

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



MARCH CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Abby Hirsch and Judith Walsh

March, as we know, is Women's History Month. Sixteen years ago the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act became law. This ensures that employees can challenge the discriminatory paychecks regardless of how much time has passed. This does demonstrate that one person can be courageous and persistent and bring about change. This law was signed by Barak Obama during the early days of his first term of office.

The national theme of 2025 Women's History Month is "Women Moving

Together - Women Educating and Inspiring Generations." We can be proud of many things that our organization has done and continues to do that echoes this theme. Some include our involvement both the Running and Winning and STEM conferences as well as our contributing to the WCC scholarship fund to assist young women as they pursue higher education.

We can call for and encourage ourselves as well as others to stand, speak, and reach new heights and goals for women here and around the world. This is especially true now as women are being attacked and many of our rights are being threatened. This includes reproductive rights and freedom, as well as the rights of transgender women. This can happen, as affirmative action and DEI continue to be attacked. It is important to remember that these two programs did a great deal to support women. We can become and look for modern day Rosa Parks, Susan B. Anthony, and Abigail Adams.

There are probably many stories we can tell about women who influenced us during struggles and challenges that we faced. We certainly had many successes throughout our journey. Let us share these stories and also let us talk about the women who inspired us. Many of us saw the Broadway play "Suffs" last year. The play ends with the song, "Forward, into Light". Part of it is below:

I won't live to see the future that I fight for.

Maybe no one gets to reach that perfect day.

If the work is never over,

Then how do you keep marching anyway?

Do you carry your banner as far as you can?

Rewriting the world with your imperfect pen?

Till the next stubborn girl picks it up in a picket line over and over again?

And you join in the chorus of centuries chanting to her.

The path will be twisted and risky and slow.

But keep marching, keep marching

'Cause your ancestors are all the proof you need.

That progress is possible, not guaranteed.

It will only be possible if we keep marching, marching on.

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Celebrating Women's History!

Join Coline Jenkins, great-great granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and renowned advocate for women's suffrage, as she discusses the vibrant history of the New York Suffrage Movement.

Wear white like our suffragist sisters!

SPEAKER: Coline Jenkins, President of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Trust

WHEN: Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 10:30am; social time at 10am ~ Children's Room

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

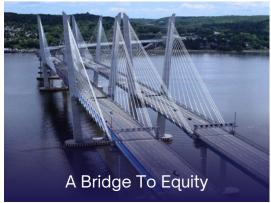
Visit www.greenburghlibrary.libcal.com to register for the Zoom link.



Please note that we will meet in the second floor CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ROOM at GPL! Coline Jenkins has used her talents to inspire both awareness and pride in women's history. She is co-founder and president of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Trust, a collection of 3,000 objects of women's suffrage memorabilia that has been lent to museum exhibits, book publishers, documentary film producers, presidential libraries, popular magazines, television programs and Congressional testimony. The Trust's lending practice fulfills its mission: To preserve the history of the women's right movement, to educate the public on this history, and to promote the advancement of women's rights. Coline comes from a long line of women activists. In addition to her great, great grandmother Elizabeth Cady Stanton, her great grandmother Harriot Stanton Blatch, worked as a major organizer of New York State women suffrage during the Militant Period of 1913-1915. Her mother was born one month prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment of the U. S. Constitution in 1920. Jenkins grew up in an atmosphere of suffrage and women's right campaigning. She firmly believes equality is attainable.

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

www.aauw.org ~ www.westchester-ny.aauw.net



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

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

<u>Co-Presidents</u> Abby Hirsch & Judith Walsh

<u>Program Co-Vice Presidents</u> Diana Lennon & Teresa N. Neal

<u>Membership Co-Vice Presidents</u> Thea Jacobs & Joni Sims

Recording Secretary
Susan Appel

<u>Corresponding Secretary</u> Susan Ferris Rights

<u>Treasurer</u>

Susan Gardner

<u>CHIPS Editor</u> Susan Goodwin

Constant Contact
Susan Lambert

<u>Branch Website</u> westchester-ny.aauw.net

State Website aauwnys.org

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 March 18, contact Mary Schenck for the zoom link.

ART INTEREST GROUP

The Art Interest Group will visit the Guggenheim Museum on Friday, March 7 to see "Harmony and Dissonance: Orphism in Paris, 1910-1930" and "Collection in Focus/Beatriz Milhazes: Rigor and Beauty." If you would like to join us, please email Shelli Pines.



Did You Know



Maria Tallchief, daughter of the Osage Nation Chief, was the first in the U.S. to hold the title of prima ballerina, in the New York City Ballet. She was married briefly to George Balanchine.

source: National Women's History Museum

Have you visited our website?

westchester-ny.aauw.net

Board minutes are posted on the web page

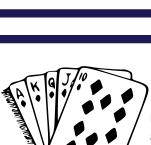
Visit our Facebook Page: AAUW Westchester NY

CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The Current Issues Group meets each month to offer stimulating discussions on noteworthy topics. We will meet via zoom on Friday March 7 at 10 a.m. Last month we talked about the President's executive orders on birthright and leaving the World Health Organiza-



ation, and also Opus Dei and Leonard Leo. Join us and expand your horizons! Contact **Ellen Leuner** for the zoom link.



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 March 11 via zoom. Susan Gardner will lead a discussion of author Sujata Masset's novel, "The Widows of Malibar Hill." 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, March 12 at the Lexington Square Cafe in Mt. Kisco. Barbara Wright will lead the discussion of "Someone Else's Shoes" by Jojo Moyes. 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.



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER!

Donna Smith

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/Un	iversity, 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

Women's History Month

by Selena Barron



June Almeida

In 1980 President Carter designated March 2nd to March 8th as Women's History Week. In explaining his action, President Carter stated, "From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, strength, courage, and love of the women who built this country were as vital as that of the men we know so well." From 1988 untiil 1995 Congress passed resolutions proclaiming March as Women's History Month. Since 1995, each president has issued an annual March Women's History designation. However, this year the Pentagon's Intelligence Agency has paused observances of "Special Emphasis Programs and Related Events and Activities effective immediately and until further notice."

The pause was made to conform to President Trump's repudiation of diversity programs. Despite the pause, celebration of women's achievements will continue! The National Women's History Alliance selects and publishes a yearly theme. For Women's History Month 2025 the theme is Moving Forward Together! Women Educating and Inspiring Generations. I have chosen two women, June Almeida and Hillary Clinton, who are both examples of the women President Carter described in his proclamation.

June Almeida was born October 5, 1930 and died on December 1, 2007, a period before high technology and computers were used in virology. Examining a single cell could take hours, and images were grainy and hard to see. Undeterred, she perfected a technique called negative staining that made it possible for her to create sharp, clear pictures and identify viruses. She became the first to visualize the rubella virus, provide outstanding research on HIV and Hepetitis B, and teach many virologists her techniques. She was also one of the first scientists to identify human coronaviruses. The name coronavirus was chosen because each piece of the virus looked like a crown, which in Latin is corona. The Covid 19 pandemic brought attention to her work in establishing diagnostic techniques and identifying viruses. Her articles and photos appeared in many textbooks.

Hillary Clinton has always been a trailblazer. In 1988 and 1991 she was named as one of the most influential lawyers in America. As First Lady she visited women in Africa and Asia advocating for better lives for women. In 2000 she ran for the U.S. Senate from New York and won by a solid 55% margin. She served on four major Senate committees: Armed Services, Budget, Environment and Public Works, and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. In 2006 she easily won re-election. In January, 2007, she announced her candidacy for President in the 2008 race. She received about 18 million votes but lost in the Democratic primary to Barak Obama. She served as Secretary of State for the Obama administration, traveling to 80 countries, focusing on human rights, democracy and civil society. In a speech in Beijing in 1995 she declared "Human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights", inspiring a global movement for women's rights and opportunities.

Recently, she was a strong supporter and co-producer of the musical "Suffs", which told the story of women's extraordinary fight for suffrage; with an all-women cast, it was the winner of two Tony awards. In 2023 she joined Columbia University as Professor of Practice at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and Presidential Fellow at Columbia World Projects. In Fall 2023 and 2024 she taught a course called Inside the Situation Room.

These two women are examples of the many women who have lived up to the standards of leadership, courage, strength, and empathy that President Carter spoke of in designating the first Women's History Week. It is our responsibility to continue his vision of honoring and publicizing the accomplishments and equal participation of women as our heritage and future aspirations.

AAUW Financial Report & Proposed Budget

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LADIES WHO LUNCH

The Ladies Who Lunch Group has a decadeslong 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.

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SAVE THE DATE - BRING A FRIEND

AAUW Local Scholarship Luncheon

Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. Viking Cafe Westchester Community College 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla - Student Center-Parking Lot #8

Name:		
Phone #:	Email	
Address:		
# of People attending _	x \$38 = \$	(\$23 of \$38 is tax deductible)
Additional Cor	ntribution \$	(fully tax deductible)

Please make checks payable to AAUW – Westchester with "scholarship" on memo line.

Mail to Marilee Scheuneman, 27 Hillside Drive, Yonkers, NY 10705

PLEASE RETURN BY APRIL 19

AAUW Denounces District Court's Decision to Vacate Title IX Rules

Washington January 9, 2025

The American Association for University Women (AAUW) today denounced the decision by the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Kentucky to vacate the updated Title IX rules released in April, 2024. The decision makes it easier for schools to dismiss cases, har der to hold perpetrators of sexual harrassment and assault accountable, and more difficult for survivors to get the protections they need.

"This ruling is a direct attact on students nationwide," said AAUW CEO Gloria L. Blackwell. The U.S. District Court has just made it harder for America's most vulnerable students to report their harrassment and seek protection."

The 2024 Title IX Rules increased protection for survivors of sexual harrassment and assault, and equal protection remedies for pregnant, parenting, and LGBTQ+ students. The Court's decision reverts Title IX back to rules instituted by former Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, which fail to respond to the reality of sexual harrassment and violence in schools.

Title IX, part of the Educational Amendments of 1972, empowers students with the right to report misconduct, seek justice, and access resources to continue their education without fear or disruption. Upholding Title IX ensures campuses remain spaces where equity and respect are cornerstones of the academic and social experience.

"Students deserve to be in inclusive, welcoming environments - not to be political pawns," said Blackwell. "AAUW is prepared to fight on behalf of all students, who deserve protection regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, gender, race, or ethnicity and parenting status."

VOTING FOR NEXT YEAR'S OFFICERS

According to our bylaws, we should include the report of the nominating committee as to our new officers for 2025-26 in this edition of our newsletter. Due to unexpected circumstances, it is not available at this time. The committee is busy at work on this and the information wll be forthcoming. Thank you for your patience and understanding. - Abby Hirsch and Judy Walsh

Thoughts on Joining a Book Club

Occasionally there will be one person in the room who has never seen Gone with the Wind or learned to ride a bike. There may also be a few who have never joined a book club and I am one of them. For me, it would never work. Reading fiction? I don't think so. Being non-routinized, I would lack the discipline to read the books on time and I would have to forgo other events on meeting dates. My mind would wander during the meetings, and I would roll my eyes at the person monopolizing the discussion without offering anything of substance. Well, I stand corrected. After my visit to the Tuesday Lit Group, I am happy to say my misgivings were unfounded. Discussion leader Thea Jacobs was prepared with probing questions, and host Wilma Gitchel kept the pace moving along so my mind didn't wander. Members offered thoughtful insights in a colleagial setting so my eyes didn't roll. Thank you, Wilma, for welcoming me and busting book club myths. I am also hearing very good things about the Wednesday Evening Lit Group, with the added benefit of dinner. So, if you're on the fence about a book club, give it a try because it's a great way to share your love of reading and make new friends. Or, maybe the poetry group... --Susan Goodwin







MARCH 2025 CALENDER

3/7 10 AM	Current Issues Group	Zoom
3/7	Art Interest Group	Shelli Pines
3/8 10:30 AM	Branch Meeting	Greenburgh Library
3/10	Harriet Tubman Day	
3/10	DEADLINE for April Newsletter	
3/11 10 AM	Tuesday Lit Group	Zoom
3/12 5:30 PM	Evening Lit Group	Lexington Sq Cafe Mt. Kisco
3/14	Purim	
3/15	STEM Conference	Mt. St. Vincent
3/17	St. Patrick's Day	***
3/18 1:30 PM	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom