

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



EXPLORE YOUR OPPORTUNITIES- THE SKIES THE LIMIT! VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2021, 10 AM– 12:30 PM - Submitted by Lorrin Johnson, Co President

The members of AAUW Westchester branch, the AAUW New York City Empire branch and the College of Mount Saint Vincent College have for over 15 years casually said, "When is the EYO conference this year?" The excitement of producing and participating in such a conference has been wonderful. It is the opportunity for talented women in fascinating careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to share their experiences with middle school girls and their parents. The girls have the opportunity to participate in two hands-on workshops and ask questions of the workshop leader. Last year, the conference was cancelled the week before it was to happen due to COVID. This year, the women who were going to participate last year are ready to try it again. We are going to do it virtually. It will be a challenge!! Workshop leaders are creating *virtual workshops* that will pique the interest of middle school girls about several different careers.

The College of Mount Saint Vincent has generously offered us their virtual platform and training for presenters. Classes will remain small to allow for interaction between the workshop leader and the participants. There will be assistants available in the virtual workshop to take attendance and keep an eye on any technical problems. Depending on the activity in the workshop, some materials may be mailed to students in advance.

Our AAUW Metropolitan grant from last year remains in effect for this year. If you would like to participate or contribute to EYO this year please contact Lorrin Johnson, Co-Director at (eddlorin@yahoo.com). Looking forward to a successful EYO Virtual Conference for 2021.

AAUW FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING SAT., FEB. 6, AT 10:30 A.M.

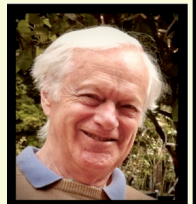
Invitation to join Zoom meeting will be sent to all members via email. If you are not a member, please email westchesteraauw@gmail.com to receive the Zoom invitation.

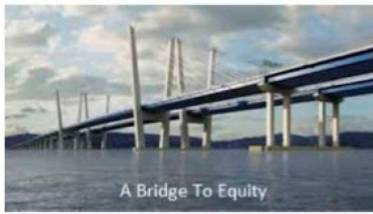
PROGRAM: Bending the Arc of the Moral Universe toward Justice

America's founding principle of liberty and justice for all has not been a reality for many Americans. The 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington, which I was on, produced great promise and great tragedy. I will assess the present health of Dr. King's Dream and recent events, including racist killings, Covid-19, Black Lives Matter protests, and the 2020 elections. And, I will discuss how far, and for how long, the arc is and will be bending toward justice and what it means for us.

SPEAKER: William Greenawalt, JD, Parks Board Chair in NYS & Westchester

William Greenawalt has sponsored election reform in NYS, and fought for and insured transparency. He was part of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley Board of Directors, Westchester White-Tailed Deer Impact and Forest Regeneration Citizens' Task Force 2006-2008, and the Board of Theodore D. Young Community Center, Greenburgh. He has served as the Northeast Regional Director of Legal Services with the Office of Economic Opportunity (Maine to New Jersey and Puerto Rico) where he established 70 programs of civil legal services for the poor. An active member of Scarsdale Congregational Church, he participated in the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and often does Pro Bono legal work for clients unable to pay. Mr. Greenawalt was born in Brooklyn and, with his family, moved to Hartsdale in 1937. He graduated from Cornell University and Yale Law School and served in the United States Navy. He is married to Peggy T. Greenawalt and together they have four sons, one daughter and seven grandchildren.





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

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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

STATE-LEVEL ADVOCACY FOR 2021

- by Jane Pendergast

POWHER, the New York State women's advocacy coalition, is working on its priorities for the 2021 state legislative year. Its recently adopted comprehensive Roadmap to Create Inclusive Gender Justice in New York – Building an Equitable Recovery in the Wake of COVID-19 provides the framework for this year's emphases. At this writing, the week of January 11th, Governor Cuomo is announcing his priorities, which will help to determine what is likely to pass. POWHER will work to develop campaigns to inform the public and advocate with legislators over the next several weeks. A broad list of issues is being discussed at this stage by POWHER, including:

- Proposals to expand education funding through changes in taxing
- Voting and Elections Reforms
- Immigrant health coverage
- Marijuana legalization
- Home Care wages legislation/Home Care Jobs Innovation
- End Child Marriage (eliminate the exception to minimum age limit of 18 years)
- Child Care funding
- Pass "Incorrigible" Bill (removing the word "incorrigible" to describe young people)
- Funding for reproductive and sexual health care services
- Insurance Coverage for Abortion
- Restoration of Tuition Assistance Program for Incarcerated Individuals
- Pay equity and increasing wages in low-wage industries
- Pay and Sexual Harassment Transparency
- Salary Range Disclosure Law (enhancing transparency at start of employment)
- Domestic Violence Advocate Confidentiality and funding for residential DV programs
- Medicaid Expansion Post Pregnancy
- MASKual Harassment (harassment of workers who wear masks)
- Direct Care Workforce Taskforce
- START Act (clearing records of trafficking victims)



Next month's CHIPS will give you more information on POWHER's priorities and strategies for the year. Please contact Jane Pendergast if you would like to get involved in this work at: jpendergast2@msn.com 914-671-8442.

Have
You Seen
Our Web Site?

westchester-ny.aauw.net

Board minutes are posted on the Web Page.

**2020 Annual Fund Campaign
By Mary Logan**

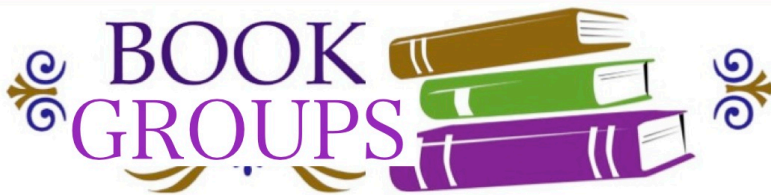


Thank you dear members for your generous contributions to the 2020 Annual Fund Campaign. We had a record year raising a total of \$7,278. over the course of October, November, and a few welcome stragglers in December. This amount was nearly \$1,000. more than any year since I've taken on the role of Annual Fund Campaign Chair in 2012. As you know, your donations are used to support AAUW's mission to promote equity for women and girls. This includes programs related to Education and Training, Economic Security (including the Legal Advocacy Fund), Leadership and the catchall, Greatest Needs Fund. Thank you for helping to fund many important initiatives related to key priorities such as: gender bias in schools and the workplace, the STEM gap, women & student debt, the motherhood penalty, women & retirement, and leadership barriers & bias.

In total, when donations that are sent throughout the year directly to AAUW-National by branch members are added to the Annual Fund donations, AAUW-Westchester members gave a grand total of \$11,340 in 2020. This very likely puts our branch in the top ten in the country - a statistic that is confirmed when the organization's annual report is published in the new year. Congratulations on such a good showing for our branch!

CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The Current Issues Interest Group will have a Zoom meeting on Friday February 5 at 10 a.m. A possible topic will be "Biden's First 100 Days." For further information, please contact Marie McKellar, Diona Koerner, or Selena Barron.



TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet via Zoom on February 9 at 10 a.m. to discuss the non-fiction book, The Fifth Risk, by Michael Lewis. Our conversation will be led by Carol McMillan. 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 February 10. Jean Havens will lead the discussion of The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich. 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

ST. JOHN'S ASSISTANT PROFESSOR HONORED WITH FELLOWSHIP

January 12, 2021

The [American Association of University Women](#) (AAUW) has honored [LaToya Sawyer, Ph.D.](#), Assistant Professor of [English](#) at [St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#), as a recipient of an American Fellowship.

Dr. Sawyer has been a professor at St. John's University since 2017 and is pursuing research in feminist rhetoric. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in African American women's rhetoric, literature in the global context, African American literacies, and feminist theory.



"My research proposal for the book project I am working on was selected to be funded among applicants across many disciplines, universities, and parts of the country," Dr. Sawyer explained. "This award has afforded me the opportunity to take a professional leave of absence from St. John's this academic year in order to engage in full-time research and compose the manuscript for my book, *Composing Digital Black Womanhood: Black Women's Literacies and Agency on Social Media*."

The AAUW has awarded more than \$3.5 million in fellowships and grants during the 2020–21 academic school year. The organization focuses on supporting graduate women in the pursuit of further academic research. Their awards aid with decreasing the burden of un-proportioned student debt on women.

"This award is timely for me and my research because my book project focuses on Black women's uses of social media and how they serve as forms of agency online and offline," she said. "Our present worldwide push to engage many aspects of daily living virtually via social media and video communication provides additional significance for this research."

Besides Dr. Sawyer's emphasis on research, her goal is to mentor graduate students and bring more scholars into this area of study. "The fellowship comes at a critical time for me and other women scholars because studies are showing that the current pandemic has led to a decline in women's article submissions to journals and overall drops in the kinds of productivity essential for attaining tenure and promotion," she said.

A testimony to Dr. Sawyer's craft, Evynn McFalls is a doctoral student working on his dissertation proposal. Dr. Sawyer is the codirector of his dissertation committee and has co directed his exams, in addition to having him as a former student in a graduate seminar.

"It has been a great pleasure and a truly revelatory experience working with Dr. Sawyer as a professor and mentor in my doctoral scholarship," Mr. McFalls said. "Her multidisciplinary understanding of the intersections of race, gender, identity, and modality in rhetoric, composition, and literature is a powerful gift that she shares with her students. In so many ways, Dr. Sawyer has helped me open doors and create new footholds of understanding in the field, and I know that this is true for many under her tutelage, which is why it comes as little surprise to me that she has been rightly honored by the AAUW."

Dasharah Green is another scholar impacted by Dr. Sawyer. She graduated from St. John's this past spring with a master's degree in English. Dr. Sawyer directed her thesis and mentored her through the process of applying to Ph.D. programs. She is currently a student in The Graduate Center, CUNY's English Ph.D. program.

"I have had the privilege of working with Dr. Sawyer in a classroom setting, which influenced our partnership for my master's thesis research project," explained Ms. Green. "She continuously encouraged my pursuit of learning and pushed me to explore my research interests to cultivate a project in which we would both be proud. She entered my academic journey at a time when I was weary toward the lack of departmental representation that aligned with my areas of research. Dr. Sawyer should feel a swell of pride for her own academic achievements and for allowing her knowledge and passion toward inclusive learning to pour over her students. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of celebration and acknowledgement."

CREATIVITY AND HOPE

-by Selena Barron

The New York Times Magazine editors recently introduced a volume of short stories with the statement, "When reality is surreal, only fiction can make sense of it." Margaret Atwood is the first author in the list of 29 writers. They are not presented in alphabetical order. Ms Atwood is deserving of that first place. During her illustrious career she has published 17 novels, 16 books of poetry, 10 books of nonfiction, 8 collections of short fiction, 8 books and 3 graphic novels. In this period of chaos and insecurity, fiction provides an opportunity for us to be swept into another world from which we emerge with a stronger belief in our own resilience and hope for the future. AAUW advocates for lifelong development, learning and equal opportunity. Ms Atwood was recently interviewed by Hugh Delehanty for AARP. Following are excerpts in her own words of her beliefs and hope.

Asked what her secret in writing is, Ms. Atwood Said "I don't think I have a secret as such, except I suppose you might say that I'm not easily discouraged. Growing up in the woods without electricity or running water during war time, made people learn workarounds. Even small pieces of bending wire were never thrown out because they could be handy later." In her writing, she uses that same thought process. As she explains, "Yep, little pieces of bendy wire in a drawer. Sooner or later you'll use them for something else." Ms Atwood also likened her keen observation and memory to "your granny's attic, full of junk but you never know what you might find."

When asked if her writing became easier as she aged she replied, "No I'm afraid not. It's the same blank page with nothing on it. Everybody has that page and everybody has that moment of having to begin. Asked what gets harder, Ms. Atwood who is now 81, answered "I can't tell you that yet, I am not old enough." Asked "do you feel freer now?" She explained that "as an older person, you're actually quite a lot freer, which is why there are so many pesky old ladies and men around. They're freer to speak their minds without getting into horrible trouble, except possibly with their bridge club."

Ms Atwood explained her thoughts on creativity by remarking that "everybody has creativity. It's a human thing. It's just that people employ their creativity in different ways. Some people knit. Some people make music. But it all has to do with our human capacity for invention and for seeing things from different points of view." Ms. Atwood, who is Canadian, also pointed out that she is "hopeful about young people because they're taking an interest in the future of the planet. And I am also hopeful about America, at a time when some Americans are not, because I don't think it's over for America yet."

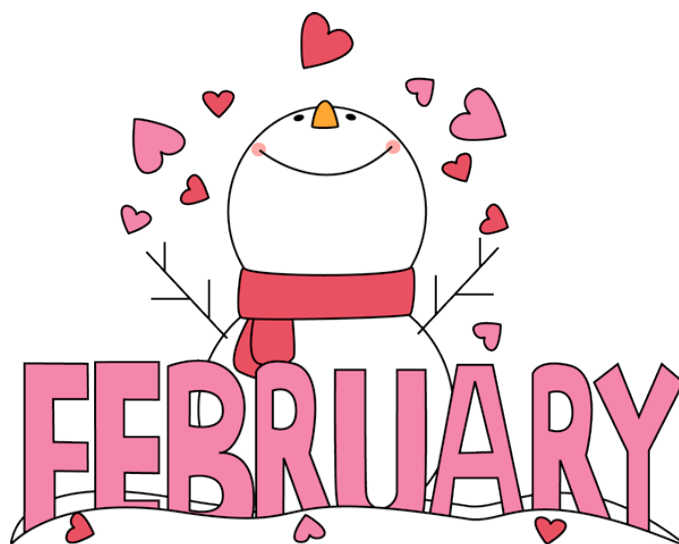
For AAUW members Ms. Atwood had an important message to share with Americans of all ages: carefully observe what is happening around you, in your community and in the country as a whole. Store and share ideas and creativity. Find and implement workarounds that help solve your problems. Age is not a barrier. Our AAUW branch has done this by maintaining social distance and utilizing ZOOM meetings to communicate with our members..



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.

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



FEBRUARY 2021

2/5	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
2/6	Branch Meeting (Saturday)	Zoom	10:30 a.m.
2/6	Board Meeting	Zoom	12 p.m.
2/9	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
2/10	Deadline for submitting for CHIPS		
2/10	Evening Literature Group	Zoom	5:30 p.m.
2/16	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom	1:30 p.m.