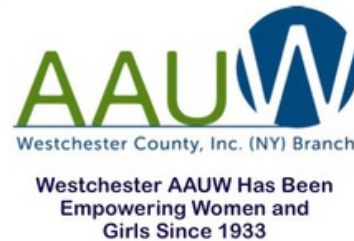


# CHIPS

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



## SEPTEMBER CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Abby Hirsch and Judith Walsh



We hope that everyone had a wonderful summer and is looking forward to another year filled with exciting and meaningful programs with our AAUW family.

Our theme for this year is **“Westchester Women: Engaged and Inspired”**. We will learn more about this theme during our September 10 dinner meeting at La Catena Restaurant in Ardsley, when AAUW New York State President Sandra Camillo will discuss many of the issues and programs on the State level.

So many women in our organization inspire us through their commitment to our mission statement and through the work they do for us as officers, in our action groups, branch projects, and interest groups. Over the years we have welcomed political leaders such as Shelley Mayer and Andrea Stewart-Cousins as program speakers. We were certainly inspired by both of these outstanding leaders.

National AAUW has just published their 2025 Strategic Plan. This mission is one we can also adopt and put into place in our local organization. The three priorities of this plan are:

- 1. Empower Pathways to Higher Education.** We are called upon to continue to encourage women, especially those underserved, to continue their education.
- 2. Advocate for Inclusive policy change.** Support legislation that will remove barriers in education and the workplace. We support legislation that will, among other things, encourage inclusion for all and will help to eradicate harrassment, pay inequity, and will support reproductive freedom.
- 3. Strengthen Grassroots power.** National AAUW will support us in our attempts to foster a robust network of members and align with local and national partners.

These are challenges and imperatives that we have worked on and that will continue to be part of our mission. We look forward to hearing from you as you think about these priorities and bring your ideas to all of us.

Some good news about our 2025-26 yearbook: it will be available in September as an online document instead of in print. More information on how to access and download the yearbook will be forthcoming.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in September!



WC Women: Engaged & Inspired

## *NYS AAUW Leadership: Engaged & Inspired*

**SPEAKERS:** Suzanne Young-Mercer, NYS AAUW President

Sandra Camillo, NYS AAUW President-Elect

**WHEN:** Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 5:15pm

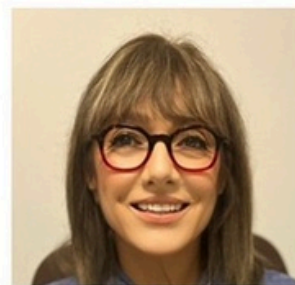
**WHERE:** La Catena Italian Restaurant, 871 Saw Mill River Road, Ardsley, NY 10502

*NYS AAUW President Suzanne Young-Mercer, and President Elect Sandra Camillo, will update us on national and state priorities, issues and concerns. Join us for dinner and meet them at La Catena Restaurant for our first program of the new AAUW year.*



Suzanne Young-Mercer earned her BS degree from Baruch College, NY, in 1988 and her MBA from the University of Phoenix in 2005. She has had a 42-year career in the healthcare industry, including 23 years as a hospital administrator. Suzanne joined the AAUW in 2012 with the AAUW-Rockland, NY branch, serving as Program VP and Branch President. She was selected to join the AAUW NYS Board as Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, holding that position for six years. Suzanne was elected President-elect in June 2022 and began her term as AAUW NYS President in 2024.

Sandy Camillo is an advocate for women's equity. Author of *The Journey of an Invisible Woman* and *The Shocking Truth Behind What Men Really Think About Women*, she also has published numerous articles exploring gender dynamics. Her commitment to advancing women's rights led her to serve from 2011-2019 as a Director, Secretary and Governance/Compliance Officer of AAUW and is presently the President-elect of AAUW-NYS. She also served on the NY Leadership Council of Autism Speaks. Sandy holds a M.S and Administrator's degree in education, a Court Appointed Special Advocate Certification and is licensed in real estate.



**RSVP no later than Friday, Sept. 5 by sending your check made out to AAUW Westchester for \$66**  
(includes 4 courses, beverages/wine/beer) to:

Teresa Neal, 1304 Midland Avenue, Apt. A47, Yonkers, NY 10704

*The AAUW mission is to advance gender equity 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. Though we are nonpartisan, we are not values-neutral: We fight to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of 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, end discrimination.

**BRANCH OFFICERS**

**Co-Presidents**

*Abby Hirsch & Judith Walsh*

**Program Co-Vice Presidents**

*Diana Lennon, Teresa H. Neal and*

*Laurie Austin*

**Membership Co-Vice Presidents**

*Mary Logan & Joni Sims*

**Co-Recording Secretaries**

*Marcia Keizs and Marge Kingsley*

**Corresponding Secretary**

*Sandy Yorn*

**Treasurer**

*Susan Gardner*

**CHIPS Editor**

*Susan Goodwin*

**Branch Website**

*westchester-ny.aauw.net*

**State Website**

*aauw-nys.net*

**National Website**

*aauw.org*

**Facebook**

*AAUW Westchester NY*

# 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 September 16, contact Mary Schenck for the zoom link.

## ART INTEREST GROUP

On Thursday, September 18, the Art Interest Group will visit the Jewish Museum to see the exhibit "Ben Shahn, On Nonconformity". If you'd like to join us, email Shelli Pines.



## Did You Know



Marie Dentiere was an outspoken 16th Century theologian who called for a larger role for women in the Protestant Reformation.

**source:** Focus on the Family Canada

## Visit Our Website

**WESTCHESTER-NY.AAUW.NET**

**BOARD MINUTES ARE POSTED ON THE WEB PAGE**



## CURRENT ISSUES INTEREST GROUP

Welcome back to fall! The Current Interest Group will meet via zoom on Friday, Sept. 5 at 10 a.m. Diona Keorner will lead the discussion.

If you haven't attended before, please contact Ellen Leuner for the zoom link.



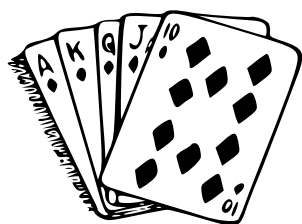
# WELCOME!

to our new members. Thanks for joining  
AAUW Westchester!

Lilah Willis of Scarsdale

Mayliss Charbonnier of Scarsdale

Dene Hurley of Yorktown Heights



## BRIDGE MEET UP GROUP

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

**Please note:** if you are interested in an in-person  
game, contact Elaine. Day and time to be determined.

## JOIN AAUW WESTCHESTER BRANCH

Membership is open to anyone with an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from an accredited college or university. Dues for a new member are \$100 for the first year of membership, a \$10 reduction from regular membership dues, which are \$110/year. To join, please visit [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and click on "log in" at the top of the page for instructions. If you have questions, contact [simsjoni@gmail.com](mailto:simsjoni@gmail.com) or [mlogan@knowsoft.com](mailto:mlogan@knowsoft.com).

When you join the Westchester Branch of AAUW, you also become a member of the AAUW New York State and National organizations.

## LITERATURE GROUPS



### TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

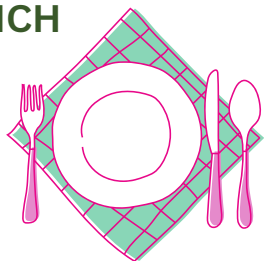
The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on September 9 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Carol McMillan will lead the discussion of The First Ladies by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. **Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you'd like to join us.**

### EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Lit Group will meet on Wednesday, September 17 at 6 p.m. at The Lexington Square Cafe in Mt. Kisco. Abby Hirsch will lead the discussion of Three Days in June by Ann Tyler. Please contact Marsha Savino by phone, e-mail or text to let her know if you plan to attend. **If you have questions about this group contact Sue Lambert at [slamb47@aol.com](mailto:slamb47@aol.com). New members are welcome.**

## 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.



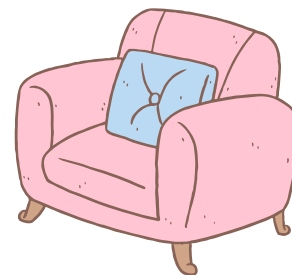
**The group meets at 12:30 p.m. on the third Friday of the month** and members take turns selecting and contacting the restaurants involved. A key requirement is that the restaurant provides separate checks. Recent selections have ranged from Georgian (the country, not the state) to Turkish, Mexican, French, and Greek, all of which provide the group with a chance to explore a variety of ethnic treats. For more information, contact Jeanette Havens; space is limited, but you can join a waiting list to be notified of upcoming excursions.

**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, Sandy Yorn, at [sjy406@aol.com](mailto:sjy406@aol.com)



## Time to Read



### AAUW Westchester Book Group Selections for 2025-2026

#### READING LIST FOR EVENING LIT GROUP:

**Three Days in June**

by Ann Tyler

**The Paris Novel**

by Ruth Reichl

**The Namesake**

by Jhumpa Lahiri

**The Lion Women of Tehran**

by Marjan Kamali

**The First Ladies**

by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray

**The Island of Missing Trees**

by Elif Shafak

**Vivaldi's Virgins**

by Barbara Quick

**The Thursday Murder Club**

by Richard Osman

**The Book of Lost Names**

by Kristin Harmel

#### READING LIST FOR TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

**The First Ladies**

by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray

**Small Things Like These**

by Claire Keegan

**Memorial Days**

by Geraldine Brooks

**The City of Night Birds**

by Juhea Kim

**The Namesake**

by Jhumpa Lahiri

**James**

by Percival Everett

**Diva**

by Daisy Goodwin

**In the Hands of Women**

by Jane Loeb Rubin

**The Lion Women of Tehran**

by Marjan Kamali

**The Sociopath**

by Patric Gagne



# September



|                |                                 |   |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 9/1            | Labor Day                       |  |
| 9/5   10 AM    | Current Issues Group            | Zoom  |
| 9/9   10 AM    | Tuesday Lit Group               | Zoom  |
| 9/10           | DEADLINE for October Newsletter |   |
| 9/10   5:15 PM | Branch Dinner Meeting           | La Catena, Ardsley  |
| 9/16   1:30 PM | Poetry Interest Group           | Zoom  |
| 9/17   6 PM    | Evening Lit Group               | Lexington Sq Cafe Mt. Kisco   |
| 9/18           | Art Interest Group              | Jewish Museum   |
| 9/22           | Autumnal Equinox                |   |

**Bridge players please note:** if you are interested in an in-person game, contact Elaine Barbakoff. Date and time to be determined.