

September 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

## CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

**Rene Parmar & Susan Damplo**



Welcome to our new and returning branch members as we begin the new year of AAUW's continued advocacy and engagement in women's rights. Thank you for all you do to support AAUW's mission and the ways in which you are engaged in helping our communities and neighbors in Westchester County.



This year the theme of our branch programs is "Past, Present, and Future: Learning Lessons for a Better Tomorrow." This thoughtful theme, conceived by our new Co-Presidents for Programs, Diana Lennon and Teresa Neal, appropriately identifies that we strive to make the future better, while recognizing history and context. We invite you to join in the many exciting programs and activities that are planned – stimulating, informative, and covering a wide range of topics relevant in today's world. We're especially excited to return to in-person Branch meetings this year, thanks to the support of the Greenburgh Public Library. (For those of you unable to attend with us in person, you'll have the option to Zoom in virtually). We look forward to seeing you!

We also welcome our new Co-Presidents for Membership, Thea Jacobs and Mary Schenck. They have been hard at work throughout the summer connecting with returning and new members. Please spread the word of AAUW to your friends and participate in our branch activities. We're supported by our wonderful team of board members and project leaders. A heartfelt thanks to all who volunteer their time to our organization.

Last year we spent a lot of time and effort dealing with the continuing disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful that the crisis has eased somewhat, and we can build back activities and connections. Despite the challenges, we never lost our focus on advancing girls and women through education, advocacy and research. Our work continues in promoting high quality scholarship for girls in school and college, interest in STEM fields, political engagement, and support for families of incarcerated women. We recognize the need to stay vigilant, as there are numerous forces that seek to take away women's autonomy, resist economic and social equality, undermine mental health, and act in ways that are detrimental to families.

We look forward to another exciting year of working with all of you to realize the mission of AAUW.

### SEPTEMBER BRANCH MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 AT 5:30 P.M.**

**Greenburgh Public Library or Virtual**

**Program:** *Post-COVID: The Challenges Ahead for Women and Girls.*

**Speaker:** Senator Shelley Mayer, New York 37th District

Senator Mayer will discuss the challenges ahead for women and girls in a post-COVID world, with a focus on education, childcare, jobs, and political engagement.

The hyperlink to register for this meeting is <https://greenburghlibrary.libcal.com/event/9241427>





**MISSION:** To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

**VISION:** Equity for All

**OUR VALUES:** Intersectional. Inclusive. Intergenerational. Empowering. Though we are nonpartisan, we are not values-neutral: We fight to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. We train women to negotiate for pay and benefits and to pursue leadership roles. And we advocate for federal, state and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination.

**2022-2023 BRANCH OFFICERS**

**Co-Presidents**

Susan Damplo & Rene Pamar

**Program Co-Vice Presidents**

Diana Lennon & Teresa N. Neal

**Membership Co-Vice Presidents**

Thea Jacobs & Mary Schenck

**Recording Co-Secretaries**

Marcia V. Keizs & Elaine Weiss

**Corresponding Secretary**

Abby Hirsch

**Treasurer**

Cynthia Plater

**CHIPS Editor**

Sue Lambert [slamb47@aol.com](mailto:slamb47@aol.com)

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Abby Hirsch

**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.

Bridge Photo from NY State Thruway Authority

# new members

## A WARM WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF AAUW WESTCHESTER BRANCH!

Laurie Austin

Carol Blum

Marcia Brewster

Amber Cheng

Tria Corell

Sarina Crisci

Stephen Paul DeVillo

Jennifer Fecu

Susan Goodwin

Shirley Lim

Beverly Miller

Kareen Odate

Susan Ferris Rights

Jazmin Shelton

## 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

## AAUW WESTCHESTER BOOK GROUP SELECTIONS FOR 2022-23

### TUESDAY LIT GROUP SELECTIONS

*Lessons from the Edge*, by Marie Yovanovitch

*This is How it Always Is*, by Laurie Frankel

*The Lincoln Highway*, by Amor Towles

*The Plot*, by Jean Hanff Korelitz

*The Magnolia Palace*, by Fiona Davis

*Olive Again*, by Elizabeth Strout

*Deacon King Kong*, by James McBride

*Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng

*The Hate U Give*, by Angie Thomas

*Carnegie's Maid*, by Marie Benedict

*There is Nothing for You Here*, by Fiona Hill

*The Book of Lost Names*, by Kristin Harmel

### EVENING LIT GROUP SELECTIONS

*The Sweetness of Water*, by Nathan Harris

*The Paris Bookseller*, by Kerri Maher

*The Girl With the Louding Voice*, by Abi Dare

*The Sentence*, by Louise Erdrich

*Black Cake*, by Charmaine Wilkerson

*Sex Wars: A Novel of the Turbulent Post-Civil War Period*, by Marge Piercy

*People of the Book*, by Geraldine Brooks

*Count the Ways*, by Joyce Maynard

*The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post*, by Allison Pataki



**KUDOS TO LONGTIME  
WESTCHESTER AAUW MEMBERS!**

Our branch has two new members  
who reached the 25 year milestone:

Annette Coulter and Maria Ellis

Even more impressive, one of our  
members reached the 50 year  
milestone and became a Honorary Life  
Members in AAUW:

Ellen Eschmann

Our branch now has four Honorary  
Life Members and 30 members with 25  
years.

**CURRENT ISSUES GROUP**

Stay current with what is going on in our  
community, nation and the world. Each month  
the Current Issues Interest Group meets via  
Zoom (until further notice) to discuss three  
important topics. Roe v. Wade and Climate  
Change will probably be on the September  
docket. To the credit of our presenters, they will  
change up the venue if something important and  
relevant needs to be addressed. Our presenters  
are flexible as hot topics can change in an  
instant.

To sign up for these Zoom Current Issues  
meetings, contact Ellen Leuner or Adelaide  
DiGiorgi and the Zoom link and topics will be  
sent to you. Join us for some very informative  
and lively discussions.

**ART INTEREST GROUP**

On Thursday, September 8, the Art Interest  
Group will have a private tour of the art exhibit  
at the beautiful Brant Foundation Gallery in  
Greenwich, CT. If you would like to come,  
please email Shelli Pines.



**TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP**

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on  
September 13, via Zoom, at 10 a.m. to discuss the  
novel, *This is How it Always Is*, by Laurie Frankel.  
Thea Jacobs will lead the conversation. Please contact  
Wilma Gitchel if you would like to join us.

**EVENING LITERATURE GROUP**

The Evening Literature Group will meet at 6 p.m. on  
Wednesday, September 21 at Stone Fire Restaurant in  
Mt. Kisco. Phyllis Dale will lead the discussion of *The  
Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris. Contact  
Marsha Savino by phone, email or text to let her know  
if you plan to attend.

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.  
Dues for a new member are \$93 for the  
first year of membership, a \$10 reduction  
from regular membership dues, which are  
\$103/year. When you join the  
Westchester Branch of AAUW, you also  
become a member of the AAUW New York  
State and National organizations.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City:State:Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

College/University, Degree, Graduation Year:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To join send a check to: Westchester AAUW,  
455 Tarrytown Rd. #1354, White Plains,  
NY 10607 or to get more information go the  
Westchester AAUW Website (westchester-  
ny.aauw.net).

## **THIS IS THE STATE OF WOMEN -by Selena Barron**

As the Westchester branch of AAUW begins a new year it is important to review the issues in which women still face and the work that our national organization is engaged in. The following information is from their national AAUW website. Check out our letter from over 50 national organizations calling on Congress to deliver on five key policies women need to survive and thrive across the country, across communities and experiences, and across our lifespans. Then, add your name to sign on, too!



During the COVID-19 pandemic millions of women left the workforce, and to date, 1.1 million still have not returned. As the economy recovers for men and corporations, women are often still being left behind. President Biden laid out an agenda to ensure that we build this country back from the pandemic with equity. And we have made progress. The American Rescue Plan was one of the single biggest investments in women and families in the last decade. The expansion of the child tax credit lowered child poverty by 40 percent. But because of obstruction in the Senate, it hasn't been renewed. Despite the efforts of many in Congress, some members continue to block life-saving legislation. Meanwhile, women are being stretched thin by the demands of work, child care, and caring for their families.

One in three families are struggling to find child care. Yet, the working families of America continue to keep this country running in every industry from education to healthcare, service, small business and more, thus enabling those at the top to reap the benefits. Black, Latinx, Indigenous and AANHPI women have been on the front lines continuing to disproportionately bear the cost.

In 2020, 82.2 million women reported casting their ballots – nearly 10 million more women than men. We voted for politicians who promised to enact policies and pass laws to help us recover from the pandemic and support us in building a thriving future for ourselves and our families. Instead, we see critical legislation continue to stall in the Senate, while state legislatures introduce constant threats to our reproductive rights and our bodily autonomy. Today, women across the country are raising their voices to tell our leaders what we need. Together, as a movement and with a unified voice, we demand that Congress deliver on five policies women need to survive and thrive across the country, across communities and experiences, and across our lifespans:

1. Pass the Build Back Better Agenda: Congress must extend the child care tax credit and guarantee 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave. We need to invest in affordable child care, universal pre-K for all families, expanded home and community-based services, better wages for care workers, and maternal health care. Additionally, we need a long-promised path to citizenship for immigrants.
2. Protect abortion rights and access: Pass legislation, including the Women's Health Protection Act, to protect and expand access to abortion care regardless of where a person lives, how much money they make, or their immigration status.
3. Reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act: This law is essential to protecting and supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and expanding prevention efforts.
4. Protect voting rights: Voting rights are a cornerstone of our democracy and a free vote protects all other rights. Our lawmakers must protect every American from the relentless attacks on our right to vote, especially for Black, Brown, Asian American and Pacific Islander, young voters, and voters with disabilities.
5. Criminal legal reform: To advance racial and gender equity and justice, we need to re-imagine public safety and crisis response through investments in non-carceral, non punitive public health solutions to community, family, and school safety. We must end mass incarceration/mass criminalization, and root out gender, racial, and disability bias from every aspect of the criminal legal system.

Women don't live our lives in silos – we need all of these policies to build a country where women and families can thrive. The President has laid out an agenda to meet the moment with us. It's up to Congress to deliver. Our movement stands ready to work with our elected officials and champions in Congress to get this agenda passed. Even now in this moment of global crisis, especially now, the women and girls and families of our country need us to succeed and to make the united state of women strong. As a member and supporter of AAUW you are a woman making a difference!

## **NYS Annual Meeting Report: Let's Not Be Silent!**

**By Diana Lennon**



“Title IX: Getting Girls in the Game” was the theme of the June 25, 2022 NYS Annual Meeting which I attended with Jane Pendergast as Westchester Branch delegates. The state leaders spoke eloquently about a variety of topics from equity to public policy, from advocacy to local branch goals. The recent overturn of Roe v. Wade served to

highlight the need to continue our work on behalf of women’s rights, and in her report, outgoing NYS President Janice Brown noted how AAUW “has work to do” and reminded us all of our mission to advocate for equity for women and girls. She reiterated AAUW National’s statement that the organization “strongly condemns” the Supreme Court’s overturn of Roe v. Wade, and called it a “major setback for all Americans” that “hurts everyone and especially low income and immigrant women of color and the LGBTQ+ community.” She noted that we are still facing the issues of closing the gender pay gap, violence against women, healthcare for all, alleviating student loans, equal rights, and freedom to make decisions about our own reproductive health.

President Brown also spoke about the introduction of Diversity, Inclusion, Equity (DEI) officers to the state board and urged all branches to name a DEI officer, saying we must diversify to have impact. She remarked positively on the AAUW relationship with PowHer New York and the collaborative work on childcare benefits and passing NY equal pay laws. PowHer will have its first PowHer Equity Summit, which will be held virtually on October 13, 2022 from 3 to 6 p.m. Powher is encouraging stronger ties between AAUW and this organization “committed to accelerating economic equality for 10 million New York women and their families.” (see [www.powherny.org](http://www.powherny.org) and Jane Pendergast’s May 2022 CHIPS Advocacy News for more information.)

In her membership report, Karen Martin explained that unfortunately two branches, Yates County and Cortland, are disbanding, while other branches have suffered the passing of members. She also noted that Westchester is in the top three largest branches after Poughkeepsie and Buffalo! Karen closed her report with the reminder that “membership is everyone’s responsibility.”

Carol Griffith, Development Officer, said we should be proud of NYS contributions to National, which was \$42,872.19 in 2021. Our money went towards protecting reproductive and voting rights, and supporting economic security for women. She thanked the Bylaws Committee – including Westchester’s Jane Pendergast – for their “continual work in progress” on the bylaws.

NYS Public Policy Director Nan Scinta referred to national priorities of advocacy, education, and economic security, and proposed that NYS adopt a fourth priority, climate issues, which passed. She said she will organize a spring 2023 Lobby Day, hopefully in person, and encouraged branches to attend; she will provide talking points and templates for letters to legislators. She encouraged all members to be a “Two Minute Activist” by advocating with lawmakers on our issues at the state and national levels through emails and calls.

AAUW Chief Executive Officer Gloria Blackwell swore in new state President Carol Griffith, and President-elect Suzanne Young Mercer, and thanked Janice Brown for her leadership. Ms. Blackwell outlined AAUW National’s goals, and noted that the last two years have been “incredibly challenging” for all but AAUW has shown tenacity in moving forward. She discussed the goals to increase AAUW visibility, continue to fight for economic security, develop leadership skills, and work towards systemic change in government and diversity issues. She hopes to keep the issues elevated and ensure we have a strong collective voice “to educate and stand up for women’s

rights.” Ms. Young Mercer spoke about diversity, equity and inclusion, and encouraged branches to name a DEI Chairperson and to share their DEI programs and efforts.

Two speakers led the discussion of the meeting’s theme, “Title IX: Getting Girls in the Game” as the celebration of fifty years of Title IX was overshadowed this week by the “loss of rights” with the Supreme Court decision on Roe v. Wade. Dr. Miriam Merrill, Athletic Director, Pomona-Pitzer Athletics, and Kayla Crosby, owner of the Jamestown Jackals, a men’s minor league basketball team, both credited Title IX for helping them to move forward in their careers and to feel they belonged in a male-dominated profession. They pointed out that the most common violations of Title IX are access to sports, space and time for women’s events, and unequal funding. A current controversy in sports centers around transgender athletes, and Dr. Merrill pointed out that “testosterone...doesn’t equate athletic ability.” They noted the Brittney Griner political situation; how there are many post-collegiate careers in the athletic field where women are gaining a foothold, and advised members to advocate for sports programs to empower youth and continue the conversations to “get girls in the game!”

To end the meeting, Janice Brown challenged members to “be very bold in our actions” as there still is much to be done for women and girls, and encouraged AAUW members to action by declaring “let’s not be silent!”

**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).**



**Have  
You Seen  
Our Web Site?**

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

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

hello  
**September**

### **SEPTEMBER 2022**

9/8	Art Interest Group	Brant Foundation Gallery	
9/9	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
9/10	Deadline for submitting for CHIPS		
9/14	Board Meeting		4 p.m.
9/14	Branch Meeting	Greenburgh Public Library or Virtual	5:30 p.m.
9/13	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
9/20	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom	1:30 p.m.
9/22	Evening Literature Group	Stone Fire Restaurant, Mt. Kisco	6 p.m.

*Bridge - every Monday at 11 a.m. in person and/or 1 p.m. online (Contact Cynthia Plater)*



## ***Some In-Person Highlights of Westchester AAUW!***



**Tria Correll the 2022 AAUW Scholarship Winner speaking at the Spring Fling in June**



**Outgoing Co-President, Ellen Leuner, at the Spring Fling**



**Lauren Johnson installing our new Board members at the Spring Fling in June**



**Preparation of 8th Grade Certificate Awards: Susan Damplo, Amanda Gunning (co-chair), Meghan Marrero (co-chair), and Joni Sims**



**Westchester AAUW Summer Luncheon at X20**