

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



PLAN AHEAD FOR THE NOVEMBER 3RD GENERAL ELECTION -submitted Marianna Stout

This is the most concerning presidential election year in so many unimaginable ways. It behooves us to make changes and additions to our normal voting behavior. Under normal circumstances, we simply accept our responsibility to pay attention to the candidates, make our personal voting decisions and go to the polls on election day and cast our vote. Typically, we would then stay up a little late, until the polls close in California, and watch TV until the news makes its first call announcing the winner of the presidency and maybe a few other offices of personal interest.

Not this year! There is nothing normal about this year's November 3rd General Election to elect the President of the United States, and many Senators and Representatives. The obvious difference is the uber polarization by political party. But, add to that the potential of a constitutional crisis related to the acceptance of the results of the presidential vote and we are in uncharted territory.

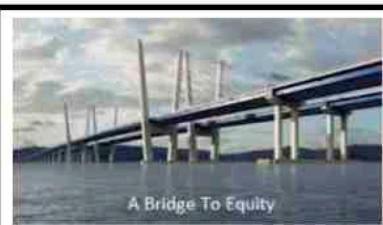
Of course, there will be in person early voting and the polls will be opened on November 3rd at a reduced number of sites. However, there are changes we, as New Yorkers, can make this year in our own election-related habits that can help mitigate the turmoil, at least in New York State, and to some extent at the federal level across the nation. Those changes involve when and how we each vote, and simple activism in which we may participate to affect the voting habits of others.

The first action we must take is to **ensure that we vote by absentee ballot this time**. Voting by absentee ballot not only protects us from the potential of contracting Covid-19 at our polling place, it also ensures an untampered paper trail of votes. An absentee ballot is not, by legal definition, the same as a mail-in ballot, but for all intents and purposes it works the same way. One issue is that NY does not allow the use of an absentee ballot without an application and the provision of an excuse for requesting it. As those who voted in the June 23rd Primary experienced, by executive order Governor Cuomo waived the need for a personal excuse, allowing the potential of the spread of Covid-19 to cover all NY voters. As a second step, local Boards of Election were required to provide an absentee ballot application to all registered voters eligible to vote in a primary election. These two alterations to NY's voting law will be extended to the November 23rd General Election as well.

It is up to you to ensure that you are registered to receive an absentee ballot. Depending on what you specified in your application for an absentee ballot at the time of the primary, you may have only requested the absentee ballot for that one election.

- By calling the Westchester Board of Elections (BOE) at 914-995-5700, you can clarify your current absentee ballot status.
- It is not yet public knowledge when the BOE will mail absentee ballot applications to all registered voters. However, you may download, print and return your absentee ballot application on your own:
- Absentee Ballot Application: <https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/2015absentee.pdf>

**Zoom Branch
Meeting
WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16
5:30 p.m.**



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.

2020-2021 BRANCH OFFICERS

Co-Presidents

Lorin Johnson & Ellen Leuner

Program Co-Vice Presidents

Marie McKellar & Sue Perko

Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Marjorie Kingsley & Judith Walsh

Recording Co-Secretaries

Roberta Michael & Elaine Weiss

Corresponding Secretary

Rene Parmar

Treasurer

Susan Gardner & Cynthia Plater

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 State Thruway Authority

- Absentee Ballot Application for the disabled: <https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/nyaccessibleelectballotapp.pdf>

OK, so now you have ensured that you can vote by absentee ballot in the November 3rd election. But your responsibilities are not over in this strange year. To **ensure that the BOE can provide a vote count of a large percentage of votes cast at the time the polls close on November 3rd**, it is imperative that you return your completed absentee ballot as soon as possible. In New York State, the BOE is allowed to begin counting absentee ballots immediately upon receipt. Other states are not so lucky and can't count any ballots until the polls close on election night. Hopefully, these states will at least temporarily amend their law for this presidential election.

Why is it **important for BOE's to be able to tally** both votes cast in person at polling places and absentee ballots received **by the close of the polls**? Our democracy depends on it! That is a very bold declaration, but given the political climate, any opening that allows a challenge to the validity of the vote will cause, perhaps irreparable, damage to public acceptance of the vote and untold steps towards resolution. (Remember the hanging chads in the Florida presidential vote in 2000 which sent the issue to the Supreme Court!)

There is one more wrinkle to this year's presidential election to help save our democracy from the damage of an unresolved election night vote. Only a victory by a huge margin will salve the wounds of a challenged presidential vote. Casting our own vote in time for it to be counted on election night helps, but that is not enough. **Getting out the vote (GOTV) in unprecedented numbers is critical.** For Americans, seeing a **huge turnout will provide the comfort that everyone had a chance to have a say** in the results.

There are things you can do to help ameliorate systemic low voter turnout across the country. Of course, checking in with your family and friends to share your concerns, ideas and encouragement should not be overlooked. But there are also non-partisan volunteer activities available. **Get out the vote campaigns are being run by non-partisan organizations** requesting volunteers to write postcards, make phone calls or send text messages to registered voters and to encourage them to exercise their responsibility and privilege to vote.

- AAUW Action Fund: <https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-registration/gotv-tool-kit/>
- Rock the Vote helps register, educate and turn out young people to vote: <https://www.rockthevote.org/get-involved/>
- Voto Latino helps register, educate and turnout the Latino vote: <https://votolatino.org/article/volunteer-with-voto-latino/>
- National Voter Corps helps register and get out the vote among voters of color: <https://nationalvoter corps.org/naacp-phonebanks/>

Let's all watch TV on election night knowing that we did all we could as individuals to ensure our vote is counted, a winner is announced and our democracy is preserved.

ART INTEREST GROUP - submitted by Shelli Pines

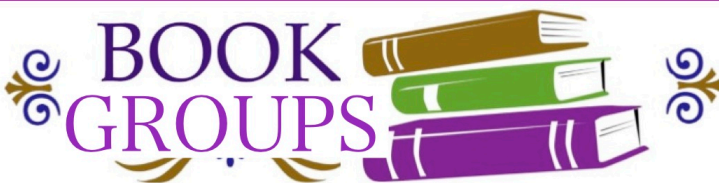
Every month, the Art Interest Group visits art museums and galleries, touring wonderful exhibits and then sharing lunch at excellent nearby restaurants. We had several exciting private tours scheduled for spring of 2020, but of course they had to be canceled due to the Covid pandemic. Our friends at the Katonah Museum of Art, however, were kind enough to offer us the opportunity to have a virtual private tour. We gladly accepted! We also realized that there was an advantage to the Zoom tour: because Zoom allows many more participants than an in-person tour, we were happy to be able to invite the entire branch membership.



Our excellent docent, Sharon Linsker, led us on a virtual tour of the extraordinary exhibit, "Bisa Butler: Portraits," the first solo exhibition of this wonderful fabric artist, who tells fascinating stories about her African heritage and our American history through her beautiful portrait quilts. She creates the portraits using thousands of pieces of colorful fabrics from all over the world. She makes important emotional, social, and political statements through her art. Taking this virtual tour has inspired many of the participants to see this amazing exhibit at the museum, which can now be visited by purchasing timed tickets through the museum's website.

CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The Current Issues Interest Group will have a ZOOM meeting on Friday morning, September 4 at 10 a.m. Discussion topics will be: 1) Voting options in NYS; and 2) Covid-related topics. For further information please contact Marie McKellar at mariemck@optonline.net or Selena Barron at selenabarron@optonline.net.



TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet via Zoom on September 8. We'll discuss the novel, The Nickel Boys, By Colson Whitehead. Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you're interested in joining us.

EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Literature Group held two Zoom meetings during July and August. We discussed Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid in July and Oona Out Order by Margarita Montimore in August. If Weather permits the group will meet with social distancing in Sue Lambert's back yard on September 9th. Shelli Pines will lead the discussion of The Girl With Seven Names by Hyeonseo Lee.

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 2020-21 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: Judith Walsh at 2 Fountain Lane, Scarsdale, NY 10583 or 734-748-9318 or email: westchesteraauw@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Ellen Leuner and Lorrin Johnson



We want to personally welcome in the new board. Ellen Leuner, our new Co-President has jumped right into working on fine tuning of our branch records. We have been spending time during the summer talking to our members by the phone, by email and on Zoom during this most difficult time of COVID. This year members were able to renew right from our website. Yearbooks will be mailed out



so that you have the calendar of all the planned activities for the coming year and you will be able to keep in contact with fellow members. We will be active on our website and Facebook. Already our branch has risen to the top despite problems of the pandemic by keeping in touch by ZOOM. Many of us enjoyed meeting our sisters from the NYC Empire Branch and learning the exciting things the AAUW Fellows are doing via our May Zoom meeting. Our transition meeting in June from the old board to the new board via Zoom went well. We look forward to the activities of our Action groups and Interest groups who have planned new and innovative ways to make our branch vibrant. AAUW Westchester is determined, despite these hard times to increase the number members so that we can continue the goals of AAUW. We want to empower our membership to advance gender equity for women and girls.

It is important this year for us to work at getting out the vote. This year is the 100th anniversary of the women's right to vote and we must vote! New York State AAUW is working on keeping members up to date on issues of voting rights for women, paid family leave and Title IX issues. They will have virtual town hall meetings and invite members to participate in the meetings.

Thank you to all the members who renewed and welcome all the new members. We look forward to meeting with you and please keep us updated on projects and events and send lots of pictures.

2020-21 AAUW WESTCHESTER PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

THEME: "Connecting, Developing, Inspiring Action"

Wed. 9/16	Branch Meeting	MARK YOUR CALENDAR!	5:30 p.m.
Wed. 10/7	Branch Meeting		5:30 p.m.
Wed 11/4	Branch Meeting		10:30 a.m.
Wed 12/2	Branch Meeting or Holiday Luncheon		12:30 p.m.
Sat. 1/9	Branch Meeting		10:30 a.m.
Sat. 2/6	Branch Meeting		10:30 a.m.
Wed. 3/4	Branch Meeting		10:30 a.m.
Wed. 4/7	Annual Branch Meeting		5:30 p.m.
Sat. 4/17	EYO Conference (College of Mt. St. Vincent)		8:30 a.m.
Thurs. 4/22	Running & Winning (YWCA White Plains)		8:30 a.m.
TBA	Scholarship Luncheon (Westchester Community College)		Noon
TBA	AAUW New York State Convention		
Wed. 5/5	Branch Meeting		5:30 p.m.
Wed. 6/3	SPRING FLING(St Andrews Golf Club)		5:30 p.m.

Have
YOU Seen
Our Web Site?

westchester-ny.aauw.net

Board minutes are posted on the Web Page.

WESTCHESTER ADVOCACY UPDATES – August/September

Jane Pendergast



Voting - There are 2 voting projects in process in the branch.

- **MomsRising is making it super easy (and totally FREE) for you to participate in our powerful Get-Out-The-Vote effort for the 2020 election!**
A great way to volunteer. If you would like to help out voting this election (in corona virus style), here is something YOU can do and still be safe!! Go to their website. It is really simple. https://action.momsrising.org/survey/2020_GOTVpostcards_3rd?source=aae&aktmid=tm7499337_4jyCY&akid=a24005651.2975277.0xJ4J7&t=5
- **Get Out the Vote in 2020 with FREE Postcards!**
- Sign up now to write 10 or more postcards to registered voters who haven't always voted on Election Day in the past. In September, we'll send you a packet of pre-addressed, **pre-stamped postcards** along with some quick instructions. All you'll need to do is write a short note of encouragement (we'll provide sample messages) and send them directly to voters ahead of the November 3rd election!
- **Can you help us send voting reminder postcards to 1 million moms? Sign up now to get your voting reminder postcard packet!**

Locally, Jane Pendergast is also organizing a **project that would potentially include area registration and voter encouragement activities** – all virtual. In addition, you can participate in a targeted phone or postcard campaign to prevent voter suppression in **eight southern and western states** that have engaged in voter suppression – all virtual. **Please contact Jane at jpendergast2@msn.com if you would like to be involved in this project.**

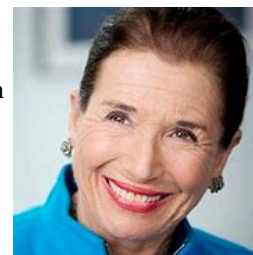
POWHER NYS – A state-wide network of people and organizations working towards economic equality for women and their families. Members are completing **“Building an Equitable Recovery, A Roadmap to Create Inclusive Gender Justice in New York State”** for release early in September. This comprehensive statement of eight key areas that must be addressed to build an equitable recovery includes recommendations on Essential Rights, Employment, Caregiving, Gender-Based Violence and Safety, Girls and Education, Legal Justice, Reproductive Justice, Health and Rights, and Voting, Democracy and Representation. As coalition members, AAUW members will receive this important document as soon as it is released. We hope members will want to become familiar with it, discuss it and get involved in its promotion in Westchester. In addition, POWHER sponsored a full day of activities for **August 13, Black Women’s Equal Pay Day**, which was cosponsored by WWA and Sister to Sister. AAUW members participated in this important Equal Pay event. This is the date that Black women must work to in the calendar to earn a salary comparable to a white man’s salary in the previous calendar year.

Westchester Women’s Agenda - WWA – Coalition members are working on the WWA strategic plan. I have participated in the Female Empowerment in the Workplace group. I will keep you informed.

ZOOM BRANCH MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 AT 5:30 P.M.

Program: *The Birth of the Modern Women’s Movement*

Muriel Fox will tell how the modern women’s movement came together as a Second Wave to carry on the battle of the suffragists, who won women the vote with the 19th Amendment passed 100 years ago. She will describe the laws that were passed in the 1970s and later, and finally enforced under feminist pressure, to combat discrimination against women in all phases of society.



Speaker: Muriel Fox, co-founder of NOW (National Organization for Women)



PUBLIC POLICY: MILESTONES FOR WOMEN RIGHTS

-by Selena Barron

This is the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution which gave women the right to vote in 1920. Rutgers University, CAWP, Center for American Women and Politics, maintains Milestones for Women in American Politics beginning with the first women's rights convention

convened by Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott and others, held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. It then took 72 years of protest and activism for women to achieve the right to vote, but during that period women did make new milestones and they have continued to fight for equal opportunity. AAUW has been a strong presence for both equal opportunity and equal pay.

Highlighting the milestones achieved before women had the right to vote, can provide role models and inspiration for women to follow today. For example:

- In 1872 Victoria Woodhull, a stockbroker, publisher and protoge of Cornelius Vanderbilt, ran for President of the United States on the Equal Rights Party Ticket
- In 1884 and 1888, Belva Lockwood, the first woman admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court, also ran for president on the Equal Rights Party Ticket.
- In 1887 Susanne Salter was elected mayor of Argonia, Kansas, the first woman mayor in the country.
- In 1892 Laura Eisenhuth of North Dakota was elected superintendent of public instruction, the first woman elected to statewide executive office in any state.
- In 1894 three women, Clara Cressingham, Carrie C. Holly, and Frances Klock, were the first to be elected to the Colorado House of Representatives.
- In 1896 Martha Hughes Cannon was elected to the Utah State Senate, becoming the first woman state senator in the country.
- In 1900 Frances Warren of Wyoming became the first woman delegate to a Republican National Convention. Also in that year Elizabeth Cohen of Utah was chosen as an alternative delegate to the Democratic National Convention. She became a voting delegate when a delegate became ill and left the convention.
- In 1912 Blanche Hamblin, Tamar Hamblin, Luella Mc Allister, Ada Pratt Seegmiller and elected mayor Mary Chamberlain were all sworn in as members of the Kanab Town Council in Utah, the first all-woman town council in the United States.
- In 2012 Andrea Stewart-Cousins, who represents the 35th District in Westchester, N. Y. became the first woman, and African American woman, to lead a New York State legislative conference. In 2019, she shattered the glass ceiling when her peers elected her as Temporary President and Majority Leader of the state Senate.

Women are still showing the determination and the strength necessary to seek to be a first. In 2018 Lauren Underwood, became the youngest black woman ever elected to Congress. She represents the 14th District of Illinois. Lauren was appointed by President Obama to serve as the senior advisor at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where she helped implement the Affordable Care Act. Lauren is a nurse and in Congress has worked to publicize racial disparities in healthcare and to pass legislation that provides equal, affordable access to health care services.

In 2018 Sharice Davids, a native American woman, who represents the 3rd District of Kansas, became the first openly LGBTQ woman to be elected to Congress. In Congress her priorities have been working to improve schools, lower the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs, and have Congress work for the people - not for special interests. Each of these women faces another election to the House of Representatives this year. Hopefully as second time candidates, they will find campaigning and winning less intimidating.

On August 11th Joe Biden Created another first for women, by choosing Senator Kamala Harris, a black woman and an Asian American, as his vice-presidential candidate. Kamala's mother came from India and her father came from Jamaica. Her parents were both immigrants who came to the United States seeking a better education and broader life choices. On August 12th introducing Kamala Harris, Biden said "This morning, all across the nation little girls woke up, especially little black and brown girls, who so often feel overlooked and undervalued in their communities, but today--today just maybe, they're seeing themselves for the first time in a new way--as the stuff of president and vice presidents."

This has already been an election year hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic, harsh rhetoric, accusations of foreign interference, and false statements and investigations. The paths that each of these women has followed by becoming a first is a welcome, uplifting alternative and a signal that our constitutional right to to vote can still deliver knowledgeable, devoted candidates to the House of Representatives and give hope to generations of young girls. This is the equal opportunity that AAUW is fighting for to achieve for all girls and women!

Smile for the Camera ---That's the Zoom AAUW camera!

Calling all leaders of our Zoom AAUW meetings to please take a Gallery view picture with your phone of the AAUW meeting you are about to start/preside over? We want to document that the Westchester Branch is active and participating despite COVID-19.

It's really important to let our members and the public know that we have interesting programs, discussion groups and are connecting with each other and our communities during this time of social distancing.

For publicity we will be posting these pictures on our AAUW Website and AAUW Facebook pages. We need to encourage our community to join us and expand our mission. Therefore, after you finish your meeting, please send the Zoom pictures to Ellen Leuner with a quick note about your topics: like for cultural issues, book groups, poetry, etc.

After the Yearbooks are mailed out, you will be invited to join our AAUW Facebook page. Please do. You'll see our AAUW pictures and updates. Please "Like" those messages and make appropriate comments. We have so much to be proud of.

To find our AAUW Facebook link: Search for "AAUW Westchester NY"

For the best pictures results, please have your members look at their camera and SMILE. See you in the pictures! ---Hollywood could be waiting. Ellen Leuner, Co-President AAUW Westchester

SAY CHEESE!



AAUW WESTCHESTER BOOK GROUP SELECTIONS FOR 2020-21

TUESDAY LIT GROUP SELECTIONS

Leadership in Turbulent Times, by Doris Kearns Goodwin

The Dutch House, by Ann Patchett

The Nickel Boys, by Colson Whitehead

Where the Crawdads Sing, by Delia Owens

The Island of the Sea Women, by Lisa See

The Rent Collector, by Camron Wright

Circling the Sun, by Paula McLain

The Fifth Risk, by Michael Lewis

Dissolution, by C. J. Sansom

The Dinner, by Herman Koch

A Woman of No Importance, by Sonia Purnell

Circe, by Madeline Miller

Girls of Atomic City, by Denise Kiernan

EVENING LIT GROUP SELECTIONS

Such a Fun Age, by Kiley Reid

Oona Out of Order, by Margarita Montimore

The Girl With Seven Names, by Hyeonseo Lee

The Other Americans, by Laila Lalami

The Giver of Stars, by Jo Jo Moyes

The Fire Next Time, by James Baldwin

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, by Rebecca Skloot

The Night Watchman, by Louise Erdrich

Sing You Home, by Jody Picoult

The Last Bus to Wisdom, by Ivan Doit

Half of a Yellow Sun, by Chimamanda Adichie



AAUW 2020 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

Submitted by Marilee Scheuneman
Chair of Local Scholarship Project

Maimuna Joof lives in the Bronx. She is a student of liberal arts, math and science, and will major in health science. She plans to attend York College in Queens to complete her degree. I had a lovely conversation with her, and learned that she's from Gambia.

Heidi Marschke lives in Irvington. She has an associate degree in human services. She plans to get her bachelor's degree in nursing

Lydia Loudig has a nursing degree from WCC.

Thanks to the generosity of our members, we have added \$2,850 to the local scholarship fund to date.

**34 SCENIC CIRCLE
CROTON ON HUDSON, NY 10520**



9/4	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
9/8	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
9/9	Evening Literature Group	Sue Lambert's backyard or Zoom	5:30 p.m.
9/16	Board Meeting	Zoom	4 p.m.
9/16	Branch Meeting	Zoom	5:30 p.m.
9/17	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom	1:30 p.m.