



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

Volume 52, Number 3 November/December, 2008

Noted Woman Poet to Read

Dr. April Lindner, an Associate Professor of English at Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, will give a reading of her work at our November 11th meeting. Her poetry is accessible and readable. She often bases her writing on personal, woman-centered themes that leave the reader thoughtful and wanting more.

Prior to teaching at St. Joseph’s, Dr. Lindner was an Assistant Professor at Wittenburg University in Springfield, Ohio, where she taught creative writing, literature, and composition. Garrison Keillor featured her poem, *First Kiss*, in his anthology *Good Poems*, published by Penguin in 2003, and he has read her work on his nationally syndicated radio program, *The Writer’s Almanac*.

Dr. Lindner received the 2002 Walt McDonald First Book Prize from Texas Tech University Press for her poetry collection, *Skin*. Her poems have appeared in *The Hudson Review*, *The Paris Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *Prairie Schooner*, and many other journals. She co-edited the *Contemporary American Poetry* anthology with fellow poet, R.S. Gwynn for Longman’s Penguin Academics series and in 2002 she was a Walter E. Dakin fellow at the Sewanee Writers’ Workshop.

Following the reading, Dr. Lindner will offer copies of her books for sale and will personally autograph each.

The meeting will be held at the West Chester University Poetry Center, 823 South High Street, West Chester. The center is on the East (left) side of High Street as you are traveling south, and there is a small amount of parking at the end of the driveway. The larger parking lot and garage are located next door, behind the Swope Music Building and the Performing Arts Center.

Domestic Violence Center Project

Domestic Violence Center Donations: This month we will be collecting deodorant at the Poetry Center.



SOCK IT TO US



The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is still collecting socks to be distributed to charities throughout Chester County. Socks are needed for men, women, and children including diabetic patients, women returning to work, children, and homeless persons. White, mostly cotton socks are the best choice for the homeless.

Pantyhose are needed for the *Wings for Success*, a program which helps to outfit women returning to the workplace. Because the number collected is lower this year, either Kay Philipps or a representative from RSVP will still be collecting them at the November meeting. Let’s continue the good work!

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Proposed Changes To Consider

We hope you have all received the Fall 2008 issue of the *Keystoner*, our AAUW – Pennsylvania newsletter. Your co-presidents feel that it is important for the Branch membership to read, understand, ask questions about, and have some dialogue on the proposed bylaw changes which are paraphrased on the front page of that document. They are therefore restated below for your convenience:

- Anyone who supports the mission may be a member
- Every member has a vote on any order of business
- The delegate system is deleted
- Branches may exist with their own structure, be geographically based (even across state lines) or exist as a virtual, online branch
- The only branch officers AAUW will require will be Administrative and Finance contacts
- States are free to have a structure or no structure
- Regional structures are deleted
- Members will pay dues directly to AAUW national
- Dues will be determined by 2/3 vote of the Association Board of Directors

Members are encouraged to review this draft with an open mind and a willingness to envision the future of AAUW as a viable and vital organization for the 21st century. To help you better understand the intentions and implications of the proposals, explanatory notes may be downloaded from

www.aauw.org/member_center/strategicprocess.

Our state board invites feedback from PA members, and your co-presidents would like to hear from their Branch members. Time will be provided for discussion as soon as we receive more information from AAUW PA. The proposed bylaws will be presented for vote at the 2009 AAUW Convention, June 26–28, in St. Louis, MO.



Co-Presidents Leslie Wachob and Roselyn Cadoff

Roselyn and Leslie are looking forward to the November program meeting and to the December Holiday Gathering. All the election excitement should be over by then, and at this writing, we are anticipating the resolution of another Presidential campaign. It is truly a compelling time in which to live, and an important time in which to remain informed, review the AAUW mission, and make our voices heard.



Branch Ways & Means



Our annual book sales fundraiser will be Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at the *Chester County Book Company*. Please consider your holiday gift-giving needs and bring all your friends. For your purchases to contribute to this fundraiser you will need to check out at the special register. Our AAUW Branch will receive 15% of the proceeds from the day's sales. This fundraiser is an all-day opportunity. Stop by, show your support and get some holiday shopping done at the same time!

For additional information
contact Louise Shea, 610-738-1233 or

MLShea35@aol.com

Happy 50th Anniversary - AAUW Educational Foundation!

Special congratulations to the AAUW Educational Foundation on its 50th anniversary year and sincere thanks to all the AAUW members across the nation – a community whose generous contributions have enabled the Educational Foundation to continue breaking through barriers for women and girls for 50 years.

In honor of the Educational Foundation's 50th Anniversary, members and friends can help AAUW meet our goal of raising 500 gifts of \$50 in 50 days! Special thanks to all who have already made a gift to this special campaign, your name is now a part of our celebratory website. To be a part of this list please visit our secure website or send a check made payable to AAUW-Educational Foundation. *Send to:*
AAUW EF 50th Anniversary
Celebration □ 1111 16th St NW □ Washington,
DC 20036

Contributions will be used where we have the greatest need and opportunity to educate women for a lifetime of success, research the barriers that harm women and protect the legal rights of those facing discrimination. If you prefer to direct your gift to a specific fund or giving circle, please indicate this in the memo line of your check. For online giving indicate your designation in the special field indicated at the beginning of the form.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating □ *Breaking through Barriers* for women and girls since 1958!

LOOK!! Entertainment Books!

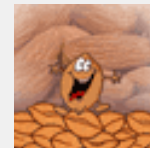
Entertainment books are a great value at \$25.00 each. You can save \$20.00 at Genuardi's, and the included entertainment membership card gets you discounts while dining out at fine restaurants, casual family dining, and fast food restaurants. There are also discounts for movies, live shows, sporting events, museums, travel, car rentals, hotels, retail and services from apparel to flowers and much, much more.



PECANS ARE COMING

Pecans have been ordered and will be delivered right in time for our November meeting! Our co-presidents are also willing to deliver if necessary. Proceeds of sale go to the local general fund. You may order the following varieties in the amounts noted.

Cinnamon Glazed Pecans -\$7.00 per 12 oz. bag
Regular Large ½ Pecans - \$8.00 per 1 lb. bag
Pecan Logs - \$4.00 each
Chocolate Covered Pecans -\$7.00 per 12 oz bag
Caramel Pecan Clusters - \$7.00 per 8 oz. bag



Congratulations!!

Peg Anderson - Thanks for Caring

Congratulations to AAUW member Peg Anderson who was given the *Thanks for Caring* Award on Tuesday, October 14th by the Chester County Community Foundation. The event was held at West Chester University's Emilie Asplundh Hall and was followed by a reception.



Peg Anderson, photo by Co-Editor Norma George

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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Rosemary MacDonald	Financial Officer

<http://www.aauwchestercountypa.org>

Public Policy Committee

By Leslie Jean Allison

Be an AAUW Two Minute Activist!

Sign up for Legislative Alerts. Keep up to date with legislation affecting women. You can become an *AAUW Two Minute Activist* and make your voice heard in Congress.

Minute 1: Read about the latest issue.

Minute 2: Personalize a pre-written AAUW message and email it to your member of Congress. (We will be distributing legislative contact information soon). Sign up at:

<http://www.capwiz.com/aauw/home/>

Vote! Vote! Vote!

Tuesday November 4th, 2008 is Election Day and this year women's votes could determine the election outcome. "Although women gained the constitutional right to vote nationwide only in 1920, we now constitute an important block of voters."

Your vote will make a difference.

Vote! Vote! Vote!



What Happens November 5th?

Once we vote we still need to still need to be active. What can we do in addition to being an AAUW Two-Minute Activist?

Here is another resource:

The Pennsylvania Center for Women, Politics and Policy at Chatham University.

<http://www.pcwppp.org/>

The Pennsylvania Center for Women, Politics, and Public Policy (PCWPPP) at Chatham University is a non-partisan center devoted to fostering women's public leadership through education, empowerment, and action.

Advocacy Training will be offered on 2/20/09.

This is a workshop for self-proclaimed activists, community organizers, students, and citizens who care about civic engagement.

A Special *Thank You* to the AAUW members who came out and helped the LWV register voters!

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

New Member joining via Internet (10/15/08);
Mrs. Janice Gerdes Keith
30 Wycombe Road
Glenmoore, PA 19343

E-mail: janice.keith@gmail.com

Phone: (H) 610 942 7966
(W) 610 585 2023
(Fax) 610 942 3273

College: Bradley University, PA
Major: Special Education BA 1972
Occupation: Teacher
Interest Groups: Book Group (Monday)
Great Discussions

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 November issue of the AAUW SUM newsletter. Your comments, suggestions, and news items are welcome. 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 *except for the January issue, which is due on December 1st.*

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.



Don't just sit there! Knit something!

Let us know if you're interested in joining this newest SIG. Call Roselyn at (610) 363-8881 to find your mittens.

Well Wishes...

Dorothy Ward is very slowly improving and has been moved to a new rehabilitation facility. Please send cards to: Dorothy Ward Manor Care, 600 W. Valley Forge Road, Room 428, King of Prussia, PA 19406

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>. Please consider signing, and feel free to forward it to as many people as possible.

AAUW Member Showcase Briefing

AAUW is proud to present a new online feature, the AAUW Member Showcase. It enables branch, state, and national events to be publicized nationwide on the AAUW website, illustrating the breadth of our community and the diversity of our programs to help break through barriers for women and girls.

What is the AAUW Member Showcase?

The Member Showcase is a new way to promote AAUW activities to our members and the general public. Branch, state, and national activities can be posted to our Members Showcase calendar, which can be accessed from the AAUW homepage (www.aauw.org). This searchable, 18-month calendar features AAUW activities with links to details, pictures, and other event information. Branches and states are encouraged to post their own activities and to link their Member Showcase calendar listings to supporting details, such as a state convention program, pictures, their website, the contact e-mail address for the event, etc. National activities, like our 2009 AAUW Convention in St. Louis, Equal Pay Day commemoration, and International Women's Day events, are also featured on the calendar.

How do we post our activities to the AAUW Member Showcase calendar?

Entries to the Member Showcase calendar may be posted by states and branches whenever there is new or updated information. Branches and states should keep their calendar listings current so that the Member Showcase truly reflects the goings-on of our entire AAUW community. Visitors to the website will be able to search the calendar by date, by the type of activity (e.g. book sales) and by location (state and branch).

What are benefits of the AAUW Member Showcase?

The Member Showcase provides an easy way to learn about AAUW activities on the local, state, and national level.

The Member Showcase may be viewed by members and non-members alike. In the last year, AAUW's website averaged 47,500 visitors per month, who viewed more than 454,000 pages throughout our site.

It provides greater visibility for your fundraising and advocacy events, meetings, and other activities and encourages audiences to visit your website and learn more about opportunities with your branch or state.

The Member Showcase is a great way for sponsors to find you and to learn where branches/states are holding events that could be opportunities for support and investment. As AAUW and the world continue to go green, this is a paperless (and cost-free) way to showcase your activities



December Holiday Gathering



Come join the party at our December Holiday Gathering and support our branch at the same time! The Party will be held at the home of Nancy Dore, 3 Thayer Drive, in Malvern from 7:00 to 10:00 PM, and the cost is \$15:00 per person. Please RSVP to the host and coordinator of the party, Nancy Dore at (610) 725-0459. Members of the Food Interest Group should also contact Nancy to let her know what they plan to bring.

Directions:

From west or south: Take 202 north to exit for 401 East. Go east on 401 to the first traffic light (Mill Lane). Turn left on Mill Lane. Mill Lane becomes Sidley Road. Continue straight at the stop sign to the next right turn (Thayer Drive). Number 3 is the second house on the left. There is plenty of parking on Thayer Drive.

From north: Take 401 east to Moores Road (Traffic signal just before 202). Turn left onto Moores Road and continue to the stop sign (Sidley Road). Turn left onto Sidley Road and take first right onto Thayer Drive.

Branch Board Meetings

All Board meetings are open to the membership and will be held at the West Goshen Municipal Building, generally in the Community Room on the first floor. Meetings begin at 7 pm, are over by 9, and are usually on the first Monday of the month. Upcoming: Monday, November 3rd at Leslie Wachob's home.

January Meeting

Tuesday, January 13 – 7:00 PM – Grove Methodist Church – *Ecology and the Environment – What Can One Woman Do?* Gwyn Rowland, Montgomery Co. Lands Trust, will educate us about small, personal things that we can do to save energy and diminish our negative impact on the environment. Gwyn will talk about the best kinds of “Green” products, how to take more steps to save energy, and other personal paths we can take along the path to a healthier planet. Gwyn will also save time for your questions about specific products, practices and myths.

Special Interest Groups

Couples Bridge –

Couples Bridge will be held on Saturday night, November 15th at 7:30pm. Mary and Walt Smith will be our hosts. Please e-mail them at pangea49@comcast.net or call them at 610-269-3375 to let them know whether or not you can attend. Contact Kay Philipps by phone 610-399-0697 or by e-mail at edkphilipps@verizon.net if you can host or if you are interested in playing.

Women's Social Bridge 2008 -

The Women's Social Bridge Group meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. The next meeting will take place on November 19th, and all AAUW members are invited to participate. Please advise Beatriz Wee if you would like to be the hostess for any month. She should be notified at least seven days in advance of the scheduled date, and 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; November 20, *The Johnstown Flood*, by David McCullough; Lyn Eaton, Host; 610-696-3172; wleaton2@aol.com; Donna Eaves, Leader: 610-692-5277; Deaves812@aol.com

Lit III, Wednesday Evening Book Group, Fiction and Nonfiction

Literature III -Book Discussion, Wednesday evenings: November 19, *The Friday Night Knitting Club* (F) by Kate Jacobs, Leader: Eleanor; Hostess: Alice; Recommended by: Eleanor (610) 696-5536
December -No Meeting

Lit IV, Monday Evening Nonfiction Book Group—

Literature IV -Book Discussion will hold its next discussion Monday, November 3, 2008 at the Magnolia Grill, Chester County Book Company, West Goshen Shopping Center, at 7:00 PM. *Please note the change in date.* The discussion book is *The Zookeepers Wife; a War Story*, by Diane Ackerman. The book is available at county libraries by placing a hold. Interested Branch members may call Paula McGinness for more information or assistance, 610-942-4852 (home) or 610-273-3303 (work).

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions special interest group will meet on November 17 at 1:30 PM at the Chester Book Company. The topic is U.S. – China economic relations, and the leader is Mary Pinkney. There will be no meeting in December. Questions may be addressed to Jackie Paige at (610) 359-9887.

FIG (Food Interest Group)

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

Finance Discussion Group

Finance Discussion Group, discussion related. Current topics, 4th Wednesday evenings; Leslie Olson, 610-793-2938; olsonfour@aol.com



West Chester-Chester County PA Branch

415 Sunset Hollow Rd.

West Chester, PA 19380

Novemberr 2008 NEWSLETTER

Meeting is Tuesday, November 14th, 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