

February 2022

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

WESTCHESTER AAUW FEBRUARY MEETING!

Saturday, February 5 at 10:30 AM

WHERE: Virtual via Greenburgh Public Library

1. To register go to the Greenburgh Public Library Website www.greenburghlibrary.org
2. Click on the Events Tab. Select 'Calendar' from the drop-down menu
3. Scroll down to see February 5th event. Click on the event.
4. Scroll down the event details page. Click on the blue "Begin Registration" button.
5. You will receive a confirmation email of your registration after you click submit.
6. You may also call the Reference Desk at 914-721-8225 to register.

PROGRAM: New York's Climate Act and Making Buildings Healthier, Safer and Reducing their Environmental Impact

New York's Climate Leadership and Community Preservation Act has codified an aggressive plan for both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the health, safety, comfort, resiliency, and efficiency of the buildings that we live and work in. Information on New York State programs to help individuals make their homes more energy efficient will be included.

SPEAKER: Patrick M. O'Shei, Director of Market Development at NYSERDA

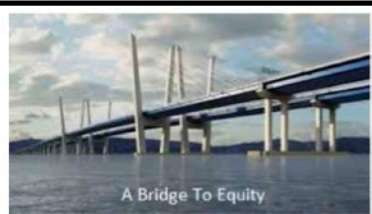


Patrick is key developer of the NYS Carbon Neutral Building roadmap, which outlines NY's plan for decarbonizing its building stock under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Patrick is responsible for ensuring the successful design and execution of clean energy market strategies for existing Commercial, Institutional and Industrial Buildings as well as Building Codes and New Construction in all markets. He has a BS in Engineering SUNY-ESF and an MS in Applied Statistics from RIT.



2021 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

Many thanks to all who contributed to the 2021 Annual Fund Campaign. Yet again the branch membership stepped up to generously help fund various AAUW initiatives to promote gender equality for women and girls. We had a very good showing raising \$6,760 from 42 members versus \$7,278 from 45 members in 2020. Some of the programs donations will help to fund: education grants and fellowships, gender discrimination lawsuits, research reports, Work Smart salary negotiation workshops, STEMEd for Girls, and NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). Thanks again!



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

Abby Hirsch

Co-Treasurers

Susan Gardner & Cynthia Plater

CHIPS Editor

Sue Lambert slamb47@aol.com

Circulation

Abby Hirsch

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
StateThruway Authority



**THE NOMINATING BRANCH PROJECT PRESENTS THE 2022-2023
BRANCH BOARD MEMBERS SLATE**

The Nominating Branch Project has selected and hereby presents the slate of Branch Board Members for 2022-2023 for your consideration and vote on April 6, at the Annual Branch Meeting, or by email or U. S. Mail.

Co- Presidents: Susan Damplo and Rene Parmar

Program Co-Vice Presidents: Diana Lennon and Teresa H. Neal

Membership Co-Vice Presidents: Thea Jacobs and Marie Schenk

Recording Co-Secretaries: Marcia V. Keizs and Elaine Weiss

Treasurer: Cynthia Plater and Assistant Treasurer: Susan Gardner

Corresponding Secretary: Abby Hirsh

The Nominating Branch Project was composed of: Lorrin Johnson, Marcia V Keizs, Jane Pendergast, Shelli Pines, and Judy Walsh. We thank and extend appreciation to our departing officers (Marjorie Kingsley, Ellen Leuner, Marie McKellar, Susan Perko, and Judy Walsh) and to those officers who will continue to serve (Susan Gardner, Abby Hirsh, Marcia V Keizs, Rene Parmar, Cynthia Plater, and Elaine Weiss) for their excellent contributions. Also, the Branch Project extends a warm welcome to the nominees (Susan Damplo, Thea Jacobs, Diana Lennon, Teresa T. Neal, and Marie Schenk).

Voting for the above slate will take place at the April Branch Meeting. An absentee ballot will be sent via email several weeks before the April meeting. If you do not have access to email and will not be able to attend the April meeting, please vote using the alternative ballot, which will be in the March issue of CHIPS.

2021 Holiday Toy Drive

Submitted by Thea Jacobs , AAUW Toy Drive Coordinator

A big Thank You to all who were able to make gift and monetary donations to the Hour Children Parenting Center this holiday season. Westchester AAUW branch members contributed more than \$1400 to provide holiday gifts for children of mothers in the Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you for stepping up.

Have
You Seen
Our Web Site?

westchester-ny.aauw.net

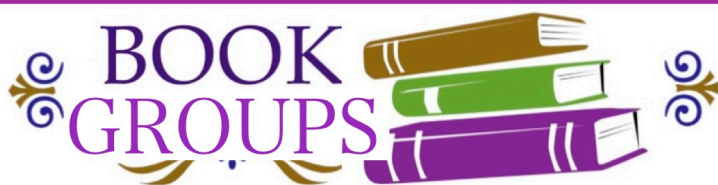
Board minutes are posted on the Web Page.

CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The Current Issues Interest Group will have a Zoom meeting on Friday, February 4 at 10 a.m. Topics will include: 1) Expanding the Supreme Court? 2) The Concept of Dignity. For further information, please contact Selena Barron, Diona Koerner, or Marie McKellar.

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.



TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on February 8 at 10 a.m., via Zoom. We'll talk about Ann Patchett's novel, State of Wonder. Marge Kingsley will lead the conversation. Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you'd like to join us.

EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Literature Group will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9 on Zoom. Sue Lambert will lead the discussion of The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett. Colleen Fay will send the Zoom invitation a few days before the meeting. If you have questions about this group phone Ellen Eschmann, the group leader.

VIRTUAL WALK IN SPANISH HARLEM - A SUCCESS!

Thank you to all who so generously contributed to this local scholarship fundraiser. In return, thanks to Shelli Pines and Marlene Brenhouse, we went on an interesting tour via Zoom with our engaging guide, Leigh Hallingby. She showed us stunning photos of outdoor murals and mosaics and the fascinating history behind them. One is now inspired to go there in person in warmer weather.

Marilee Scheuneman

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

HOSTESSES TO HISTORY

By, Darryl Taylor, SUNY Purchase AAUW Intern

Women were prominent in the Revolutionary War but their contributions are often overlooked. Abigail Smith Purdy and Anne Fisher Miller were just two notable women in the war effort. Their White Plains homes are listed in the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.



Stephen Paul DeVillo was AAUW Westchester's speaker for January. He's a local historian and author of *The Bronx River History and Folklore* and *The Bowery: The Strange History of New York's Oldest Street*. DeVillo is a member of Bronx County and White Plains historical societies.

Ann Fisher Miller hosted General George Washington at the Elijah Miller House (named after her husband). Washington used the home as headquarters throughout the Battle of White Plains in October 1776. Charles Lee was second-in-command of the American forces. DeVillo described him as Miller's odd houseguest. "He was a very socially awkward, opinionated, outspoken, very rough-mannered person. He was accompanied by a pack of Pomeranian dogs." These dogs were actually on the battlefield with him at times. Miller would encounter Lee again in 1778 after the Battle of Monmouth. Lee was court-martialed as a result of his questionable actions during the fight. "The last phases of this court-martial almost certainly took place in Ann Fisher Miller's house," said DeVillo. She also hosted generals Alexander MacDougall and Horatio Gates. Miller's family didn't come away from the war unscathed. Her husband suffered a deep wound and died while serving but the historical account of the incident is incomplete. Miller's sons John and Elijah Jr. also served and succumbed to a fever at camp, possibly either from typhus or typhoid.

Abigail Purdy's home was known as the Purdy House and was along the battle lines. Trenches were actually dug in the front yard. Her husband Jacob Purdy served in the Colonial Militia. Abigail would host Washington in 1778 for 10 weeks and the Purdy House was his headquarters. The residence supplied useful information for Tory spy Ann Bates. Bates used "Mrs. Barnes" as an alias to assist in a narrative of a poor widow. She sold pins, needles, combs, and other items. Her real husband was a gunsmith for the British army. People were unsuspecting of Bates. "The sexism of the day: women aren't supposed to know or care about military stuff anyway," said DeVillo. "She knew about different sizes of cannons, artillery, what regimental flags meant, and how camps were laid out. After observing a camp in White Plains, she submitted a scouting report to general Henry Clinton. In response, Clinton reinforced the British garrison at the Battle of Newport. The U.S. failed to retake Newport. DeVillo confirmed that Barnes gained entry into the Purdy House multiple times.

The Purdy family had a rift due to loyalties on each side. Two of Jacob's brothers were Tories. When the revolution was won, they had to leave the recently formed United States and resettle in Nova Scotia. This was a trend throughout the country as Tories either fled or were forced out. The Purdys weren't the only family separated by the Tory-Patriot conflict.

Elizabeth Colden DeLancey hosted British general William Howe as he decided to attack Fort Washington. The home would become his headquarters. DeLancey was forthright about her status as a Tory. Her son James DeLancey was an infamous Tory raider. In response to her siding with Great Britain, Americans vandalized her house. She almost lost her property when the government of New York attempted to seize it after the war. DeLancey won the legal battle in court but died about six weeks later.

On September 15, 1776, British forces landed in the center of Manhattan Island from the East River. Howe and his men visited Mary Lindley Murray's mansion around modern-day 36th Street and Park Avenue South. There was speculation that her interaction with Howe was strategic planning to buy time for the Americans to escape Manhattan Island. The week before she had hosted Washington. "So was she a Patriot? Was she a Tory?" My answer is probably neither," said DeVillo. "She was a Quaker. She would've been neutral for religious reasons."

Washington visited the mansion of Colonel Morris and Mary Eliza Philipse Morris. But in an interesting twist, Washington previously stayed with the Philipse family in 1756. They had a Yonkers mansion at the corner of Warburton & Main Street. Washington proposed to Mary Eliza around this time but she declined his offer.

Sarah Bates had been occupying what would become the Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters. Bates was widowed when her husband was captured by the British. She hosted French marshal Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau in the Spring of 1781. At the Odell House, Rochambeau saved Washington from a strategic error. "Rochambeau finally talked Washington out of the idea of attacking New York City," said DeVillo. The two men would eventually share a victory at the Siege of Yorktown.

"Women served in a variety of ways during the war," said DeVillo. "They served as nurses, couriers and spies. In the case of Margaret Corbin, they literally manned the guns at various battles." Women who sewed flags and did needlework for the uniforms deserve additional appreciation. The first patent for a sewing machine was issued in 1790 so women were still sewing by hand during the American Revolution. Uniforms were constantly in short supply according to DeVillo. His forthcoming book will review the events of the Battle of White Plains.

My Internship Experience

By Darryl Taylor, SUNY Purchase Journalism Intern

My time as an intern for the American Association of University Women-Westchester NY Branch has enriched my life experiences. It's the first instance of writing on a strict deadline for a publication since 2016. Mary Logan was my editor and we had such delightful conversations through phone calls. I was challenged to do background research on the subjects and to participate in the meetings.

Most meetings were virtual but the simulation of a business meeting via computer still felt like a professional environment. Renee Parmar introduced me as an intern and an aura of pride came over me as the members were excited to have a new participant. The first discussion was about women being mistreated as leaders in higher education administration. Although the details of the subject were distressing, the theme of leadership being gendered was such a valuable lesson.

I was finally able to meet Mary in person and it was just as pleasant as our phone calls. Her belief in my growth as a writer was reassuring for my confidence. The day improved as I met other members in preparation for guest speaker Jennifer Fecu. Everyone took interest in each other's lives during a delicious brunch. Encouragement and positive energy was a main theme of the day. AAUW meetings simulate a friendly community. Thank you to everyone for taking an interest in my career goals and for your unwavering support. I am truly humbled.

THE HISTORIAN **Submitted by Elaine Weiss**

At our January 8th Branch Meeting, Stephen Paul DeVillo gave a lecture on the role of women in the Revolutionary War. His presentation was a study of the roles of women dealing with the military. Upper class women sometimes could shape the outcome of conflict by spying. However, the presentation was filled with examples of class structure that included women of all classes feeding the armies and nursing the wounded. Many of our members wanted to know more about slavery in New York after learning that N. Y. City was behind Charlestown South Carolina as the second largest slave market in the U.S. Please go to your librarian, go online ,or especially local historical places to get started. On Sunday January 9th the lead Times Editorial , called The Black Utopia, the story of a 19th century community of freed slaves in the Seneca Village part of the area that became Central Park. This story is a good place to start the study of African American history.

Please contact me to join the history group.

CREATING A LEGACY THAT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

-by Selena Barron

AAUW has a history of advocating for equal opportunity and equal pay for women. At the same time we support civic opportunity and individual responsibility for equity, through outreach and active programs for students and women. Despite COVID19, our AAUW branch, through education using facts based on real documentation, has worked to protect and to advocate for democracy based on truth and inclusion for all.



Former President Carter recently listed five demands that Americans should make of political leaders to “uphold the ideals of freedom and adhere to high standards of conduct”: 1) Put aside political differences to uphold the constitution and fairness. 2) Establish better election security and reform. 3) Create ways to respectfully engage across the political divide. 4) Eliminate violence from politics by creating or amending existing laws. 5) Reform social media and encourage the spread of accurate information.

Our branch supports girls and women from the 7th grade through adulthood. Girls for STEM encourages 7th grade girls to continue their studies in science, technology, engineering and math by introducing the students to career opportunities in STEM fields through exciting workshops. During COVID 19 this excellent program has moved to ZOOM.

Our awards for excellence are open to all schools and each school chooses their own candidates. For eighth grade students, our branch awards certificates for excellence in math and science. Twelfth grade students receive awards for being outstanding in their school, academic ability and potential for future service to women in the solution of social and civic problems. Seniors also receive awards for their excellence in creative as well as formal writing. Three graduating Westchester Community College students are awarded partial scholarships to help them in attaining their Bachelor degrees.

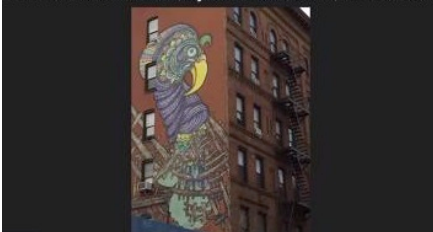
Running and Winning in collaboration with The League of Women Voters and the YWCA in White Plains provides a one day workshop for 11th and 12th grade students to encourage them to both explore public service as a career and running as a candidate for public office. The students form groups, to plan for the election of a candidate they choose, including a platform, fundraising, publicity and a two minute speech by their candidate. Local elected women officials speak and meet with each group to discuss their experiences in seeking and winning election.

Work Smart is a free Salary Negotiation course to help women earn the pay they deserve. Its goal is to close the gender pay gap by 2030 by changing laws, improving practices and empowering women to negotiate their own futures with the help of AAUW Work Smart Online.

Our branch programs teach and award personal development, new attainable horizons, independence, individual achievement, equal opportunity and equal pay and the importance of civic involvement, and advocating for needed legislation. We also support voting for candidates who run for office based on the truth and their willingness to support our constitution and democracy. We can be proud of our branch and know that by our membership we are women leaving a legacy and making a difference.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE VIRTUAL WALK IN SPANISH HARLEM

Bird enclosed in fence, by Don Rinx, 2013, E. 100th St.



Espiritu, by Manny Vega, 2012, E. 105th St. and Lexington Ave.



Deli mural, by Vikyayress, 2014, on Lexington Ave. betw/ E. 104th & E. 105th Sts.



ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2022

by Jane Pendergast



Great News – On December 15th, the New York City Council approved a bill that will require NYC employers with four or more employees to disclose in job postings – including those for promotion or transfer opportunities – the minimum and maximum salary offered for any position located within New York City. January 14, 2022 the bill became law and will go into effect on May 14, 2022. This new law joins other laws passed in recent years requiring employers to provide salary ranges as part of job announcements or in response to requests by job applicants – in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, Rhode Island, and Washington.

POWHER New York is currently advocating for passage of a slightly different statewide salary transparency law in the New York State Legislature, and had helped craft the New York City law and supported its passage. POWHER New York and other groups advocating for equal pay point to the New York City law's passage as a possible positive influence on the passage of the state law. Meanwhile, POWHER New York is pushing ahead now with a strong advocacy campaign directed to the state legislature and the public to pass the New York State law. I will let you know more about that shortly and how you can get involved; or contact me now. Please see the article in Lily below for more information about the New York City legislation and other nationwide salary transparency laws...

<https://www.thelily.com/in-nyc-employers-now-have-to-list-salary-ranges-on-job-postings-it-could-help-close-the-wage-gap-experts-say/>

Westchester Women's Agenda (WWA) reported more good news on Friday, January 7th. As a result of this year's advocacy efforts with the Westchester County Executive's Office, the budget draft to be submitted will include a 7% increase for Westchester social service organizations. As an important part of its mission, WWA works closely with the County Administration to make the budget reflect the needs of Westchester service providers.

In addition, WWA's mission includes advocacy organized into strategic work groups, including Racial Equity, Reproductive Justice, Immigrant Rights, Voting Rights, Female Economic Empowerment, and the Status of Women Report update. The groups are conducting programs currently. WWA is also looking to reactivate the Female Economic Empowerment Group and to begin a Health Group. Examples of Group activities currently are efforts to have members and their contacts call the White House and Senator Schumer to support the two voting rights bills sponsored by the Democrats. The Immigrant Rights Group is currently working to expand the NYS Fund for Excluded Workers – asking for an additional \$3 billion to give all workers access to unemployment benefits and health care coverage. Please contact me if you have an interest in learning more about WWA's work or would like to get involved.

February

FEBRUARY 2022

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|------|-----------------------------------|------|------------|
| 2/4 | Current Issues Discussion Group | Zoom | 10 a.m. |
| 2/5 | Branch Meeting (Saturday) | Zoom | 10:30 a.m. |
| 2/5 | Board Meeting | Zoom | 12 p.m. |
| 2/8 | Tuesday Morning Literature Group | Zoom | 10 a.m. |
| 2/9 | Evening Literature Group | Zoom | 5:30 p.m. |
| 2/10 | Deadline for submitting for CHIPS | | |
| 2/15 | Poetry Interest Group | Zoom | 1:30 p.m. |

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