

CHIPS

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



Mission: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Vision: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

Value Statement: By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

2011-2012

COORDINATING COUNCIL

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Sue Lambert, slamb47@aol.com
Circulation-Lynne Hansen
News items are due by the 10th of the month for the following month's issue.

BRANCH WEB SITE

www.aauw-westchester.org

STATE WEB SITE

www.aauw-nys.org

NATIONAL WEB SITE

www.aauw.org

The AAUW

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

provides funding and a support system for individuals seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

The AAUW EDUCATIONAL

OPPORTUNITIES FUND provides

fellowships and grants to aspiring graduate women scholars in the US and around the globe.

COUNCIL MESSAGE by Marilee Scheuneman



Is the AAUW-Westchester Branch a charity, and why do I ask this? We are organized for charitable purposes, and one of our most important projects is running the Explore Your Opportunities ("EYO") conference for 7th grade girls to interest them in STEM fields. It costs thousands of dollars to put on this conference, so we seek donations to fund it. Donors want to get a tax deduction if they contribute, which means our branch needs to become a legal 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization. Before the New York City branch became defunct, they were a 501(c)(3) charity. Due to our partnership with them to operate the event, they served as the fiscal agent so that all donations were deductible. Also, grant applications for EYO require the 501(c)(3) status.

The \$tart \$mart project, workshops for pay negotiation, is another one of our initiatives that needs contributions. We are seeking outside funding for these action groups, and not relying entirely on our members' contributions.

Since last summer, we have been working with attorneys to make an application for the 501(c)(3) tax status. They recommend making changes to our bylaws before New York State qualifies us as tax exempt. Some of the changes are these:

- include a conflict of interest provision in our bylaws
- conform our name in the bylaws with our name on our Certificate of Incorporation
- the elected officers shall serve as directors of the Corporation and shall also comprise the coordinating council
- the board of directors shall consist of the elected directors/officers. Chairs or a representative from each of the action groups, Branch projects and committees may be invited to attend Board meetings but shall have no voting rights on matters requiring a vote of the Board

At the next two branch meetings and in the next two issues of Chips these proposed changes will be clarified and discussed. At the third branch meeting we will take a vote on these changes. Once the bylaws are amended, we will complete the request to the Internal Revenue Service and New York State to become an official charity.

NINTH ANNUALEXPLORE YOUR OPPORTUNITIES CONFERENCE

-by Wilma Gitchel, Co-Director

Our Ninth Annual Conference for 7th-Grade Girls will be the best ever! On March 17, 2012, we will have 18 fun, exciting workshops, one more than our biggest year ever—last year’s 17 workshops. We expect 225 students and 75 accompanying adults, 36 Workshop Assistants, and 15 Mystery Women, along with lots of other volunteers. The photo shows last year’s crowd.



Our mission: to encourage young women to emphasize coursework in science, technology and mathematics in order to keep career options open in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) along with the field of Design. We do this by introducing them to role models of women working in these fields.

Our Westchester Branch members have been most generous in supporting us in the past and we definitely need your help again this year. We need referrals to women working in these fields who would like to be Mystery Women. We need volunteers to help guide the students around the campus on the day of the event.

With the demise of the New York City Branch and the Manhattan Branch, your financial contributions are more important than ever. Your contributions will be tax-deductible if you make your check out to our partner, the College of Mount Saint Vincent, and write “EYO” on the memo line, as described in the tear-off coupon below.

The College of Mount Saint Vincent has arrangements with many companies, such as IBM, to accept matching contributions. Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you would like to know more.

Once again, we thank you for your fine support. We couldn’t do this without you.

Help AAUW Celebrate a Legacy of Leadership Through Service!

Yes . . . I want to help the College of Mount Saint Vincent and American Association of University Women interest girls in opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through the Explore Your Opportunities—The Sky’s the Limit! conference. Here is my tax deductible contribution for:

\$ _____

§ Benefactor (\$500 or more)

§ Friend (\$25)

§ Supporter (\$100)

§ Contributor (\$50)

§ Other \$ _____



Donations totaling \$25 or more, received by February 25, 2012, are included in our Conference Journal
Please indicate below how your name should appear in the Conference Journal

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Your contribution to the EYO conference is tax deductible within the limits prescribed by law. Please mail completed form and check payable to **College of Mount Saint Vincent** with “EYO” on the memo line to: Carol McMillan, Treasurer, 14 Lyon St., Rye Brook NY 10573 Making a Difference - AAUW in partnership with the College of Mount Saint Vincent

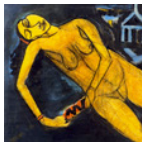
CURRENT ISSUES DISCUSSION GROUP



The Current Issues Interest Group meets on the first Friday morning of each month. Our next meeting will be on January 6th at 10 a.m. in the home of Selena Barron. Our topic that morning will be "Immigration in the U.S." All are welcome.

For further information please contact Marie McKellar 914 591 4899 or mariemck@optonline.net.

ART INTEREST GROUP



On Friday, January 13, 2012 the Art Interest group will visit the Rubin Museum of Art to see the exhibits Once Upon Many Times (Himalayan Storytelling) and Modernist Art from India.

If you would like to come, please contact Shelli Pines at shellip@optonline.net.

THE PLAY READING GROUP

The Play Reading Group will meet on Jan. 10 at the Mount Pleasant Public Library at 1 pm. We will be reading "Little Murders" by Jules Feiffer.



Please contact Joyce Koyner for more information: jkoyner@gmail.com

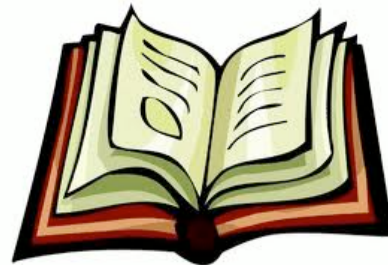
POETRY INTEREST GROUP

The third meeting of the Poetry Interest Group will be at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21st in the home of Janice Rabinowitz. Mary Ellen LeClair will lead the group and all are welcome to attend.

When you come, please bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert and coffee will be provided. In true holiday spirit the group will read "A Child's Christmas in Wales" by Dylan Thomas. Copies will be provided at the meeting, so just come and enjoy!



OUR BOOK GROUP MEETINGS



TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

The Tuesday Morning Lit Group will meet on January 10, 2012, at 10 a.m. in the home of Barbara Mow. We'll discuss the novel, My Michael, by Amos Oz and Nicholas de Lange.

Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you would like to join us.

DAYTIME LITERATURE GROUP

The Daytime Literature Group will meet at 10 a.m. on January 26. Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese will be discussed at the home of Diana Kent and also at the Ossining Library.

Contact Jan Ruotolo for further information.

EVENING LITERATURE GROUP

The Evening Literature Group will meet at the Oishii Asian Fusion Restaurant in Mt. Kisco, at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11. Ellen Eschmann will lead the discussion of The Widdow's War by Sally Gunning.

Please let Ellen Eschmann know if you plan to attend.

JOIN US FOR THE JANUARY 4TH BRANCH MEETING

Program for the January Branch Meeting: *Women Who Make a Difference in Public Life* - 10:30 a.m. at the Greenburgh Public Library, Wednesday, January 4

Speaker: Sheila Marcotte, Westchester County Legislator for District 10
(*Eastchester, Tuckahoe, New Rochelle*)



Sheila Marcotte has been the County Legislator for this district since the spring of 2010 when she won a special election. She was re-elected to this post in November. In 1998, Sheila moved to Tuckahoe where an application to volunteer in the Village of Tuckahoe led to an appointment on the Library board in 1999. After serving as secretary to the Library board she was appointed as a Commissioner on the Village Planning Board. In October of 2001, the Tuckahoe Village Board appointed her as Trustee after the tragic attacks of 9/11, and she was elected the following March. In 2004 Sheila was appointed to the Eastchester Town Board and was twice elected to that seat. Ms. Marcotte serves on many boards and committees and volunteers in many organizations. She continues to reside in Tuckahoe with her spouse Tom and their four children.

DON'T FORGET TO SHARE YOUR GIRL SCOUT MEMORIES!

Were you a Girl Scout? (any age level from Brownies through Seniors or as an adult volunteer) In preparation for her branch meeting presentation on the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting, scheduled for March 7, 2012, Jean Havens is collecting Girl Scout memories from our Branch members. If you have a great story or a treasured memory to share, please take a few minutes to email to Jean at jhavens@verizon.net. Remember, once a Girl Scout, always a Girl Scout!

FROM AAUW ACTION NETWORK SAY NO TO BULLYING!

Take Action!--Ask your Senators to Cosponsor the Student Non-Discrimination Act

Bullying and sexual harassment have, unfortunately, made big headlines in recent months. After several tragic suicides, new initiatives aimed at preventing bullying and harassment, and AAUW's ground-breaking report on sexual harassment in school, the public and the media are finally paying attention to the critical issue of bullying. Now is the time to pass strong, meaningful anti-bullying and harassment legislation.

Take action: Ask your senators to cosponsor the Student Non-Discrimination Act (S. 555)!

All students deserve a safe and nurturing environment in which to pursue their educational goals. Yet currently, there is no federal law that explicitly protects students on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.



The Student Non-Discrimination Act (SNDA) would do just that. SNDA, which is modeled after other civil rights laws such as Title IX, would protect students from various forms of bullying and harassment, such as sex stereotyping and bullying based on their actual or perceived gender identity, and would give students the ability to enforce protection from discrimination and harassment. AAUW believes it is past time for such a law.

To send a message asking your senators to cosponsor SNDA, visit AAUW Two-Minute Activist (<http://bit.ly/55Ljd>) or click on the "Take Action" link in the upper right hand corner of this email.

Remember: You can always help strengthen AAUW's efforts to fight bullying and harassment by making a tax-deductible donation to AAUW's Public Policy Fund!

Double your impact! Tweet, Facebook, and forward this action alert to friends and family.

PUBLIC POLICY JANUARY 2012
-by Selena Barron

In 2011 women had an important part in successfully working toward ending violence against women.



On a global level three women shared a Nobel Peace prize, Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee also of Liberia and Yemeni activist Tawakkui Karman. The award honored their nonviolent pursuit of rights for women. Ms Karman is the first Arab woman to win the prize. They are the first women since 2004 to be honored and they will share a \$1.5 million award.

AAUW also played an active role in ending such violence. On December 6th, in the *Daily Courier-Observer* on their Opinion Page, the AAUW St. Lawrence, NY branch had an important article, titled "End Violence Against Women Campaign Noted". The article described the 16 days of the Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign which this year was celebrated between November 25th and December 10th. Sponsored by the center for Women's Global Leadership since 1991, the theme for this year was "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women". The article points out that "Worldwide women aged 15-44 are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than from malaria, cancer, car accidents and war." The article stated that as advocates the branches of the North Country AAUW took action and locally underwrote the WPBS's broadcast of the *Women, War and Peace series*. This is the series which highlights how "women have overcome tremendous obstacles to promote and find peace in the midst of war". If you missed the series you can watch it online at WWW.pbs.org/wnet/women-war-peace/.

Our branch has also been active. At our AAUW Westchester October branch meeting we hosted the co-chairs of My Sister's Keeper, an AAUW NYS initiative. Joan Monk and Melissa Guardaro presented a moving program that visually described the plight of women worldwide and within our domestic borders. Our branch provides three \$1000 scholarships to women who are graduating from Westchester Community College and going on for a four year degree. Virtually all of these women have fled from their country of birth and often have no family members to provide financial or emotional support for them. Education is their future. AAUW members also volunteer at the Gateway Center at WCC as conversation partners to help the women improve their English and assimilate to the college and our culture.

At our holiday luncheon in December our Speaker, Lucy Swann, gave a poignant memoir of her life starting as a child in Austria just before 1938 when the Germans took over the country and Jews faced death. For the next 8 years Lucy and her family sought exit visas and passage to safety. They fled from country to country using visas from Belgium and Romania and in France were hidden by a family who risked their own lives to protect them. Lucy's family was separated and forced to spend time in internment camps. Finally they reached safety in America. Her heartrending experience has not dampened her spirit or love for her family and life. Her memoir is a metaphor for the terror, abuse and homicide still faced by women and their families in many parts of the world.

For an action project our branch collected money and gifts for the holidays for the children of women incarcerated at the Bedford Hills Prison. Keeping the tradition of gift giving at the holidays, permits the women to maintain a semblance of family activity while they are imprisoned. One of our members teaches in a college program which is available to some of the prisoners. Often these women have been abused by their families and/or their boyfriends and they have few skills for when they are released. The college program gives them hope.

c/o Barbara Sarver
 34 Scenic Circle
 Croton on Hudson, NY 10520



JANUARY 2012

1/2	Monday Bridge Group			12 p.m.
1/3	Tuesday Mah Jongg Group			10:30 a.m.
1/4	Branch Meeting		Greenburgh Public Library	10:30 a.m.
1/5	Thursday Mah Jongg Group			10:30 a.m.
1/5	Thursday Bridge Group			10:30 a.m.
1/6	Current Issues Discussion Group		Selena Barron's Home	10 a.m.
1/9	Monday Bridge Group			12 p.m.
1/10	Deadline for submitting for CHIPS			
1/10	Tuesday Morning Literature Group			10 a.m.
1/10	Financial Interest Study Group		Inge Clark's Home	10 a.m.
1/10	Play Reading Group		Mt. Pleasant Lib.	1 p.m.
1/11	Tuesday Mah Jongg Group (Wed. Mtg.)			10:30 a.m.
1/11	Evening Literature Group		Oishii Asian Fusion, Mt. Kisco	6 p.m.
1/12	Thursday Mah Jongg Group			10:30 a.m.
1/12	Thursday Bridge Group			
1/13	Art Interest Group		Rubin Museum of Art	
1/14	EYO Planning			9 a.m.
1/16	Monday Bridge Group			12 p.m.
1/17	Tuesday Mah Jongg Group			10:30 a.m.
1/18	Council Meeting		Ann Toffel's Home	10 a.m.
1/19	Thursday Mah Jongg Group			10:30 a.m.
1/19	Thursday Bridge Group			
1/20	Pay Equity Outreach Group		Roli Wendorf's Home	2 p.m.
1/23	Monday Bridge Group			12 p.m.
1/24	Tuesday Mah Jongg Group			10:30 a.m.
1/26	Daytime Literature Group			10 a.m.
1/26	Thursday Mah Jongg Group			10:30 a.m.
1/26	Thursday Bridge Group			
1/30	Monday Bridge Group			12 p.m.
1/31	Tuesday Mah Jongg Group			10:30 a.m.

