



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

Volume 70 Number 3
 November 2024

November Meeting:
Wednesday, November 13th, 2024
6:30 pm

**“From Trauma and Human Trafficking to Transformation
 at Thistle Hills: A Mile in Her Shoes”**
Speaker: Carol Hart Metzker

Learn what’s behind vulnerability, a few facts (versus myths) and a path to transformation, tracing the story of a survivor of trauma. Find out ways Thistle Hills – Chester County’s only residential program specifically designed for women survivors of human trafficking – supports survivors as they reclaim their lives for self-sufficiency, health and happiness. Learn how you can help.

Meet at Grove United Methodist Church
Refreshments & Setup/Cleanup: Provided by Lit II

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.

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Letter from the Presidents

“With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts.” – Eleanor Roosevelt

Welcome, AAUW members, to November!

This month has several days in it worth noting:
November 3rd - Daylight Savings Time ends at 2am,
November 11th - Veterans Day,
November 13th - World Kindness Day,
November 28th - Thanksgiving Day,

However, the day I want to highlight is **November 5th - Election Day**. As AAUW members we are non-partisan focusing on issues that highlight women and girls at local, state and national level. Please keep this in mind as you research and select candidates for all levels of government. Noteworthy: voters in **11 states** will have the power to protect or restrict access to abortion care through ballot measures. Whatever the outcome of the general election might be, AAUW will still be focused on pay inequity, workplace harassment policies, attacks on Title IX and the weakening of reproductive healthcare.

If you are interested in helping promote the AAUW mission on a broader scale, serving on the PA AAUW state board might be where your talents and passion lies. Several weeks ago, I sent out an email with a PowerPoint highlighting the PA board and the positions available. You can also look at the PA AAUW website for details. Or you can contact Eva Kaufmann for information.

The branch is in need of members for the LAPP Committee or officially the Legislative and Public Policy Committee. The committee helps our branch become aware of and stay focused on legislative action at the local, state and federal levels. The committee also selects initiatives for our attention and provides information and recommendations for actions. If you want to learn more or are interested in the committee, please reach out to Marie Knox.

A big thank you to members who contributed coats during the October winter coat collection for Maternal and Child Health Consortium. Please consider donating to the November toy drive. See related article for further details.

It was heartening to see so many members at the October meeting. If you were missing, please plan to attend the November 13th meeting. The next in person branch meeting won't be until February, and you don't want to wait until then to be seen . . . unless you plan to attend the December 8th Holiday party. Information regarding this annual event can be found in the newsletter.

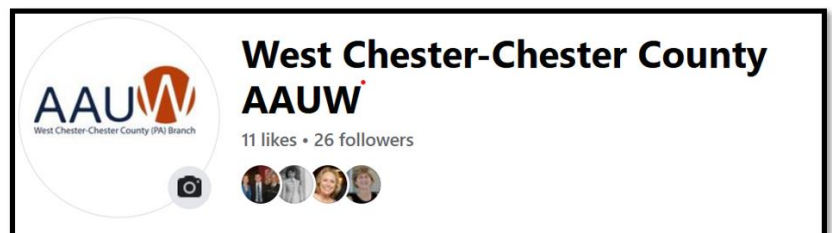
Enjoy the leaves changing colors, the warmer days for now, and keep sending those pictures of our club in action to Sandy for Facebook and Rhoda for the website.

Warmly,
Nancy Paist-Riches and Beryl Goldman
Co-Presidents WCCC AAUW

Communication Note

-- Sandy Alexander

Interested in the Maternal and Child Health Consortium? The Community Warehouse Project? The West Chester Food Cupboard? The Laundromat Library League? Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology? The PA League of Women Voters? The Chester County Fund for Women and Girls? Free webinars of interest to AAUW members? **Find it on our affiliate Facebook page. Check it out!** <https://tinyurl.com/WCCCFB> .





**HOLIDAY PARTY
FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS**



**Sunday, December 8th, 3-5:30 PM
Ellerslie Farmhouse**
At Crosslands, Kennett Square
Cost: \$10.00 per person**

**Please RSVP by December 1st to Terry Daniele Email: terrydaniele@verizon.net
Or Phone / Text: (610) 306-9470**

The complete RSVP FORM is included at the end of this newsletter.

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

Desserts will be provided by the Board.

***Out of consideration for those with allergies/dietary restrictions,
please label all food with list of main ingredients & your name in case of questions.***

Wine, coffee, tea and water will be available.

GIFTS: We are collecting grocery gift cards
to benefit the Maternal & Child Health Consortium.

Cash donations are also welcome

****DIRECTIONS to Ellerslie: [Crosslands 1660 East Street Rd Kennett Square, PA 19348]**

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.

Membership News

Susan Woron, Anne Anderko, Membership Co-Vice Presidents

**AAUW Prospective Members Party
October 24**

Membership held its first Prospective Members Party (PMP) on October 24, 2024, at Sullivan House in the Hershey’s Mill community. It was a resounding success! An amazing number of twenty-five people in the community responded to our invitation! While that initially seemed too good to be true, an actual fifteen enthusiastic prospects from the community actually attended, along with four AAUW members. There were

so many responses to our invitation that we were considering getting a larger room. However, we decided to just pack them in!

Although an additional eleven residents did not attend, they all said they were interested and requested information about our affiliate! We will be terribly busy following up with these prospects in the next several months.

(CONTINUED on next page)

PMP Party (Continued)



Guests gave their full attention to our new Orientation presentation, which we worked on for the past couple of months. After the program, we answered many questions with the help of four AAUW members who also attended. When we

finished the program, attendees did not seem to want to leave. Many stayed and chatted with us and took applications stating that they would follow up with a check.



Hopefully, this positive response will be followed up with a lot of fresh faces in the future. We will be working hard to encourage all of these potential members to join the ten AAUW members who currently reside in Hershey's Mill. We want to thank Brenda Hunsberger for baking cookies and setting up treat bags and Janet Kane who managed all the many chairs we needed for this event along with members Marie Knox and Sandra Harrelson.

This was a positive, happy event for this community on a beautiful day. We will keep you updated as to our success recruiting in Hershey's Mill!

Fund Raising

-- Kim Glavin

Pecan & Cashew Sale

Hello Ladies,

I want to thank you and the entire AAUW community for your tremendous participation in our recent pecan fundraiser. Your enthusiasm and support have made this event a great success! In fact, due to the increased demand, we had to purchase additional cases, and we now have a limited number of products still available for sale. If you or any of your friends would like to purchase more delicious pecans and cashews, we would love to offer them to you while supplies last.



We currently have the following available:

- 8 Monmouth Pecan Halves
- 9 jumbo Cashews
- 4 Pecan Caramel Clusters
- 2 Glazed Pecans

Feel free to text me, Kim Glavin, at 484 354-9681 or email me at kimglavin@comcast.net with your orders. Any remaining items will be for sale at the November meeting.

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Event Raises \$230 for the Harriet Jarosh Fund



A special thank you to Marie Knox, Anne Anderko, Susan Woron, Karen Marshall and Steph Mitman for volunteering at the Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Event. Our members purchased 25 passes and we sold 21 savings passes at the event. Although we didn't raise as much as last year, we all had fun and got more recognition for our group.

Maternal and Child Health Consortium (MCHC)

-- Suzy DeGeorge and Arlene Cohen



**Maternal and
Child Health
Consortium**

Congratulations Members! We were able to donate approximately 75 coats to MCHC in the month of October. The coats were deeply appreciated and so needed by the clients that our Gateway to Equity winner serves.

Toys for November

Looking forward to November is the **Toy Drive**. In keeping with fulfilling MCHC needs during the upcoming holiday season, we are collecting new toys that MCHC can distribute during their December holiday party. MCHC is requesting new unwrapped toys appropriate for children 0-12 years of age. That would include board and card games, books (especially in Spanish), dolls, trucks etc. The only toys **not** accepted are any type of weapon. This would include Nerf guns. We hope you will enjoy doing some early Christmas shopping for MCHC!



Once purchased, you can get the toys to us in several ways:

1. Bring the toy to our monthly meeting on November 13.
2. If you buy a toy on-line, you can have it shipped directly to:
Suzy DeGeorge
922 Sage Road
West Chester, PA 19382
3. Drop off the toy to Suzy at the address above.

We would like to have all toys collected by November 22. Let Arlene know if you have any questions, and thanks again for your support of MCHC, this year's Gateway to Equity partner!

arlene.cohen@verizon.net, 610.547.8380

Warehouse Project Monthly Volunteer Program

-- Anne Anderko-Chair

On a chilly October morning, Suzanne Bragg and Jane McDowell met at the warehouse to help organize donated items. We tackled repackaging glasses, silverware and knives for upcoming families and veterans. As always, think of the warehouse for those gently used items that you no longer need but can make all the difference to needy families. I can collect these items at the November meeting. Thanks for your continued support of The Warehouse Project.



Sustainability in Chester County: October Meeting

Rachael Griffith, Chester County's Sustainability Director, spoke to a very interested audience at the October meeting. She outlined the County's Sustainability staff and resources under the Chester County Planning Commission, in a talk entitled "Bringing Sustainability Home: County Policy, community action, and each of us."



She provided details on several important components of the program which began several years ago. Rachael outlined the County's Climate Action Plan, the goal of which is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% of 2005 "levels by 2050. She noted that "achieving an 80% reduction by 2050 will require significant reductions in most emission

sectors and dramatic changes in the economic polies and consumer preferences." The Climate Action Plan is directed at reducing emissions from County operations primarily from buildings and stationary energy sources, looking to use solar, e-vehicles, and improved waste management and agricultural practices.

At the county-wide community level emissions mainly come from transportation energy, commercial and industrial energy, and residential energy. Among some Climate Action measures, Rachael described advancements in the community-wide trail system for walking and biking. She noted promotion of solarization of residences in Southeastern PA, describing federal grants. She noted a program to assist HOAs, which include a large portion of County home properties, to promote sustainable practices. And finally she noted what we as individuals can do, for example, in our yards, catching the rain with native plant gardens that support pollinators and biodiversity.

For more information, check out the very considerable resources on the Sustainability Website:

<https://www.chescoplanning.org/environmental/Sustainable.cfm>.

FIG Greek Dinner

-- Donna Eaves



A FIG Greek Dinner was hosted by Mary and Bob Marco on September 21st. Clockwise from left are: Dane and Carol Zabriskie, Dan and Elaine Burgess, Mary Marco, Nancy Paist Riches and Sandra Harrelson.

MEMBER NOTES

Lyn Eaton Achieves Lifetime Membership

Congratulations to Lin Eaton for achieving honorary life membership status! Lyn has been a member of the American Association of University Women since 1968 and our affiliate is happy to celebrate this achievement with her.

Toni Gorkin to Demo Fall / Winter Sustainable Garden Practices November 3

Toni and Heart of Uwchlan project team will demo winter sowing and other sustainable gardening practices and hand out free native trees and seeds on November 3, 11:30-1:30 at Uwchlan Township Baird Park (715 North Ship Road Exton). Trees are from PA Plant One Million Trees project. Seeds are harvested from the project's own native plant gardens in the park.

Pat Bove to Play Harp in Holiday Concert

Pat will play in the following concert:



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!

Highlights from the recent AAUW PA Public Policy meeting: National has prepared PA-specific voter guides for our use in the Senate race and four house races.

<https://www.aauwaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Head-to-Head-Candidates-for-PA-Senate-Election-2024.png>

Nominations for PA State AAUW Board End November 15

OPEN POSITIONS FOR 2025-2027

- **Membership Vice-President:** The membership vice-president is specifically responsible for planning, coordinating, implementing, and reporting membership activities.
- **Secretary:** The secretary shall record and keep minutes of all business, board, and special meetings and is the member designated to record and make available upon request the minutes of each meeting and board meeting. The secretary shall perform such other duties as the president and board shall direct.
- **Finance Officer:** The finance officer shall be responsible for collecting, distributing, and accounting for the funds of the AAUW PA and for meeting specific deadlines. The finance officer shall serve as custodian of all funds and securities and as the designated contact for finance to AAUW.

For more details regarding these roles, please review the [AAUW-PA Board Handbook](#).

AAUW Mission Statement:

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

Our Chapter – 2024-2025:

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rparagone905@gmail.com

Jane Schultz
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Financial Officer
mjschultz46@gmail.com

Branch Website
wccc-pa.aauw.net
*newly elected

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!

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 November Board Meeting is on November 7.

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.

Finance Officer's Report

Beginning Checking Account Balance July 1, 2024	\$8,098.17
Ending Checking Account Balance September 30, 2024	\$6,732.15
Vanguard Account September 30, 2024 (Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund)	\$15,366.12
Chester County Community Foundation September 30, 2024 (Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund)	\$286,384.55
	YTD July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024
TOTAL Income	\$5,715.00
TOTAL Disbursements	\$7,081.02
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(\$1,366.02)

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

Pat Schultz is coordinating Mah Jongg. We meet on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays at various homes starting at 1:00 PM. We usually play around 2 hours. We play with new and seasoned players. Pat sends an email reminder to our players about three days to a week in advance. For more information contact Pat Schultz at 601-322-0514.

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. 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 **November 18 at 1:00** at the home of Pat Schultz to discuss *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Jean Shervais will lead the discussion. Contact: Janet Kane 610-742-5961 - jfentonkane@gmail.com

LIT II: Literature Fiction & Nonfiction Book Group – **Note Meeting Day/Time Change**

In response to input from members, Lit II will now meet on the second Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm. The group will meet on **Thursday, November 14th at 2:00 pm** at Lyn Eaton's home to discuss *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Carol Zabriskie will lead the discussion. Please let Lyn (lyn.a.eaton@gmail.com) and Peggy Staarman know if you will 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

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.cfm?act=show_material&product_id=16886

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



AAUW HOLIDAY PARTY FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS



Sunday, December 8th, 3-5:30 PM

Ellerslie Farmhouse**

At Crosslands, Kennett Square

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Please RSVP by December 1st 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 by the Board.

*Out of consideration for those with allergies/dietary restrictions,
please label all food with list of main ingredients & your name in case of questions.*

Wine, coffee, tea and water will be available.

GIFTS: We are collecting grocery gift cards
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Cash donations are also welcome

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Take first left. Turn into parking lot 9. Go up hill and Ellerslie is the brick farmhouse at the top of the hill.

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

[If bringing a guest, please provide name: _____

]

Enclosed is a check for _____ tickets @ \$10.00

Checks payable to AAUW-WCCC

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.

November 2024 Newsletter

From Trauma and Human Trafficking to
Transformation at Thistle Hills

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