

March 2024

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' MARCH MESSAGE

Abby Hirsch & Marcia Keizs

March is Women History Month. Here are a few questions to think about as we approach this month.

What does this mean to you?

Why is it important?

Who is a woman or who are women who inspired you?

The month of March first received this important distinction in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan. March was selected to correspond with International Woman Day which is always on March 8. This day which began in 1857 in New York City is observed throughout the world and women are recognized and honored for their achievements.

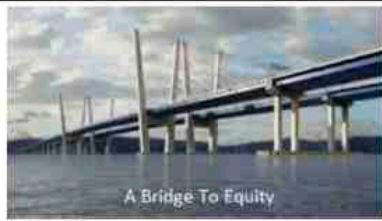
The specific theme for this year is to recognize women who advocate for equity, diversity and inclusion, and to recognize women who speak up and become leaders for change. Within this is the hope that young girls will be empowered in their path to become women. Hopefully they will be empowered with courage, self-esteem, and willpower to encourage them to search for and walk in the footsteps of many who came before them.

With great pride we do many activities at AAUW which are keeping with these goals. Our annual STEM conference encourages 7th and 8th grade girls to want to learn more about careers in these fields and pursue these areas of study. The date for the conference this year is April 18th. Running and Winning, which is co sponsored by AAUW and the League of Women Voters, encourages high school girls to explore public service as a career. They are given the opportunity to be with women in government and learn about their jobs and paths to take to enter government. The date for this event is April 11.

Reproductive Rights and Health Care have unfortunately become urgent needs and important topics for so many of us. In 1970, New York State proudly legalized abortion for all who choose this. Three years later in 1973 the Supreme Court legalized abortion throughout the country in the Roe v. Wade decision. We all know that this changed recently in the Dobbs decision. Although we do feel confident that reproductive rights are protected in our state, this could change. The ERA amendment will be on the ballot in November, and this is an important issue. What does this amendment guarantee?

The ERA would prohibit discrimination by the government based on a person's ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, and sex- including their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes. It would also protect against any government actions that would curtail a person's reproductive autonomy or their access to reproductive health care. The ERA would, for the first time, explicitly include language to clarify that discrimination based on a person's pregnancy or pregnancy outcome is sex discrimination- an essential clarification given the national trend of criminalizing people for various outcomes, as well as the Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade.

This is an important amendment and one that many of us endorse. It will be the topic discussed at our March AAUW program on March 9th at 10:30 at the Greenburgh library. The speaker will be Erica Smitka, Deputy Director of the League of Women Voters of New York State. Everyone is invited and we look forward to seeing you there. It will be a good way to celebrate Women's History Month.



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.

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

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

MARCH BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, March 9 at 10:30 a.m.

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

www.greenburghlibrary.libcal.com

to register for in-person and virtual

PROGRAM

Passing the NYS Equal Rights Amendment

Erica Smitka, Deputy Director of the NY League of Women Voters, will speak about the NYERA Amendment to the NY State Constitution, what it means, and how important it is for every New Yorker.

This November the NY Equal Rights Amendment will be on our ballot. Join Erica Smitka and the League of Women Voters to learn more about this important amendment to the NYS Constitution and how it affects every New Yorker. The current New York State Constitution fails to prohibit discrimination against groups who have been historically targeted, including those with disabilities, LGBTQI+ individuals, immigrants, women, and pregnant people. In 2022 and 2023, the legislature passed a state constitutional amendment that creates new protections against discrimination based on a person's ethnicity, national origin, disability, age, and sex — including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy and pregnancy out-comes, and reproductive health care and autonomy. Because the constitutional amendment passed twice in the legislature, the public will have the opportunity to vote on the measure in 2024. Learn how to keep us on the path to expanding equal protection for New Yorkers.



As the Deputy Director of the LWVNYS, Erica works with Leagues across the state to advocate for the League's legislative priorities. Erica earned her Master's degree in Public Administration (MPA), with a focus on non-profit management, from Syracuse University. She is an Albany native with a passion for grassroots activism.

VOTING FOR NEXT YEAR'S OFFICERS AND BUDGET

Voting for the 2024-25 slate of officers (listed on page 5) and the 2024-25 budget (shown on page 5) will take place at the April Branch Meeting. You can also vote via e-mail to Sue Lambert at slamb47@aol.com.

**please
vote**

If you do not have access to email and will not be able to attend the April meeting, please vote using the ballot provided on page 5.

It is important that you vote so that we reach the required quorum.

CURRENT ISSUES MARCH 1 **10 AM VIA ZOOM**

Get involved. Discuss different topics. Learn more about the issues that impact us.

February's topics were:

1. The 100 Year Extinction Panic Back, Right on Schedule?
2. New York State 2024 Congressional redistricting and elections
3. America's Immigration Crisis

March's topics will be just as interesting. Hope to see you on Zoom.

Call Ellen Leuner if you would like to join.

ART INTEREST GROUP

On Thursday, March 28th, the Art Interest Group will have a private tour at the Grey Art Gallery in New York City. If you would like to come, please e-mail Shelli Pines.

Save the Date!

Thursday, April 11

Annual Scholarship Luncheon at
Westchester Community College

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



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).



TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on March 12 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. We'll discuss Geraldine Brooks' historical fiction Horse. Marge Kingsley 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, March 13 at 6 p.m. at The Lexington Square Cafe in Mt. Kisco. Shelli Pines will lead the discussion of The Last of Her Kind by Sigrid Nunez. 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.

THE CURRENT STATE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Submitted by Selena Barron

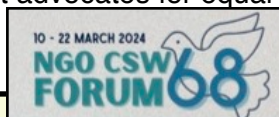


A recent article in the Brown Alumni Magazine written by Helena Pallares begins with the premise that most Americans are against domestic violence. However, although studies in all 50 states show that getting guns away from abusers is the most effective policy to deal with domestic violence, gun control legislation is very difficult to pass and to implement. Based on their studies, Wendy Schiller and Kaitlin Sidorsky co-authored a book, "Inequality Across State Lines". The book notes "This isn't just sort of an anecdotal here and there, this is across the whole country. It's really this coalescence of the Republican Party and the NRA."

They found that in conservative states and some large cities, especially those with high nonwhite populations and histories of systemic racism, when police are called they often do not see much of a difference between the two parties and they end up arresting both the offender and the victim. The offender is then even angrier and the victim believes that the police only makes the situation worse. Schiller and Sidorsky started their ongoing research almost 10 years ago at the beginning of the #Me Too movement. They estimate that domestic violence is a huge problem affecting an estimated 10 million Americans every year. The authors found that in implementing laws, sovereign power in the state legislation, in city halls, courtrooms, and police and sheriff departments, is most effective at the local level in which the domestic abuse occurs.

Victim physical safety is the most immediate, obvious threat to domestic violence victims. However, the authors also point out other threats. For example the abuser can control whether a victim votes by not allowing them to go to the polling place, or preventing them from getting the information needed to register or knowing where to vote. The abuser may stop the victim from using the internet or may control how a victim fills out a ballot that is then mailed in.

The authors conclude: "Human security is the foundation of a civil society. Women who are not assured safety in their own homes and private lives will never achieve the equality they deserve." As a Brown graduate I applaud Wendy Schiller and Kaitlin Sidorsky for their well documented and presented status of domestic violence that they began as undergraduates. As a member of AAUW I am proud to be a part of an organization that advocates for equal opportunity and equal pay for all women.



NGO CSW (Non Governmental Committee on the Status of Women of the UN) will host a forum in NYC March 10 - 22. The NGO CSW Forum 68 informs and inspires grassroots efforts and gender equality advocacy around the world. You can either attend in person or participate virtually. Last year AAUW national had a booth and is waiting to find out if it is accepted to host a booth this year. There will be over 750 events taking place during this forum.

Register now to start exploring the NGO CSW Forum's new and improved virtual portal!

When you register, you will receive a confirmation email with pertinent information and a link to login to the virtual portal to start exploring! [Register here!](#)



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29 AT 6 PM

Unlock the Power of Equality! Join AAUW NY on February 29 at 6 p.m. for a groundbreaking Zoom presentation by Erica Smitka, Deputy Director of the League of Women Voters of New York State.

Discover why the ERA NY is crucial. New York State needs YOU!

The NY state legislature has passed the ERANY and now this November it's on the ballot for voter ratification. Learn how this amendment to the constitution is our key to lasting change. This isn't just another law; it's our chance to make history. The ERA NY is NOT the federal ERA – it's an exclusive safeguard for New Yorkers. Register [NOW](#)

THE 2024-2025 BRANCH BOARD MEMBERS SLATE

Co-Presidents
Abby Hirsch and Judy Walsh

Program Co-Vice Presidents
Diana Lennon and Teresa H. Neal

Membership Co-Vice Presidents
Thea Jacobs and Joni Sims

Co-Recording Secretaries
Susan Appel and Eileen Weiss

Co-Treasurers
Susan Gardner and Judith Kessler

Corresponding Secretary
Susan Ferris Rights

Westchester AAUW Ballot

In favor of the proposed
slate for 2024-25

Yes No

In favor of the proposed
budget for 2024-25

Yes No

Name _____

Please mail you ballot to
Sue Lambert at

19 Pinehurst Dr.
Purchase, NY 10577 or

email your vote to
slamb47@aol.com

2024-2025 Proposed Budget



	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	As of 9/30	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	As of 12/31	As of 3/31	As of 6/30	BUDGETED	Budget 2024-5
INCOME												
Total Branch Dues	\$854.18	\$548.30	\$108.00	\$1,402.48	\$38.29	\$29.00		\$1,469.77	\$1,469.77	\$1,469.77	\$4,060.00	\$4,000.00
Contributions for Sr. Awards				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Contribution for 8th grade awards(restricted funds)				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Donations	\$25.00	\$48.00		\$73.00				\$73.00	\$73.00	\$73.00		
Scholarship Fundraiser for WCC Scholarship Fund		\$45.60		\$45.60				\$45.60	\$45.60	\$45.60	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Proceeds from Spring Fling				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Proceeds from Holiday Luncheon/ X20/ etc.	\$592.80	\$836.00		\$1,428.80			\$2,468.00	\$3,896.80	\$3,896.80	\$3,896.80	\$1,925.00	\$3,896.80
Total Income				\$2,949.88				\$5,485.17	\$5,485.17	\$5,485.17	\$11,585.00	\$11,525.00
EXPENSES												
BRANCH ACTIVITIES												
8th Grade Educational awards				\$0.00	\$51.10			\$51.10	\$51.10	\$51.10	\$ 300.00	\$300.00
Sr. Educational Awards				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 850.00	\$800.00
Public Policy (Running & Winning)				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 200.00	\$200.00
Westchester Women's Agenda				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 100.00	\$100.00
AAUW Student Leadership Conference				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 600.00	\$100.00
Total Branch Activities Expenses				\$0.00				\$51.10	\$51.10	\$51.10	\$2,050.00	\$2,050.00
CONFERENCES/CONVENTIONS												
Delegates - State or National				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Total Conferences/Conventions Expenses				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
GENERAL MEETINGS & SOCIALS												
Hospitality				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 150.00	\$150.00
Programs				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 150.00	\$150.00
Scholarship Fundraiser for WCC Scholarship Fund				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Spring Fling Expenses				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 2,900.00	\$2,900.00
Holiday lunch expenses, Toy Drive, Misc. lunches	\$592.80	\$851.88		\$1,444.68	\$150.00		\$2,064.00	\$3,658.68	\$3,658.68	\$3,658.68	\$ 1,400.00	\$1,400.00
Rental & Custodial Fees (inc. \$300 to library)				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Total meeting/social expense				\$1,444.68				\$3,658.68	\$3,658.68	\$3,658.68	\$6,700.00	\$6,700.00
OPERATING EXPENSES												
Corres. Sec./Sunshine Fund				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 50.00	\$50.00
Insurance				\$0.00	\$200.00			\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$ 600.00	\$600.00
Membership	\$89.76			\$89.76				\$89.76	\$89.76	\$89.76	\$ 75.00	\$75.00
Newsletter/Postage				\$0.00	\$25.97			\$25.97	\$25.97	\$25.97	\$ 300.00	\$300.00
Board Expenses (zoom, fees,...)	\$64.56	\$13.59	\$13.59	\$91.76	\$13.59	\$63.59	\$13.59	\$182.53	\$182.53	\$182.53	\$ 600.00	\$600.00
Publicity/Branch Brochure				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 200.00	\$200.00
Yearbook/Postage				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 950.00	\$950.00
AAUW Funds Mailing				\$0.00	\$219.00			\$219.00	\$219.00	\$219.00	\$ 200.00	\$240.00
Constant Contact @9.99 per month				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 120.00	\$120.00
Intern Expenses				\$0.00				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 100.00	\$100.00
Total Operating Expenses				\$181.52				\$717.26	\$717.26	\$717.26	\$3,195.00	\$3,235.00
Total Expenses				\$1,626.20				\$4,427.04	\$4,427.04	\$4,427.04	\$23,730.00	\$23,710.00

Girls for STEM

EXPLORE YOUR OPPORTUNITIES!

**A CONFERENCE FOR
7TH & 8TH GRADE GIRLS
APRIL 13, 2024**

8:30AM-1:30PM

HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS FOR
STUDENTS AND PARENTS

INTRODUCING GIRLS TO STEM BASED CAREERS
(SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH)

UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT
RIVERDALE, NEW YORK 10471

INFO AND REGISTRATION: AAUW-GIRLSFORSTEM.ORG

QUESTIONS? AAUW.GIRLSFORSTEM@GMAIL.COM



SPONSORED BY AAUW WESTCHESTER BRANCH
AAUW EMPIRE NYC BRANCH
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT



Girls for STEM - Explore Your Opportunities 2024

This year marks the twenty-first anniversary of the collaboration of AAUW Westchester, the Empire New York City Branch and the University of Mount Saint Vincent sponsoring the Girls for STEM-Explore Your Opportunities Conference. The conference is held to explore and introduce 7th and 8th grade girls to careers in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The one-day conference includes hands-on workshops conducted by women professional in the STEM fields. Parents who attend will have a special workshop to aid them in understanding the process of getting their daughters into college.

The conference will be held on *April 13, 2024* from *8:30AM to 1:30 PM* at the University of Mount Saint Vincent, Riverdale, New York 10471. Registration Information can be found by visiting AAUW-GIRLSFORSTEM.ORG The \$15 cost for the day includes breakfast, workshops and lunch. If you would like to volunteer to help out you can contact Lorrin Johnson 917 297-4548 or Maria Ellis 973 216-4181 or at our e-mail aauw.girlsforstem@gmail.com

MARCH

MARCH 2024

3/1	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
3/9	Branch Meeting (Saturday)	Greenburgh Public Library and Zoom	10:30 a.m.
3/9	Board Meeting		12 p.m.
3/10	Deadline for submitting for CHIPS		
3/12	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Zoom	10 a.m.
3/13	Evening Literature Group	Lexington Square Cafe, Mt. Kisco	6 p.m.
3/14	Art Interest Group	Grey Art Gallery, NYC	
3/19	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom	1:30 p.m.

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