

November 2020

CHIPS

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



Westchester County, Inc. (NY) Branch

Westchester AAUW Has Been
Empowering Women and
Girls Since 1933



AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (9110)

Allows AAUW the flexibility to respond rapidly to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls and to utilize your gift where it's needed most. This fund ensures the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW into the future.

**ZOOM BRANCH
MEETING
WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 4
10:30 a.m.**



Education and Training Fund (4450)

Addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women by championing equal access to education and ensuring that education at every level is free from sex discrimination.

**STEM
Title IX
Pathways to Jobs**

Examples of programs include:
Fellowships Alumnae Initiatives
Fellowships and Grants
Public Policy
Research



Economic Security Fund (4449)

Ensures livelihoods for women through achieving pay equity for women, providing training in salary negotiation, and deepening women's retirement security and quality of life.

**Pay Equity
Title VII
Retirement Security**

Examples of programs include:
Start Smart
Work Smart
Work Smart Online
Legal Advocacy Fund



Leadership Fund (4452)

Supports the effort to close the gender gap in leadership opportunities by bolstering the participation of and increasing the number of girls and women in leadership roles, particularly in education and nonprofit organizations.

**Career
Workplace
Training**

Examples of programs include:
Campus Action Projects
Empower
NCCWSL

As many of you know, contributions made to The AAUW Fund are unrestricted. They can be used to support any Programs that move our Mission forward, funding those that have the greatest opportunity to advance our cause and the greatest need. As you can see from this diagram, all the pieces of the puzzle fit together to create what AAUW is...a major force in empowering women.

Our national office does an excellent job running many valuable and worthwhile programs that further AAUW's mission to promote equity for women and girls. Show your support by picking your favorite fund and donating today.

Yes, I would like to contribute to the AAUW Greatest Needs Funds in the amount of:

\$1000

\$500

\$100

\$50

\$25

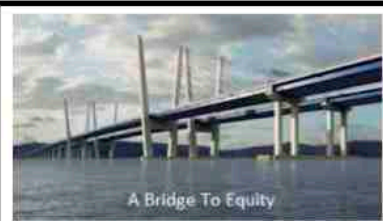
Other _____

If you do not designate a specific fund in your check memo line, your contribution will be applied to the AAUW Funds, # 9110.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Please make your check out to AAUW Funds and specify in the memo line AAUW Funds or any particular fund to which you would like your contributions applied, and how much to each fund. Checks should be mailed to Mary Logan, 1204 Hall Ave, White Plains, NY 10604. Thanks for your support!



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

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Program Co-Vice Presidents

Marie McKellar & Sue Perko

Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Marjorie Kingsley & Judith Walsh

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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

ADVOCACY REPORT – OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

JANE PENDERGAST



POWHER NY– This statewide network of individuals and organizations committed to accelerating economic equality or 10 million New York women and their families is continuing its programs to advocate at the state level for change. It recently released its report: A Roadmap to Create Inclusive Gender Justice in New York: Building an Equitable Recovery in the Wake of COVID-19. Forty-eight member organizations, including AAUW NYS, contributed to the report, which is intended as an ongoing process to create a vision statement for the future. I worked on the Employment section and support the document. AAUW Westchester's Board recently voted not to endorse the document. I urge you to read this important vision statement at <http://www.powherny.org/>. I would be pleased to talk with you about it.

Westchester Women's Agenda– The Westchester Women's Agenda is a feminist organization that advocates on behalf of women in Westchester County and works to ensure that the social and economic climate in the County offers women equal access to opportunity. The membership represents over 90 individuals and organizations serving tens of thousands of residents each year. WWA has been active in recent months in working to increase Westchester County's budget allocations to its member social service organizations. It held its annual goal-setting retreat on Friday, October 9th. I was unable to attend this year, although I have attended in previous years, and will report on this in a subsequent edition.

Equal Pay Workshops – I continue to work to organize AAUW Start Smart and Work Smart Workshops, and recently began a planning process with the Sister to Sister International chapter in our area to create a significant effort to provide workshops to beginning and experienced working women in Westchester. I am also working on planning other workshops in Westchester. I invite any members who would like to join with me in the Pay Equity Outreach action group to contact me at jpendergast2@msn.com or 914-671-8442

HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

This year AAUW members will be encouraged to donate to the Holiday Gift Program for children of the women from the Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities. Due to the COVID 19 protocols, we are aiming to give each child a gift card from his/her mom. In our December CHIPS newsletter, we will give you details on how we are going to proceed with this most appreciated and worthy cause. New member, Raven Waterman, is chairing this community service drive. We really appreciate her stepping up and taking charge.

Our speaker for our December Branch meeting on December 2, will be Rev. Dorothy Muller. She is a Presbyterian minister and volunteer chaplain at the Bedford hills Correctional Facility.

THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE FOR THE AGING IS WORKING FOR YOU

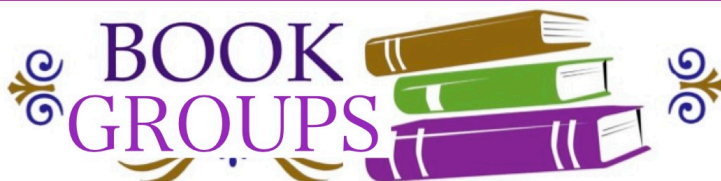
The goal is to improve access to, and availability of services that enable older New Yorkers to live, work and age in their community of choice. Check it out at <https://aging.ny.gov/>

33 members of the Current Issues Group had an informative and lively discussion at the Oct meeting!



CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The Current Issues Interest Group will have a Zoom meeting on Friday, November 6 at 10 a.m. Discussion topics will include the status and implications of the President, Senate, House, and local elections from the election of Wednesday November 4. For further information, please contact Marie McKellar, Diona Koerner, or Selena Barron.



TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on November 10, at 10 a.m. via Zoom. We'll discuss Lisa See's novel, The Island of the Sea Women, led by Selena Barron. If you'd like to join us, please contact Wilma Gitchel.

EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Literature Group will meet via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. on November 11. Sue Lambert will lead the discussion of The Giver of Stars by Jo Jo Moyes. Contact Colleen Fay if you want to receive a Zoom invitation to this meeting.

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



PURSUIT OF EQUALITY

-by Selena Barron

At the announcement of the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg the national board of AAUW released the following partial statement: She was “a pioneering jurist and iconic feminist who blazed new trails, not only in her own life but in the lives of the countless women she championed and inspired. In her 27 years on the bench, Justice Ginsburg ruled on some of the most important U.S. Supreme Court Cases in our nation's history. Her decisions and dissents reflected her deep commitment to gender equity and civil rights.”

Many of her cases involved AAUW priority policy issues, and Justice Ginsburg was honored with the 1999 AAUW Achievement Award. One of the landmark cases in which she dissented, is particularly relevant today as we prepare to take part in a presidential election in a few days. The case *Shelby County v Holder* ruled that pre clearance and supervision of state changes to state rules with regard to vote casting and vote counting was no longer necessary as part of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In 2013 in the *Shelby County v Holder* case the U.S. Supreme Court rolled back a key provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In a 5-4 vote, the court ruled that a section of the Act which created a “coverage formula” to identify states with a history of unlawful, racially discriminatory, election laws and practices that needed more focused remedies, was unconstitutional, and allowed states to change voting procedures without any pre clearance or oversight. Justice Ginsburg wrote “Throwing out pre clearance when it has worked and is continuing to work to stop discriminatory changes is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet.” Since the decision, more and more stricter state laws have been passed by states to prevent voting by black Americans, American Indians, other minorities and religious groups. The requirement that all voters had to have a government ID, has escalated to President Trump’s statement “standby and stand ready” that supports armed, white supremacists whose goal is to prevent the “wrong” citizens from voting by scaring them away from the polling sites. The number of polling sites has been decreased, especially in minority areas, resulting in long lines and fewer voters.

Presidential candidate, Joe Biden, has established a major new legal operation that includes two former solicitors general and hundreds of lawyers in an election protection program. The program will fight voter suppression, ensure that people understand how to vote, how to manage an election during a pandemic and how to guard against foreign interference. It will also focus on state-by-state legal fights for casting votes and rules for counting votes.

President Trump, with no evidence has falsely accused mail in votes as riddled with fraud. He went even further suggesting that Trump voters in North Carolina could stress-test the system by using a mail-in ballot and then voting in person. Voting twice is a federal election fraud.

In spite of the anger, legal battles and even fear surrounding the vote, one of the best ways to honor justice Ginsburg, is to use our power and VOTE!



AN IDEA FOR THIS TIME OF 'SOCIAL DISTANCING' Online Bridge? Played years ago? Not really ready to play socially?

There are several online bridge programs that allow you to play with others or by yourself with robots. Would you be interested in participating in an ‘Almost Beginner Bridge Group’? Meet online for two-hour time slot per week. Use the online bridge program, SharkBridge. Play hands and discuss afterwards among yourselves to get more knowledgeable and more confident. If interested, contact Cynthia Plater for more details.

ZOOM REMINDERS

Ever forget you had a zoom meeting?

**Can't find the link to that email with,
you know, that Zoom address?**

**Why not set up a “Zoom Folder” to
store your zoom notices and links in?**

**This way, they will all be in one place.
You can easily review when the next
one is. And you'll be able to actually
find that Zoom meeting link!**

See you” on Zoom!



WESTCHESTER AAUW ZOOM OPPORTUNITIES!

Besides our monthly Branch Meetings with interesting speakers, some of our Interest Groups are meeting regularly via Zoom. For instance:

Poetry Interest Group meets once a month on Tuesdays 1:30-4 pm (contact Mary Ellen LeClair)

Current Issues meets once a month on first Friday of the month 10-11:30 am (contact Marie McKellar, Diona Koerner or Selena Barron)

Literature Group (Tuesday) meets once a month from 10-11am (contact Wilma Gitchel)

Literature Group (Thursday) meets once a month from 10 am -12 pm (contact Lynn Swann)

Literature Group (Wednesday) meets once a month from 5:30-6:30 (contact Ellen Eschmann or Colleen Fay)

Art Interest Group alerts members to virtual art exhibits & previously an AAUW private tour of Bisa Butler's show at the Katonah Art Museum (contact Shelli Pines or Marlene Brenhouse)

Bridge Group (Monday) meets weekly via the Shark Bridge app & Free Conference Call from 1- 3 pm (contact Cynthia Plater)

AAUW NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING

WHEN: Wednesday, November 4, at 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Wherever you are - via Zoom

**SPEAKER: Robin Larkins, Chairperson, SPRING
Community Partners**

**PROGRAM: In Our Backyard: Suburban Food
Insecurity Coming Out of Hiding**



Invitation to join Zoom meeting will be sent to all members via email. If you are not a member, please email westchesteraauw@gmail.com to receive the Zoom invitation. (You may join at 10:15 for a short social time to say hello to friends you have missed during this time of 'social distancing'.)

One in five people in Westchester County are food insecure (source: Feeding Westchester). The impacts are felt in every community, in an area where wealth and abundance abound. Many times these needs are nearly invisible until a crisis situation arises - either personally, or communally -- such as the recent COVID-19 outbreak. This presentation will explore the circumstances, challenges and coping strategies of this threat to community health when the choice between groceries and other expenses is a weekly reality. Addressing solutions to food insecurity from a micro-community perspective will also be discussed.



Robin has over 20 years of nonprofit management, administrative and governance experience. A co-founder of three local nonprofit organizations addressing community needs, Robin currently serves as co-chairperson of SPRING Community Partners, in Dobbs Ferry, a grass roots organization formed to identify and assist children and families in need with a hyper-local strategy, advocating and supporting equitable and full access and participation in community life. Robin's prior experience includes serving as the Director of Cabrini Immigrant Services and Director of Community Outreach for Cabrini of Westchester and as Corporate Advisor for the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Robin earned her MBA in Marketing and Management from St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia.

34 SCENIC CIRCLE
CROTON ON HUDSON, NY 10520



November

NOVEMBER 2020

11/4	Branch Meeting	Zoom		10:30 a.m.
11/4	Board Meeting	Zoom		12 p.m.
11/6	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom		10 a.m.
11/10	Deadline for submitting for CHIPS			
11/10	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Zoom		10 a.m.
11/11	Evening Literature Group	Zoom		5:30 p.m.
11/17	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom		1:30 p.m.