



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

Volume 52, Number 4 January, 2009

Ecology and the Environment -- What Can One Woman Do?

At our January meeting, Gwyn Rowland of the Montgomery County Lands Trust will educate us about small, personal things we can do to save energy and diminish our negative impact on the environment. Ms. Rowland will discuss the best kinds of *green* products, ways each of us can save energy, and other steps towards a healthier planet. She will also address questions you may have about specific products, practices, and myths.

Ms. Rowland began working for the Lands Trust in January 2008 and serves as Manager of Special Projects, focusing her energy on special projects, grant funding, and public outreach. For the past twenty years, Ms. Rowland has been involved with planning, managing, and implementing conservation programs. Before joining Lands Trust, she directed the watershed programs for the Izaak Walton League of America and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. She has also coordinated and taught workshops on biological monitoring, stream restoration, wetland conservation, and urban stormwater management techniques. Ms. Rowland holds a B.S. degree in Physical Geography from Western Carolina University.

Grove United Methodist Church, January 13th - 7:00 PM, □490 W. Boot Road, West Chester, PA 19380; 610-696-2663. From West Chester, take Route 100 North to Boot Road; turn left. Grove United Methodist Church is located at the intersection of West Boot Road and Grove Road, 1 mile from Route 100. Additional information can be found at:
<http://www.grovechurch.org>

Domestic Violence Center Project

Domestic Violence Center Donations: At the January meeting we will be collecting paper towels (such as a 3 pack) and toilet paper. The following items were delivered to the Center in October: 6 packs of 4 size D batteries, 2 packs of 2 size D batteries and 1 pack of 10 size D batteries. 2 toothbrushes, 2 bags of diapers size 4 and 2 packs of sanitary pads.

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Change: More Than A Campaign Slogan

As the New Year begins, we are all beginning anew in so many ways. The weather has begun a new cycle, our nation is starting a new chapter, and many of us, as individuals, are considering making some New Years resolutions. AAUW, however, has been engaged in reflecting, weighing, and considering the most effective ways to bring revitalizing change to the organization for the past several years.

In addition to the restructuring, which is old news to us by now, and the proposed by-law changes, which we will discuss further at our February membership meeting, there is the AAUW Value Promise. Although we have received information on this, it seems to have gotten lost in all else that has surfaced. Simply stated, the Value Promise says that, *"By joining AAUW you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance."* It was adopted last February at the joint meeting of the Association and Educational Foundation boards, and is to serve as a benchmark for assessing every activity and program that we undertake. It also expresses the value of affiliation with AAUW and adds strength to our mission statement: *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.*

AAUW's Value Promise is, in fact, the source of the 2009 National Convention theme, **Breaking Through Barriers**. Hopefully, some of our Branch members will be able to attend that convention, to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, June 26 – 28. Just how women and girls have been, are, and will be breaking through barriers is now featured in a column by that name in our Outlook magazine. It will certainly be a major focus at the 2009 Convention. The issue presents a challenge for our Branch as well, especially as we enter upon this reflective time of a new year.



Co-Presidents Leslie Wachob and Roselyn Cadoff

Save the Date

AAUW-PA 80th Annual Meeting

April 25, 2009

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

The Country Cupboard Inn, Lewisburg, PA

Discuss:

Proposed Bylaws Changes

[with Sally Chamberlain, Association Representative]

Every PA-Member Survey Results

Emerging Leader Internships

Present AAUW-PA Awards:

STARS

Emerging Leader

Outstanding Woman

Susan K. Nensteil Humanitarian

More details upcoming...

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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<http://www.aauwchestercountypa.org>

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.

Membership

Welcome New Member!

Jean Speiser
809 Denbi Court
West Chester, PA 19382
Phone: (H): 610 738 3363
(O): 610 692 3227
E-mail: JeanSpeiser@gmail.com

College: Brandeis University
Major: Music
Occupation: Lawyer

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).

We're still New! 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.

2009 AAUW National Convention

Breaking through Barriers

June 26-28, 2009

St. Louis



2009 AAUW National Convention will be 'BREAKING through BARRIERS'

AAUW-MO and the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) in St. Louis are hard at work planning the details of hosting the 2009 AAUW National Convention at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand and Suites Hotel, June 26-28, 2009. This historic convention, themed "BREAKING through BARRIERS," will discuss and vote on issues related to membership requirements, dues payments, public policy issues, and much more. The results will have a momentous impact on who and what AAUW is to be in the coming years. You don't want to miss it! Check out the AAUW website for full details on the issues, the convention, and things to do in St. Louis: www.aauw.org/convention.

Convention registration began on December 1st and you DON'T want to miss out on Best Value Registration!* Hundreds of AAUW members are making plans to head for St. Louis next June to shape the future of our organization. The hotel has ample convention space, lovely rooms, great restaurants and is right in the heart of downtown St. Louis. The Cardinals will be playing ball, the Zoo is free, the Art Museum is world class, as is the Missouri Botanical Garden. Theater, opera and a great children's museum also await you.

At the convention we'll have welcoming activities on Thursday, stimulating workshops on Friday morning, First Timers' briefings, lively business sessions each day, dynamic keynote speakers, an exciting CEO Women Leaders luncheon, bylaws briefings, Meet the Candidates reception, elections for new

officers, Taste of Success displays, the elegant banquet on Saturday night, and a final business session on Sunday morning. All this surrounded by the popular CyberStop, AAUW merchandise sales, our friendly AAUW Missouri hospitality and much more. We want YOU to have a GREAT time at the convention!

Please join us in St. Louis! Plan now to send branch members and delegates to convention by budgeting for it, appointing delegates early, discussing the issues and bylaws. Treat yourself to a mini-vacation at the historic Renaissance Grand Hotel where spa treatments, great restaurants, and lots of extras await you. Don't forget to invite your AAUW family and friends from across the country to "meet you in St. Louis" as we continue to 'break through barriers' for women and girls.

For additional information, you may contact the Local Arrangements Committee: Lynne Roney, chair (lynneroney@sbcglobal.net),

Diane Ludwig - local sponsorships (dbludwig22@aol.com), Pat Shores - volunteers/hospitality (apatriciashores@charter.net), and Julie Triplett - volunteers/hospitality (julietrip@charter.net)

** SPECIAL Best Value registration fee of \$375 for those who register between December 1, 2008 and January 15, 2009. This is the same rate as the 2007 convention two years ago! Plan Ahead - take advantage of this great deal!*

Nominations for “Literary Heroes Breakfast” being accepted now!

Do you have a neighbor who is helping children learn to read? Is your child participating in a community outreach project to support literacy? Do you know of a company that provides scholarship funding to encourage reading programs for adults and senior citizens? Perhaps toddlers or school-aged children are the lucky recipients of such programmatic funding? West Chester Public Library is conducting their community-wide call for nominations. Nominations will be collected through January 15, 2009. Event information and a secure online nomination form can be found on the Literary Heroes Breakfast website at www.literacyheroes.com. We need your help to recognize and honor, literacy heroes who use the power of books and knowledge to empower, transform and improve their own life, or the lives of others. If you have questions please call: Phyllis Dunn, 610-696-1079.

Member Notes

Sad News

Dorothy Ward passed away December 12th, as a patient in Manor Care Nursing Home. Her funeral mass was held at St. Katherine's of Sienna in Wayne. Our sincere sympathies are extended to family and friends.

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>.

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, January 5, 2009, will be held at Grove Methodist Church.

February Meeting

The meeting will be on Saturday, February 7th, 9 am at YWCA at 123 N. Church St, West Chester, PA. A young women representative

who attended AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) will inform us of their activities and the training they receive to enable them to become tomorrow's leaders in all walks of life. Kate Sweeney, State AAUW Co-President, will also be at this meeting will be discussing all the changes we will be voting on at AAUW National Convention. Graham Boose is the facilitator. 610 431-7701.

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; January 21 will be a joint meeting with Lit III; *The Wheel of Life: A Memoir of Living & Dying* by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross; Gove 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, Wednesday evenings: January 21 will be a joint meeting with Lit II; *see Lit II*.

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).

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions special interest group meets monthly, the 2nd Monday at 1:30 PM. Questions may be addressed to Jackie Paige at (610) 359-9887.

FIG (Food Interest Group)

For the Food Interest Group (FIG) event of January 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:

1/21/09	Water
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

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.

AAUW Press Release.....

AAUW Applauds Choice of Hilda Solis for Labor Secretary Congresswoman Is a Former Co-chair of the Women's Caucus

WASHINGTON — AAUW is pleased to support the nomination of Rep. Hilda Solis for Secretary of Labor. President-elect Barack Obama announced the nomination at a news conference this afternoon.

"AAUW is delighted at the prospect of Hilda Solis having a seat at the cabinet table," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "Throughout her career, she has been a champion for working women and their families. President-elect Obama has made a wise choice."

Hilda Solis has a long history of being on the right side of issues that matter most to America's families. As a state legislator, she was instrumental in raising California's minimum wage in 1996. She also authored pioneering legislation on environmental justice issues, for which she became the first woman to receive a Profile in Courage Award from the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. Solis was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2000 and, for the past eight

years, has fought for women on a national scale.

"Hilda Solis received a perfect score from AAUW in the 110th Congress for votes on such critical issues as pay equity, paid parental leave, and reducing the cost of college," said Lisa M. Maatz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations. "Solis has been a leader on pay equity, co-sponsoring both the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act, two bills that would go a long way toward closing the persistent wage gap faced by American women."

Maatz noted that Solis is a co-sponsor of the Healthy Families Act, a bill that would guarantee the availability of paid sick leave to working Americans. Solis has also been active in efforts to preserve the integrity of the Department of Labor's Women's Bureau in the face of efforts to weaken or eliminate the program. The bureau is the only federal agency whose work is solely devoted to the concerns of women in the workplace. "Clearly, Solis understands the critical role women play in today's workforce, and she cares deeply about the issues of pay equity and work-life balance," said Maatz. "It will be a wonderful change of pace to have a proactive Department of Labor that is responsive to these universal concerns."

AAUW Press Release.....

AAUW Concerned about Bush Administration's "Midnight" Regulations Urges President-elect Obama and Congress to Block Implementation of Harmful New Rules

WASHINGTON — AAUW opposes a new Department of Health and Human Services regulation, finalized today as the latest in a series of last-minute regulations issued by the Bush administration.

"The Bush administration has issued another 11th hour rule that will make it harder for women to balance work and family," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "From restricting the ability of women to take leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act to blocking access to essential family planning services, the administration's last-minute regulations are a giant lump of coal this holiday season."

The new HHS regulation will severely limit women's access to reproductive health and family planning services, including some of the most common forms of birth control. The rule unnecessarily expands existing policies that allow health care employees to refuse to provide any service that is in any way contrary to their personal beliefs — so-called conscience clauses. The new rule allows workers to refuse to provide such services, information, and referrals without any consideration for patients' access to appropriate care and full information.

"There is an extensive body of laws, regulations, and court precedent that currently balances the religious rights of workers with the practical needs of employers, all while ensuring a patient's access to reproductive health care," said Lisa M. Maatz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations. "This delicate balance, which is vital to providing critical health care services including family planning, is destroyed by the new rule."

The problematic HHS rule comes on the heels of a regulation published just last month that weakens the protections afforded by the Family and Medical Leave Act, making it more difficult for most workers to take job-protected leave and impinging on their privacy in the process.

"AAUW is urging both the president-elect and the new Congress to take a hard look at all the midnight regulations issued by the outgoing administration, and we're confident that we can effectively reverse this latest direction in the damaging course laid by President Bush," said Hallman.

AAUW submitted comments urging the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to improve the reproductive health and safety of all women and girls rather than limit it. In addition, thousands of AAUW members contacted the Bush administration and urged them not to finalize the harmful regulation. Similar comments were submitted to the Department of Labor regarding the FMLA rules.

Have you heard of...?

The White House Project: The White House Project is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization that aims to advance women's leadership in all communities and sectors—up to the U.S. presidency—by filling the leadership pipeline with a richly diverse, critical mass of women.

www.thewhitehouseproject.org

Women Work!: Women Work! - The National Network for Women's Employment envisions a nation where all women have educational and employment equity, personal and economic security, and social equality throughout their lives. Since 1978, the Network has assisted more than 10 million women to successfully enter, re-enter, and advance in the workforce. Through supporting, advocating, and advancing women's economic self-sufficiency, Women Work! members strengthen families and communities. www.womenwork.org



West Chester-Chester County PA Branch

415 Sunset Hollow Rd.

West Chester, PA 19380

January 2009 NEWSLETTER

Meeting is Tuesday, January 13th, 7:00 pm

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