

September 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

PRESIDENTS' ADDRESS

- submitted by Ellen Leuner and Rene Parmar

Dear AAUW-Westchester members,

Welcome to the new academic year!



To say that the past year has been challenging is surely an understatement. However, it has again shown the creativity and resilience of women all over the world. Women have taken the lead in providing medical assistance to sick individuals, educating children at home, and juggling work and family needs during the stay-at-home and quarantine periods. It brings to mind the famous quote from Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "Women belong in all places where decisions are being made."



Our own AAUW Board stepped up to the challenge of maintaining our activities and service during this past year by adeptly switching to zoom meetings and finding ways to stay in touch through emails and other correspondence. We had wonderful speakers who inspired us by their outstanding work in supporting communities in the region. Marie McKellar and Susan Perko, our Program VPs, have again lined up wonderful speakers for the coming year.

Our interest groups kept up their activities in advocacy, education, the arts, and service. Thanks to the group leaders who swiftly converted to online meetings and kept up their good work! And we were even able to meet in person for some summer activities! It was such a treat this summer to see, talk and be with some of our members at the hike in the Black Forest, the Potluck Picnic on the Hudson River and the guided tour of the beautiful Untermeyer Gardens. When the Greenburgh Public Library will allow us again to begin meeting in their large auditorium, we will do so.

"Girls for STEM" is our new nomenclature for what we used to call EYO, Explore Your Opportunities. We will again partner with the College of Mount Saint Vincent and the NYC Metro AAUW Branch to hold our STEM Conference for 7th grade girls in April.

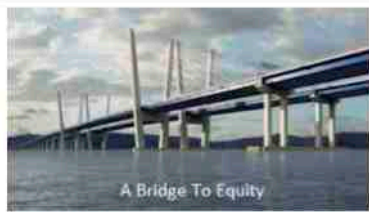
We are also pleased that we will be promoting our "Girls for STEM", and "8th Grade Certificate Program for Girls" (who excel in math and science) at the Mercy College Science Conference this October. This is a great opportunity to get our AAUW Branch activism and presence out into the community.

We also want to thank so many of our members who have been working behind the scenes, helping our large organization thrive during these difficult times. It has been marvelous to see the enthusiasm and dedication of our members, and their commitment to each other. We plan on keeping to our mission of advancing equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy through these challenging times.

Please remember that every single membership adds to supporting our programs, our mission and our influence. Change only happens if we strive for it.

We thank you for support.

SEPTEMBER BRANCH MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 1 AT 5:30 P.M.
VIA ZOOM



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.

2021-2022 BRANCH OFFICERS

Co-Presidents

Ellen Leuner & Rene Parmar

Program Co-Vice Presidents

Marie McKellar & Sue Perko

Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Marjorie Kingsley & Judith Walsh

Recording Co-Secretaries

Marcia Keizs & Elaine Weiss

Corresponding Secretary

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Co-Treasurers

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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

WESTCESTER AAUW SEPT. BRANCH MEETING!

WHEN: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Wherever you are - via Zoom.

Invitation to join the 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 5:15 for a short social time to say hello to friends you have missed during this time of 'social distancing'.)

PROGRAM

Women Leaders in Higher Education from Diverse Backgrounds

SPEAKER

Dr. Kareen Odate, Associate Professor,
Medgar Evans College, CUNY



Dr. Odate will describe her career path to leadership in higher education, as well as her research on women leaders from diverse backgrounds in higher education.

Dr. Odate joined the Medgar Evers College (MEC)/CUNY community as a member of the Office of Academic Affairs in 2002. In 2010, she became the assistant director of the MEC Center for Women's Development and shortly thereafter served as its director until 2015. During her tenure she worked to foster women's self-empowerment, as well as mental, emotional and physical health and wellness through various programming including: workshops, panel discussions, receptions, and other platforms to engage the College in dialogue. Her passion, however, continues to be promoting women's leadership and professional development, which informed her dissertation topic: *Across-Ethnicity Study of Senior Executive Women in Higher Education: Commonalities and Differences in Lived Experience*. Currently Dr. Odate serves as academic lead advisor and STEM manager, where she oversees and supports the STEM advisors in the College's Academic Advising Center.

IF YOU DON'T GET YOUR ZOOM INVITATION OR CAN'T FIND IT AT THE LAST MINUTE, EMAIL ELLEN LEUNER AT eleuner@optimum.net AND SHE WILL FORWARD IT TO YOU.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE BRONXVILLE WOMEN'S CLUB AUTHOR EVENT

*featuring Mary Calvi, author of: "Dear George, Dear Mary :
A Novel of George Washington's First Love"*

Date & Time: Tuesday Sept. 14th at 6:30 pm

Location: Bronxville Women's Club

Anna Lawrence Bisland 1928 House 135 Midland Avenue
(at Tanglewylde), Bronxville, NY 10708

To attend, please contact bronxvillewomensclub@gmail.com
(attention Mary Westmoreland). There is a nominal fee for attendance.

CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The Current Issues Interest Group will have a Zoom meeting on Friday September 3 at 10 a.m.

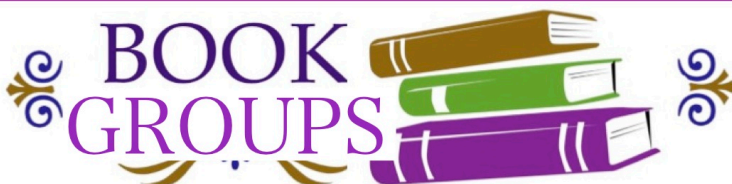
For further information, please contact Selena Barron, Diona Koerner, or Marie McKellar.

ART INTEREST GROUP

On Thursday, September 9, the Art Interest Group will visit the Neuberger Museum of Art to see the exhibits "Color and Motion, Ideas and Dreams: Modern and Contemporary Caribbean and South American Art from the Collection" and "Lesley Dill: Rush." If you would like to join us, please email Shelli Pines.



The Evening Literature Group meeting/picnic in June to choose what to read and discuss in 21-22



TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on September 14 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. We'll discuss the novel, The Cellist of Sarajevo, by Steven Galloway. Marge Kingsley will lead the conversation. Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you're interested in joining us.

EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Literature Group will meet at Lexington Square Cafe in Mt. Kisco, at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, September 22. Shelli Pines will lead the discussion of Behold the Dreamers by Imbolo Mbue. Please call Ellen Eschmann if you plan to attend. New members are welcome.

Have
You Seen
Our Web Site?

westchester-ny.aauw.net

Board minutes are posted on the Web Page.

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 Ln. Apt. 1V, Scarsdale, NY 10583 or 734-748-9318 or email: westchesteraauw@gmail.com

2021-22 AAUW WESTCHESTER PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS
THEME: "Connecting, Developing, Inspiring Action in Challenging Times"

*Branch Meetings will be held either on Zoom or at an alternate location.
 Alternate locations will be emailed to members.*

Wed. 9/1	Branch Meeting		5:30 p.m.
Wed. 10/6	Branch Meeting		5:30 p.m.
Wed 11/3	Branch Meeting		10:30 a.m.
Wed 12/1	Branch Meeting or Holiday Luncheon		12 p.m.
Sat. 1/8	Branch Meeting		10:30 a.m.
Sat. 2/5	Branch Meeting		10:30 p.m.
Wed. 3/2	Branch Meeting		5:30 a.m.
Wed. 4/6	Branch Meeting		5:30 p.m.
Thurs. 4/21	Running & Winning (YWCA White Plains or Zoom)		8:30 a.m.
April/TBA	Girls for Stem (formerly EYO)		
April/TBA	Local Scholarship Event		
Spring/TBA	AAUW New York State Convention		
Wed. 5/4	Branch Meeting		5:30 p.m.
Wed. 6/1	Spring Fling (St Andrews Golf Club or Zoom)		5:30 p.m.



AAUW WESTCHESTER BOOK GROUP SELECTIONS FOR 2021-22

TUESDAY LIT GROUP SELECTIONS

Girls of Atomic City, by Denise Kiernan

The Body, by Bill Bryson

The Cellist of Sarajevo, by Steven Galloway

The Folded Earth, by Anuradha Roy

Just Mercy, by Bryan Stevenson

Beekeeper of Aleppo, by Christy Lefteri

The Vanishing Half, by Brit Bennett

Provenance: Con Man, Forger....
by Laney Salisbury and Aly Suji

The Fountains of Silence, by Ruta Sepetys

Moloka'i, by Alan Brennert

Gilead, by Marilynne Robinson

State of Wonder, by Ann Patchett

Everybody's Son, by Thrity Umrigar

EVENING LIT GROUP SELECTIONS

Behold the Dreamers, by Imbolo Mbue

The Lions of Fifth Avenue, by Fiona Davis

The Guest Book, by Sarah Blake

Three Women, by Marge Piercy

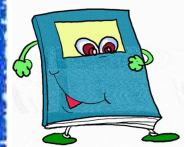
The Only Woman in the Room,
by Marie Benedict

The Heart's Invisible Furies,
by John Boyne

The Vanishing Half, by Brit Bennett

*Sometimes You Have to Lie: The Life
and Times of Louise Fitzhugh*,
Renegade Author of Harriet the Spy,
by Leslie Brody

The Four Winds, by Kristin Hannah



CALLING ON ALL HISTORIANS! ARE YOU A HISTORY BUFF?

Elaine Weiss has been sorting and organizing our extensive AAUW Branch historical items. Elaine would like experienced, long-time members (Yes, YOU!) to join her on the Historical committee to determine if certain items, documents, and photos should be saved or discarded. You will be sorting, editing, recording and selecting what items are appropriate to save, scan and keep.

Now is the opportunity to document the Westchester AAUW Branch, so future generations can appreciate their legacy.---Plus, you'll have a good time doing this with others.

Email Elaine at lainjoy@aol.com

ACHIEVEMENT AND HONOR -by Selena Barron



AAUW is a strong advocate for lifelong learning and equal opportunity for women. Women often do not receive equal recognition for their special accomplishments and recently immigrants have suffered from derision and even hate crimes. Therefore the announcement about the recipient of the 2022 Vilcek Prize for Excellence in Biotechnology, Dr. Katalin Kariko, is especially important. The prize includes a cash reward of \$100,000 and a commemorative diploma. The prize is awarded to immigrants who have significantly impacted American society and world culture and are dedicated champions of immigrant causes.

Dr. Kariko, who was born in Szolnok, Hungary, moved to the United States in 1985 to pursue postdoctoral studies at Temple University in Philadelphia. She is now the senior vice president at BioNTech RNA Pharmaceuticals and an adjunct associate professor of neurosurgery at the University of Pennsylvania. Working for four decades with immunologist Drew Weissman, she was able to show that by modifying the building blocks of synthetic messenger RNA (mRNA), it could make mRNA safe for use in vaccinations against infectious agents. She demonstrated that her discovery also greatly decreased adverse immune reactions and boosted the molecule's stability and protein yield. Her breakthrough allowed scientists from Moderna and Pfizer to develop vaccines based on mRNA to be used in the fight against COVID-19. The vaccines showed more than a 94% positive outcome in clinical trials and are now available throughout the United States to end the pandemic.

Because of the impact Dr. Kariko's research has achieved, the Vilcek Foundation Prizes program made an early announcement of their 2022 award to Dr. Kariko. Vilcek Foundation Cofounder, Vice Chairman and Secretary, Marica Vilcek said "The Vilcek Prize for Excellence was conceived to honor individuals whose contributions benefit society on a broad level. Dr Kariko's work has obviously had a tremendous impact on science and medicine--but the development of mRNA vaccines based on her research also has a profound humanitarian significance. In enabling people and communities to return to normal activities and to connect with one another in person, her work has had a direct positive impact on global society."

Statistics show that people who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 are highly protected against severe infection, hospitalization and death caused by the virus or by the Delta variant.

AAUW SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Right: Hike in Black Forrest

**Below Left: Picnic at
Kingland Point**

**Below Right: Tour of
Untermeyer Gardens**



AAUW NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COLLEGE WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS

By: Maimuna Joof, AAUW-Westchester Scholarship Recipient

It was a great privilege to attend the first-ever virtual AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders on May 25-26th. This year's event put together amazing speakers, fantastic panels, workshops and other resources that made the conference exciting. Missing the opportunity to gather in person does not change much because we were able to attend all sessions and the recordings of the workshops were shared among the attendees. It was a great experience to join students from all over the country. The workshops provided educative information that could be used in everyday life.



Brittney Cooper, an author, professor, activist and cultural critic, gave the keynote opening address. Unfortunately I did not attend the opening session because my final exam in the spring semester was scheduled the same time as the opening ceremony, but I was able to watch the recording of the event. As mentioned in her opening remarks, Brittney Cooper stands ready to work and partner with organizations to fight on all the necessary playing fields to make it level for us all. In her speech she further reminds us of how we can expand our future based on operations, knowledge and context in both local and national organizations as she quotes the famous song by Aretha Franklin and Anne Lennox of the Eurythmics "sisters are doing it for themselves".

I was able to attend all the panel discussions and workshop sessions. One of the conversations we had with Dr. Taharee Jackson, founder and Tonesetter-in-Chief of DrTaharee Consulting. She took us through the Pathway Forward which brings together experts to help us understand the language surrounding anti-racism and what it means to be an accomplice to women of color and how people can take real steps in their lives. Protests around the country have pushed the conversation around racism into every corner of our lives not excluding the workplace. The #ElectHer workshop was on empowering women to run for office both on campus and in their community. The session covered the importance of women running for office and concrete skills to exercise in campaigns. Also I joined a panel discussion which focused on how to talk about and take control of money. Session speakers included SVP of Investor Education at FINRA, Gerri Walsh, and a Managing Director and private client advisor at Bank of America who discussed the reasons women should be talking about money and shared achievable steps we can take towards securing our financial future.

The most interesting part of the virtual conference was the fact that attendees can choose from various sessions happening at the same time which was amazing. I was able to learn about advocacy skills, leadership development and women's issues. My favorite quote from the conference by Chelsea Williams was, "You are not striving for perfection you are striving for progress."

SUNSHINE

AAUW is a family where we support and enjoy each other's participation, thoughts and ideas. There are times, unfortunately, when a member is dealing with an illness, a loss, or another personal crisis. AAUW has always supported the member by providing a little SUNSHINE to the particular person.

As the new co-corresponding secretary for our chapter, I am now in charge of the Sunshine committee. If you know of a member who should receive our good wishes, please send the information to me at ahirsch03@gmail.com.

Thank you. Abby Hirsch



ADVOCACY AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2021

Jane Pendergast



I have discussed advocacy work with POWHER in past articles, but recently I learned from feedback following a presentation I gave on, August 6th to the Current Issues discussion group that some members were learning about POWHER's work for the first time! A brief introduction to POWHER New York describes itself thus: Through the collective action of our 100+ network partners we build intersectional collaborations, educate the public about combating gender inequality, convene innovators and advocates to explore and develop new approaches and strategies, and work with legislators and business leaders on solutions. The members include a broad spectrum of organizations such as

Planned Parenthood groups, New York Civil Liberties Union, YWCA groups, New York Women in Communications, New York Women in Film and Television, NOW chapters, League of Women Voters chapters, New York Women's Foundation, New York Coalition of 100 Black Women, Legal Momentum and UN Women's Metro Chapter.

I got involved about four years ago at the suggestion of Roli Wendorf, AAUW Westchester's President, and following on my work with Start Smart and my professional and volunteer experience worked on equal pay. Equal pay is a primary focus of POWHER's work, but that work covers all aspects of inequality. POWHER grows in membership each year and POWHER members meet each fall to set its advocacy focuses for the year. We meet electronically biweekly as a group and more often for the working groups. Members work on research, develop public education programs, prepare materials, and directly advocate to the legislature within the guidelines of a 501(c)(3) organization. It produces active social media campaigns as part of its advocacy – you probably saw the Black Women's Equal Pay Day effort on Tuesday, August 3. I hope you took the opportunity to help advance that great public education effort.

For 2021 and 2022, POWHER focused on the Salary Range Transparency bill. Requiring employers to disclose the salary range with every job announcement will create a shift in practices and in culture, put all workers on an equal footing and help end the pernicious wage gap that continues to rob some workers, particularly women of color, of fair wages and economic well-being. It will put women job seekers and employers on the same level in salary negotiations. In the 2021 legislative session, POWHER introduced the bill and made progress in both houses. The goal is to pass it in 2022. The latest stats show that Black women made 63% of the pay of white men; Latina women made 55% of white men, and white women made 82.3% of white men. Check out The Simple Truth on aauw.org for more on pay equity last year.

In 2020 POWHER conducted its election year POWHER The Vote campaign, emphasizing issues that advance women's opportunities for equality in all aspects of life in New York. In addition, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, POWHER brought organizations together to develop a response. Through a robust process over more than four months, 50 groups and experts crafted a Vision for inclusive gender justice and identified eight key areas and policy recommendations to achieve this transformation. They are: Essential Rights; Employment; Caregiving; Gender-based Violence and Safety; Girls and Education/Legal Justice; Reproductive Justice, Health and Rights; Voting, Democracy and Representation.

In 2019 POWHER advocated successfully for laws that required employers to provide employees with equal pay for "substantially similar" work and extended the equal pay law to cover all protected classes under the New York Human Rights Law. In 2018, it advocated successfully for a NYS Salary History Ban Law – a historically important change in employment law. And in 2017, it advocated successfully for a NYC Salary History Ban Law.

AAUW-NYS is a supporter. I urge AAUW-Westchester to join the broad base of other organizations who signed. I hope you will visit the POWHER New York website to learn more.

The Scarsdale Art Association will have an outdoor show in Chase Park, Scarsdale, on September 18 and 19 from 10 to 5. Sue Perko will be there with Golden Sacks, paintings and bottles.

Westchester AAUW Branch donated \$655 to AAUW National in the first two quarters this year (2021). AAUW National thanks you for your support.

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



SEPTEMBER 2021

9/1	Board Meeting	Zoom	4 p.m.
9/1	Branch Meeting	Zoom	5:30 p.m.
9/3	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
9/9	Art Interest Group	Neuberger Museum of Art	
9/10	Deadline for submitting for CHIPS		
9/14	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
9/21	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom	1:30 p.m.
9/22	Evening Literature Group	Lexington Sq. Cafe, Mt. Kisco	6 p.m.

On line bridge is scheduled every Monday at 1 p.m.