

The AAUW Branch Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2022, at 5:30 pm

at the Town of Greenburgh Public Library

Ellen Leuner, Co-President, welcomed everyone to our AAUW Westchester's hybrid April Branch meeting. She thanked librarians Christa O'Sullivan, and Justin Sanchez, the Library's tech wizard, for making this hybrid presentation happen.

AAUW Westchester is the local Branch of the National American Association of University Women. We are comprised of women and men with the mission to advance gender equity for women & girls through research, educations & advocacy. We are a non-profit organization, and we hope you will consider joining us. Brochures and Fact Sheet are available at the entrance.

The next few months are packed with some signature events, as well as interesting gatherings

8th Grade Certificates: Our Westchester Branch of AAUW offers certificates for excellence in STEM to three young women in the 8th grade at all Westchester middle schools, recognizing those who excel in mathematics and/or science and/or computer science. Our goal is to recognize the young women's accomplishments and encourage girls to continue pursuing STEM studies. Last year, we awarded approximately 150 certificates to deserving 8th grade girls. If you are available to donate a few hours on an afternoon in May to meet up in Tarrytown for certificate printing, envelope stuffing, and labeling, we would greatly appreciate your help.

- Please contact Meghan Marrero, the co-chair, to volunteer.

April 7, The Art Interest Group is going to the Hudson River Museum to see the exhibits "Frida Kahlo in Context," "The World of Frida," and "Collection Spotlight: Women Photographers."

April 14: Running & Winning Workshop for high school girls interested in a possible career in politics will be held at Manhattanville College sponsored by AAUW and the League of Women Voters. Mary Logan is our chairperson

April 30 Girls for STEM will take place virtually with Mount Saint Vincent College for 7th & 8th grade girls. This is a very exciting hands-on virtual laboratory. Registered students will have items needed for guided experiments mailed to them, so they may participate with hands on science experiments.

- Registration is available on our website. Please encourage schools, students and their Parents to participate.
- 8 workshops with only 12-14 students per class
- Parent workshop on how to financially prepare for your daughter's college education.

It was reported that we have outstanding teen presenters at our Girls for STEM event. 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 are 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 our event, formerly called EYO - Explore Your Opportunities. Both will be presenting workshops again at our Girls for STEM event this year.
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- Aliya, 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*.
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- At her workshop, Anika, 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.
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- Victoria Li, from Hunter College High School, did a computational biology and informatics project, exploring CRISPR-Cas 9 gene editing.
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- 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.
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- 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.
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- (Information supplied by Susan Appel)

May 13, at 10 am, the Program Meeting for 2022-2023 will be held at Ellen Leuner's home and via zoom. We encourage all members to bring their ideas for next year's speaker presentation programming. More information will be listed in CHIPS.

Elections: The Westchester AAUW Slate of Officers for 2022-2023, was approved. The officers are:

Co-Presidents:

Susan Damplo

Rene Parmar
Co Vice-President Membership:
Thea Jacobs
Marie Schenk
Co-Vice-President Program:
Diana Lennon
Teresa H. Neal
Corresponding Secretary:
Abby Hirsh
Co-Recording Secretary:
Marcia V. Keizs
Elaine Weiss
Treasurer
Cynthia Plater

The Budget for 2022-2023 was approved.
The increase in dues for 22-23 to \$103 was approved.

Co- President, Rene Parmar reported that our many AAUW Interest Groups let us interact and bond with other members. This year a Historian Interest Group was formed, and they are documenting our local AAUW Branches history. She encouraged members to think about and to suggest other areas of interest that would be a benefit to our members.

Marie McKellar, Co- Vice -President or Programing, introduced our speaker, Dr. Susan Burns, President of the College of Mount Saint. Vincent.

Dr. Burns presentation on “Beyond Venus and Mars: The Journey of Understanding the Psychology of Sex and Gender” was very engaging. She highlighted some interesting historical approaches to understanding gender differences and recent research insight on the similarities and differences of women and men. She also spoke briefly on her gendered experiences that lead her to write the textbook, Psychology of Sex and Gender, released in 2019.

After the question-and-answer period, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Leuner, Co-President.