



empowering women since 1881
American Association of University Women

AAUWsome NEWS

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

Volume 70 Number 1
 September 2024



September Meeting:
Wednesday, September 10th, 2024 6:30
pm

**"Food Insecurity in Chester County
 And the Role of the Food Cupboard in
 Dealing With It"**

Speaker: Donna Eaves

**Board Member of West Chester Food Cupboard
 and AAUW member**

Meet at Grove United Methodist Church

Refreshments & Setup/Cleanup: Provided by Affiliate Members

Also in September:

**September 23rd 7:00 PM Get Out the Vote Zoom call
 with AAUW PA Public Policy Chair Sandra Miller (see article below)**

BINGO Night Friday September 27th at 7:00pm at Grove United Methodist Church

Directions to Grove United Methodist Church, 490 West Boot Road, West Chester, PA 19380: From West Chester, take Route 100 North to Boot Road, turn left, and go toward the intersection of Boot Road and Whitford Road. The church is on the left before you reach the intersection. Find additional direction information at www.grovechurch.org or 610-696-2663.

<i>September Meeting: Food Insecurity and Food Cupboard</i>	1	<i>Fund Raising: Pecans, Bingo, 50-50, Boscovs Friends Helping Friends</i>	4	<i>AAUW PA and National – Public Policy and Get Out the Vote</i>	7
<i>Presidents' Letter</i>	2	<i>Gateway to Equity: Maternal & Child Health Consortium</i>	4-5	<i>Mission Statement and Officers, Board Meeting</i>	7
<i>Get Out the Vote and ERA Update Zoom</i>	3	<i>Laundromat Library League Update</i>	5	<i>New Communications Position; Newsletter</i>	8
<i>Membership News</i>	3	<i>Community Warehouse Update</i>	6	<i>Special Interest Groups</i>	8-10
<i>Get Your New Handbook</i>	3	<i>Members Around and About</i>	6	<i>Pecans Order Form</i>	10-11

Letter from the Presidents

There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”
– Margaret J. Wheatley

Welcome to 2024-25 AAUW year! Though the year officially begins in September, I know members have been having fellowship with each other throughout the summer months. Our community grows stronger through our connection outside as we meet socially or are involved in a community activity. This connection is also strengthened at our meetings as we hear from members in the community and from our branch members.

Our monthly meetings will again have social connection at 6:30 PM with the meeting starting at 7:00 PM. Please put the monthly meeting dates, the 2nd Wednesday of the month, on your calendar to join us as we hear from our featured speakers as well as information from our various committees.

Please make sure you review your handbook for the upcoming monthly programs. But most importantly, attend the meetings. This is a great time to see old friends, make new ones, and appreciate what American Association for Women represents. AAUW stands for economic security; working to narrow the gender pay gap, championing equal opportunities in education, and advocacy; working on national, state and local levels to support laws that enable women's success. With your membership, you are contributing to the work of supporting women and girls.

We have 2 activities this month that I hope you, and possibly your guests, will support. The first on **September 23rd is a Zoom call with our PA Public Policy Chair Sandra Miller.** The state public policy committee does phenomenal work by representing AAUW PA in coalitions, managing state-wide public policy initiatives such as Title IX, paid leave, education, and minimum wage and reproductive rights. As a side note, please remember, AAUW is non-partisan and should take non-partisan stand on

issues when you represent yourself as an AAUW member. If there is something political you wish to share with members, please do not use our AAUW list serve to do so.

The second is our **BINGO night on Friday September 27th.** This will be our third BINGO event. If you haven't been before, please mark your calendars and bring friends, neighbors and family, we especially welcome grandchildren!

Our social media is ramping up. We have a new webmaster, Rhoda McNitt, who has updated our website to attract and inform new and current members. If you are on a committee or with one of our social groups and want to send her information, you can use this email address, AAUWchestercounty@gmail.com. Sandy Alexander has taken over Facebook and is seeking content to put on the page. Please see her article in the newsletter and follow WCCC-AAUW on Facebook.

We begin this year supporting Maternal Child Health Consortium as our Gateway to Equity winner. Please follow the list of suggested items each month to donate. We have a special event planned in April bringing us together in our support.

Thank you to the members who have willingly stepped up to fill in the various roles needed to keep our community active and engaged in our purpose. Thank you to all who will support each other and our causes throughout the year. Beryl and I look forward to sharing this year with you as we continue our work on supporting women and girls

Nancy Paist-Riches and Beryl Goldman
Co-Presidents

Please Join West Chester-Chester County AAUW for:

Get Out the Vote and ERA Update

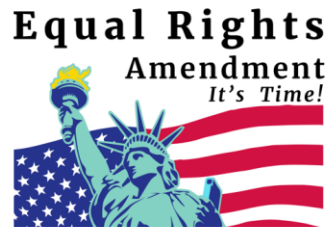
**Presented by Sandra Miller,
AAUW PA Public Policy Chair**

September 23 at 7:00 PM

Please note this is a Zoom only event

RSVP to aauw2052@gmail.com
to receive the event link

**GET OUT THE
VOTE!**



Membership News

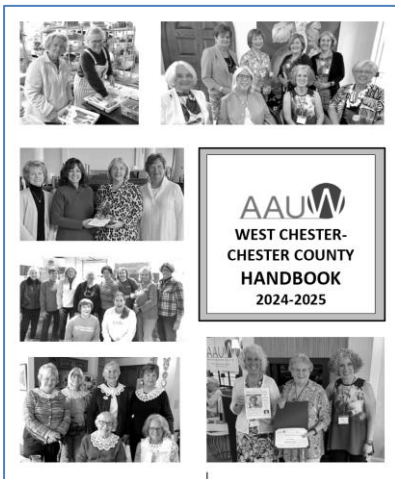
Susan Woron, Anne Anderko, Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Membership has been busy over the summer months planning new PMP's (Perspective Members Parties), updating our marketing materials, and renewing all our current members. Please welcome your new Co Vice- President of Membership, Susan Woron, who is busy learning the ropes from her predecessor, Trish Alfano. We currently have seventy-four members returning and due to our successful recruitment last year, National has given us three free one-year memberships so our final tally by the end of September will be seventy-seven. With that said, we are again asking all our members to encourage family, friends and acquaintances to join us at one of our monthly meetings to see our branch in action. Personal endorsements from our members helps us to build our membership, since you know the specific interests and programs that your friends and family would be interested in. In addition, you are helping AAUW to get more exposure in the community and that helps our efforts to sign up new members. Please consider bringing a friend or neighbor to one of our programs. We will be happy to send you any information that you may need and answer any questions to help in the recruitment process.

Get Your New Handbooks

Trish Alfano (Chair), Anne Anderko

At our first meeting on September 11th at Grove United Methodist Church, you will receive your 2024-2025 handbook. This handbook will have all the information you will need for the upcoming fiscal year concerning new board and committee members, monthly speakers, special projects, interest groups, awards, and of course a directory of all current members. **If you cannot make the meeting, please ask another member to pick up your handbook.** Due to ever increasing mailing costs, now \$2.12 to send, we urge you to make other arrangements if you cannot attend the first meeting. Thanks so much.



Fund Raising

Kim Glavin



Pecan & Cashew Sale (Order form at end of newsletter)

Back by popular demand we are offering our “New Crop” pecans from Georgia. These are so fresh that they are hanging on the trees and will be harvested in late September and October.

Please share your order forms with friends and neighbors. These are the freshest nuts you’ll ever purchase. All proceeds benefit our affiliates operational expenses. Orders will be available for pickup at our meeting on November 13th in time for your holiday baking and holiday hostess gifts.

BINGO

Save the date, Friday, September 27th at 7:00pm at Grove United Methodist Church.

Join us for a fun filled night of BINGO with Alice Lenthe as our BINGO caller. Make it a date night, invite your friends, neighbors, grandkids, or come alone. \$10 entrance fee includes Bingo cards and a bag of popcorn. Drinks and desserts available for purchase.

50/50

Bring your dollar bills for a 50/50 at every meeting. The beneficiary will be selected by the board.

Boscovs Friends Helping Friends - October 22nd

This year we will be participating in the Boscovs Friends Helping Friends program. Invite your friends and family to purchase a 25% off shopping pass for \$5 which can be used in-store only on Wednesday, October 22nd from 8am - 11pm. We are looking for volunteers to sell passes the day of the event at the Exton Boscov’s store. Contact Kim Glavin at kimglavin@comcast.net.



Gateway to Equity winner: Maternal and Child Health Consortium (MCHC)

-- Suzy DeGeorge

AAUW-WC-CC will be able to support MCHC through collections of necessary items to help families be more successful, as well as volunteering on site. If a member would like to volunteer on site, clearances are needed. Please see the note at the end of this article. On MCHC’s website, directions are available to get started. Volunteer opportunities include helping in the office, sorting supplies for the families, and assembling baby bundles. Hopefully, some members will want to be actively involved with this agency.

This year we are supporting MCHC in the following ways:

- October - Coat Drive-More specifics to follow/**Volunteer Opportunity at fundraiser**
- November - Toy drive-More specifics to follow
- December - Collect grocery store gift cards \$25, **volunteer opportunity for a party** to distribute holiday gifts/make cookies during the 2nd week of December (subject to volunteer clearance requirements below to attend the party).

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Maternal and Child Health Consortium (continued)

- February - children's books (especially a need for bi-lingual books in Spanish)
- March-Collect Maternity Care Items: manual breast pumps, breastmilk storage bags, breastfeeding pillows, nipple cream.
- April – **Assembly Party of Maternity Care Items into baskets at Grove Church. April 23 at 7 PM**
- May - collect baby care items: diapers / wipes / formula

In addition to the monthly activities listed above, MCHC has additional **Volunteering Opportunities throughout the year:**

- **Parent/family events:** Lead fun games and crafts for children while their parents attend evening educational events at one of our locations throughout the year.
- **Fundraisers:** Help with set up, registration, and selling raffle tickets at our annual event in October. **We do not ask for clearances for this.**
- **Go behind the scenes:** stuff envelopes for mailings throughout the year or fold brochures to directly contribute to our outreach.
- **Join a committee:** Anyone with experience in marketing, fundraising, or finance are welcome to join one of our committees to lend their expertise and add fresh perspectives among members of the board and staff leadership. Committee meetings are virtual, every other month for an hour. **We do not ask for clearances for this**

Because MCHC works with children, any on-site volunteers need the following (from the MCHC Web Site): *“Care and giving take many forms, whether it’s assembling care packages, reading to kids, or organizing files. Volunteers are instrumental to our success and welcome all throughout the year. Volunteers must provide their PA Child Abuse History Clearance (free for volunteers), FBI Criminal History Background Check, and FBI Fingerprint Clearance (\$23; volunteer code 1KG6ZJ) prior to volunteering with us. Clearances are valid for five years. Clearances may take a couple of weeks to process.”* Links to instructions for obtaining these clearances are provided on the MCHC website at <https://ccmchc.org/volunteer/>

Please contact Suzy DeGeorge(suzydegeorge@yahoo.com) or Arlene Cohen (arlene.cohen@verizon.net) for more information. We look forward to AAUW support of MCHC throughout the coming year!

Laundromat Library League Update

-- Peggy Staarman

The Laundromat Library League (LLL) has been adding new laundromats. Presently, there are over 265 laundromat libraries in 35 states. We even added a laundromat located in Guam! Please visit our Facebook page where we post photos of LLL sites, donors, and volunteers. We would like to reach our goal of adding 100 sites during this tenth anniversary year. Please contact me if you have any suggestions for an additional laundromat site. Also, we have a very small inventory of books in Spanish and they are in great demand. If you have any books in Spanish that you can donate, please contact me. (peggstaar@verizon.net) Thank you!

Community Warehouse Project Update

-- Anne Anderko, Chair

For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, we will continue to support our last year's Gateway to Equity recipient with monthly volunteer opportunities as part of our community outreach programs. Two volunteers will meet the third Thursday of each month from 10:00 AM to noon to help unpack and sort donated goods. Please e-mail Anne Anderko to get your name on the list and your availability at ananderko@msn.com. Along with volunteering, please continue to donate any used household items that can help families and veterans in need. We accept gently used linens, no king size, towels, curtains, shower curtains, glassware, bakeware, pots and pans, dishes, cutlery, utensils, small appliances, lamps, vacuum cleaners, TV's, and of course furniture. You can bring items to monthly meetings or drop them off at my house. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, ananderko@msn.com or communitywarehouseproject.com.

Members About and Around

(EDITOR'S NOTE: I used to have this column in each month's newsletter; I'm reviving it to bring more info to newer members and keep us connected. Submit your news items to keep it going! – Toni Gorkin, Editor)

So What Did You Do Last Summer?

Volunteering at Longwood Gardens



Suzy DeGeorge and Alice Hoffman are docents at the Meadow Garden, greeting visitors and providing education about the natural features there. Toni Gorkin volunteers on the Meadow Garden Team at Longwood removing invasive plants.

*Heart of Uwchlan Nature Learning Trail
Toni Gorkin and her Heart of Uwchlan Project Team worked with the Township's Historic Commission to host 150 visitors in July to the Chester County Village Walks and Tour of Baird Park, the historic site of the Uwchlan Township offices and the Heart of Uwchlan Project pollinator gardens. Toni's team completed a new Nature Learning Trail in the park with markers with QR codes linking to information about nature found in the park. A good place to bring your grandkids! Baird Park is at 715 North Ship Road in Exton.*

NOTE: the Heart of Uwchlan Project gardens were supported in part by a Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund grant.

Carolyn Comitta Supported MCHC

A member of our WC-CC AAUW chapter, Carolyn Comitta spoke in her recent newsletter about her support for MCHC, our Gateway to Equity Awardee. "Most recently, I worked to secure \$50,000 in state grant funding for the Maternal and Child Health Consortium of Chester County (MCHC) to offer doula services. . . supporting a community-based Birth Doula Initiative to offer ongoing, personalized support from early pregnancy through the postpartum period."

**GET OUT THE
VOTE!**



AAUW Pennsylvania and National: Public Policy News

NOTE FROM NATIONAL: Please be mindful of AAUW's non-partisan stance as we pursue election advocacy. It is essential that we keep the party out of our work and focus on the issues and priorities of AAUW. Thank you!



National AAUW resources: National has several resources and a partnership with **When We All Vote**. See links below:

[Election Resources – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

Latest webinar with When We All Vote:

[7/24 Voter Registration Webinar Recording \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Its-My-Vote-2024-Voter-Issue-Guide-English.pdf \(aauw.org\)](#)

AAUW’s voter engagement campaign, It’s My Vote!, exists to empower you to lead voter education and registration efforts on the ground, in your community. Explore our [Voter Issue Guide](#), tune into AAUW’s social media channels for election-related content every Tuesday and share with your networks or plan a watch party for the [YWomen Vote Gen Z Townhall](#) (September 7) and the presidential debate (September 10). Your engagement this election season is vital in shaping a future of equality.

Ballotready: [BallotReady: Where you go before you vote](#) (information regarding polling places, what’s on the ballot, etc.)

When We All Vote: [Home - When We All Vote](#) (supports voter registration/turnout)

AAUW Mission Statement:

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Our Chapter – 2024-2025:

<i>Toni Gorkin</i> 484-868-1872 Newsletter email	Newsletter Editor tgorkin@gmail.com tgorkin@gmail.com
<i>Nancy Paiste-Riches</i> 302-547-7540	Branch Co-President nancy.paist-riches@gmail.com
<i>Beryl Goldman*</i> 610-742-6415	Branch Co-President berdav@verizon.net
<i>Jane McDowell</i> 610-574-3463	Co-Vice President for Program jlwmcowell@gmail.com
<i>Jean Shervais*</i> 610-431-9066	Co-Vice President for Program jshervais@verizon.net

<i>Susan Woron*</i> 484-467-6705	Membership Co-Vice President sworon54@gmail.com
<i>Anne Anderko</i> 484-885-4943	Membership Co-Vice President ananderko@msn.com
<i>Chris Smith*</i> 856-217-7171	Recording Secretary CmcSmith1972@gmail.com
<i>Robin Paragone</i> 484-844-2161	Corresponding Secretary rparagone905@gmail.com
<i>Jane Schultz</i> 484-467-6835	Financial Officer mjschultz46@gmail.com
<i>Branch Website</i>	wccc-pa.aauw.net
	*newly elected

New Communications Position – Social Media

-- Sandy Alexander

Let me introduce our branch's new Facebook Page: West Chester-Chester County AAUW! I will be creating events for our speakers as well as any event open to guests. I'd also like to post pictures showing people having fun at social activities, so Special Interest Chairpersons, please take pictures and send them my way (fb4aauw@gmail.com)! I will be expanding our digital presence by posting on Nextdoor and West Chester Patch as well.

How can you help our Branch get noticed?

1. If you are on Facebook, go to <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563134861603> and Follow and/or Like the page. Look for the "Events" and mark yourself as "Going" or "Interested" – that will make our event pop up in feeds of your FB friends.

2. Send links and/or information for events or articles of other organizations that would be of interest to our members. The more active our page is, the more likely it is to get noticed.

Thanks in advance for your help to put our branch on the digital map!

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.

Board Meeting

Board Meetings are 7 – 9 PM, first THURSDAY of the Month [unless otherwise noted]
The Board Meetings will be via ZOOM [unless otherwise noted]. The September Board Meeting is on September 5.

Special Interest Groups



Women's Social Bridge

A coordinator is needed.

Couples Bridge

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

Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg will meet on Thursday, September 5th, at 1:00pm at **Kim Glavin's** home and on Thursday, September 19th at 1:00pm at Pat Schultz's home. If you are interested in playing MahJongg, please contact Kim Glavin at kimglavin@comcast.net or call at 484 354-9681.

TIG (Travel Interest Group)

Contact Mary Marco at mary.m.marco@gmail.com or Jane McDowell at Jlwmcdowell@gmail.com.

FIG (Food Interest Group)

Food Interest Group (FIG) explores new foods through thematically planned potlucks at member's homes or at local restaurants. The group meets on weekends for either brunch or dinner. Partners and singles are usually welcome. Upcoming events:

- **Saturday, September 21-a Greek themed dinner** at the home of Mary and Bob Marco
- **Save the Date - Sunday, October 27** at 3:00pm at **Liberty Union Bar & Grill** hosted by Mary Smith.

Invitations will be sent to FIG members, but attendance is open to all affiliate members. Contact Donna Eaves, deaves@live.com, to be added to the mailing list.

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 two book discussion groups, one 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 will meet at 1:00 pm on the third Monday of the month. The group will meet September 16 at 1:00 at the home of Sandy Alexander to discuss *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters. Sandra Harrelson will lead the discussion. Contact: Janet Kane 610-742-5961 - jfentonkane@gmail.com

LIT II: Evening Literature Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group

The evening Book Group (Lit II) will meet on Wednesday, September 18 at 7:00 at the home of Carol Zabriskie. Donna Eaves will lead the discussion about *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich. We welcome new members! Please contact Carol (no-way@verizon.net) and Peggy Staarman (peggstaar@verizon.net) if you plan to attend.

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

Stitchers Group

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

Great Decisions Group

Global Issues affect all of our lives. The Foreign Policy Associations Great Decisions Briefing Book offers a structure for foreign policy discussions on urgent and contemporary topics.



In the past we have met from 1:00-3:00 pm on the 4th Monday of the month – but are open to adjusting the day and time to meet the schedules of new and continuing members.

Topics in the Foreign Policy Association Great Decisions 2024 Briefing Book are: Mideast Realignment

1. Climate technology and competition
2. Science across borders
3. U.S.-China trade rivalry
4. NATO's future
5. Understanding Indonesia
6. High Seas Treaty
7. Pandemic preparedness

To learn more about the Foreign Policy Association, or to read a brief summary of the topics above, visit:

https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/index?act=show_material&product_id=16886

Interested: Email Robbe Healey @ Robbe.Healey@gmail.com

PECAN FUNDRAISER

orders due october 9 2024

MAMMOTH PECAN HALVES

\$16.00 Per 16 oz Bag



JUMBO CASHEWS

\$12.50 Per 12 oz Bag



CHOCOLATE COVERED PECANS

\$12.00 Per 12 oz Bag



GLAZED PECANS

\$10.50 Per 8 oz Bag



PECAN CARAMEL CLUSTERS

\$10.50 Per 8 oz Bag



7-WAY TIN

\$34.00 Per 1 lb 8 oz Tin



PECAN FUNDRAISER

orders due october 9 2024

Due to limited quantities of certain items, orders will be filled in the order received.

Name	
Email	
Phone	

Item	Cost (per item)	Quantity	Total Cost
Mammoth Pecan Halves 16 oz	\$16.00		
Jumbo Cashews 12 oz (gift bagged)	\$12.50		
Chocolate Covered Pecans 12 oz (gift bagged)	\$12.00		
Pecan Carmel Clusters 8 oz (gift bagged)	\$10.50		
Glazed Pecans 8 oz (gift bagged)	\$10.50		
7-Way Tin 1lb 8oz	\$34.00		
TOTAL			

Please make your check payable to: AAUW West Chester-Chester County and mail to: Kim Glavin, 306 Spindle Lane, West Chester, PA 19380

There is no tax.

If you have any questions, please e-mail Kim Glavin, kimglavin@comcast.net.

Orders will be ready for pick up at the November 13th meeting at The Grove Methodist Church. If you cannot pick up at that time, other arrangements will be made.



West Chester - Chester County Chapter
119 Llandoverly Drive, Exton, PA 19341.
September 2024 Newsletter
Food Insecurity in CC; Food Cupboard
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