



<h1 style="margin: 0;">AAUW SUM</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">News & Views from the West Chester – Chester County PA Branch</p>	
<p style="margin: 0;">Volume 50, Number 4</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">January 2007</p>

AN EVENING IN SPAIN: A TASTE OF TAPAS

Tuesday, January 9, 2007, 7:00 pm
Grove United Methodist Church
490 West Boot Rd., West Chester, PA 19380
ALWAYS AMPLE FREE and LIGHTED PARKING

Immerse yourself in the aromas and tastes of sunny Spain on a cold January evening – it will warm your hearts and tummies! Chef Anthony DiStefano of the Riverstone Café in Exton is very excited to demonstrate the culinary art of tapas, a cherished and time-honored tradition of Spanish cuisine. A tapa was originally a slice of bread or cured ham placed over the mouth of a wine glass to protect its contents. As the popularity of the custom has grown, so have the varieties. Chef DiStefano will demonstrate how to create three tapas dishes, which we will then sample. We will also get copies of all recipes so that we can duplicate the treats at home. It will be a true multicultural learning experience, with the added bonus of enjoying three culinary delights! We are offering this program to members at the very affordable price of \$15.00 per person, thanks to the generosity of Riverstone Café and our branch program committee.

--Donna Eaves, Program Committee

Please RSVP to Donna Eaves, using the form below by January 2, 2007 if you plan to attend.

Please send check made out to AAUW -West Chester -Chester County Branch by **January 2, 2007** to: Donna Eaves, 502 Todd Way, West Chester, PA 19380

Name _____ Telephone _____

Guest(s) _____ Total no. _____ Check amount _____

Contents

<i>Reaching Out</i>	2	<i>Domestic Violence Needs</i>	3	<i>Up Front & Personal</i>	5
<i>Ways & Means Notes</i>	3	<i>Membership Report</i>	3	<i>Welcome New Members!</i>	6
<i>Financial Report</i>	3	<i>Brief Branch History</i>	4	<i>Save the Dates</i>	6

Next AAUW Sum DEADLINE (for the February issue) is January 10. Email Editor Pam Gallimore--pagallimore@verizon.net (NOTE CHANGE IN EMAIL)--with copies to

Yvonne Peiffer--peiffer@erols.com--and Graham Boose--GDBoose@comcast.net. Word attachments preferred.

Reaching Out--**The Rewards of Leadership in AAUW**

Often one takes on a leadership role in AAUW because no one else wants the job. This is not necessarily a bad thing. I believe there is no better place to take on a leadership role than in AAUW because of the women who belong to this organization. *They will always support you and do their part so being a leader is often easier than in the workplace.* AAUW members work with you and want you to succeed; often this is not the case in professional situations. Your job is essentially to steer the task, not do it all yourself, and you could not ask for better workers than your colleagues in AAUW.

I joined AAUW shortly after my son was born and I had made the decision to stay home with him. It was a simple decision, my son was the best thing I would ever do in my life, but it was also a daunting decision because I wondered what would become of my mind. AAUW was the solution for me. *The leadership opportunities I have been afforded in AAUW have allowed me to utilize my professional skills* while I have been on hiatus from the world of paid employment. It has given me a *chance to grow and take pride in my accomplishments.* Women who work outside the home can also experience unique opportunities in becoming leaders in AAUW. It is particularly rewarding to lead the effort on a project you believe in and which can make a difference in the lives of women and/or girls.

Getting started is easy. When I became a member of AAUW the first thing I did was join three committees. This is an excellent way to get to know the branch and the members as well as learn about leadership. My branch members made me feel welcome on the committee and gave me an equal share of responsibility so I could be a part of the effort right away. They were my mentors, and I learned well. Before long, it was my turn to chair a committee and although I was a little anxious about it I knew I could do it because they would be there to help me along.

I would encourage you if you have not already stepped up to a leadership role in your branch,

By Dot McLane, President, AAUW-PA the state, or nationally that you do so on your next opportunity. *The reward to you will be far greater than the workload.* Sure there may be crunch times where you ask yourself “why did I volunteer for this job?” but that will pass. When all is said and done you will be the beneficiary of the experience. I have never regretted a single leadership role in AAUW that I said yes to. I am a richer individual because of it and only hope I leave as big a mark on AAUW as it has on me. So don't hesitate the next time you are asked, say yes, lead, and you'll be glad you did.

---Dot McLane, President AAUW-PA

Editor's Note: Dot wrote this at our request.

The Branch Nominating Committee will begin its work in January. Positions to be filled are President(s), Co-Vice-President for Membership, and Secretary. Committee chairs are also needed. If you are interested in enhancing your leadership skills, in giving back to the branch, or just enjoying the teamwork with a bunch of gifted women, please let Donna Eaves, Nominating Committee chair, know. Email is deaves@chesco.org; phone is 610-344-5612. Training and support are provided.

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 12th of the month preceding. Deadline for January is December 1. Deadline for September is August 1.

Pam Gallimore
215-751-8160

Editor
pagallimore@verizon.net

Yvonne Peiffer
408 Crump Rd., Exton, PA 19341
610-363-9535

Branch Co-President
peiffer@erols.com

Graham Boose
415 Sunset Hollow Rd., West Chester, PA 19380
610-431-7701

Branch Co-President
GDBoose@comcast.net

<http://www.aauwchestercountypa.org>

Ways and Means Notes by Nancy Dore, Chair, Ways & Means

On November 8th, 31 people went on the bus trip to New York City. The net proceeds from this event were \$308.99, which will be applied to the operating budget.

The Book Sale at Chester County Book and Music in November netted the branch \$352.50, which will be donated to the Alice Lawson Local Scholarship Fund.

The Holiday Gathering and raffle netted \$705, which will be split 50-50 between the Association Educational Foundation and the Alice Lawson Local Scholarship Fund. Our sincere gratitude to Anthony DeCarolis, Admissions and Marketing Director at The Hickman, for providing our party, so that your entire ticket price could be contributed to our scholarship efforts.

We are now able to recycle laser printer cartridges, in addition to cell phones and ink jet cartridges. If you have any laser printer cartridges to recycle, please give them to Nancy Dore in the original wrapping. **Pick up mailers for cell phones and ink jet cartridges at the membership meetings (postage prepaid).**

If you shop at Genuardis, please support our branch through the Escript program. If you have participated in the past, **you need to renew your participation annually.** Register under our group number (150540758) at escript.com or by calling 800-801-4973.

Thank you for your support.

Thanks to Member Elma Mack for facilitating our party at The Hickman.

Financial Report (As of November 30, 2006)

Checking Account	\$ 2,806.97
Short Term CD	2,540.64
Fund Balances:	
Let's Read Math	264.91
Members Helping Members	199.00

Chester County Community Foundation:	
	(9/30/06)
Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund	\$22,437.76
Let's Read Math (from Verizon)	1,072.50
--Rosemary Brown MacDonald, Financial Officer	

Domestic Violence Center Project Updates

The Wish List for the Domestic Violence Center Shelter includes toiletries, toothpaste, toothbrushes (children and adult), African-American hair products, deodorant, personal items, shampoo, new hats, gloves and mittens for children and adults, and new children's books and puzzles. Please share your holiday generosity with some of its residents by bringing gift cards to our January meeting.

Gift cards in \$5 or \$10 denominations from K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Target, and Eckerd are requested. This month's cards can be used for personal needs. Thank you, as always for your support to our projects.

Bring your contributions to the January meeting. Your contributions really help!
Thanks.

--Marian Stevenson, Chair

Membership Report

Recently our branch won **2 free memberships** as a result of our grant proposal to the AAUW-PA State Board. Since these free memberships are for this year (2006-2007), **I need your suggestions for recipients NOW.** Also **we are trying to network with the department head of Women's Studies at the local colleges.** If you know of any contact people there, please let me know.

As we celebrate the 125th anniversary of AAUW, it is important for all members to recruit new members. Don't forget the *Give a Grad a Gift* program. Please call me at 610-429-4520 with your information and suggestions.

--Barbara Leone, Vice-President for Membership

History of AAUW – West Chester Branch

By Yvonne Peiffer, Co-President

Graham and I thought a good follow up to our **125th Anniversary** article in last months' newsletter would be retelling the story of how our local AAUW Branch began. The **spark** for our branch came from an unlikely source and for an unlikely reason. What follows is the write-up in the Branch Scrapbook, read in preparation, I might add, for Graham and me to talk on Robyn Young's WCHE radio program November 27, 2006 to celebrate the Association's 125th birthday. (Actual birthday was November 28.)

"During the first months of 1959, President Charles S. Swope of West Chester State called in several women of the faculty and suggested that a branch of AAUW should be developed, since none existed in the West Chester area.

Dr. Dorothy D. Bailey, Jane Caton, and Dr. Mary N. Maneval responded to his request for aid in the venture. Dr. Maneval sent a flyer to the women of the college faculty, and Dr. Bailey placed a notice in the *Daily Local News* announcing the plan to organize a branch. Thelma Back was the first community member to respond to the notice. She became valuable in the preliminary organization by influencing eligible women of the area to join the group.

The Branches at Valley Forge, Lansdowne, and Perkiomen offered valuable assistance in the establishment of the Branch and with the procedures of becoming affiliated with the state and national AAUW.

An orientation meeting was held in the Lounge of Old Main in October 1959, and it was unanimously voted to establish a branch.

The first formal meeting was in the Faculty Lounge of Philips Memorial Building on the evening of November 3, 1959. At this time officers were chosen, and Dr. Maneval became president.

It was determined to hold a meeting on the **second Tuesday of each month**. A short but impressive ceremony was held at the meeting on February 2, 1960 for the signing of the

charter. Forty-three members signed for this – the fiftieth Pennsylvania Branch of AAUW.

One of the major aims of the establishment of this Branch was to obtain the approval of the national association for the eligibility of West Chester State. None of the Pennsylvania State Colleges was on the AAUW list. This was achieved in 1964 and college alumni could now join." [Highlights are ours.]



AAUW Celebrates 125th at The Hickman

Our branch celebrated the 125th anniversary of AAUW's founding with a birthday cake at the Holiday Gathering at The Hickman. From left, Catherine Palmquist, immediate past president; Barbara Leone, membership vice-president; Fran Pierce, program co-vice-president; Yvonne Peiffer, co-president; back row: Graham Boose, co-president; and Sandi Kwisz, secretary.

Up front and personal--

(Your Board has wanted to have a column with Member news, while respecting members' privacy. We started this column recently and look to you for inputs. January 12th is the next deadline. Thanks.)

Bonnie Keller is a former active AAUW member who now lives in SW Virginia. She responded to the gift of the Alice Lawson afghan. (This was the afghan made by Alice Lawson and raffled in the 70's and again this fall to support Educational Foundation and local scholarships. Paula McGinness won but requested we give it to another worthy person who knew Alice and supported scholarships.) Bonnie wrote that she wanted to thank all those in AAUW for this gift for "AAUW gave me opportunities to make friends and (provided) mental stimulation." Speaking of Alice, Bonnie said "Alice generously gave her friendship, support and encouragement to other women. She chose to befriend me and I treasured her friendship."

Mrs. Smith FINALLY Goes to Harrisburg! Recount finished--Barbara won! Remember those red and white signs all over town? Member **Barbara McIlvaine Smith** ran for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 156th District seat vacated by the retirement of Elinor Taylor, an early president of our branch. The court-ordered, hand recount process was concluded in Barbara's favor on December 21. Congratulations!

Seniors Needed

The B.E.S.T. (Bringing Elders & Students Together) Program is a partnership between the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and the West Chester University Social Work Department. Senior citizens meet with the students at the senior's home. The students will develop a resource book of photos and memories of major life events. My husband and I found it enjoyable and rewarding. If interested in volunteering, please call the receptionist at the Social Work Department at 610-436-2527 and ask for Selin Mathews. Volunteers are needed from the West Chester and Downingtown areas.

--By Kay Phillips

Did you see the interesting write-up and picture in a recent Sunday *Daily Local News* on our Secretary **Sandi Kwisz**? Sandi works in the English As a Second Language (ESL) program. She was featured with her student Vicky Alvarez, who refers to Sandi as her "angel and friend." Sandi practiced language skills with Vicky, and Vicky then went into her daughter's class and read a storybook to the class.

Sebronette Barnes, Co-Vice-President for Program, was recognized as an EF Fellow at the AAUW Philadelphia Branch's Educational Foundation Program, on November 9.

125th Anniversary recognitions--Co-Presidents **Yvonne Peiffer** and **Graham Boose** were interviewed by Robyn Young on her biweekly women's history radio program on WCHE. Discussion started with the early days of AAUW but focused on today's projects, support to students, and areas where further work to achieve equity is needed. In addition, local newspaper coverage revolved around the same topics--a young reporter was amazed to learn that branch effort is totally volunteer--"125 years young" was his comment.

Hilda Fell, a member of our branch, died at home on October 13, 2006. The board extends its sympathy to her family. We will miss you, Hilda. Hilda was an Honorary Life Member of AAUW and chaired our Scholarship Committee and Lit I group for many years.

At its December meeting, the board voted to donate a copy of *A Is for Abigail* by Lynn Cheney, to the Chester County Library in Hilda's memory since Hilda was such a strong role model for girls and devoted her life to education. Barbara Leone, a talented calligrapher, will make a commemorative book plate.

IBC Awards Branch Program Funding

The Philadelphia Area AAUW Interbranch Council (IBC) awarded our branch \$200 to help defray the costs of our February meeting. The volunteer, all-female West Chester Community Performers will present a Readers Theater, offering a woman's view by women: *It's All About Women: Women Speak in Poetry, Song, and Dance*.

They will integrate humor into an entertaining evening with messages of self-worth and equality for women and girls of all ages and ethnicities, providing a story-telling/dramatic focus with humor that will engage the audience and provide a new and interesting venue for the important equity message. This meeting is open to the public: Tuesday, February 13, 7 p.m., at Grove United Methodist Church.

Plan to bring a friend! Teenage women welcome.

The IBC comprises the 10 AAUW branches in the Philadelphia Area, and meets twice yearly. Its function is to promote communication among the branches and to facilitate inter-branch projects promoting the AAUW mission. In October, the IBC sponsored a Public Policy Work Shop for branch Public Policy chairs and interested branch members. Lisa Maatz, Association Public Policy Director, chaired the event. Leslie Jean Allison, our Public Policy Chair, and Yvonne Peiffer and Graham Boose, Co-Presidents, attended. In the past, the IBC has provided financial support to our *Let's Read Math* program.

Handbook Updates

Please update your Membership Handbooks with the following:

Joan Baxter's email addresses is jpbaxter_19103@yahoo.com

Barbara Snyder's email address is bd Snyder50@msn.com

Welcome New Members!

Holly Silverthorne
700 North Franklin St.
West Chester, PA 19380
610-636-2366

Henrietta Williams
515 Dilworthtown Road
West Chester, PA 19382
610-399-1085

Holly holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Pennsylvania. She lives at Barclay Friends and has indicated an interest in the literature groups.

Henrietta is a transfer from the Philadelphia Branch. She earned a BS in Home Economics Education and an MS in Human Behavior and Development from Drexel University. She is a retired educator.

Welcome, Holly and Henrietta!

SAVE THE DATES

LANSDALE BRANCH

April 17, 7:30 p.m.--Women and Pay Equity
-- Getting Even: Why Women Don't Get
Paid Like Men and What To Do about It--
Evelyn F. Murphy, President of The WAGE
Project and former Lt. Governor of Mass.

STATE MEETINGS

State Convention, April 27-29, 2007,
Scranton--Details as they become available.
ASSOCIATION MEETINGS
AAUW National Convention, June 29-July
2, 2007, Phoenix, Arizona.

SAVE THE DATES

Branch Board Meetings

Members are invited to attend. With the exception of the November meeting, all Board meetings are held at the West Goshen Township Municipal Building. Community Room, first floor. The building is located at 1025 Paoli Pike, West Chester, PA 19380, 610-696-5266. It is the northeast corner of the intersection of Route 202 and Paoli Pike. TUESDAY, January 2; Mondays: February 5, March 5, and April 2; TUESDAY, May 1, and Monday, June 4 (joint board meeting). Tuesday, June 12, 2007, 7:00 p.m., Program Planning Meeting.

Branch Membership Meetings

Most Membership Meetings will be held at Grove United Methodist Church, 490 West Boot Road, West Chester, PA, 19380, because of its central location, lighted parking, good kitchen facility, and accessibility. Meetings are held in Fellowship Hall on the first floor.

Tuesday, January 9

Tuesday, February 13

Tuesday, March 13

Tuesday, April 10

Tuesday, May 8--May Gala at a local restaurant
If you can give a member a ride, please do so. If you would like a ride, no promises, let Barbara Leone, Membership Vice-President, know.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Bridge

Women's Social Bridge. *New members welcome.* Beatriz Wee chairs the group. If you have questions or want to play bridge, please contact Beatriz: 610-594-2719 (h) or beatrizti@ctsi.net.

Couples Bridge. *New members welcome.* The Couples Bridge group will play at Carol and Bill Habig's home on Saturday, January 20, 2007 at 7:30pm. Please call Carol at 610-431-9987 to make a reservation and get directions. Other questions about the group may be directed to Kay Philipps. Come join the fun!

Strictly Social--New Group

The Food Interest Group (FIG) will meet at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, January 13th at the home of Nancy Dore. The menu will be hors d'oeuvres and desserts. All are welcome and each member may bring one guest. For more information and to attend, please contact Carol Darlington (610-384-7459 or bkrdr2@yahoo.com) or Leslie Wachob (610-458-1837 or rbs857@yahoo.com).

Book and Discussion Groups

Lit II, Fiction and Nonfiction

Chair is Donna Eaves, (h) 610-692-5277; (o) 610-344-6350; email deaves@chesco.org.
New members welcome.

Thursday, January 18, 7:30 p.m., dessert, 8:00 p.m., book discussion. Book is *Freedom in Exile: The Autobiography of the Dalai Lama*. Leader is Mary Pinkney. Host is Mary Pinkney, 610-388-3704.

Lit III, Wednesday Evening Book Group, Fiction and Nonfiction

Chair is Martina Ossman, (h) 610-793-1469, E-mail: ossman1072@aol.com. *New members welcome.*

Wednesday, January 17, 7:30 p.m., dessert, 8:00 p.m., book discussion. Book is *Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith* (nonfiction) by Jan Krakauer. Leader is Kay Philipps.

Lit IV— Monday Evening Nonfiction Book Group

Chair is Paula McGinness. *New members welcome.* Please call Paula if you have a question, 610-942-4852 (home) or 610-273-3303 (work).

Finance Discussion Group --Call Leslie Olson at 610-793-2938 for information. *New members welcome.*

Great Decisions--For information, contact Chair Jacky Page, 610-359-9887. *New members welcome.* **Great Decisions is considering meeting in the afternoon if there is interest.**



West Chester-Chester County PA Branch
415 Sunset Hollow Rd.
West Chester, PA 19380

***JANUARY 2007
NEWSLETTER***

**Note you must
respond by January 2
for membership
meeting on Jan. 9**

AAUW Mission Statement (2006)

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

AAUW Vision Statement (2006)

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