

CHIPS

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



HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR CHILDREN- Submitted by Raven Waterman

Every year the AAUW collects gifts and monetary donations for the children of mothers in the Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities. We will continue that tradition this year and bring joy to about 450 children.

Due to contact precautions donations will not be made in-person. Instead, please email the AAUW Toy Drive Coordinator Raven Waterman at ravenswingsllc@gmail.com to inform her of what you will be donating, including the donation or gift card amount, and/ or items you are purchasing and forward gifts and donations directly to:

Hour Children/Deb Rigano
180 E. Prospect Avenue #229
Mamaroneck, NY 10543



Here's what you can donate:

1. Provide \$20 gift cards to any of the following stores; Target, Happy (with child or teen theme), Walmart, Visa, or Mastercard. We are hopeful that each child will receive \$20 in gift cards.
2. Send a check donation – please make checks out to: THE HOUR CHILDREN PARENTING CENTER
3. Use the list of allowable gifts below and make a purchase from **Amazon by clicking or copying** and pasting this link in your browser: <https://a.co/0BhSFoD> all gifts must be NEW and UNWRAPPED Items.

Ages 0-2 : V-Tech (6-36 months – we need 26 of the same type); Clothing: for Newborns to 4T (**No Blue, Black, Orange, Gray**); Baby Blankets (Toddler Size - No Solid Colors of Blue, Black, Orange, Gray); Rattles; Teething Rings (NUBY Brand); Muslin Swaddles; Winter Hats (Newborn – 1 year); Stacking Cups/Rings; Baby Einstein or Fisher Price Toys; Shape Sorters

Ages 3-5 : Large Trucks; Baby Alive Dolls; Disney Character Items; Crafts Sets; Baby Dolls; Disney Princess Dolls

Ages 6-10 : Legos; K'Nex/Playmobile; Barbie/Bratz/Monster High Dolls; Trucks; Transformers; Actions Figures - Captain America, Stars Wars, Superman, etc.; Matchbook Tracks and Car Sets; Plastic Knitting and Crocheting Kits; Cranium, Brain Quest; Painting and Art Sets; 3D Glasses and Books; Train Sets; Card Games such as: Skip Bo, Uno and Monopoly

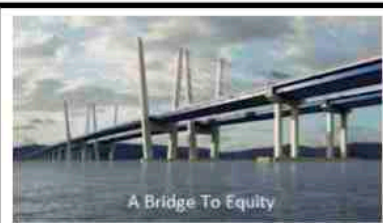
Ages 11-17 : Craft Kits; Sports Balls - Basketball, Soccer, Football; Baseballs, Mitts (**No Bats**); Chess and Checker Games; Friendship Bracelet Kits; How to Knit/Crochet Books; Make-Up Kits Only (**No Mirror or Glass**); Burt's Bees Lip Gloss; Burt's Bees Shower Gel And Body Wash (**No Alcohol in Ingredient List**); Wallets (boys and girls), Burt's Bees Face Wash; Sunglasses (**No Bling**); Headphones/Ear Buds; Watches (**Analog only and No Bling**); Board Games for Ages 10 and Up such as: Apples to Apples, Life, Trivial Pursuit (Adult and Children Versions) etc.; Leather Bracelets; Musical Instruments (No Recorders)

ITEMS ALWAYS NEEDED FOR HOUR NURSERY MOMS (New or Gently Used) Strollers; Pack 'N Plays; Baby Swings; **Bouncing Chairs; Medela Breast Pumps and Accessories; "Boppy" Pillows and New Car Seats**

NONE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE ALLOWED : Glass, scissors, sharp objects, pencil sharpeners, mirrors, clay, Play-Doh, items that promote violence, teen/adult clothing, electronics, DVDs, no rhinestones on watches or toys, metal or items in tins; wooden toys, soft dolls or stuffed animals.

All donations are tax deductible

ZOOM BRANCH MEETING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 AT 12:30 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

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Roberta Michael & Elaine Weiss

Corresponding Secretary

Rene Parmar

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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

AAUW NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING

WHEN: Wednesday, December 2, at 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Wherever you are - via Zoom

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'.)

SPEAKER: Reverend Dorothy Muller, Presbyterian Minister and volunteer chaplain at Bedford Hill Correctional Facility

PROGRAM: The Abuse to Prison Pipeline for Women

Women in prison in the United States share two experiences in overwhelming numbers: poverty and a history of abuse. Rev. Dorothy Muller will talk about the physical and societal implications of these experiences; how they lead to prison sentences; and possibilities for altering this path. She has many insights to share from her ten years as a volunteer chaplain at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility.



After careers in teaching (mathematics) and business (IT consulting; change management), in the fall of 2006, Dorothy audited a class at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. She went on to study there half-time and to start half-time volunteer work as a chaplain at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, New York's only maximum security women's prison. In 2013, she helped start Woman 2 Woman, a prison visiting program that matches local women with inmates at Bedford and

Taconic prisons. Dorothy earned a M.Div. from Union in 2012 and was ordained a Presbyterian minister in 2015. Her other degrees are a B.A. from Vassar in 1970 (Mathematics) and an M.Ed. from Boston University in 1977 (Counseling). She is married with two adult children and one (brand new!) grandchild.

ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES – OCT/NOV 2020

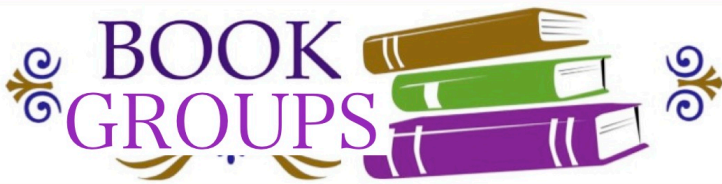
- by Jane Pendergast

- Election Work – Several AAUW members wrote postcards or made phone calls to voters in key states under the Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) program, which I organized. Enthusiastic participants included Connie Partridge and Elaine Weiss.
- POWHER NY – I am participating in The Equal Pay Legislation Group, which is currently developing a plan for legislative work this year. I will keep you informed.
- POWHER NY continues its work to promote the recently developed Vision Statement and Roadmap to Create Inclusive Gender Justice in New York: Building an Equitable Recovery in the Wake of Covid 19, which covers Essential Rights, Employment, Caregiving, Gender-Based Violence and Safety, Girls and Education, Legal Justice, Reproductive Justice, Health and Rights, and Voting, Democracy and Representation. Please visit the POWHER NY website to read this comprehensive Vision Statement. Also check out the Recommendations, which are possible actions to implement the Vision in New York State.
- Westchester Women's Agenda – I am participating in the Female Empowerment in the Workplace Strategic Plan Working Group. I will keep you informed.
- Pay Equity Outreach – I am working with Sister to Sister International to offer Work Smart Workshops over time to women in Westchester. I recommend that AAUW members read "And Still I Rise", STSI's report on women and girls in Westchester County, available at <https://www.s2si.org>. A remarkable read!



CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The Current Issues Interest Group will have a Zoom meeting on Friday December 4 at 10 a.m. Possible discussion topics are: the Biden agenda and cabinet, and the status of covid. For further information, please contact Marie McKellar, Diona Koerner, or Selena Barron.



TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit group will meet on December 8 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. We'll discuss Camron Wright's novel, The Rent Collector. Marge Phillips will lead the conversation. Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you'd like to join us.

EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Literature Group will meet via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. on December 9. Monica Hochman will lead the discussion of The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin. 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

THE “SHE-CESION” -by Selena Barron



AAUW has always been a strong advocate for equal opportunity and equal pay for all women and girls. However, the current pandemic makes our current support more essential and important than ever.

In September, 865,000 women dropped out of the labor force, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, September jobs report. In the same period, just 216,000 men exited the workforce. A study by McKinsey & CO. and Lean In stated that one in four women are considering reducing work hours, taking part time positions, switching to less demanding jobs, taking leaves of absence, or leaving the workforce completely. The alarming statistics have led to calling the loss of women in the workforce a ‘she-cession’.

Part of this loss of women in the workforce is due to the type of sector in which they are employed.. Women make up the majority of the workforce in fields such as retail, hospitality, restaurants, teaching, public sector, elder care and childcare, that have all been hardest hit by COVID-19, social distancing, and shutdowns. Starting in September public sector job loss began, resulting in many teachers and government workers becoming unemployed.

The Bipartisan Policy center found that more than 70% of parents of children under the age of 5 report that their child care provider is closed or has limited hours or space. Lack of child care affects women more than men. Latest studies show that more women than men have reduced their work hours, or left work to care for their children. Mothers have arranged reductions in their work hours four or five times more than reductions arranged by fathers. The disparity in reductions has resulted in more than double the gap in the number of hours worked by men and women. Misty L. Heggeness, an economist at the U.S.Census Bureau said “The impact on short term work productivity and engagement appears to be borne entirely on the backs of mothers of school age children. Women who stop participating in the workforce, will probably impact their own professional and financial goals for the rest of their lives.

Adding to the problem is the lack of U.S. policy on the federal level .Our country doesn’t guarantee paid parental leave and does not require all companies to provide sick leave. Universal childcare and preschool are also not priorities

Women are not the only ones who will suffer. A nineteen year study of 215 companies done by Pepperdine University found a strong correlation between having women executives and profitability, resulting in 18-69% boosts for the Fortune 500 firms who have the best records for promoting women.

AAUW must continue to fight for equal opportunity and equal pay for women. In addition we must support policy changes at the federal level so women don’t lose the progress we’ve already made..

AAUW NYS is looking for candidates with leadership abilities who would be interested in running for the following positions available this election season

Vice President, Membership
Vice President, Public Policy
Treasurer
Secretary

Application forms are available on the NYS AAUW webpage.

Missed seeing our Speaker at the last AAUW Westchester Zoom Branch Meeting? Well now you can treat yourself and view it online via our website: <https://westchester-ny.aauw.net>

To view our speakers, go to our website, click on the “About Us” tab, then scroll down to “Speaker Presentation”. **Viola!**
All at your command!

**ROBIN LARKINS, OUR NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING SPEAKER,
HAS FORWARDED THE INFORMATION ON TWO OF HER ORGANIZATIONS.**



SPRING Community Partners has been an effective community organization providing programs, assistance and resources to families and children most in need in the Village of Dobbs Ferry. Since its inception, SPRING has grown from serving 20 families to 120 families and counting. SPRING has a committed and fully engaged Board of Directors that includes a number of local educators, community leaders and resource experts.

SPRING's primary programs and activities include: food support, co-direction of the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry, school supplies, preschool placement, after school and summer programming, academic assistance, parent support, musical instrument rentals, sports fees, social services referrals and crisis intervention.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO DONATE: <https://www.springcommunitypartners.org/> robin.springchair@gmail.com

The Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry opened its doors in January 2011 at the request of SPRING Community Partners, and in cooperation with the South Presbyterian Church of Greenburgh. In 2013, weekly distribution of shelf-stable food and fresh produce began in response to growing local food insecurity in the villages of Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley, Irvington and the town of Greenburgh. In 2020, the COVID-19



pandemic caused the Food Pantry to increase its operations over 300%, from serving an average of 40 families, 120 people to over 130 families, 500 people. Such rapid growth and long term implications of the pandemic are expected to continue for the foreseeable future, as the Pantry tries to keep its traditions of carefully selected food and produce, grocery card assistance, and personalized attention to the families it serves.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO DONATE: <https://dobbsferrypantry.org/> dobbspantry@gmail.com

A big thank you to the members who have already sent in donations for the Annual Fund campaign. So far we've raised about \$4,000 and are targeting to surpass last year's \$6,000. So please keep donations coming, even small amounts help to sponsor AAUW's many worthwhile programs.

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!

Don't forget to contact Raven Waterman, to let us know what you donated, in monetary amounts, actual toys or clothing to our holiday gift drive for children of of mothers in the Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities.

Thanks!!

ravenwingsllc@gmail.com

**Have
You Seen
Our Web Site?**

westchester-ny.aauw.net

Board minutes are posted on the Web Page.

34 SCENIC CIRCLE
CROTON ON HUDSON, NY 10520



DECEMBER 2020

12/2	Branch Meeting	Zoom	<u>12:30 p.m.</u>
12/4	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
12/8	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
12/9	Evening Literature Group	Zoom	5:30 p.m.
12/10	Deadline for submitting for CHIPS		
12/15	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom	1:30 p.m.

