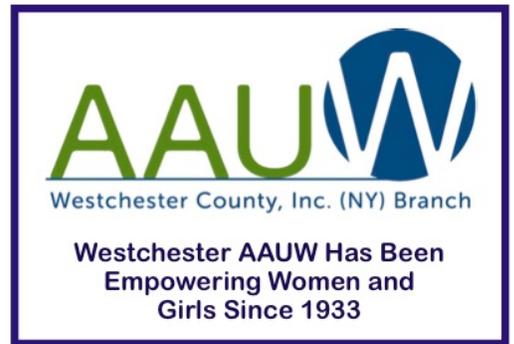


CHIPS

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



EXPLORE YOUR OPPORTUNITIES- THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!

Lorrin Johnson

Our 17th Annual EYO Conference was planned to be the most outstanding STEM conference yet! The conference was canceled by the College of Mount Saint Vincent due to the spreading COVID-19 virus. This year Maria Ellis, Empire NYC branch president and Lorrin Johnson, Westchester branch co-president had successfully gotten a grant from The AAUW New York City Metropolitan Area Fund. They worked hard with the steering committee to bring some new and exciting workshops. Included in the ten workshops was a new workshop, Survive the Zombie Apocalypse, taught by Whitney Oriana, PhD, MPH, Disease Ecologist, Ecohealth Alliance. This workshop was an exercise in learning to stop zombie disease (a made-up disease) from spreading around the world. How appropriate would that have been! Several of the outstanding workshop leaders from last year planned to attend, nine as well as Estelle Kone, Vice President for Market Risk, Goldman Sachs, who was adding a Math Games workshop. In addition, this year high school students who were participating in New York City and Westchester Science and Engineering Competitions were presenting their science projects. EYO is only postponed until next year. All involved have vowed to be there in the Spring 2021 semester.

Thanks to the College of Mount Saint Vincent staff, everyone who had volunteered, and contributed funds to EYO. A very special thanks to the members of the steering committee who were all set to go: Carol McMillian, Chigurupati Rani, Kit Voit, Susan Appel, Cynthia Plater, Barbara Sarver, Shivaleela Keerthy, Karen Trovato, Jane Pendergast, Mary Logan, Marianne McGovern and Jessica Sims. Looking forward to seeing you all next year.



MAY BRANCH MEETING CANCELLED

The May 6 AAUW branch meeting has been cancelled due to the ongoing threat of the COVID-19 virus. The CDC suggests that ways we can each help to stop the spread include frequent hand washing, the use of social distancing, staying home except for necessary health appointments and the use of deliveries for food and prescriptions. The CDC is also asking that everyone wear a fabric cover or mask over their mouth and nose when going out. When walking outside, stay 6 feet away from others.



We hope that following the CDC recommendations will be successful in saving lives and ending the spread of the virus. Visit our AAUW website and read our emails and CHIPS to learn about digital meetings now and branch meetings starting in the fall if social distancing is no longer necessary.

Stay safe and healthy!



A Bridge To Equity

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

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Cynthia Plater & Judy Walsh

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CHIPS Editor

Sue Lambert slamb47@aol.com

Circulation

Jean Havens

Branch Web Site

westchester-ny.aauw.net

State Web Site

www.aauw-nys.org

National Web Site

www.aauw.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.

Bridge Photo from NY
StateThruway Authority

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

REMINDER OF DUES RENEWAL

Membership in AAUW expires at the end of June so it's time to renew. \$95 covers national, state, and branch dues. For those who are life members, the state and branch portion is \$36. All but \$3 of the dues is tax deductible. We encourage members to renew even if you do not have time to be involved. Remember—we are fighting for gender equity for women and girls and our money is used for a good purpose, even if you cannot participate in our activities.

To help us all be safe and minimize trips to the branch post office box, we prefer that you pay by credit card. This option is available on the branch website (click on the Member tab and select membership renewal). A \$2.50 service charge will apply. For those who do not wish to pay online, please send a check payable to AAUW Westchester to Carol McMillan 14 Lyon Street, Rye Brook, NY 10573.

2019 Annual Fund by Mary Logan

Members of AAUW-Westchester again proved very generous for our Annual Fund drive. The campaign received \$6,125 directly and members sent another \$2,095 to national throughout the year for a grand total of \$8,220. The Fund supports advancing gender equity for women and girls with a focus on Education and Training, Economic Security and Leadership. Under these categories some powerful accomplishments include \$4.3m in education grants, a major expansion of Pay Equity workshops, legislation activism wins like the Paycheck Fairness Act, and continued support of legal cases.

Thank you so much for your bountiful support to advance the group's mission!

FIRST RESPONDERS: FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

- by Selena Barron



As our lives have been impacted by COVID-19, we watch the continuous, in real time, interviews with first responders, nurses, doctors, and EMS workers. Their dedication to help their patients and their desperate need for supplies to protect themselves, stop the spread of the virus to others, and reduce the number of fatalities is outstanding. It reminded me of Florence Nightingale who worked tirelessly in the 19th century to improve medical care, reduce fatalities and achieve the best possible outcomes for her patients.

Florence Nightingale was named after the city in Italy where she was born in 1820. Due to her father's commitment to her education, as a teenager, she could read and write in French, German, Greek, Italian, and Latin. At an early age she believed that her calling was to help stop human suffering. Despite her family's strong objection, she trained to be a nurse and then a superintendent of the Care of Sick Gentlewomen in Distressed Circumstances in London. At the hospital she improved her administrative skills, battled outbreaks of cholera and other diseases, and worked to improve hygiene throughout the hospital.

In 1853 war broke out on the Crimean Peninsula. Newspapers detailed horrific conditions for wounded soldiers, inadequate supplies, unsanitary conditions, untrained staff, and patients crowded into facilities that were too small. At the request of the British government Florence brought 38 nurses to a hospital in Scutari. They were not warmly greeted. The doctors were angry that they were expected to answer to a group of civilian women. Because of the hostility and the conditions in the hospital, Florence called the facility the "Kingdom of Hell". Rather than give up, Florence used her commitment to the patients and her leadership skills to introduce applying clean dressings to wounds, bathing patients, and providing healthy meals. She also believed that psychological well-being was an important part of recovery, not a well accepted theory in the 1850s. Florence helped soldiers write letters home and read letters from home to them. She walked through the hospital at night caring for patients with a small light she carried, which led to her nickname, "The Lady with the Lamp". Due to her efforts the death rate at Scutari hospital was reduced from 40% to 2%.

Back at home she elevated the career of nursing and started a school for nurses that attracted students from all over Britain who represented a wide range of social classes. When Florence died in 1910, the Times wrote "Her life was devoted to the relief of suffering first while her strength remained, by the tenderness of her own ministrations, and then by the great system of trained nursing which was one of the glories of this age." Many of the challenges that Florence faced still exist today.

The AAUW Westchester branch has empowered women and girls since 1933. We emphasize equality of opportunity and equal pay. Women now make up 50% or more of the classes at Medical Schools. Women now are medical professionals who are fighting the COVID-19 virus in hospitals, on board hospital ships, in emergency hospitals set up in places such as the Javits Center and on the lawn in Central Park. We applaud their dedication and are inspired by their efforts to fight for the resources that can make the difference between life and death for their patients. Florence Nightingale would have become a strong leader to help them achieve their goals.

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

Zoom

TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on May 12, at 10 a.m. via Zoom. We'll be sharing our views on the memoir, Born a Crime, by Trevor Noah. Please let Wilma Gitchel know that you'd like to join us in this fun experience.



Dear Branch Members,

Thank you to all who donated to the Local Scholarship luncheon despite not being able to attend. We raised \$840. Last year the Branch gave out three scholarships of \$1000 each to three female students at Westchester Community College who have shown leadership qualities and concern for women's issues, earned a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, and will go on to a four year college or university.

To continue awarding three scholarships, we need your help. We welcome further contributions. Please make your check payable to WCC Foundation with AAUW on the memo line, and mail it to me: Marilee Scheuneman, 27 Hillside Drive, Yonkers, NY 10705.

Fall Festival

Fall Fest

Our Spring Fling has morphed to the Fall Fest. Thanks to Carol McMillan for the new name. Ellen Leuner, one of our AAUW presidents for next year and a resident at St. Andrews, has secured the date of September 16th at 5:30 pm for a Fall Fest at St. Andrews.

We hope the optimism of many of our members is warranted and that the golf course is open and social distancing is in the past. This first event of the AAUW year can then be a joyous reunion and a time for all of us to celebrate together.

Have
You Seen
Our Web Site?

westchester-ny.aauw.net

Board minutes are posted on the Web Page.

RUNNING & WINNING WORKSHOP

By Mary Logan

Among the many events that had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus epidemic was this year's Running & Winning event sponsored by the Westchester League of Women Voters, AAUW-Westchester and the White Plains YWCA with funding provided by the Westchester Community Foundation and AAUW-Westchester.

Running & Winning is designed to give female students the opportunity to explore public service as a career by bringing students together with elected female officials to learn about their experiences in seeking and holding public office. Next students in small groups workshop and present a mock campaign for office. Launched in 2012 with 33 female junior and senior high school student attendees from 17 Westchester schools and a dozen local female elected officials from the NY State Senate and Assembly, Westchester County Board of Legislators, Village Mayors/Supervisors, and City Council members, the event grew to 53 student attendees from 25 schools with 22 legislators in 2019.

This year we did targeted outreach to schools that either had spotty attendance or hadn't attended at all such as Elmsford, Ossining, Greenburgh, Mamaroneck, and Mt. Vernon. We had successfully worked closely with the administration of the eight Yonkers high schools in the prior year and were expanding our efforts. The work was paying off as we had close to 60 registered students from 30 schools, including two first time schools. We also had a good response rate from elected officials and expected a full house on April 16th.

Sadly, on March 16th we sent out cancellation notices to students, teachers, counselors and administrators, elected officials, facilitators, co-sponsors and supporters:

Due to concerns about the health risks posed by COVID-19, the League of Women Voters of Westchester County and the American Association of University Women Westchester have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Running & Winning Workshop, originally scheduled for April 16th.

We share your disappointment that we will not be able to run the program this year, but we feel that this decision is in the best interest of everyone involved. The LWVW, AAUW and our other co-sponsors and supporters have every intention of organizing the workshop again in spring 2021.

Notices sent to students included a voter registration form (instructions state you may pre-register at 16 or 17 but cannot vote until you are 18) along with the LWVW's "The Citizen Lobbyist" a publication which encourages citizens to reach out to elected representatives about issues that are important to them.

With the momentum built up over the last eight years we look forward to continuing to host a successful workshop next year.

