

# 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



## MAY CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Abby Hirsch and Judith Walsh

At this moment, while I look outside it is a rainy and gloomy day. This probably matches the way many of us are feeling right now as we look at so much that is going on in our country. Tariffs are high, prices are high and the cost of so many items we purchase is getting higher and higher. In addition, book banning continues, immigrants are being wrongfully removed from our country, and LGBT as well as many other people of color are under attack.

There have been executive orders threatening diversity, equity and inclusion. These can adversely impact women and marginalized communities. If that is not enough, we worry about Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security, and the world we will be leaving our children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

What can we do and how do we cope with all of this? Cory Booker did demonstrate the importance of taking a stand with his recent groundbreaking Senate speech. We can also take a stand. We can continue to defend equity in higher education and the workforce. Another action we can take is around abortion and reproductive health in New York State. There is a practice requiring health care providers to report whenever a woman seeks an abortion. This is very invasive, requiring patients to share private information about themselves. No other type of health care requires this. We can stop this by writing a letter or calling our representatives in Albany and asking Governor Hochul to support repeal of this.

We can continue to contact our elected representatives in Albany and Washington about all the issues that concern us, letting them know what is important to us and how we want them to vote. When we take a stand, it empowers us and gives us the knowledge that we are doing our part to repair our country and the world. This is clearly one of the goals and missions of AAUW.



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Please Join Us



Join us as Frank De Ligio discusses

*The 20th Century's Leading Divas:  
Billie & Maria*

**SPEAKER:** Frank De Ligio, Host of GPL's *Jazz Conversations* and *Opera Talk*  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 5:30pm; social time at 5:00pm  
**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.



Maria Callas was a highly trained soprano and the most influential operatic voice of the 20th Century. Billie Holiday was an improvising vocalist and the most influential jazz voice of the 20th Century. There are those who would argue against both claims but more who would defend them. These were controversial women, strong women, superlative musicians who demanded excellence from those they worked with, flawed souls who burned through their lives and died earlier than they should have, women who were treated badly by men...

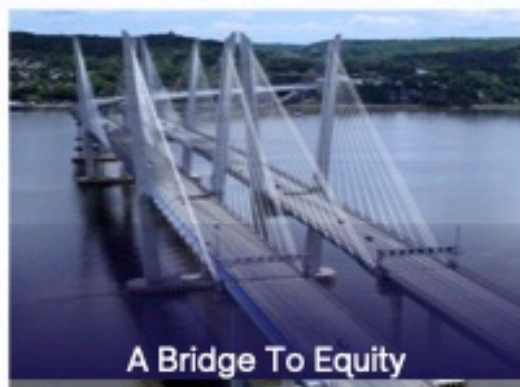


Frank De Ligio has been the host of the GPL *Jazz Conversations* for the past 11 years and *Opera Talk* for the past 4 years. He studied Communications Arts under Marshall McLuhan at Fordham University, hosted radio programs on WFUV, wrote for a national music magazine, was a recording engineer for a record company, a professional singer, and has been a devoted fan of jazz and opera for decades.

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

##### **State Website**

[aaunys.org](http://aaunys.org)

##### **National Website**

[aauw.org](http://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 May 20, contact Mary Schenck for the zoom link.

## ART INTEREST GROUP

On Wednesday, May 14, the Art Interest Group will have two private tours, of the David Rockefeller Creative Arts Center exhibit about the creation of the Chagall windows at Union Church and then at the Church and its windows. If you'd like to join us, email Shelli Pines.



## Did You Know



Amy Beach (1867-1944) was the first American woman composer to have her work, the Gaelic Symphony, performed by a major orchestra, the Boston Symphony, in 1896.

source: Wikipedia

## 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 meets each month via zoom to offer lively discussions on noteworthy topics. Join us at 10 a.m. **on Friday, May 2.** Never a dull moment! Our latest discussions were on religion in the U.S.A., fighting back against the SAVE Act, and the shingles vaccine, lower rates of dementia, and the



Herpes Simplex Virus. Join us and expand your horizons. It's a great group of women! 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

We will meet at 10 a.m. on May 13 via zoom. Marge Kingsley will lead a discussion of Hernan Diaz's historical fiction, "Trust". Members should be thinking about their nominations for our 12 book selections for next season, happening immediately after our June meeting. Members may nominate up to 3 books. **Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you'd like to join us.**

### EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

We will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, at the Lexington Square Cafe in Mt. Kisco. Ellen Eschmann will lead the discussion of "The Paris Daughter" by Kristin Karmel. To attend, please contact Marsha Savino by phone, e-mail or text. 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 \$100 for the first year of membership, a \$10 reduction from regular membership dues, which are \$110/year. When you join the Westchester Branch of AAUW, you also become a member of the AAUW New York State and National organizations. To join online, go to [westchester-ny.aauw.net/new-members-2/](http://westchester-ny.aauw.net/new-members-2/)

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)



# Protecting and Restoring Global Heritage

by Selena Barron



As a result of conflict and war, priceless works of art and important political, religious, and societal history are often lost or destroyed. I recently read an article about women who have taken on the responsibility of restoring and preserving art and history damaged or lost due to war and conflict. I believe their stories should be told and honored. Here are the stories of several of these women.

Irina Bokova, the first woman to lead UNESCO, gave priority to protecting and restoring cultural heritage in war-torn regions. She started the “United4Heritage” campaign in order to raise global awareness about safeguarding cultural treasures. Under her leadership, UNESCO worked to restore ancient sites like Timbuktu’s manuscripts and Palmyra’s ruins.

Monica Hanna, an Egyptian archaeologist, is a fierce advocate for protecting Egypt’s ancient artifacts from looting and illegal trade. She has worked tirelessly to recover stolen artifacts. Her efforts highlight the connection between cultural heritage and national identity.

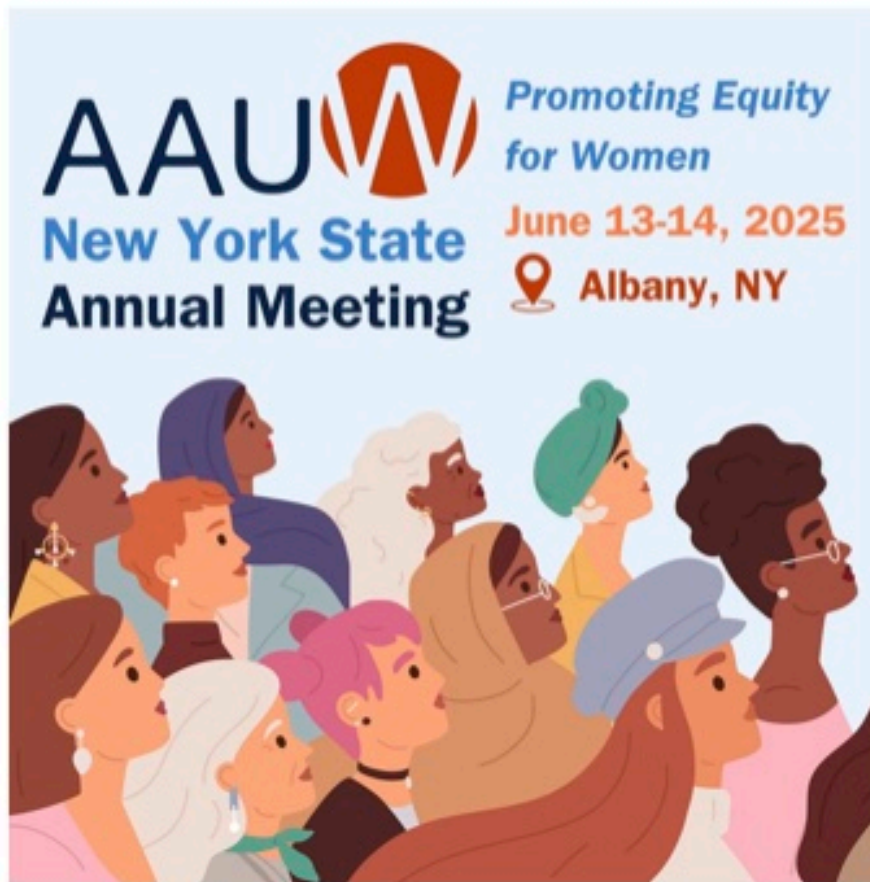
Azra Aksamija, an artist and architect from Bosnia, uses her artistic talents to protect cultural heritage in post conflict areas. Her projects include designing memorials and creating spaces that reflect the histories of affected communities. Her work bridges the gap between preservation and innovation. Azra inspires resilience and creativity in rebuilding after conflict and devastation.

Italian art historian Francesca Cappelletti has played a vital role in restoring art works stolen or damaged during World War II. Once they are restored, the works of art are returned to their rightful places. Francesca also trains the next generation of conservationists so that Italy’s cultural legacy will be preserved for future generations.

Through the use of their skills and efforts in restoring these symbols of identity and culture, these women have ensured that their cultural history is meaningful, important, and will not be forgotten.



**Save the Date!**  
**AAUW-NYS 2025 Annual Meeting**



**Mark your calendar! The AAUW-NYS Annual Meeting is coming up,  
and we want you to be part of it!**

**Date: Friday June 13th, 2025 - Saturday June 14th, 2025**

**Location: The Desmond Hotel, Albany, NY**

**Join us for an inspiring and action-packed event featuring exclusive tours,  
inspirational speakers, engaging discussions on key issues affecting women in New  
York, networking opportunities, and more. This is your chance to connect with fellow  
members, share ideas, and take meaningful action.**

**More details, including registration information, will be available soon. In the  
meantime, save the date and stay tuned!**

## 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 times 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)



**for SPRING FLING!!**  
**June 18 at 5 PM**

Mark your calendars for our annual **Spring Fling**. We all look forward to this wonderful event when we can socialize and enjoy a gourmet meal in beautiful surroundings. Details on the program and venue will be forthcoming, so stay tuned!



### **Important news about membership renewal**

It's dues renewal time. We are changing the way we collect dues by asking members to pay through the national website. Most of our members have a June renewal date and should look for an email from AAUW National on or about May 20 with instructions on how to pay dues. AAUW National will send a second reminder in June. Those who renew in months other than June will receive an email from National one month prior to their expiration.

We highly encourage you to take advantage of this new way to renew your membership. It will simplify bookkeeping and decrease the amount of work for our Treasurer.

Dues for 2025-2026 are \$110. Please remember that your dues are tax deductible except for \$3, which supports the AAUW Action Fund that lobbies for our mission "to advance gender equality for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy."

If you have any questions, please reach out to Membership co-Vice Presidents Thea Jacobs or Joni Sims.

**FYI: in order for your name to be included in our 2025-2025 Yearbook, your dues must be received by July 31, 2025.**

### **Announcement From the Editor**

The deadline for submitting material for CHIPS is the 10th of the previous month. Material received after the 10th is not guaranteed to be included, although every effort will be made to do so. Please contact Susan Goodwin at [goodiesue59@gmail.com](mailto:goodiesue59@gmail.com) if you need extra time.





## MAY 2025 CALENDAR

5/1	May Day	
5/2   10 AM	Current Issues Group	Zoom
5/5	Cinco de Mayo	
5/10	DEADLINE for June Newsletter	
5/13   10 AM	Tuesday Lit Group	Zoom
5/14	Art Interest Group	
5/14   5:30 PM	Branch Meeting	Greenburgh Library
5/16	Ladies Who Lunch	
5/20	Poetry Interest Group	Zoom
5/21   6 PM	Evening Lit Group	Lexington Sq Cafe Mt. Kisco
5/26	Memorial Day	