

# CHIPS

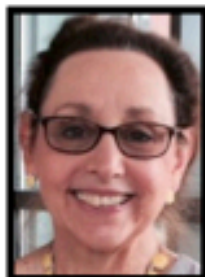
The monthly newsletter of the Westchester Branch of the American Association of University Women, Westchester County, New York



Westchester AAUW Has Been  
Empowering Women and  
Girls Since 1933

## DECEMBER CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Abby Hirsch and Judith Walsh



Every year the AAUW Board adopts a mission statement for our programs and for our organization. This year our theme is "Westchester Women Envisioning the Future." There is much taking place within our organization as we move toward the future.

You may have noticed that all email communication comes via Constant Contact. This is a much more effective way to communicate with our membership than our previous system. We are happy to join the many organizations who use Constant Contact. Sue Lambert is our Constant Contact expert, and we appreciate her assuming this responsibility.

There will also be a change in how we manage our membership renewals and membership information. National AAUW will soon be managing all of this for us. This will be a more efficient way for our membership Vice-Presidents, and will help us to work more closely with National. Later, this spring, your renewal notice will come directly from National.

As a chapter, we engage in many activities that support our theme. Our STEM conference under the leadership of Lorrin Johnson is one such activity. This opens the world of STEM careers to girls in the 7th and 8th grades. Running and Winning allows high school girls to see themselves in a future of public service and government. Joni Sims works with the League of Women Voters to make this event take place. In addition, Marilee Scheuneman works closely with WCC to sponsor our awarding scholarships to students who might pursue a STEM career. These activities and others allow us to envision a future where Westchester women will play a prominent role.

Several recent books talk about the importance and the value of having close and supportive female friends. Three that come to mind are *Becoming* by Michele Obama, *Diners with Ruth* by Nina Totenberg, and Hillary Clinton's newest memoir, *Something Lost, Something Gained*. We are fortunate to have in our chapter so many interesting, talented, and smart members. There are many ways in which we can and do learn from one another and think about our future as women who make a difference.

We are also fortunate in Westchester to have many women authors who introduce us to characters we can spend time with. You might want to consider one of these for a book club selection: *Edna's Gift* by Susan Rudnick, *Street Corner Dreams* by Florence Reiss Kraut, *Slippin' into Darkness* by Kiley Blackman, *Fragile Edge* by Suzanne Chazin, and *Ask Again, Yes* by Mary Beth Keane.

We also made a difference by working for and passing the PROP ONE amendment. Senator Shelley Mayer  
(cont'd on next page...)

spoke to us about the importance of this; and we wrote postcards, spoke to neighbors, and reminded voters waiting in line outside polling places to Flip the Ballot. This important Amendment guarantees reproductive freedom in New York, protects against discrimination by the government, based, among other things, on age, national origin, disability, and sexual orientation.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the annual Holiday Lunch on December 4 at the Kittle House. Do remember to send a contribution to the toy drive, which allows us as Westchester Women to envision a better future for many children.



**AAUW Westchester**  
**Holiday Party**  
Wednesday, December 4  
12:00pm  
Crabtree Kittle House  
11 Kittle Road, Chappaqua

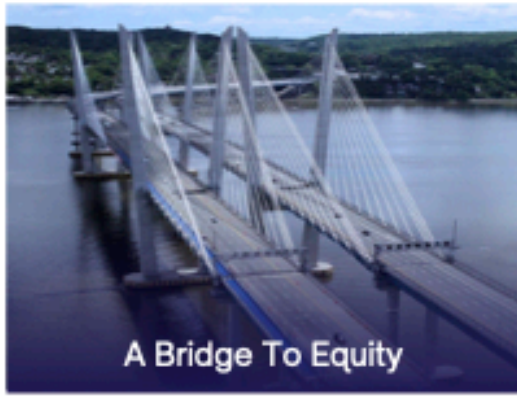


Please RSVP by sending your check for \$60 to:  
*Susan Gardner*  
*19 Robbie Road*  
*Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567*  
by November 30



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**

**Co-Presidents**

*Abby Hirsch & Judith Walsh*

**Program Co-Vice Presidents**

*Diana Lenon & Teresa N. Neal*

**Membership Co-Vice Presidents**

*Thea Jacobs & Joni Sims*

**Recording Secretary**

*Susan Appel*

**Corresponding Secretary**

*Susan Ferris Rights*

**Treasurer**

*Susan Gardner*

**CHIPS Editor**

*Susan Goodwin*

**Constant Contact**

*Susan Lambert*

**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 December 17, contact Mary Schenck for the zoom link.

## The Art Interest Group will not meet this month



## Did You Know



In 2019, Nevada became the first state to have a majority of women in their legislature.

**source:** Center for American Women and Politics,

## 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



## 2024 HOLIDAY PROGRAM DRIVE

Dear Friends,

Our Holiday Program drive remains one of Hour Children's most comprehensive and beloved initiatives, aimed at supporting all the children of women incarcerated at Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities.

We are continuing our much-loved gift card program with the aim of mailing every child a \$25 gift card in a hand-made card from their mother. If you or your group would like to host a gift card drive, we recommend considering the following gift cards: Visa/Mastercard, Amazon, Target, and Walmart. In the event we exceed our goal of \$25 per child, additional gift cards will be allocated to each child. (There are 450-500 children between both facilities)

We maintain a PO Box for all gift cards and monetary donations to ensure they are received securely. **Please send Gift Cards and Check Donations to:**

**Hour Children/Deb Rigano  
180 E. Prospect Avenue / PO Box #229  
Mamaroneck, NY 10543**

**We are in dire need of gifts** - each child who visits during the Holiday Season receives a bag of gifts from their mom. Please refer to the list of allowable items on the next page. **Gift items can be delivered or shipped to:**

**The Parenting Center /Bedford Hills Correctional Facility  
247 Harris Road  
Bedford Hills, NY 10507**

**\*\* Let us know if you require a pickup for the gifts \*\***

### Contact Information:

\*Please Note: While we are working inside the prisons, we do not have access to our email or cellphones.

Bedford Hills Parenting Center at 914-241-3100 x4050 /4070,

Taconic Children's Center at 914-241-3010 (ask for 5603 when the operator answers) or

Ganesh at: 718-433-4724

Please email all your contact and donation information to [drigano@hourchildren.org](mailto:drigano@hourchildren.org) so we can acknowledge your generosity

With Heartfelt Gratitude for all your support,

The Hour Children Teams at Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities

Deb Rigano, Senior Director of Justice Initiatives [drigano@hourchildren.org](mailto:drigano@hourchildren.org)

Rosemarie Lopez, Program Director Bedford Hills CF [rlopez@hourchildren.org](mailto:rlopez@hourchildren.org)

Jessica Hall, Program Director Taconic CF [jhall@hourchildren.org](mailto:jhall@hourchildren.org)

The Parenting Center at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility

247 Harris Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507  
914.241.3100 x4050

The Children's Center at Taconic Correctional Facility

250 Harris Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507  
914.241.3010  
(Ask for Children's Center)



**Bedford Hills & Taconic Correctional Facilities**

**Hour Children Holiday Program Wish List**

(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 4T (No Blue, Black, Orange, Gray); Baby Blankets (Toddler Size - No Solid Colors of Blue, Black, Orange, Gray); Rattles; Teething Rings (NUBY Brand); Muslin Swaddles; Winter Hats (Newborn – 1 year); Stacking Cups/Rings; Baby Einstein or Fisher Price Toys; Shape Sorters

**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; Action 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)

**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



Donations can be dropped off at **Bedford Hills Correctional Facility (Monday – Friday, 9am – 2:30pm)**. Make a sharp left when you enter the facility – go down the road until the end – the Storehouse loading dock is on the right side. Make sure you tell the person (Officer or Civilian) accepting the donations that the donations are for **The Parenting Center Holiday Program**. \*All donations are tax deductible\*

– PLEASE MAIL or DROP OFF ALL TOYS TO-  
**THE PARENTING CENTER/BEDFORD HILLS C.F.**  
247 HARRIS ROAD  
BEDFORD HILLS, NY 10507

**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 fins; wooden toys, soft dolls or stuffed animals.

**\*We gratefully accept Checks & Gift Card Donations\***

--please make checks out to--

**THE HOUR CHILDREN PARENTING CENTER**  
and mail Checks and Gift Cards to:

Hour Children/Deb Rigano  
180 E. Prospect Avenue Box#229  
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

**(PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHECKS OR GIFT CARDS TO THE FACILITY AS THEY MAY GET LOST)**

**\*Please call if you need a pickup\***

Contact Deb Rigano with any questions: Cell: 914.804.6470

THE PARENTING CENTER AT BHCF 247 HARRIS ROAD BEDFORD HILLS, NY 10507 914.241.3100 X4050  
THE CHILDREN'S CENTER AT TACONIC CF 250 HARRIS ROAD BEDFORD HILLS, NY 10507 914-241-3010



## **A New York Drought** by Selena Barron

According to the National Weather Service, October usually brings about 4.4 inches of rain to New York City. The City uses an average of 1.1 billion gallons daily. This enormous-sounding usage is actually 35 per cent less than it was in 1979, partly due to more effective leak detection. However, despite this, we are experiencing the second longest dry spell in the City's recorded history.

Rohit Aggarwala, the City's Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner, announced that October was the driest 150 years and the area was being placed under a drought watch. A drought watch is the first of four levels of water scarcity, which escalates in severity to a drought warning, a drought emergency and finally to a drought disaster. For a drought watch there are no emergency restrictions, DEC officials said. The New York counties now under a drought watch are Bronx, Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Kings, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester.

Managing water resources has been made more difficult by the repair of a large, leaking aqueduct that transports water to the City from the Catskill region. This problem has caused residents to rely on reservoirs from the northern suburbs.

Mayor Adams said, "Mother Nature is in charge, so we must adapt." He encouraged New Yorkers to utilize less water and also directed city agencies to prepare to implement water-saving measures. City and State officials issued a list of some examples of how to conserve water. Suggestions that could be used by all New Yorkers are listed below:

- Fix leaking pipes and faucets
- Take shorter showers
- Don't run the water while brushing your teeth
- Report street leaks and open hydrants
- Run the dishwasher only when full
- Use the washing machine and dryer only for full loads

Every little bit helps!





### **2025 Girls for STEM by Lorrin Johnson**

For the 22nd year, AAUW will be joining with AAUW Empire Branch and the University of Mount Saint Vincent in introducing seventh and eighth grade girls to a variety of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers. As we did last year, girls will participate in two hands-on workshops with professional women in the field. The workshops will be conducted on the campus of the University of Mount Saint Vincent. In addition, each girl will be challenged to discover the information from Mystery Women who actively participate in STEM fields.

We will also challenge the parents to meet these women and understand how a career in STEM is both academically and financially possible. Interested students, parents, and volunteers should **save the date** on their calendar now: **Saturday, March 15 from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM .**

We will have breakfast, allowing girls to meet students from other schools, participate in two workshops, play the Mystery Women game, while parents get a roadmap for their daughters' success.

The University of Mount Saint Vincent is located at 6301 Riverdale Avenue, Riverdale, NY and is easily accessible from the Bronx and Westchester County. The School will provide a tour of its beautiful and well-equipped campus. More detailed information will be available in the next few months. If you would like to help with **2025 Girls for STEM**, we welcome all ideas and assistance.

Contact us at [aauw.girlsforstem@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.girlsforstem@gmail.com).

## CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The Current Issues Group offers our members stimulating discussions on noteworthy topics. For December only, we will meet on the second Friday, which is the 13th, via zoom at 10 a.m. A week or so before each meeting, our presenters decide on items for



discussion. November's topics included "Recipe for a Striving America" and "2024 Nobels - Where are the Women?". All are welcome. Contact **Ellen Leuner** for the zoom link.



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER!

**Karen Frieri**

## 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 December 10 via zoom. Susan Ferris Rights will lead a discussion of *Astonish Me*, by Maggie Shipstead.

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

### EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Lit Group will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday December 11 at the Lexington Square Cafe in Mt. Kisco. Abby Hirsh will lead a discussion of *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri. 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 Tarrtown Rd. #1354, White Plains, NY, 10607 or to get more information visit: [westchester-ny.aauw.net](http://westchester-ny.aauw.net)



## 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.**





<b>12/4   NOON</b>	Holiday Lunch at Kittle House	Bring toys or donation
<b>12/10</b>	Deadline for January Issue of CHIPS	
<b>12/10   10AM</b>	Tuesday Morning Literature Group	Zoom
<b>12/11   6 PM</b>	Evening Literature Group	Lexington Square Cafe Mt Kisco
<b>12/13   10AM</b>	Current Issues Discussion Group	Zoom
<b>12/17   1:30 PM</b>	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom
<b>12/20</b>	Ladies Who Lunch	Contact Jean Havens
<b>12/25</b>	Merry Christmas	****
<b>12/25</b>	Happy Chanukah	****
<b>12/26</b>	Happy Kwanzaa	****