

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

COVID-19, STATUS, EFFECTS ON WOMEN, CORRECTING INEQUALITY

By Selena Barron



Covid-19
and
women

A recent letter from Julia T. Brown, Esq. national AAUW chair of the Board of Directors, outlined the current status of women and the effects that COVID-19 has caused for women that are not diminishing even as the number of new COVID-19 Cases decreases.

During the pandemic, women were more likely to leave or lower their hours of employment because schools and daycare centers were closed. Service jobs, predominantly held by women and people of color have been the slowest to recover. Ninety seven percent of women returning to the workforce are looking for jobs, compared to eighty eight percent of men who are returning to employment they already had. Black and Latina women have suffered the worst. *The Washington Post* called the pandemic “an economic disaster for women.” and stated that the lifetime economic impact for women from missing one year of work could be as much as \$600,000. The percentage of women in the workforce is the lowest it has been in 32 years. The economic gap that creates inequality is growing large for women.

AAUW is asking for support to continue their efforts to:

- Close the gender pay gap through our Women’s Economic Empowerment Initiative.
- Push Congress to ensure the U.S. guarantees its workers paid parental leave and time off for illness or family care, along with supporting working parents through universal preschool, free community college, a permanent child tax credit and the cancellation of student loan debt.
- Measure and expose how systematic racism contributes to the gender gap.
- Advocate for equity through our Latina Initiative, including calls for affordable health care, strengthening job protections for essential workers in frontline occupations, and extending economic benefits to all Latinas regardless of immigration status.

AAUW asks that you send them a donation so that they can continue to advocate to rebuild in a way that allows women and their families to thrive in a country in which no one is left behind. Address: AAUW, 131 L St., Suite 1000, Washington D.C., 20005.

As a supporter of AAUW you are a woman making a difference!

NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 3 10:30 A.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

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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 NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING!

WHEN: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 10:30 a.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, email

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: *Coping with COVID: Loss and Aging*

The COVID-19 Pandemic has disrupted the lives of many, but has had unique impact on members of the older adult population. The transition into, and now out of, social isolation has left many worried about their safety. Others may have lost a close friend or family member and have not been able to grieve in their normal way. Join us to discuss the various effects that the pandemic had on our older adult population and options for coping. Some opportunities for volunteering will be presented.

SPEAKERS: Nicolle Brunale, LMSW, Director of Senior Mental Health, Family Services of Westchester and Mari Diamond, BA, Family Services of Westchester

Nicolle Brunale, LMSW, received her Master's Degree in Social Work with a specialization in clinical practice and programming with families at Columbia University. She specializes in the senior population providing mental health support and assistance to older victims of crime, particularly survivors of elder abuse. She is currently the Director of Senior Mental Health managing the Elder Abuse Prevention and Victim Assistance Program, the Partnership Innovation for Older Adults Program and the Gatekeeper Program. Prior to working at Family Services of Westchester, Nicolle had experience working with domestic violence survivors, teen dating violence education programming, and human trafficking survivors.



Mari Diamond, BA, received her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Women & Gender studies from Hunter College and is now pursuing a Master's Degree in Social Work at Fordham University. Mari has previous experience working at the Rape Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN). She is passionate about working with adults on issues relating to mental health, trauma, and relationships.



CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The Current Issues Interest Group will have a Zoom meeting on Friday November 5 at 10 a.m. Topics for November will include: 1) The Democratic Party Conflict: The Left vs. the Moderates; and 2) Types of Taxation. A third topic will be added, based on Current Issues at the beginning of November.

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

ART INTEREST GROUP

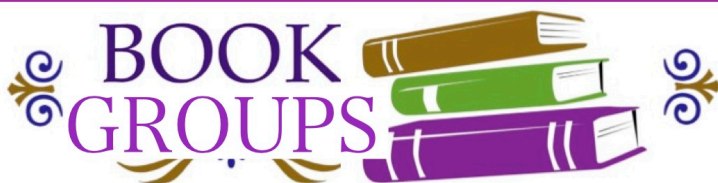
On Thursday, November 11th, the Art Interest Group will visit the Hudson River Museum to see the exhibit "African American Art In the 20th Century."

If you would like to come, please email Shelli Pines.

Have
You Seen
Our Web Site?

westchester-ny.aauw.net

Board minutes are posted on the Web Page.



TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on November 9 at 10 a.m. via Zoom to discuss Bryan Stevenson's memoir, Just Mercy. Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you're interested in joining us.

EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Literature Group will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 10 at Stone Fire in Mt. Kisco. Jean Havens will lead the discussion of The Guest Book by Sarah Blake. Please email or call Marsha Savino if you plan to attend.



There are times when a one of our members is dealing with an illness, a loss, or another personal crisis.

If you know of a member who should receive our well wishes or support, please send the information to our corresponding secretary, Abby Hirsch, at ahirsch03@gmail.com.

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



CONTEXT FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DENIALISM

By, Darryl Taylor, SUNY Purchase AAUW Intern

Shondel Nero spoke at AAUW-Westchester's October meeting about the perspective of climate science denialism from a linguistic perspective. Nero is a professor of Language Education at New York University. Nero has spent years researching varieties of English that deviate from the standard British form. She has written four books about language, two of which focused on the Caribbean Creole forms of English. "The Power of Narrative Climate Skepticism and the Deconstruction of Science" is her collaborative book with fellow NYU professor Raul Lejano.

The U.S. has a disproportionate amount of climate skeptics and deniers compared to the rest of the developed world at 38 percent. Most skeptics are conservative. A critique of the industrialist capitalist order post-World War II can contextualize how this happened. Technological science brought the moon landing and fancier larger cars. But environmental science expanded their influence following disastrous impacts from technology. Scientists pointing out the environmental implications didn't line up with a conservative ideology. "That critique was anathema to conservatives because it was questioning our behavior," said Nero. "Conservatives are defenders of the capitalist order and especially personal freedoms. Anything that says you have to change your behavior or drive more fuel-efficient cars, now we're getting into lifestyle changes." The 1990s saw an anti-environmental movement. An all-out blitz on environmental policy through publishing of books and articles occurred. This developing ideology was known as Greenlash or Brownlash and it was powerful because alliances were made. Anti-vaxxers showed solidarity with those resistant to smoking laws. Regulations on big oil and big pharma were met with hostility and those industries benefit from having legitimate political influence through lobbying and campaign contributions to politicians.

The coalitions were greater than their strength in numbers. In the book, Lejano refers to the network of people mutually enforcing their own storylines. When engaging with your own network, the narrative allows you to identify yourself with them. With these narratives gaining traction, they become an ideology. "In life we live by stories, we live by narratives," said Nero. Narratives are very powerful and people hold onto them for various reasons."

Buzzwords are often used in the narrative against the existence of climate change or the extent of its effects. A Washington Times editorial called climate change one of the greatest "frauds" and "scandals" of our time. The editorial targeted Al Gore as a greedy benefactor from book sales and from the film "An Inconvenient Truth." The comment sections of similar publications often include alarmist terms like "scam" and "hoax." Gore was a perfect villain for climate deniers because he was a former presidential candidate who was pushing for environmentally friendly policies. President Obama became a convenient enemy with his cap-and-trade proposals which were characterized as an overreach on business practices.

Nero and Lejano see language as one part of the solution to help skeptics understand the implications of climate change. It starts with meeting people where they are. Instead of explaining the causes of weather patterns, just speak about the patterns themselves and how they impact the individual. Both sides would have to be willing to change their own language, make it relatable, and be open to building a bridge within the discussion. Another step is to eliminate absolutist language. "Absolutist language creates absolute networks," said Nero. "It closes people off." Choosing the wrong messenger is a misstep in messaging. Politicians and celebrities appear less trustworthy than an ordinary private citizen in advocating for policies or lifestyle changes to help the environment. The education system can be one of the most powerful tools to combat climate change denial. "Teaching climate change in schools and taking on some of the misconceptions early on so we have a generation of people who are thinking critically about science," said Nero. Nero continues to encourage people to communicate in a way that binds people instead of dividing them.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

-by Selena Barron



As part of collecting and preserving our AAUW Branch's history and memories I was asked to share a special event. We hope other members will contribute their experiences in future issues of CHIPS.

One of AAUW's priorities is lifelong learning for women. In 2007 the theme for NY State AAUW was Education is the Gateway to financial security for women. Our branch took that very seriously and we had several meetings related to the topic. On August 29, 2007 as a summer event we were able to arrange an educational visit to the NYSE Euronext stock exchange building on Wall Street. This was an exciting opportunity and 14 of us signed up. We each went through pre-clearance procedures providing the Exchange with all our identity info including our social security numbers. Since 9/11/2001 the exchange had been closed to casual visitors. We all passed muster and were then all set to learn about their inner workings, view the exchange floor and be in the actual historical building where trades take place.

Two days before our scheduled visit I received a phone call from the head of our seminar. He asked me if our group could arrange to come in the afternoon rather than in the morning. I seemed a little hesitant because I was thinking of all the phone calls and new arrangements I would have to make. He then said the magic words "If you can accommodate the change, your group can ring the closing bell." A JPEG image of our AAUW logo would be shown behind us on the balcony overlooking the trading floor. I didn't know what a JPEG was, but I called AAUW in Washington with the info I had been given. Lo and behold at the closing there was the AAUW image behind us on the screen to be seen around the world by more than a million people.

We were treated like VIPs. Each of us was formally greeted at the front door of the Exchange by security guards who checked us in, gave us red formal passes and whisked us away to a conference room that looked like a museum. Water, coffee or tea was available. We sat around a huge conference table. When it was time for the closing I had the opportunity to ring the closing bell and Kay Semenza pounded the gavel. Looking down at the trading floor is a moment we will never forget. The stock market went up that day and everyone down below was celebrating. We each received a NYSE mug and a photograph of our group at the closing.

The tradition of ringing the bell at the opening and closing dates back to 1903. Ringing the bell has been considered an honor usually given to representatives from listed companies, politicians and other dignitaries. Seen by over a million people, the Exchange states they are the most widely watched TV event each day. As far as I know AAUW has been the only women's group not affiliated with a listed company or a politician that has had this amazing honor!



A big thank you to the members who have already sent in donations for the Annual Fund campaign. Even small amounts help to sponsor AAUW's many worthwhile programs.

**Yes, I would like to contribute to the
AAUW Greatest Needs Funds in the amount of:**

\$1000 \$500 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____

If you do not designate a specific fund in your check memo line, your contribution will be applied to the AAUW Funds, # 9110.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Please make your check out to AAUW Funds and specify in the memo line AAUW Funds or any particular fund to which you would like your contributions applied, and how much to each fund. Checks should be mailed to Mary Logan, 1204 Hall Ave, White Plains, NY 10604. Thanks for your support!



Holiday Gifts For Children

Every year the Westchester AAUW branch collects gifts and monetary donations for the children of mothers in the Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities. We will continue that tradition this year and bring joy to about 450 children.

Due to continuing pandemic precautions, donation methods have been modified from previous years. If you choose to donate by check or are forwarding a gift through Amazon, please email the AAUW Toy Drive Coordinator Thea Jacobs at tmjacobs1@gmail.com to inform her of what you will be donating or the amount of your donation.

Here are the ways you can donate:

1. Send a check donation. Make checks out to THE HOUR CHILDREN PARENTING CENTER.

Mail checks to

Hour Children/Deb Rigano
180 E. Prospect Avenue / PO Box #229
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

2. Use the list below to purchase a gift either in person or through Amazon. You may deliver the gift yourself or have Amazon deliver the gift to Thea Jacobs 42 Edgewood Ave., Mount Vernon, NY 10552. All gifts must be delivered to Thea by December 10. Thea will arrange for pickup or delivery to Hour Children on or about December 12.

(Please – Only NEW and UNWRAPPED Items)

Ages 0-2: V-Tech (6-36 months – we need 26 of the same type); Clothing: for Newborns to 4T (**No Blue, Black, Orange, Gray**); Baby Blankets (Toddler Size - **No Solid Colors of Blue, Black, Orange, Gray**); Rattles; Teething Rings (NUBY Brand); Muslin Swaddles; Winter Hats (Newborn – 1 year); Stacking Cups/Rings; Baby Einstein or Fisher Price Toys; Shape Sorters

Ages 3-5: Large Trucks; Baby Alive Dolls; Disney Character Items; Crafts Sets; Baby Dolls; Disney Princess Dolls

Ages 6-10: Legos; K'Nex/Playmobile; Barbie/Bratz/Monster High Dolls; Trucks; Transformers; Actions Figures - Captain America, Stars Wars, Superman, etc.; Matchbook Tracks and Car Sets; Plastic Knitting and Crocheting Kits; Cranium, Brain Quest; Painting and Art Sets; 3D Glasses and Books; Train Sets; Card Games such as: Skip Bo, Uno and Monopoly

Ages 11-17: Craft Kits; Sports Balls - Basketball, Soccer, Football; Baseballs, Mitts (**No Bats**); Chess and Checker Games; Friendship Bracelet Kits; How to Knit/Crochet Books; Make-Up Kits Only (**No Mirror or Glass**); Burt's Bees Lip Gloss; Burt's Bees Shower Gel And Body Wash (**No Alcohol in Ingredient List**); Wallets (boys and girls), Burt's Bees Face Wash; Sunglasses (**No Bling**); Headphones/Ear Buds; Watches (**Analog only and No Bling**); Board Games for Ages 10 and Up such as: Apples to Apples, Life, Trivial Pursuit (Adult and Children Versions) etc.; Leather Bracelets; Musical Instruments (No Recorders)

ITEMS ALWAYS NEEDED FOR HOUR NURSERY MOMS (New or Gently Used) Strollers; Pack 'N Plays; Baby Swings; Bouncing Chairs; Medela Breast Pumps and Accessories; "Boppy" Pillows and New Car Seats

NONE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE ALLOWED: Glass, scissors, sharp objects, pencil sharpeners, mirrors, clay, Play-Doh, items that promote violence, teen/adult clothing, electronics, DVDs, no rhinestones on watches or toys, metal or items in tins; wooden toys, soft dolls or stuffed animals.

AAUW WESTCHESTER ADVOCACY UPDATE
– OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2021
Jane Pendergast



Advocacy right now in October through the fall at the state level through AAUW NYS's membership in the POWHER NY coalition is focusing on promoting the Roadmap for Inclusive Gender Justice in NY to Governor Hochul's office and the state legislature. At the forefront is continuing work to pass the Salary Range Transparency Act, which was introduced and gained significant support in the 2021 session. This further step in putting all employees on an equal footing, will require that

all job opening announcements include the salary range. In addition, POWHER will also be advocating for improved administration, oversight and enforcement for the pay equity progress developing from recent legislation, and also legislative advances in other areas of the Roadmap for Inclusive Gender Justice in NY.

In addition to pay equity, POWHER is working on other key priorities, including legislation on childcare, girls and education, gender-based violence and safety, reproductive justice, employment/worker rights, essential rights and gender rights, criminal justice, and voting rights. Visit the POWHER website www.powherny.org for details. Please check out the Roadmap, and determine whether you believe AAUW Westchester should join the many other organizations who support it - A Roadmap to Create Inclusive Gender Justice in New York: Building an Equitable Recovery in the Wake of COVID-19 | PowHer™ New York (powherny.org).

The Equal Pay Campaign continues this month, with Latina Equal Pay Day on October 21st -- the day into 2021 that Latinas must work to earn what a white, non-Hispanic man earned in 2020. That is 22 months of work for 12 months of pay! Join the #LatinaEqualPay Day Virtual Rally on 10/21 from 1:30-2PM EST for #EqualPayNY! https://bit.ly/PowHer_LEPD21 .

November

NOVEMBER 2021

11/3	Branch Meeting	Zoom	10:30 a.m.
11/3	Board Meeting	Zoom	12 p.m.
11/5	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
11/9	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
11/10	Deadline for submitting for CHIPS		
11/10	Evening Literature Group	Stone Fire Restaurant	5:30 p.m.
11/11	Art Interest Group	Hudson River Museum	
11/16	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom	1:30 p.m.

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