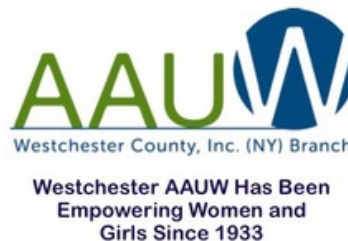


CHIPS

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



JANUARY CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Abby Hirsch and Judith Walsh



We do hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season with friends and family. As we now dive into a new year, many of us have a list of things we hope to see in 2026 and goals that we hope to achieve.

There are many different lists that get written and shared at this time. Some are of the best books, best restaurants, and best movies. One of our favorites is “Independent Women”. These various lists include many influential women in politics, the arts, media, business, and activism. All of these women have made an impact on society and have tried to end gender inequality in every

sphere of life. Here is a short list of some of these extraordinary women:

Gisele Pelicot at age 72 went public at a trial against her husband for drugging her and inviting 50 men to sexually assault her. She demonstrated dignity, courage, and strength.

Gina Meyer started a nonprofit organization, “Katie’s Way”, to promote mental health for college students after her daughter Katie, a soccer player at Stanford University, died of suicide in 2022.

Scout Bassett, a Paralympic medalist and President of the Women’s Sports Foundation, uses her organization to address the disparities experienced by female athletes, and especially those with a disability.

Kellie Gerardi is a commercial astronaut who wants to encourage girls and women to love science.

Angela Williams, attorney, ordained minister, and CEO of United Way, is showing how a woman can lead a major nonprofit and push for equality.

Eleanor Holmes Norton has represented the District of Columbia in Congress since 1991, and continues to fight for statehood for DC.

Tammy Duckworth is a Senator from Illinois who works hard to improve the lives of fellow veterans and working mothers throughout our country.

Hadley Duvall has become the face of the national reproductive rights movement. As a child, she was raped by her stepfather.

Dr. Mona Hanna is a pediatrician whose research on elevated blood lead levels in children exposed the public health emergency in Flint, Michigan due to corroded water pipes. She works tirelessly on behalf of children.

Claudia Scheinbaum, President of Mexico, completed her first year in office with the highest approval ratings in Latin America and is an influential world leader.

Taylor Swift, mega star, is also a humanitarian, donating generously to disaster relief and food banks as well as the Make a Wish Foundation. Her appearance on this list will be praised by many young women in our lives.

All of our AAUW Westchester branch members are also extraordinary and work hard to make a difference and make this a better world for women. It will not be surprising to see some of our scholarship winners, our running and winning participants, or STEM attendees on a future list.

Who would you put on a list of 2025 leaders or influencers? Send your list to this publication (goodiesue59@gmail.com) and it will appear in the next issue. Looking forward to seeing you at our January meeting when we will exercise for fun!



WC Women: Engaged & Inspired

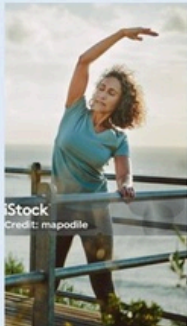
Start the New Year off right with *Active Aging!*

SPEAKER: Deirdre Pachon, Certified Personal Trainer
WHEN: Saturday, January 10, 2026 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.



Join Deirdre Pachon, a certified personal trainer with 50 years of experience, for an engaging session on wellness and active aging. Deirdre has advanced qualifications as a senior exercise specialist and is trained to teach the Arthritis Foundation exercise program.

Learn how simple, guided exercise can reduce arthritis-related pain and stiffness, improve balance, and build strength for everyday activities. Discover how making conscious choices toward better health can help you maintain independence and live a more fulfilling life.



*Please wear sneakers or closed back shoes
and clothing appropriate for doing
some light exercise.*



The AAUW mission is to advance gender equity 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 H. Neal and Laurie Austin

Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Mary Logan & Joni Sims

Co-Recording Secretaries

Marcia Keizs & Marge Kingsley

Corresponding Secretary

Donna Smith

Treasurer

Susan Gardner

CHIPS Editor

Susan Goodwin

Constant Contact

Susan Lambert

Branch Website Manager

Diana Lennon

State Website

aaaw-nys.net

National Website

aaaw.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 January 20, contact Mary Schenck for the zoom link.

ART INTEREST GROUP

On Thursday, January 8, The Art Interest Group will have a private tour of the exhibit "An Ecology of Quilts: the Natural History of American Textiles" at the American Folk Art Museum. If you would like to join us, please email Shelli Pines.



Did You Know



Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova was the first woman in space; she circled the earth 48 times.

source: NASA

Have you visited our website?

westchester-ny.aaaw.net

Board minutes are posted on the web page

Visit our Facebook Page: AAUW Westchester NY

Developing Public Service Opportunities for Our Branch

by Joni Sims

AAUW's goal - its reason for existence - is to **EMPOWER WOMEN**.

We are always looking for ways we can do more to empower our members and our communities.

One of the ideas we've been considering is to create **public service projects** where we can support women in our communities.

We've discussed ideas such as:

- *Spending an afternoon at Planned Parenthood assembling **safe sex kits** for them to distribute

- *Creating **care packages** at Feeding Westchester

- *Participating in letter writing campaigns to **lobby for women's interests**; this is available both locally and nationally

- *Opportunities to **mentor young women**

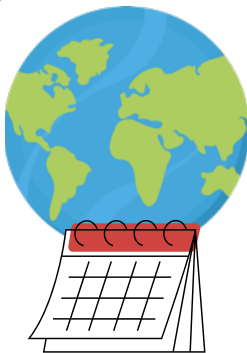
If you would be interested in supporting some of these projects, or have suggestions for other projects, contact Joni Simms at simmsjoni@gmail.com.

Did you know that National supports many empowering projects?

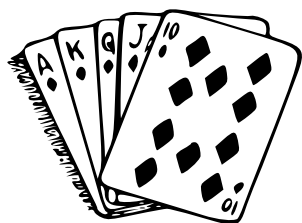
Check out **[AAUW.org/act/two-minute-activist/](https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/)** for current issues.

CURRENT ISSUES GROUP

The Current Issues Group offers our members stimulating discussions on noteworthy topics. We meet via zoom on the first Friday of each month. Our next meeting will be on **January 2** at 10 a.m. A week or so before each meeting, our presenters decide on items for discussion. Last month we discussed “vaccines”, “water fluoridation,” and “If the fighting ends in Ukraine, the in-fighting in Europe will begin”. What issues concern you? Let’s explore them. 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 January 13 via zoom. Shelli Pines will lead a discussion of Jhumpa Lahiri’s, “The Namesake”. **Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you’d like to join us.**

EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Lit Group will meet at 530 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14 at the Lexington Square Cafe in Mt. Kisco. Barbara Wright will lead the discussion of “The First Ladies” by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. 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.**

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 complete this form and send a check payable to AAUW to the address below. If you have questions, contact simsjoni@gmail.com or 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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City:State:Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

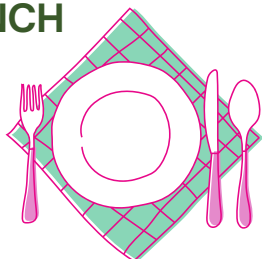
College/University, Degree, Graduation Year: _____

To join send a check to: Westchester AAUW, 455 Tarrytown Rd. #1354, White Plains, NY 10607 or to get more information go the Westchester AAUW Website (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.



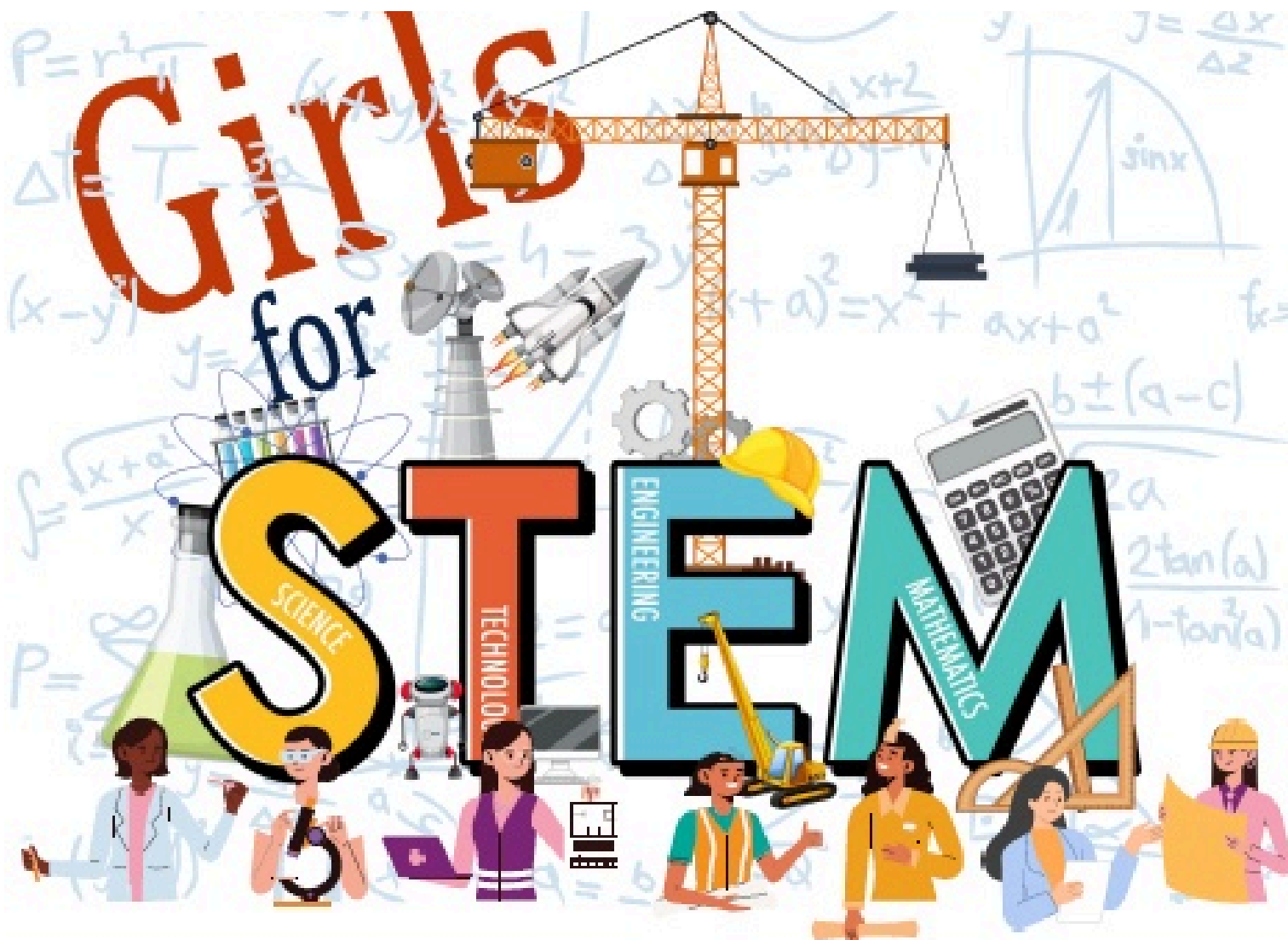
There are time when one of our members is dealing with an illness, a loss or another personal crisis.

If you know a branch member who should receive our well wishes or support please send the information to our corresponding secretary, Donna Smith at okdonnasmith@msn.com.



Happy
New Year





A day of workshops with women in science, tech, engineering & math (& medicine, finance and business)

For Middle School girls in Westchester, Putnam & NYC

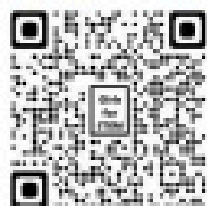
University of Mount Saint Vincent

8:30am-1:30pm, Saturday, March 21, 2026

\$15 includes Breakfast, Lunch
& College Tour

Registration opens Nov 10, 2025

aauw-girlsforstem.org





January



JANUARY 2026 CALENDER

1/1	Happy New Year	
1/2 10 AM	Current Issues Group	via Zoom
1/8	Art Interest Group	
1/10 10:30 AM	Branch Meeting	Greenburgh Library
1/13 10 AM	Tuesday Morning Lit Group	via Zoom
1/14 5:30 PM	Wednesday Evening Lit Group	Lexington Square Cafe, Mt. Kisco
1/19	Martin Luther King Day	
1/20 1:30 PM	Poetry Interest Group	via Zoom