

**December 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**



## **CO-PRESIDENTS' DECEMBER MESSAGE**

**Abby Hirsch & Marcia Keizs**

Our chapter is 90! It's hard to believe, but it is true. We will be honoring our organization at our December holiday party on December 6th. So, mark your calendars and join us at the Kittle House for this wonderful event. It is our plan that some long-time members will share some memories of what AAUW had been like and what the chapter has meant to them.

Many changes that have taken place for women during these 90 years, and we thought it would be interesting to reflect on some of these. Ninety years ago the right to vote was still very new. Probably many women who could have voted did not, and many who did followed the lead and suggestions of their husbands and/or fathers. No one then would have imagined that there would be so many women in positions of power and influence as there are today or that we might even see a woman president in our lifetime.

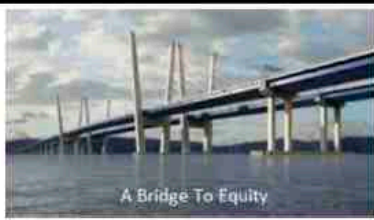
How many women attended college 80 or 90 years ago? The numbers were low, and all the elite Ivy League schools were only for men. In addition, college was costly and not all women who wanted to attend could afford to do so. There certainly were very few women who were studying engineering, the sciences, law, medicine, and majors like these. Teaching and nursing were about the only professions for many women. The times have changed and women today are in the majority in many liberal arts colleges (and these schools are often admitting men with lower GPA's). Many law schools and medical schools are more than 50% female. Young women interested in STEM careers who used to find colleges eager to offer them admittance are now finding it harder because so many women want to pursue STEM fields.

It is also important to recognize that early on women entering college and the professions were predominantly white. How many of us can remember seeing women of color as professionals when we were children? How many women of color did we have in our organization 90 years ago? Happily, for all of us, we are now a more diverse society and this is reflected in our organization.

These changes have opened many career opportunities for women, and it is no longer unusual to see women pursuing a professional career and even being the primary earner in the family. We know and probably use female doctors, lawyers, financial advisors of different races and nationalities. Opportunities for women are very different than 90 or even 50 years ago, which is very fortunate for our daughters and granddaughters.

Remember being single or married and trying to get a credit card? Susan Appel, one of our members, remembers living on Long Island in 1965 and having difficulty even getting a library card. She was a teacher at the time, but it appears that the library did not think she knew how to read. She had to bring her husband to the library to get a library card. Most women then had no credit rating and were thought to be incapable of handling finances.

And how much control did we have over our own bodies? Women's lives changed radically with two events—birth control and the passage of Roe v. Wade in 1973. The pill, however was not legal for unmarried women until the 1960's. Both of these events empowered women. Family size, when to have children and how many children to have gave many women economic stability and allowed women to choose to work outside of the home and pursue careers. Unfortunately, we took a major step backwards in 2023. We are lucky to be living in New York State where abortion is guaranteed. In addition, thanks to the work of State Senators like Shelley Meyer, who is a member of our organization, the abortion pill is available to women in our state as well as many other states.



(cont. from page 1)

Many of our rights will also be protected by passing the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in November 2024. Our current state constitution does not prohibit discrimination against groups such as LGBTQ individuals, immigrants, those with disabilities, or discrimination based on a person's ethnicity, national origin, or age. This amendment will guarantee protection for all. The fundamental focus of this amendment is part of the mission statement of AAUW. Our Westchester Branch will be making strong efforts to assure its passage.

We can be proud to be part of this chapter and to celebrate all that we have done and seen over these years. We look forward to celebrating our AAUW's 90th year on December 6.

**THANK YOU**

## AAUW'S ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN *Submitted by Mary Logan, Funds Chair*

A big thank you to the many 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!

**Have  
You Seen  
Our Web Site?**

**westchester-ny.aauw.net**

Board minutes are posted on the Web Page.

**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

## **CURRENT ISSUES GROUP**

We got a wonderful shout-out from Sandy Camillo, our AAUW NY State VP Public Policy person, who wrote "Your newsletter is great! I love your current issues section. There are so many issues that adversely affect women. I know that together we'll make a difference."

We thank her for her warm encouragement.

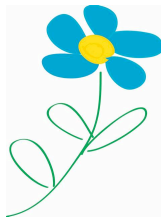
The topics we discussed for our November Current Issues Meeting were:

- The new Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mike Johnson.
- The Revival of US Unions in Protecting Workers.
- The Westchester County Elections. What we should know before you vote.

Please join us on Friday, Dec. 1 for our next Current Issues meeting. Contact Ellen Leuner for more information.

**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)**



### **TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP**

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on December 12 at 10 a.m. via Zoom to discuss the nonfiction book 84 Charing Cross Road by Helene Haniff. Marilee Scheuneman 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, December 13 at 5:30 p.m. at The Lexington Square Cafe in Mt. Kisco. Cheryl Larsen will lead the discussion of Fellowship Point by Alice Elliott Dark. 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](http://westchester-ny.aauw.net)).

## **AAUW IN ACTION**

### **Submitted by Selena Barron**

AAUW is a strong advocate for the passage of federal legislation that promotes work-life balance, including paid family, medical and sick leave. Two pending federal Acts are especially important for women who are often the only primary care provider for their families.



According to the AAUW October 2023 action website The Family Act would create a nationwide, self-funding paid family and medical leave insurance program for most of the U.S. workforce. The act is an affordable, cost effective, and sustainably funded solution that does not cut or reduce other essential benefits.

The Healthy Families Act would ensure that full-time workers in businesses with fifteen or more employees can earn up to seven job-protected paid sick days each year. Workers could use these sick days for their own medical needs, to provide care for a sick family member, or to recover from or seek assistance related to an incident of domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault.

Until there is universal paid leave, workers have to continue to rely on individual states to enact these important policies. Currently nine states and the District of Columbia have a paid family and medical leave insurance law. Thirteen states and the District of Columbia along with many smaller jurisdictions, have paid sick time leave. N Y State enacted sick leave legislation in 2016, effective 2017 (premiums) and January 2018 (benefits). The Act was expanded effective January 2022.

Unlike the majority of developed countries worldwide the United States does not guarantee paid annual leave, paid time off for illness or family care, or paid parental care leave. Especially during medical crises such as the recent pandemic, loss of income resulted in the loss of economic security for impacted families. Many families were unable to pay their rent, mortgage bill or even purchase sufficient food! Some families had to decide whether to continue to work or to lose that income in order to provide care for a critically ill family member. As AAUW members we can be proud of the AAUW advocacy for passage of both of these essential Acts, The Family Act and the Healthy Families Act.

## *Westchester AAUW Scholarships*

### **LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP TO MERGE WITH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

#### **Submitted by Marilee Scheuneman**

We are consolidating our traditional AAUW-Westchester Branch Graduating Scholarship with the Beverly Jordan AAUW-Westchester Endowed Scholarship. The local scholarship has been funded by our Branch for decades. While the Beverly Jordan AAUW Scholarship was established by Beverly's bequest and a one-time fund drive in 2017.

We are making this change to meet Westchester Community College (WCC) guidelines, and to identify our recipients early in the year to make sure they receive timely invitations to our Spring Fling. This change was adopted at the September Board Meeting.

Going forward, fundraising from our Branch will be in support of the Beverly Jordan Scholarship, which will now be awarded to two current female students majoring in STEM fields. The awardees will be identified in the fall semester, allowing our Branch to recognize and meet the Scholarship winners at our dinner in June.

Funds for this award are raised throughout the year, with major funding coming from an annual spring luncheon. All donations are payable to AAUW-Westchester with "Scholarship" in the memo line and mailed to our treasurer.

We look forward to continuing our efforts in support of the deserving women students of WCC.



## 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

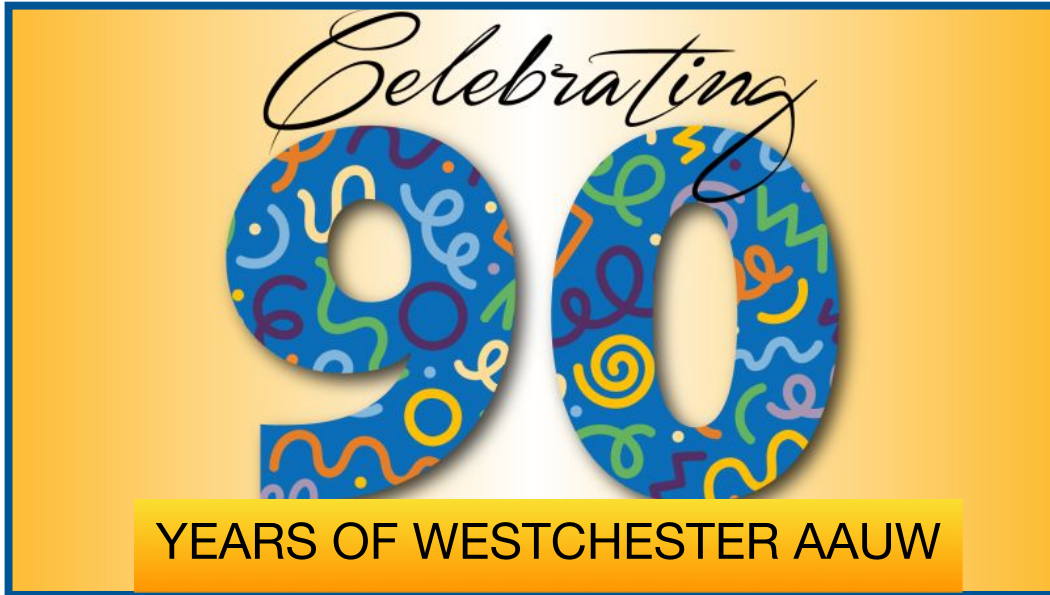
**NONE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE ALLOWED:** Glass, scissors, sharp objects, pencil sharpeners, mirrors, clay, Play-Doh, items that promote violence, teen/adult clothing, electronics, DVDs, no rhinestones on watches or toys, metal or items in tins; wooden toys, soft dolls or stuffed animals.

# AAUW Holiday Luncheon

Wednesday, December 6 at 12 noon

Celebrating Our Branch's 90th Year!

Crabtree's KittleHouse Restaurant & Inn  
Eleven Kittle Road, Chappaqua, New York 10514



## MENU

Chefs Choice of Hors D'oeuvres- Cheeses, Crackers, Vegetable Crudite , Dip, Hummus & Chips, Bruschetta

Butternut Squash Soup in shot glasses

Warm Provencal Vegetable Pastry Tart with Tender Organic Greens Salad ( Duet of Appetizer)

### Choice of Entree

\*Hiddenfjord Organic Scottish Salmon w/ hepworth farm broccoli rabe & cherry tomatoes, wild rice pilaf, yuzu beurre blanc (gf)

\*Pasta Toscano w/ tomatoes, chick peas, fresh spinach, evoo

\*Goffle Farm Chicken Breast w/ local farm vegetables, yukon gold potato purée, au jus

Chocolate Mousse Sheet Cake cake & vanilla bean gelato

Beverages included: Soda, Juice, Coffee, Hot Tea and Water  
Cash Bar Available

**\$54 per Person**

Checks made out to AAUW Westchester Branch and mailed to  
Susan Gardner, 19 Robbie Rd., Cortland Manor, NY 10549

RSVP by Friday November 24th.

## LOG INTO THE AAUW ENGAGEMENT SURVEY RESPONSES

Submitted by Diana Lennon

In our November CHIPS, our Engagement Task Force presented the process and recommendations resulting from our Engagement Survey conducted earlier this year. [The survey questions and detailed responses can be viewed here.](#) The Board will continue the work of implementing the recommendations to meet members' needs and to develop member engagement in our Branch activities, programs, and leadership.



### Survey Task Force Members

Marcia Keizs

Diana Lennon

Ellen Leuner

Teresa Neal

Jane Pendergast

Jean Havens



### DECEMBER 2023

12/1	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
12/6	Holiday Luncheon	Crabtree's Kittle House, Mt. Kisco	12 p.m.
12/10	Deadline for submitting for CHIPS		
12/12	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
12/13	Evening Literature Group	Lexington Square Cafe, Mt. Kisco	5:30 p.m.
12/19	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom	1:30 p.m.

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