

April Meeting: Wednesday, April 9th 6:30 p.m.
“Camp Dreamcatcher”
Speaker: Patty Hillkirk
Grove Methodist Church

As Founder/Executive Director of Camp Dreamcatcher in Kennett Square, Patty will speak about the founding and running of this organization and how they operate and work with kids with AIDS or serious illnesses.

Refreshments & Setup/Cleanup: provided by Lit I

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.

MAY: Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 5:30-8:30 P.M.

Penn Oaks Golf Club

150 Penn Oaks Drive, West Chester

Speaker: 2025-2026 Gateway to Equity Award Winner

Details and Reservation Form at end of newsletter

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Letter from the Presidents

"When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid." —Audre Lorde

Hello Ladies and Happy Spring!

I will be totally honest with you, I have tried to write the President's letter 3 times and been stopped by the ever-changing landscape of our country. The assault on government institutions which monitor our safety, health, national security, air travel, legal system and our financial system. The loss of jobs for thousands of people, trying to erase transpeople from existence. The devastating impact of wiping clear our history of anyone not a white male. Bullying everyone into believing DEI is a disease that has infected our nation. I have had to gather my thoughts and focus on what concerns us as AAUW members; our mission of supporting women and girls.

We as women, no matter the age, race, gender, sex, culture or religion have been impacted by the denying of women and girls access to health care. Programs that protect women's right to be safe from domestic violence and sexual assault have been defunded. Programs designed to protect women's employment have ended and women have been fired from positions of authority. In short, an assault on women during Women's History month, a month when we celebrate the women who came before us, in all walks of life.

And this week, we learned the federal Department of Education is being eliminated. The department that monitors funding to support school districts serving students from poor communities and students with disabilities, enforcement for student civil rights protects, like Title IX, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in schools that receive federal funding. We need to keep a close eye on how this might affect higher education. These are areas impacting AAUW. In an email you received information from AAUW National on how you might support AAUW's efforts with these crucial areas.

As members of WCCC AAUW we all share in the belief that women and girls should be provided equal pay, workplace fairness, increased support for and protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, including strong promotion of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), climates free from sexual harassment and the ability to seek higher education. And this is not just a national fight but a state fight also as you have been reading in the PA Public Policy notes you have been sent.

Now, more than ever, our branch should focus on what we can do as a local organization to support women and girls. One of these ways can be on the committee working on the selected priority from the survey sent by Beryl Goldman, Co-President: Adequate and equitable funding for and access to quality public education, including early childhood education, for all students. Or perhaps you would like to be our Public Policy liaison to the PA Public Policy committee. Or perhaps you would like to be on the fundraising committee discussing and implementing ideas to not only raise awareness but funds for our supported interests. Or you can voice your idea on how to advocate for issues supporting women and girls. One thing is for sure, the support of you, our members, is important.

One way you have supported our branch has been the contributions to our 2024-25 Gateway to Equity winner: Maternal and Child Health Consortium. Thank you! Don't forget about our Maternity Care Basket Assembly party on April 23rd and the May collection of baby care items. The selection for our 2025-26 winner will be sent via a survey. Please take the time to think about the selections and how we as a branch and you as a member might be able to support them.

Thank you to all who attended the March brunch. It was delightful to see so many members, new and seasoned, and appreciate the talented cooks and bakers we have among our membership. Our guest speaker, (CONTINUED on next page)

Letter from the Presidents (Continued)

Ajia Glavasevic presented her powerful personal journey as an immigrant and her views on DEI. A reminder about our last 2 member meetings of the year. Our April general meeting is on the 9th and our annual banquet is May 14th. Your presence is requested at both! As is your input to helping make our affiliate strong, united in our mission to support women and girls.

Remember, to help promote our West Chester-Chester County AAUW, we need to share what we are doing. Please send updates, pictures and/or news to Sandy Alexander for Facebook.

I end on a personal note, my Rotary club, Greater West Chester Sunrise, of which I am the club President, is sponsoring a student from Romania. He came to a Rotary meeting this month and presented me with a pin from his country that

honors Women's International Day. He shared the importance of Women's International Day in his country and how equal opportunities and equal rights for women are disproportionate to men in Romania. I could connect this with what Ajia Glavasevic had shared about the importance of Women's International Day in her family and country. The pin is a symbol to me that women throughout the world, and in our country, have the strength and resilience along with the willingness to demand and take action that supports our beliefs and values. Individually we can make an impact, but together we make a difference.

Thank you for your membership and support to West Chester-Chester County AAUW.

Warmly,
Nancy Paist-Riches Co-President
West Chester-Chester County AAUW



AAUW West Chester-Chester County Affiliate *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

Banquet Cost: \$42.00

Plated dinner with choice of entrée, salad, vegetables, and dessert
There will be a Cash Bar.



RSVP: Please return your check and the form at the end of this newsletter by April 25th

Questions? Contact Brenda Hunsberger at bghunsberger@comcast.net

****Please bring Baby Care items for our May collection to the banquet-Diapers, Wipes, Formula, Etc.**

MEMBERSHIP NEWS UPDATES

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

Getting Ready for Next Year

Well, we are always thinking of what's next! At this time, that means we are reviewing how we persuaded new members to join us this past year. So, we looked back and took inventory of where our new members came from.

Where did our new members come from this year?

Shape the Future	3 members
Hershey Mills PMP	8 members
Recruiting from the street	2 members
Recruiting from Guest List attendees	

Obviously, we would like to continue doing what has contributed to our success, but we need your help.

1. We would like to hold another Prospective members' Party (PMP) or two. Would anyone have a suggestion, other than Hershey Mills, which is a "go"? Would anyone like to volunteer their home or a site where they work?
2. We will, of course, have 3 "free" memberships next year. Does anyone have recommendations for who we should invite?

3. Our new effort, recruiting younger people, will also continue, but we need your help. If you would like to work with us to recruit college students, we would like to start with forming a committee to oversee the effort (develop a plan, develop contacts at targeted institutions, create marketing materials, be available to visit the institution, etc.). If you would like to work with us on this effort, let us know. We would like to start with just one institution, so we do it right.

4. YOU! It is amazing how many members were recruited from someone talking to someone else. We follow up with everyone and we are relentless! It can take a while to persuade someone to come to a meeting, or actually fill out a form with a check attached. But, this is one of the most successful ways to persuade people to join. Several new members have told us that they really enjoyed coming to a place that agrees with their values, and where they can help their community. So, please bring friends and neighbors to our meetings and events. And, encourage them to sign up!

Membership Renewal Reminder



It is that time of year when most of our memberships are up for renewal. You may be thinking "Well, I just renewed or paid my dues." Well, that may be the case if your membership renews during the year. In that case you are a new member or have received an email from Susan during the past 7 months to renew your membership. Most of our members, however, renew under the old system and their membership expires June 30.

Anne and I are so proud that we have added thirteen new members this past year and we hope you will help us continue our efforts to increase our membership. With

eighty-six current members, Anne and I hope to break 100 in 2025-26! (CONTINUED on next page)

Membership Renewal Reminder (Continued)

Your continued support of AAUW is needed to help with AAUW's work in pursuit of education and equity for all women and girls. By paying your dues each year, you help provide the tools and resources that can be used to make a difference for women and girls at the national, state and local levels. We believe that is extremely important with funds from many federal agencies currently being cut across the nation.

Unfortunately, members' dues have increased this year, but only for \$2. The total for 2025-2026 membership is \$102. To be most efficient in collecting dues, we would like you **to fill out the form provided at the end of this newsletter** and give us your check when you see us in April or May. We will have blank forms with us for your convenience. Of course, you can also print out the form and mail it if you choose. If you have any questions, or have problems printing the form, please email Susan at sworon54@gmail.com or give her a call at 484-467-6705.

Anne and Susan, Co-VPs Membership

Welcome New Member – Sandy Claus



Sandy Claus was born and raised on an Iowa cattle farm and attended Iowa State University. She graduated with a degree in Leisure Services (Recreation) and accepted a position in the Recreation Department at Woodward State

Hospital for the Mentally Retarded. Within a year, she had moved to the Volunteer Department which set the course for the rest of her life.

A job transfer for her husband took them to Chicago where she began her non-profit career as the Executive Director of the Arlington Heights United Way. Several years later they were transferred again to the Philadelphia area, and she joined the Junior Saturday Club in Wayne and was an active volunteer for Surrey Services for Seniors, chairing their signature fundraising event. Soon after, she was hired as the Development Director for Daemion House.

While she was employed at Daemion House, a good friend asked her to join the founding board for PA Home of the Sparrow. She spent several years

on the Board and is proud of the groundwork they laid for the organization it has become.

In 1998, Great Valley School District created a unique position overseeing all District business partnerships, volunteers, and service-learning projects. Building a program from scratch was exciting and allowed her the opportunity to harness all her creative talents and learn a wide variety of new skills. While in that role, she served on several non-profit boards including the Great Valley Senior Center, Okehocking Nature Center, and Girls Star.

A decade later, she was able to take those skills to Phoenixville Area School District as their Director of Communications and Community Relations. During her tenure in Phoenixville, she was on the Phoenixville Chamber's Board of Directors, Phoenixville Affordable Housing Council, the Community Coalition Board, and Phoenixville Hospital's Healthy Women.

She retired in 2022, and she and her husband relocated to a home in Hershey's Mill. Upon retirement, she joined the board of Human Services, Inc. and she is actively involved with Ann's Heart in Phoenixville, working with their donor relations and corporate volunteer opportunities.

Outstanding Affiliate Award Presented to Kim Glavin

The Outstanding Affiliate Member award recognizes meritorious service to our affiliate. The award was presented to Kim Glavin at the March brunch meeting. Anne Anderko described how Kim meets those criteria on many levels. She joined our affiliate in 2019 and from the very beginning shared her many talents and strong leadership skills, as a “super volunteer.” When she joined, she immediately got her feet wet overseeing the Mah Jongg special interest group.



Kim Glavin receives the Outstanding Affiliate Award from Anne Anderko.

In 2021 she accepted the demanding position of Co-Vice President of Membership with Trish Alfano. Through their efforts, they added many new members, coming very close to meeting their goal to reach 100 members, before Covid intervened. During this time, she opened her home to many PMPs (Prospective Member Parties) and shared the AAUW mission . . . with her mouth-watering desserts! She also held small get-togethers at Wegmans for prospective and seasoned members to stop in for a cup of coffee and a treat.

After two years, she swapped positions with Anne Anderko, taking the fundraising chair position. Again she excelled, advocating to make fundraising new and fun for our members. She added to the Pecan Sale with Boscov's Sale Days, Bingo get-togethers, 50 50's at our meetings, and a gift basket for our May banquet. All of these efforts helped make our affiliate stronger by raising additional funds for worthwhile projects.

Through it all she has kept her spirits high, forever positive, always smiling and doing her best to get the job done. Kim truly deserves this honor.

Maternal and Child Health Consortium (MCHC)

-- Suzy DeGeorge and Arlene Cohen



March/April: Maternity Care Items

Our activity in support of MCHC in March was to collect maternity care items. These included things like manual breast pumps, breastmilk storage bags, breastfeeding pillows, nipple cream. We are scheduled to assemble the donated Maternity Care items into baskets on **April 23 at Grove Church** in West Chester. **Please let Suzy and Arlene 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.

Arlene Cohen - arlene.cohen@verizon.net, 610.547.8380

May: Baby Care items – diapers, wipes, formula, etc.

Please bring items to the May banquet.

March Warehouse Project Volunteer Program

-- Anne Anderko, Chair

On a beautiful spring morning, Lynn Wildrick and new member, Lee Dibble volunteered on March 19th to help at warehouse. They repacked dishes and tested incoming lamps for needy families and veterans and learned about the warehouse's mission.

Just a reminder that the warehouse is always collecting gently used household items. You can contact me, ananderko@msn.com if you would like to drop them at my house or bring them to our next monthly meeting on April 9th. The warehouse thanks you for your continued support.
Anne Anderko/Chair



March Brunch Speaker: Ajla Glavasevic

Our guest speaker at the March brunch meeting was Ajla Glavasevic; Ajla serves on the board of AAUW PA as the Diversity Officer in charge of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Ajla recounted how her family immigrated from Bosnia to the United States under refugee status in 1995. She received her J.D. at the University of Cincinnati College of Law and has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, concentrating on Financial Analysis, from the University at Buffalo, where she also competed as a D1 heptathlete on a national level. Ajla shared her love of sports and her experience as a member of the USA Women's Bobsled Team.

Ajla was an Associate at a general practice law firm, where much of her work focused on corporate clients, as well as litigation, immigration matters, labor and employment, and criminal defense. She now serves as Deputy General Counsel & Global Data Privacy Officer of a global chemical manufacturing company in Conshohocken, PA, where she leads the Data Privacy organization, advises on business matters, drafts and reviews contracts, and provides legal support and leadership in a variety of corporate tasks. She's married to an Austrian National. Ajla is a mother to a 5-year-old son, Julius, and a 3-year-old daughter, Philippa.

Ajla shared several slides during her presentation, and members requested the one shown here.

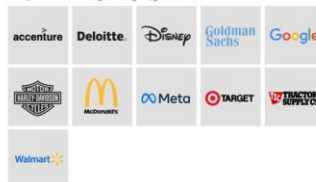
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and

Belonging simply allows more people with different perspectives and backgrounds to be at the table, generating a sense of fairness while allowing for unique perspectives.



DEIB

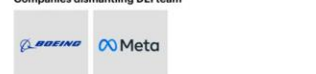
Companies eliminating DEI targets/goals



Companies changing ERGs



Companies dismantling DEI team



UPDATED LIST OF COMPANIES COMMITTED TO DEI

COSTCO
MEIJER
KROGER
GIANT GROCERY
BEN & JERRY'S
ULTA
MACYS
OLD NAVY
NORDSTROM
TJ MAXX
WALGREENS
DOLLAR TREE
WEDMANS
GO TO FOODS; INCLUDES MEL'S SOUTHWEST GRILL,
AUNTIE ANNE'S, JAMBA, CINNABON & MORE

Laundromat Library League

-- Peggy Staarman

The Laundromat Library League (LLL) will be the beneficiary of a book drive at Mary C. Howse Elementary School of the West Chester Area School District. The teacher in charge of the drive, Alison S., has led another book drive in the past. We welcome book drives in elementary and nursery schools because they collect wonderful books for very young children. These children's books are the most in demand and we can circulate them very quickly. If you have board books or children's books in very good condition that are taking up space in your house, please consider donating them to the LLL. Please contact Peggy Staarman (peggstaar@verizon.net) who will be happy to receive or collect your treasured children's books. Know that they will help another child enjoy and benefit from the experience of reading. Thank you so much.

March Brunch: Notes for Women's History Month

In celebration of March as Women's History Month, on the tables at the March brunch were attractive cards with information about women of historical interest. The cards were prepared by Brenda Hunsberger. Several members suggested we capture the information in the newsletter, and Brenda has provided the file with her work compiled. However, we do not have enough space to provide all of them! So your editor is providing excerpts about some of the women Brenda included, and you are encouraged to follow up with some research of your own for details! Or ask Brenda for her file 😊.

Kathrine Switzer: first woman to run the Boston Marathon	Claudette Colvin -- first black woman arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a segregated Montgomery, Alabama bus — nine months before Rosa Parks.	Bessie Coleman: became the first black woman to earn a pilot's license, in 1921.
Patsy Mink: became the first woman of color elected to the House of Representatives in 1964.	Alice Paul: prominent suffragette who helped secure passage of the 19th Amendment.	In 1916, Jeannette Rankin became the first woman elected to Congress.
Elizabeth Peratrovich: passage of the first anti-discrimination act in the US can be attributed, in part, to Elizabeth Peratrovich, in the 1940s fought for equal rights for the indigenous peoples of Alaska.	Gladys Bentley: belted gender-bending original blues numbers and lewd parodies of popular songs, eventually becoming in the early 1930s, Harlem's most famous lesbian figure and among the best-known black entertainers in the United States.	Prudence Cummings Wright: organized the women into a female militia in Massachusetts in 1775, dubbing themselves the "Minutewomen," who stopped the British from entering their town.
Sylvia Earle: Marine biologist and explorer, broke the women's diving depth record in 1979, in 1990 appointed chief scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,	Faith Spotted Eagle: Native American activist, member of the Yankton Sioux Nation in South Dakota, recognized leader of the fight against the Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipelines	Althea Gibson: In the 1950s, became the first African-American tennis player, to win Wimbledon, the singles championship in the French Open and U.S. Open.
Victoria Woodhull: first woman to run for president of the US--in 1872, 50 years before women had the right to vote.	Hedy Lamarr: not only an accomplished actress, also an inventor who made significant contributions to the field of wireless communications during World War II.	Nancy Lopez: only woman to win the Ladies Professional Golf Association's Rookie of the Year, Player of the Year, and the Vare Trophy in the same season.
Susan La Flesche: in 1889, at the age of 24, became the first Native American woman to earn a medical degree in the United States.	Katherine Graham: Publisher of the <i>Washington Post</i> from 1969–79, the first female publisher of a major American newspaper.	African-American nurse Marie van Brittan filed a patent for a movable camera that could display on a TV screen monitor whoever was at the front door.

Nellie Bly: journalist reporting on corruption and the condition of the poor, feigned insanity to expose conditions inside asylums. Traveled the globe, unchaperoned, in Jules Verne inspired <i>80 Days Around the World</i> , setting a new world record.	Grace Hopper: first woman to earn a PhD in mathematics from Yale University in 1934. First at Harvard, and then in the US Navy, Hopper worked on the very earliest computers and later developed COBOL.	Virginia Apgar: physician, <u>obstetrical anesthesiologist</u> , medical researcher, inventor of the <u>Apgar score</u> , a way to quickly assess the health of a newborn child immediately after birth in order to combat <u>infant mortality</u> .
Sarah Breedlove: known as <u>Madam CJ Walker</u> , Breedlove was the first self-made female millionaire in America; developed a line of beauty and hair products for African-Americans.	Rachel Carson: marine biologist and nature writer, catalyzed the global environmental movement with her 1962 book <i>Silent Spring</i> , outlining the dangers of chemical pesticides, leading to ban of DDT.	Edie Windsor: the Supreme Court case that bears her name overturned the federal government's ban on recognizing same-sex marriages.
Annie Jump Cannon: astronomer revolutionized the way scientists classify stars, developed the Harvard spectral system, classified 350,000 stars manually; received honorary degree from Oxford University.	Janet Guthrie: aerospace engineer became the first woman racer to qualify for the Daytona 500 and the Indianapolis 500.	Tania Aebi: became the first American woman (and, at 21, the youngest) to sail solo around the world in a sailboat, the <i>Varuna</i> .
Antonia Novello: MD, born and raised in Puerto Rico, appointed to U.S. Surgeon General—first woman and the first person of color to fill the role.	Sally Preisand became the first American female Rabbi; first Jewish woman to deliver the opening prayer at the <u>House of Representatives</u> .	Dr Mary Walker: abolitionist, prisoner of war in the Civil War, surgeon, only woman and one of only 8 civilians to have ever received the Medal of Honor.
Greta Gerwig	Ariana DeBose	Kimberly Bryant
Laura Cornelius Kellogg	Clara Shavelson	Edith Kanaka'ole
Jovita Idar	Judy Heumann	Mo'Ne Davis
Margaret Fuller	Elizabeth Blackwell	Lois Jensen
Jane Addams	Tarana Burke	Penelope Barker
Candace Cable	Dolores Huerta	Margaret Ives Abbott
Sarah Thomas	Ibtihaj Muhammad	Elizabeth Packard
Bernice Sandler	Olympia Snowe	Lucille Ball

LAPP Bulletin

LAPP: Legislation and Public Policy

Date: February 26, 2025

Subject: *Avenues for Comment, Input, Etc. on Current Political Issues*

Context: The current political situation has encouraged many people to become involved. This bulletin includes information on several tools that are available for AAUW members who may be interested.

Summary:

5calls.org is a smart phone and computer app that guides the user through the process of contacting elected officials by phone. The app allows the user to select from a number of issues and then provides a sample script for calling the appropriate elected officials. The user is able to make the recommended calls right from the app. <https://5calls.org/>

Third Act is “a community of Americans over sixty determined to change the world for the better. Third Act harnesses an unparalleled generational power to safeguard our climate and democracy.” <https://thirdact.org/>. There are also state chapters of this organization

Indivisible.org is an organization specifically opposed to the policies of the Trump administration. They promote “Strategies, Tactics, & Tips for How Everyday Americans Can Fight Back Together Wherever We Live” <https://indivisible.org/>

OF PARTICULAR NOTE!!

Senate is getting ready to vote on the confirmation of Linda McMahon. As a reminder, the official AAUW statement regarding her nomination is below. Please contact our PA Senators with your opinions regarding this critical role!



Official Statement



AAUW calls on the Senate to reject McMahon's nomination and demand a leader who will uphold the mission of the Department of Education: to expand opportunity, protect civil rights, and invest in students' success. Anything less would be a betrayal of our nation's commitment to educational equity and opportunity for all."

— GLORIA L. BLACKWELL
Chief Executive Officer

What You Can Do:

1. Get involved!

For More Information on This Issue:

1. See links above



AAUW National News

-- Gloria Blackwell, Chief Executive Officer

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Affiliates should have received an extensive and informative email from **Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW Chief Executive Officer**, in response to the administration's Executive Order to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education. Your newsletter editor is including the following from that email.]

"While only Congress has the authority to abolish the Department, this order is the latest in a series of attacks on student rights, educational equity, and civil rights enforcement. [Read our statement here.](#)

"Here is what say to you," says Gloria Blackwell, "AAUW remains committed to defending and promoting the value of higher education, the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and upholding our mission to advance equity for women and girls. Amid these attacks, AAUW is taking action. We have launched the [Defend Higher Education Fund](#) to help elevate the critical higher education issues impacting women. We are holding a series of events on Defending Equity. We are continuing to invest in women through direct funding, leadership development, and support for women in academia."

Defending Equity: Strengthening Our Collective Impact Series

Amid growing attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion, AAUW is taking action. This series equips members with key policy updates, advocacy strategies, and tools to strengthen our impact. Join one or all sessions to stay informed and take action!
(CONTINUED on next page)

National News – Gloria Blackwell (Continued)

- **AAUW: Standing Strong Against Attacks on Equity in Education**

March 26 | 6:00 p.m. ET

Recent executive actions threaten diversity, equity, and inclusion nationwide. Join us to learn about these policy changes, how they impact women and marginalized communities, and how AAUW is taking action to defend equity. Stay informed and discover ways to support our mission in this critical moment. [Register Here.](#)

- **Building A Stronger AAUW**

April 1 | 7:00 p.m. ET

Strong fundraising fuels AAUW's impact. This session, led by AAUW National's Advancement Committee, will provide strategies for successful branch fundraising. Learn about AAUW's budget, the Greatest Needs Fund, and hear directly from branches with proven fundraising success. Walk away with tools and resources to help your branch grow its financial support. [Register here.](#)

- **AAUW Advocacy Strategies for In-District Meetings**

April 8 | 7:00 p.m. ET

Face-to-face advocacy can drive real change. This session will guide members on how to set up in-district meetings with members of Congress, maximize town hall participation, and effectively use key talking points during the upcoming April congressional recess. Learn how to make your voice heard. [Register Here.](#)

- **Funding Futures: Understanding Changes to Sex and Gender-Based Scholarship Programs**

April 15 | 7:00 p.m. ET

Navigating legal changes to sex-based scholarships can be complex. This interactive session will provide information to AAUW branches on funding scholarships amid evolving regulations while staying true to our mission of advancing education for women and girls. Space is limited. [Register Here.](#)

AAUW Mission Statement:

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

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<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	<i>*newly elected</i>

Newsletter

The newsletter is published by the first of each month. The **deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month** to ensure the issue can be distributed on the first of the next month. Please send emails to tgorkin@gmail.com.

NOTE: There will not be a May Newsletter. Available information for May is included in this issue.

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 for the newsletter and Rhoda McNitt at rhodamcnitt@verizon.net for the web page.

Board Meeting

The Board Meetings will be via ZOOM [unless otherwise The April meeting will be a ZOOM meeting on Thursday, April 17th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. The May meeting will be a ZOOM meeting on Thursday, May 8.

The June Board Meeting will be a Joint meeting of the current and new members at the home of Beryl Goldman.

Finance Officer's Report

Beginning Checking	
Account Balance July 1, 2024	\$8,098.17
Ending Checking Account Balance February 28, 2025	\$7,613.97
Mimi Jones Scholarship Fund	
<i>(Dedicated line item within the checking account)</i>	\$2,056.00
Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund	
<i>(Dedicated line item within the checking account)</i>	
Vanguard Account February 28, 2025	\$15,908.99
<i>(Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund)</i>	
Chester County Community Foundation December 31, 2024	
<i>(Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund)</i>	\$286,988.80
YTD July 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025	
TOTAL Income	\$11,971.50
TOTAL Disbursements	\$12,455.70
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(\$484.20)



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.



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.

FIG Upcoming event:

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

TIG (Travel Interest Group)

Contact Mary Marco at mary.m.marco@gmail.com or Jane McDowell at jlwmcowell@gmail.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 two book discussion groups.

LIT I: Daytime Literature Group

Fiction & Nonfiction Lit I Book Group: Note: Our next meeting will be on the second Monday, **April 14: *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*** by James McBride at Jane Schultz's home. On **May 19** we will discuss *Becoming Madam Secretary* by Stephanie Dray at Beryl Goldman's home.
Contact: Janet Kane 610-742-5961 - 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, **April 10 at 2:00 pm** at Chris Smith's home. The leader of the discussion will be determined. Our book is *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. Please let Chris (cmsmith1971@gmail.com) and Peggy Staarman (peggstaar@verizon.net) know if you will attend.

Our May meeting will be on Thursday, **May 8 at 2:00 pm** at Jane Schultz's home. The leader of the discussion will be Phyllis Dunn. Our book will be *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Please let Jane (mjschultz46@gmail.com) and Peggy Staarman (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.

Great Decisions 2025 Discussion 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. 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

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



2025-2026 Membership Form – Renewal

West Chester-Chester County Affiliate

AAUW is a non-profit, non-partisan organization with a nationwide network of ~1,000 local affiliates that partner to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Please complete and return this form with your dues.

If there is anything that you wish to be kept confidential, please add a comment regarding that item.

Name _____ Date _____

☐ There are no changes since last year ☐ See changes indicated below:

Please do not check the “no changes” box and then add information below. **Check EITHER box. Enter only CHANGES below.**

Preferred first name for handbook (if different from above) _____

Name of Spouse/Partner (if you choose to include him/her in handbook) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Voting Township _____

Telephone (please star if you have preferred number) [home] _____ [cell] _____

e-Mail _____ Birthday ____/____/____
YEAR OPTIONAL

Occupation/Title/Company _____ Active? ☐ Retired? ☐

*****PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION*****

CHECK MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

Regular Membership (National \$74, State \$12, Affiliate \$16) \$102.00 ☐

Designated National Paid Life Member (National \$0, State \$12, Affiliate \$16) \$28.00 ☐

Honorary Life (50 Years) Member (National \$0, State \$0, Affiliate \$0) \$ 0 ☐

Please make check payable to: **AAUW – West Chester-Chester County**

Return Form and check to:

Susan Woron

Co-VP Membership

207 Chandler Drive, West Chester, PA 19380

484-467-6705

sworon54@gmail.com

Inquiries to:

Susan Woron

******PLEASE ALSO COMPLETE AND RETURN PAGE 2: ACTIVITIES, INTEREST GROUPS & PROJECTS
FORM******

Name _____

Volunteer Experience/Community Activities? _____

Hobbies? _____

Do you have computer experience? Website design [] Database [] Desktop Publishing []
 Word/Excel [] Other _____

REQUEST MORE INFORMATION ON SIGNING UP FOR ACTIVITIES, INTEREST GROUPS AND PROJECTS

Groups:	Please Check	Comments
Scholarship Funds: Alice Lawson (tuition only)		
Scholarship Funds: Mimi Jones (supplemental funds)		
Annual Handbook		
Book Club 1 – 3 rd Monday, 1PM		
Book Club 2 – 3 rd Wednesday, 7:00PM		
Our News & Publicity		
Our Website		
Bridge – 3 rd Friday, 10AM		
Community Outreach Programs		
Community Warehouse		
Food Interest Group (FIG)		
Fundraising		
Great Decisions (discussion group)		
Hospitality		
Laundromat Library League (LLL)		
Legislation & Public Policy (LAPP)		
Mah Jongg – 1 st Thurs 7PM & online 3 rd Thurs 7PM		
Newsletter Publication		
Nominating Committee		
STEM Activities		
Travel Interest Group (TIG)		
Walkers – Weekly Tuesday 9AM		
West Chester Food Cupboard – Last Monday 7PM		
OTHER INTEREST IDEAS THAT YOU MIGHT SUGGEST		



AAUW West Chester-Chester County Affiliate

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.

Banquet Cost: \$42.00

Plated dinner with choice of entrée, salad, vegetables, and dessert
There will be a Cash Bar.

RSVP: Please return your check and the form below by April 25th

Questions? Contact Brenda Hunsberger at bghunsberger@comcast.net

**Please bring Baby Care items for our May collection to the banquet-Diapers, Wipes, Formula, Etc.

You may return this at the April meeting or mail this section and your check for \$42.00
made payable to AAUW WC-CC to:

Jane Schultz, 1300 Amstel Way, West Chester, PA 19380

Name: _____ Ck # _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Entrée Choice:

_____ Penne Primavera-Pasta, Vegetables, Herbs/Garlic in Marinara Sauce (V)

_____ Roasted Atlantic Salmon-Lightly Seasoned Salmon Filet in Pan Jus (GF)

_____ Chicken Francaise-Lightly Sauteed Egg Battered Chicken Breast,w/Lemon Butter Sauce





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

April-May 2025 Newsletter

April: "Camp Dreamcatcher"

May: Annual 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