

Minutes of AAUW Westchester Branch Meeting

February 6, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Ellen Leuner, Co-President at 10:30 a.m.

Tribute to Betty Friedan: Ellen discussed the tribute to Betty Friedan, the founder of the National Organization for Women, that took place virtually on Thursday, February 4, which would have been Ms. Friedan's hundredth birthday. It was hosted by Muriel Fox, who had been a former speaker and member of AAUW. The tribute is available on youtube.

Marymount College/Bedford Hills Project: Susan Appel spoke about the book drive that she and Rene Parmar are coordinating for the Marymount College/Bedford Hills project. Books will be collected until February 10, when they will be delivered to the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. Phase 2 will begin in March, when AAUW members will help to provide materials from the Internet for term projects. More details about this will follow.

Lorin Johnson, Co-President, led the discussion of new business.

Dues Increase: National is raising dues and as a result your total dues will increase. This year they will be \$98, then \$103, and finally \$108. Your Board will be discussing this at today's Board meeting at 12 noon. Our board meetings are open to our members. If you want to attend today's board meeting, contact Ellen Leuner for the Zoom link.

Women's History Month Tour: "Wonderful news and opportunity. Shelli Pines and Marlene Brenhouse have secured a new virtual tour, "Feminist Walk-through Harlem, Celebrating Remarkable Women" for March Women's History Month. This will take place on March 30th. More information about the tour will be in the March issue of Chips.

AAUW-WCC Scholarship Fund: With great foresight, Shelli Pines and Marlene Brenhouse have suggested that members could help support our AAUW-WCC (Westchester Community College) Scholarship Fund by financially contributing to this worthy endeavor.

Normally, we sponsor a Luncheon at WCC and a 50/50 raffle to raise money for this scholarship fund in the spring. This pandemic nixed those plans for both last and this year's Spring Luncheons. So, in its place, we are appealing to your generous spirits to donate to the AAUW-WCC Scholarship Fund.

Checks should be made out to the "WCC Foundation" with "AAUW Scholarship" written on the memo line and send to Marilee Scheuneman.

Further details will be emailed to you in early March.

Treasurer's Report: Susan Gardner stated that the treasurer's report will be discussed in detail at the board meeting. All AAUW members are welcome to attend.

EYO: Lorrin Johnson reported that although we had to cancel last year's 17th Annual *Explore Your Opportunities -The Sky's the Limit* conference, we will be able to hold it virtually this year. EYO is our STEM program for 7th grade girls. EYO is sponsored by our branch, the NYC Empire Branch and the College of Mount Saint Vincent. This year, after much discussion, it was decided that our Conference will be a virtual conference to be held on Saturday, April 17, 2021 from 10:30 AM-12PM. We have 8 extremely enthusiastic and experienced workshop leaders who have volunteered to do virtual workshops. The information about the EYO conference will be on our website in about a week. If you would like to participate in this great undertaking or contribute you can contact Lorrin directly or through our website.

Guest Speaker: Marie McKellar introduced our speaker Bill Greenawalt, who has a long history of civil rights and election reform. He served as Northeast Regional Legal Services Director for the Office of Economic Opportunity, setting up 75 programs of legal services for the poor in 8 states and in Puerto Rico. He was involved in the struggle for civil rights in the 1960s.

Mr. Greenawalt attributed the title of his presentation, *Bending the Ark of the Moral Universe toward Justice*, to a 1965 speech by Martin Luther King, Jr. During Mr. Greenawalt's discussion, he highlighted the problems in moral and social justice that were intensified during the past four years, mentioned the differences that started to occur during the few weeks since January 20, and described ways in which we can move forward to bend the arc.

The presentation was very well received, and was followed by a lively Q & A session.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by

Susan Appel

Co-Recording Secretary