

January 2021

# 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

## JUNE 11-12 ANNUAL MEETING/CONVENTION IN A NEW FORMAT

- Submitted by Jane Pendergast



AAUW NYS will be hosting a virtual annual meeting this year. The planners promise it will be different from previous conventions, and will not be called a convention, but have a new name to be announced very soon. The annual meeting event, being planned by a committee of Carol Griffith, AAUW NYS Development Vice President and member of the Buffalo Branch, Cristina Marsh, member of the Jamestown Branch, and Tracy Tgyoekoe, member of the Jefferson County Branch, promises to offer challenging new ideas to AAUW members and serve as an annual meeting. The new format virtual meeting will be held on Friday, June 11, and Saturday, June 12. Announcements with more details will follow in CHIPS, NYS AAUW Focus and NYS AAUW Board to Board communications.

## AAUW JANUARY BRANCH MEETING

**WHEN: Saturday, January 9, 2021 at 10:30 a.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](mailto: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'.)

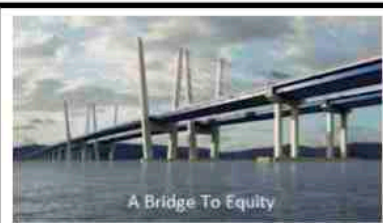
### **PROGRAM: Revolutionary Women: Spies, Scouts, and Secret Agents**

Women on both sides actively took part in the events of the American Revolution; some risked their lives on clandestine missions or as part of intelligence networks that gathered and transmitted information that could alter the course of the war. We'll take a look at over a dozen of these courageous women, including Westchester's own Sybil Ludington. We'll also learn the often innovative ways they found to fulfill their missions, and the legacy they have left us today.

### **SPEAKER: Stephen Paul DeVillo**

A local historian and long-time guide for the Bronx River Alliance's Bronx River Rambles, Stephen is the author of *The Bronx River in History and Folklore* and *The Bowery: The Strange History of New York's Oldest Street*, and is currently working on a book on the battle of White Plains.





**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](mailto:slamb47@aol.com)

**Circulation**

Jean Havens

**Branch Web Site**

[westchester-ny.aauw.net](http://westchester-ny.aauw.net)

**State Web Site**

[www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org)

**National Web Site**

[www.aauw.org](http://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*

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>

Go to "Home", located on the left side on the page. Click down to "Zooming" and you will see "Speaker Presentations". Clicking on that will take you to their talks.

DON'T MISS IT

**ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES – DECEMBER/JANUARY  
- by Jane Pendergast**

POWHER NY, the statewide women's advocacy organization, is currently focusing on priority-setting for 2021. The Roadmap to Create Inclusive Gender Justice in New York: Building an Equitable Recovery in the Wake of COVID-19, with currently broad support from many organizations statewide, outlines eight issues: essential rights, employment, caregiving, gender-based violence and safety, girls and education, legal justice, reproductive justice, health and rights, and voting, democracy, and representation.

My focus in working with POWHERNY has been employment. However, my own experience and research tells me that all the other issues are integral to fair and equal employment and pay for women and minorities. As we see right now, women and minorities have been hit hard by the pandemic. I believe we have an opportunity now to make changes in some of the basic structures of our society that make it so hard for women and minorities to make working fairer for everyone.

If you would like to get involved, or just want to understand this effort better, please visit [www.powherny.org](http://www.powherny.org) and read The Roadmap. If you would like to get involved or just want to talk about it, please call or write me at 914-671-8442, [jpendergast2@msn.com](mailto:jpendergast2@msn.com). This is a remarkable opportunity to participate in effective work for change. I will keep you informed.

Have You Seen Our Web Site?

[westchester-ny.aauw.net](http://westchester-ny.aauw.net)

Board minutes are posted on the Web Page.

**WESTCHESTER AAUW HAS  
A NEW ADDRESS!**

AAUW Westchester County, Inc. Branch  
455 Tarrytown Road  
#1354  
White Plains, NY 10607

It is **extremely important** that the **#1354** be on each address. If not, we may not get the mail. NY 10607

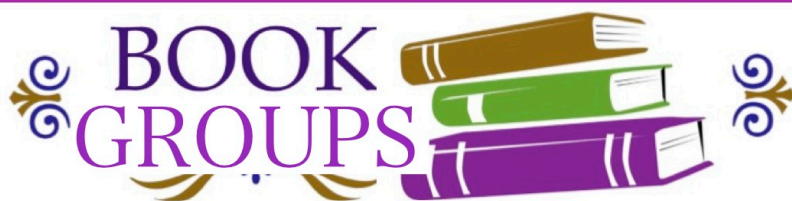
Please update all records with our new mailing address and please use it for AAUW business.

**ART INTEREST  
GROUP TOUR!**

On Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 11 a.m. the Art Interest Group will have a virtual tour of the Audubon Mural Project, which consists of artists' paintings, on buildings in Harlem, of over 300 climate-threatened North American birds. The entire branch membership is invited to join us for the Zoom tour of this exciting project. If you would like to participate, please email Shelli Pines before January 7th.

**CURRENT ISSUES GROUP**

The Current Issues Interest Group will have a Zoom meeting on Friday January 8 at 10 a.m. Possible discussion topics will be the new US Senate and the GA Senate Runoff elections. For further information, please contact Marie McKellar, Diona Koerner, or Selena Barron.



**TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP**

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on January 12 at 10 a.m., via Zoom, to discuss Paula McLain's historical novel, Circling the Sun. Marge Kingsley will lead the conversation. Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you'd like to join this great group.

**EVENING LITERATURE GROUP**

The Evening Literature Group will meet via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. on January 13. Phyllis Dale will lead the discussion of The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

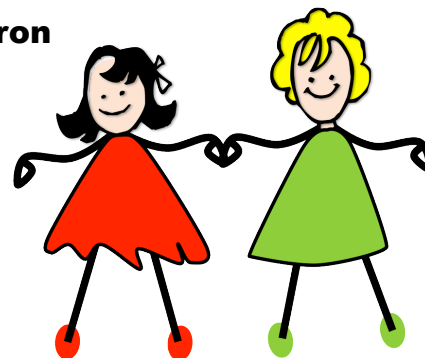
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:westchesteraauw@gmail.com)

## KIDS OF THE YEAR-by Selena Barron

For many years our AAUW branch has reached out to inspire girls to excel through programs that we sponsor. For seventh grade girls we encourage them to think of pursuing STEM careers through our EYO-Explore Your Opportunities-The Sky's the Limit Conference. In eighth grade we provide certificate awards for girls for excellence in math and science. For graduating senior high school girls we provide the Outstanding Student Award and the Excellence in Writing award. We join with other groups to sponsor Running and Winning, a one day workshop for junior and senior



high school girls to explore public service as a career. Local female elected officials attend and discuss their experiences in seeking and holding public office. AAUW volunteers mentor female students at the College of Mount Saint Vincent. Work Smart and \$tart \$mart Pay Equity, workshops for women are held at local colleges and universities to teach women how to determine appropriate salaries and how to develop pay negotiation skills.

During a time filled with fake news, as well as dreadful data about the increase in the number of sick Covid-19 patients and the rising number of those who have died from Covid-19, it is uplifting to find that girls are receiving recognition and well deserved admiration. Three girls, winners of TIME Magazine's, TIME Kid of the Year, are showcased below. As TIME stated: "The world belongs to those who shape it and, however uncertain that world may feel at a given moment, the reassuring reality seems to be that each new generation produces more of what these kids--selected from a field of more than 5,000 Americans, ages 8 to 16--have already achieved: positive impact in all sizes.

Bellen Woodward, age 10, a black girl, on a mission of inclusion, created a line of 12 crayons reflecting skin colors she sees in the world. Her crayons were first used in her school and rapidly spread across the country. In 2019, Bellen started More Than Peach, a nonprofit that has donated more than \$40,000 worth of the crayons and sketchbooks to school children. She now gets calls to speak to groups, received special recognition from the Virginia state legislature and her packet of crayons has been added to the permanent collection at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. Bellen says "I wanted to have crayons for a purpose. The peach crayon is a skin color....but is it the only one? No, it isn't."

Jordan Reeves, age 14, was born with a left arm that stopped growing beyond her elbow, a physical difference that inspired her passion for design. She and her mother founded Born Just Right, a nonprofit that gives kids with physical differences the design and STEM resources to develop their own solutions, Jordan has created a 3-D printable prosthesis for kids that shoots out biodegradable sparkles. She advocated for gender equity at the United States of Women conference and was the youngest of 30 global leaders recognized last summer at the 30th-anniversary celebrating the Americans with Disabilities Act. Jordan says, "A lot of kids with disabilities...have this great design mindset because we grow up problem-solving."

Gitanjali Rao, age 15, was interviewed by Angelina Jolie, a TIME contributing editor and special envoy of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. Gitanjali has been passionate about science since she was in 2nd grade. She started thinking how can we use science and technology to create social change? At 10 she began studying ways to detect unsafe chemicals in water. She has also created Kindly, an app able to detect cyberbullying at an early stage, based on artificial intelligence. Because she only saw older white men as scientists on TV, her goal has shifted to not only creating devices to solve the world's problems, but also inspiring others to do the same. She uses a process that has worked for her: observe, brainstorm, research. build, communicate. Partnering with rural schools, museums, organizations like the Shanghai International Youth Science and Technology group and the Royal Academy of Engineering in London, she runs innovation sessions. At the end of each session each attendee has a project to work on. Gitanjali says, "If I can do it, you can do it, and anyone can do it."

As AAUW members we can be proud of the work our branch does to advance gender equity through equal opportunity and equal pay for girls through research, education and advocacy. We also applaud TIME magazine for publicizing the amazing achievements of these three girls through their TIME Kid of the Year competition.

## About AAUW

**We are tenacious and trailblazing — advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future!**

### **Our mission Gender Equity & Economic Security**

We've led the fight for fair pay and economic opportunity for women — and the battle continues: Women still get just 82 cents for every dollar paid to a man, and men continue to dominate the top roles and highest-paying professions.

### **Our Values**

**Intersectional. Inclusive. Intergenerational. Empowering.**

Though we are nonpartisan, we are not values-neutral: We fight to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. We train women to negotiate for pay and benefits and to pursue leadership roles. And we advocate for federal, state and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination.

### **Our Focus**

#### Economic Security

We've been working to narrow the gender pay gap, which greets women as soon as they enter the workforce and widens throughout their working lives. Unequal wages stand in the way of a woman's ability to pay off student debt, build wealth and save for a secure retirement.

#### Education

We champion equal opportunities in education. Though more than 60% of college graduates are women, they face barriers and biases throughout their schooling. From pre-school to graduate school, girls and women are unconsciously steered into certain fields of studies and away more lucrative ones, such as in STEM.

#### Advocacy

Our members, supporters and staff work on local, state and federal levels to support laws and policies that enable women's success. Our work in statehouses and the U.S. Capitol has helped pass hundreds of pieces of legislation. Our Legal Advocacy team has supported plaintiffs in more than 125 gender equity legal cases.

*The above information is from the National AAUW Web Site.*

**AAUW WESTCHESTER COUNTY, INC. BRANCH**  
**455 TARRYTOWN ROAD #1354**  
**WHITE PLAINS, NY 10607**



**JANUARY 2021**

1/8	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom		10 a.m.
1/9	Branch Meeting(Saturday!)	Zoom		10:30 a.m.
1/9	Board Meeting	Zoom		12 p.m.
1/10	Deadline for submitting for CHIPS			
1/12	Tuesday Morning Literature Group ❁	Zoom		10 a.m.
1/13	Evening Literature Group ❁	Zoom		5:30 p.m.
1/14	Art Interest Group Virtual Tour ❁	Zoom		11 a.m.
1/19	Poetry Interest Group ❁	Zoom		1:30 p.m.