

CHIPS

The monthly newsletter of the Westchester Branch of the American Association of University Women, Westchester County, New York



**Westchester AAUW Has Been
Empowering Women and
Girls Since 1933**



RECOGNIZING GIRLS WHO EXCEL

By Barbara Sarver

Each year our branch offers TWO SEPARATE awards for excellence to two high school senior girls in each Westchester public high school. Each award has a specially chosen book (Strunk and White's Elements of Style) with inscribed bookplate, along with an inscribed certificate of excellence. The book is the definitive text and classic manual on the principles of the English language. This year as well as for the last few years the cost of the books has been subsidized by the Dede Emerson Foundation.

The criteria for the "Outstanding Student" award are that she demonstrates service to her school, academic ability, and potential for future service to women in the solution of social and civic problems. This judgment is in harmony with AAUW's goals, which are to enable members to continue intellectual growth, discharge their responsibilities to society, and further the advancement of women.

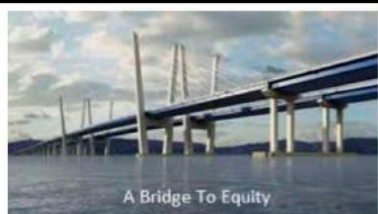
APRIL 1 WESTCHESTER AAUW BRANCH MEETING CANCELLED, BUT PLEASE VOTE FOR THE BUDGET AND THE CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD FOR 2020-2021

The Branch Meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. is cancelled. The Board is being cautious because of covid-19. However, we do ask you to vote, either via email or the US mails. Ballots are in this issue of Chips. All ballots must be postmarked by April 1 to be counted. It is important that you vote, in order for the budget and for the officers for the coming year. We thank you for voting.

The criteria for the "Excellence in Writing" award follow universally accepted standards of excellence in creative as well as formal writing. We wish to reward the writers of superior short stories, poetry, personal essays, and plays, along with those who fulfill the state writing standards of excellence in academic writing. Our branch has been offering these awards since the early 1990's. Below is one of the many thank you letters we receive every year.

"Thank you for recognizing me for the AAUW Outstanding Student Award. I am proud to be recognized by this community because I believe in the values it stands for. I do hope to stand up for underrepresented people and take actions to advance equity for women in my future endeavors. Thank you again for this prestigious award."
Samantha G.

Each year, we gather at Diana Kent's home to giftwrap the awards and mail them to the schools. If you would like to participate in the wrapping of the books on Friday, May 15, 2020, contact Barbara Sarver (barmik256@optonline.net). By presenting students with this recognition, we help keep our name alive in our community. Another branch education project is under the leadership of Carol McMillan and Jean Havens. Our branch gives schools the opportunity to recognize up to three eighth grade girls for excellence in math and/or science each year. This usually results in approximately 170-200 certificates awarded



MISSION: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

VISION: Equity for All

VALUE STATEMENT: By joining AAUW you belong to a community that breaks educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance. AAUW is nonpartisan, fact-based, and values integrity, inclusion and intersectionality.

2019-2020 BRANCH OFFICERS

Co-Presidents

Lorin Johnson & Marie McKellar

Program Co-Vice Presidents

Barbara Lehman & Sue Perko

Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Cynthia Plater & Judy Walsh

Recording Co-Secretaries

Cheryl Larsen & Ellen Leuner

Corresponding Secretary

Roseanne Klein

Treasurer

Susan Gardner & Carol McMillan

CHIPS Editor

Sue Lambert slamb47@aol.com

Circulation

Jean Havens

Branch Web Site

westchester-ny.aaup.net

State Web Site

www.aaup-nys.org

National Web Site

www.aaup.org

Facebook at AAUW Westchester NY

The AAUW

Legal Advocacy Fund

provides funding and a support system for individuals seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

The AAUW Educational

Opportunities Fund

provides fellowships and grants to aspiring graduate women scholars in the US and around the globe.

Both projects believe that by recognizing students as they enter into adulthood, we are helping to create a community of educated women who will by their achievements demonstrate the principle of equity for women and girls.

Westchester has a very diverse population with all degrees of socio-economic groups, and we are particularly proud of the recipients from some of our underserved school systems who still believe in the importance of quality education.

Over the years, these awards have provided our branch with broad outreach and acceptance from the Westchester community, with schools looking to us for our recognition of their top writers and students. They call or write to us now, assuring themselves that we are continuing with our awards.

Our costs continue to grow. The price of the books increases every year and postage has gone up. If you would like to help support our program, please send a check for any amount payable to "AAUW Westchester Branch" indicating that it is a contribution to the Senior Book Awards. Mail the check to our treasurer: Susan Gardner, 19 Robbie Road, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567.

2020-2021 BRANCH BOARD MEMBERS SLATE

Co-Presidents: Lorin Johnson and Ellen Leuner

Program Co-Vice Presidents: Barbara Lehman and Susan Perko

Membership Co-Vice Presidents: Marjorie Kingsley and Judith Walsh

Recording Co-Secretaries: Roberta Michael and Elaine Weiss

Co-Treasurers: Susan Gardner and Cynthia Plater

Corresponding Secretary: Rene Parmar

PROGRAM MEETING MAY 14, 2 P.M.

The Program Branch Project Meeting will be held on Thursday May 14 at 2 p.m., either in the Greenburgh Public Library or by conference call. The schedule for the Branch 2020-2021 meetings and speakers will be organized at this time. All members are invited to attend. Also, please send your suggestions for speakers to Sue Perko, Co-VP for Programs.

Bridge Photo from NY
State Thruway Authority

ART INTEREST GROUP

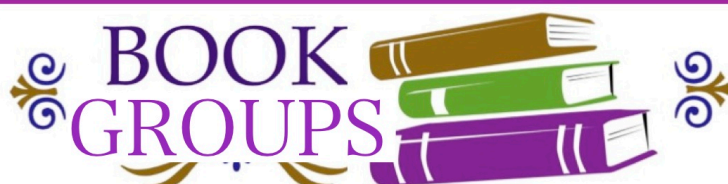
On Tuesday, April 7 the Art Interest Group will have a private tour of the William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation art gallery in Mount Kisco. If you would like to come, please email Shelli Pines.

CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The April 3rd Current Issues Group meeting has been cancelled.

POETRY INTEREST GROUP

The Poetry Interest Group plans to meet Tuesday, April 21 at 1:30 p.m in the home of Janice Rabinowitz.



THURSDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

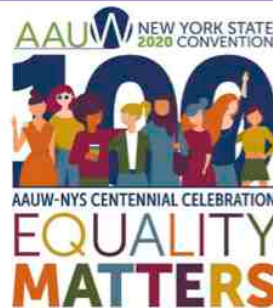
The Thursday Literature Group has postponed meetings until the concern of the covid-19 virus has subsided. Contact Anita Dye for further information.

TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on April 14 at 10 a.m. in the home of Susan Appel. We'll discuss the novel, The Lost Girls of Paris, by Pam Jenoff. Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you're interested in joining us.

EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Literature Group will meet at Lexington Square Cafe in Mt. Kisco, at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15. Jean Havens will lead the discussion of This Land is Our Land by Suketu Mehta. Please call Ellen Eschmann if you plan to attend.



April 24-26

**Check in out
on the NY
AAUW
website!**

JOIN AAUW WESTCHESTER BRANCH

Membership is open to anyone with an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from an accredited college or university. To join, please complete this form and send a check payable to AAUW Westchester Branch to the address below. New Member Dues for 2019-20 are \$85, of which \$82 are tax deductible. When you join the Westchester Branch of AAUW, you also become a member of the AAUW New York State and National organizations. The Membership team can also provide you with more information about AAUW-Westchester's activities on our branch record form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City:State:Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

College/University, Degree, Graduation Year: _____

Send check and/or branch record form request to: Cynthia Plater, 9 Cleveland Dr, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520 or Phone 914-325-0357 or email: westchesteraauw@gmail.com

**Have
You Seen
Our Web Site?**

westchester-ny.aauw.net

Board minutes are posted on the Web Page.

PUBLIC POLICY: THREE ICONS

- by Selena Barron

The year 2020 celebrates and honors the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote. The American Bar Association states "the passage marked the largest expansion of democracy in the history of our country." In August 1920 by becoming the 36th state to ratify the 18th Amendment, Tennessee gave women in the United States something they had tried to achieve for 72 years and three generations: the vote! The power of the vote did not stop with the passage of the 18th Amendment. March is also Women's History month. Since 1881 AAUW has always been a strong leader for equality in education and career opportunity, through advocacy and activism for girls and women. The Westchester Branch of AAUW has been empowering women since 1933. Two black women, Marian Anderson and Billie Holiday and a child, Carlotta Walls LaNier, icons of the past 100 years, stand out for their achievement of their dreams by succeeding in music and educational opportunity, fighting injustice, and leaving a legacy for other women and girls to follow.



Marian Anderson who was born on February 27, 1897 and died on April 8, 1993 had a voice described by Arturo Toscanini as one that comes along "once in a hundred years." When one of her first teachers listened to her singing, he was moved to tears by her talent and delivery. Due to racial discrimination, her early musical triumphs took place mostly in Europe. The greatness of her musical gifts finally did bring her recognition in the United States. However, in 1939 the Daughters of the American Revolution banned Marian Anderson from performing at its Constitution Hall. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt intervened and facilitated an outdoor concert for Marion Anderson at the Lincoln Memorial on April 9, 1939. A venue especially important because of President Lincoln's role in bringing slavery to an end. The concert was a huge success attended by 75,000 and broadcast to a radio audience of millions. As a result, Marion Anderson received large amounts of sympathy and the concert became a defining moment in the American civil rights movement.

Billie Holiday who was born in 1915 and died in 1959 became a famous black jazz singer despite growing up in poverty. She was known for her soulful, emotional singing and during the 1930s and 1940s she performed with some of the best American jazz musicians. In 1938 Artie Shaw invited her to be the lead singer in his all white band, an impressive and courageous achievement for her. In the 1930s a poem "Strange Fruit", written by a Jewish poet about horrific lynching in the Southern United States was given to Billie Holiday with music written especially for her. Her usual record label, Capitol, refused to issue a song that dealt so directly with lynching. In response, Billie Holiday moved to Commodore records and "Strange Fruit" became a hit record. This best selling record of her career became an important statement against injustice. The song is now considered by scholars to be the first protest song of the civil rights era. "Strange Fruit" received the Song of The Century award from Time Magazine.



Carlotta Walls LaNier, at age 14, was the youngest of the nine courageous black students known as the Little Rock Nine who integrated Little Rock Central High School in 1957. She volunteered knowing she would be part of the American Civil Rights Movement testing the landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court declaring segregation in public schools unconstitutional (Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, 1954). She was escorted to school by the 101st Airborne division of the U.S. Army and later by the Arkansas National Guard. She endured verbal taunts and physical harassment while at school. After a year when Little Rock high schools were shut down, she returned to the school and was the first black student to walk across the stage and receive her diploma. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree. She, along with the Little Rock Nine received the nation's highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal. Awarded by President Bill Clinton, the prestigious Springarm medal from the NAACP and the Lincoln Leadership Prize. She is a recipient of four honorary doctorate degrees and is an inductee in the Colorado's Women's Hall of fame.

The centennial celebration of women's right to vote provides an opportunity to contemplate what is happening today to provide equity in education and career opportunity for girls and women. We can only dream ahead one hundred years to think about what women will continue to achieve. How will the 7th grade girls who have attended Westchester AAUW's Exploring Your Opportunities {EYO} make their mark? What will the 100,000 women who have completed AAUW's, online, \$mart \$tart leave as their legacy?

As a member of AAUW, you are a woman making a difference.



AAUW-Westchester Branch BALLOT

In favor of the slate presented for 2020-21

Yes

No

In favor of the budget presented for 2020-21

Yes

No

Signature _____

Please mail your ballot to Sue Lambert at

19 Pinehurst Dr., Purchase, NY 10577
or email to slamb47@aol.com

**You will find the 2020-21
proposed slate of officers and
the proposed budget in this
issue of CHIPS**

**Since the April Branch
Meeting has been cancelled,
it is very important for you
to vote by either snail mail
or email. Be sure to include
you name if you vote by
email.**

**Ballots are due by April 1
Many thanks!**



*AAUW
Scholarship
Luncheon*

Annual Local Scholarship Luncheon Reservation

Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at noon

**Westchester Community College,
75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla
Student Center Viking Cafe, Parking Lot 8**

Name _____

Number attending ____ x \$35 ____

Additional Contribution \$ ____

**Checks payable to WCC Foundation with
"AAUW Scholarship" on the memo line**

**Mail to Marilee Scheuneman
27 Hillside Drive, Yonkers, NY 10705**

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS:
AN UPDATE FROM CATHERINE PARKER
By Mary Logan**

In November 2017, a sea change occurred in the composition of Westchester County's Legislature. A democratic majority prevailed and Catherine Parker was selected as Majority Leader (as of 1/6/20 MaryJane Shimsky is Majority Leader). With nine females out of 17, women outnumbered men on the legislature for the first time.

Thirty-one pieces of legislation were passed during the 2018-2019 session as compared to a typical 8 to 12 regulations. Having gun shows at the County Center was vetoed and immigrant protection measures were passed. An impressive list of progressive measures was passed: Salary History Ban, Safe Staffing Resolution for health care workers, Earned Sick Leave (particularly of current importance), Source of Income Ban for affordable housing, Co-op Disclosure Law to prevent discrimination, and Safe Leave to protect domestic violence victims.

One current initiative is investigating the so-called "Pink Tax" where, for example, women's jeans cost 7% more than men's and girls scooters are \$20 more than boys. The County Legislature wants to send a message to New York State by proposing legislation providing protection against this needless discrimination. In many instances Westchester's Legislature has led the way on forward-thinking proposals making it easier for similar legislation to be passed at the State level. A key area being championed is climate change, two examples are a food scrap composting program and a ban on Styrofoam. Yale University did a study of 91 parliaments which found that when there are a large number of female representatives more climate change legislation is passed. The current composition of Westchester's Legislature is proving that finding to be accurate!



Our March 4th Branch Meeting speaker, County Legislator Catherine Parker, (in the second row 6th from the left) is pictured with some of the members who attended the meeting.

	<u>Proposed Budget 2020-21</u>					
		Proposed	Budget	Budget	Year-End Total	Year-End Total
		Budget	2019-20	2018-19	18-19	2017-18
INCOME		2020-21				
Branch Dues -		\$3,700	\$4,200	\$4,500	\$3,915	\$4,460
Contributions for Sr. Awards/8th grade		\$925	\$500	\$500	\$632	\$483
Other Contributions					\$71	
Grants						
Grants for WizGirls						
Contributions for Special Projects						
Interest from CD						
Mailing Fees & Ads for CHIPs		\$150	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40
Holiday Lunch		\$200	\$200	\$150	\$300	\$282
Spring Filing			\$150	\$120		
Ways/Means & Other Fund Raising		\$1,500				
TOTAL INCOME		\$6,475	\$6,080	\$6,310	\$4,868	\$6,286
EXPENSES						
BRANCH ACTIVITIES						
8th Grade Educational awards		\$375	\$375	\$375	\$224	\$362
Sr. Educational Awards		\$750	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,008	\$663
Public Policy (Running & Winning)		\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
Exploring Your Opportunities (EYO)				\$500		
Women's Club & Other Assns. Dues		\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
AAUW Student Leadership Conference		\$600	\$500	\$500		
Special Projects - Start Smart, STEM camp, etc.			\$600	\$600		
WCC Scholarship Fund		\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
Community Service Project			\$200			
Aauw Funds contribution		\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Total BRANCH ACTIVITIES EXPENSES		\$2,875	\$3,125	\$3,825	\$1,882	\$1,876
CONFERENCES/CONVENTIONS						
Delegates - State or National		\$200	\$200	\$200	\$50	
District V						\$160
Total CONF./CONVENTIONS EXPENSES		\$200	\$200	\$200	\$50	\$160
GENERAL MEETINGS & SOCIALS						
Hospitality		\$150	\$150	\$200	\$76	\$97
Holiday Lunch						
Spring Filing Dinner						
Programs		\$150				
Rental & Custodial Fees (Inc. \$300 to library)		\$450	\$350	\$350	\$300	\$300
Total GEN. MTGS & SOCIAL EXPENSES		\$750	\$600	\$650	\$376	\$387
OPERATING EXPENSES						
Comes Sec./Sunshine Fund		\$50	\$50	\$50		
Insurance		\$800	\$800	\$800	\$522	\$522
Membership		\$100	\$100	\$100	\$188	\$18
Newsletter/Postage		\$600	\$500	\$500	\$507	\$570
Other Council/Board expense Inc. web		\$370	\$370	\$300	\$166	\$50
Publicity/Branch Brochure		\$700	\$700	\$200	\$215	\$210
Yearbook/Postage		\$800	\$800	\$500	\$765	\$444
AAUW Funds Mailing		\$250	\$250	\$200	\$226	\$228
State Convention Ad		\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125
Bank Charges				\$50		
Intern Expenses		\$100	\$100	\$100		
Total OPERATING EXPENSES		\$3,885	\$3,785	\$2,825	\$2,714	\$2,187
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$7,220	\$7,820	\$7,300	\$6,022	\$4,388
Net Income		-\$745	-\$2,630	-\$1,990	-\$84	\$878
Budget Notes for 2020-21						
Expense Budget reflects total expenses, except for Explore Your Opportunities						
Branch dues remain \$23 per year per person						

BUDGET COMMENTS

Please take a look at the revised proposed budget for next year. The version included in last month's CHIPs resulted in a substantial deficit. Upon reconsideration, the Board has revised the budget as you see here.

We ask you to vote for the proposed budget for 2020-2021. The Board is aware that there is a projected slight deficit. This is acceptable, short term, since we have money in savings, over \$24,000. In 2017-2018 we had a big surplus and in 2018-2019 there was a slight loss of \$64. In reality, there may not be a deficit for 2020-2021. We listed some projects that may not happen- such as the AAUW Student Leadership Conference. We have not sent a student to this conference for several years. Should actual deficits arise, fundraisers will be held to pay for activities. The Board will carefully monitor expenses.

If you have already sent in your ballot and wish to change your vote, please resend your ballot and the second one will be honored. Thank you.



APRIL 2020

4/6	Monday Bridge Group		11 a.m.
4/7	Art Interest Group	William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation Art Gallery	
4/10	Deadline for submitting for CHIPS		
4/13	Monday Bridge Group		11 a.m.
4/14	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Nancy Heymann's Home	10 a.m.
4/15	Evening Literature Group	Lexington Sq. Cafe, Mt. Kisco	5:30 p.m.
4/16	Running and Winning Workshop	YWCA, White Plains	8:30 a.m.
4/20	Monday Bridge Group		11 a.m.
4/21	Financial Interest Group	Diana Kent's Home	10 a.m.
4/21	Poetry Interest Group	Janice Rabinowitz's Home	1:30 p.m.
4/27	Monday Bridge Group		11 a.m.
4/28	Scholarship Luncheon	WWC	12 noon

