

# CHIPS

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



## NOVEMBER CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Abby Hirsch and Judith Walsh



The holiday season is generally thought to begin with Thanksgiving. Or Black Friday. This is one of the very few national holidays that everyone in the country can celebrate and feel part of, regardless of religion or ethnic differences. There is no gift giving, but rather a time to be with family and friends and share good memories and hope for the future. Many distinct groups do make the holiday more personal by adding an ethnic dish to the turkey. Many Italian friends, for example, serve something with a traditional red sauce, and many Hispanics add rice and beans to the menu.

When I was a professor at Mercy University, it was always fun to have my students share what made their Thanksgiving menu distinct. We would get hungry just listening to the various foods and learning about the diverse cultural experiences.

Thanksgiving is also remembered for - and many of us have stories about - difficult travel experiences. For many years I would drive to Long Island to spend the holiday at the home of my favorite aunt and uncle. This trip, which normally took an hour, took more than two hours on that last Thursday of the month. But these memories are now shared with love and happiness. The stress and complaints from small children in the back seat of the car are now remembered with a smile.

Native Americans have different feelings about this holiday. Some do celebrate it, but others reject it and regard it as a day of mourning. For some it is a day to honor ancestors, and for others it is a stark reminder of oppression and genocide. In the town of Plymouth there is a monument that reads in part,

“Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of native lands, and the relentless assault on native culture. Participants in the National Day of Mourning honor native ancestors and the struggle of native people to survive today. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest of the racism and oppression which Native Americans continue to experience.”

It is interesting to look at how some of our presidents have regarded this holiday. George Washington in 1787 proclaimed that this is a day “of service and gratitude to our glorious Being.” Thomas Jefferson rejected it, believing that it violated the separation of church and state. He never celebrated this holiday.

A forgotten woman in history is Sarah Josepha Hale, who campaigned for Thanksgiving and convinced President Lincoln to proclaim it an official holiday in 1863. Finally in 1941 FDR made it a national holiday to fall on the fourth Thursday in November. He hoped this would bring a degree of hope and happiness as the

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### Food Rescue ~ Fighting Hunger & Waste

Elisabeth Vieselmeyer and Brendan McCormack, from Feeding Westchester, will discuss the state of food insecurity in our area.

**SPEAKERS:** Elisabeth Vieselmeyer, Senior Director, Corporate, Foundation & Community & Brendan McCormack, Manager of Corporate and Community Partnerships, of Feeding Westchester  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 5:30pm  
**WHERE:** Greenburgh Public Library, 300 Tarrytown Rd, Elmsford and via Zoom. Visit [www.greenburghlibrary.libcal.com](http://www.greenburghlibrary.libcal.com) to register for the Zoom link.



**Please bring a non-perishable food item for our food drive, or donate by check.**

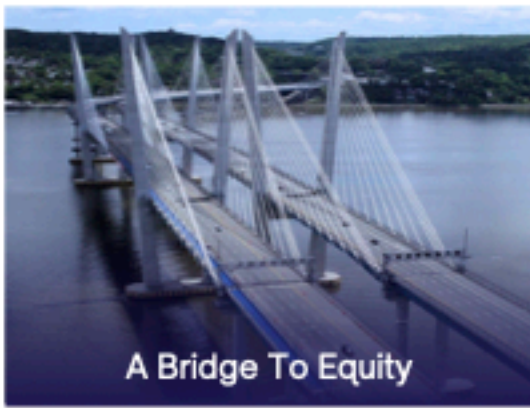
Feeding Westchester is a non-profit that has deeply-rooted relationships across the Westchester community — from community partners and meal programs, to manufacturers, farmers, and retailers who help us safely recover nutritious food to help our neighbors.

Our programs are designed to address food insecurity when and where the need is greatest.

We are tackling hunger from all angles!

*The AAUW mission is to advance gender equality for women & girls through research, education and advocacy.*

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) ~ [www.westchester-ny.aauw.net](http://www.westchester-ny.aauw.net)



**A Bridge To Equity**

**MISSION:** To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

**VISION:** Equity for ALL

**OUR VALUES:** Intersectional. Inclusive. Intergenerational. Empowering. We are nonpartisan but not values-neutral: We fight barriers and biases that impede 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 discrimination.

**BRANCH OFFICERS**

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**Branch Website**

*westchester-ny.aauw.net*

**State Website**

*aauw-nys.net*

**National Website**

*aauw.org*

# Poetry Interest Group



Looking for a lovely way to spend an afternoon? Our poetry interest group may be just what you've been searching for. You need not be a poet or literary expert. At our zoom meetings, held on the third Tuesday from 1:30 to 3:30, we take turns reading the poems aloud and talking about them. Our discussions are lively, enlightening, and intellectually stimulating. At the end of each session we select the poet for next time. If you can join us on November 19, contact Mary Schenck for the zoom link.

## ART INTEREST GROUP

On Thursday, November 7th the Art Interest Group will visit the Katonah Museum of Art for a private tour, followed by Restaurant Week lunch. If you would like to join us, please email Shelli Pines.



## Did You Know ???

The United States is the only industrialized nation that does not mandate paid maternity/paternity leave.

source: Pew Research Center, 2016,

## Have you visited our website?

**[westchester-ny.aauw.net](http://westchester-ny.aauw.net)**

**Board minutes are posted on the web page**

**Visit our Facebook Page: AAUW Westchester NY**

## CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The Current Issues Group offers our members stimulating discussions on noteworthy topics. We meet via zoom on the first Friday of each month at 10 a.m. Our next meeting will be on Friday, November 1. A week or so before each meeting, our presenters



decide on items for discussion. October's topics included ??e and local candidates as well as public charter schools. All are welcome. Contact **Ellen Leuner** for the zoom link.

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country was still struggling during the Depression and our involvement in World War II.

I do think most of us enjoy this holiday and spending it with family and friends. One of the many things we are thankful for is the many people in our wonderful organization, AAUW. We enjoy interacting with you, seeing what the various interest groups are doing, and seeing you at our sensational programs. We wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving, eating whatever is on your table and hope your travel is safe, easy, and stress free.



## BRIDGE MEET UP GROUP

Bridge group meets each Monday at 1 p.m. on zoom. Contact Elaine Barbakoff for details and the zoom link.

## LITERATURE GROUPS



### TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet at 10 a.m. on November 12 via zoom. Shelli Pines will lead a discussion of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ilyon Woo's biography, "Master Slave Husband Wife". **Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you'd like to join us.**

### EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Lit Group will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20 at the Lexington Square Cafe in Mt. Kisco. Shelli Pines will lead a discussion of Pulitzer-Prize-winning author Ilyon Woo's biography, "Master Slave Husband Wife". Please contact Marsha Savino by phone, e-mail or text if you plan to attend. New members are welcome. **For more information, contact Sue Lambert at [slamb47@aol.com](mailto:slamb47@aol.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 visit: [westchester-ny.aauw.net](http://westchester-ny.aauw.net)

# 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

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.

**Submitted by Mary Logan, Funds Chair**

**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!



## Womens' Right to Vote

by Selena Barron

I recently saw a performance of *Suffs*, a Broadway musical that relates the story of how women succeeded in getting the right to vote. Behind it are female producers, including Hillary Clinton, and an all women cast and band. Shaina Taub was named the winner of the 2024 Tony Award for Best Book for a Musical, and *Suffs* hit NO.1 on Billboard's Cast Album Chart. The musical made me think about the amazing effort that made it possible for me to vote in this year's presidential election.

The campaign for women's suffrage began in the decades before the Civil War. Many reforming groups were active at the time in the United States, including temperance leagues, religious movements, and moral reform societies and anti-slavery organizations. Many women began to fight against "The Cult of True Womanhood", the idea that the only true woman was a pious, submissive wife and mother, concerned only with home and family.

A group of women, the abolitionist activists, gathered in Seneca Falls, NY, to discuss women's rights. They were led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. The group produced a Declaration of Sentiments that states "all men and women are created equal, they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." To reach their goal, the suffragettes learned they had to adopt dramatic and confrontational tactics. They used parades, pageants, suffrage hikes, trains and even a suffrage barge on the Mississippi. Women threw bottles containing suffrage messages into the sea and threw Votes for Women leaflets out of biplanes. They suffered hunger strikes in jail and spoke about what being force fed felt like. Black and brown suffragettes were also fighting to end racial violence and gain civil rights. Five black suffragettes who worked for the passage of the 19th Amendment included Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Mary Ann Shadd Carry, Mary Church Terrell, Ida B. Wells, and Nanny Helen Burroughs. Starting in 1910, some states, including Idaho and Utah, began to extend the vote to women. World War 1 slowed the suffragists campaign. However, women working on behalf of the war effort proved that they were just as patriotic and deserving of citizenship as men. On August 18, 1920 the 19th Amendment was ratified and more than 8 million women across the United States voted in elections for the first time

The best tribute to their efforts is for each of us to vote!

## LADIES WHO LUNCH

The Ladies Who Lunch Group has a decades-long history of exploring the culinary delights of Westchester and nearby Fairfield (CT) counties.

**The group meets at 12:30 p.m. on the third Friday of the month** and members take turns selecting and contacting the restaurants involved. For more information contact Jean Havens.



There are time when one of our members is dealing with an illness, a loss or another personal crisis.

If you know 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)



Are you someone with any accounting skills or knowledge? Do you have strong computer skills? Do you like to work with numbers? If so, we have a position for you. Our chapter is in need of a co-treasurer.

**For details, please contact Abby Hirsch or Judy Walsh.**

DON'T FORGET

To

TAKE A BREAK

*“Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.” Ann Lamott*



# November



## NOVEMBER 2024 CALENDER

<b>11/1   10AM</b>	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom
<b>11/9</b>	Art Interest Group	Katonah Museum
<b>11/10</b>	Deadline for December issue of CHIPS	
<b>11/12 10 AM</b>	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	
<b>11/13  4 PM</b>	Board Meeting	
<b>11/13 5:30 PM</b>	Branch Meeting	
<b>11/17</b>	Art Interest Group	
<b>11/18</b>	Ladies Who Lunch	Contact Jean Havens
<b>11/23 5:30PM</b>	Evening Literature Group	Mt Kisco Cafe
<b>11/28</b>	Thanksgiving	Enjoy!