

November 2023

# CHIPS

*The monthly newsletter of the Westchester Branch of the American Association of University Women, Westchester County, New York*



## CO-PRESIDENTS' NOVEMBER MESSAGE

Abby Hirsch & Marcia Keizs

There is a wonderful podcast with Julie Louis-Dreyfus entitled "Wiser Than Me." Julie Louis Dreyfus is best known for her roles as Elaine in "Seinfeld" and as the Vice-President in the show "VEEP". In each episode, Dreyfus interviews extraordinary and interesting women such as Jane Fonda, Carol Burnett, Rhea Perlman, Amy Tan, Gina McCarthy, Isabel Allende to name just a few.

There are so many things that one can learn from each of these interviews. The two take part in a lively, fun, and enlightening conversation lasting about an hour and we are happy to go along with the ride. At the end, Julia calls her mother and shares who she had just spoken to. This five-minute part of the podcast is almost as delightful as the hour she has just spent with the "star" of the episode.

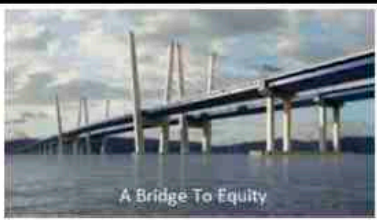
On each podcast, there are a few questions which are posed and answered by each participant.

- \* Are you willing to share your age? Almost all participants are in their late 60's to early 80's and everyone answers enthusiastically and willingly. As a listener, the message is clear. Let us all celebrate our age and not fear letting people know that older is not necessarily old.
- \* How old do you feel? Think about how you would answer this question. Are we supposed to feel a certain way at a certain age? Are we supposed to act a certain way at a certain age? Are we supposed to retire at a certain age? Are we supposed to give up some activities at a certain age? Are we supposed to stop wanting to learn at a given age? We do receive many messages about aging which outline what it looks like and feels like in each decade. So many of us AAUW women continue to do so much and prove that we can define our age and feel whatever number we choose to assign to this question.
- \* What advice would you give to your 21-year-old self? How would you answer this? One of the very interesting answers was "Relax." Such great advice. However, it is impossible to imagine how any of us would have received this and followed it and age 21 or even at our current age.

If you were to do a similar podcast, think about some of the women who you would consider wiser than you and then like to learn from. Many come to mind such as Gloria Steinman, Nancy Pelosi, Whoopi Goldberg and Hillary Clinton. Wouldn't it be interesting to share some names when we meet at another AAUW event? We might have a long and very inclusive list of women. We might have many that are known to just a few. This could be a valuable learning event for us all.

**This is also the year that our AAUW chapter is celebrating 90. How old does our organization feel? We can celebrate this age and know that our chapter does not feel or act 90! We will be honoring ourselves at our holiday party on December 6, which will once again be held at the Kittle House. There are clearly many former and present AAUW members who we can consider to be "Wiser than Us" and who you may have learned something from. Bring these names and let us honor and celebrate our organization which continues to get "Older and Wiser".**





**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**

Abby Hirsch & Marcia Keizs

**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**

Susan Ferris Rights

**Co-Treasurers**

Susan Gardner & Judith Kessler

**CHIPS Editor**

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

**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**

AAUW Westchester NY

Bridge Photo from NY State Thruway Authority

## How to Support AAUW's Mission

Thank you for promoting equity for women and girls by supporting AAUW's critical work! When supporting the following funds, you give AAUW the ability to carry out its bold, strategic vision for the future.



**AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (9110)**

Allows AAUW the flexibility to respond rapidly to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls and to utilize your gift where it's needed most. This fund ensures the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW into the future.



**Education and Training Fund (4450)**

Addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women by championing equal access to education and ensuring that education at every level is free from sex discrimination.

STEM  
Title IX  
Pathways to Jobs

Examples of programs include:  
Fellowships Alumnae Initiatives  
Fellowships and Grants  
Public Policy  
Research



**Economic Security Fund (4449)**

Ensures livelihoods for women through achieving pay equity for women, providing training in salary negotiation, and deepening women's retirement security and quality of life.

Pay Equity  
Title VII  
Retirement Security

Examples of programs include:  
Start Smart  
Work Smart  
Work Smart Online  
Legal Advocacy Fund



**Leadership Fund (4452)**

Supports the effort to close the gender gap in leadership opportunities by bolstering the participation of and increasing the number of girls and women in leadership roles, particularly in education and nonprofit organizations.

Career  
Workplace  
Training

Examples of programs include:  
Campus Action Projects  
Empower  
NCCWSL

**Submitted by Mary Logan, Funds Chair**

AAUW's Annual Fund Campaign utilizes this helpful chart to display four key areas to choose from to support the organization's mission. You'll find the Legal Advocacy Fund under Economic Security while the Eleanor Roosevelt and Public Policy Funds are now under Education and Training. Our national office does an excellent job with many valuable and worthwhile programs that further AAUW's mission to promote equity for women and girls. Think about which fund is your favorite and watch your mail for the Annual Fund request or use the form below to make a contribution now.

**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!



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, Susan Ferris Rights at [susanferris123@gmail.com](mailto:susanferris123@gmail.com)

### ART INTEREST GROUP

On Thursday, November 2 the Art Interest Group will enjoy a private tour of the Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation in Greenwich Village. If you would like to join us, please email Shelli Pines.



### TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on November 14 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. We'll discuss Celeste Ng's novel, Our Missing Hearts. Shelli Pines will lead our conversation.

Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you'd like to join us.

### EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Lit Group will meet on Wednesday, November 8 at 5:30 p.m. at The Lexington Square Cafe in Mt. Kisco. Sue Lambert will lead the discussion of Horse by Geraldine Brooks. Please contact Marsha Savino by phone, e-mail 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.

Have You Seen Our Web Site?

**westchester-ny.aauw.net**

Board minutes are posted on the Web Page.



**NEW MEMBERS!**

Marilyn DeRight  
Andrea Molina

### 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 \$98 for the first year of membership, a \$10 reduction from regular membership dues, which are \$108/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](http://westchester-ny.aauw.net)).

# NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15 at 5:30 P.M.

GREENBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

300 Tarrytown Rd, Elmsford and via Zoom

Visit [www.greenburghlibrary@libcal.com](http://www.greenburghlibrary@libcal.com) to register for in-person and virtual, and to receive the Zoom link.



## PROGRAM

### **Women in Combat in the Post 9/11 Era**

Andrea Molina will speak of her experience as a woman Marine and as a woman combat veteran. She will describe who is serving in the military after the events of September 11, 2001, and the impact of women joining during that time. She also will share her experience as a twelve year peer veteran suicide prevention coordinator/director with emphasis on the

intricacies of the veteran community especially amongst women serving during the post 9/11 era.

## SPEAKER

**Andrea Molina, former Marine, Peer Veteran Suicide Prevention Coordinator/Director**

Andrea Molina is a former enlisted active duty Marine, and as an electrician in the Marine Corps, she deployed during the invasion of Iraq and again during the third phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After coming home she continued her service in the Marine Corps Reserves. She now dedicates her life to policy change, advocacy for veterans returning home after service, specifically combat veterans abandoned by the VA system or by frustration. Andrea holds an MBA from Fordham and completed her undergraduate B.S. degree with SUNY Empire State.

**We NEED  
you.**

**Can you  
HELP?**

**We NEED  
you.**

**Can you  
HELP?**

## **Are You Looking to Contribute to Our Branch?**

We are looking for members with the skills and interest to take on managing our data base, prepare the Branch Yearbook, become our newsletter editor, become the Branch e-mail contact and run the Westchester AAUW Website. These are critical roles to keep our Branch running well.

Barbara Sarver has been keeping the data base and doing the yearbook for 17 years and asked to resign at the end of last year. She has graciously stayed on, but we need someone willing to step in ASAP!

Sue Lambert, who has done the newsletter and been the email contact now going into her 25th year, has asked that this year be her last.

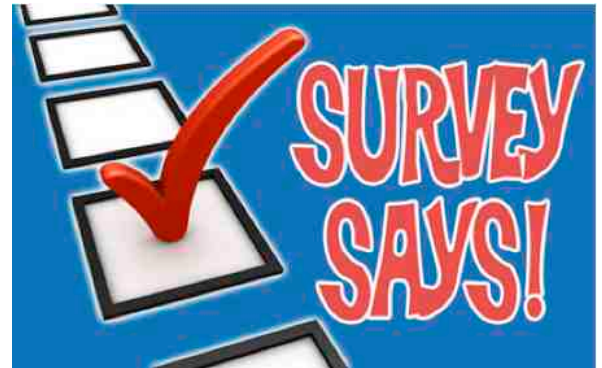
Carolyn Lyall is presently our Web Site manager, but because of so much time spent traveling, she is no longer able to continue in this position.

If you have questions about what is involved in any of these positions, Sue, Barbara and Carolyn would be happy to speak with you about it and answer any questions you may have.

Please seriously consider helping our Branch! Contact Marcia Keizs ([mkeizs@aol.com](mailto:mkeizs@aol.com)) or Abby Hirsch ([ahirsch03@gmail.com](mailto:ahirsch03@gmail.com)) if you are ready to sign up!

## AAUW ENGAGEMENT SURVEY PROCESS AND BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS Submitted by Diana Lennon

In March 2023, the AAUW Board formed an Engagement Task Group to develop an informal outreach strategy with the intent to connect with our members and re-engage them with branch activities. As a result of the limitations placed on members due to Covid, some of us had been and remained somewhat isolated despite the fact that Branch Meetings had been resumed in person at the Greenburgh Library, and that Interest Groups had continued to meet. After this lengthy isolation, we felt it necessary to reconnect with members and strengthen connections with new members. We wanted to hear from them directly about their barriers to attending meetings, programs, Interest Groups, etc. and to then create ways to alleviate those challenges.



We also were interested in identifying any new needs that are emerging among our members while creating a strategy for outreach. Within a few meetings, we had assigned volunteers to the Task Group, and asked that they make a call or write an email to be in touch with a set of designated members. The Current Topics Interest Group was selected as a focus group defined by those members interested in but not attending meetings, and those in need of help to attend. Phone calls would allow us to check in with members and collect feedback, particularly on how to move forward with developing an engagement strategy. The volunteers contacted the group members and shared feedback with the rest of the Task Group.

We then agreed to augment this "focus group" approach to membership engagement by creating a survey of all members. We developed a survey that included eleven questions and varied between multiple choice and short answer responses. Initially we sent the survey to Board members as a trial, and after receiving their feedback during the May Board meeting, we edited and added questions. Our next step was to send the survey to the full membership with a June deadline. For those who did not use email, we had paper copies available at the June Spring Fling. We also promoted the survey in CHIPS. Another email was sent to the full membership to encourage more members to reply, and by the end of June we had thirty-three responses.

The survey questions and responses were presented to the Board at both our September and October Board meetings. In the October meeting, the Board accepted the report and approved the following recommendations for action:

1. Explore methods to carpool by zip code to attend Branch meetings and other Branch activities.
2. Provide technical help for members to assist in using Zoom.
3. Activate methods of re-energizing membership, and encouraging new members, to step into leadership roles.
4. Re-engage membership with "Meet and Greet" before/following Branch meetings.
5. Publish the findings from the survey.

We next hope to develop our strategic plan for engagement and to carry out this work in the 2023-2024 program year.

The Engagement Task Force would like to thank all members who responded to our survey, and to remind all members that Branch leadership values and welcomes members' input, ideas, willingness to volunteer, and commitment to the AAUW mission. We also thank these members of the Engagement Task Force for their commitment to this project:

### **Survey Task Force Members**

Marcia Keizs

Diana Lennon

Ellen Leuner

Teresa Neal

Jane Pendergast

Jean Havens



## **CLAUDIA GOLDIN NOBEL PRIZE WINNER IN ECONOMICS** **Submitted by Celia Serotsky, President AAUW Poughkeepsie**

In 2023 Claudia Dale Goldin was awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences “for having advanced our understanding of women’s labour market outcomes.” She is the first woman to win that award solo. Goldin’s research covers a wide range of topics, including the female labor force, the gender gap in earnings, income inequality, technological change, education, and immigration. Goldin’s research and work is significant to AAUW as it supports our mission of “Providing equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.” Without her ground-breaking work we would not have the data and information that allows us to fulfill that mission.

Goldin was born in New York City in 1946 to a Jewish family and grew up in the Parkchester housing complex in the Bronx. As a child, she was determined to become an archaeologist, but upon reading Paul de Kruif’s *The Microbe Hunters* in junior high school, she became drawn to bacteriology. As a high school junior, she completed a summer school course in microbiology at Cornell University and after graduating from the Bronx High School of Science she entered Cornell University with the intention of studying microbiology.

In her sophomore year, she took a class with Alfred Kahn, “whose utter delight in using economics to uncover hidden truths did for economics what Paul de Kruif’s stories had done for microbiology.” She became fascinated by regulation and industrial organization, the topics that interested Kahn, and she wrote her senior thesis on the regulation of communications satellites. She continued her studies at the University of Chicago ultimately completing her PhD in economic history and wrote her dissertation on slavery in US antebellum cities and in southern industry.

Eventually, Goldin became interested in women and the economy. Her most influential papers in that area have concerned the history of women’s quest for career and family, coeducation in higher education, the impact of the “Pill” on women’s careers and marriage decisions, women’s surnames after marriage as a social indicator, the reasons why women are now the majority of undergraduates, and the new lifecycle of women’s employment. As a result of that research, Goldin realized that women had been largely overlooked in economic history, and she set out to study how the female labor force evolved and its role in economic growth. Her book *Career & Family: Women’s Century-Long Journey toward Equity* contains the full history and concludes with the impact of the pandemic on women’s careers and couple equity.

The topic of equity for women and girls cannot be overstated, and we are grateful for the comprehensive effort of Claudia Goldin to bring this topic to the forefront of our society which guides all that we do in Poughkeepsie AAUW. *(Information taken from Wikipedia)*

### **CURRENT ISSUES GROUP**

If you are wondering what type of subjects we delve into every month, this is what we discussed in October.

1. The right of children to sue their state or country for failure to reduce pollution related to climate change.
2. Eating more veggies and less meat may be more beneficial to climate change than recycling (according to one article). Of course, this hurts the ranchers.
3. Our US Immigration Crisis
4. Follow-up on previous talks relating to the Real Estate crisis in China and the Ozempic drug for weight loss.

Our presenters decide one or two weeks before our Current Issues’ meeting what we should discuss. That is after the CHIPS submission deadline is due.

Come join us on the first Friday of the month via Zoom.

Contact Ellen Leuner if interested.



## 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**

**If you make a donation, please send an email to  
[Laurie.austin@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:Laurie.austin@lehman.cuny.edu). The subject line should read: AAUW Toy Drive  
and include your name and the amount of the donation in the email.**

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 6.**

**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.

*Please join us!*


**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF THE RIVERTOWNS

**NOVEMBER 16th at 6:45 pm**


**MEET OUR WOMEN ON THE INSIDE**

Assembly Member **DANA LEVENBERG**      Assembly Member **MARYJANE SHIMSKY**




**IN CONVERSATION WITH  
NYS SENATOR SHELLEY MAYER**



CO-SPONSORED BY

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF NORTHWEST WESTCHESTER COUNTY



**Ossining Public Library Auditorium  
53 Croton Ave, Ossining**

SPACE IS LIMITED SO WE REQUEST THAT YOU PLEASE PRE-REGISTER HERE:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/meet-our-women-on-the-inside-tickets-742584589497?aff=oddtcreator>  
 for additional information: [info@lwv-rivertowns.org](mailto:info@lwv-rivertowns.org)

*AAUW Holiday  
Luncheon!  
Wednesday,  
December 6th  
12 noon*



# November

## NOVEMBER 2023

11/3	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
11/8	Evening Literature Group	Lexington Square Cafe, Mt. Kisco	5:30 p.m.
11/10	Deadline for submitting for CHIPS		
11/14	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
11/15	Branch Meeting	Greenburgh Public Library and Zoom	5:30 p.m.
11/15	Board Meeting		4 p.m.
11/16	Assembly Women Panel Discussion	Ossining Library	6:45 p.m.
11/21	Art Interest Group	Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation	
11/21	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom	1:30 p.m.

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