OUR DIAMOND JUBILEE
By Selena Barron

On June 1st our AAUW Westchester branch will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee at St. Andrews Golf Course at 5 p.m. If you are a member of AAUW we will be applauding you as a woman making a difference! AAUW is a grassroots organization and we couldn’t continue to advocate for equity for women and girls without your support and encouragement. Our dinner will be a remembrance of all we have accomplished, especially in the last 10 years. We will have a continuous slide show on a computer displaying photos from our past and current activities and events. Make sure you look for your picture or pictures of your friends and our activities. Looking forward we will take a group photograph to have for future AAUW members to view. Membership in our AAUW branch can be an enduring, meaningful experience. Dee Cantrell, Donna Dittmeier, Sharon Frayne, and Estelle Leslie have all been members for 50 or more years. Twenty-one members have belonged for 25 or more years. Twelve of our branch presidents are still active members.

We will also honor our three scholarship recipients, who are graduating from Westchester Community College and are going on to complete their degrees at a four year college. In a short talk each recipient will share their journey with us. Over the past ten years we have provided scholarships, currently in the amount of $1,500 each, to thirty young women.

Our AAUW NY State president, Edwina Martin, will bring us congratulations on behalf of AAUW NY State. Each year at the state convention the Westchester branch wins many awards. This year Roli Wendof, our next AAUW NY State president, will head our AAUW Westchester delegates at the convention and will bring back our awards to be displayed at our celebration. Be sure to look for this outstanding recognition of our branch’s accomplishments.

Social activities, especially when combined with eating, have always created strong bonds among our branch members. All of our members have helped us reach this special date and we want you all to participate in our celebration. The banquet cost this year is $60 per person. Weather permitting there is a spacious outdoor terrace for hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar. We’ll move inside to our festive banquet room for dinner. We will start
with an included Prosecco toast and complete dinner with our own uniquely designed AAUW sheet cake. (On page 5 see the complete menu!) Each attendee will leave with a commemorative copy of our AAUW history. Reservations are simple to make. Please fill out the form sent to you or the one included in this issue of CHIPS. Mail the form and a check made out for $60 to Carol McMillan. For another option, include $85 for dues for a total check of $145. ($82 of your dues are tax deductible). Want to avoid a trip to the post office, bring your check to our May 4th AAUW meeting. Your AAUW Branch wants your presence on June 1st!

**AAUW BRANCH MEETING**

**PITFALLS AND PROMISES OF COMMON CORE LEARNING STANDARDS**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 4 AT 6PM AT THE GREENBURGH LIBRARY**

Our speakers for the May 4th branch meeting will be Harry Phillips, former Member of the NYS Board of Regents, and Judith Johnson, current Member of the NYS Board of Regents. The subject is Pitfalls and Promises of Common Core Learning Standards, with Harry Phillips discussing the early history of the Standards, and Judith Johnson discussing the current status of the Standards.

Harry Phillips retired from the NYS Board of Regents in 2015 after 15 years of service. He is a former trustee of Westchester Community College for 11 years, and has been active in WISE Services for 20 years.

Judith Johnson was appointed for a 5-year term as a member of the New York State Board of Regents effective April 1, 2015, representing Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester counties. Ms. Johnson had previously served as Deputy Secretary and later Assistant Secretary of Education in President Clinton’s second term. She later served for 10 years as School Superintendent for the City of Peekskill. In addition, she assumed the temporary position of Mount Vernon City Superintendent while the search for a new Superintendent was underway.

**Explore Your Horizons—The Sky’s the Limit!**

**Wilma Gitchel, Project Co-Director**

We are deep into the feverish last minute preparations for our 13\textsuperscript{th} annual conference. We’re anticipating nearly 300 students this year, along with 80 or so accompanying adults. I continue to be impressed with the dedication and hard work of our great team. None better.

Sadly, we miss our super volunteer, Mary Kay Olson. Her absence is deeply felt during this ramp up.

Tremendous volunteers, both branch members and friends, are coming together to introduce 7\textsuperscript{th} grade girls to the possibilities in the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). We offer two workshop sessions conducted by women working in these fields, and assisted by students emphasizing STEM studies. Mystery Women are subjected to grilling by the students in their quest to identify them through questions based on their bios.

Thanks to all our supporters—you’ve done much to help make a difference in these students’ lives.
ART INTEREST GROUP

On Friday, May 13, the Art Interest Group will go to the Neue Galerie to see the exhibit Munch and Expressionism. If you would like to join us, please contact Shelli Pines at shellip@optonline.net.

CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The Current Issues Interest Group will meet on Thursday, May 12, at 10 a.m. in the home of Selena Barron. Our topic will be The Current Supreme Court Situation. For further information, please call Marie McKellar 914 591 4899.

THE PLAY READING GROUP

The Play Reading Group will meet on Tuesday, April 12, at 1 p.m. at the Mt. Pleasant Public Library. We will be reading "The Hot L Baltimore" by Lanford Wilson. Contact Joyce Koyner for more information: jkoyner@gmail.com

STEM INTEREST GROUP

On Wednesday May 11 at 10 a.m. the STEM Interest Group will meet at Hastings Middle School to see What Our Children Are Learning About Computer Programming. Contact: Sandra Flank

CHASING CULTURE

ART EXHIBIT of general interest to all members: Each May, Greenwich, Connecticut holds a celebration called Arts on the Avenue. This year's event takes place Thursday, May 5 starting at 5 p.m. Galleries and shops remain open and most offer libation and hors d'oeuvres. The main action takes place on Greenwich, Avenue, 5 long blocks which run south from Putnam Avenue, ending at Long Island Sound. The best way to see it all is to walk down one side of Greenwich Avenue and up the other. The challenge is to pace yourself with the liquid refreshment on the journey down or the journey up may be daunting! I shall be driving over and have room for 3 more passengers. Please email me if interested. marpat142@hotmail.com

POETRY INTEREST GROUP

The Poetry Interest Group will meet on Tuesday April 19 at 1:30 p.m. in the home of Janice Rabinowitz. We will discuss the work of Donald Hall. In May we will meet on May 17th. For further information, please call Mary Ellen LeClair, the group's leader: 914 762 4208e call Mary Ellen LeClair at 914 762 4208

COMMON CORE GROUP

The group will meet on Wednesdays, May 18 and June 15, at 10 a.m. at the Greenburgh Public Library.

AAUW BOOK GROUP MEETINGS!

DAYTIME LITERATURE GROUP

The Daytime Literature Group will meet on Thursday, May 26 at 10 a.m. at the Ossining Library. The group will discuss Cat’s Table by Michael Ondaatje. Contact Jan Ruotolo for further information.

TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 10, in the home of Selena Barron. We’ll discuss the book, The Boys in the Boat, by Daniel James Brown. Unfortunately, our group is still closed to new members. Please contact Natasha Rose who coordinates the new Thursday book group.

EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Literature Group will meet at Terra Rustica Due in Mt. Kisco (formerly Eduado’s) at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11. Sue Lambert will lead the discussion of Good to a Fault by Marina Endicott. Please let Ellen Eschmann know if you plan to attend.
Join us at Cazenovia!

Building Success with Smart Ideas: Focus on Programming and Leadership

Summer Leadership Conference
July 22-24, 2016
Cazenovia College
Cazenovia, NY

AAUW VP for Member Leadership Programs, Deepti Gudipati
Workshop: Developing New Leaders
Round Table: Branch Programming
Newly revised Start Smart + Work Smart Programs
ALL AAUW members are invited!
Subsidized by AAUW-NYS
$105 for the entire weekend (2 nights, 6 meals), $110 for paper registration
Register at www.aauw-nys.org after May 1

A WARM WELCOME!

The membership committee is pleased to welcome three new members.

Marjory Wiener of Hartsdale attended the N.Y. Inst. of Technology and holds a Masters Degree in Technology Education.

Elizabeth Klein of Pelham, who was a National member found us via our website. She holds a Masters Degree in Special Education.

Angela Blake Fields of White Plains has a Masters Degree in Public Policy and discovered us at the Greenburgh Library.

The Westchester Branch of AAUW cordially invites them and other interested parties to attend a new member get-together to greet new members and meet some members who will share their experiences as part of AAUW.

New Member Coffee
Date: Saturday, May 14, Time: 10 a.m.
Place: Selena Barron’s Home
R.S.V.P. to Selena Barron 914-693-4465 or selenabarron@optonline.net

2016-17 PROGRAM PLANNING!

Would you like to speak at an AAUW meeting?
Would you like to suggest someone as a speaker for an AAUW meeting?
Please help us plan for the 2016-2017 year at our program planning meeting on May 10th at 1:30 p.m. at the Greenburgh Public Library.
If you cannot be there in person, please send your ideas for a speaker to Stephanie Lemnios at sblemnios@gmail.com or Sandra Flank at sflank@pace.edu.
Diamond Jubilee - Spring Fling Menu

Cheese, Fruit, & Vegetables With Assorted Crackers & Dip
Chef's Choice of Two Hot Hors d'Oeuvres
Prosecco Celebratory Toast
Warm Bread and Butter Basket
Local Market Greens Tossed with Candied Pecans, Bartlett Pear, Conch Farm Goat Cheese, Champagne Vinaigrette
Wild Mushroom Stuffed Chicken Breast & Pan-Seared Salmon, Lemon Butter Romesco Sauce
Roasted Parmesan Cauliflower with Broccolini
Baby Creamer Potatoes with Sweet Cipollini Onions
Diamond Jubilee Sheet Cake
Chocolate Dipped Strawberries Chantilly Cream Filled Angel Food Cake with Coffee or Tea
There are several cases already on the docket for this Supreme Court session that will affect AAUW’s advocacy for girls and women. Two cases, both discussed below are based on Texas legislation.

Evenwel v. Abbott is a voting rights case. The question is does the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment require that districts take into account the number of eligible voters rather than the total population. People who are not eligible to vote are children, non-citizens, people convicted of felonies and prisoners. After the 2010 census, the legislature created a redistricting plan that was signed into law. However, a three-judge panel of the federal district court found that there was a substantial claim that this redistricting plan violated the Voting Rights Act. They issued an interim plan for the 2012 primary elections, that was subsequently adopted and signed into law. Plaintiffs Sue Evenwel and Edward Pfenninger are registered Texas voters who sued and claimed that the interim plan that was adopted and signed into law violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. They argued that the new districts do not adhere to the “one person, one vote” principle, which the Supreme Court had previously held exists in the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, because they were based on total population rather than registered voter population. The new districts were almost equal in terms of registered voter population but varied wildly in relation to total voter population. The district court granted Governor Abbott's motion to dismiss and held that Evenwel and Pfenninger failed to state a claim based on Equal Protection Jurisprudence, which allows total population to be the basis for district apportionment. The Supreme Court in an 8 to 0 decision written by Justice Ginsburg upheld the district court. The NY Times stated on April 3, 2016 that had the justices required that only eligible voters be counted, the ruling would have shifted political power from cities to rural areas, a move that would have benefited Republicans. Professor Richard Hasen at the University of California at Irvine stated that “It is hard to stress enough what a victory this is for liberal supporters of voting rights.”

Whole Women’s Health v. Hellerstedt involves: 1. Texas legislation that restricts access to abortion by requiring abortion clinics to meet hospital operating room standards and doctors performing abortions to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals and 2. Whether or not the law imposes an “undue burden” on a woman’s right to terminate her pregnancy under the guise of the State’s interest in promoting health. The case has been called the biggest threat to Roe v. Wade to reach the Supreme Court. If there were a 4-4 tie, the lower court decision would stand, but only in the jurisdiction of the lower court. The result would be the closure of most clinics in the state of Texas, but would not apply elsewhere. Access to an abortion would depend on where a woman lives. Truth-out states “Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy might vote with the liberals to overturn the restrictions placed on women’s health clinics,” But even if Kennedy does not vote with the liberals, Scalia’s absence still eliminates a broader risk that previously existed: If Scalia had participated in that decision, the court may well have allowed states to impose restrictions.” The court’s decision will be made before the end of its session in June.

AAUW opposes voter restrictions and our branch members volunteer to register eligible citizens. AAUW also “supports choice in the determination of one’s reproductive life and increased access to health care and family planning services. AAUW trusts that every woman has the ability to make her own informed choices regarding her reproductive life within the dictates of her own moral and religious beliefs. AAUW believes that these deeply personal decisions should be made without government interference.”

By being a member of AAUW, you are a woman making a difference.
International Business Machine Corporation (IBM) is going through a remarkable transition, not only the company but also the industry as a whole as it reacts to an explosion of data in recent years. This month’s speaker, Zachary Lemnios, Vice President IBM Research Strategy and Worldwide Operations spoke about technology’s future.

The Internet has evolved rapidly. The big transition that is driving much of IBM’s recent work is the fact that data is driving nearly everything. In 2000, less than seven percent of the world’s population was connected to the Internet; today the number is about forty-five percent. Connectivity is remarkably easy today, “I can interact in ways that I couldn’t even imagine in 2000, you wanted to start a meeting with 30 people it wasn’t a single e-mail click, it was a bunch of phone calls,” explained Mr. Lemnios.

This connectivity has changed how companies use data. Successful companies like Macy’s and Zara’s are using data to target consumers with particular items to buy. In 2015, Google saw about 3.5 billion searches a day and YouTube has 4 billion views a day. Every minute there are 350 minutes of videos added to the YouTube portfolio. These observations are important because these companies can think ahead, they can consider questions like, what are the trends? How do I offer a customer a value proposition different from another client?

As technology develops rapidly, IBM has introduced the world to a new phenomenon, Watson. What is Watson? Mr. Lemnios talked about this technology platform that uses natural language processing and machine learning to reveal insights from large amounts of unstructured data. “When a radiologist looks at an image, sure good images have features that are well understood…there’s a lot of gray structure that takes a little bit of interpretation and a radiologist goes to school for exactly that purpose so in that example we are training Watson to be a radiologist, not to provide the answer but to provide advise to a radiologist,” said Mr. Lemnios. These systems like Watson are not programmed, they learn over time. Conclusions that the computer reaches are validated in this instance by the ability of Watson to pass a radiologist test. Other fields where Watson’s cognitive learning has been applied are law, finance, education, and cyber security.

Mr. Lemnios bemoaned the fact that, at 29% and 24%, respectively, there are not enough women represented in science and in computer science. These numbers have been flat for the past decade, the pipeline isn’t large enough and it’s not structured the way it needs to be. IBM is trying to change that with outreach starting with programing projects for middle schoolers, summer programs for high school girls and internships for college women. Mr. Lemnios gave a very informative talk and confirmed IBM’s aim to encourage young women and girls to join the growing fields of computer science and engineering.

FYI The latest approved Board meeting minutes are available on the Branch website: westchester-ny.aauw.net
EYO AWARDED AAUW NYC METRO AREA GRANT

Our Explore Your Opportunities STEM Conference was awarded a grant of $10,000 towards the expenses of the 2016 Conference (held Saturday, April 16). The grant comes from AAUW's newly created NYC Metro Area Fund, resulting from the sale of the NYC Branch House. Congratulations to Wilma Gitchel and her team who worked very hard on the very detailed and time consuming grant proposal!

If you would like to apply for a Metro Area Grant for some other program, the deadline for the next round of proposal submission is May 1, 2016. The proposal must be for a mission based program or for preserving our Branch history.

STEM GROUP OUTING
-by Sandra Flank

The STEM group took a trip to the Pace University Environmental Center where the Assistant Director, James Eyring, was kind enough to show us how raptors are trained.

We met Elvis, a gyrfalcon, who showed off her hunting ability, even catching a rabbit--a fake one, of course. We also met a number of the other birds, including red-tailed hawks, a peregrine, owls and more. It was a great way to celebrate Earth Month.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER; YOUR AAUW WESTCHESTER BRANCH DUES ARE DUE!

It's that time of the year. AAUW is a grass roots organization and we value your membership. By joining us in our advocacy for girls and women, you are a woman making a difference. Please renew your membership and help us continue to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Total dues for 2016-17 are $85, $82 of which are tax deductible; $75 for new members, and $36 local branch and state dues for lifetime members only.

If we receive your dues payment on or before June 1, you will be eligible for a drawing for a free membership at the Spring Fling.

Please forward your check, made payable to “AAUW Westchester Branch” to: Carol McMillan, 14B Lyon St., Rye Brook, NY 10573
LAF UPDATE
Nancy Mion, AAUW NYS LAF Director

The Legal Advocacy Fund, launched in 1981, has been supporting cases of sex discrimination for 35 years. During that time LAF has disbursed nearly 2 million dollars to more than 100 plaintiffs. Before 2009, LAF only supported cases in academia, but now LAF supports select cases in any workplace. It is wonderful to report successes thanks to your generous support.

THEY WON!-At the 2015 NYS Convention Michelle Jaureguito Henley shared her moving story about the results of the retaliation she received from Feather River Community College in California when she complained about sex discrimination. There is an article about the case that I wrote in the Spring 2015 Focus. She and a colleague Laurel Wartluft filed whistleblower lawsuits alleging that the college violated Title IX. Finally after ten long years the two women have settled their cases.

THEY WON!-In early January 2016 we learned that the plaintiffs in Moshak v. University of Tennessee successfully settled their case against the University for discrimination against the University women’s athletic staff! (See article in the Fall 2014 Focus). The University will pay more than a million dollars as part of the settlement and they will be able to speak about it too. Additionally, because the celebrated Lady Vols were involved, attention was brought to equity in college athletics.

YOUR LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND MOVING FORWARD FOR PAY EQUITY IN THE WORKPLACE

The most recent case adopted by the AAUW LAF is Rizo vs. Fresno County Office of Education. It vividly demonstrates the effect the gender pay gap has on women’s salaries. The plaintiff Aileen Rizo, a math consultant, learned that a male colleague, with less experience, was hired on the 9th of 10 steps, while she had been hired on the first step. When she filed a complaint she was told that starting salaries were based solely on the employee’s previous wages. Since women are generally paid less then men, this practice perpetuates the wage gap. Rizo eventually filed suit in 2014 under the Equal Pay Act and California sex status discrimination statutes. Want to know more about this case? Check out at http://aauw-nys.org/laf_casesupport.htm

MOVING FORWARD-Very recently the case survived summary judgment and the trial starts in January

These cases show the very positive effect of the LAF case support program. It provides financial and organizational backing for plaintiffs who are challenging gender discrimination in education and the workplace. The funds to do this come directly from your generous donations.
### MAY 2016

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<td>Branch Meeting</td>
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<td>Deadline for submitting for CHIPS</td>
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<td>Tuesday Morning Literature Group</td>
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<td>Play Reading Group</td>
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### JUNE 2016

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<td>St.AndrewsClub</td>
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