



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

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

Volume 49, Number 2

October 2005

***Women of Islam:  
Their Roles, Rights and Religion***

**Date: Tuesday, October 11, 7:00 p.m., refreshments and networking; 7:30 p.m. program  
Location: Grove United Methodist Church, 490 West Boot Rd., West Chester.**

Terrorism and unrest throughout Europe, the United States and the world, have strained relationships among people of diverse cultures and religions. In an effort to strengthen relationships, many religious and cultural communities are reaching out to increase understanding of their communities. The Islamic Society of Chester County (ISCC) is one of the organizations that has made an effort to share understanding of Islam and the Muslim religion.

In October, AAUW members will welcome Samia Rishi of Kennett Square, a member of ISCC, and her daughter Farah to the membership meeting to speak about ***Women of Islam, Their Roles, Rights and Religion.***

Samia has a degree in accounting and a part-time accounting business. She has been married for over 20 years to Dr. Mazhar Rishi, Chairman of the Department of Pathology at St. Francis Hospital in Delaware. They are parents of a daughter, Farah, 15, and a son, Shaz, 9. Samia is also on the board of ISCC and its former treasurer.

Farah is a student at Unionville High School and gives presentations on the role of women in Islam to school and church youth groups.

Come hear about the women of Islam from the perspectives of a Muslim woman from a traditional background and of a Muslim girl born in this country!

**Directions** to the church:

- From the intersection of Boot Rd. and Pottstown Pike (approximately half way between Exton and West Chester), proceed west on Boot Rd. (that means the Wawa is on your left after you turn at the traffic light).
- Go approximately 1 mile (through one Stop sign) to 490 West Boot Rd. The church, with its large, well-lighted parking lot, will be on the left. Go in the main building entrance (large, pointed entrance to Education Building). We are meeting in Fellowship Hall, which is directly ahead and slightly to your right, as you enter. Handicapped accessible, ladies room is across the hall, kitchen is adjacent.
- If you reach the traffic light at the intersection of Boot Rd. and Grove/Whitford Road, you have gone too far.

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## Branch News

**Reaching Out**

Welcome to another interesting year of branch activities! I have named the President's column **Reaching Out** this year, because that's what the West Chester-Chester County Branch is all about, as we work and play together to promote equity in all its forms for women and girls.

**Are your friends interested in joining?**

For starters, I want to remind you of the more open membership criteria established at Association Convention this past summer. The AAUW Bylaws now admit to membership "a graduate holding an associate or equivalent...degree from a qualified educational institution." The Bylaws define qualified institutions as "educational institutions that offer recognized associate, baccalaureate, or higher degrees and that have full regional or appropriate professional association approval." The Membership Committee will appreciate your thoughts about how we can successfully offer the advantages of membership to these women. How about your friends?

**What our branch believes in--**

Secondly, I want to review with you the goals and priorities of our branch as reaffirmed by the Board in September. Over the past few years, we have agreed on the following areas of focus:

- Membership growth and diversity
- Budget reflecting realistic cost of branch operations
- Name change for our branch to welcome members from all Chester County
- A look at the concept of shared leadership
- Involvement of new and more members
- Implement a branch web site
- Implement a community project
- Continue our excellent series of monthly programs

In addition, at our May Banquet, President Cathy Palmquist charged us to:

- Consider keeping dues constant, despite a \$2/year increase from Association

*--Graham Boose, Branch President*

- Consider implementing Association programs, such as Sister-to-Sister
- Consider establishing a fund to assist members with dues, in time of personal financial difficulty
- Consider diversifying programming to offer some daytime programs for moms with small children and senior members who cannot get out at night, and hold these programs at other sites (such as township parks and retirement homes)

Other suggestions were:

- Continue/improve publicity of branch activities
  - Start a daytime lit group
  - Consider other new groups: travel, theater, computers/digital photography, etc.
  - Initiate more welcoming personal contact at membership meetings and through the year
- Under Cathy's leadership over the past two years, and with the constant attention of the Board then and during this past summer, I believe we have made significant progress in most of these areas—yes, we need to do more, but we have an excellent start.

**How can you work and play with us?**

Please help us to continue to reach out, and keep these goals in mind as you select your areas of branch activity for the coming year. The Program Committee, co-chaired by Vice President Sybil Schwartz and Fran Pierce, (continued on page 7)

**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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

#### AUDIT REPORT

The Audit Committee audited the financial records of the branch for the year 2004-2005 and found no discrepancies. The Audit Committee commends Nancy Dore, our Financial Officer, for her diligence and skill in managing the funds of the branch. The Audit Report was unanimously accepted by the Branch Board, on September 6, 2005, with their thanks to Nancy Dore.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Eaves, Chair, Audit Committee

#### Board Highlights

- ✓ Re-evaluated goals from previous years, focusing on 2005-2006 needs
- ✓ Accepted report of Audit Committee from Donna Eaves with thanks to Financial Officer Nancy Dore for a job superbly done over many years
- ✓ Approved request of *Let's Read Math* committee and YWCA of Chester County for us to sponsor an additional three workshops at the YWCA this fall
- ✓ Established and funded the Members Helping Members fund to financially assist members in temporary financial difficulty with their dues; donations welcome—give to Nancy Dore
- ✓ Funded a budget line item to establish and maintain a branch web site for a year
- ✓ Membership reported at 70
- ✓ Briefly discussed new, more open membership requirements. Membership Committee to develop strategy to be presented to Board, membership at large. Ideas, new members of Membership Committee welcome—contact Barbara Leone, Vice President for Membership.
- ✓ Since we sent three delegates to Association Convention, Association has offered us the opportunity to participate in their roll out of teleconferencing training this year. Ann Fife and Joyce Marr are coordinating effort for the branch.
- ✓ Reviewed draft of new branch membership flyer

#### Help Wanted

**Ways and Means Chair**—Sandi Kwisz is serving ably in this position. However, as branch Secretary and an active member of the *Let's Read Math* committee, she feels overly committed and would like to find a new W&M chair. Please talk to her if you are able to help. Each fund-raising activity is organized as a project, so the W&M chair is responsible for the overall program but not for the details of each individual activity.

**Public Policy Chair**—new member Joan Baxter had taken the job, but increased work responsibilities prevent her from continuing. Starting job description is to keep up with the Public Policy issues at the Association level and prepare input for newsletter on a monthly basis. As branch becomes more aware of how it can reach out in these areas, job will evolve.

**Let's Read Math fun-seekers**—grant writers, story readers, shoppers (yep, that's right!), activity kit assemblers. Guaranteed fun as we go back to the YWCA Chester County this fall for three more work shops.

#### Daytime Lit Group members and chair

Please call Graham Boose, 610-431-7701 or email at GDBoose@comcast.net if you will help with any of the above.

#### Newsletter Mailing Committee

See page 7, Newsletter News.



September 2, 2005

To: AAUW West Chester-Chester County Branch Members

From: Barb McIlvaine Smith

RE: Holiday Gathering

We know it's early, but we've already started planning for the Holiday Gathering to be held this year on **Saturday, December 10, 2005**. Nancy Newman has graciously invited us to gather at her gorgeous home from **6 p.m. until 8 p.m.** We will enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine and desserts, as well as a musical presentation by our very own Sebronette Barnes.

You and your partner/guest are invited! We will again charge \$25 per person and hope to raise funds for our treasury. In order to do that, we are looking for a few able bodies who would be willing to whip up some delicious goodies to share. Enclosed is a list of items from which to choose. **However, please feel free to add your specialty.** If you prefer to make a financial contribution over and above the \$25, we would welcome that as well. If you have any questions or suggestions or would like to help, please email me [btmsmith@gmail.com](mailto:btmsmith@gmail.com) or call me at 610-429-3132.

Thanks so much! (continued on next page)

**HOLIDAY GATHERING**  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2005

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your selection(s). Please reply no later than November 15th

Return to: Barb McIlvaine Smith  
525 Sharpless Street  
West Chester, PA 19382

or: call Barb at 610-429-3132 (h)  
or: email btmsmith@gmail.com

**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!**

<b>Hors d'oeuvres</b>	<b>Name</b>
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:	
<b>Sweets</b>	
Chocolate Chip cookies	
Lemon Squares	
Duke's Brownies	Barb McIlvaine Smith
Pizzelles	
Sugar cookies	
Other:	
<b>Wine</b>	
White	
Red	
Merlot	
<b>Financial contribution</b>	<b>(note \$25/person minimum)</b>
Enclosed is \$ _____	

## Branch News

**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 17<sup>th</sup> for branch credit.**

**AAUW New and Renewing Members**

Dr. Cynthia Davies earned a B.A. in Business & Management from DeSales University, an MBA from Wilkes University and a Ph.D. in Psycho Educational Process from Temple University. Currently she is employed as a recruiting manager for a CPA firm in Philadelphia and also is an adjunct professor at several local colleges.

Please add to your *Handbook*: Dr. Cynthia J. Davies, 909 Harbour Ridge Lane, Downingtown, PA 19335; (h) 610-458-5133, (o) 610-730-0734.

Ms. Beryl Kuntz is a graduate of Allegheny College with a B.A. in Business. Currently she is a retired private detective. Please join our Membership Chair, Barbara Leone, in welcoming these individuals to AAUW! Please add to your *Handbook*: Beryl Kuntz, 969 Kennett Way, West Chester, PA 19380 (h) 610-431-2757, berylkuntz@aol.com.

***Handbook* correction: Pat Endy's address is 1384 (NOT 1325) Robynwood Lane.**

**Newsletter News**

**Note that the deadline each month is the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding (exception is December 1 for January newsletter).**

Cathy Palmquist is chairing the Distribution Committee. If you have 1-2 hours each month, or even some month, to apply stamps and labels and then take the newsletters to the post office, please let Cathy know you can help, canddpalm@aol.com or 610-431-7982.

The newsletter is available in Word format via email. The Board encourages you to do this since it helps us fund other activities in the branch. Let Graham know if you wish to subscribe, GDBoose@comcast.net.

**Reaching Out**

(continued from page 2) welcomes your ideas and help. The Membership Committee, chaired by Vice President Barbara Leone, welcomes your active participation in working with new and longtime members to make sure they feel comfortable and are able to get to membership and interest group meetings. Note that the *Handbook* now contains a list by zip code so you can more conveniently arrange car pools.

*Let's Read Math* and *Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology* are two on-going community activities that can actively affect the economic equity of today's girls. Both welcome your commitment. And the Ways and Means Committee, under the leadership of Sandi Kwisz, makes our dreams possible. Please let Sandi know that you will help with the Holiday Party, the New York bus trip, or the Book Fair, all important money-makers for Branch and Association equity projects.

If your busy life allows time for only an interest group or the holiday party, please come.

Whatever you choose, you are welcome to join us, and thank you for embracing our vision!

**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, October 4, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 1, 7:00 p.m., at the home of a member, TBD

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**

- Philadelphia Area Interbranch Council: Saturday, October 29, 2005, 10 a.m. until noon, Tredyffrin Public Library, 528 Upper Gulph Rd., Wayne, PA 19087
- 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** will be held on Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., October 18, at the home of a member. You are invited to contact Evelyn Love, if you wish to play bridge, 610-719-0822, [evelynlove@mindspring.com](mailto:evelynlove@mindspring.com)

**Couples Bridge** will be held on Saturday, October 15, 7:00 p.m. at the home of a member. You may bring a partner with you for this friendly game. You are invited to contact Evelyn Love, if you wish to play bridge, 610-719-0822, [evelynlove@mindspring.com](mailto:evelynlove@mindspring.com)

**Book and Discussion Groups**

**Lit III, Wednesday Evening Book Group, Fiction and Nonfiction** will meet on October 20, 2005. The book being discussed is The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck. Host: Elma Mack at the Hickman House, Leader: Martina Ossman. This is a joint meeting with LIT II, 7:30 p.m. for refreshments. The book discussion begins promptly at 8:00 p.m. Please call Donna Eaves as below, for LIT II, 610-692-5277 if you plan to attend.

**Lit II, Thursday Evening Book Group, Fiction and Nonfiction** will meet October 20, 7:30 p.m for refreshments, 8:00 p.m. for book review. The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck. Host: Elma Mack at the Hickman House, Leader: Martina Ossman. This is a joint meeting with LIT III . Please call Donna Eaves if you plan to attend, 610-692-5277.

**Great Decisions** will meet on October 10, 7:30 pm, at the home of Jacky Page. Leader: Kathryn Retallick. Topic: "Sudan and the War in Darfur." New members welcome. Please call 610-359-9887 if you plan to attend.

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

Finance group will meet on October 26th at 7:00 p.m. at the Chester County Book Company. The topic will be "What is the next good idea in biotechnology?" The discussion will be led by Leslie Olson. All AAUW members are welcome to attend any meeting where the topic interests them. For additional information, contact Leslie Olson, Chair. [olsonfour@aol.com](mailto:olsonfour@aol.com) or 610-793-2938. (continued on page 9)

## Branch and Community News

**Save the Dates (cont'd)****New York Trip**

Wednesday, November 9, 2005, all day.

**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.

**Public Education Funding Program**

Thursday, October 6 at 7 p.m., at the West Chester Borough Building, 401 E. Gay Street, West Chester.

A meeting of the League of Women Voters of Chester County will be held to hear from Janis Rich of **Good Schools Pennsylvania** about present and pending taxation and funding for Public Schools in Pennsylvania.

Good Schools is a coalition of nonprofit organizations in Pennsylvania, including the League of Women Voters of PA, which supports equitable funding for quality public education for all students in Pennsylvania. Ms Rich will share information on pending legislation and the present funding situation in PA. There will be plenty of opportunity for all attendees to join in the conversation.

All people who care about public education in the state are urged to attend.

Dottie Cook, President  
League of Women Voters of Chester County

**You're Invited!****Chester County Fund for Women and Girls  
Ninth Annual Meeting and Grants Celebration  
Monday, October 17, 5:30-7:00pm**

**Camphill Village at Kimberton Hills (Rose Hall)**

Learn more about our 2005-06 grantees during this special evening that highlights non-profit organizations whose programs benefit women and girls and their families in our communities. All are welcome to attend this free event to be held at Camphill Village at Kimberton Hills at Rose Hall, but reservations are required by calling the Fund at: 484-356-0940 or by email:

[info@ccwomenandgirls.org](mailto:info@ccwomenandgirls.org)

<mailto:info@ccwomenandgirls.org>. For more information and directions visit our website at:

[www.ccwomenandgirls.org](http://www.ccwomenandgirls.org)

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

-Anna Matsukevich

Chester County Fund for Women and Girls

**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](http://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.

**THANKS to Women's Social Bridge  
members for September munchies!**

**Financial Officer's Report**

Income and Expenses report for July 1, 2005 through August 31, 2005 shows the following balances:

Cash-Checking - \$3279.96

Savings - \$1008.28

CCCC(Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund) –  
\$20,757.68 (as of June30, 2005)

--Nancy Dore, Financial Officer

*“Society as a whole benefits immeasurably from a climate in which all persons, regardless of race or gender, may have the opportunity to earn respect, responsibility, advancement and remuneration based on ability.”—Sandra Day O'Connor*



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

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

***OCTOBER 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.

**<http://www.aauw.org>**  
**<http://www.aauwpa.org>**