz, 2015
- [Rethinking Historical Trauma](#). LJ Kirmayer, JP Gone, J Moses, *Transcultural Psychiatry*, 2014



## Alice Lawson Scholarship

The West Chester-Chester County PA Branch of the American Association of University Women offers an academic scholarship to a deserving student meeting the requirements below. This year the award is \$1500. The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Copies of the application are available at

<https://wccc-pa.aauw.net/scholarships/alice-lawson/>

The deadline for application is March 31, 2022.

Scholarships are available to any student who:

- is a full- or part-time undergraduate woman who has completed at least 60 semester credits prior to the spring semester of 2022
- is at least 25 years old
- is enrolled for the 2022-2023 academic year at a four-year college or university
- resides in Chester County or attends a school in Chester County
- has a GPA of at least 3.0 (out of 4.0).

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

### AAUW Free Membership Raffle

This year we created a new program to promote recruitment of new members. If you invite a friend to a meeting, PMP (Prospective Member Party), or SIG (Special Interest Group), you will be entered into a drawing for one free 2022-23 membership. You will receive an entry for every friend you invite. If your friend joins by April 1st then your friend will also be entered in the drawing AND you will get a second entry in the drawing. The winner will be announced at the May Banquet!

If you have invited a friend to attend a virtual meeting or SIG then please notify Kim or Trish so that we may enter you into the drawing!

### March PMP

Please mark your calendars for the next PMP (Prospective Member Party) scheduled for March 3rd, 2022 at 7:00pm. Due to the recent spike in Covid, the location has not been decided. We will let you know the details next month!

## INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS

### Lisa Barnes

Lisa Barnes is Mary Smith's neighbor and friend who has many of the passions for women's issues in line with AAUW. She worked in film, theatre, and television in New York, Los Angeles, and Hawaii. She was co-president for Women in the Arts & Media Coalition for 3 years, president for one year. She is also a member of NY Women in Film and Television and the League of Professional Theatre Women. She moved to Pennsylvania from Hawaii in February 2020 and is travelling back and forth.

### Melissa Baxter

Melissa is a friend of Cathy Palmquist; they met due to their involvement in the Domestic Violence Center, where Melissa is the COO. Recently, Melissa rappelled off a 23-floor building in Philly with other Rotarians to help raise funds for an outward-bound program to benefit girls in West Chester. Melissa is president elect of their Rotary Club, the largest club of the 54 in their district. Last year Melissa chaired the Rotary community philanthropic committee, raising funds to award to local charities.



## **INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS (continued)**

### **Nicole Carter**

Nicole was one of our two special Pandemic Relief Scholarships awardees in May 2021. Nicole, the mother of three, is enrolled at the University of Valley Forge majoring in Early Childhood Education. As Nicole states: "I really have a passion and dedication for educating young children and supporting the whole family unit. I would like to assist families with young children in some capacity."

### **Terry Daniele**

Terry retired last year from the College of Adult Professional Studies department at Immaculata University. A long-time resident of Kirby Woods in West Chester, she recently downsized and moved to the Arbours at West Goshen. Terry is the mother of 3 boys and is very excited that she will be becoming a grandmother in April! Terry enjoys walking, working out, reading and is a budding canasta player and golfer. Terry and her husband Dom have been friends with Kim Glavin and her husband Gene for 41 years.

### **Melinda Hardie**

Melinda is a friend of Deb Liczwek who describes her as a woman of many talents! A Pennsylvania native from Pittsburgh, she and her husband, Bill, live in Landenberg. She holds a chemical engineering degree from the University of Pennsylvania but worked well beyond her "Chem E" degree in many different roles when she was working at DuPont. Melinda's passions include nature and photographing it (she has some amazing photos of grizzlies in Alaska), animals, and knitting. One holiday she knitted 50 pairs of mittens for children in need at TikTok Early Learning Center.

### **Barbara Gallagher**

Barb comes to AAUW after a long and successful career as a faculty member at Immaculata University where she became friends with Janet Kane. She taught Exercise Science and pre-physical therapy courses in the department of Health, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences and was department chair for many years. Throughout her career, Barb has dedicated herself to improving health, physical well-being, and positive self-esteem in her students,

especially among young women. Barb lives in West Chester with her husband John and enjoys spending time with her four grandchildren.

### **Caroline Leland**

Caroline recently moved to Exton with her husband and is retired. For most of her career she worked in an Administrative capacity for Arts and Community Service non-profit organizations both in Philadelphia and New England. Caroline self publishes a children's chapter book series and is also working on young adult mysteries for a hobby. Looking into volunteer opportunities, Caroline recently found the AAUW and is pleased to be a new member.

### **Amita Mohan**

Amita is passionate about science, research, and education. A plant biologist teaching at Temple University, she is also a research scientist at the University of Pennsylvania. She co-edited a book "Physiological, Molecular, and Genetic Perspectives of Wheat Improvement" and published over 25 research articles. Throughout her career, she has mentored undergraduate and high school students in various capacities. Amita was involved in the online GETT activity with Deb Liczwek in 2021, leading the girls in an activity to extract the octoploid DNA from strawberries and talking about the role of DNA in almost all living things. Amita and her family live in Malvern.

### **Debi Morrison**

Debi grew up in Lewiston, NY (a few minutes North of Niagara Falls) and now lives in Coatesville, PA. She is married to Mark and has two children: Sophia (17) and Eric (15). Debi is an audiologist at the Coatesville VA Medical Center (been there for 21 years).

### **Wendy Pugh (Summer)**

Wendy is a businesswoman and social entrepreneur. She founded and ran a Manhattan based marketing company for almost two decades. After the sale of that company in 2003, she created Zaanha, an unusual company with an unusual objective. She worked on the ground with master artisans in Central and Southeast Asia to create luxury fashion accessories and reinvested a portion of all sales to send struggling Afghan children to school. Wendy is

## INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS (continued)

a graduate of Skidmore College (1973). She took her junior year in Rome, Italy and speaks fluent Italian. She is passionate about exotic travel, cooking, playing bridge and photography. Wendy, her husband, and her beloved little Maltese, Giuni, live in West Chester.



-- Mary Smith

**GETT 2022 will be an in-person event!**

**Saturday, April 30, 2022**

**10:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m.**

**at the Technical College High School,  
Brandywine Campus, Downingtown.**

The crowd size may be smaller, but we are still planning a BIG experience for the girls to explore! Please contact Mary Smith at [pangea49@comcast.net](mailto:pangea49@comcast.net) if you would like to help with:

- **Expo Outreach** – Have a great idea for a company or organization to join the Expo?
- **Event Sponsor Outreach** – With fewer events happening right now, companies are looking for opportunities to show support for community events – let's bring them to GETT!
- **Event Day Volunteers** – As you know, it takes lots of volunteers on event day to make GETT the amazing experience it is – we hope everyone can be there to bring GETT back to a LIVE EVENT!

## Randi Shellenbarger

Randi and Dave moved here in 1995 from northern NJ. They have one son, Adam, who is a preacher in Joppa, MD. He is married and his wife Rachel is a nurse. Dave retired from Pfizer and Randi retired from teaching and subbing in 2020. They are members of Delaware Valley Christian Church and have been helping with Brandywine Penn State. Randi lives near Anne Anderko and Trish Alfano. Randi has been playing bunco for 26 years in the neighborhood and she and her husband both play trivia.

## Laundromat Library League

-- Arlene Rengert

We continue to marvel at the wonderful ways in which so many people care about getting books into the hands of children. This month a mom and daughter are seeking laundromats in their town in Illinois, and the daughter has the first decorated box filled with books ready to go. And we recently received a very large book donation from a regional library here, and another from a private person who held a book drive in her neighborhood. Over the past year several organizations and individuals have offered generous monetary donations that have enabled the purchase of over 2000 new books that are in Spanish and/or multicultural--at under \$1.50 a book thanks to our watchful teacher volunteers that keep track and take advantage of special offers.

Here are three specific requests:

1. If you steward one of our sites and are ceasing or postponing activity for Covid-safety reasons we certainly understand. But please let us know so we can keep our records current. We have a spreadsheet that lists each site so we can keep track.
2. We are moving toward improving [www.laundromatlibraryleague.org](http://www.laundromatlibraryleague.org) and invite you to visit the website and report changes or additions you would like to see.
3. If you use Facebook, please visit our page to see pictures of recent activity and choose one or two posts to "share," perhaps even with a comment. It would be wonderful if you could do this every month or so to enable the LLL to grow contacts and connections.

Thank you for all that you do!!!

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

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<i>Branch Website</i>	<a href="http://wccc-pa.aauw.net">wccc-pa.aauw.net</a>

### **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*

## **SETTING UP ZOOM MEETINGS: A REMINDER**

Sadly, we are still at the point in the pandemic where we continue to rely on virtual meetings to conduct various forms of business. If you need to plan a ZOOM meeting for any of our branch activities/meetings, please remember to give Sandy Alexander ample notice of your need and make sure to check her availability to moderate meetings that require her presence to manage technical issues. Sandy has done a brilliant job of keeping our branch meeting virtually but, like all of us, she has multiple demands on her time!! Thank you so much for keeping her in the loop as you plan your meetings.

### **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 FEBRUARY AAUW board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 2, 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 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

We continue to play MahJongg virtually the first and third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. If you would like to play, contact 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 *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and*

*the Future of the Human Race*, by Walter Isaacson, for our meeting on February 21, 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](mailto:pls@patriciaschultz.com), 610-436-9752

### LIT II: Evening Literature Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group

We usually meet on the third Wednesday of the month. We will meet on February 16, 2022, **on Zoom**, at 7:00 p.m. The book will be *Miss Benson's Beetle*, by Rachel Joyce. Barb Lathroum is the discussion leader. 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. The group will meet on February 1 at 1:00 PM **by Zoom** to discuss *The Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan. Barbara Lathroum will lead. 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

**We're changing the schedule to meet every Thursday** in 2022! This will give us all something to look forward to this winter. Finish something you've been wanting to work on or start a new project. Contact **Patricia Schultz** at **610-322-0514** or [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.

***February 2022 Newsletter***

*Innovative Programs in Support of Women and Families in Chester County*

*Family Service of Chester County*

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.

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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)