

CHIPS

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



FEBRUARY CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Abby Hirsch and Judith Walsh



February has been designated as Black History Month. It is a time for us to acknowledge some of the many contributions made in our country by people of color.

This has become more controversial in the past two years since the Supreme Court in 2023 ended affirmative action in the college admissions process. Affirmative action, as we know it, started under the presidency of Lyndon Johnson.

By executive order, he prohibited any employment solely based on a person's color, religion, or national origin. This "forced" businesses, schools, and colleges to be more diverse and inclusive. Whom did affirmative action in colleges and universities help the most? White women. We have witnessed many positive changes in our lives throughout these fifty plus years. Single sex colleges have virtually disappeared, and race and gender diversity have become common and accepted on most campuses. As a result, we see that many professions are no longer filled with only white men, but have many people of color and many women. These are positive changes for everyone, regardless of their gender, race, or ethnicity.

Changes have taken place in college admissions since this recent Supreme Court ruling. Non-white admissions at Harvard University have dropped from 18% to 14%, and at M.I.T. they have dropped from 13% to 5%. In addition, the number of African American students applying to college has decreased by 2%. This will adversely affect us all. We all benefit when we can learn from and with people of a different heritage or life story from our own.

During Black History Month we can celebrate many black women in Westchester County,

1. Andrea Stewart- Cousins, New York State Senate Majority Leader
2. Shawyn Patterson-Howard, first black woman elected Mayor of Mt. Vernon
3. Judge Karen Best, first black City Court Judge in Yonkers
4. Dr. Belinda Miles, first black Westchester Community College President
5. Khaleelah Higgins-Brown, opened first black-owned comic book store
6. Efus Forson, first female student to be offered a full scholarship to Harvard University
7. Delany Sisters, authors of "Having our Say: the Delany Sisters' First 100 Years"
8. Yvonne D. Jones, first black teacher to be hired in Elmsford, in 1954
9. Pearl Primus, choreographer and pioneer of modern dance
10. Vinnie Bagwell, acclaimed, self-taught sculptor living and working in Yonkers

These exceptional women achieved success through hard work and innate talent; they serve as excellent role models for all girls, especially those of color. We celebrate their accomplishments because they are a credit to all women



Women's Heart Health

American Heart Association representatives will discuss the critical work of this 100 year old organization. Learn what you can do to improve your own heart health—while also supporting their mission.

Wear Red for Women's Heart Health!

SPEAKER: Westchester/Fairfield Chapter of the American Heart Association
WHEN: Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 10:30am
WHERE: Greenburgh Public Library, 300 Tarrytown Rd, Elmsford and via Zoom.
Visit www.greenburghlibrary.libcal.com to register for the Zoom link.



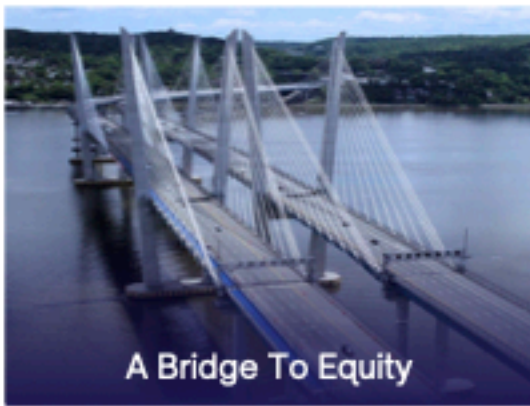
WEAR RED to our event!

**It's National Wear Red for Women's Heart Health Day!
Show your support and wear RED in person or on Zoom.**

Kristin Alouisa and Travis Tam, Development Directors for the Westchester/Fairfield Chapter of the American Heart Association, will discuss the organization's critical work. Since 2004, the American Heart Association's signature women's initiative, *Go Red for Women*, has addressed the awareness and clinical care gaps of women's greatest health threat, cardiovascular disease (CVD). The AHA is prepared to meet the evolving needs of women now, and at every age, every stage and every season of their lives as their trusted, relevant source for credible, equitable health solutions.

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

www.aauw.org ~ 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 Lennon & 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 February 18, contact Mary Schenck for the zoom link.

ART INTEREST GROUP

The Art Interest Group will not be meeting in February, See you in March!



Did You Know ???

Lucy Stanton Day Sessions was the first black woman to earn a four-year college degree, at Oberlin College in 1850.

source: Encyclopedia of Cleveland History

Have you visited our website?

westchester-ny.aauw.net

Board minutes are posted on the web page

Visit our Facebook Page: AAUW Westchester NY



2024 Annual Fund Campaign by Mary Logan

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Annual Fund. Your generous donations totaled \$5,675, and are used to support AAUW's mission to promote equity for women and girls. Funds go to support advocacy work, including promoting fair pay laws and other economic security goals like closing the STEM gap and eliminating the motherhood penalty, as well as eliminating leadership barriers. Thanks again for supporting AAUW's important initiatives.

CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The Current Issues Group offers our members stimulating discussions on noteworthy topics. We will meet via zoom on Friday, February 7th at 10 a.m. In January we discussed "Our Failed Recycling Programs" and "How Potential Trump Appointees Could Affect Health Care." Let us know what topics are of interest to you. All are welcome. Contact **Ellen Leuner** for the zoom link.



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER!

Sandra Yorn

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 February 11 via zoom. Thea Jacobs will lead a discussion of R.F. Kuang's novel, "Yellowface." **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, February 12 at the Lexington Square Cafe in Mt. Kisco. Joni Sims will lead the discussion of "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict. Please contact Marsha Savino by February 10 via phone, e-mail or text if you plan to attend. New members are welcome.

For more information, contact Sue Lambert at 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

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



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.





February

FEBRUARY 2025 CALENDER

2/7 10 AM	Current Issues Group	Zoom
2/8 10:30 AM	Branch Meeting: Women's Heart Health	Greenburgh Library
2/10	Deadline for March issue	
2/11 10 AM	Tuesday Morning Lit Group	Zoom
2/12 5:30 PM	Wednesday Evening Lit Group	Lexington Square Cafe, Mt. Kisco
2/14	Valentines Day	
2/17	Presidents' Day	
2/18 1:30-3:30 PM	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom