

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

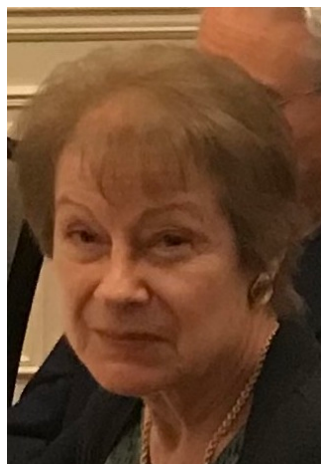
HONORING A MEMBER WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

Submitted by Elaine Weiss, Branch Historian

Marie McKellar shaped the lives of her students and the history of AAUW Westchester. Marie will be moving to her hometown Chicago in June. We will miss her presence but not her ideas. Some members will continue to interact with her though zoom in with the Current Issues Group. When I asked Marie to be interviewed for the Historian, she often mentioned her belief in women's need for positive reinforcement and camaraderie in order to achieve. I learned a lot from Marie during that discussion. It is my honor to share Marie's words that follow.

Why was I interested in AAUW and why did I get so involved? How did I get started?

-Submitted by Marie McKellar



I was a faculty member at Mercy College in Math & CIS. I had been the Department Chair for 15 years. When I was Chair, it was the largest department in the College. We had 30 full time faculty and 90 adjuncts. The 30 full time faculty were 15 males and 15 females. Then I had a three year leave of absence since my husband had an overseas assignment with IBM in Tokyo and I taught at Temple University, Japan. When I returned, I found out that the Math major at Mercy had been decimated. It had been thriving before I left. When I looked at the statistics, I saw that men were still majoring in math, but not women.

I started reading about women and math and AAUW had a number of publications. I ordered and read the publications and was very impressed. The publications stressed many things about women's ways of learning, such as that women need positive reinforcement, but men often do better with negative reinforcement. I decided to start a club for women in math and science. I got

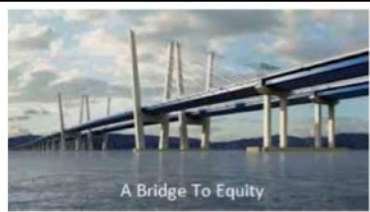
together all of the female faculty in math and science and we worked together on this club. It was phenomenally successful. The September before we started we had three women in Calculus (the feeder course for the math major). The following year we had 20. Also, the number of men in Calculus increased from 14 to 17. We did a lot of publicity about the advantages of a math or computer major—we zeroed in on women, but also invited men to our gatherings. I was so impressed with the AAUW publications that I joined AAUW National.

A family business emergency arose and I had to quit teaching (after 30 years) to deal with the problem. But, I missed the camaraderie of the faculty and students. Then I got an invitation that our Branch sent to National members to a New Members' Coffee. I attended and I liked the women, so I decided to join the Branch. I might note that New Members' Coffee Invitations sent to National members have brought a number of new members, such as myself, to the Branch.

I joined the Branch and liked the sociability with intelligent women. I also liked the mission. But the mission alone would not have been enough for me—I needed the sociability.

I attended one meeting (I cannot remember what it was about) at Elaine Flamm's house and she was talking about the Summer Activities. She was Chair, but needed someone to take over. She said it was really easy and a new member could easily do it. She looked straight at me and I was the only new member in the group. So, I gracefully gave in and agreed to do it if she would help me and tell me exactly what to do.

(continued at the bottom of page 4)



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

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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

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.

CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The Current Issues Interest Group will have a Zoom meeting on Friday, June 3 at 10 a.m. There will be two or three topics discussed, as usual. For further information, please contact Selena Barron, Diona Koerner, or Marie McKellar.

ART INTEREST GROUP

On June 10 the Art Interest Group will visit Lyndhurst to tour the mansion and the art exhibit "Women's Work." If you would like to come, please email Shelli Pines.

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



TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on June 14, via Zoom, to discuss the non-fiction book, *Provenance: Con Man, Forger...* by Laney Salisbury and Aly Suji. Ellen Leuner will lead the conversation. After that, we'll select the books for the coming year. Please send your nominations to Wilma Gitchel by June 1. She'll compile a list of the books nominated and get it out to you in time for you to review it before the June 14 meeting.

Please contact Wilma if you have any questions or would like to join our group.

EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Literature Group will meet at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15 at Barbara Wright's home to recommend and choose the books for next year. Contact Barbara Wright by email or phone if you plan to attend and to let her know what you will bring to the pot luck dinner. Weather permitting the group will meet outdoors.

If you have questions about this group phone Ellen Eschmann, the group leader. New members are welcome.

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



DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN!

Westchester AAUW Spring Fling

Wednesday, June 1 at 5 p.m.

St. Andrew's Golf Club in Hastings on Hudson, NY

Both the 5-5:30 pm cocktail party and dinner will happen out outside on the deck. The cocktail party will be on the uncovered part of the deck with the "Cheese, Fruit and Crackers Display" set up under a small tent. A cash bar is available.

The main dinner will be under the large tent. Hopefully, it will be warm on June 1st. Saint Andrews does have outside heaters if they are needed. Bring a sweater if concerned about being chilly. The outside tables seat 6 people.

Your check to Susan Gardner is your RSVP!

Cost is \$40 per person. Make checks to AAUW

**Westchester and send to Susan Gardner, 19 Robbie
Road, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567 .**



(Continued from page 1)

Through this activity, I met other members such as Eve Widdows, Dee Cantrel, and Marge DeYongh. They started mentoring me. They were terrific.

They asked me to be on a Nominating Branch Project. The Branch needed a new President. I, on the Nominating Project, asked between 10 to 12 people to take on the job of President. No one would do it. So, Marge, Dee, and Eve asked me to do it and they promised they would help me. They really worked hard with me. Together we redid the Bylaws and Handbook, among other things.

After my three years as President (2003—2006), I gratefully retired as President and stayed away from administration. Then several years later the Branch was in trouble and no one would be President. Some members came to me for help. This was ~ 2014. I ended up being Chair of the Nominating Branch Project again and I suggested the concept of Co-Presidents and I recruited two Co-Presidents, Roli Wendorf and Diona Koerner, who were terrific.

There had been a Current Issues Group, and Selena Barron and I kept it going, along with Doris Lowenfels and Diona Koerner, all terrific.

In 2019, no one would take the Co-Presidency, so I took it again for 2019--2020. I thought the Branch would be in trouble if we did not have a second Co-President, so I took it for one year. After that year, I recruited Ellen Leuner to replace me, so I was able to step down. She has been terrific.

Then in September 2020 we suddenly needed a new Co-VP for Programs--someone resigned. I knew the duties. I would either have to train someone else or do it myself. We were in a time bind, so it was easier to do it myself. So, Sue Perko and I have worked together for two years as Co-VPs for Programs. Sue Perko has terrific ideas, and I did much of the organizing.

So, here we are. I leave the Branch in good hands. The friendship and camaraderie of intelligent, dedicated members has been so important to me, along with the mission. At various times, I think I have helped to keep the Branch together. It was a lot of work, but I received the benefit of the friendship and camaraderie of terrific people working for an important mission and that made the work very worthwhile. Two take-aways-- mentoring and working together were so important. 1) Mentoring made it possible for me to be President. 2) "It takes a Village." No one can do it alone—work together with others.

WESTCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL FEMALES LEARN THE ART OF RUNNING & WINNING

By Mary Logan with contributions from Susan Damplo



On April 21, 2022, the League of Women Voters-Westchester and AAUW-Westchester with support from the Westchester Community Foundation and other sponsors, hosted its 10th annual Running & Winning Workshop. AAUW-Westchester member Mary Logan recruited branch volunteers Jane Pendergast and Susan Damplo. Women elected officials at all levels of NY government including NYS Senator Shelley Mayer, five members of the Westchester Board of Legislators (including the Chairwoman, Vice Chairwoman, and Minority Leader) and many council members, supervisors, village mayors and trustees enthusiastically shared with junior and senior students how they

got started in politics, the challenges they faced, and the rewards of doing something about issues that were important to them and their constituents.

Senator Mayer urged students to run, noting, “we need new voices”. Omayra Andino, Tuckahoe Mayor stressed the importance of women having a seat at the table because “women in government make good decisions”. Tasha Diaz, Yonkers Councilmember described how as a young mother she knocked on 1000 doors then won by 900 votes. Accompanying her were her young cousins who “were my why”, “figure out your why”. Catherine Borgia, the second Chairwoman of the Westchester Legislature in its 52-year history, encouraged students to “go for it even if they don’t have every qualification listed because men don’t let that stop them” and urged students to “speak with confidence”. Joan Grangenois-Thomas, Pt. Chester Councilmember was told to change her name, but she didn’t, urging students to “stand by your story”.

After speaking to the group, the legislators rotated in three rounds among the tables of students answering questions one-on-one. Next the students used what they learned to plan their campaign – choosing an issue, candidate, campaign manager, speechwriter, fundraiser, and PR director. After lunch each group presented their campaign issue, slogan, and fundraising idea. The fundraiser coordinator in one group promoted a Drive-In Movie Night first in English then in Spanish to applause from the audience.

Quotes from student surveys:

- “I learned that the elected officials are just normal, passionate people and I realized the process of running for office is so much more achievable than I thought”
- “The interviews were the most interesting because there was so much diversity shown”
- “I found writing the campaign to be most interesting – you could hear other’s ideas and be creative”
- “Everyone I talked to mentioned stories of their failures, which was sort of reassuring to hear”
- “This experience:
 - made me realize the impact local government has
 - helped teach me to speak up
 - made me more confident in following my dreams and taking risks
 - showed me that I can do anything... no matter what
 - reassured me that my story and my voice matters
 - showed me how many local roles and career paths in government there are

This year's event was held at Manhattanville College allowing for a larger number of student attendees. Leah Dembitzer, LWV-Westchester, Running & Winning Co-Chair commented "Running & Winning is a unique and important opportunity. We are so proud to bring this special event to students and grateful to elected officials who gave of their time and told their stories to inspire the next generation of leaders".



GIRLS FOR STEM -submitted by Lorrin Johnson



The virtual conference was held on Saturday, April 30. The technical part of the conference was set up and monitored by the College of Mount St. Vincent. After the welcome by Lorrin Johnson and Maria Ellis the president of the college greeted the participants and welcomed them to the conference. Even though the program was not in-person this year she encouraged the girls to pursue college and invited them to visit CMSV. They should begin to explore their opportunities in higher education.

Susan Appel introduced the Regeneron Science Talent Fair which starts locally and continues on to international competition. Four local high school students who participated in the competition and were in the top 300 winners discussed their winning science projects. Their discussions included how and why they did the projects and what their future goals were. The four students are seniors and next year will be attending MIT, Harvard, University of Miami and Stamford. All were awarded \$2000 and two went on to win \$25,000. They were most impressive. Anika and Allya have both been workshop leaders for EYO.

After the presentation the 15 participants attended a one-hour workshop of their choosing. There were five workshops. All were hands on. Students that needed material other than regular household material were mailed the needed materials. (We purchased material based on 12 students per lab so we have a lot of leftovers.) The workshops included: Explore AI and Art with Mozart, Let's Take a cell-fie, Brain Games, Survive the Zombie Apocalypse and the Future of Lighting. After the workshop was over the students came back to tell us about their exciting hour.

Thanks to all who put time and energy into the program: Maria Ellis, Sonia Ramos, Susan Appel, Jenny Libien, Liegha Lugo, Barbara Sarvar, Brookie Chandler, Kit Voit, Susan Gardner, Jane Pendergast, Amanda Gunning, Abby Hirsch and Lorrin Johnson. And a very special thanks to Susan Burns, President of the CMSV, Manny Diaz who did the technical work and Dawn Velez who does the event preparation at CMSV.

Most of the conference was recorded. Liegha Lugo, a workshop leader who introduced a brand-new technology field – lighting is going to make a short film for our website about the conference.

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AAUW WESTCHESTER: YEAR END RE-CAP 2022- submitted by Rene Parmar

What an amazing year! Despite all of the pandemic-related uncertainties, our organization moved forward with a set of lovely programs! Following the installation of the new Board last June, we worked together to compile a range of speakers on many diverse topics including women's leadership, climate change, our regional history, art, physical and mental health, and supporting the community. We are grateful to our distinguished speakers for sharing their expertise and insights.

Our organization remains active, with over 150 members. We have had 26 new members join since the pandemic! The interest groups are a big attraction – we have many members tell us how much they love the art tours and the literature groups. Another huge project, in keeping with our mission, is the Girls for STEM conference. Thank you to all who participated in organizing and conducting this annual event. We look forward to seeing it grow following the constraints of the past two years. Also consistent with our mission is the work of our members who are engaged in political and social causes, including partnering with other organizations that advance the status and rights of women. Included in this is the advocacy work at the state and national levels, workshops to prepare women for political engagement, and speakers from our legislatures who have shared their perspectives with us. We will continue this effort going forward.

As a special highlight, our partnership with the Greenburgh Library has grown. We are now able to host hybrid events since this spring. It has been wonderful to see many of you in person. The library has been extremely supportive and expanded our reach through posting our programs in their events calendar and making the recordings available on the public access channel. As part of the State network, we are also taking steps to have joint programs with our sister chapters across NY.

Our thanks go out to the many individuals – too many to name, but close to our hearts - who make our work possible through maintaining records, managing the budget, putting out our newsletter and other announcements, keeping our website updated, and organizing programs. We wouldn't exist without you! We hope to see you at the Spring Fling on June 1st and at many more occasions in the coming year. Best wishes from Ellen Leuner and Rene Parmar, Co-Presidents 2021-2022.

AAUW AN ACTIVIST FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM, EQUAL PAY & MORE

-by Selena Barron

As our current AAUW year ends and we ask you to renew your membership, we can look with pride at some of the policies, listed below, for which AAUW is currently advocating. A more complete summary is on the AAUW website.

AAUW has taken a strong stand in support of reproductive freedom for women. Since 1977 AAUW has been proactive in supporting reproductive rights, including access to contraceptive care, abortion, sexual health education and family planning services. The current action is based on the belief that access to abortion is not only a fundamental right. It is critical to a woman's ability to control her life, her body and her future. AAUW's Public Policy Team is working with coalition partners to fight for reproductive freedom.



The leak of a draft opinion written by Supreme Court Justice Alito in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case indicates the Supreme Court may overturn the 1973 ruling in *Roe v. Wade* that established abortion as a fundamental right protected by the Constitution. Many states have currently attacked this right. In the first four months of 2022, state legislators introduced 536 anti-abortion provisions in 42 states; 33 new restrictions are already in effect if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned. There are 23 states with laws on the books that would immediately block abortion care. It is important that the right to an abortion should not be denied to women based on their financial ability or on the state in which they live.

The Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) is a critical bill that takes the principles of *Roe v. Wade* and makes them federal law. The House of Representatives passed the bill in September 2021. The U.S. Senate has now scheduled a vote on the bill however its passage is in doubt. Let your senators know you want this bill passed!

The AAUW action list also includes other important policy actions that protect women's rights. At the top of the list for employment is equal pay for women. The bipartisan Paycheck Fairness Act passed the U.S. House of Representatives more than a year ago. Now the Senate must make sure women have the legislation to ensure equal pay for them and employers need laws that they must comply with. AAUW asks you to urge your senators to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act now!

Paid Family and Medical Leave: Employees need tools to balance work and family responsibilities. High-quality, Affordable Child Care: Important for child development and provides parents peace of mind, reduces absenteeism and improves employee retention. AAUW has joined more than 50 organizations to fight for affordable, reliable and flexible child care for domestic violence survivors and to urge Congress to include child care in upcoming recovery legislation.

Protection for Pregnant Workers: The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act would ensure reasonable health accommodations and protections against workplace discrimination for mothers and pregnant workers.

The National AAUW website states "Times of crisis often inspire a surge in activism, and we encourage both longtime advocates and new supporters to make their voices heard." We have all seen this support for *Roe v. Wade* in the recent demonstrations, media coverage and articles written in newspapers and magazines.

Membership in AAUW can be addictive and to prove it we have many women who have been loyal members of our AAUW Westchester branch for 25 years or more. Please rejoin for our coming year and ask a friend to become a member with you! As a member of AAUW you are a woman making a difference by supporting equal opportunity, equal pay and equal rights for women.

**Have
You Seen
Our Web Site?**
westchester-ny.aauw.net
Board minutes are posted on the Web Page.

ADVOCACY NEWS – MAY 2022
by Jane Pendergast

Advocacy for key salary transparency bills continued at the state and county levels in late April and May by POWHER New York and other groups, with the Westchester County Legislature passing a bill on Monday, May 9th. The state bill continues to move through the legislative process.



With the Friday, May 6th leak of the Allito draft decision on abortion, POWHER and its member groups focused on advocacy to create a strong New York State response. You have no doubt been following the news that the NYS legislature is crafting a package of bills to respond to an environment in which federal abortion protections no longer exist. In a meeting on Tuesday, May 10th with a senator, we learned that the Senate is working on a package of bills that will cover legal protections, support for expanded programs in the state, and additional funding. You will no doubt learn the details before this article reaches you.

POWHER advocates focused on May 10th on the need to include the Equality Amendment, a proposed amendment to the NYS Constitution in the package to be voted on by the legislature. The Equality Amendment (the bill to begin the amendment process is S.8797 – Krueger). It would add a new section to our state constitution that would provide robust protections against discrimination that work effectively to hold our state and its institutions accountable for dismantling systemic discrimination by broadly prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color ethnicity, national origin, disability, or sex including pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. It would also provide tools to dismantle structural discrimination by prohibiting not only acts of intentional discrimination but also policies and practices that have a discriminatory impact. It will also explicitly include language to clarify that discrimination based on a person's pregnancy or pregnancy outcome is sex discrimination – this is crucial given the national trend of criminalizing people for various pregnancy outcomes, as well as the likely outcome of pending Supreme Court cases that are poised to upend abortion and contraception rights, and the rights of pregnant people. The senator we met with said he believed this bill will be included in the package to be voted on.

Please stay tuned – and check out the Equality Amendment and spread the word.



6/1	Spring Fling	St.AndrewsClub	5 p.m.
6/3	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
6/8	Joint Board Meeting	TBA	10:30 a.m.
6/10	Art Interest Group	Lyndhurst Mansion	
6/14	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
6/15	Evening Literature Group Picnic	Barbara Wright's home	5 p.m.
6/21	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom	1:30 p.m.
6/24 & 25	AAUW NY State Annual Meeting	TBA	

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

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

