

# CHIPS

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

## **The AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND**

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

*In principle and in 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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News items are due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month for the following month's issue.

## **BRANCH WEB SITE**

[www.aauw-westchester.org](http://www.aauw-westchester.org)

## **STATE WEB SITE**

[www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org)

## **NATIONAL WEB SITE**

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

*AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.*

## **The AAUW EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

*advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.*

## **COUNCIL MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 2011**

**-by Marilee Scheuneman,  
Administrative Vice President**



Here are the reasons you should not miss the first AAUW Westchester Branch Meeting at the start of our new season on Wednesday evening, September 7, at 6 pm, to be held at the First Congregational Church in Chappaqua:

- ★ Elaine Hartel and Phyllis Kirigen will be performing in vignettes called Women's Stories.
- ★ The food will be delicious because it is a potluck, and everyone will bring a tasty dish to share, while beverages will be provided.
- ★ You will be able to pick up your copy of the new Branch Yearbook 2011-2012, which will contain the calendar of branch meetings and special events, plus a directory of all members and their photos.
- ★ It's an opportunity to meet new members, and catch up with old friends.
- ★ You will be able to sign up for interest groups, whether they be book discussion groups, play-reading, current issues, bridge, mah jongg, cooking, or business and finance.
- ★ You can get news about what we are currently working on, such as the process for attaining tax-free 501(c)(3) status for the branch.
- ★ We can discuss AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, philanthropy, education, and research. The theme of this year's programs is Connections. Our branch connects to make a difference in the lives of women and girls in the following ways: monthly programs on current issues affecting women; conference for seventh grade girls; granting awards and scholarships; pay-equity workshops for college women; fundraising for AAUW.

*I look forward to seeing you in September.*



## ANNE TOFFEL TO SERVE AS RE CO-RECORDING SECRETARY



We are pleased to announce that, with the absence of Jane Black, who is moving out of town, Ann Toffel has agreed to join the Westchester Branch Council as Co-Recording Secretary. Ann lives in White Plains and has been a member since 1995. We look forward to working with her.



### MEMBERS WITH 25 OR MORE YRS. IN AAUW

*Pat Beuler  
Paulette Didato  
Mary Efthimion  
Ellen Eschmann  
Patricia Fine  
Arlene Gross  
Phyllis Harrison  
Jean Havens  
Nancy O'Hare  
Sue Richards  
Susan Sayre  
Carol Schlacter  
Lucy Swann  
Mary Woods*



Members with 25+ years who attended the Final Filing in June. From left to right, Paulette Didato, Susan Sayre, Donna Dittmeier(50+), Jean Havens, Arlene Gross, Carol Schlacter, Sue Richards, and Lucy Swann.

## EXPLORE YOUR OPPORTUNITIES—THE SKY'S THE LIMIT! Wilma Gitchel and Lorrin Johnson, Co-Directors



As we begin work on our Ninth Annual conference for seventh grade girls, dedicated to providing role models of women working in the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), we face unique and difficult challenges.

As you have read/heard, two of our partners in this wonderful venture, the NYC Branch and the Manhattan Branch, have both disbanded. The NYC Branch was the means whereby we were able to accept tax-deductible contributions. Our Westchester Branch members have generously provided a major portion of our operating funds through this vehicle. We also face the loss of major funding from these two branches. Our branch is working to apply for tax-deductible status, but this procedure will take at least a year to complete. Meanwhile, we are working to find another suitable partner for the tax-deductible status for our conference.

Our first planning meeting will be on Saturday, September 10, from 9 to 11 a.m., location to be announced later. Meanwhile, throughout the year you can help by making your Amazon purchases through our EYO website: [www.aauw-eyoconference.org](http://www.aauw-eyoconference.org) and clicking on the Amazon button at the bottom of the page. Doesn't cost you anything and we get a tiny percentage.

We have a strong, dedicated team, and we have every expectation that our Ninth Annual conference will be the best ever. We thank you all for your support.

## CURRENT ISSUES DISCUSSION GROUP



The Current Issues Discussion Group will meet Friday, September 16, 2011, 10 a.m. at the home of Selena Barron, 9 Edgewood Road, Hartsdale, NY.

At the first meeting this year, Marie McKellar will preside and we will discuss political candidates, the budget, and debt ceiling. Welcome new members and old. Please RSVP to Arlene August by September 14 if you plan to attend.

## TUESDAY MORNING LIT GROUP

Welcome back, esteemed Literati. We hope your summer was spectacular and that you enjoyed your summer reading of When the Crocodile Eats the Sun, by Peter Goodwin and Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight, by Alexandra Fuller. These two memoirs are connected by their subject matter: Zimbabwe and the push to remove the white farmers.

We'll discuss them at the home of Marge Phillips on September 13, 2011, at 10 a.m. Please contact Wilma Gitchel if you would like to join our interesting, stimulating group.



## DAYTIME LITERATURE GROUP

The Daytime Literature Group will meet on Thursday, September 22 at 10 a.m. at the Ossining Library. The group will discuss Wolf Hall by Hillary Mantel. 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, September 14. Arlene August will lead the discussion of American Woman by Susan Choi. Please let Ellen Eschmann know if you plan to attend.

## THURSDAY MAH JONGG GROUP



The Thursday Mah Jongg Group welcomes new players. If you are interested in joining this group which meets at 10:30 a.m. every Thursday, please call Ruth Berlowitz at 723-3147.

## ART INTEREST GROUP

On Friday, September 9, 2011 the Art Interest group will visit the Hammond Museum and Japanese Stroll Garden. If you would like to come, please contact Shelli Pines at [shellip@optonline.net](mailto:shellip@optonline.net).

## THE PLAY READING GROUP

The Play Reading Group will be meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 13 and will be reading Barefoot In The Park by Neil Simon. The group meets at the Mt. Pleasant Library at 1pm. No preparation, just come and enjoy. For further information please contact Joyce Koyner [jkoyner@gmail.com](mailto:jkoyner@gmail.com).

## POETRY GROUP FORMING

This summer, several of us have met twice to read poetry and enjoy each other, our discussions, and our own sandwiches with dessert and coffee provided. The group is enthusiastic about continuing to meet and Mary Ellen LeClair has agreed to be our leader. The group has chosen the afternoon of the third Tuesday in each month for its meetings and will probably meet around various dining room tables.

Our first meeting in the fall will be at 12:30 p.m. October 18th, and further details will be provided in the October CHIPS. Poetry lovers SAVE THE DATES !



## AAUW DISTRICT V ART EXHIBIT



Members are invited to submit one piece of artwork to be displayed at our District V Conference and for the month of October at the First Unitarian Society of Westchester. District V comprises AAUW branches from Rockland County, Staten Island, and Westchester. The Unitarian Society is located across the street from St. Andrew's Golf Course where we hold our Final Fling.

Please contact Marilee Scheuneman for the guidelines on this exhibition.

## AAUW- GOOD FOR YOUR HEATH? -by Selena Barron



Part of AAUW's mission statement includes lifelong advocacy and education for women and girls. Education for our members is a top priority for our branch and a special perk for our members painlessly delivered through our speakers, interest groups, branch projects, and activities. I made the connection that AAUW could be good for your health through an article in the New York Times on July 26<sup>th</sup> that discussed a study on prevention of Alzheimer's disease presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in Paris by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco.

The study estimated how many Alzheimer's cases might be due to "physical inactivity, smoking, depression, low education, hypertension, obesity and diabetes." Using a mathematical model the researchers suggest that half of the 3.5 Alzheimer's cases each year in the U.S. could be caused by some or all of these factors. The researchers carefully pointed out "there is not yet scientific proof that any of these risk factors cause Alzheimer's." The article states there are no medications or vitamins and herbs that are known to prevent or cure Alzheimer's. It goes on to point out that the risk factors listed above are modifiable and are already accepted as improving overall health and as a preventative of cancer and heart disease.

Long term extensive research needs to be done for definitive answers about the cause and prevention of Alzheimer's. However for overall better health, AAUW members can reduce these risk factors through participation in activities our branch offers. For example, our summer activities provided exercise through walking trips at the Bronx Zoo, the Highline in NY City, MOMA, the Cloisters, and the bridge across the Hudson in Poughkeepsie. These trips also gave participants fun, interactive information about our environment, ecology, conservation, the management of endangered species, and the arts. The beautiful location at each site provided a perfect setting for an educational mini vacation. Lunches at the Red Leaf, X20, and PasTina's provided a setting for bright, enthusiastic conversations with current and new friends. Maintaining close social connections is known to prevent or decrease depression.

The branch extends a well deserved thank you to all the volunteers who added so much pleasure to our summer. I hope as many members as possible will take part in AAUW activities this year. They may even be good for your health!

## PUBLIC POLICY -by Selena Barron



An article in the August 9<sup>th</sup> New York Times updates NY State policy with regard to fracking. The Cuomo administration is seeking to lift a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing in NY State. Without taking a stand on fracking, the NY State

Comptroller, Thomas P. DiNapoli, proposes that the state adopt legislation that would establish a fund, supported by the natural gas operators to "post surety bonds for the natural gas drilling they undertake, so that money would be available if any contamination subsequently occurred, on either public or private property."

"Drillers for natural gas are forbidden by state environmental regulations to contaminate soil or water, but private citizens whose property has been tainted from drilling must currently rely on the courts to seek compensation." Many environmental and citizens groups oppose fracking for fear that it could contaminate land and/or groundwater. DiNapoli's proposal would also include a surcharge on drilling permits to provide additional money for environmental cleanups. The legislation would also permit state regulators to order immediate cleanup after a drilling accident and would give them the right to take over a contaminated site and start the emergency cleanup.

The question remains do NY citizens want fracking at all if the potential for accidents that contaminate water and land are frequent enough to require such a fund and the proposed legislation?



## ABOUT OUR NEW MEMBERS!!



**We would like to welcome the following new members to the Westchester Branch of AAUW!**

**Elissa Adair Schuler** lives in White Plains. She has a BA in Anthropology/Women's Studies from Princeton University and a PhD in Biology from Imperial College, London. She works as a health care researcher for Consumer Reports.

**Norma Lemberger** lives in Armonk. She has a BS in Math from Brooklyn College and also attended Harpur College. She has retired from various finance and management positions with IBM.

**Jennifer Bilski** lives in White Plains. She has a BS in Criminal Justice and a MS in Counseling Psychology from Pace University.

**Julia Blanchard-Young** lives in Tarrytown. She has a dual major in Education and History from Syracuse University and a MS in Pastoral Counseling from Fordham University. She is a self employed LCSW and has volunteer experience in organizing and leading contemplative prayer groups.

**Sandra Austin Johnson** lives in White Plains. She has a BS in Civil Engineering from Pennsylvania State University and a MBA from the University of Notre Dame. She is the Senior Vice President for Operations for the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering. She is a reading volunteer for Adult Literacy.

**Deborah Tarlow** lives in Armonk. She attended Westchester Community College and SUNY Purchase and graduated from Pace University with a BA in Liberal Arts. Deborah is retired. She worked at St Agnes Hospital as a Human Services recruiter and activities coordinator.

**Marie (Bunny) Mauriello** lives in Scarsdale. She has a BA in English/History from the College of New Rochelle and a MA in Humanities from Manhattanville College. Bunny is a returning member and has served previously as President and V. President of Programs.

**Lillian DePasquale** lives in Chappaqua. She has a BA in Education from Hunter College and has retired from teaching at PS 71 in the Bronx. Lillian has been active in a variety of communal activities in her town.

**Keiko Hirano** lives in Irvington. She has a BA in English from Tokyo Women's Christian College and a BA in American Culture from Mount Holyoke College. Keiko has retired from teaching at the Bronx High School of Science. She is active in the Literacy Volunteers of America.

**Suruchi Mohan** lives in Los Angeles, California. She has a MS in Journalism from San Jose State College and is an author with volunteer experience in editing and writing. She presented a program on Divine Music at the Branch meeting in May.



### Westchester AAUW New Member Coffee Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>!

The Westchester Branch of AAUW cordially invites new or prospective new members to attend a get-together to greet new members and meet some long term ones.

Saturday September 24 at 10 a.m. at Marie McKellar's Home



# AAUW DISTRICT V CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 29, 2011

9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

## DISTRICT V: Westchester, Staten Island, and Rockland County Branches of AAUW

### Location:

First Unitarian Society of Westchester, 25 Old Jackson Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY (across the street from St. Andrews Golf Club where we hold the Final Fling)



## *THEME: COMMUNICATIONS*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Mary Lou Walker, author of SPEAK EASY

*Observing Mary Lou's rules will take you to a new level in conversation, and in life. As you learn how to "speak easy" on matters high, low, and in between, you will break away from stale, mundane and repetitive talk, and develop a new and enduring source of self-enjoyment.*

### Workshops:

- I. Digital Photography led by Rose Cardillo, Westchester
- II. Membership led by Maria Ellis
- III. Strengthen Your Branch's Visibility led by Claire Regan, SI Branch President
- IV. Route to tax deductible status (501(c)(3) by Jeremy Havens, Esq.

### Gourmet Buffet Lunch

### Schedule:

- 9:30 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast  
10:30 a.m. Keynote Speaker  
11:30 a.m. Workshop I and II  
12:30 p.m. Luncheon, branch reports, Roli Wendorf, AAUW-NY State VP for LAF  
1:30 p.m. Workshops III and IV

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**RSVP: Send check for \$27 Payable to AAUW Westchester to:  
Barbara Sarver, 34 Scenic Circle, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

## THE SOCIAL NETWORK AND AAUW WESTCHESTER BRANCH Jane Pendergast – Facebook Manager



The Social Media seem to surround us these days, and AAUW Westchester is now on board with its own Facebook page. Early on, to reach our new Facebook page if you are not a Facebook member, go to Google and search on [AAUW Westchester NY Facebook](#). If you are a Facebook member, you can reach us from Facebook via AAUW Westchester NY; please [Link](#) to our new Branch Facebook page and [Like](#) us. For those of you who are not Facebook members, probably by the time this CHIPS article reaches you, you will be able to reach us directly via our new Facebook short name: [AAUW Westchester NY Facebook](#) – the Google step will not be needed, just input this short name as a url in your Internet browser address line. Don't worry, even if you are not a Facebook member, you can visit our page and add your input.

We promise to keep you updated with news of the Branch, the wider AAUW community and our mission goals of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. We will add items, but your participation in the Facebook page is welcomed and actually required to make the page a success. The page is intended to be a timely source of news about our interests, offering an opportunity for you to create the content and open up the forum for your own discussions.

So please add any important news about Branch activities, including trips, books read, advocacy works and wins, with pictures if you have them. We hope to start dialogues and discussions about all of our activities. It's quite easy to get started, just go to the page and add a comment by [Writing Something](#) or [Commenting](#) or [Sharing](#) (Facebook members). Don't worry, Facebook membership is not required, you can Write Something or Comment whether or not you are a member. If you would like to add an item but do not want to add it to Facebook yourself, just email it to [jpendergast2@msn.com](mailto:jpendergast2@msn.com) or [wendorfr@aol.com](mailto:wendorfr@aol.com), and one of us will add it.

So get on board with our new communications tool: AAUW Westchester NY Facebook!

### CAZENOVIA 2011-by *Roli Wendorf*

The annual AAUW-NYS Summer Leadership Conference was held July 15-17 this summer at Cazenovia College, Cazenovia NY. From our branch, four attended: Jean Havens, Joan Monk, Jane Pendergast, and me. The weather was beautiful throughout. We relived a college experience: living in (air-conditioned!) dorms, sharing the bathroom with three other women, and eating in the cafeteria. The Summer Conference has a very different feel from the AAUW-NYS State Convention held in April each year. The atmosphere is casual, with shorts and jeans being OK, and the group is smaller; there were 55 attendees this year. The program was excellent, with many good talks. I found the week-end motivating and worthwhile.






This was not only my first time at the Summer Conference, I also started my term on the AAUW-NYS State Board as the Legal Advocacy Fund VP. The term is for two years until June 2013. I attended my first Board meeting which went from about 12:30 to 5 on Friday. At the conference, I raffled a basket for LAF containing a variety of self-help books on tape, beautifully wrapped by Joan Monk. The minimum contribution was \$10, and we collected \$240. I was very happy with that. Roughly half of those present contributed.

On Saturday, I ran a brainstorming and information session on LAF-EOF fundraising with Lisa Clark, the EOF VP. Since AAUW National is 501c3, and the Educational Foundation is not needed for tax exempt contributions, there have been a lot of changes in the funds structure, which are causing a lot of confusion in many branches. We clarified these changes, and also went over a variety of ideas for fundraising that have been used in various branches. I also sat through an audit of LAF accounts, which is an annual feature, and a very good idea. Next year, it will be my turn to face the audit!

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



**SEPTEMBER 2011**

9/1	Thursday Mah Jongg Group		10:30 a.m.
9/1	Thursday Bridge Group		
9/5	Monday Bridge Group		12 p.m.
9/6	Tuesday Mah Jongg Group		10:30 a.m.
9/7	Branch Meeting	1 <sup>st</sup> Cong. Church, Chappaqua	6 p.m.
9/8	Thursday Mah Jongg Group		10:30 a.m.
9/8	Thursday Bridge Group		
9/9	Art Interest Group	Hammond Mus. & Japanese Gardens	
9/10	Deadline for submitting for CHIPS		
9/10	EYO Planning		9 a.m.
9/12	Monday Bridge Group		12 p.m.
9/13	Play Reading Group	Mt. Pleasant Lib.	1 p.m.
9/13	Tuesday Morning Literature Group		10 a.m.
9/14	Tuesday Mah Jongg Group (Wed. Mtg.)		10:30 a.m.
9/14	Evening Literature Group	Oishii Asian Fusion, Mt. Kisco	6 p.m.
9/15	Thursday Mah Jongg Group		10:30 a.m.
9/15	Thursday Bridge Group		
9/16	Current Issues Discussion Group	Selena Barron's Home	10 a.m.
9/16	Pay Equity Outreach Group	Roli Wendorf's Home	2 p.m.
9/19	Monday Bridge Group		12 p.m.
9/20	Tuesday Mah Jongg Group		10:30 a.m.
9/21	Board Meeting	Linda Motelson's Home	10 a.m.
9/22	Daytime Literature Group		10 a.m.
9/22	Thursday Mah Jongg Group		10:30 a.m.
9/22	Thursday Bridge Group		
9/24	New Member's Coffee	Marie McKellar's Home	10 a.m.
9/26	Monday Bridge Group		12 p.m.
9/27	Tuesday Mah Jongg Group		10:30 a.m.
9/29	Thursday Mah Jongg Group		10:30 a.m.
9/29	Thursday Bridge Group		