

November 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

An Inspiring Female Veteran Speaks about an Outstanding and Challenging Career Path

Retired Colonel Mary Westmoreland, a former combat veteran and administrative officer at the US Pentagon for approximately 32 years, will relay her first hand experiences as well as insight into military careers and the impact on military members and their families.

SPEAKER: Retired Colonel Mary Westmoreland

WHEN: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Greenburgh Public Library, 300 Tarrytown Rd, Elmsford and via Zoom.

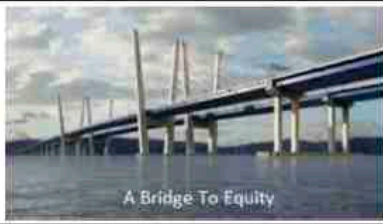
Visit www.greenburghlibrary.libcal.com to register for virtual and in-person, and to receive the Zoom link.



Mary Lynch Westmoreland, Colonel, US Army, Retired, is former Chairwoman of the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans and a decorated combat veteran of the US Coast Guard and the US Army. She holds dual roles with Department of Defense Employer Support of Guard and Reserve Program as NYC Area Chair and NY Region Vice Chair. She is a Board of Director member on several organizations, the Navy League NY Council, and current president of Association of US Army NY Statue of Liberty Chapter. In her civilian years she served as executive director of the Long Island University Southampton Campus Women's Center; Director of Operations for EPIE, an educational research and development institute headquartered at Teachers College of Columbia University; and early in her career as a College Admissions Counselor and Foreign Student Advisor at Pace University. Colonel Westmoreland is a graduate of Pace University and the US Army War College, along with graduate studies at Duquesne and Stony Brook Universities. Among her many recognitions are two Legions of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, five Meritorious Service Medals, and Pace University Dyson School Distinguished Alumna.

AAUW Holiday Luncheon!
Wednesday, December 7th
12 noon





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

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Marcia Keizs & Rene Parmar

Program Co-Vice Presidents

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Thea Jacobs & Mary Schenck

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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

AAUW Westchester NY

Bridge Photo from NY State Thruway Authority

Please Join Us

*New and Prospective Members Coffee
Come & learn what our branch has to offer*

**Saturday, November 5, 2022,
10 a.m.**

**Ellen Leuner's Home
10 Old Jackson Ave. Unit 6,
Hastings, NY 10706**

**RSVP to Thea Jacobs 574-276-4949 or
tmjacobs1@gmail.com**



A big thank you to the members who have already sent in donations for the Annual Fund campaign. If you haven't given yet please consider doing so. Even small amounts help to sponsor AAUW's many worthwhile programs.

**Yes, I would like to contribute to the
AAUW Greatest Needs Funds in the amount of:**

\$1000 \$500 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____

If you do not designate a specific fund in your check memo line, your contribution will be applied to the AAUW Funds, # 9110.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Please make your check out to AAUW Funds and specify in the memo line AAUW Funds or any particular fund to which you would like your contributions applied, and how much to each fund. Checks should be mailed to Mary Logan, 1204 Hall Ave, White Plains, NY 10604. Thanks for your support!

CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The current issues group will meet on Friday, November 4 at 10 a.m. 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, November 10 the Art Interest Group will visit the Aldrich Museum in Ridgefield CT to see the exhibit "52 Artists: A Feminist Milestone." If you would like to come, please email Shelli Pines.

Yearbooks were mailed out on September 21st. If you didn't get yours contact membership chair, Mary Schenck, at schenckm.schenck@gmail.com!



TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on November 8 to discuss The Plot, a novel by Jean Hanff Korelitz. Shelli Pines will lead our conversation. Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you would like to join us.

EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Literature Group will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9 at Stone Fire Restaurant in Mt. Kisco. Cheryl Larsen will lead the discussion of The Girl with the Louding Voice by Abi Dare. 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.

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.



Have
You Seen
Our Web Site?

westchester-ny.aauw.net

Board minutes are posted on the Web Page.

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).

VOTE TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

-by Selena Barron

On November 8th we will have the opportunity to vote for essential legislation that would allocate \$4.2 billion dollars for The Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 which was passed by the state legislature last April and will fund projects that would aim to combat climate change. Candidates running for office are listed on the front of the ballot. You must turn over the ballot to vote YES for The Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act which appears on the back of the ballot.



Here is how the funds will be allocated: \$1.5 billion in climate change mitigation (which includes funds for zero emission school buses); \$1.1 billion in restoration and flood risk reduction; \$650 million in open space land conservation and recreation; \$650 million in water quality improvement and resilient infrastructure; \$300 million in unallocated funds. At least 35 to 40% of funding must go to disadvantaged communities that are most harmed by pollution.

The Sierra Club of the Lower Hudson in its Terra Firma newsletter described the initiatives making up the Bond Act. Projects will include: Safeguarding drinking water by replacing lead pipes, expanding sewers, updating water treatment plants and preventing pollution and runoff. Preserving farms and forests by conserving open space, protecting family farms, and expanding access to campgrounds and nature centers. Updating community infrastructure by investing at least \$1.1 billion to update aging or falling infrastructure and conserve wildlife habitats. Update roads, bridges, and stormwater systems and repair wetlands, forests, and shorelines, improving the quality of life and saving money for taxpayers. Projects such as the expansion of clean energy infrastructure, retrofitting public buildings, planting street trees, creating community gardens, purchasing clean air school buses, and creating shelters that save lives during heat waves, all of which will improve public health and safety.

The Bond Act will also help improve the New York State economy. For example, replacing lead pipes, updating sewers, fixing roads and retrofitting buildings all create jobs. The number of new workers who will be needed has been estimated at almost 100,000. Local cities, towns and villages all over the state will benefit. Workers will benefit from well paying, family sustaining, green jobs. These new employees will pay NY State income taxes and spend money in their local communities. Companies and workers will be attracted to living in New York State with our clean drinking water and improved clean air quality. There are a large number of groups supporting The Bond Issue including the AFLCIO.

To combat climate change and improve public health and safety for all New York residents please take action and vote yes for The Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Bond Act!



**A Note to our members from Co-President,
Rene Parmar:**

**Please note the following changes in our
AAUW Westchester Board.**

New Co-President: Marcia Keizs

New Co-Recording Secretary: Susan Appel

New Treasurer: Barbara Sarver

**Join me in welcoming them to our Board,
and we look forward to your continued
support!**



Holiday Gifts for Children

Every year the Westchester AAUW branch collects gifts and monetary donations for the children of mothers in the Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities. We will continue that tradition this year and bring joy to about 450 children.

Here are the ways you can donate:

1. Send a check donation (make checks out to Hour Children Parenting Center), gift cards or amazon gifts to:

**Hour Children/Deb Rigano
180 E. Prospect Avenue / PO Box #229
Mamaroneck, NY 10543**

2. Use the list below to purchase a gift either in person or through Amazon.

You may bring your gift to the AAUW Holiday Party on December 7.

Please – Only NEW and UNWRAPPED Items)

Ages 0-2: V-Tech (6-36 months – we need 26 of the same type); Clothing: for Newborns to 2T ; Baby Blankets (Toddler Size); Rattles; Teething Rings (NUBY Brand); Muslin Swaddles; Winter Hats (Newborn – 1 year); Stacking Cups/Rings; Baby Einstein or Fisher Price Toys; Shape Sorters: Hooded Fleece Bunting (up to 18 months)

Ages 3-5: Large Trucks; Baby Alive Dolls; Disney Character Items; Crafts Sets; Baby Dolls; Disney Princess Dolls

Ages 6-10: Legos; K'Nex/Playmobile; Barbie/Bratz/Monster High Dolls; Trucks; Transformers; Actions Figures - Captain America, Stars Wars, Superman, etc.; Matchbook Tracks and Car Sets; Plastic Knitting and Crocheting Kits; Cranium, Brain Quest; Painting and Art Sets; 3D Glasses and Books; Train Sets; Card Games such as: Skip Bo, Uno and Monopoly

Ages 11-17: Craft Kits; Sports Balls - Basketball, Soccer, Football; Baseballs, Mitts (**No Bats**); Chess and Checker Games; Friendship Bracelet Kits; How to Knit/Crochet Books; Make-Up Kits Only (**No Mirror or Glass**); Burt's Bees Lip Gloss; Burt's Bees Shower Gel And Body Wash (**No Alcohol in Ingredient List**); Wallets (boys and girls), Burt's Bees Face Wash; Sunglasses (**No Bling**); Headphones/Ear Buds; Watches (**Analog only and No Bling**); Board Games for Ages 10 and Up such as: Apples to Apples, Life, Trivial Pursuit (Adult and Children Versions) etc.; Leather Bracelets; Musical Instruments (No Recorders); Lip Smackers; Bath Bombs; Nail Polish

ITEMS ALWAYS NEEDED FOR HOUR NURSERY MOMS (New or Gently Used) Strollers; Pack 'N Plays; Baby Swings; Bouncing Chairs; Medela Breast Pumps and Accessories; "Boppy" Pillows and New Car Seats

NONE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE ALLOWED: Glass, scissors, sharp objects, pencil sharpeners, mirrors, clay, Play-Doh, items that promote violence, teen/adult clothing, electronics, DVDs, no rhinestones on watches or toys, metal or items in tins; wooden toys, soft dolls or stuffed animals.

WE INVITE MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHIPS

The deadline for each month's submissions is the 10th of the previous month.

Send articles by email to the editor, Sue Lambert at slamb47@gmail.com.

The submitted articles may be reviewed by the AAUW-Westchester Board if necessary.

**POST-COVID: THE CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS
 SENATOR SHELLEY MAYER, NEW YORK 37TH DISTRICT
 SEPTEMBER 2022 MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER**

By Mary Logan

Senator Shelley Mayer entered the New York State Senate in a special election in 2018. She was subsequently re-elected in 2019 and 2020. Mayer received her BA from UCLA and attended SUNY-Buffalo School of Law. A key focus from the start has been advocating for education, particularly for the underfunded Yonkers Public Schools which received a 7.6% increase in funding for 2023. Mayer currently serves as Education Chair.

The impact of Covid was seen in the job market, the provision of childcare and the development of young girls. Women service providers were severely impacted. Mayer fought for unemployment insurance and provision of childcare outside traditional school hours, including overnight. Still a lot of women had to drop out of the workforce. Covid benefits including help with housing and medicine proved lifesaving.

Due in part to many early retirements a teacher and bus driver shortage developed. Mayer fought for money in the state budget to recruit new teachers and pay for training. She tried to get mandatory coverage of every student's internet cost but didn't win.

Mayer strongly believes in a woman's right to choose and supported Telehealth access for those who need it. NYS has passed ten bills to insure all involved in providing abortions are protected from being sued or having their license terminated. A State constitutional amendment protects the right to abortion.

Following the Buffalo and Uvalde shootings, for the first time Mayer received calls from women from both the Democratic and Republican parties asking her to support a prohibition preventing 18- to 21-year-olds from obtaining guns.

Covid made clear that desperately needed caregivers should be compensated appropriately. The Senate passed a fair pay for home care bill requiring a \$2 per hour increase above minimum wage this year and \$1 next year for elderly or disabled at home healthcare providers.

Mayer's #1 fight is to get money that's owed to schools and to prioritize mental health care. She also has strongly advocated for full day Pre-Kindergarten for 4-year-olds. \$10+ million was allocated this year to 250 school districts across NY for this purpose.

Living through the ramifications of Covid brought into sharp relief the great need for supporting women, children and families. Many important support mechanisms have been put in place, e.g., access to tech STEM programs through libraries and developing reimbursement systems when needed. Centered around providing needed responses to the upheaval caused by Covid, Mayer's focus on effecting policy issues was in high gear these past few years.



At September Branch meeting: Diana Lennon, Shelley Mayer, Theresa Neal, and Rene Parmer.

November

11/4	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
11/8	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
11/9	Branch Meeting	Greenburgh Public Library or Virtual	10:30 a.m.
11/9	Board Meeting		12 p.m.
11/9	Evening Literature Group	Stone Fire Restaurant, Mt. Kisco	5:30 p.m.
11/10	Deadline for submitting for CHIPS		
11/10	Art Interest Group	Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield, CT	
11/15	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom	1:30 p.m.

Bridge - every Monday at 11 a.m. in person and/or 1 p.m. online