



Empire State NYC Branch

Founded 2012

Empire Times

Winter 2023

Quarterly Volume 11 No.1

Welcome to the AAUW Empire State NYC Branch!

Members of the AAUW Empire State NYC Branch meet the 1st Friday of each month at the Harvard Club in NYC from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm to discuss current issues related to women's education and other issues. Please join us for drinks and conversation.

RSVP to jessicaryansimspd@gmail.com.

The Harvard Club, 35 W 44th Street, New York, NY 10036

Girls for STEM 2023 Conference

Girls for STEM
EXPLORE YOUR OPPORTUNITIES!

**A CONFERENCE FOR
 7TH & 8TH GRADE GIRLS**
MARCH 4, 2023
8:30AM-12PM

**HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS FOR
 STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

INTRODUCING GIRLS TO STEM BASED CAREERS
 (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH)

THE COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT
RIVERDALE, NEW YORK 10471

INFO AND REGISTRATION: AAUW-GIRLSFORSTEM.ORG
 QUESTIONS? AAUW.GIRLSFORSTEM@GMAIL.COM

SPONSORED BY AAUW WESTCHESTER BRANCH
 AAUW EMPIRE NYC BRANCH
 AND THE COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT



AAUW New York State College/ University Coordinator Announcement!

"Celebration of College Women Presidents" -Saturday, April 8, 2023, 9:30 am to noon. The planning committee will meet by zoom for approximately 45 minutes on Saturdays at 8:00 am,

January 7 & 14
 February 18 & 25
 March 4 & 18
 &
 April 1 (wrap up).

The Panel Topic is "College Women Presidents: Community College Panel - University Panel. The planning committee is in the process of creating questions for the panel participants. We invite AAUW NYS members to email me at mel-lis@kwnyc.com, with questions you would like to have answered during the Zoom event on April 8th. Thank you!

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To join us, click on the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7457199346?pwd=VXI4YURMSmdsSXpxRHdia0Nwa01FUT09>

Meeting ID: 745 719 9346

Passcode: AAUW

To join by telephone, dial (646)931-3860

AAUW—Empire State
NYC Branch

973 216 4181

<http://empire-ny.aauw.net>

Founded 2012

A LETTER FROM THE EMPIRE STATE VIRTUAL BRANCH PRESIDENT, MARIA ELLIS



Dear Friends,

Through 2022, we have promoted education and pay equity for women and girls and have provided our members with resources to identify best practices for promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within our organization.

We enjoyed a successful "Girls for STEM Conference" via zoom organized by the Empire State NYC Branch and the Westchester Branch. The Girls for STEM Program Co-Directors are Lorrin Johnson and myself, and I am happy to report that the girls enjoyed the following workshops: Let's Take a Cell-fie taught by Adrienne Roeder, PhD, Associate Professor, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University with Isabella Burda, Michelle Heeny, Carly Rodriguez, Dr. Avilash Singh Yadav; PhotosynthesisEYES! Taught by Angelica E. Patterson, PhD, Master Science Educator, Black Rock Forest; The Future of Lighting: The power of sustainable lighting design taught by Leigha Lugo, Co-Founder, Lightwater Creative; Slide-ing into Cells taught by Jocelyn Wong, Edita Cosovic, Zubayer Mahbub, Students, Bronx High School of Science; Brain Games taught by Jenny Libien, MD PhD, Chair of Pathology, Downstate Health Sciences University; Survive the Zombie Apocalypse taught by Whitney Bagge, PhD MPH, Disease Ecologist, Ecohealth Alliance; Explore AI and Art with mozAirt taught by Anika Puri, Senior at Horace Greeley High School & Founder of mozAirt and Navigating COVID-19 in NYC taught by Elise Kohl-Grant & Khushboo Shah, Chief Information Officer – Innovative Management Solutions New York, Managing Member – Gifted Builders, NY Advisor, User Engagement – Welligent (EKG) & Director, Data Solutions, Innovative Management Solutions New York.

We attended our AAUW-NYS Annual Meeting held on June 24-25, 2022. The annual meeting was held via zoom and this year's theme is "Title IX: Getting Girls in the Game." The agenda included a virtual tour of the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, NY; the evening with a "paint and sip" hour exploring our artistic abilities. We had a successful business meeting and engaged in a discussion of Title IX from a panel. Followed by our keynote speaker, Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO and the Induction of Officers. In addition to her role as CEO, Gloria Blackwell is also AAUW's main representative to the United Nations. Among her many accomplishments is her 15-year management of AAUW's highly esteemed fellowships and grants program—awarding more than \$70 million in funding to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and overseas. Gloria has also been the driving force behind AAUW's signature programs, including its salary negotiation trainings, which have reached nearly 190,000 nationwide. She has worked on pay equity initiatives with public officials in Washington D.C., New York City, Boston, and Pittsburgh, as well as with numerous other state and municipal partners. She also worked with the National Science Foundation to increase girls' participation in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

Thank you to our primary and dual members who have renewed their membership with the Empire State NYC Branch, AAUW. If you have not yet renewed your membership, this is a friendly reminder! If you become a new member or renew your membership with the Empire State NYC Branch, AAUW on before November 30th, you will receive a complimentary copy of my 4th book, "Longevity, Reinvent Yourself at Any Age." Please see below the various memberships available. You can pay by PayPal or if you prefer to email a check, issue a check to Empire State NYC Branch, AAUW and mail it to our treasurer, Dr. C. S. Rani, 200 Cabrini Blvd, #77, New York, NY 10033.

The annual dues to become a primary member is \$80. (The \$80 fee is distributed as follows: \$62 for national dues, \$13 for NYS; \$5 for Empire State NYC Branch. If you are a dual member the annual due to become a member of the Empire State NYC Branch is only \$5. If you are already an AAUW member at large, the annual fee is \$18 (\$13 for AAUW NYS; \$5 for Empire) If you are a graduate student, the membership is \$18.81 If you are a new graduate, the 1st year membership is free. If you are a student, the membership is free.

To pay via PayPal, click on the following link.

[https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/empirenyc?ppid=PPC000654&cnac=US&rsta=en_US\(en_US\)&cust=Q2B65DHZ8LPPJ&unptid=0a35625c-dd58-11e8-ab19-441ea1479ce4&t=&cal=67c54f24a1b67&calc=67c54f24a1b67&calf=67c54f24a1b67&unp_tpcid=ppme-social-business-profile-created&page=main:email&pgrp=main:email&e=op&mchn=em&s=ci&mail=sys](https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/empirenyc?ppid=PPC000654&cnac=US&rsta=en_US(en_US)&cust=Q2B65DHZ8LPPJ&unptid=0a35625c-dd58-11e8-ab19-441ea1479ce4&t=&cal=67c54f24a1b67&calc=67c54f24a1b67&calf=67c54f24a1b67&unp_tpcid=ppme-social-business-profile-created&page=main:email&pgrp=main:email&e=op&mchn=em&s=ci&mail=sys)

The Empire State NYC Branch had a successful "Design Your Life" complimentary workshop via zoom and we continued our international series and we enjoyed lively Great Decisions conversations about Changing Demographics, Outer Space, Climate Change, Russia and the United States, Quad Alliance, Drug Policy in Latin America, Industrial Policy, and the Biden Agenda. https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_topics

Our next zoom meeting will be on Thursday, January 5th at 5:30 pm. We will start our 2023 Great Decisions series, how will changes in the energy industries impact relations between countries? Access to oil and gas has long held an influence over the politics of individual nations and their relations with others. But as more countries move toward

sustainable energy, and supply chain shortages affect the availability of oil and gas, how will this change the way in which the United States interacts with the outside world? By Carolyn Kissane. To join us, click on the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7457199346?pwd=VXI4YURMSmdsSXpxRHdia0NwaQ1FU09>

Meeting ID: 745 719 9346

Passcode: AAUW

To join via telephone, dial 646 931-3860

In 2023, let's create a Vision of Infinite Abundance! When our inner vision is clouded with lack and scarcity, it can be hard to visualize abundance in our lives. For abundance to thrive, we must expand our vision to encompass our wildest dreams and ground ourselves in the belief that all possibilities are available to us. Let's allow our minds to roam without limitations and see where it goes. Let your vision be expanded beyond what you thought was possible. Join us and/or email your AAUW mission-based program ideas.

Happy Holidays!

Maria Ellis, MBA

Empire State NYC Branch President

Email: mellis@fsacap.com

Mobile: 973-216-4181

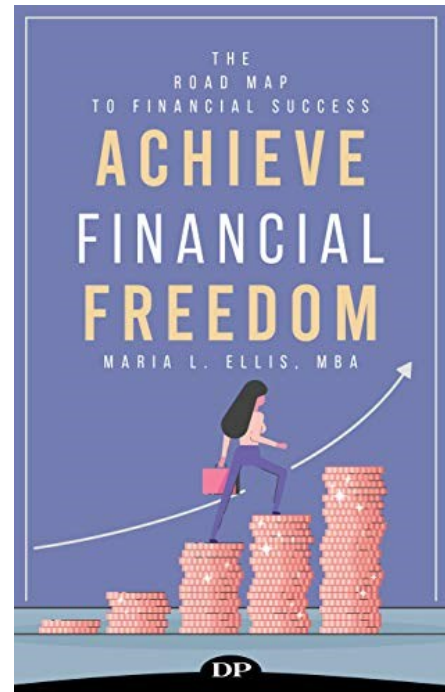
<https://empire-ny.aauw.net/>

To join as a new member or to renew your membership click on the link below.

<https://empire-ny.aauw.net/membership/application/>

Secure Your Finances by Creating Your Own Financial Plan

https://www.amazon.com/Achieve-Financial-Freedom-Road-Success-ebook/dp/B089NK7ROG/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=maria+ellis&qid=1600708391&sr=8-1



Do you work long hours in a stressful career and wonder if it will be enough to support your financial needs in both the near and distant future? Do you want to ensure that you have enough money to live your dream life and retire on your own time? Why not learn how to make your money work for you before it is too late? You can start building a strong financial future right now without working yourself to death. It is never too early to learn how to invest your money.

In *Achieve Financial Freedom*, author Maria L. Ellis, MBA, brings together more than twenty years of experience to teach just how easy it can be to:









- Create a financial plan that makes it easy to achieve financial success
- Select the investments that are best for your specific goals
- Know the risks and rewards of investing, and avoid the pitfalls common to new investors so your money works for you
- Monitor and adjust your investment portfolio so you can watch your investments grow
- Invest your money so you will have enough to live your dream life

2023 Great Decisions



Great Decisions Topics 2023:

Our Great Decisions conversations will start on Thursday, January 5th from 5:30–7:30 pm. Please refer to the Event Calendar listed on this newsletter for upcoming Zoom meetings.

Topics for Great Decisions 2023		Date	Leader
 <p>1. Energy Geopolitics Access to oil and gas has long held an influence over the politics of individual nations and their relations with others. But as more countries move toward sustainable energy, and supply chain shortages affect the availability of oil and gas, how will this change the way in which the United States interacts with the outside world? <i>By Carolyn Kissane</i> Discussion Leader: Maria Ellis</p>	Thurs, Jan. 5	Maria Ellis	
 <p>2. War Crimes Russia's invasion of Ukraine has resulted in widespread charges of war crimes and calls for justice. But what exactly are war crimes? Opinions of what constitutes a war crime have evolved, as have ways to identify and punish the perpetrators. How will the war crimes committed in Ukraine be dealt with? <i>By Francine Hirsch</i> Discussion Leader: TBD</p>	Thurs, Jan. 19	TBD	
 <p>3. China and the U.S. For the past ten years, the United States and China have been locked in a competition for who has the greatest global influence. One major point of contention is the status of Taiwanese sovereignty, which has become even more relevant recently with the possibility that Russia's invasion of Ukraine may prompt China to take similar action regarding Taiwan. How will the United States engage a China which is increasingly seeking to expand its sphere of influence? <i>By David Lampton</i> Discussion Leader: TBD</p>	Thurs, Feb. 16	TBD	
 <p>4. Economic Warfare Waging economic warfare consists of a variety of measures from implementing sanctions to fomenting labor strikes. Such tools are utilized by states to hinder their enemies, and in the case of the United States have been used as far back as the early 19th century. Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, economic warfare has been the main means for the west to challenge Russia. How effective will these sanctions be at convincing Russia to cease its war? <i>By Jonathan Chanis</i> Discussion Leader: TBD</p>	Thurs, March 2	TBD	
 <p>5. Politics in Latin America Electoral results in Latin America over the past four years have led many observers of the regional/political scene to discern a left-wing surge in the hemisphere, reminiscent of the so-called "Pink Tide" that swept the area some 20 years ago. But how much do these politicians actually have in common? What implication does their ascendancy have for the region? <i>By Jorge Castañeda</i> Discussion Leader: TBD</p>	Thurs, March 16	TBD	
 <p>6. Global Famine Fears of global food shortages have followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has disrupted grain shipments from the major grain producer. But what about countries and regions that were suffering before this impending shortage? How is famine defined, and how is it different from simple food shortages? What if any remedies are there? <i>By Daniel Maxwell</i> Discussion Leader: TBD</p>	Thurs, March 30	TBD	
 <p>7. Iran at a Crossroads By the fall of 2022, Iran was in a state of turmoil due to widespread protests against government-enforced wearing of the hijab, a failing economy, an ineffective new president, and the looming succession of the country's leader, Ayatollah Khamenei. Abroad, renewal of the Iran nuclear deal seemed doubtful and tensions remain high between Iran, Israel, and Arab states. Many Iranians have lost hope of a better future, and the country seems at a crossroads. How should the United States deal with it? <i>By Lawrence Potter</i> Discussion Leader: TBD</p>	Thurs, April 6	TBD	
 <p>8. Climate Migration As climate change accelerates and drought and rising sea levels become more common, millions of people in affected regions must uproot themselves and seek safety elsewhere. Who are these affected individuals, and how might the United States aid them, and be affected by the migration? <i>By Karen Jacobsen</i> Discussion Leader: TBD</p>	Thurs, April 20	TBD	

Zoom Meetings, 5:30–7:30 p.m. For more information, email Marial Ellis at mellis@fsacap.com

Click on the link below for all our scheduled zoom meetings (same link for all): [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7457199346?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7457199346?pwd=VXI4YURMSmdsSXpxRHdia0Nwa01FUj09)

[pwd=VXI4YURMSmdsSXpxRHdia0Nwa01FUj09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7457199346?pwd=VXI4YURMSmdsSXpxRHdia0Nwa01FUj09) Meeting ID: 745 719 9346 Passcode: AAUW To join by telephone: dial (646)931-3860

Start Smart/Salary Negotiation Workshop

Ask the President

Learning to Negotiate the Wage Start Smart Workshop

Sponsored by
AAUW's Empire State Virtual Branch!
Place: New York Institute of Technology
Spring 2023
Date/Time: TBD

https://www.nyit.edu/box/features/know_your_value_how_to_negotiate_salary
https://www.nyit.edu/events/aauw_work_smart_salary_negotiation_workshop



Suzanne DeChillo/photographer, The New York Times Annie Houle of the WAGE Project uses \$1 bills and play money to show men's pay advantage over different groups of women. Her program teaches women how to negotiate for better salaries.

Did you see the article on the wage gap on the front page of the business section of the New York Times? If you haven't read the article, click on the link below for details:
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/16/business/to-solve-the-gender-wage-gap-learn-to-speak-up.html?ref=business&_r=1

How Do Your Senators and Representatives Vote?

The *AAUW Action Fund Congressional Voting Record* (CVR) provides information about elected federal legislators through the votes they cast on issues that are critical to the Action Fund's mission.

The CVR provides information about senators' and representatives' co-sponsorship and votes. Each legislator is scored based on their record on AAUW priorities, which were decided based on the AAUW Public Policy Priorities, adopted by AAUW members. These priorities include equal pay, education, campus sexual assault, campaign finance, human trafficking, and reproductive rights. The CVR is distributed to every member of Congress.

Click on the link below to find out how your elected officials scored!
<https://www.aauwaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/AAUW-2020-116thCVR.pdf>



Who are some of the recipients who have received AAUW Fellowships or Grants in 2020-2023?

AAUW provides the largest fellowship program and the oldest non-institutional source of graduate funding for women in the United States.

AAUW American Fellowships support women scholars who are pursuing full-time study to complete dissertations, conducting postdoctoral research full time, or preparing research for publication for eight consecutive weeks. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Candidates are evaluated based on scholarly excellence; quality and originality of project design; and active commitment to helping women and girls through service in their communities, professions, or fields of research.

This is a special 10th-anniversary fall issue for us, and the NYC Metro fund has sponsored 13 out of 31 fellows in 2022-2023.

Here are some of the recipients in 2020-2023



Farzana Ali's work focuses on developing a machine-learning model to predict antidepressant response early in treatment using activity data. Such a model will allow remote health monitoring that can benefit women who are more likely to experience depression but lack access to mental-health care due to societal barriers. She is a senior leader in the Ph.D. career ladder program that provides mentoring for grad students and post-docs pursuing careers inside and outside academia.

Sponsors:
1827 - Sandy Bernard and Alice Ann Leidel
4345 - Lucy Fulton - American Fellowship

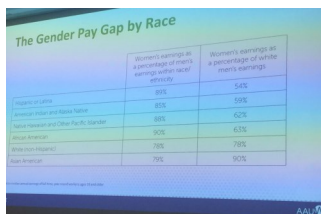
American Fellow Farzana Ali

AAUW StartSmart Salary Negotiation - NYIT



My Start Smart AHA moment was when I realized that I could have gotten a much higher salary during the role playing exercise. I feel that instead of taking the employer's word, I should have negotiated more; now I know better! I really enjoyed the workshop and I learned quite a bit. I want to thank you and everyone involved for taking the time to share this very valuable information with us.

Maryam Khan, NYIT Student



Fellowships or Grants Cont'd.



**2022-23
American Fellow Grantee
Anna Hidalgo**

Anna Hidalgo's research is driven by a commitment to understanding the experiences of marginalized people and communities. Her current project is an ethnography of transnational intimate relationships in a Peruvian town. She examines masculine subcultures, the sociocultural dimensions of tourism and how people use fantasy to cope with structural and personal disappointments. Her earlier work examined the experiences of marginalized people in academia. She was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in South Florida.

**2022-23
American Fellow
Grantee
Azeta Kola**



Azeta Kola's research exposes the nature of early modern empires, offering a more nuanced understanding on the Venetian-Ottoman rivalry for dominion in the Early Modern Mediterranean. Her project shows how vital frontier regions like Albania were as negotiating grounds during the Renaissance. Her goal is to teach and do research as a tenured history professor to close the gender gap in academia.

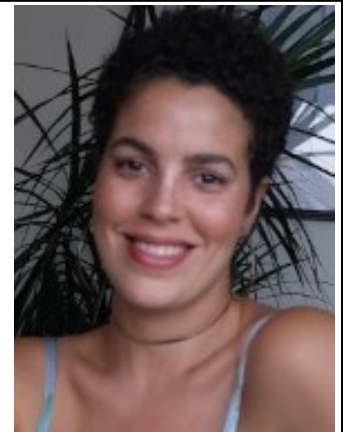
Sponsors: 1020 - Margaret M. Bryant



**2022-23
American Fellow
Alexandria Ramos
New York University**

Alexandria Ramos is a Ph.D. candidate in New York University's department of English. Her research and teaching interests include women of color feminisms, decolonial thought, migration and diasporas. She is currently working on a dissertation that explores the print pedagogies of U.S. Latinx and Asian American writer-activists in the pre-Civil Rights era.

Sponsors:
1046 - Marguerite E. Gauger; 4053 - Seneca Falls 150th Anniversary;
4113 - Illinois 75th Anniversary



**2022-23
Career Development Grant
Grantee
Natalie Diaz**

Natalie Diaz is a therapist in training, a changemaker, a leader, a community builder and an activist. She is pursuing a Master of Social Work to practice both direct clinical social work, focusing on counseling for BIPOC individuals, and macro social work, focused on social policy and driving structural change via political social work. Her practice is rooted in social justice, and she is passionate about the principles and practices of racial and economic equity.



**2022-23
Career Action Grantee
Yamilée Toussaint Beach**

STEM From Dance gives girls the awareness and preparation for a STEM education through the creative and confidence-building aspects of dance. Girls will choreograph a dance enhanced with a technological component they learn to code, such as computer-programmed animation that serves as a digital backdrop, music created through coding or costumes with LED lights. Girls also can connect with women in STEM and attend field trips to STEM companies.



**2022-23
Career Action Grantee
Eden Oyewo**

C.O.R.E. is a movement to develop a strong and positive foundation for Black/brown young women and teens. Allowing females to understand and maintain a healthy level of self-worth through our digital media and programs addressing finance, relationships, health, beauty and careers. Since 2015, C.O.R.E. has implemented and cosponsored more than 15 programs that have reached more than 715 Black/brown teens in high school through young women in college in Brooklyn, New York, and locations across America.

Are You Interested in the STEM Fields and All the Potential They Hold— Especially for Girls Like You?

AAUW has created a brand new program for girls in grades 9 through 12 — with a particular focus on girls of color — and for the parents, guardians, and caregivers who support their dreams and aspirations. For more information, email: mellis@fsacap.com.



Congrats to Harvard's 30th President Dr. Claudine Gay!

College of Mount Saint Vincent Mentorship Event



CMSV Mentors : Dr. Rani, Maria Ellis & Lorrin Johnson
Mentees: Nakayah Estwick, Kathleen Stack & Brianna Perez

Congratulations to Harvard's 30th President, Dr. Claudine Gay!
She is an AAUW American Fellowships alumna!



Dr. Gay has been elected to become the 30th president of Harvard University, starting on July 1, 2023. Dr. Gay has led Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences as the Edgerley Family Dean since August 2018, having served previously as dean of social science from 2015 to 2018. Gay was recruited to Harvard in 2006 as a professor of government. She was also appointed as a professor of African and African American Studies in 2007. She was named the Wilbur A. Cowett Professor of Government in 2015.

Girls for STEM 2023 Conference Planning Committee Invite

GIRLS FOR STEM CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE is inviting AAUW members and friends to join AAUW Westchester Branch and the Empire State NYC Branch
Planning Committee Meetings (Virtual)
Date: Jan 7, 21; Feb 4, 18 Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Click on the link below for all our scheduled zoom meetings:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7457199346?pwd=VXI4YURMSmdsSXpxRHdia0Nwa01FU09>
Meeting ID: 745 719 9346 Passcode: AAUW
To join by telephone: dial (646)931-3860

Girls for STEM Conference (In-Person)
Saturday, March 4, 2023, 9:00 am -
College of Mount Saint Vincent,
Riverdale, NY



Girls for STEM 2023 Conference Planning Committee Members

Diversity and Inclusion



Diversity is critical to AAUW's mission. Issues of equity — from fair pay to sexual assault to access to health care — affect all women, and women in marginalized

groups often disproportionately experience the effects of these issues. To succeed in empowering women and girls, we must have diverse voices contributing different perspectives.

AAUW-Apprises Passage of The Paycheck Fairness Act

By passing this important bill, the House of Representatives has demonstrated its commitment to the economic security of American women and their families. We know there is a pay gap for all women, at every age, in every part of the country, and in nearly every industry. The gap has closed by less than a nickel in the 21st century, and it's obvious that something needs to be done to ensure families can thrive.

"The Equal Pay Act of 1963 was a powerful first step, but the law has been weakened over time as the workforce demography has changed. We need new tools to fight discriminatory pay practices, and we need effective incentives and assistance to help employers comply with the law. The Paycheck Fairness Act provides these tools by closing loopholes in the Equal Pay Act and putting new protections in place for the benefit of all American workers. Its passage is long overdue.

"AAUW commends Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) for her leadership on this bill for over 20 years. We urge the Senate to follow the House's lead and act now to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. We can't wait any longer for equal pay."

Mary C. Hickey, AAUW

YOU CAN: GIVE WOMEN TOOLS TO NEGOTIATE THEIR SALARIES

Did you know that 57% of men try to negotiate their salary, but only 7% of women do?
HOW CAN YOU PROVIDE WOMEN WITH THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO NEGOTIATE TO HELP CLOSE THE GENDER PAY GAP?

THE ANSWER: You can spread the word about the **FREE** AAUW salary negotiation workshop course "**WORK SMART ONLINE**" at <https://salary.aauw.org/>. It is a complete computer course, comprehensive, amazing, informative, and worthwhile. It gives women the tools they need to negotiate for better salaries and benefits. They'll learn the market value of their skills and experience; be able to determine an equitable "target salary"; and have more confidence and better negotiating skills to ask for and get the pay they deserve.

Do contact family, friends, and acquaintances who would benefit from taking this **FREE WORK SMART ONLINE** class and encourage them to us it and to tell others about it.

AAUW LEADING THE WAY TO GENDER PAY EQUITY!
 Nancy Mion, AAUW Empire State NYC Branch

Public Policy



AAUW Public Policy Priorities!

AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. The work of AAUW builds upon responsible public participation, and the following priorities provide a basis for AAUW members' actions at the local, state, national, and international levels.

Implicit in each is support for government agencies administering programs, including adequate appropriations, effective and accountable administration, and provision for citizen participation. AAUW advocates public discussion to ensure enlightened decisions on these priorities. AAUW works to increase the number of women and other underrepresented populations in policy- and other decision-making positions.

AAUW's positions are shaped by its commitment to being nonpartisan and fact-based, and to acting with integrity. AAUW strives for its work to be inclusive and intersectional, collaborating with diverse allies and coalitions to achieve equity for all. Basic to all of AAUW's public policy efforts is the understanding that true equity requires a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the community.

AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination and supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals. AAUW believes that high-quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society and the key to improving economic prosperity and gender equality.

AAUW advocates equitable access to education and climates free of harassment, bullying, and sexual assault. AAUW supports academic freedom, civic education, protection from censorship, bias-free education, and responsible funding for all levels of education, including early childhood education and programs for students with disabilities.

AAUW advocates for increased access to higher education, especially for women in poverty, and promotes equitable efforts to close the persistent achievement gap that disproportionately affects low-income children and students from communities of color. For more information about AAUW's Public Policy Priorities, click on the link below.

<https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/02/Public-Policy-Priorities-2019-2021-nsa.pdf>

Maria L. Ellis, MBA, Empire State NYC Branch President
 Email: mellis@fsacap.com

Public Policy Issues

If you would like to promote any of these **public policy issues**, contact Nan Scinta, Public Policy Vice President for AAUW NYS publicpolicy@aaauw-nys.org

1. The Abortion Supreme Court decision - this will have great implications on low-income and young women trying to make their way economically.
2. If you have women in your branch or community who want to run for office in the upcoming primary in June, please invite them to your branch meetings, whether in person or on zoom. We need to support more women in all areas of government.
3. The ERA amendment is now being called the Equality Amendment.
4. The PowHer agenda items that will have priority have been sent to Governor Hochul and to legislative members in both houses. The top item on the list is Child Care access and affordability for all women, and especially those in the lower class and of color. Also, higher wages for Home and Long-Term Care workers will be a top priority in this legislative season. Many female workers in this industry have young children - they cannot afford child care at their current low wages.

Diversity & Inclusion Co-Director Anita Nahal



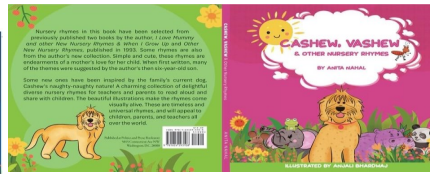
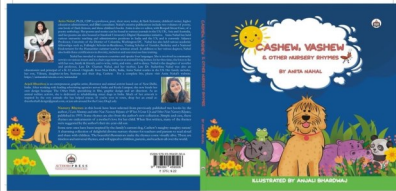
Congratulations to our Diversity & Inclusion Co-Director Anita Nahal, Ph.D.

on her most recent release of the American and Indian editions of my new nursery rhymes book, **Cashew, Vashew & Other Nursery Rhymes!**

Rhymes in the book are universal and would appeal to children all over the world. Some have been selected from my previous two books of nursery rhymes published way back in 1993 when my son was growing up. Anita's motherly experience with her son

prompted her to write the rhymes originally as she didn't wish to have him learn only the known ones. Some in the new book are based-on Cashew our furry family member!

The book was released just in time for Christmas! This creative book is a great gift for children's birthdays and everyday gifts! Beautifully and realistically illustrated with truly eye-catching images by Anjali Bhardwaj. Please check these out and order your copies for your kids, grandkids, students and feel free to share the links with those who have kids or teach in schools or work in libraries.



American/Global edition: Politics and Prose, Washington DC <https://www.politics-prose.com/book/9781624293108>

Indian edition: Authors Press, New Delhi, India (via Amazon Global) https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08QSK5TBM/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_e206FbHG6A816

Girls for STEM



Girls for STEM 2023 Conference
(formerly Explore Your Opportunities)

Saturday, March 4, 2023
8:30 am—12:00 pm
College of Mount Saint Vincent

Girls for STEM Workshops 10:30 am—12 noon

- 1. Brain Games.** Put on your thinking cap and learn to make a model brain cell while learning about all the mind-boggling things a brain can do from recognizing words and colors, to making memories, to controlling your movements. **Jenny Libien, MD, PhD, Chair, Department of Pathology, State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY**
- 2. Introduction to Creative Coding with PSIS.** Students will get first-hand experience of just how much fun coding is! They will create a film poster using code. **Bolor Amgalan, MFA, MA, Adjunct Faculty at Parson School of Design.**
- 3. Survive the Zombie Apocalypse.** Learn to stop zombie disease from spreading. **Whitney Bagge, PhD, MPH, Disease Ecologist, Ecohealth Alliance**
- 4. Let's take a Cell-fie** Students will never look at the vegetable on their plate the same after this workshop. Vegetables and the plants they come from are composed of cells. These cells determine how the plant looks, feels, and tastes. In this workshop, we'll ask what do the cells look like? **Adrienne Roeder, PhD Biology, University of California, San Diego. Kate Harline, PhD Candidate, School of Integrative Plant Science, Cornell University**
- 5. The Ethics of AI through the Colors in Art.** Artificial Intelligence through music and art with the goal of cultivating Racial Equity in the Field of AI. We will explore the field of AI from its basics and create neural art and music. **Anika Puri, Student Researcher, Horace Greeley High School, Founder of MoArt**
- 6. Slide-ing into Cells.** If you sign up for this workshop, we will send you a lab kit with one foldable microscope and several slides of model organisms to observe. During the workshop, students will learn how to draw scientifically. There will also be an optional pre-session for reviewing how to assemble microscopes. **Aliya Fisher, Nicolas Kim, Stephen Ogunbiyi: Student Coordinators for Sparking Teen Research Interest for Diversity and Equity in Science (STRIDES), Bronx High School of Science**
- 7. Navigating COVID 19 in NYC.** Students will use tableau to monitor and make their own predictions on Covid 19 data trends. Students will learn how to use data to better understand the impact of the pandemic across different socio-economic groups, age, and race. **Elise Kohl, MBA, New York University, Stern School of Business-Grant Kushi Shah, MA, in Development Psychology, Director of Data Solutions, Innovative Management Solutions, NY**

Girls for STEM Pictures! Cont'd



Blizzard in a Bottle!



Lifting the Chemical Fingerprint

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY – APRIL 2023

Happy Winter!

Day	Date	Time	Event (Great Decision Topics)
Thurs	01/05/23	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	"Energy Geopolitics," Great Decisions via zoom Discussion Leader: Maria Ellis
Sat	01/07/23	10:00 am -	Girls for STEM Planning Committee meeting via zoom
Thurs	01/19/23	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	"War Crimes," Great Decisions via zoom Discussion Leader: TBD
Sat	01/21/23	10:00 am -	Girls for STEM Planning Committee meeting via zoom
Sat	02/04/23	10:00 am -	Girls for STEM Planning Committee meeting via zoom
Thurs	02/16/23	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	"China & the United States," Great Decisions via zoom Discussion Leader: TBD
Sat	02/18/23	10:00 am -	Girls for STEM Planning Committee meeting via zoom
Thurs	03/02/23	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	"Economic Warfare," Great Decisions via zoom Discussion Leader: TBD
Sat	03/04/23	09:00 am -	Girls for STEM Conference In-Person at the College of Mount Saint Vincent
Thurs	03/16/23	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	"Politics in Latin America," Great Decisions via zoom Discussion Leader: TBD
Thurs	03/30/23	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	"Global Famine," Great Decisions via zoom Discussion Leader: TBD
Thurs	04/06/23	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	"Iran at a Crossroads," Great Decisions via zoom Discussion Leader: TBD
Sat	04/08/23	9:30 am -	Celebrating Women College Presidents, meeting via Zoom
Thurs	04/20/23	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	"Climate Migration," Great Decisions via zoom Discussion Leader: TBD

 Members interested in scheduling an event/meeting for the branch please contact the Program VP to reserve dates and confirm before publicizing the event/meeting.
 Maria-Ellis, mellis@fsacap.com
 C.S. Rani, Ph.D., csrani.rani@gmail.com

Save the Dates:

Great Decisions Zoom Meetings
 Thursdays, 5:30 - 7:00 pm
 Jan 5, 19; Feb 16; Mar 2, 16, 30; April 6, 20

Girls for STEM Planning Committee Zoom meetings, Sat 10:00 am -
 Jan 7, 21; Feb 4, 18

Girls for STEM Conference In-Person the College of Mount Saint Vincent Saturday, March 4, 2023, 9:00 am -

Women College Presidents Celebration Planning Committee Zoom meetings
 Sat 8:00 am -
 Jan 7, 14; Feb 18, 25; Mar 4, 18; April 1, 2023



Women College President Celebration
 Saturday, April 8, 2023
 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Click on the link below for all our scheduled zoom meetings (same link for all):
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7457199346?pwd=VXI4YURMSmdsSXpxRHdia0Nwa01FU09>

Meeting ID: 745 719 9346
 Passcode: AAUW
 To join by telephone:
 dial (646)931-3860

Note: To participate in the events, email mellis@fsacap.com for access. Thank you!

Thank You for Your Donation to the AAUW Funds!

	Evvie Currie Giving Circle \$100.00, Margaret Currie Unrestricted LAF Support \$100.00, Maria Ellis LAF Fund \$100, Dr. C.S. Rani Tech Trek Fund \$20.00, Heidi Parreño AAUW Fund \$20.00, Elaine Fenton	
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AAUW Student Organizations

AAUW Student Organizations are composed of students enrolled in college who are interested in AAUW issues and programs. To start your own Student Organization at your college, email Maria at mellis@fsacap.com

Empire State NYC Branch Membership

Join or renew your membership with AAUW Empire State NYC Branch!
 AAUW national dues are \$62, AAUW NYS dues are \$13.00, and the Empire State Virtual Branch dues are \$5.00.
 The branch dues year is July 1 to June 30, and if you join now, your membership is good through June 30, 2023
 See the various memberships below and to join, please visit our website at <http://empire-ny.aauw.net/membership/>

- § Not currently a member of AAUW: \$80 (\$62 for national dues, \$13 for NYS; \$5 for Empire)
- § Current branch member: \$5 for a dual membership
- § Current member-at-large: \$18 (\$13 for NYS; \$5 for Empire)
- § Current student member : \$17 a year (if college is not an AAUW member)
- § Current student member on an AAUW NY member campus: Free
- § Graduate Student: member \$18.81 per year
- § Primary Member & Donor for \$100 a year including a generous contribution of \$20

Membership:

To join or renew your membership, please contact Maria Ellis at mellis@fsacap.com

AAUW Chief Executive Officer: Gloria L. Blackwell
AAUW NYS President: Carol Griffith
AAUW Empire State NYC Branch President: Maria Ellis

Websites:

National: www.aauw.org
State: www.aauw-nys.org
AAUW Empire State NYC Branch: <http://empire-ny.aauw.net/>
EYO: www.aauw-eyhconference.org

Webmaster: Chigurupati S. Rani, Ph.D.; csrani.rani@gmail.com
Empire Times is published quarterly by AAUW Empire State NYC Branch
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Chigurupati S. Rani, Ph.D.; & Anita Nahal, Ph.D.
Design: Maria Ellis & Chigurupati S. Rani, Ph.D.

AAUW EMPIRE STATE NYC BRANCH

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AAUW Funds VP: TBD
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Co-Director, Sonia Ramos, ESNYCB

Communications & Visibility Director: Jessica Sims, Ph.D., AAUW Fellow, ESNYCB

Cultural Director & Young Women Task Force Liaison: Open/TBD

Diversity & Inclusion Director:

Co-Director, Anita Nahal, Ph.D., ESNYCB
Co-Director, Sonia Ramos, ESNYCB

International Director: Julie Kleszczewski, ESNYCB

Parliamentarian: Laurie Ginnitti, Jamestown Branch

Public Policy: TBD

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Joan Monk & Anita Nahal, ESNYCB

Social Media Team

Jessica Sims, Ph.D., Emmelina De Feo, Ayesha Shakya

Ellis & Friends Fund

Any individual donations to the Empire State NYC Branch will be matched by the fund.

Members will kindly send in their articles for the Empire Times at the beginning of each quarter (January 7, April 7, July 7, October 7) to mellis@fsacap.com & csrani.rani@gmail.com. Send your ideas and letters to Maria Ellis and C.S. Rani, Ph.D.

American Association of University Women advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

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.

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.



AAUW Empire State NYC Branch
973 216 4181
<http://empire-ny.aauw.net>



Moving the Mission Forward
The Empire State NYC Branch is the first virtual branch in New York State.

