

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' JANUARY MESSAGE

Abby Hirsch & Marcia Keizs

To Kill a Mockingbird, Nineteen Eighty Four, The Catcher in the Rye, Song of Solomon, The Handmaid's Tale, Huckleberry Finn, Brave New World, Mad Honey, 1619, Green Eggs in Ham, Harry Potter- what do all of these have in common? They are all titles of books that have been banned in the United States.

Last summer I was vacationing on Martha's Vineyard with my family. One afternoon my 15-year-old granddaughter and I wandered into a favorite bookstore where there was a display of "Banned Books". Talia looked at me and asked what these books were doing there. I explained how so many books are now being banned in our country and she remarked as only a 15-year-old could, "Well that is stupid." I did agree. On further inspection of the books on the table, she found many that she had read and many authors that she liked. One of whom was Jody Picoult. We realized there was only one thing for us to do. We bought a banned book!

The increasing number of banned books in our country and in our area continues to grow. It is not surprising that Texas and Florida are the leaders in this with Florida having 40% of all of these. It would be hard to find too many states that do not have any banned books thereby depriving children from being exposed to different points of views and missing out of learning from many outstanding authors.

Here are key findings about popular banned books. There are over 2500 individual books in our schools, affecting approximately 1600 unique titles by 1260 different authors. These books are in almost 140 school districts or five thousand schools. The number of children in these schools is over four million.

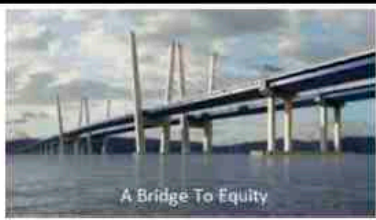
It is important to note the popular topics that are being banned. Almost 41% of banned books address issues relating to LGBTQ+ themes. Characters of color represent 40% of the books, while 21% directly address issues of race and racism. Sexual experiences, teen pregnancy, sexual assault, abortion, and related topics make up about 22% of the books on the lists. The remaining books are memoirs and biographies, pertaining to rights, activism, and religious minorities such as Jewish, Muslim or other faiths.

This is a most undemocratic movement and imposes restrictions on many families and students. It prevents students from learning about divergent views and being able to access a range of perspectives on any given topic. Little by little library shelves are being emptied as librarians are not permitted to allow books that might encourage curiosity, discovery, and freedom to read and think.

There is a list of the 50 most banned books in this past year. Many are women authors and are familiar to many of us. Here is a partial list and their number on the list:

47	Lucky	Alice Sebold	35	The Hate U Give	Angie Thomas
46	The NoWhere Girl	Amy Reed	33	Nineteen Minutes	Jodi Picoult
40	Forever	Judy Bloom	29	Tilt	Ellen Hopkins
39	Handmaid Tale	Margaret Atwood	11	The Bluest Eye	Toni Morrison
			5	Crank	Ellen Hopkins

It is important that we support these authors and express our feelings about the banning of books. Let us buy them, read them, and encourage our friends to do the same.



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.

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National Web Site

www.aauw.org

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AAUW Westchester NY

Bridge Photo from NY
State Thruway Authority

JANUARY BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, January 13 at 10:30 a.m.

**Greenburgh Public Library, 300 Tarrytown Rd,
Elmsford and via Zoom. Visit**

<https://greenburghlibrary.libcal.com/event/10921594>

to register for in-person and virtual

PROGRAM

Alzheimers - Know the Ten Warning Signs

David Zucker, Community Engagement Manager, and Meg Boyce, Vice President, Programs and Services, from the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter will discuss Alzheimers and women. Learn about the "Ten Warning Signs for this disease".



ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®

The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Their nationwide awareness initiatives help raise concern about Alzheimer's and dementia, and move people to join the fight against the disease. David Zucker, Community Engagement Manager, Westchester, and Meg Boyce, Vice President, Programs and Services, will speak to us about their work, and the important topic of how Alzheimers affects women in particular. We will learn about the Ten Warning Signs for this disease, and have time to ask the critical questions to better understand it.



**2023 Annual Fund Campaign
submitted by Mary Logan**

Thank you to the many members who donated to the Annual Fund Campaign this year. Your generosity will help to support the many initiatives of AAUW-National in support of the advancement of equity for women and girls. Your generous donations totaled \$6,500, quite a good showing, thank you!

CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

January 5, 2024 at 10 a.m.

Come join us, via Zoom, for informative Current Issues discussions. Topics are picked 1-2 weeks before each meeting.

Last month's topics were:

1. "The Federal Court's overturning a crucial section of the Voting Rights Act"
2. "The Israel-Hamas War"
3. "The new requirements that are being considered for high school graduation in New York State"

If you would like to join Current Issues, please contact Ellen Leuner.

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



**Have
You Seen
Our Web Site?**

westchester-ny.aauw.net

Board minutes are posted on the Web Page.

ART INTEREST GROUP

On Friday, January 12 the Art Interest Group will have a private tour of the exhibit "Stories of Syria's Textiles" at the Katonah Museum of Art. If you would like to come, please email Shelli Pines.



TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on January 9, at 10 a.m., via Zoom. Our book is The Personal Librarian, historical fiction by Marie Benedict. Susan Ferris Rights will lead the conversation.

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

EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Lit Group will meet on Wednesday, January 10 at 5:30 p.m. at The Lexington Square Cafe in Mt. Kisco. Joni Sims will lead the discussion of Dragonfly by Leila Meacham. 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.

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).

THE FINANCIAL TIMES: WOMEN OF THE YEAR

Submitted by Selena Barron

We seem to be surrounded by anger and hatred that is being expressed through physical action by mass shootings, global conflict, religious, racial and sexual discrimination and political chaos. Now, more than ever, I am proud to be a member of AAUW and its strong advocacy for equal opportunity and equal pay for all women regardless of their race, religion or national origin. As I wondered if there are other organizations that are also championing the value of women, I came across a recent issue of The Financial Times that listed its Women of the Year. Information about each woman was introduced by another woman of high achievement. Three of the women are described below.

Janet Yellen, the U.S. Treasury Secretary, wrote the following bio for president Ursula von der Leyen. “Ursula von der Leyen has navigated the day to day demands of leading the European Commission with remarkable skill and grace and has broken barriers as its first female president. And she has done so during a period of unprecedented global challenges. I’ve seen first hand how she brought member states together to take novel and innovative measures to counter the economic impact of Covid 19 and help drive Europe’s recovery. She has been instrumental in our collective response to Russia’s unjust war on Ukraine, from powerful sanctions on Russia to robust European economic and security assistance for Ukraine, including her proposal for a new, 50bn euro, Ukraine Facility. She has been a trusted partner to the U.S. and to me, personally, as the U.S. and Europe pursue priorities from diversifying our critical supply chains to responsibly managing our respective economic relationships with the People’s Republic of China. At a time when decisive, principled action is sorely needed, Europe, the U.S. and the world are fortunate to have in President von der Leyen a leader whose clarity of vision is exceeded only by her strength of will in advancing it.”

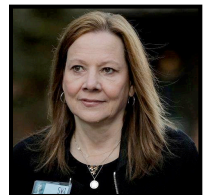


Alondra Nelson, is a professor at the Institute for Advanced Study. Under U.S. President Biden, she was the first woman of color to lead U.S. science and tech policy. She wrote the introduction for CEO Lisa Dyson. “Lisa Dyson, the visionary scientist and biotech entrepreneur, should top any list of iconoclastic innovators. What is more innovative than literally creating new possibilities out of thin air? With her businesses Kiverdi and Air Protein, Dyson – only the fourth African American woman in history to earn a PhD in theoretical physics – amplifies space age Nasa research to build a virtuous circle of carbon capture from the



atmosphere, ingeniously repurposing biomass as a hope for the future of people and the planet. Her businesses offer solutions to two of the greatest challenges of our time: the climate crisis and food scarcity, showing how orthogonal approaches to research and development can serve the common good. Doing well and doing good need not be a zero sum proposition. True innovation does both but requires brave and imaginative leaders who see the world from a distinct vantage, and in as many dimensions as Dyson does.”

Rana Foroohar is the FI’s global business columnist and author of “Homecoming: The Path to Prosperity in a Post Global World”. She described CEO Mary Barra, CEO of General Motors. “When you are navigating the biggest labor action in the automotive industry in decades, it helps to actually respect workers. General Motors chief executive Mary Barra, the daughter of a union machinist, comes from a family that has collectively spent more than 80 years working at the company. She’s comfortable on a factory floor and is known for smooth, no-nonsense competency, which helped her respond to the ignition switch scandal that broke early in her tenure at GM. During the United Auto Workers’ strikes, Barra eschewed the publicity and emotional appeals made by others in the industry and did her negotiating in a low profile way, with workers at the bargaining table. GM became the first company to allow battery plants to be part of a master UAW contract, which has earned her kudos from both labor leaders and the public.”



These women, honored by The Financial Times and the women who wrote about them, are remarkable role models. In order to achieve their honors they completed their education, rose in their fields to top leadership positions, broke glass ceilings and advanced to the very top despite facing discrimination against women and/or racial discrimination. They represent a group of women devoted to solving problems. They are especially outstanding because they have empathy for others and use their skills to improve lives for others by developing and implementing new solutions. Watch for more Women of the Year next month.

WESTCHESTER AAUW CELEBRATES 90 YEARS! KITTLEHOUSE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON DECEMBER 2023



JANUARY 2024

1/5	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
1/9	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
1/10	Evening Literature Group	Lexington Square Cafe, Mt. Kisco	5:30 p.m.
1/10	Deadline for submitting for CHIPS		
1/11	Art Interest Group	Katonah Museum of Art	
1/13	Branch Meeting(Saturday!)	Greenburgh Public Library and Zooml	10:30 a.m.
1/13	Board Meeting		12 p.m.
1/16	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom	1:30 p.m.

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