



AAUWsome NEWS

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

Volume 68 Number 4
December 2022



AAUW HOLIDAY PARTY for Members and Guests Sunday, December 11th, 3-6 PM Ellerslie Farmhouse**

At Crosslands, Kennett Square

Cost: \$15.00 per person

Please RSVP by Friday, December 2 to Terry Daniele

Email: terrydaniele@verizon.net or Phone/Text: (610-306-9470)

The full invitation is at the end of this newsletter.

MENU: Bring an appetizer to share for 10-12 people.

Dessers will be provided. Wine, coffee, tea and water will be available.

GIFTS: We are collecting gift cards to Target, Wawa and supermarkets to benefit Family Service of Chester County. Cash donations are also welcome.

****DIRECTIONS TO Ellerslie:** From WC take 202 South. Turn West on Rte. 926. Go approximately 6 miles. Turn left into Crosslands. Take first left. Turn into parking lot 9. Go up hill and Ellerslie is the brick farmhouse at the top of the hill.

December Event: AAUW Holiday Party for Members and Guests	1	Branch Strategic Goal	4	Membership News	5
Presidents Letter	2	Open Positions and Feedback Survey	4	Mission Statement and Officers	6
November Meeting recap	3	Family Service of Chester County	5	Newsletter, Website, Board Meetings	6
January Meeting – AI and Resume Screening – Zoom January 11 7:00 pm	3	Pecan Fund Raiser Report	5	Special Interest Groups	7--8
				Holiday Party Invitation	9

Letter from the President

Season's Greetings! Happy Hanukkah!

Colder weather, warmer clothes, twinkly lights, cookies to be made and eaten, favorite recipes dusted off, the continuous loop of holiday songs, decorations strategically placed, and the growing anticipation of spending time with family and friends to celebrate. So begins the winter season!

And as you plan your December activities, please add celebrating with AAUW on Sunday, December 11th at Crosslands, Kennett Square. As we end this tumultuous year let us come together to enjoy our AAUW friendships with laughter and good cheer. More details can be found in this newsletter.

Our November speaker, Stephen Swymer, shared his travels training educators in developing nations and war zones. His dedication, humility, caring, and joy were evident as he described his travels and experiences working with teachers while interacting with the students in war torn communities. The talk was inspiring! Please listen to the recorded presentation found on our website.

Chester County/West Chester AAUW calendar year is coming to a close, but our 2022-23 year is just getting started. A priority is having 2 members step up to help with publicity and Zoom duties. Our branch relies on members volunteering to help keep our branch operational. Training and guidance will be given. You will be helping the branch remain current not only to the outside world but internally. Please let us know if you are interested, arm twisting is not our specialty.

One of our branch strategic goals is to introduce AAUW to West Chester University women while exploring collaborative programs. This is coming to fruition as the Women in Business Club has reached out to us very much interested in the gender pay initiative. They have asked us to

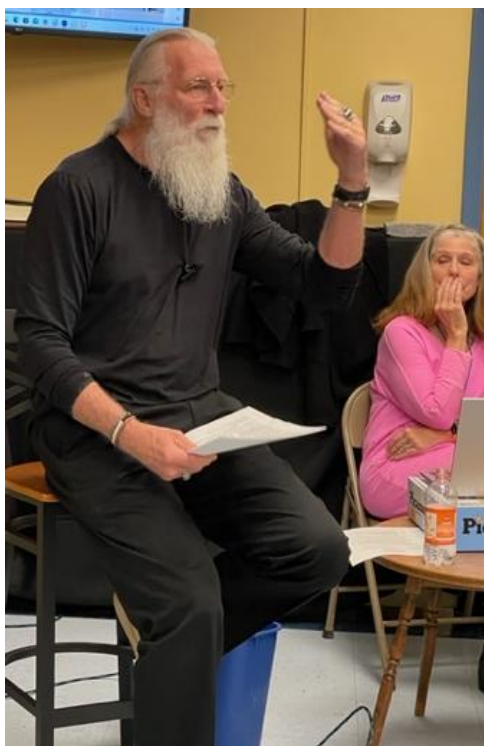
present at their February meeting on how to discuss pay inequity in the workplace. To help with the presentation we are seeking members interested in sharing their insights as well as helping with role play scenarios. The night will be planned; your role will be to help the students learn how to advocate and negotiate for higher pay/benefits, promotions and leadership opportunities. This is a wonderful opportunity for our branch to not only make a connection with young women but help them learn more about AAUW mission and values. Please reach out to either Deb or myself for more information or to volunteer. See above note about arm twisting.

One of the values defining Chester County/West Chester AAUW is generosity. So many times over the past year, our members have stepped up to provide items much needed by people in the community. For December please consider donating gift cards to our Gateway to Equity partner, Family Service of Chester County. The gift cards can be brought to the Holiday party on December 11th. Or you can drop them off at Eva Kaufmann's home.

Another value I see highlighted among our membership is respect. Though disagreements do exist, the willingness to listen to opinions and thoughts is always expressed. This allows for healthy discussion while focusing on our similar interests and common bond of empowering women and girls. Thank you for who you are and what you bring to this branch.

Wishing you and your loved ones a holiday season filled with sparkles of joy and love. Looking forward to an invigorating 2023!

Nancy Paist-Riches and Deb Liczwek
Co-Presidents



NOVEMBER PROGRAM: Training Educators in Developing Nations and War Zones



Attendees at the November meeting heard Steve Swymer, former Principal in the Great Valley School District, share reflections and stories about the training of educators in developing nations and war zones. He described and showed pictures of refugee camp and

third world orphanage schools in the many places he has visited and conducted training, including Lesbos, countries in Africa, Syria, the Middle East and elsewhere. He highlighted the significance of establishing schools in these places; the many teachers in the audience

expressed their agreement about how meaningful this effort is through their follow-up questions. He emphasized that the most important thing about these schools is their ability to provide hope to families who have lost everything. His pictures were both heart-warming, showing the people, and dismaying, showing the harsh conditions they are in.

JANUARY PROGRAM: If you think Artificial Intelligence (AI) will magically make biased hiring decisions disappear, think again.

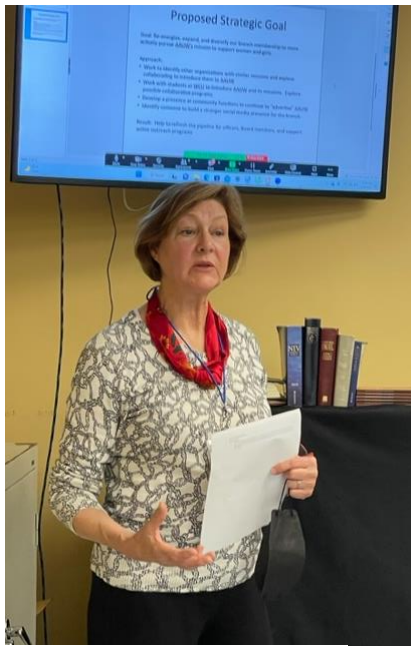
The January meeting will be held on JANUARY 11 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Lori Andrews, a University Distinguished Professor of Law at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law and Director of IIT's Institute for Science, Law and Technology, will explain how for a wide array of jobs, ranging from surgeon to investment banker to store clerk, employers use artificial intelligence and machine learning rather than humans to screen applicants.

AI-based hiring technologies including resume-scans, one-way video interviews, and video games are relied upon by at least 407 companies within the Fortune 500 to rank and reject applicants. Because the AI is trained to find applicants similar to the highest-level existing employees (who are mostly male), they almost invariably discriminate against women. A resume-scanning tool developed by Amazon rejected any applicant who had the word "women" on her resume, even in instances when it was a positive like "National Women's Chess Champion" or "Captain,

Women's Soccer Team." Employers claim that they can't be held accountable for this type of discrimination because a computer made the decision, not them.

Lori Andrews will discuss questions like the following: *Are women protected against AI-related gender discrimination by existing employment laws or are new ones needed? How do you even know if AI-based screening was used against you?*

Professor Andrews was an adviser on technologies to multiple governmental organizations, both domestic and foreign. Her path-breaking litigation about technologies caused the National Law Journal to list her as one of the "100 Most Influential Lawyers in America." Professor Andrews has won humanitarian awards for her pro bono legal work, including a successful 10-year odyssey to the Supreme Court to invalidate the patent on the breast cancer gene. She received her B.A. summa cum laude from Yale College and her J.D. from Yale Law School.



Deb Liczwek presents the Branch Strategic Goal at the November meeting.

WCCC AAUW Branch Strategic Goal

-- Deb Liczwek

Over the past few years our branch has successfully added new members and at one point we reached close to a milestone of 100. This past year we have seen that number decline. Additionally, several members have communicated their plans to retire from active roles within the branch. Viewed within the perspective of national AAUW, where membership is declining, we see that we need to work to bring in active members who will be able to step into leadership roles as needed.

Therefore our strategic goal for 2022 is to re-energize, expand, and diversify our branch membership to more actively pursue AAUW's mission to support women and girls. In order to accomplish this we will

- Work to Identify other organizations with similar missions and explore collaborating to introduce them to AAUW
- Work with students at WCU to introduce AAUW and its missions. Explore possible collaborative programs.
- Develop a presence at community functions to continue to “advertise” AAUW
- Identify someone to build a stronger social media presence for the branch

Our hope is that if we succeed, we will be able to refresh the pipeline for officers, Board members, as well as support active outreach programs.

Google Survey: BRANCH POSITION OPENINGS, FEEDBACK

Deb Liczwek sent out a Google Survey to the Branch asking for members to step forward and sign up for one of several key open positions: **Publicity, Zoom Administrator, and hybrid/Zoom support for meetings.** Training and coaching will be provided!

In addition Deb has asked for input on several other questions about your desires for involvement:

- **Would you like to participate in more in person activities to support women and girls?**
- **If yes, approximately for how many hours/month would you be willing to participate?**
- **Are you aware of other organizations in Chester County that offers similar support to women and girls that we could partner with?**
- **If yes, please list the organization(s).**
- **Select activities that you might be interested in pursuing. (select all that apply)***
- **Volunteer at a community organization supporting our mission**
 - Participate in STEM activities for girls (beyond GETT)
 - Teach girls and/or young women about financial literacy
 - Work with girls and/or young women to develop critical thinking
 - Participate in a salary negotiation discussion with WCU Women in Business students
 - None
- **Other Activity Suggestions**

Be sure to respond using the link provided in Deb’s email.

We are currently looking for members to work on publicity (Cathy Palmquist's current role). Would you be interested in working on publicity for our branch?

☐ Yes
 ☐ No

We are currently looking for members to work ZOOM administrator (Sandy Alexander's current role). Would you be interested in becoming the ZOOM Administrator?

☐ Yes
 ☐ No

We are currently looking for members to work on hybrid ZOOM support at branch meetings (Nancy Paist-Riches current support). Would you be willing to run the ZOOM hybrid portion of our branch meetings?

☐ Yes
 ☐ No



Family Service of Chester County: November Donations, December: Gift Cards

*Peggy Staarman, Eva Kaufmann, Mimi Jones -- Your
Community Outreach Committee Co-Chairs*

On November 11, the Community Outreach Committee was delighted to deliver boxes of linens donated by our generous AAUW branch to Family Service of Chester County. Amy DeFonzo and her assistants were thrilled with the sheets, towels, blankets and other much needed household linens for their clients. Everyone there especially appreciated and admired the lovely afghans Pat Schultz crocheted and donated as well as the blanket donated by Mary Smith.

Gift cards for Family Service families will be collected at the Holiday Party or can also be mailed to Eva Kaufmann, Peggy Staarman or Mimi Jones.

In January, we hope to collect kitchen supplies such as dishtowels, glassware, and pots and pans for Family Service. The branch meeting in January will be a zoom meeting, so we suggest dropping off items at Eva's or Peggy's home. Items can also be ordered through Amazon and delivered to Eva. Look for future emails regarding the January donations. Family Service is so thankful for our AAUW branch's generosity. We wish you all a wonderful holiday season!

PECAN FUNDRAISER

The pecan fundraiser is over but thanks to all of you that supported our annual fall fundraiser. We raised \$1106.00 in profit that will help pay for many of our yearly budgeted items.

Anne Anderko and Marie Knox

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

Our branch really needs your help finding new members! Sadly, we had to cancel our second PMP because we had no signups. If you know of anyone who might be interested in our organization, please reach out to them and invite them to a monthly branch program, a Special Interest Group, or a member meet up at Wegmans Cafe on December 6th at 10:30. Kim Glavin [484 354-9681](tel:4843549681) kimglavin@comcast.net
Trish Alfano [610 431-4545](tel:6104314545) BA1004@comcast.net

Member Meet Up at Wegmans Cafe, December 6th @ 10:30

Please stop by for the Member Meet Up at Wegmans Café in Downingtown - Tuesday, December 6th @ 10:30am. We had 8 members attend the Member Meet up in November. The Meet Up gives members the opportunity to meet socially without having a connection to a

specific Special Interest group. You buy your favorite beverage and we'll purchase a bakery item ☺. Please contact Kim Glavin [484 354-9681](tel:4843549681) if you have any questions.



November Meet up at Wegmans Cafe

AAUW Mission Statement:
**To advance gender equity for women and girls through research,
education, and advocacy.**

Our Chapter – 2022-2023:

<i>Toni Gorkin</i> 484-868-1872	Newsletter Editor tgorkin@gmail.com
<i>Newsletter email</i>	tgorkin@gmail.com
<i>Deb Liczwek</i> 610-368-1360	Branch Co-President liczwek@gmail.com
<i>Nancy Paist-Riches</i> 302-547-7540	Branch Co-President nancy.paist-riches@gmail.com
<i>Beryl Goldman</i> 610-742-6415	Co-Vice President for Program berdav@verizon.net
<i>Jane McDowell</i> 610-574-3463	Co-Vice President for Program jlwmcdowell@gmail.com
<i>Trish Alfano</i> 610-324-8692	Membership Co-Vice President BA1004@comcast.net
<i>Kim Glavin</i> 484-354-9681	Membership Co-Vice President kimglavin@comcast.net
<i>Jean Shervais</i> 610-431-9066	Recording Secretary jshervais@verizon.net
<i>Patricia Schultz</i> 610-436-9752	Corresponding Secretary pls@patriciaschultz.com
<i>Susan DeGeorge</i> 724-712-1650	Financial Officer suzydegeorge@yahoo.com
<i>Branch Website</i>	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.**

NOTE: due to Toni's travel plans in December and February, the January, February and March newsletter schedule may differ from the previous schedule.

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 articles and pictures for the newsletter, **make sure to copy them to Sandy Alexander at frau.salexander@gmail.com, Alice Lenthe at alicelenthe@gmail.com, AND Melinda Hardie at melindalou@comcast.net** so that your information can be used to update the Facebook page and website!

Facebook Page

Don't forget to check our Facebook Page. It's **AAUW Chester County PA**. Thank you to Alice Lenthe for running it.

Board Meeting

There will be no Board Meeting in DECEMBER. The JANUARY Board Meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY, January 4, 2023, at 7:00 pm via ZOOM. The schedule is published in the Handbook. All members are welcome to attend.

Diversity Note

December 16-24: Las Posadas, a religious festival celebrated in Mexico and other parts of Latin America that commemorates the journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem before Jesus's birth.





Special Interest Groups

Note: concerns with 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 at frau.salexander@gmail.com.

Dates include January 20, February 17, March 17, May 19, and June 17.

Couples Bridge

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

Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg play resumed in October with a hybrid schedule. In person - November 3rd at 1:00pm at Janet Kane's house. Online - November 17th at 7:00 pm. If you would like to play, contact Kim Glavin at kimglavin@comcast.net

TIG (Travel Interest Group)

We're planning to visit **Nemours** all decked out for the holidays! We'll meet at **Nemours Estate** (1600 Rockland Road Wilmington, DE 19803) at **10:00 am** on **Friday, December 9th** to buy tickets (Adults - \$20; Seniors - \$18). You can buy your ticket online in advance. We'll meet for an optional lunch afterwards at Harvest Grill. Please email Jane McDowell jlwmcowell@gmail.com by **November 30th** to let her know if you plan to attend the tour and/or lunch. More info and tickets: <https://nemoursestate.org/visit.html>. Please note that masking is required in all Estate buildings and vehicles.

FIG (Food Interest Group)

Food Interest Group (FIG) explores new foods through thematically planned potlucks or at a

local restaurant. It usually meets on a Saturday for dinner or Sunday for brunch. Partners and singles are usually welcome. For more information or to join the group, 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. The list of books is published on the Branch web page. There is no December meeting. At the meeting on January 16 the book will be *The Love Songs of W.E.B Du Bois*, by Honoree Fanonne Jeffers. Contact: Janet Kane 610-742-5961 - jfentonkane@gmail.com

LIT II: Evening Literature Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm. The full schedule is available from the Branch website. There is no December meeting. The book for the **January 18** meeting is *This is Happiness*, by Niall Williams. To join, 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 website. The group will meet on **January 3** to discuss *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson. Lit III will not meet in December. Contact: carolahaaf@verizon.net.

Stitchers Group

Stitchers will be discontinued until January. Hopefully we can increase the attendance during the winter months. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Patricia Schultz, pls@patriciaschultz.com

Walkers Group

The group meets every Tuesday at 9:00 am at the Trestle Bridge parking lot...or officially the Brandywine Meadows Trail...off Rt. 322 near Downingtown from January thru May, and from June through December they meet at the Sugarsbridge parking lot off route 322 nearer to West Chester. They leave promptly at 9 am. Walk as fast and as far as you would like. Lots of talking & laughter! No other emails will be sent out to remind anyone...just show up and be ready to shove off at 9am on Tuesdays. They don't walk in the rain or snow...drizzle
YES...snow & rain NO!
Contact: Phyllis Dunn at dunn.phyllis@gmail.com

Great Decisions

The group meets **on a date and time agreed on by a majority of our 8 members**. 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." The group is currently using the 2022 book.

AAUW HOLIDAY PARTY FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Sunday, December 11th, 3-6 PM

Ellerslie Farmhouse**
At Crosslands, Kennett Square
Cost: \$15.00 @ person

Please RSVP by Friday, December 2 to Terry Daniele Email: terrydaniele@verizon.net
or
Phone / Text: (610) 306-9470

MENU: Bring an appetizer to share for 10-12 people.
Desserts will be provided.
Wine, coffee, tea and water will be available.

GIFTS: We are collecting gift cards to Target, Wawa
and supermarkets
to benefit Family Service of Chester County.
Cash donations are also welcome.

****DIRECTIONS to Ellerslie:**

From WC take 202 South. Turn West on Rte. 926. Go approximately 6 miles. Turn left into Crosslands. Take first left. Turn into parking lot 9. Go up hill and Ellerslie is the brick farmhouse at the top of the hill.

----- Cut here -----

I, _____, plan to attend the **Holiday Party**.

Enclosed is a check for _____ tickets @ \$15.00.

Checks payable to AAUW-WCCC Branch.

Send your check and this slip to:

Terry Daniele 1704 Wisteria Ln West Chester, PA 19380



West Chester - Chester County Chapter
119 Llandoverly Drive, Exton, PA 19341.

December 2022 Newsletter

Holiday Party for Members and Guests

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