

AAUWsome NEWS

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

> Volume 68 Number 7 May 2023

AAUW May Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony A Spring Fling

Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Time: 5:30-8:30 P.M.



Place: McKenzie Brew House 240 Lancaster Avenue, Malvern, PA 19355 (On Rt. 30, approximately 2¹/₄ miles East of the intersection of Rt. 202)

Speaker: 2023-2024 Gateway to Equity Award Winner

May Annual Meeting	1	Family Service of Chester County: thanks, donations for May	4	AAUW National: Voting, Data Verification and Oral History Projects	6-7
Presidents Letter	2	Our Facebook Page Updated	4	Mission Statement and Officers	7
It's Membership Renewal Time	2	LAPP Bulletin: May 16 Primaries	5	Newsletter, Website, Board Meetings	7-8
Membership: PMP Pairs with TIG;	3	LAPP Bulletin: School Board Elections	5-6	Special Interest Groups	8-9
April Meeting: About Bayard Rustin	3	LLL Update	6	Membership Renewal Form	10-11

Letter from the Presidents

Judge each day not by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant. -- William A. Ward

May is a season of preparing, planning, and planting. And while autumn and winter are generally times to reflect, one must also consider the fruits of labor in May when planting for the upcoming season. To prepare and plant for the next AAUW season I have been reflecting upon our past "season".

Our April branch speaker shared a brief history of Bayard Rustin, the West Chester native for whom a West Chester high school was named and who effectively worked to change many approaches and processes in our country from integrating the prison in Ashland, Kentucky, where he was serving time for violating the Selective Service Act, to opposing segregation through non-violent demonstrations. His Quaker grandmother raised him, inspired him, and taught him well. I'd like to know more about her! Unfortunately, due to his homosexuality, he was sidelined by many; he is now getting the credit he is due.

We too will give credit to several members at the banquet on May 10th. (Please RSVP ASAP) But there will be those who continue to support and give who may not formally be recognized but are unsung heroes moving the work of supporting our branch and advancing women and girls. Thank you!

While we did not succeed in adding many new members to our branch, we made several important accomplishments:

- The Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund was established at Vanguard and is now self-sustaining.
- We held a workshop at West Chester University with the Women In Business students; through this connection we are meeting with 3 young women students

who have offered to help our branch extend our social media presence.

- We connected to the coordinator of WCU's Super Science Saturday and will participate this fall.
- We hosted a publicly available forum on Voting Security.
- We hosted a presentation from a renowned research attorney on AI hiring discrimination that was well-attended by many branches across the state.
- Our budget continues to be wellmanaged, the branch presentations are engaging, and support for the Gateway to Equity organization is always generous.

I hope we can continue to extend outwards to reach and support more girls and women in the coming year. To quote Dolly Parton, "We can't just hope for a brighter day, we have to work for a brighter day."

Deb Liczwek and Nancy Paist-Riches

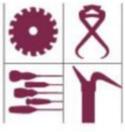
Co-Presidents

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

The membership renewal form has been sent out via email and is also included at the end of this newsletter. If you are attending the May Banquet, please bring your completed form and check or you may mail directly to Trish Alfano [1004 Pine Valley Circle, West Chester, PA 19382].

If you are unable to print from the newsletter and/or would like another copy emailed to you directly, please email Trish Alfano at <u>BA1004@comcast.net</u>

Membership: PMP Pairs with TIG to Tour Antique Ice Tool Museum





A special thanks to the Travel Interest Group for pairing up with Membership for our prospective member party. We had an enjoyable and informative tour of the Ice Tools Museum in West Chester given by the owner Peter Stack and his daughter Kim. We followed up with a delicious lunch at Four Dogs.

We had one potential member attend, and we are hoping that she decides to join our organization.

Kim Glavin 484 354-9681 kimglavin@comcast.net Trish Alfano 610 431-4545 BA1004@comcast.net









APRIL MEETING: Kenneth Winston Spoke on "Diversity and Bayard Rustin"

Kenneth Winston, Executive Director of the Charles A. Melton Arts & Education Center, explored the life and career of West Chester native Bayard Rustin at the April meeting. He noted how the Rustin worked to oppose segregation through non-violent demonstrations, based on his upbringing by his Quaker grandmother. He also noted his musical career. He noted how, despite being sidelined by many because of his homosexuality, he is now getting more recognition for his contribution to the civil rights movement.

Family Service: Thank You and May Donations – School Supplies



-- Mimi, Peggy, and Eva

Many thanks to everyone who contributed cleaning products for our April collection for Family Service. While these items may not be considered exciting, they are certainly appreciated by the families served by this wonderful organization!

Our next and final collection will be school supplies! School supplies in May? Yes! Our final collection will be at our May banquet!

If we collect supplies in May, the staff at Family Service will have a few months to sort through the items and organize the donations: a book bag filled with pencils, crayons, rulers, markers . . . everything a child will need. They will be able to distribute these things to the kids in August, so that they will be ready for school.

Many thanks to everyone for your support this year!

Left: Daniel Kitrosser, Margie Helms, and Gaby Baeza with April donations of cleaning supplies.

OUR AAUW WEST CHESTER FACEBOOK PAGE UPDATED

Alice Lenthe, Nancy Paist-Riches, and Deb Liczwek are working to upgrade our social media presence. We are doing this with the hope of attracting more members. They are working to resolve one issue, that there are two Facebook Pages with two slightly different names. Our Facebook "page" has been re-formatted as a "group" which will allow broader viewing. **Each AAUW member will receive an email from Facebook with content as shown below.** Anyone currently on Facebook will only need to click on the "join group" button. Members not on Facebook may want to join to keep up to date on our chapter activities – entirely optional.

AAUW West Chester, PA

AAUW Chester County PA invited you to join the group AAUW West Chester, PA. Groups are dedicated spaces on Facebook that make it easy to pursue your interests and to connect and get things done with other people.

AAUW Chester County PA

"Hi, I'd like to invite you to join my group. You can join using the link in this email."

LAPP Bulletin

Subject: PA Primary Election – May 16, 2023

Context: Turnout is usually very low for primary elections, particularly in an "off" year. This bulletin provides information regarding the upcoming primary for the use of AAUW members.

Summary: The races in the May 2023 primary are summarized below:

<u>PA House Special Elections</u> are critical because House membership is evenly split between Republicans and Democrats right now. District 108 – located in north central PA (roughly between Selinsgrove and Williamsport) and last represented by a Republican. Our members may know someone in this district.

District 163 – located in Delaware County and last represented by Democrat Michael Zabel. Our members may very well have friends and family in Delaware County and can encourage them to get out and vote!

<u>PA Supreme Court</u> has one open seat, last held by Democratic Justice Max Baer who passed away in September 2022. Current balance on the court is 4 Democrats, 2 Republicans, and 1 open.

Democratic candidates are <u>Deborah Kunselman</u> and <u>Daniel D. McCaffrey</u>. Republican candidates are <u>Patricia McCullough</u> and <u>Carolyn Carluccio</u>

<u>PA Intermediate Appellate Court</u> has two seats up for retention election:

Democrat Jack Panella Republican Vic Stabile

<u>PA Commonwealth Court</u> has one seat up for partisan election: Democratic candidates are <u>Bryan Neft</u> and <u>Matt Wolf</u> Republican candidates are <u>Megan Martin</u> and <u>Joshua Prince</u>

PA Superior Court has two seats up for election

Democratic candidates are Jill Beck, Patrick F. Dugan, and Timika Lane

Republican candidates are Maria Battista and Harry Smail, Jr.

<u>County and Local Offices</u> vary by municipality. For specifics, refer to the links below (with apologies for the need to scroll through all precincts in the county):

Democratic Specimen Ballots

Republican Specimen Ballots

Local Referenda - Elverson and Malvern have special election questions. Review them on the Non Partisan Specimen Ballot.

Key Dates for the November General Election:

Last Day to Register for the May Primary - May 1, 2023

Last Day to Register as needing assistance in voting due to physical disability (and have it recorded in voter registration records – can still request assistance at the polling place) – May 8, 2023 Absentee/Mail-in Ballot Request Deadline – May 9, 2023

Absentee/Mail-in Ballot Return Deadline – May 9, 2023

What You Can Do:

1. Vote! The court seats are critical for setting future policy and a number of county and local offices are also in play. **For More Information on This Issue**:

1. See links above

LAPP Bulletin on School Board Candidates

Selecting the best School Board candidates can be challenging in that they rarely garner the attention that they should, and because most if not all school board candidates cross-file. **Neither** school board directors nor education should be partiable unfortunately they often are.

Chester County Marching Forward, a non-affiliated community group, in coordination with Way Forward is hosting an information-packed meeting on May 3rd at the Exton Library that will help voters understand cross filing, how to research the candidates before they vote, and what's at stake.

Your Vote, Your Voice: What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

Date: Wednesday May 3rd
Time: 6:00 Pizza, 6:30-7:30 Program
Where: Chester County Library, Struble Community Room, 450 Exton Square Parkway, Exton
RSVP: <u>https://fb.me/e/2rdEJ0rs5</u>, or send an email to Megan G. Connolly <u>mgconn@gmail.com</u>.

A complete list of Chester County candidates for School Directors was sent to our AAUW Chapter **members** by President Deb Liczwek on April 18, 2023. Please refer to the list in that email for details.

Laundromat Library League

Our West Chester-Chester County Branch of AAUW has been supporting the Laundromat Library League (LLL) for many years through book and monetary donations. Founded by one of our branch members, Arlene Rengert, the mission of the LLL is to supply books to children who may have few or no books in the home. The LLL places book boxes in laundromats and a few other sites. A volunteer makes sure the laundromat owner's permission has been acquired and visits the site at least twice per month to maintain the book supply and the appearance of the box.

The LLL is proud to announce that we have added a new site to our nationwide locations. A new volunteer will be stewarding an LLL site in the Soldotna Wash & Dry, a laundromat in southern **Alaska**! The LLL keeps growing and serving children all over the country. The LLL thanks our branch for its enthusiasm and continuing support.



Review and comment on AAUW's bylaws and Public Policy

This spring AAUW members are being asked to vote on amendments to the national bylaws recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee. In accordance with AAUW's bylaws, every AAUW member has the right to comment on proposed changes to the bylaws before they are put to the membership for a vote. Members may also propose changes to the Public Policy Priorities. <u>Here</u> you'll find all the information you need to comment on the proposed bylaws changes and propose your own changes to the Public Policy Priorities.

Key Dates for 2023 Vote

- January 27 | Comment period ended at 5:00 pm ET
- April 5 | Voting opened (online voting is encouraged)
- May 15 | Online voting ends at 5:00 pm ET
- May 17 | Vote results announced online

We encourage your participation and look forward to hearing your thoughts.

AAUW National AAUW Data Verification Project and Oral History Project

AAUW has partnered with PCI (Publishing Concepts) to conduct a comprehensive member data verification project. **Please be aware that PCI will contact AAUW members directly through postcards and emails, addressed to you from Katrina Sun Breese (Senior Director of Institutional Advancement), to encourage participation.**

This project will allow you to make important revisions to your member record and ensure that you receive all the latest information crucial to your AAUW membership. In addition to verifying member data, PCI will also be asking AAUW members to participate in the **Oral History Project**. The project's goal is to collect stories from our members to memorialize the history of AAUW through the years. This is an opportunity for you to share your personal experiences with AAUW and how the organization helped shape your life. We want to assure you that participation in this project is purely voluntary and you are NOT obligated to purchase any products to share your story and be a part of the Oral History Project. Choosing not to participate in the program will have no impact on your AAUW membership.

Emails from PCI will come from noreply@publishingconcepts.com and the phone number you may be asked to call is 1-855-454-0718. These communications are in partnership with AAUW for the purpose of this project. **If you receive any emails or postcards from PCI, please know that they are a legitimate part of our member data verification and oral history project.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at connect@aauw.org. For FAQs surrounding this project please visit our website.

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

	Our Chapter	- 2022-2025.
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Beryl Goldman 610-742-6415	Co-Vice President for Program <u>berdav@verizon.net</u>	Newsletter The newsletter is published by the first of each
<i>Jane McDowell</i> 610-574-3463	Co-Vice President for Program jlwmcdowell@gmail.com	month. The deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month to ensure the issue can be
Trish Alfano 610-324-8692	Membership Co-Vice President BA1004@comcast.net	distributed on the first of the next month. Please send emails to <u>tgorkin@gmail.com note use</u> this email address.

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** <u>frau.salexander@gmail.com</u>, **Alice Lenthe at** <u>alicelenthe@gmail.com</u>, **AND Melinda Hardie at** <u>melindalou@comcast.net</u> 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.

NOTE: Our Facebook "page" has been reformatted as a "group" which will allow broader viewing. **Each AAUW member will receive an email from Facebook with content as shown below.** Anyone currently on Facebook will only need to click on the "join group" button to reconnect.

Board Meeting

The MAY Board Meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023, at 7:00 pm via ZOOM. The schedule is published in the Handbook. All members are welcome to attend.



Special Interest Groups

Note: while most groups are meeting in person, some meetings are still conducted by Zoom. 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 May 19 and June 17.

Couples Bridge

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

Mah Jongg

MaJongg will be held May 4th at the home of Pat Schultz. Please bring you new 2023 MahJongg Card! If you are interested in playing MahJongg, please contact Kim Glavin at kimglavin@comcast.net or call at <u>484 354-</u> 9681

TIG (Travel Interest Group)

Contact Jane McDowell <u>jlwmcdowell@gmail.com</u> if interested.

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.

Our **May 15** meeting will be held at Carla Grot's house and Beryl Goldman will lead discussion on the *Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich.

On **June 19** we will meet at Janet Kane's house to select next year's books. Contact: Janet Kane 610-742-5961 -<u>jfentonkane@gmail.com</u>

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. The group will meet Wednesday, **May 17**, to discuss *Winter's Bone*, by Daniel Woodrell. Jean Spicer is our leader, Carol will host. To join, contact: Carol Zabriskie, <u>nowaycjz@gmail.com</u>.

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. On **May 2** we will be meeting in person at Robin Paragone's home to discuss *This Tender Land*, by William Kent Krueger. Jean Shervais will lead that discussion. Contact: Carol Haaf at <u>carolahaaf@verizon.net.</u>

Stitchers Group

Stitchers has been discontinued until interest grows. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Patricia Schultz, <u>pls@patriciaschultz.com</u>

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 <u>dunn.phyllis@gmail.com</u>

Great Decisions

The group meets on the 4th Monday 1 - 3 pm of each month. The May meeting is on the 22nd (4th Monday). Default location is West Chester Diner unless a member offers their patio. The May topic will be #3 on the 2023 Great Decisions Briefing Book (sold annually by the Foreign Policy Association at <u>fpa.org</u>). We are 2 months behind so for March we did #1, for April #2 & May #3.

If we don't get at least 3 of our 9 members attending, we cancel.

Weather permitting, our summer meeting place may be at an outdoors location such as Longwood Gardens or a member's patio.

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 2023 book. Topics include:

- **1. Energy Geopolitics**
- 2. War Crimes
- 3. China and the U.S.
- 4. Economic Warfare
- 5. Politics in Latin America
- 6. Global Famine
- 7. Iran at a Crossroads
- 8. Climate Migration



2023-2024 Membership Form – Renewal West Chester-Chester County Branch

Please complete a If there is anything that you wish to be ke		is form with your dues. al, please add a comme		ng tha	t item.
Name		D	ate		
[] There are no changes since last year		[] See changes i	ndicated	belo	w:
Preferred first name for handbook (if different from above) Name of Spouse/Partner (if you choose to includ	e him/her in h	andbook)			
Address					
CityState	Zip	Voting Tov	wnship		
Telephone (please star if you have preferred number) [hom	e]	[cel]		
e-Mail		Birthday	I	[AR OPTIONAL
Occupation/Title/Company			Active	?[]	Retired? [
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Regular Membership (National \$72, State \$10)**, Branch S	516)	\$98.00	[]	
** if renewal is processed after 6/30/23 State National Paid Life Membership (National \$0			\$26.00	r 1	
** if renewal is processed after 6/30/23 State			φ20.00	[]	
Honorary Life (50 Years) Membership (Nat			\$ 0	[]	
Please make check payable to: AAUW – V	Vest Ches	ter-Chester County	/		
Return Form and check to:		Inquiries to:			
Frish Alfano Co-VP Membership	Kim Gla Co-VP N	vin Iembership			
1004 Pine Valley Circle, West Chester, PA 19382		306 Spindle Lane, West	Chester, P	A 1938	30
510-431-4545 BA1004@comcast.net	484-354- kimglavi	9681 n@comcast.net			
****PLEASE ALSO COMPLETE AND RETURN PA	GE 2: ACT	VITIES, INTEREST GF	ROUPS & I	PROJE	ECTS FORM*
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ame						
/olunteer Experience/Community Activities?						
lobbies?						
o you have computer experience? Websit Word/Excel [] Other	te design [] Dat					
REQUEST MORE INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES, INTEREST GROUPS AND PROJECTS						
Groups:	Please Check	Comments				
Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund						
Annual Handbook						
Book Club 1 – 3rd Monday, 1PM						
Book Club 2 – 3 rd Wednesday, 7:00PM						
Book Club 3 – 1 st Tuesday, 1PM						
Branch Facebook Page						
Branch News & Publicity						
Branch Website						
Bridge – 3 rd Friday, 10AM						
Community Outreach Programs						
Food Interest Group (FIG)						
Fundraising						
GETT (Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology)						
Great Decisions (discussion group)						
Historian						
Hospitality						
Laundromat Library League (LLL)						
Legislation & Public Policy (LAPP)						
Mah Jongg – 1 st Thurs 7PM & online 3 rd Thurs 7PM						
Membership						
Newsletter Publication						
Nominating Committee						
Travel Interest Group (TIG						
Walkers – Weekly Tuesday 9AM						
West Chester Food Cupboard – Last Monday 7PM						
OTHER INTEREST IDEAS THAT YOU MIGHT SUGGEST						



West Chester - Chester County Chapter 119 Llandovery Drive, Exton, PA 19341. *May 2023 Newsletter Awards Banquet* 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