

May 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

## May Branch Meeting

**Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.**

**Greenburgh Public Library, 300 Tarrytown Rd, Elmsford**

This hybrid: In-Person /Virtual Event is limited to the first 40 "In-Person" & 100 "Virtual" people that register for the event. To register:

1. Go to the Greenburgh Public Library Website [www.greenburghlibrary.org](http://www.greenburghlibrary.org)
2. Click on the Events Tab. Select "Calendar" from the drop-down menu
3. Scroll down to see May 4 event. Click on the event.
4. Scroll down the event details page. Click on the "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:** *Gilda's Club Westchester – Celebrating 20 Years of Free Cancer Support*

The mission of Gilda's Club Westchester is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. The organization provides a warm, inviting place where everyone can come together to share their experiences. Its innovative programs are an essential complement to medical care, providing individual counseling, support groups, workshops, education and social activities free of charge to the community.

**SPEAKER:** Debbie Vincent, Director of Outreach and Clinical Partnerships



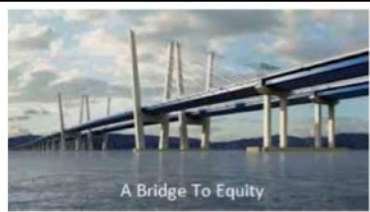
After having been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma 20 years ago, Debbie was Inspired to offer support to cancer patients and their families as a social worker. Her social work career began in pediatric oncology, where she supported and counseled families of children with cancer. Debbie joined Gilda's Club Northern NJ as Youth Programs Manager and served as Director of the Newark Clubhouse. She joined Gilda's Club Westchester in 2017, where she has held several roles, including her current position as Director of Outreach and Clinical Partnerships. A clinician at heart, Debbie continues to facilitate support groups and provide individual counseling at Gilda's. She is a graduate of Duke University and completed her Masters in Social Work with a clinical focus at Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service.

*If you have problems entering the library's zoom link for an AAUW Program,  
please call the library at the 914-721-8220*

### **JUNE 1ST SPRING FLING!**

St Andrews has confirmed our dinner reservation for the Spring Fling at 5 pm on June 1st. When we have the menu and the cost a special invitation will be sent to all members.





**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

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**Branch Web Site**

[westchester-ny.aauw.net](http://westchester-ny.aauw.net)

**State Web Site**

[www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org)

**National Web Site**

[www.aauw.org](http://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.

## 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 \$103	_____
Life Members \$36	_____
New Members \$93	_____
Additional Donation/Contribution	_____
Total	_____
Name	_____

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 our website <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 2022-2023 Yearbook your dues must be received by July 31, 2022.***

Since our Westchester Branch's main source of revenue to support our many programs is our dues [we only keep \$29 of your membership dues – \$67 goes to National and \$7 to NY State], please consider making an additional donation. Either include the donation in your check or pay by credit card by going online to <https://westchester-ny.aauw.net>. Click on the donate button [top right corner] and select to apply your donation to Sr. High School awards, 8th Grade Certificates, or Branch General funds. Thank you for your continued support of AAUW!



There are times when 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](mailto:ahirsch03@gmail.com).

Bridge Photo from NY

Westchester NY AAUW Newsletter

### **BRANCH PROGRAM MEETING MAY 13, 10 A.M.**

AAUW Programming Meeting for 2022-2023 will take place on Friday, May 13 at 10 am at Ellen Leuner's home and via Zoom. Please contact Ellen to let her know if you are attending in-person or via Zoom.

All members are welcome to participate in choosing next year's topics and speakers. If you cannot attend, but have ideas for speakers for the monthly Branch Meetings, please send your suggestions either to Sue Perko or Marie McKellar, Co-VPs for Programs.

Thank you for your help in planning the Branch Meetings.

### **CURRENT ISSUES GROUP**

The Current Issues Interest Group will have a Zoom meeting on Friday, May 6 at 10 a.m. There will be two topics discussed, including an aspect of the Ukraine War.

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

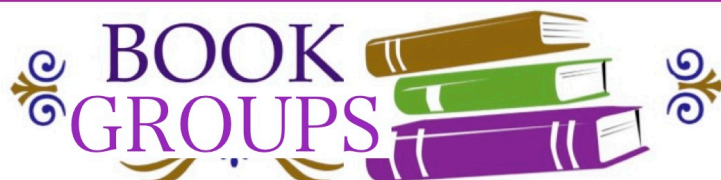
**Have  
You Seen  
Our Web Site?**

**[westchester-ny.aauw.net](http://westchester-ny.aauw.net)**

**Board minutes are posted on the Web Page.**

### **ART INTEREST GROUP**

On May 18th the Art Interest Group will visit the William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation Gallery. If you would like to join us, please email Shelli Pines.



### **TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP**

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on May 10 at 10 a.m., via Zoom, to discuss the novel, Gilead, by Marilynne Robinson. Thea Jacobs will lead the conversation. Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you'd like to join our group.

### **EVENING LITERATURE GROUP**

The Evening Literature Group will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11 at Stone Fire Restaurant in Mt. Kisco. Ellen Eschmann will lead the discussion of The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah. Contact Marsha Savino by email, text or phone if you plan to attend. If you have questions about this group phone Ellen Eschmann, the group leader.

### **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 2022-23 are \$93, of which \$90 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](mailto:westchesteraauw@gmail.com)



## **ANOTHER FIRST!**

**-by Selena Barron**

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) advances gender equity through research, education and advocacy. Our nonpartisan, nonprofit organization has more than 170,000 members and supporters across the United States, as well as 1,000 local branches and more than 800 college and university members.

On April 7th AAUW Chief Executive Officer Gloria L. Blackwell issued the following statement on the confirmation of another first for women supported by AAUW.

*"We witnessed a historic and momentous occasion today when, in a bipartisan vote, the U.S. Senate confirmed Ketanji Brown Jackson as associate justice to the Supreme Court of the United States. As the first Black woman in this esteemed role, she will add to the breadth of insights, perspectives and life experiences on the bench—and our nation and our system of justice will be better for it. Congratulations to the soon-to-be Justice Jackson, and thank you to all the U.S. Senators who voted to confirm her."*



This moment marks another major step forward for women, and the American Association of University Women is proud to have been part of that progress. Over the course of our 140-year history, our activism and advocacy have contributed to the achievement of many firsts.

We stood strong when Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman Supreme Court justice; when Nancy Pelosi was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives; when Hillary Clinton ran for president as the first woman nominee of a major U.S. political party; and when Kamala Harris was elected vice president, to name just a few. These women's accomplishments may now seem commonplace, but we must never forget the hard work and sacrifice it took to break new ground. And now Judge Jackson's confirmation by the U.S. Senate is a landmark achievement for gender and racial equity.

It should go without saying that Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson has the intelligence, the integrity, the legal acumen and the sound judicial temperament that make her exceptionally qualified for a seat on the highest court in the land. But just for the record, we'll say it again. Throughout the challenging hearings of the past month—during which she responded to more than 20 hours of questioning, submitted more than 1,500 written responses to the committee and offered every Senator the opportunity to meet in person—she displayed an unparalleled level of leadership, patience and grace.

Judge Jackson proved to the nation that her credentials are exceptional, her character is unimpeachable and her dedication to the rule of law and the U.S. Constitution, unwavering. With great joy and enormous pride, we look forward to the imprint she will make on the court and on our country.

As a member of our AAUW branch, you can be proud that you are a woman successfully advocating for gender equity for women! !

### **GREATER ACCESS TO AAUW WESTCHESTER'S MONTHLY SPEAKERS' PROGRAM**

Great news. As many of you know, The Town of Greenburgh Library has been recording, editing and posting our monthly AAUW Programs on their website. You can watch the videos on demand here: by using this link: <http://www.greenburghpublicaccess.com/#>

Now, the Town of Greenburgh has requested that those video recordings would also be posted on Public Access TV. Once they are put up on this medium, you will be able to access them on:

- Channel 75: Public Access
- Channel 76: Government Access
- Channel 77: Educational Access

For local programming: Cablevision channel 75, Verizon channel 34

## ADVOCACY NEWS – APRIL-MAY 2022

by Jane Pendergast



Did the Governor's budget play well to advocates? The campaign by organizations within the POWHER-NY coalition and other groups statewide to significantly increase state funding for home care and childcare saw measured increases in the Governor's budget. The increased funding is welcome, but it was not sufficient to provide broadly affordable childcare, to bring caregivers' pay high enough to attract workers and build the profession, and thus to promote women's return to work. Yet the governor's office has strongly encouraged POWHER advocates to continue collaborating with them to pursue their mutual goals. Regarding the new childcare benefits, they will be available to both working parents and parents in school, but undocumented children will not.

On a related note, the budget includes some healthcare benefits for undocumented residents over 65, but it pulled back existing coverage for certain undocumented residents. The *Coverage for All* campaign, supported by a number of Westchester women's organizations, would have expanded healthcare coverage to undocumented residents, did not gain support in the budget..

On issues beyond the budget, the state bill on pay transparency is progressing through the chambers, and POWHER understands it has a good chance of passing in this session. However, the NYC pay transparency legislation passed in January faces amendments supported by Council leaders, which POWHER-NY opposes. These changes would exempt employers with 15 or fewer employees from listing salary ranges instead of the currently 4 or fewer employees, which is the standard for the NYC Human Rights Law, exempt all jobs that could be done remotely, in whole or in part, create a giant loophole for employers to place a general "Help Wanted" job posting without having to reveal salary information, postpone the start date for the law which is scheduled to go into effect on May 15, 2022. Please go to POWHER-NY's website for steps you can take to oppose these amendments. ACT NOW to Save the NYC Salary Range Law! | PowHer™ New York ([powherny.org](http://powherny.org))

### THE HISTORIAN: 1960- 1961 THE BIRTH OF THE 1960'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION

Submitted by Elaine Weiss, Branch Historian

On May 9, 1960 the Food and Drug Administration approved the first oral contraceptive, commonly known as "the pill," for sale as birth control in the United States. The conflict over a personal right for women that fills our press today led to private individual freedom for women.

November 1961: Women Strike for Peace, founded by Bella Abzug and Dagmar Wilson, drew 50,000 women nationwide to protest nuclear weapons and U.S. involvement in war in southeast Asia.

December: 1961: President John F. Kennedy issued an executive order establishing the President's Commission on the Status of Women. He appointed former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to chair the commission.

The year 1961 continued the active role of AAUW. Mt. Kisco member activities included art studies, music, theater and literature group. Another group was International Relations. Dr. Maurice Hennessy, a former British diplomat and journalist, spoke about the Belgian Congo.

Some Mt. Kisco members were also involved in a Tuesday and Thursday program called "School Yourself." All AAUW Members were invited to a reception for U.N. guests at the Chappaqua PTA Art Fair. The AAUW supported local school programs and became involved in projects to improve the quality of education.

The cultural revolution for women was born. AAUW did and continues to help it grow

## GIRLS FOR STEM YOUNG SCIENTIST SYMPOSIUM By Susan Appel

We are very excited to introduce our first Young Scientist Symposium at our Girls For STEM event, which was held at the College of Mt. St. Vincent on April 30. Our speakers were high school seniors from Westchester and New York City, who have already made impacts in STEM fields and won awards at the Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS). Two of them, Aliya Fisher and Anika Puri, were the first two high school students to present workshops at one of our earlier Explore Your Opportunities conferences.

The high school seniors that presented workshops this year were the following:

- Aliya Fisher, from the Bronx High School of Science, was a member of the STRIDES group, which taught seventh grade girls how to make and use inexpensive foldable microscopes. For her STS project, she investigated circadian clocks in the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster*.
- Anika Puri, from Chappaqua High School, enabled the girls to create art using Artificial Intelligence. Her STS project also included Artificial Intelligence, with which she created a real-time wildlife-poaching detector.
- Victoria Li, from Hunter College High School, did a computational biology and informatics project, exploring CRISPR-Cas 9 gene editing.
- Nyasha Nyomi, from Ossining High School, did a behavioral and social science project on a topic that wouldn't be expected in a science project. She found that Instagram influencers endorsed more unhealthy food and beverage products compared to celebrities.

When they became semifinalists, \$2,000 was given to each young woman and her school. In addition, Victoria and Nyasha were among the forty finalists, and each received an additional \$25,000.



5/4	Board Meeting		4 p.m.
5/4	Branch Meeting	Greenburgh Library or Virtual	5:30 p.m.
5/6	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
5/10	Deadline for submitting for CHIPS		
5/10	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
5/11	Evening Literature Group	Stone Fire Restaurant, Mt. Kisco	6 p.m.
5/12	Art Interest Group	William Louis-Dreyfus Gallery	
5/13	Branch Program Meeting	Ellen Leuner's Home or Zoom	10 a.m.
5/17	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom	1:30 p.m.

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

**Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Spring Fling on June 1st at 5 p.m.**