

January 2023

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

Save the Date

Westchester AAUW Scholarship Luncheon Thursday, April 27

Our branch has a tradition of awarding scholarships to three outstanding female students at Westchester Community College (WCC) who then speak at our Spring Fling dinner. We're pleased to announce that the Viking Café at WCC has reopened so we can hold our scholarship luncheon fundraiser there again. The date is Thursday, April 27. Details will be coming.

Please Note: all donations to the local scholarship fund are now to be made payable to AAUW–Westchester with “local scholarship” in the memo line and mailed to Marilee Scheuneman, 27 Hillside Drive, Yonkers, NY 10705.

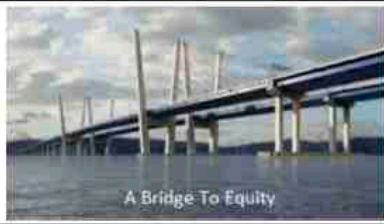
Westchester AAUW January Branch Meeting!

- ★ **PROGRAM:** The Battle of White Plains: Washington and Howe in Westchester.
- ★ **SPEAKER:** Stephen Paul DeVillo
- ★ **WHEN:** Saturday January 14, 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.



Stephen Paul DeVillo is a local historian and long-time guide for the Bronx River Allinace's Bronx River Rambles. He is the author of The Bronx River in History and Folklore, The Bowery: The Strange History of New York's Oldest Street and his most recent book The Battle of White Plains: Washington and Howe in Westchester (2022).



MIGRANTS IN NEW YORK

-by Selena Barron



The December 12th issue of Bloomberg Businessweek describes what has happened in New York City as a result of the recent influx of migrants. The issue includes an overview and individual interviews with both migrants and resource providers. Many of the migrants risked their lives as they fled from political instability and economic upheaval in South America. They arrived in America in Texas or Arizona. Thousands were then bused to New York City.

Their immediate needs are a place to stay and work to earn money for food and other necessities. To answer the need for shelter, many hotels in the city have been repurposed to house the migrants. For those waiting for their papers, work can be extremely hard or dangerous and difficult to get. Migrants can be denied asylum if courts learn they collected pay while undocumented. Multiple non profits have begun to provide help and resources. Two groups, the New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE) and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York have brought together volunteers and organizers. They have enrolled people in construction-site safety training and informed them of their rights as workers. The groups collect work boots for adults and coats for children. In addition they provide information about so-called paradass, the Spanish word for street corners where migrants can pick up day labor jobs. This is especially important because the workers can be paid daily in cash.

At NICE, helmets are lined up above their monthly calendar in memory of migrant workers who were killed at job sites. Part of their mission is to let migrants know about dangerous and unregulated businesses that use migrant workers and to publicize the exploitation many laborers are subject to. At the NICE center in Jackson Heights, Queens migrants come from countries including Colombia, Honduras and Venezuela. Nice offers Occupational Safety and Health Administration clinics, job clinics and a new program to prevent wage theft that is often a problem for undocumented workers. Diana Moreno the deputy director of NICE says "We meet them in the reality of their situation. You have to eat, you have to pay for your family."

Martin Alvarez, 19, and his mother Karen, a lawyer from Honduras were forced to flee to America when Karen advocated for land rights for the country's Afro-indigenous Garifuna people. They both work at El Centro del Immigrante. Karen uses her skills to help immigrants with wage theft and legal aid issues. Martin works as a front desk associate.

Jose looks for work every day and finds it about two or three days a week, mostly soldering. He says "There are good people and there are people that treat us like animals. People that want to squeeze the last drop out of you when you've already given everything and people who are the type to say, "Hey, it's really hot out, go take a break."

Catholic Charities recently bought the top floor of a strip mall in Yonkers that has been a parada for migrant workers. The new space provides English classes, food training and a place to warm up. They also help with immigration paperwork and authorization applications. Gloria Valencia from Puebla, Mexico, has been in the U.S. for 17 years, She volunteers at

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

Marcia Keizs & Rene Parmar

Program Co-Vice Presidents

Diana Lennon & Teresa N. Neal

Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Thea Jacobs & Mary Schenck

Recording Co-Secretaries

Susan Appel & Elaine Weiss

Corresponding Secretary

Abby Hirsch

Treasurer

Barbara Sarver

CHIPS Editor

Sue Lambert slamb47@aol.com

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

Catholic Charities giving free haircuts to migrant workers. Her philosophy: "One has to give back a bit to the community in whatever way they can."

Olympia Campos, from Mexico City, is on the board of the Catholic Charities center in New York City. She says "Immigrants are an essential part of our community. It is so important to provide them with the skills needed to make a living in their new homes."

As members of AAUW we understand these volunteers and organizers and the heartfelt, essential work they are accomplishing. AAUW since its beginning, has fought for women to achieve equal opportunity, equal work and equal pay. On a national and local branch level we encourage women and provide resources to help them attain their goals.

ART INTEREST GROUP

On Thursday, January 5, the Art Interest group will visit the Hudson River Museum to see the exhibits **Matrix: Prints by Women Artists, 1960–1990, Frederick J. Brown: A Drawing In Five Parts, and The Bierstadt Brothers: Painting and Photography.** If you would like to come, please email Shelli Pines.

CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The current issues group will meet on Friday, January 6 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.



TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet via Zoom on January 10 at 10 a.m. We'll discuss Elizabeth Strout's novel, Olive Again. Susan Rights 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 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18 at Stone Fire Restaurant in Mt. Kisco. Sue Lambert will lead the discussion of Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson. 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.

Welcome to our New Member!

Marie Carpentier

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).

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.

In Memoriam

Former Westchester AAUW member Cynthia Plater recently passed away.

Westchester AAUW Holiday Luncheon Highlights!



JANUARY 2023

1/6	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
1/10	Deadline for submitting for CHIPS		
1/10	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
1/12	Art Interest Group	Hudson River Museum	
1/14	Branch Meeting(Saturday!)	Greenburgh Public Library or Virtual	10:30 a.m.
1/14	Board Meeting		12 p.m.
1/17	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom	1:30 p.m.
1/18	Evening Literature Group	Stone Fire Restaurant, Mt. Kisco	5:30 p.m.

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