



AAUW SUM
News & Views from the
West Chester – Chester County PA Branch

Volume 52, Number 5 February, 2009

February Brunch Meeting
Caitlin McGee, NCCWSL &
Kate Sweeney, State AAUW Co-President
Saturday, February 7th, 9:00 AM
YWCA Chester County
123 N. Church St, West Chester, PA

Our speakers for the day include a young woman who attended the AAUW National Conference of College Women Student Leaders, a leadership conference to help young women learn the essentials of leadership and to expose them to the values and projects of the AAUW. Caitlin McGee has just returned from a semester in Equatorial Guinea, West Africa and has already co-founded a non-profit to take school supplies into West Africa.

We are also honored to welcome Kate Sweeney, AAUW Pennsylvania Co-President, who will explain the proposed bylaws changes that will be voted on this year by the AAUW convention representatives.

The cost is just \$5.00 and will include a delicious hot and cold brunch. *If you have not already RSVP'd* please e-mail Fran Pierce or if you need directions - franpierce@verizon.net. Parking is available on the street or in the lot at the intersection of Chestnut and Church Streets – about a half of a block away.

Domestic Violence Center Project

Domestic Violence Center Donations: For the Month of November, the branch contributed 9 deodorants to the Center, and in December we contributed \$345 worth of Gift Cards. Please bring donations of dishwashing detergent for hand washing dishes to the February Brunch. Thank you all for your contributions.

Follow-up Activities from January's program on Ecology and the Environment

An Inconvenient Truth: the Crisis of Global Warming by Albert Gore is available in hard copy and as a DVD from the Chester County Library System. Copies may be reserved on-line.

Monday, April 27, 10 am, Jeff Jabco, Director of Horticulture at the Scott Arboretum, will speak on *The Greening of America--Our Roofs* at the Tredyffrin Library. The event is free and open to the public. The library has incorporated a green roof into its recent major expansion. Mr. Jabco will discuss the advantages of this new approach to making buildings more environmentally friendly. The Library is located at 582 Upper Gulph Rd., Strafford, PA. Contact Graham Boose in mid-April if you want to carpool: (610) 431-7701.

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Building Leadership

In discussions they've had with other AAUW members, your co-presidents have often voiced and heard voiced, how essential it is for today's young women to become aware of the many barriers that still need to be broken through for those of our sex, and to take leadership roles in addressing those issues. That is exactly what NCCWSL, the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (affectionately referred to as "Nick Whistle"), is all about. AAUW, having become the nation's leading organization promoting equity for women and girls in education and the workplace, knows not only how far we have come and how far we still have to go, but also knows that fostering leadership skills for young women and empowering women around the world is the best way to get there. Towards this end, AAUW branches, including ours, support NCCWSL scholarships.

The goals of the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders are to help women learn about contemporary issues from pay equity to sexual harassment, develop leadership skills from effective communication to business etiquette, understand financial literacy, and motivate the emergence of service skills. The Women of Distinction award ceremony is an inspiring highlight of NCCWSL. Every year several accomplished, successful women who are leaders in their respective, diverse fields receive this prestigious award and share their own unique, stories. The 2008 Women of Distinction recipients were:

Maya Ajmera, Founder and President, Global Fund for Children

Jovita Carranza, Deputy Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration
Majora Carter, Founder and Executive Director, Sustainable South Bronx
Kimberly Dozier, Award-winning journalist
Evelyn "Pat" Foote, Brigadier General (ret.), U.S. Army

Attendance at these conferences has seen significant increases in recent years. At our February meeting we will have the opportunity to meet some young women representatives who attended AAUW's NCCWSL. Be sure to join us that Saturday morning to find out more about their activities and the training they've received that will enable them to be the future leaders we so urgently need.



Co-Presidents Leslie Wachob and Roselyn Cadoff

Save the Date

AAUW-PA Annual Meeting

April 25, 2009

10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. (with optional add-on)

The Country Cupboard Inn, Lewisburg, PA

Additional details at:

<http://www.aauwpa.org> and in the next *Keystoner*

Branch News

Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

AAUW Sum, pronounced awesome, is the newsletter of the West Chester-Chester County PA Branch of the American Association of University Women. It is normally published 8 times each year: September, October, November, January, February, March, April, and May. Deadline for copy is the 15th of the month preceding. January deadline is Dec. 1.

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Membership Outreach

Branch Membership Status: We currently have 84 branch members. Please send the names & address information for any prospective members to Barbara Leone. Bring a neighbor, friend, or relative to our next branch meeting. Consider giving a branch membership to a recent college graduate under the AAUW National "Give A Grad A Gift" program. Branch & State dues would be only \$26.00. Our young graduates need all the help they can get.

Your Records and Communication With the Association

Helpline Phone: 800 326 2289

Internet and email: The website for national AAUW is <http://www.aauw.org/>. Once you have accessed the site go to the Member Center. Have your Membership Number available to change your record information (see directions on page 35 of the branch member handbook). Type in your Membership Number and set up a password. Make a note of your password for future communications. In addition, you can find your Membership Number on the address label of the Association publication, *Outlook*, or call either Carol or Barbara (Co-Membership VPs).

Send us your News!

The "new" editors of AAUW SUM, Norma George and Nancy Rumfield, are delighted to bring you the January issue of the AAUW SUM newsletter. Please send *articles* as Word documents (.doc **not** .docx). Remember that articles for a given month of the newsletter are due on the 15th of the preceding month. Please provide all necessary information with your submission.

It is most helpful if you forward your news articles to the new *gmail* account: aauwsumnews@gmail.com, indicating the topic and month in the subject box and cc the Co-Presidents. Norma and Nancy share access to this account, it keeps their work mailboxes from getting filled and makes the process of collaborating easier.

Member Notes

Signatures still needed - Take the A train...(or the R3) -There is an online petition asking for restoration of Rail Service on the R3 through to West Chester at: <http://www.petitiononline.com/railtowc/petition.html>.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

~Margaret Mead

Branch Spreads *Let's Read Math* Using AAUW Educational Foundation Community Action Grant

In April 2007, the West Chester-Chester County Branch won a two-year grant from AAUW's Educational Foundation to *Spread Let's Read Math*. The objective was to build on our branch's success in modifying the successful program developed by Dr. Claire Passantino of the Makefield Area Branch, Bucks County, for use in a different geographic area and with a different demographic target group. The original program was developed as a community outreach program and branch new member recruitment tool, and was held in the local public library.

Our branch has presented the program for four consecutive summers at the YWCA of Chester County to approximately 35 primary students in the Summer Enrichment Program run by Program Director Fran Luft. Volunteers read an interesting storybook with an embedded math theme and then reinforce the math concept using materials and fun activities developed by Dr. Claire. The goal is to un-intimidate math, and to make it fun for both adults and kids.

Research has shown that girls, in particular, are turned off by math early in their school careers, thus closing many opportunities for future jobs in science, engineering, technology and mathematics (STEM). This program works to promote positive attitudes towards math in both boys and girls.

We were particularly pleased this past summer to welcome new AAUW member Trish Gysling, a member of the Department of Mathematics at West Chester University, and her student teachers. Their help was invaluable.

The goal of the grant was to interest 6 additional branches throughout AAUW's Middle Atlantic Region in presenting the program. Training and startup funds were included in the grant, which winds down in June 2009. To date, the following branches have implemented the program using EF funds: in Pennsylvania: Bethlehem, Easton, Northeastern Montgomery County, and

Reading; in New York: North Shore (Long Island), Poughkeepsie, Rockland County, Smithtown (Long Island). Five additional branches in PA's District 1 in the western part of the state are trained and developing programs. The grant also provided operational funds to our branch (and the Honey Brook Library) and to the Makefield Area Branch.

In a recent email, Dr. Claire shared what Makefield is doing with its CAG grant this year. The furnace at the Morrisville School PA blew up and covered everything in the school with soot and asbestos, etc. The students are now distributed in several schools around the community until modular classrooms can be brought in, probably in February. Branch volunteers will be conducting workshops in the modulars, as well as in the Morrisville Library as planned with 4 first grades and 4 second grades. The teachers in the school were very grateful, and are basically working without any student books or general supplies like Scotch tape. The CAG grant is covering the costs of the additional workshops, as well as some Xeroxing and mathematical manipulatives for the school.

The *Let's Read Math* program is available to student teachers, college and high school service organizations, Boy and Girl Scouts, community groups etc., and has been used in public school curricula, after-school programs, and Parent Teacher Organization settings. See www.letsreadmath.com



AAUW District 1 Director Barbara Wheatall sponsored a workshop for branches in western PA. Here, Butler branch members display their enthusiasm for the story and toothpick geometry in *The Greedy Triangle* by Marilyn Burns.

Continued on Page 5

Let's Read Math Cont'd.



The Poughkeepsie NY Branch hosted training for both members and community volunteers, and is implementing the Let's Read Math program in a local community center to a disadvantaged youth population. Their overall theme this year is Equity for Life. The Community Action Grant supported training and startup costs. Dr. Claire Passantino, developer of the Let's Read Math program, is on the left. Project Director Graham Boose is at right presenting a check to Poughkeepsie's Project Director Irene Keyes, center.



Dr. Claire works with volunteers from the Northeastern Montgomery County Branch to develop a program for youth at the Upper Moreland Library, Willow Grove. The volunteers have now completed a series of 3 workshops and will be sponsoring 3 more in the spring.



West Chester Branch member and Library Director Paula McGinness started the program at the Honey Brook Library several years ago and continued it with assistance from the grant. Her program uses library volunteers as workshop leaders. Today's topic is the concept of a standardized unit of measurement, a 12-inch foot, rather than the varying sizes of human feet, a concept amusingly covered in *How Big Is a Foot?* by Rolf Myller.

COME and GETT it on March 28th

For those of you who do not know about the GETT program, it is a FREE, daylong event for Chester County girls in grades 6-12 to encourage and give them information on technology as a career goal. There are also events throughout the day for the parents. This year's Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology (GETT) is scheduled for Saturday, March 28th, 2009 at the Downingtown Education Center (old Downingtown High School) on Manor Avenue in Downingtown.

Our branch has been with GETT from the beginning. We handle registration as well as other pre-event set up. Volunteers are needed for the day of the event (8:30 AM +) as well as the day before in the mid to late afternoon to stuff bags, set up the registration materials, and whatever else needs to be done. This is a fun and rewarding event and follows AAUW's Tech Savvy, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Coalition) involvement and other publications by the Educational Foundation.

To Register for GETT 2009 visit:

<http://itagpa.org/gett.php>

This is the second year for on-line registration for the girls, and we may even ask the adults to sign in this way to alleviate the crowding at the registration table on the morning of the event.

For additional information on GETT visit:

<http://ngcproject.org/directory/programs.cfm?adv>

Interested in the program, volunteering, or questions? Please call me at 610-269-3375 or e-mail pangea49@comcast.net

Thank you for your support.

Mary A Smith, GETT Planning Committee

I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble. ~ Helen Keller

AAUW Applauds Senate Passage of Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, Says Senate's Work Unfinished, Urges Passage of Paycheck Fairness Act

WASHINGTON - AAUW applauds the Senate for today's passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (S. 181) by a 61-36 vote, and urges the Senate to pass the companion pay equity legislation that would send a clear message to the country that wage discrimination will no longer be tolerated.

With the recent passage of both the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (H.R. 11) and the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 12), the U.S. House of Representatives demonstrated a firm, bipartisan resolve to attack wage discrimination on all fronts.

"This Senate victory on the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act is hard fought and celebrated, but it still falls short of our ultimate goal," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "While passing the Ledbetter bill is an important down payment on an election year promise to address pay equity vigorously, AAUW remains determined to see the Paycheck Fairness Act follow the same path and become law."

The Paycheck Fairness Act would provide additional tools to deter wage discrimination, closing loopholes in the Equal Pay Act through stronger penalties for violations; strengthening federal outreach, education, and enforcement efforts; and prohibiting retaliation against workers who ask about employers' wage practices. The Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, when signed, will address the U.S. Supreme Court's wrongheaded decision in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.*, restoring the long-standing interpretation of civil rights laws and EEOC policies that allowed employees to challenge any discriminatory paycheck they received.

"Pay equity needs to be fully addressed and the Paycheck Fairness Act is the next critical step in the fight for fair pay," Hallman said.

Lilly Ledbetter is perhaps the best-known face of pay equity and the namesake of this legislation. She worked for nearly two decades at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in Gadsden, Alabama. Despite receiving top performance awards, Ledbetter discovered that she had been paid significantly less than male co-workers with the same job. After her November 1998 retirement, she filed suit under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and was awarded back pay and other remedies in a jury trial. The Supreme Court's 5-4 decision not only erased Ledbetter's award but also left women, minorities, and others in Ledbetter's situation with virtually no recourse to pay discrimination.

"Those of us fighting to end wage discrimination fully expect President Barack Obama to sign the Ledbetter bill," said Lisa Maatz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations. "He has been a clear advocate for pay equity, and his swift approval of the bill would finally close the door on a Bush-era Supreme Court decision. In that same vein, AAUW also applauds the new president for ordering a freeze on and review of President Bush's last-minute regulations, some of which we opposed because those 11th hour rules would make it harder for women to balance work and family and would undercut efforts to make college more affordable."

The New Administration

AAUW's recommendations to the new administration and new Congress on workplace opportunity, pay equity, education, work/life balance, and other key issues:
www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/transition.cfm

Lilly Ledbetter's Letter

To read Lilly Ledbetter's letter in support of both the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act:
http://capwiz.com/aauw/attachments/Lilly_Ledbetter_letter_Senate.pdf

The Two-Minute Activist

Are You a Two (2) Minute Activist?

If not, go to: <http://capwiz.com/aauw/home/>

Upcoming Meetings

Branch Board Meetings

All Board meetings are open to the membership. Meetings begin at 7 pm, are over by 9, and are usually on the first Monday of the month. Upcoming: Monday, February 2, 2009, will be held at Grove Methodist Church.

March Meeting

The Status of Women Around the World; Mary Purcell, who has been AAUW's representative to the United Nations for several years, has worked with women's groups around the world. She will discuss the status of women internationally – both positive and negative.

Special Interest Groups

Couples Bridge

Couples Bridge is held the 3rd Saturday evening monthly. Contact Kay Philipps by phone 610-399-0697 or e-mail - edkphilipps@verizon.net if you can host or if you are interested in playing.

Women's Social Bridge 2008 - 2009

The Women's Social Bridge Group meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Please advise Beatriz Wee, at least seven days in advance of the scheduled date, if you would like to be the hostess for any month. She may be contacted at 610-594-2719; beatriztil@gmail.com.

Book and Discussion Groups

Lit II, Thursday Evening Book Group, Fiction and Nonfiction

Literature II -Book Discussion meets the 3rd Thursday monthly; February 19, *Why Women Should Rule the World*, by Dee Dee Myers; Grove Church, Youth Lounge; Kay Phillips, Leader; 610-399-0697; edkphilipps@verizon.net

Lit III, Wednesday Evening Book Group, Fiction and Nonfiction

Literature III -Book Discussion, 3rd Wednesday evenings: Leader: Martina Ossman, 610-793-1469; osman1072@verizon.net

Lit IV, Monday Evening Nonfiction Book Group— Literature IV – meets every two months on the 3rd Monday. Interested Branch members may contact Paula McGinness for more information, 610-942-4852 (home) or 610-273-3303 (work).

New SIG – Daytime Lit Group?

If you are interested in starting a daytime lit group, please contact Graham Boose at: GDBoose@comcast.net (preferred) or 610-431-7701.

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions group will meet February 9 at 1:30 p.m. at the Chester County Book Company. Topic: - European Integration. Leader: Carla Grot; 610-388-6201; w.grot@juno.com

FIG (Food Interest Group)

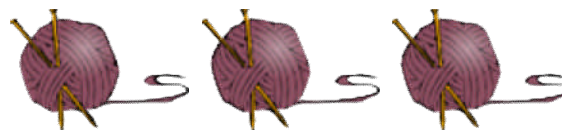
For the Food Interest Group (FIG) event of February contact Betty Bradford at 610-363-7974; wdbrad@verizon.net.

Finance Discussion Group

The Finance Discussion Group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Chester County Book Company. Participants are invited to bring related articles to share. The topics and dates for discussion in the first half 2009 are as follows:

2/18/09	Population growth
3/18/09	Asian stocks
4/15/09	Margins – financial instructions
5/20/09	Oil stocks
6/09	Food; shortages, costs, floods

Leader: Joan Baxter, 610-469-0710; jpbaxter_19103@yahoo.com.



Don't just sit there! Knit something!

Let us know if you're interested in joining this newest SIG. Call Roselyn at (610) 256-2839 to find your mittens.



West Chester-Chester County PA Branch

415 Sunset Hollow Rd.

West Chester, PA 19380

February 2009 NEWSLETTER

Meeting is Saturday, February 7, 9:00 AM

AAUW Mission Statement

The AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

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, 1,300 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

www.aauwchestercountypa.org