

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 SKY’S THE LIMIT!

- by Lorrin Johnson



The American Association of University Women, New York City and Westchester Branches joined together 18 years ago to develop a program that would help to understand and change the fact that so few women are in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). They found a model developed by Mills College and with a little tweaking made their own version. Training women early was a must to have them succeed in these fields. The research seemed to

indicate that seventh grade girls were the ones who could benefit most from a program like this. Meeting and interacting with women in the STEM fields was a plus for their future. Working together the branches formed a committee, searched for professional women in the STEM fields, set up workshops to be conducted at Barnard College and recruited seventh grade girls from New York and Westchester middle schools. It was a success for everyone involved. As the years passed, we knew we were on the right path. AAUW National published a paper “Why So FEW?” which supported our efforts in having a yearly conference. The number of students grew and we needed more space and moved our program to the College of Mount Saint Vincent in the Bronx. Being on college campuses was a significant experience for the girls to see how and what it would be like to continue on in higher education. Each girl attended two hands-on workshops taught by women who worked in fields such as medicine, zoology, cell and brain research, bridge engineering, food research, nursing and coding. The girls had an opportunity to talk one on one with the “Mystery Women” who worked in these fields. With a set of clues, they could guess the vocation of these women. Eventually, their parents and teachers wanted to see what the girls were experiencing. The committee created a program for parents to attend while the students were in their workshops. These workshops helped the parents to understand the requirements for the STEM fields and what part they needed to play in the development of their girl’s education.

This has been a big job for AAUW branches. When AAUW New York City disbanded, the newly created Empire NYC branch became a partner and supported the EYO Conference. The conference has been financially supported by generous donations from members and friends. In recent years we have received a grant from AAUW New York City Metropolitan Area Fund to support our efforts. In addition, the College of Mount Saint Vincent has provided labs, equipment and staff for EYO. Everyone who participates in this conference is a volunteer.

Because of the pandemic, last year we were not able to conduct the conference but in April 2021 we successfully had a Virtual Conference. With the help of the staff of the College of Mount St Vincent we were able to have seven workshops with an excited group of seventh and eighth grade girls who participated via zoom. Before the workshops, students were greeted by Dr. Susan R. Burns, President of the College of Mount Saint Vincent.

The conference could not have happened without the help of the hard-working committee this year. Co-Directors Lorrin Johnson and Maria Ellis want to thank the work of Kit Voit, Susan Appel, Barbara Sarver, Carol McMillan, Cynthia Plater and Susan Gardner along with the staff of CMSV Dawn Velez and Manny Diaz. The workshop leaders who generously volunteered their time and talent are listed on our website www.aauw-eyoconference.org. And a special thanks to all students, especially those from the Fordham STEP program and Vista Academy who participated this year.

SPRING
FLING
WED.
JUNE 2
5:30



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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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
StateThruway Authority

AAUW Dues Renewal time!

AAUW Dues Renewal time! Thank you all for supporting AAUW through this challenging year. Your support has been vital. Membership in AAUW expires at the end of June, so it's time to renew and spring into action. Please remember that your **dues are tax deductible except for \$3 to our government** which supports the **AAUW Action Fund** that lobbies for our mission "to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy".



You will notice that there is the "Additional Donation/Contribution" line. If you can make an additional contribution to AAUW Westchester, it will be greatly appreciated.

Members \$98

Life Members \$36

New Members \$88

**Additional Donation/
Contribution**

Total

You may pay via check or online. If you pay via check, please send a check payable to AAUW Westchester to Cynthia Plater 9 Cleveland Drive, Croton on Hudson, NY 10520. To pay online with a credit card, go to [website https://westchester-ny.aauw.net/](https://westchester-ny.aauw.net/). Click on the Member tab and select membership renewal). A \$2.50 service charge will apply to defer the cost of using PayPal.

FYI: In order for your name to be included in our 2021-2022 Yearbook your dues must be received by July 31, 2021.



Maimuna Joof, an AAUW-Westchester WCC scholarship recipient will be attending AAUW's NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) Conference to be held virtually 5/25-26

8TH GRADE CERTIFICATES Submitted by Meghan Merrero

With the help of some middle and high school students earning service hours, Amanda Gunning and Meghan Marrero have reached out to middle school principals across Westchester County to identify up to three 8th grade girls at each school who excel in mathematics, science, computer science, and/or technology. More than 30 schools have been in touch, with more than 100 certificates to be mailed and presented at 8th grade graduations. The hope is that these awards will encourage these young women to continue their STEM studies. Many thanks to Carole McMillan for providing insights and materials, and supporting the new team in their first year of overseeing the initiative.

SUMMER events

Vaccinated? Masked? Let's get together IN-PERSON! If you feel comfortable and want to have some fun, contact the following people to join these outings.

Hike in the Black Forrest (near Cornwall) with Lorrin Johnson. June 23 (details p.7)

July 14 Outdoor Potluck Picnic. Contact Cynthia Plater.

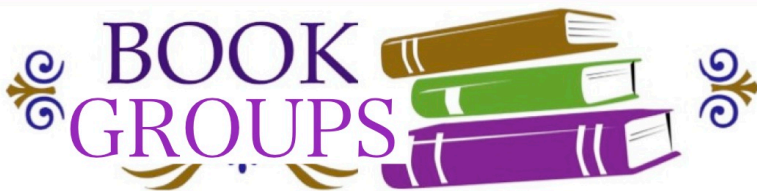
July 27 at 10 am Docent tour at Untermyer Gardens lead by Marilee Scheuneman. Contact Marilee.

ART INTEREST GROUP

The Art Interest Group's trip to the Aldrich Museum was such a success that we are planning another in-person art excursion to the Hudson River Museum on June 24th. We will be seeing two quilt exhibits, "Wall Power! Spectacular Quilts from the American Folk Art Museum" and "Collection Spotlight: Storied Quilts from the Hudson River Museum."

CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The Current Issues Interest Group will have a Zoom meeting on Friday June 4 at 10 a.m. As usual, there will be three topics. One topic will be: Education and Covid in the US in the past year. For further information, please contact Selena Barron, Diona Koerner, or Marie McKellar.



TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on June 8 at 10 a.m. via Zoom to discuss Madeline Miller's novel, Circe. Connie Partridge will lead the conversation. We'll follow that with our all-important selection of books for the coming season. Last year our group broke with the past to include meeting in the summer months. We'll therefore need twelve books. Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you'd like to join our fabulous meetings.

EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Literature Group plans to meet to select the books for next year at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 16 at Sue Lambert's home. It will be a potluck picnic. Please let Sue know if you are coming and what you plan to bring. New members are welcome.

SAVE THE DATE!

A Get-together is being planned so we can see each other in person after a very difficult year!—

Outdoor 'Potluck' Luncheon

Wednesday, July 14th

More details to follow

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 2021-22 are \$88, of which \$85 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

SPRING FLING

JUNE 2ND AT 5:30 PM 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.)

Celebration time! Thanks to our many active members weaving their way through this limiting year, we have reasons to celebrate. Our New York State President Janice Brown (bio below) will honor us by installing our new 2021-2022 Board of Directors.



Marilee Scheuneman will highlight our four AAUW Westchester Community College Scholarship winners - Renata Galdino of Larchmont NY, Hana Cornell of Amawalk NY, Stephanie Sawyer of Yonkers NY and Melissa Westfall of Greenwich CT. Hearing our scholars' stories and helping them to achieve their academic goals has always been a highlight of Spring Fling.

We will also be treated to a slide presentation by Annette Cohen and Selena Barron of activities AAUW members participated in our year of COVID. If you have any pictures from this year relating to our AAUW Branch, please email them to Annette at msannette1@verizon.net . Then you will see yourself on Zoom!

SAVE THE DATE AND LET'S CELEBRATE!

Janice Brown, NYS AAUW President

Janice Brown, MBA is a Sexual Assault Coordinator for the Army who works with victims in various levels of sexual assault and harassment. Currently, she serves as President of AAUW-NYS and serves on AAUW National Advancement Committee.

Janice's passion and mission surrounds with helping women and girls address issues of inequity. Her life has included advocating on behalf of women and girls through programs, volunteering and work. All of the projects and programs she immerses herself in has to include work or a mission that will empower and advocate for women and girls. It is with this passion that she has dedicated her goals to AAUW on the local, state and national level to further the mission of the organization through her active membership and position engagement. She has served the local and state level in various roles to include President, Membership VP, Development Director and EOF Director. On the national level, Janice has served on the National Fundraising Committee and the National Advancement Committee and afforded the opportunity to act more actively with National because of her current role as AAUW-NYS President.

During her current tenure as state president, Janice worked vigorously and passionately to further the mission of AAUW-NYS and advance the state further through developing relationships within the Governor's Office. Because of
(Continued on Page 5)

TRUTH -by Selena Barron



World Press Freedom Day was celebrated on May 3rd. This event began as part of a UNESCO conference in Windhoek in 1991 during which the landmark Windhoek Declaration for the Development of a Free, Independent and Pluralistic Press was adopted. After 30 years, the historic connection made between the freedom to seek, impart and receive information and the public good remains as relevant as it was at the time of its signing.

In fact this year, as reported in the South China Morning Post newspaper the theme is “Information for the Public Good”. The theme draws attention to the invaluable role of journalists in producing news as verified information for the public interest. “It is therefore important to understand why it is necessary to produce high-quality independent journalism – stories that we publish must be fact-checked and well-sourced because disinformation can spread as fast as the virus itself, and harm ourselves and people around us. News publications must be responsible in publishing factual stories that are objective, balanced and trustworthy.” This article was published in an atmosphere that, rather than encourage journalists in China to follow the tenets of the Windhoek Declaration, places them in danger of arrest or even death.

Here in the United States arguments about political issues and public people, as long as they follow such basic rules as not inciting an insurrection or the death of an individual or group, are discussed in newspapers, on TV and on the internet without fear for the arrest or death of journalists or protestors. For example social media platforms, after years of clashing with Trump over lies that he posted as truth, took immediate action after the January attack on the Capital. Twitter where he had over 88 million followers, permanently suspended his personal account. Snapchat with 1.5 million followers, permanently banned Trump. Facebook, citing risks of additional violence, suspended Trump for six months. YouTube indefinitely suspended Trump’s account which had 2.8 million subscribers but CEO Susan Wojcicki has said his account will be reinstated once the “risk of violence has decreased”.

Some Republican members of Congress are working to oust Liz Cheney from her leadership role because she said that Trump’s story about how he lost the election was “THE BIG LIE”. POLITICO points out that accepting Trump’s made-up story about how Biden won, has become a loyalty test within the Republican Party. Cheney has fought back: She published an op-ed in The Washington Post entreating her fellow Republicans not to accept “THE BIG LIE”, to respect the rule of law, and to be mindful of the eyes of history. She wrote, “The Republican Party is at a turning point, and Republicans must decide whether we are going to choose truth and fidelity to the Constitution.”

Having access to accurate and comprehensive news coverage has never been more important.

As the South Morning China Post asked: “What would happen if journalists did not do their jobs? Imagine if there was nobody to exercise the freedom to inform, educate and explain issues that matter. Does it make a difference if they operate with professional ethics to report factually and seek accuracy, fairness, objectivity, impartiality and comprehensiveness?”

(continued from page 4) her hard work and legislative advocacy- (AAUW-NYS now receives direct communications from the Governor’s office on issues that affect women and girls). In addition, she served as a panelist for Governor’s Women Agenda legislative pay equity breakfast in Albany in March of 2019. More importantly, she has increased collaborations with other nonprofits that share our mission such as PowHER NY and New York State Paid Leave Coalition. Further, Janice has continued to further AAUW’s strategic focus on pay equity through facilitating Work Smart workshops in NYC and in the Syracuse area.

In addition to her work for AAUW, Janice also volunteers for several non-profits in her local community which includes The American Heart Association, an Ambassador for Cancer Action Network and United Way. She is a certified mediator for Unified Courts and a rape crisis counselor for local shelter in Upstate New York. Janice serves on Board of Directors for Family Counseling Services and New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., National Organization of Victim Assistance and National Council of Negro Women. She is employed by Department of the Army. She holds an MBA with a concentration in Health Care Management from Columbia Southern University. She is also a licensed nurse and resides in Evans Mills, NY with her husband.

WRAPPING THE SENIOR AWARDS (Hooray! We're Back)

By Barbara Sarver

Last year, due to Covid 19, we weren't able to provide our AAUW Branch Outstanding Female High School Senior Awards. But happily, this year on May 14th, our group met at the home of Diana Kent and wrapped and mailed awards to forty high schools in Westchester County. This is the largest number we have ever awarded. Five AAUW fully vaccinated members (**Diana Kent, Barbara Sarver, Sue Lambert, Shelli Pines, and Jean Havens**) were very happy to see each other face to face and work together to accomplish our goal. For those of you who don't know about it, each year the branch provides an award to two high school senior girls in each high school. One is for "Outstanding Student" and the other is for "Excellence in Writing". Each girl receives a personalized certificate and a copy of "Strunk & White's Elements of Style" with a personalized bookplate. The awards are wrapped in a beautiful floral wrapping paper. I would also like to thank Dede Emerson and Susan Gardner for their contributions. Over the years, these awards have provided our branch with broad outreach and acceptance from the Westchester community, with schools looking to us for our recognition of their top writers and students. They call or write to us now, assuring themselves that we are continuing with our awards.



CHIPS ADVOCACY REPORT – MAY 12, 2021

-by Jane Pendergast



POWHER New York, our coalition for advocacy, is working right now on a further step in our continuing campaign for equal pay, this year with legislation to require employers to provide salary ranges when announcing job openings. Similar legislation has already been passed in California, Colorado, Maryland and Washington State. This important salary range transparency legislation - simply listing salary ranges - will help close the wage gap while boosting business performance.

It would facilitate fair negotiations between jobseekers (especially women and people of color) and employers, and diminish overt and implicit bias among other significant positive results. For employers it would provide a competitive advantage for recruiting for large and small employers and streamline hiring by filtering out candidates who would decline an offer. It would also limit litigation fears through a fair and transparent work environment as well as improve motivation, loyalty and performance through creating a trusting environment.

The wage gap left women, particularly women of color, vulnerable in 2020. In New York State women working full-time still only make 86 cents for every dollar a white non-Hispanic man earns. The gap for women of color remains much wider. Black women in New York earn just 64 cents and Latinas 56 cents for every dollar a white man earns. Women head over one million households in New York, with nearly 300,000 of those households surviving on incomes that fall below the poverty level.

What can we do? Learn about this new powerful legislation at [www. Powherny.org](http://www.Powherny.org). Check out the Equal Pay section, then the Fact Sheet for Salary Range Transparency Legislation. We are working now to advance this legislation toward a vote in this NYS Legislature session. The website will keep you informed of where we are and what you can do. Or you could contact me at jpendergast2@msn.com or 914-671-8442.

RESULTS FOR THE 21-22 ELECTION OF OFFICERS, BUDGET AND PROPOSED DUES INCREASE

55 members returned ballots and the results were as follows:

55 voted in favor of the proposed slate of officers for 2021-22.

54 voted in favor and one voted against the proposed budget.

50 voted yes, one voted no and four abstained to accept the proposed dues increase for the next three years.

2021 RUNNING & WINNING EVENT

By Mary Logan

Rather than let another year go by without holding the annual Running & Winning event sponsored by the League of Women Voters-Westchester and AAUW-Westchester, the ordinarily in-person day-long event was re-imagined as a two-hour virtual webinar on Tuesday evening May 18th. Eleven women elected officials from New York State and Westchester County joined remotely to share their stories and answer questions from 29 female high school juniors and seniors from 17 Westchester high schools.

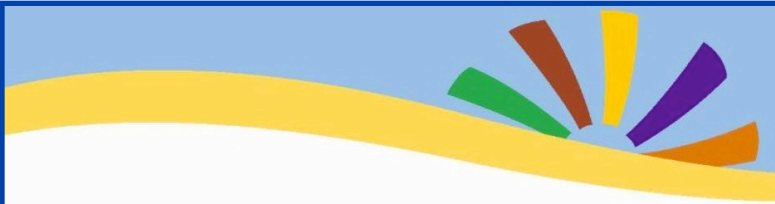


Running & Winning is designed to give female students the opportunity to explore public service as a career by bringing students together with elected officials to learn about their experiences in seeking and holding public office. Although due to time limitations the mock political campaign exercise had to be dropped, but students were able to submit questions ahead of time for the officials.

Students heard from NYS Assemblywoman Amy Paulin that while some hurdles still exist gender does not get in the way of being able to raise money, to be an effective legislator and to achieve high rank. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, NYS Senate Majority Leader told students that a significant hurdle is convincing yourself to run – most women have to be asked several times before they do it. In addressing how to overcome obstacles, Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul responded that she is fired up by this generation. It's reminiscent of the time of civil rights and women rights protests, saying I'm optimistic about your futures. NYS Senator Shelley Mayer advised students to surround yourselves with people who give you confidence, become involved in your community and seek out internships. Andrea Stewart-Cousins pointed out that you don't have to run for office, there are staff positions, researchers, lawyers, constituent services – a lot goes on behind the scenes.

The second panel was comprised of eight Westchester County legislators: Nancy Barr, Catherine Borgia, Terry Clements, Kitley Covill, Margaret Cunzio, Catherine Parker, MaryJane Shimsky, and Ruth Walter. Responses to "how did you get started?" included: school board, chief of staff for an assemblywoman, village board, student government, library board president, work with Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition, and volunteer work. Advice included get used to conflict, hold your ground with defending your ideas, leadership comes with experience of doing and learning, take risks, be patient with yourself.

Despite the abbreviated format, the goal of the event to educate and interest high school girls in community involvement and public service by encouraging girls to run for public office through exposure to elected officials was achieved.



Save the Date:

AAUW-NYS 2021 Summit

* Join fellow AAUW members from around the state for a Friday evening social with a fun presentation, and then Saturday morning for our annual meeting. The meeting will include discussion and voting on proposed revisions to bylaws, officer reports, and the election of state officers.

Friday, June 11: 7-8 pm

Saturday, June 12: 9-11 am

The event is free to all and will be conducted online through ZOOM.

HIKE IN THE BLACK FOREST

Join Lorrin Johnson for a guided hike on **Wednesday, June 23!** Black Rock Forest is about 50 miles north, right next to West Point in Cornwall NY. They have a handicap trail that can even accommodate wheel chairs. We can have lunch in the town or have them deliver food to the lodge. Final details TBA.

455 TARRYTOWN ROAD #1354

WHITE PLAINS, NY 10607



Have
You Seen
Our Web Site?

westchester-ny.aauw.net

Board minutes are posted on the Web Page.



JUNE 2021

6/2	Spring Fling	Zoom	5:30 p.m.
6/4	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
6/8	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
6/9	Joint Board Meeting	Zoom	10:30 a.m.
6/11-12	NY State Summit	Zoom	
6/15	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom	1:30 p.m.
6/16	Evening Lit Group Picnic	Sue Lambert's Home	5 p.m.
6/23	Hike with Lorrin Johnson	Black Forest	
6/24	Art Interest Group	Hudson River Museum	