



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

Volume 49, Number 3

November 2005

Tuesday, November 8, 7:00 p.m. networking and munchies
7:30 program, Cheyney University
Introducing: *Margaret Garner*

Margaret Garner was a pivotal figure in United States antebellum history, a fugitive slave from Kentucky who escaped with her family on a snowy winter's night to Cincinnati, Ohio. In a dramatic and tragic turn of events, the Garner family was captured and Margaret sacrificed her own daughter rather than see her returned to slavery. National debate ensued. Should Margaret Garner be tried for murder in the free land of Ohio, or destruction of property in the slave state of Kentucky? The east coast premiere of the new American opera based on the character, written by Grammy award-winning composer Richard Danielpour and Nobel-prize winning author Toni Morrison, examines the themes of love, freedom, and hope during a dark time in our nation's history.

The November meeting welcomes Opera Company of Philadelphia Community Programs Manager Michael Bolton as he reviews the life of the historic Margaret Garner. He will supplement this discussion with video presentations about the opera which will prepare you for the music and poetry of the opera. A graduate of Temple University's Esther Boyer College of Music, he has been with OCP since 2001 and has as his goal to share his love of the art form with others by giving lectures, tours of The Academy of Music, and sharing his collection of almost 4,000 recordings. The meeting will be held on the campus of Cheyney University in Biddle Hall on the historic quad.

Fran Pierce is coordinating carpools. Please let her know if you can drive a carpool or if you want to join one. (610) 594-0625 or franpierce@verizon.net

DIRECTIONS: From Route 202: Turn left on 926 and make a right on Westtown Road at the Concept School. Enter campus and make a left on Alumni Lane at the first entrance near the football stadium. Make a left on University Circle and then a right on Commonwealth (across from the tennis court). Take a right on Founders and follow this around to the parking lot of Biddle Hall. If you are taking the second entrance, you will make a left on University Circle. Go through the stop sign at the intersection of Alumni and University Circle and make a right on Commonwealth and a right on Founders to Biddle Hall. **From Route 3 (West Chester Pike):** Right on 352 to a right on 926. Make a left on Cheyney Road and if the first entrance is open, turn onto University and continue to Commonwealth (across from the tennis court). Make a left and then a right on Founders and follow this around to the parking lot of Biddle Hall. If this entrance is not open, go to stop sign and turn right onto Creek Road, right on University, right on Commonwealth, and right on Founders following around to the parking lot of Biddle Hall. Special Events signs will be posted and you can call (610)399-2405 if you need assistance.

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The next issue of AAUW Sum will be the January issue. Deadline is December 1.

Branch News

Reaching Out--Voter Apathy

Guest Columnist *Barbara McIlvaine Smith*

“Those who stay away from the election think that one vote will do no good: 'Tis but one step more to think one vote will do no harm.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

I came of age in 1971, the same year Congress passed the 26th Amendment which gave 18-20 year-olds the right to vote. Since it was an off-year election, I didn't vote until the following November. “The period from 1960 to 2000,” writes Thomas E. Patterson in *The Vanishing Voter*, “marks the longest ebb in turnout in the nation's history.” I must admit, I'm no super voter. Evidently, I'm not alone.

Over the years, the struggle to secure our civil rights has been bumpy at best, bloody at worst. At the birth of our nation, only wealthy white men who owned property were entitled to vote. Next to gain suffrage were white men who had no clout, followed by African Americans, then women, and finally Native Americans.

In order to protect our rights, Congress has had to amend our Constitution several times: the 15th Amendment allowed citizens of all colors and races the right to vote; the 19th gave the right to women; the 24th ended poll taxes. In addition, Congress passed The Voting Rights Act of 1965 essentially to reinforce the 15th Amendment and specifically to outlaw literacy tests. Although the road to universal suffrage has never been straight and far from smooth, it is astonishing that more of us don't exercise our civic duty. Low voter turnout threatens our democracy.

In 2001, when I ran for borough council, only 350 registered voters in my ward of 1534 made it to the polls. That's a pitiful turnout of less than 23%, yet typical in municipal elections. Some of the reasons I've heard why people don't vote is that they're too busy or out of town, got home too late, forgot, or didn't know enough about the candidates to make a decision. Yet local elections are where our voices and our votes count the most.

After the presidential election of 2000 where shocking reports of purged voters, inaccessible polling places, and discarded ballots stunned our nation, Congress responded by passing The Help America Vote Act of 2002 to make sure those problems would never happen again.

However, in 2004, something did go wrong. In Ohio, too few voting machines created long lines. Provisional ballots were restricted and intimidation was widespread. Senator Barbara Boxer, the only senator to challenge the Electoral College results, told Congress in January 2005 that “Every citizen of this country who is registered to vote should be guaranteed that their vote matters, that their vote is counted, and that in the voting booth of their community, their vote has as much weight as the vote of any Senator, any Congressperson, any President...” More reforms are needed.

In a study by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, voter turnout in Italy leads the rest of the world as number one of 140 nations, whereas America is number 114, right behind Switzerland and just a hair above Mexico. As writer Louis L'Amour observed, “To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers.”

(continued on page 4)

AAUW Sum 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.

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Branch News

**AAUW West Chester-Chester County Branch
Raising funds and having fun**



NEW YORK! NEW YORK!

The West Chester-Chester County Branch of AAUW has planned another wonderful day trip to New York City. We will leave from **The West Chester Park and Ride** adjacent to West Goshen Shopping Center (just off Route 202, Paoli Pike exit), at **7:15 a.m.** on **Wednesday, November 9, 2005**. After our arrival in the city, you can choose your own itinerary--restaurants, theater, museums, shopping, exploring. Half-price tickets to many major shows are available at the first stop in New York, Times Square, where the TCKTS booth is located. A stop is also made at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. We board the bus at 7:45 p.m. for the return trip and return to West Chester about 10:30 p.m.

The cost of the trip is \$45.00, which includes gratuities and beverages.

The trip is sold out early, so send your reservation today!

Call Sandi Kwisz (610-793-3135) with any questions.

*****cut here and return this form with your check*****

**NEW YORK CITY BUS TRIP
Wednesday, November 9, 2005**

Make checks payable to **AAUW West Chester-Chester County Branch** and mail to:

Sandi Kwisz
1133 St. Finegan Drive
West Chester, PA 19382

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Branch News

Board Highlights

- ✓ Program co-chairs Sybil Schwartz and Fran Pierce reported that car pools are being set up to go to Cheyney next month to hear discussion of *Margaret Garner*. The Board urges members to attend this interesting meeting.
- ✓ Fran Pierce, Cathy Palmquist, and Graham Boose met with MJ Conway of the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls and with Dottie Cook, President of the League of Women Voters of Chester County, to initiate plans for our March meeting concerning research done by the Fund: *The Blueprint Project*. A coalition approach, similar to one used each of the past two years, is being developed.
- ✓ *Let's Read Math* project:
 - ✓ Verizon check received, deposited with Chester County Community Foundation; available for use with after-school programs. If you have a suggestion, call Graham 610-431-7701 or email GDBoose@comcast.net.
 - ✓ Initial contact from Chester YWCA received, thanks to publicity done by Elaine Burgess; contacted Eastern Delaware County Branch of AAUW to see whether they are interested in co-sponsoring; no response as yet.
- ✓ Membership Vice President Barbara Leone recommended that we apply for the AAUW-PA Membership Grant for the coming year. She will coordinate the effort.
- ✓ Ann Fife is heading up the Training component of the Training and Technology Committee. Association selected our branch to participate in their development of Web-based interactive training. The first session will be in November and will feature membership-related topics. Additional seminars are available on a monthly basis in late afternoon. Ann has made available a learning center if enough of our members are interested. Please contact Graham if interested.
- ✓ Joyce Marr is spear-heading the work for our Web site. She is in contact with several branches regarding their approaches and expects to have an implementation plan within the next couple of months.
- ✓ November Board meeting will be held at the home of Barry and Graham Boose, 415 Sunset Hollow Rd., West Chester, since the West Goshen Municipal Services Building is not available due to voting. Board meetings are open to the membership.

Voter Apathy (continued from page 2)

I believe we need to make it easier for citizens to vote. Why not make the second Tuesday in November a holiday, or allow more people to vote by absentee ballot, or better yet, online? Until voting becomes more convenient, our civic duty requires us to go to the polls. Vote this November 8th.

Patterson, Thomas E. *The Vanishing Voter: Public Involvement in an Age of Uncertainty*. New York: Knopf, 2002.

Scher, Linda. *The Vote: Making Your Voice Heard*. Texas: Steck-Vaughn, 1993.

Gratschew, Maria. "Turnout in the World – country by country performance (1945-98)." International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance: Online. Internet. 12 Oct. 2005. http://www.idea.int/vt/survey/voter_turnout_pop2-2.cfm

Boxer, Barbara. "Statement on her Objection to the Certification of Ohio's Electoral Votes, January 6, 2005." Official website of U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer: Online. Internet. 12 Oct 2005. <http://boxer.senate.gov/news/record.cfm?id=230450>

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL _____

GUEST NAME(S): _____

Note that these are suggestions; if you want to make up your mind at the last minute and bring something, that's fine, too. Hope to see you at the party!

Hors d'oeuvres	Name
Cut veggies & dip	
Spinach Dip & bread cubes	
Fruit Tray & dip	
Mini Quiches	
Brie	
Gouda	
Havarti	
Sharp Cheddar	
Jarlsberg	
<i>(please bring crackers w/cheese)</i>	
Other:	
Sweets	
Chocolate Chip cookies	
Lemon Squares	
Duke's Brownies	Barb McIlvaine Smith
Pizzelles	
Sugar cookies	
Other:	
Wine	
White	
Red	
Merlot	
Financial contribution	(note \$25/person minimum)
Enclosed is \$ _____	

Branch News

NEW AAUW West Chester- Chester County Branch MEMBERS

Please join us in welcoming **Laurel Baldino**, 503 Todd Way, West Chester, PA 19380
Phone: 610-430-7197 E mail: LaurelB@comcast.net Laurel is a 2005 graduate from Millersville University with a Bachelors degree in International Studies.

Dorothy Ward, 501 Mason St. (Apt 002), Phoenixville, PA 19460. Phone: 610-983-3537
E Mail: Chappernun@aol.com Dorothy is a retired Special Education teacher who earned a BS in Education from St. Josephs University and a M Ed in Education from St. Josephs University. Following retirement she earned a CPE Diploma from the Hospital of the University of PA and worked in hospital ministry. **We WILL get this correct : the address for Pat Endy is 1285 Robynwood.**

**BOOKS! BOOKS!!! AND MORE BOOKS !!!**

Join the West Chester-Chester County Branch at the Chester County Book and Music Company on **Thursday, November 17, 2005** for our Annual Book Fair. The Chester County Book and Music Company has books, magazines and music for all of your personal and holiday shopping needs. The branch makes 15% on most of your holiday purchases. Come, shop 'til you drop! Bring your friends—just check out at the register with the balloons for proper credit to the branch. **A tip from Nancy Dore-- Know what you want already? Order early and pick up on November 17th for branch credit.**

Financial Officer's Report

Income and Expenses report for July 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005 shows the following balances:

Cash-Checking - \$5078.20
Special Funds: Let's Read Math \$70.78
Members Helping Members \$184.00

As you plan your yearend giving, please consider giving to the Let's Read Math project of to the Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund, both of which are 501 (c)(3) funds. Details available from Nancy Dore.

Savings - \$218.14
CCCCF(Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund) –
\$20,757.68 (as of June30, 2005)

--Nancy Dore, Financial Officer

In addition, our new line item, Members Helping Members supports dues payments for members who are in temporary financial need. These checks may be forwarded to Nancy Dore, with the memo annotation "Members Helping Members."

Branch and Community News

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, November 1, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Graham Boose

Tuesday, December 6, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 3, 2006, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 2, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 6, 7:00 p.m. Joint Board meeting.

Non-Branch AAUW Meetings

- International Women's Day: March 8, 2006, to increase visibility of AAUW in PA
- AAUW Middle Atlantic Region (MAR): March 18-19, 2006, Bethlehem, PA
- PA-AAUW-PA State Convention: March 30-April 3, 2006, Johnstown, PA
- Association Convention: Phoenix, AZ, June 29-July 2, 2007 (it is every two years)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**Bridge****Women's Social Bridge** Women's Social

Bridge will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Evelyn Love.

Contact Evelyn if you wish to play bridge, 610-719-0822, evelynlove@mindspring.com

Couples Bridge Couples Bridge will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Kay Phillips. Contact Kay if you wish to play bridge, 610-399-0697,

KHT65KHT@aol.com

Book and Discussion Groups**Lit IV, Monday Evening Nonfiction Book**

Group will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 21, 2005, at the Chester County Book and Music Company Magnolia Grill, West Goshen Shopping Center, West Chester.

The group will be discussing Riding the Bus with my Sister, a True Life Journey by Rachel Simon.

Please call Paula McGinness, 610-942-4852 or 610-273-3303, with questions.

This book group meets every two months.

Lit III, Wednesday Evening Book Group,

Fiction and Nonfiction will meet on

November 16, 2005, 7:30 p.m. for dessert. The book being discussed is Seabiscuit by Laura Hillenbrand. Host: Kay Phillips, 610-399-

0697. Leader: Harriet Jarosh. Lit III will also meet on December 14, 7:30 p.m. for dessert.

The book being discussed is Hemingway Book Club of Kosovo by Paula Huntley. Leader:

Betsy Peters, host: Bette Twaddell, 610-696-4368. The book discussion begins promptly at

8:00 p.m. Please call the host if you plan to attend.

Lit II, Thursday Evening Book Group,

Fiction and Nonfiction will meet November 17, 7:30 p.m. for refreshments, 8:00 p.m. for book review. The Shadow of the Wind by C.

Zafon is the book. Host: Lyn Eaton, Leader: Diane Nescio. Please call the host if you plan to

attend or call Donna Eaves at 610-692-5277 for further information.

Great Decisions will meet on November 14, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Mary Pinckney.

Leader: Carla Grot, topic: "Putin's Second Term." Great Decisions will also meet on

December 12, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Fran Sippel-Wetmore, leader: Mary Pinckney .

Discussion, "U.S. and Global Poverty." Please call 610-359-9887 if you plan to attend the

meetings.

SAVE the DATES (continued)

Finance Study Group, Wednesday Evening, Research and Discussion of Financial Topics of Interest

The Finance Group will meet on November 30, 7 p.m. at the Chester County Book Company. "What's likely to happen to Social security?" will be the topic. The discussion will be led by Kathryn Retallick. All AAUW members are welcome to attend any meeting where the topic interests them. For additional information, contact Leslie Olson, Chair. olsonfour@aol.com or 610-793-2938

New York Trip

Wednesday, November 9, 2005, all day.
See page 3.

Holiday Book Fair

Thursday, November 17, 2005, 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., Chester County Book and Music Company, West Goshen Shopping Center, northwest corner of Paoli Pike and Route 202, West Chester.

League of Women Voters

You're Invited!

Wednesday, November 9, 7 p.m., PA School Board Association Hearing on Public School Funding, at Owen J. Roberts High School, sponsored by The League of Women Voters of Chester County. For information, call the League at 610-692-7987 or 610-644-5960.

Saturday, November 19, 10 a.m., *Water Resource Issues and How They Effect Chester County,* a panel discussion at the West Goshen Township Building, sponsored by The League of Women Voters of Chester County. For information, call the League at 610-692-7987 or 610-644-5960.

You're Invited!

Governor's Conference for Women

Pennsylvania Governor's Conference for Women, Tuesday, November 15, 2005 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Philadelphia, PA. The Keynote Speaker is Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Website:

www.pagovernorsconferenceforwomen.org.

The telephone number for general conference info: 866-251-3537. Interested in attending? Let **Barbara Leone** know, we are trying to put together a couple of tables for AAUW-PA.

Women in Government

The Chester County Women's Commission presents *Women in Government*, a panel discussion, November 30, 2005, 6:00-8:00 pm, at the Chester County Historical Society, 225 North High Street, West Chester.

Free.

Featuring: Carol Aiechele, County Commissioner; Judy DeiFillippe, Township Chairperson; Barbara McIlvaine Smith, West Chester Borough Council; Sandra Mosel, Jury Commissioner; Paula Francisco Ott, President Judge; Rachel Mullin, Chester County Planning Commission; and Elinor Z. Taylor, PA State Representative, 156th District. NON-PARTISAN.

Why are so few women in government office? More than 8.8 million women voted in the last election. We have a voice. Come hear what some of our local women have to say about their experiences in Chester County Government.

RSVP to 610-344-4439 by Nov. 23.

THANKS to Lit II for the boo-tiful, tasty sweets and fruits at our October meeting!



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

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

***NOVEMBER 2005
NEWSLETTER***

AAUW Mission Statement

The AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change.

AAUW Diversity Statement

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

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