

### ***Annual Brunch: Saturday, March 8th, 2025 10:00 a.m.***

***Grove United Methodist Church***

***Speaker: Ajla Glavasevic***

***“Diversity, Equity & Inclusion”***

***As the AAUW officer in charge of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Ajla will be speaking on DEI with a personal twist on her own experiences as an immigrant.***

**Members please bring a brunch item that serves about 10 people; include a serving utensil and please label your food item to alert those with food allergies.**

**Suggestions include: breakfast dishes, breads, and fruits.**

**Beverages will be provided.**

**RSVP to Brenda Hunsberger at: [bghunsberger@comcast.net](mailto:bghunsberger@comcast.net) for attendee count! RSVP's accepted up to March 3**

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](http://www.grovechurch.org) or 610-696-2663.

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## Letter from the Presidents

*"It was we, the people; not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union. ... Men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less."*—Susan B. Anthony

March is Women's History Month. What does that mean? This celebration highlights the contributions made by women throughout history. . . Women such as Abigail Adams, Susan B. Anthony, Rosa Parks and more contemporary female figures such as Hillary Clinton, Billie Jean King, and Betty Friedan, the founder of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1963. NOW was started as "grassroots activism to promote feminist ideals, lead societal change, eliminate discrimination, and achieve and protect the equal rights of all women and girls in all aspects of social, political, and economic life." As a female baby boomer, it sure felt good at that time that we were following the path set by the women pioneers mentioned above.

We naively believed we won this battle or, at the very least, we were making great strides toward equality between men and women. We thought we achieved the right to reach for the stars, just like men. Of course, we weren't naive enough to believe we were finished and all was fine. No. We knew that our salaries were not equal although we were moving that needle slowly. We knew we had fewer seats on corporate boards. But even that was being acknowledged by some and gains were being made. And yes, we felt women were able to make decisions for their own lives, their own bodies, and the lives of their unborn children.

Sadly, the gains we made are slowly being eroded. In 2020, women who were full-time workers made approximately 82 percent of what their male counterparts earned. In fact, women's-to-men's earnings ratio has stayed in the 80 to 83 percent since 2004. In December 2024, Seher Khawaja, Director of Economic Justice at Legal Momentum, The Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund, testified before the New York City Council's Committee on Civil and Human

Rights. Her message was that pay inequity not only affects women, but "the lack of adequate income and compensation ". . . is driving intergenerational cycles of poverty and insecurity."

Lesson learned is that we can never be complacent. We need to keep our eyes wide open and our voices heard. And where women achieved rights to control their own bodies through the 1973 Supreme Court case, Roe vs. Wade, recent government efforts resulted in overturning women's rights to an abortion. Primarily white, old men making a decision to dishonor the rights of women.

This is where AAUW West Chester-Chester County affiliate can and should make a difference. As our mission states, "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research". We are committed to continue the efforts of our foremothers and not allow others to control the outcome. We stand on the shoulders of the women before us who strived to make our lives and the lives of future generations of women better. Particularly now, when funding is tenuous at best, we need to maintain our fortitude in supporting all women and girls in achieving their personal goals.

At our **Brunch on Saturday, March 8th at Grove Church**, we will have the opportunity to hear from Ajla Glavasevic, the AAUW officer in charge of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. Her insight as an immigrant to the United States is so important at this critical time in our history. We hope all of you will join us and hear her message. We challenge all of us to consider ways that we, as a collective of strong, focused women, can improve the lives of other women today and in the years ahead. Let's add our work to the list of women who have made a difference and who we celebrate during Women's History Month.

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

**Save the Date!**

***Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony***

**Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025**

**Time: 5:30-8:30 p.m.**

**Place: Penn Oaks Golf Club**

*150 Penn Oaks Drive, West Chester*

*(Turn off Route 202 at the BMW Dealership Traffic Light)*

*Speaker: 2025-2026 Gateway to Equity Award Winner*

Join Us! Come out and enjoy an evening of good food and spending time with your fellow AAUW members.

**Nominations for AAUW WC-CC Officers for 2025-27**

*-- Nominating Committee: Janet Kane, Robin Paragone, Eva Kaufmann (chair)*

The following nominations are for affiliate officers for 2025-2027. All nominations are in **bold** and are for a two-year term. The formal election of officers will take place at the Annual Banquet in May. Officers will be installed at the joint current/new officers Board Meeting in June.

Co-President:

Beryl Goldman (second year of term)

**Rhoda McNitt** (Currently Nancy Paist-Riches)

Co-VP for Program:

Jean Shervais (second year of term)

**Jane McDowell** (Currently Jane McDowell)

Co-VP for Membership:

Susan Woron (second year of term)

**Karen Marshall** (currently Anne Anderko)

Finance Officer:

**Jane Schultz** (Currently Jane Schultz)

Recording Secretary:

Christine Smith (second year of term)

Corresponding Secretary:

**Stephanie Mitman** (Currently Robin Paragone)

**Bios of some nominees for AAUW WC-CC officers 2025-27**

**Stephanie Mitman**

Steph was raised in West Chester and graduated from Bloomsburg State College with a degree in Elementary Education. She spent 6 years teaching - in PA, WA, and on the Navajo Reservation at Rough Rock Demonstration school, the only bilingual Navajo language middle school. She returned to PA and received a certification in Computer Science. She worked for DuPont, Koch Industries, ING Direct and Capital One as an information security specialist.

She left Capital One and joined her retired husband in Landenberg, PA. where they enjoyed playing in their Rock and Roll Band, and she started Joyful Earth Reiki. She enjoys composing, writing, playing with her rescue kitties, and watching the beauty of the animals and Mother Nature in Landenberg.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

## Bios of Nominees (Continued)

### Stephanie Mitman (continued)

She has enjoyed being a member of AAUW for the past 2 years, in the Foreign Policy group, and with the educated, helpful membership. She wanted to extend more time to AAUW and after a discussion with Janet Kane they thought that due to her location this position would be a good fit.

### Karen Marshall

Karen Marshall is a retired teacher of young children. Her greatest accomplishments include knowing all of the words to *Princess Pat* and *Fred the Moose*, initiating a Kids on Stage program and *The Chatterbox* newsletter, and having a particular skill at wiping runny noses and dirty bottoms. She was absolutely tickled to have witnessed one of her former 3-year-old students make his Broadway debut!

Karen is originally from the DC suburbs but moved to Westtown when she got married in 1989. She graduated *cum laude* from Towson (State) University in 1985 with a degree in Elementary Education. Karen started the master's degree program at West Chester University, but she got distracted by the births of her two children. She hoards her collection of children's literature and poetry in anticipation of grandchildren.

Karen is excited to have been nominated for the position of Co-Vice President for Membership, as she loves chatting folks up about the good works done by members of the WC-CC affiliate of AAUW. She has enjoyed both meeting the fabulous women of AAUW and participating in the many opportunities to give back to the local community.

### Rhoda McNitt

Rhoda has a BA degree in Social Work from West Chester University (State College). She began her career with Family Service of Chester County in 1975, where she now serves on the Board of Directors, having served as President of the Board from 2020-2021. She retired from The Kendal Corporation in 2013 after 29 years, 4 in social service at Crosslands, and 25 in new opportunities development and marketing. She has been a court visitor for Chester County Orphans Court. She is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, where she has served as Deacon, Elder, and Stephen Minister. She is a member of the West Chester Bird Club and has been doing counts for Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project Feeder Watch since 2000. She is currently President Elect for the Cartmel Residents Association of Cartmel, an adult community in Kennett Square.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS UPDATE

-- Anne Anderko. Susan Woron -- Co Vice Presidents/Membership

### Welcome New Member: Christine Batchelor

Christine recently retired as VP of Sales for a large Mechanical Contractor. She has enjoyed a 25-year career as a Sales Representative in the HVAC industry. Prior to her sales career, she was a Project Manager for industrial projects, primarily in paper manufacturing. She has a degree as a Mechanical Engineer. She is interested in opera and serves on the Board of a local (internationally recognized!) opera training school, the Academy of Vocal Arts. She is an artisan, working on stained glass and mosaic projects, as well as taking classes in sculpture. She enjoys hiking and together with her husband Peter enjoys exploring some of

the great National Parks. She is teaching an ESL student from Ecuador through the Chester County Library program. She also enjoys gardening and cooking and likes to read, recently joining a book club.

### Welcome New Member: Kate Lindsay

Kate reports she is "open to experiencing novel places, trying new skills, and stretching the envelope." She has a '215' telephone number and is a West Philly girl born and bred: a parishioner of St. Francis de Sales Church, a graduate of West Catholic Girls High School. She earned a nursing diploma from Pennsylvania Hospital, a bachelor's degree in sociology from St. Joseph's University, and a master's (CONTINUED on next page)

## Kate Lindsay (Continued)

degree from La Salle University. All in Philadelphia! When she began her nursing career, she chose psychiatric-mental health nursing. In addition, she has taught at various universities throughout the Philadelphia area. Her master's degree is in Public Health Nursing, and she loves collaborating with people in the community. Her professional focus has been on women's health. She has led the women's mental health program and collaborated with the OB-GYN department during her tenure at Pennsylvania Hospital.

She came to Hershey's Mill in 2012, after living in Philly her whole life, when her brother encouraged her to buy her own place. When she retired in 2019, she treated herself to a 2-week vacation and a course at Oxford University, England, on the Origins of World War I. While her mother, brother (who was 15 years older than her), and her sister (who had type 1 diabetes) have all passed away, she has inherited four nephews, eight great nephews and nieces, and a great-great niece and nephew.

## Maternal and Child Health Consortium (MCHC)

-- Suzy DeGeorge and Arlene Cohen



### February: Books for Children

Thank you for the wonderful response to our



request for book donations for MCHC. We collected over 75 books!

If you have books you were expecting to bring to the February meeting, you can bring them to the March brunch or deliver them to Suzie DeGeorge at the address below.



### March: Maternity Care Items

Our next activity in support of MCHC is to collect maternity care items. These can include things like:

- Manual breast pumps, breastmilk storage bags, breastfeeding pillows, nipple cream

We are scheduled to assemble those items into baskets on **April 23 at Grove Church** in West Chester. Please let me know if you are able to join us on April 23 to help with the basket assembly. Natalie Coughlin from MCHC will join us to help guide the assembly.

You can deliver your donations as follows:

1. Bring the items to the March brunch.
2. If you buy items on-line, you can ship directly to:

Suzy DeGeorge  
922 Sage Road  
West Chester, PA 19382

3. Drop off items to Suzy at the address above. Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of MCHC!

Arlene Cohen  
arlene.cohen@verizon.net  
610.547.8380



Milena O. Lanz  
Executive Director

Maternal & Child Health Consortium  
Glenloch Corporate Center  
1475 Phoenixville Pike, Suite #12  
West Chester, PA 19380  
Tel. 610-344-5370  
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mchc@ccmchc.org  
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February 27, 2025

ATTN: Nancy Paist-Riches  
AAUW Association for University Women - West Chester Chester County Branch


Dear Nancy,

Thank you for your generous donation of bilingual children's books in support of the families in our programs. Your gift is an investment in your community's health and ensures that low-income women, children, and their family members have the resources that they need to thrive.

Every day, families in our programs benefit from bilingual, bicultural health education, early childhood development support, and health care access services within their community, leading to better health and lower health care costs for not only the family but entire communities. Your support ensures that these families receive care, that children have a foundation for success, and that parents can be the best parents they can be.

Now more than ever, your generosity truly makes a difference. Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that children and families in the Chester County region *start healthy, stay healthy and succeed in school.*

Sincerely,

  
Milena O. Lanz  
Executive Director

*Thank you for  
your generosity.  
Milena*

## ***Monthly Warehouse Project Volunteer Program***

-- Anne Anderko, Chair

Two brave volunteers ventured out on February 19 in subzero weather to volunteer at our monthly warehouse program. Pat Bove (right) and newest member Sandy Claus (left) worked on packing dish boxes for families and veterans in need. If you haven't signed up to volunteer, please e-mail me your name and let



me know what months will work for you. I select two members each month, the third Wednesday of the month to volunteer from 10:00 to noon. March volunteers are in place, but I am looking to fill April and May.

Just a reminder that the warehouse is always collecting gently used household items. You can contact me, [ananderko@msn.com](mailto:ananderko@msn.com) if you would like to drop them at my house or bring them to our next in person meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup> brunch. The Warehouse thanks you for your continued support.



## ***Alice Lawson Scholarship Update***

This year we are funding two \$7,200 scholarships to nontraditional female students. We have already received five completed applications. There is still plenty of time to apply, the deadline is March 31, 2025.

The full list of requirements and application can be found on our website and a link on our Facebook page. If you know of any women working on completing their education, please help spread the word.

## ***February Meeting: PA Representative Melissa Shusterman***



At the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting members heard via Zoom from Melissa Shusterman, member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 157<sup>th</sup> District. She spoke about how she observed that no one was pushing women's issues, and her son encouraged her to run. She described how it's not easy to be a woman in office—harder to raise money and to get access to the inner circles of government. She decided to *create* the government she wanted, by establishing new caucuses around women's issues, animal protection, and autism, for example. She chose to create partnerships that enabled her to get to know and work with representatives from both sides of the aisle. She stressed that it is important for women to run—so that young women can see someone like them in the role and consider running. She stressed that women already have what we need to be in office—a perspective on life that deserves to be represented, to tell how difficult it is to work, commute,

find child care . . . how expensive it is at the grocery store . . . how real estate taxes are increasing. Our experiences need consideration.

Ms. Shusterman pointed out how our AAUW Public policy priorities align with hers. She has fought for better funding of public school education, and while the current budget allowed for largest funding for public education for decades, the public schools are still underfunded. She got the Child Care Tax Credit into the Republican budget 2 years ago and increased it to maximum last year. She has a bill package intended to help retain the child care work force. She has 57 bills in the works, promoting equal and fair pay and fighting barriers to reproductive rights.

When asked for advice on how to deal with current politics, she suggested:

- Stay involved at the hyper-local level
- Turn off the barrage of news—much of which is not real news
- Get involved in organizations of like mind, such as [thirdact.org](http://thirdact.org) and [turnPAblue.org](http://turnPAblue.org), to help candidates in local races.

## ***Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund***

—Nancy Dore

The board has approved two grants from the Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund.

- The Green Valleys Watershed Association will receive \$584 for the purchase of a Swift 308T Microscope and Amscope USB3 Microscope Camera for use in their Summer Camp and other educational programs at Welkinweir.
- The Chester County Conservation District will receive \$500 for the Envirothon.

The Envirothon will be held April 23rd, 9:30-2:15PM and April 24th, 8:30-1:30PM.

Anyone may attend the awards ceremonies (April 23rd at 1:30PM and April 24th at 12:45PM) at Hibernia Park. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Gaye Lynn Criswell at [gcriswell@chesco.org](mailto:gcriswell@chesco.org).

**AAUW Mission Statement:**  
**To advance gender equity for women and girls through research,  
 education, and advocacy. Our Chapter – 2024-2025:**

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

### Newsletter

The newsletter is published by the first of each month. The **deadline for submissions is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month** to ensure the issue can be distributed on the first of the next month. Please send emails to [tgorkin@gmail.com](mailto:tgorkin@gmail.com).

**NOTE: There will not be a May Newsletter. Please submit advance information for April issue.**

### Board Meeting

The Board Meetings will be via ZOOM [unless otherwise] The March meeting will be a ZOOM meeting on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

### Social Media

Be sure to send pictures and information to Sandy Alexander for our branch's Facebook Page: West Chester-Chester County AAUW! Send them to fb4aauw@gmail.com. Remember to copy Toni Gorkin at [tgorkin@gmail.com](mailto:tgorkin@gmail.com) for the newsletter and Rhoda McNitt at [rhodamcnitt@verizon.net](mailto:rhodamcnitt@verizon.net) for the web page.

### Finance Officer's Report

<b>Beginning Checking Account Balance</b> July 1, 2024	\$8,098.17
<b>Ending Checking Account Balance</b> January 31, 2025	\$8,687.97
<b>Mimi Jones Scholarship Fund</b> (Dedicated line item within the checking account)	\$2,056.00
<b>Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund</b> (Dedicated line item within the checking account)	\$768.00
<b>Vanguard Account</b> January 31, 2025 (Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund)	\$16,118.60
<b>Chester County Community Foundation</b> December 31, 2024 (Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund)	\$286,988.80
	YTD July 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025
<b>TOTAL Income</b>	\$11,913.50
<b>TOTAL Disbursements</b>	\$11,323.70
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	\$589.80



## Special Interest Groups



### **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 610-322-0514.

### **TIG (Travel Interest Group)**

Contact Mary Marco at [mary.m.marco@gmail.com](mailto:mary.m.marco@gmail.com) or Jane McDowell at [jlwmcowell@gmail.com](mailto:jlwmcowell@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](mailto:deaves@live.com), to be added to the mailing list.

Upcoming events:

**Sunday, March 16: St. Patrick's Dinner** hosted by Susan and Tim Skiles

**Saturday, May 17 (Raindate May 18): Garden Brunch** for members only at home of Robbe Healey, hosted by Robbe and Nancy Paist-Riches

### **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.*

### **LIT I: Daytime Literature Group**

Fiction & Nonfiction Lit I Book Group will meet at 1:00 pm on the third Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be on **March 17** at 1:00 at the home of Sandra Harrelson (635 Glenwood Lane - Hershey's Mill). Sandy Alexander will lead our discussion of ***Chronicles of a Radical Hag*** by Laura Landvig. An RSVP message will be sent closer to the time.

Contact: Janet Kane 610-742-5961 - [jfentonkane@gmail.com](mailto:jfentonkane@gmail.com)

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

We are now meeting in the afternoon, so we welcome anyone who prefers daytime driving to the evening. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 13 at 2:00 pm at Karen Korbonitis's home. Peggy Staarman will lead the discussion about ***Shakespeare's Sisters*** by Ramie Targoff. Please let Karen ([kkorbo3@gmail.com](mailto:kkorbo3@gmail.com)) and Peggy Staarman ([peggstaar@verizon.net](mailto:peggstaar@verizon.net)) 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](mailto:dunn.phyllis@gmail.com)

## Great Decisions 2025 Discussion Group

Global Issues affect all of our lives. The Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions Briefing Book offers a structure for foreign policy discussions on urgent and contemporary topics. We meet from **1:00-3:00 pm on the 4th Monday of the month** in West Chester at the home of member Robbe Healey. We welcome you to join in these lively and thoughtful discussions.

The eight topics in the Foreign Policy Association Great Decisions 2025 Briefing Book are:

1. American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads
2. U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy
3. U.S.-China Relations
4. International Cooperation on Climate Change
5. The Future of NATO and European Security
6. AI and American National Security
7. India: Between China, the West, and the Global South
8. After Gaza: American Policy in the Middle East

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=16892](https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/index.cfm?act=show_material&product_id=16892)

Interested: Email Robbe Healey @ [Robbe.Healey@gmail.com](mailto:Robbe.Healey@gmail.com)



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

### *March 2025 Newsletter*

March Brunch - Ajla Glavasevic - DEI  
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](http://www.aauw.org) [www.aauwpa.org](http://www.aauwpa.org) [wccc-pa.aauw.net](http://wccc-pa.aauw.net)