

AAUW

Empire State NYC Branch

Founded 2012

Empire Times

Fall 2024

Quarterly Volume 12 No. 4

Welcome to the AAUW Empire State NYC Branch!

Empire State NYC Branch, AAUW Members and Friends



Empire State NYC Branch,
AAUW members and friends
braining storming AAUW
mission based programs for
the fiscal year ending
June 30th, 2025

Inside this issue:

A Letter from the President (cont'd on page 3); 2024 Girls for STEM Mystery Women!	2
A Letter from the President (cont'd from page 2); ;Secure Your Finances by Creating Your Own Financial Plan; 2023 AAUW Fellowships (cont'd on page 4)	3
2023 AAUW Fellowships Continued	4
2024 Great Decisions	5
Work Start & Start Smart: Salary Negotiation Workshops; AAUW StartSmart Salary Negotiation—NYIT	6
Ask the President: Recipients of AAUW Fellowships or Grants in 2020-2023	6
Fellowships or Grants Cont'd.	7
2024 Girls for STEM Conference Pictures	8
2024 Girls for STEM Conference Pictures Cont'd.; University of Mount Saint Vincent Mentorship Event;	9
Are You Interested in the STEM Fields and All the Potential They Hold—Especially for Girls Like You?	9
Diversity and Inclusion; Poetry and a Woman's Consciousness By Anita Nahal; You Can: Give Women Tools to Negotiate Their Salaries; Public Policy	10
Girls for STEM 2025 Conference	11
2024 AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference	12
Calendar for September - December 2024; Thank You for Your Donation to the AAUW Funds!; AAUW Student Organizations	13
AAUW Empire State NYC Branch Membership Form; Join Us!; Save the Dates	13
Officers & Directors-at-Large of Empire State NYC Branch	14



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,

As we start the Fall season, I would like to share with you the purpose of **AAUW's Five Star National Recognition Program**. The program aims to provide branches with a framework to ensure they are in alignment with AAUW's mission and priorities.

The Empire State NYC Branch can earn a Star by meeting the criteria in one of the five categories: Advancement, Public Policy & Advocacy, Governance & Sustainability, Programming, and Communications & External Relations. AAUW National offers resources on their website and holds webinars throughout the year to assist branches in achieving the Five Star criteria. Let me know which of these five categories you would like to participate in.

The Advancement Star is a key financial indicator of a branch's health and sustainability, reflecting its support for AAUW National. Data for this Star is pulled from AAUW National's financial records and will be calculated on behalf of the branches. In January the national office will share a snapshot of where branches are in their advancement star progress so they can adjust as needed before the end of the fiscal year.

The following actions are encouraged under the Public Policy & Advocacy category: Actions can include appointing a public policy chair, conducting meetings with local Congress members, participating in state lobby days, and holding programs related to key policy topics. The Governance & Sustainability category focuses on leadership succession planning, overall participation in the

Five Star program, appointing a Diversity Officer, and holding programs on justice, equity, diversity, or inclusion. In the Communication and External Relations category, branches must designate a communications point person, share posts aligned with AAUW's mission, include national information in newsletters, and ensure leaders are subscribed to AAUW emails.

Thank you again 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 June 30, 2024, 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 \$84. (The \$80 fee is distributed as follows: \$72 for national dues, \$7 for NYS; \$5 for Empire State NYC Branch.

If you are a dual member the annual fee to become a member of the Empire State NYC Branch is only \$5.

continued on Page 3

2024 Girls for STEM Mystery Women!



Mystery Women



Mystery Women with Mystery Hats!

We would like to thank you:
the Mystery Women, the Planning Committee members and all the awesome volunteers who contributed to the success of the Girls for STEM Conference on April 13, 2024, at the University of Mount Saint Vincent, Riverdale, NY

continued from Page 2

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)

In closing, we welcome your AAUW mission-based idea to implement during our fiscal year ending on June 30, 2025.

Cheers,

Maria Ellis, MBA
Empire State NYC Branch President
Email: mellis@fsacap.com
Mobile: 973-216-4181
<https://empire-ny.aauw.net/>

2023 AAUW Fellowships

Upon request, see below a brief description of the American Association of University Women Fellowships. The Applications were opened on August 1st and the deadline for submission is November 15, 2023.



American Fellowships Fund-
ing: \$8,000–\$50,000

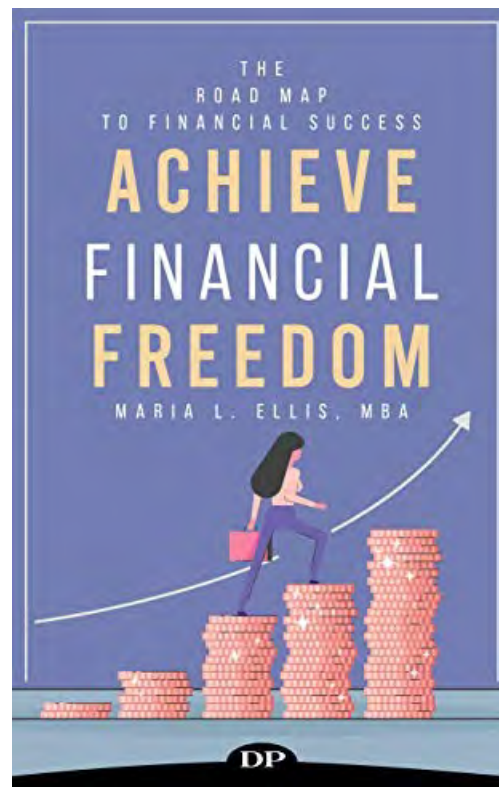
2019-20 American Fellow Kelsey Lewis

The American Fellowship program began in 1888, a time when women were discouraged from pursuing an education. It is AAUW's 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 on the basis of 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.

Secure Your Finances by Creating Your Own Financial Plan

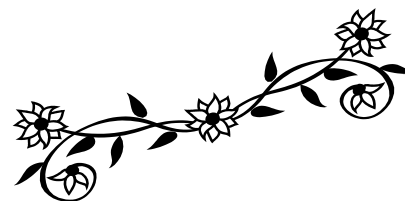
https://www.amazon.com/Achieve-Financial-Freedom-Road-Success-ebook/dp/B089NK7ROG/ref=sr_1_17?dchild=1&keywords=maria+ellis&qid=1600708391&sr=8-1



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

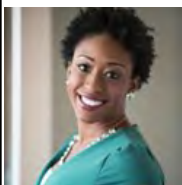


Fellowships continued on Page 4

2023 Fellowships Cont'd.

Career Development Grants

Funding: \$2,000–\$20,000



2019-20 Career Development Grantee Samentha Gunn

Career Development Grants provide funding to women who hold a bachelor's degree and are preparing to advance or change careers or re-enter the workforce in education; health and medical sciences; science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); or social sciences. Primary consideration is given to women of color and women pursuing their first advanced degree or credentials in nontraditional fields.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents whose last degree was received before June 30, 2016. Funds are available for tuition, fees, books, supplies, local transportation and dependent care.

AAUW originally designed Career Development Grants in 1972 to offer "encouragement" funding to AAUW members seeking to renew or resume academic work for credit toward career or employment advancement.

Today, grants support course work beyond a bachelor's degree, including a master's degree, second bachelor's degree, certification program, or specialized training in technical or professional fields. Course work must be taken at an accredited two- or four-year college or university in the United States or at a technical school that is fully licensed or accredited by the U.S. Department of Education. Funds are not available for doctorate-level work.

Community Action Grants

Funding: \$3,000–\$10,000



2018-19 Community Action Grantee Marisa Madison

Community Action Grants provide funding to individuals, AAUW branches and AAUW state organizations as well as community-based nonprofits for programs that promote education and equity for women and girls. Since 1972, AAUW has provided support to hundreds of communities across the United States.

International Fellowships

Funding: \$20,000–\$50,000

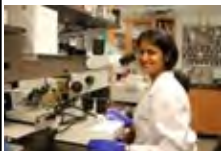
International Fellowships are awarded for full-time study or research in the United States to women who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Both graduate and postgraduate studies at accredited U.S. institutions are supported.

Applicants must have earned the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree by the application deadline, and must have applied to their proposed institutions of study by the time of the application. Up to five International Master's/First Professional Degree Fellowships are renewable for a second year; fellows will receive application information for this competitive program.

Recipients are selected for academic achievement and demonstrated commitment to women and girls. Recipients return to their home countries to become leaders in business, government, academia, community activism, the arts or scientific fields.

International Project Grants

Funding: \$3,000–\$10,000



AAUW 2010-11 International Fellow Sandhya Sanduja

When AAUW International Fellows pursue education in the United States,, their commitment to

empowering women and girls in their home countries doesn't end — and neither does their need for financial support.

To create lasting support around the globe, AAUW awards grants to International Fellowship alumnae who have returned home after successfully completing the course of study for which they received funding. These grants allow alumnae to build on their academic work and implement community-based projects that will improve the lives of women and girls.

Alumnae of our International Fellowships and International Project Grants have tackled women's equity issues head-on. From securing property rights for widows to building safe hearths for cassava production, these women are helping the most vulnerable — and the most resilient — members of their communities.

Research Publication Grants in Engineering, Medicine and Science

Funding: \$10,000–\$35,000



2019-20 Research Publication Grantee May Abdelaziz

Having a strong publication record is a key to receiving promotions and tenure in engineering, medicine and science. Yet persistent gender stereotypes and bias in these fields can make it difficult for women to find the time and institutional support needed to publish their research. These grants help women overcome these barriers by funding research projects that will culminate in scholarly publications.

They are open to women scholars conducting basic research in engineering, medicine or the physical or biological sciences and who have a doctorate degree in one of those fields. The grantee must publish their research in a scholarly publication and be listed as a primary author.

Selected Professions Fellowships

Funding: \$20,000



2019-20 Selected Professions Fellow Jenny Trieu

Selected Professions Fellowships are awarded to women who intend to pursue a full-time course of study at accredited U.S. institutions during the fellowship year in one of the designated degree programs where women's participation traditionally has been low. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

These fellowships were established in 1970 with a \$25,000 grant from the Max C. Fleischmann Foundation. Initially, they focused on opening doors for women in the male-dominated fields of law and medicine. However, the focus expanded over time to include science and technology, since the demand for a technologically skilled workforce has grown without proportional representation by women.

Selected Professions Fellowships are awarded for the following master's programs:

- Architecture.
- Computer/information sciences.
- Engineering.
- Mathematics/statistics.

Fellowships in the following degree programs are restricted to women of color, who have been underrepresented in these fields:

- Master's in business administration.
- Law.
- Doctorate in medicine.

2024 Great Decisions



Great Decisions Topics 2024:

Our Great Decisions conversations will start on Wednesday, April 24th from 5:30–6:30 p.m. Please refer to the Event Calendar listed on this newsletter for upcoming Zoom meetings.

Topics for Great Decisions 2024	Date	Leader
1. Mideast Realignment The United States and Middle East are at a crossroads. In spite of a reduced presence in the Middle East, the U.S. still has significant national interests there and the area is a key arena for global power politics. Can the U.S. continue to defend its interests in the Middle East and globally with a lower level of military and political involvement, or should it recommit to a leading role in the region? <i>By Marc Lynch</i> Discussion Leader: Maria Ellis	Wed, Oct 9	Maria Ellis
2. Climate technology and competition Will the United States and China, with other powerful countries following suit, approach current and future climate initiatives with an increased commitment to trade protectionism and nationalism, by various measures including trade restrictions? Or could a growing spirit of international accord develop to confront the “common enemy” of climate change? <i>By Bud Ward</i> Discussion Leader: TBD	Wed, Oct 16	TBD
3. Science across borders Scientific advances benefit from collaboration between researchers, but what happens when material, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) is controversial and important to a nation’s national security? Is there a middle ground between sharing information and denying access? How can we regulate cooperation? <i>By Mila Rosenthal</i> Discussion Leader: TBD	Wed, Oct 30	TBD
4. U.S. China trade rivalry China’s economic rise and its current policies of increasing the role of the state in the economy have led some U.S. policymakers to seek to deny China access to U.S. technology and investment. This is seen as a necessary corrective to decades of predatory Chinese economic policies. Is this a wise strategy, and how effective can it be? <i>By Jonathan Chanis</i> Discussion Leader: TBD	Wed, Nov 6	TBD
5. NATO’s future Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has come under increased scrutiny, not because NATO troops are involved in the conflict, but because of its role in relations between Russia and its neighbors. Will expanding membership in NATO protect countries, or will it further provoke Russia? <i>By Sarwar Kashmeri</i> Discussion Leader: TBD	Wed, Dec 11	TBD
6. Understanding Indonesia Despite its large size, Indonesia remains virtually invisible to most Americans. But as one of the world’s largest democracies, the world’s largest Muslim-majority nation, and as an economic driver of ASEAN, why does it fly below the radar? What are current issues in U.S.-Indonesian relations, and what role can the country play in Asia? <i>By Charles Sullivan</i> Discussion Leader: TBD	Wed, Dec 18	TBD
7. High Seas Treaty Areas of the seas beyond national jurisdiction comprise the high seas, which are facing a degradation of ecosystems due to climate change and the increase in human activities, such as shipping, overfishing, pollution, and deep-sea mining. The recently negotiated High Seas Treaty, also known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty, will attempt to address these issues. How difficult will it be to convince nations to participate? <i>By FPA editors</i> Discussion Leader: TBD	Wed, Jan 8, 2025	TBD
8. Pandemic preparedness Looking back at the covid-19 pandemic, there are many lessons to take away in terms of domestic and international policies. Although this pandemic seems to have waned, how can we apply these lessons to future pandemics? Will countries cooperate, and will a consensus emerge on how to manage global health challenges? <i>By Carolyn Reynolds</i> Discussion Leader: TBD	Wed, Jan. 15, 2025	TBD

Zoom Meetings, Wed, 5:30–6:30 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/84953511475?pwd=7z6KMK45jrjBZ95iXst6KFWsOhZzi.1>

telephone: dial (646)931-3860

Meeting ID: 849 5351 1475 Passcode: KWPB To join by

Work Start & Start Smart: Salary Negotiation Workshops

Ask the President

Learn About Work Start & Start Smart: Salary Negotiation

Sponsored by
AAUW

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/salary/work-smart/>



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:

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

https://www.nyit.edu/events/aauw_work_smart_salary_negotiation_workshop

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/16/business/to-solve-the-gender-wage-gap-learn-to-speak-up.html?ref=business&r=1>

What are some of the College Considerations for STEM majors?

According to AAUW's research "Finding the Right College for STEM majors," and pursuing a STEM degree is a stepping-stone toward many exciting, impactful, and lucrative career opportunities.

When choosing a college or university, you'll want to consider a variety of factors including:

- When considering your ideal location, you may want to take into account networking opportunities as well as geographical preferences.
- Is your school located in an area that offers local internships or communities that foster your interests?
- Think about the optimal size and diversity of the school in terms of your major as well as your overall needs and preferences. For instance, what is the typical class size for your classes, and how may that affect your learning? Who will your classmates be?
- Will you meet one-on-one with your professors? Is it more important for you to have instructors with strong teaching skills (often prioritized at smaller schools) or research experience and connections (more common at larger universities)?
- Consider reviewing the following items together or with your school counselor as you continue your journey toward a STEM major.

To obtain a copy of your resource for selecting and applying to the right college to pursue a STEM major and financing your education, click on the link below.

aauw1.sharepoint.com/sites/AAUW_Box/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FAAUW_Box%2FDocuments%2FExternalShare%2FWebsite-Links%2FCollegeSearchandSelectionWorkbook_Copyright-v2%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FAAUW_Box%2FDocuments%2FExternalShare%2FWebsite-Links&p=true&ga=1

Carpe Diem,

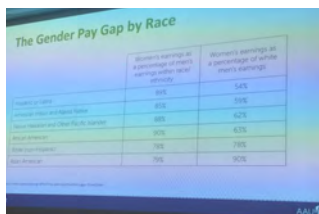
Maria Ellis,
MBA AAUW NYS C/U Director
Email: mellis@fsacap.onmicrosoft.com

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



**YOU ARE
YOUR OWN
BRAND**

Who are some of the recipients who have received AAUW Fellowships or Grants in 2022-2023?

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 2022-2023



American Fellow Farzana Ali

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 postdocs pursuing careers inside and outside academia.

Sponsors:

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

Fellowships or Grants Cont'd. on Page 6

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



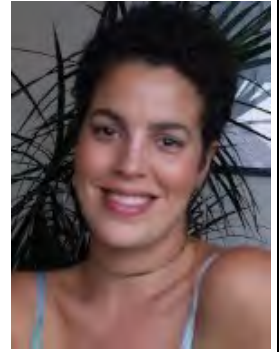
**2022-23
American Fellow
Alexandria Ramos
New York University**

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 change-maker, 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.

**2022-23
AAUW Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship
Sabine Franklin**



Sabine Franklin completed her PhD in Economics at the University of Westminster in London, UK in 2020. Her dissertation examines the local governance of 2014 Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone and Liberia. She is interested in local politics in West Africa, especially on issues of health and development. She is currently a recipient of the 2022-2023 AAUW postdoctoral research leave fellowship and is hosted at the Macmillan Center for International and Area

Studies at Yale University and a Visiting Researcher at the Westminster Development Policy Network at the University of Westminster. You can connect with her at

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sabinefranklin/>.

2024 Girls for STEM Conference Pictures

We would like to thank you the Mystery Women, the Planning Committee members and all the awesome volunteers who contributed to the success of the **Girls for STEM Conference on April 13, 2024** at the University of Mount Saint Vincent, Riverdale, NY

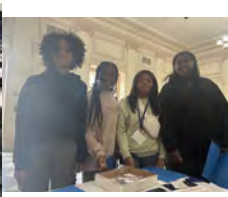


Mystery Women!

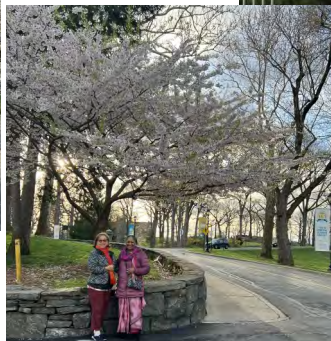


2024 Girls for STEM Conference Pictures Cont'd.

Congratulations and thank you to the Planning Committee, the Mystery Women and all the volunteers for a very successful Girls for STEM Conference held on April 13, 2023 at the University of Mount Saint Vincent. Special Thanks to Dr. Susan R. Burns, President of the University of Mount Saint Vincent for such a special welcoming ceremony.



University of
Mount Saint Vincent
Beautiful Campus!



University of Mount Saint Vincent Mentorship Event



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

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.



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.

Poetry and a Woman's Consciousness

By Anita Nahal

This presentation attempts to respond to what poetic consciousness is. Does it emerge from what we dream about? Or when we are awake and fully conscious? Or from daydreaming? What is a stream of poetic consciousness in writing? Is it related to what Jermy Bentham said about utilitarianism and/or consequentialism? Stream of consciousness is a narrative style that tries to capture a character's thought process in a realistic way. Many writers such as Virginia Woolf, Sylvia Plath, Toni Morrison, Faulkner, James Joyce, and writers of non-fiction as well have employed it in their writings. It is possible to have a stream of consciousness in one's writings while writing realist or surrealist poetry or fiction.

This presentation provides examples of the poetic consciousness of a few authors from the US and abroad as envisaged by the author. The reader is urged to ponder over the questions mentioned in paragraph one and also to keep the below ones in mind:

- So, what do women talk about?
- What are women's thoughts concerned about?
- What are women's stories? Is there one? Multiple?
- Local, national, and global?
- Who is telling women's stories? For whom?
- How does poetry assist a woman's consciousness?
- Is poetry political?
- Is women's poetry feminist? Is feminist poetry anti-male?

In the last slide, the presentation asks readers to write their own poem, keeping the following points in mind:

- What is your poetry going to be about?
- What's the story you wish to tell of yourself or about a woman in your life—a mother, sister, wife or partner, daughter, grandmother, friend, etc.?
- What are the influences on your poetry?
- In what style will you write your poem? Free verse? Rhyme? Prose? Haiku?

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 use it and to tell others about it.

AAUW LEADING THE WAY TO GENDER PAY EQUITY!

Public Policy



Equal Rights for All: Enshrining Equality in the Constitution"

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) has championed the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) for nearly 100 years, advocating for gender equality since the ERA was first introduced in 1923. AAUW has worked tirelessly at both the federal and state levels to advance its passage and ratification.

On November 6, 2024, New Yorkers voted to pass the Equal Rights Amendment (Proposition 1), marking a historic step toward ensuring women's civil rights protections in the state constitution. This amendment expands protections against discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other factors. By codifying these protections, New York strengthens its commitment to equality, ensuring that any future attempts to roll back these rights would face significant legal hurdles. It ensures that women's rights are constitutionally safeguarded, particularly in areas like employment, education, and healthcare. This constitutional change strengthens legal protections against gender-based discrimination and reproductive health restrictions, providing greater security and support for women in New York State.

The Equal Rights Amendment ("ERA") amends Article I, § 11 of the state constitution, to include "ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, or sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy". With 62.5% of voters in New York State voting "Yes". By Borough, 86% voted Yes in Manhattan, 83% voted yes in the Bronx, 79% voted yes in Brooklyn, 75% voted Yes in Queens followed by 51% voting Yes in Staten Island. Effective January 1, 2025, these protections will be upheld by both individuals and institutions, including the state. This amendment ensures lasting civil rights protections that are more difficult to change than existing laws, reinforcing New York's commitment to fairness and equality for all its residents.

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) expands protections against discrimination based on sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, and other factors. However, it does not include protections for socio-economic status, political affiliation, or military service. Additionally, while the amendment strengthens civil rights protections, it does not fundamentally alter existing religious freedoms or protections for private institutions, as those are safeguarded by other parts of the state constitution.

Passing the ERA reflects decades of advocacy and activism by women's rights groups. It represents a milestone in the ongoing fight for equality and justice. By enshrining these protections in the state constitution, New York has taken a bold step toward creating a more just and equitable society, serving as a model for other states and reinforcing the importance of constitutional amendments like the ERA.

Ariah Tough, Public Policy VP
Email: ariah.tough@gmail.com



Monthly Events

Girls for STEM



Girls for STEM 2025 Conference (formerly Explore Your Opportunities)

Date: Saturday
March 15, 2025
8:30 am—1:30 pm

University 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.**

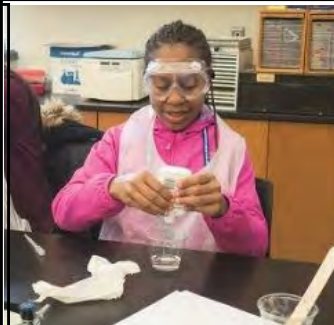
3. Survive the Zombie Apocalypse. Learn to stop zombie disease from spreading. **Whitney Bagge, PhD, MPH, Disease Ecologist, Ecohealth Alliance**

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**



Blizzard in a Bottle!

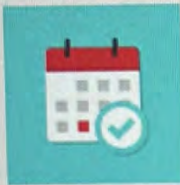


Lifting the Chemical Fingerprint

2024 AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference



Empowering for Equity



SAVE the DATE



**AAUW
Atlantic Regional Conference**

September 27th-29th, 2024

Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference Center
1000 Virginia Center Pkwy, Glen Allen, VA 23059



Hotel Amenities

The Tavern Bar & Grill
The Glen Restaurant
Fitness Center
Free Wifi
Room Service
Free parking

Nearby Attractions

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
James River Cellars Winery
Richmond National Battlefield Park
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Children's Museum of Richmond
Crossings Golf Course



**"Each time a woman stands up for herself,
without knowing it possibly, without claiming
it, she stands up for all women."**

– Maya Angelou

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2024

Happy Fall

Day	Date	Time	Event (Great Decision Topics)
Sun	09/22/24		Fall Equinox
Fri-Sun	09/27-29/24		AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference at Virginia Crossings
Wed	10/09/24	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Great Decisions: The United States and the Middle East
Mon	10/14/24		Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day
Wed	10/16/24	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Great Decisions: Climate Technology and Competition
Wed	10/30/24	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Great Decisions: Science Across Borders
Tues	11/05/24		Election Day
Wed	11/06/24	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Great Decisions: U.S.—China Trade Rivalry
Mon	11/11/24		Veterans Day
Thurs	11/28/24		Thanksgiving Day
Wed	12/11/24	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Great Decisions: NATO's Future
Wed	12/18/24	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Great Decisions: Understanding Indonesia
Wed	12/25/24		Christmas Day
Wed	01/08/25	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Great Decisions: High Seas Treaty
Wed	01/15/25	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Great Decisions: Pandemic Preparedness

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.

Raegan Sealy,
raegan@raegansealy.com

Save the Dates:

AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference
at Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference
in Glen Allen, VA
Friday—Sunday, Sept 27—29, 2024

Great Decisions Meetings
Wednesday: 5:30—6:30pm
10/9, 10/16, 10/30
11/6, 12/11, 12/18
1/8/25 & 1/15/25

Please RSVP asap by emailing
mellis@fsacap.onmicrosoft.com
To join us at these meetings, click on the
link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84953511475?pwd=7z6KMK45jrjbsZ95iXst6KFWsQhZzi.1>

Meeting ID: 849 5351 1475
Passcode: KWPB

Girls for STEM
2025 Conference

Saturday: 03/15/2025
8:30 am—1:30 pm
University of Mount Saint Vincent

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

To join us at these meetings, click on the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84953511475?pwd=7z6KMK45jrjbsZ95iXst6KFWsQhZzi.1>

Meeting ID: 849 5351 1475

Passcode: KWPB



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



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.onmicrosoft.com



Empire State NYC Branch Membership

To join or renew your membership with AAUW Empire State NYC Branch!

- ⇒ The annual dues to become a primary member is \$84. (The \$84 fee is distributed as follows: \$72 for national dues, \$7 for NYS; \$5 for Empire State NYC Branch.
- ⇒ If you are a dual member the annual fee to become a member of the Empire State NYC Branch is only \$5.
- ⇒ Lifetime membership \$1,440/Onetime payment
- ⇒ 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, membership is free.

Membership:

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

AAUW Chief Executive Officer: Gloria L. Blackwell
 AAUW NYS President: Suzanne Young-Mercer
 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
 Darshani Jayaweera, darshanijayaweera3@gmail.com
 Empire Times is published quarterly by AAUW Empire State NYC Branch
 Editor-In-Chief: Chigurupati S. Rani, Ph.D.; csrani.rani@gmail.com
 Editorial and Writing Team: Maria Ellis; mellis@fsacap.onmicrosoft.com,
 Chigurupati S. Rani, Ph.D.; & Anita Nahal, Ph.D.
 Design: Maria Ellis & Chigurupati S. Rani, Ph.D.

AAUW EMPIRE STATE NYC BRANCH

Officers & Directors-at-Large

President: Maria Ellis, AAUW Empire State NYC Branch (ESNYCB)

Program VP: Raegan Sealy, ESNYCB

Membership VP: Jessica Sims, Ph.D., ESNYCB

AAUW Funds VP: TBD

Recording Secretary: TBD

Treasurer: Chigurupati S. Rani, Ph.D., ESNYCB

Directors-at-Large:

Bylaws/Parliamentarian: TBD

College & University Director:

Co-Director, Lorin Johnson, Westchester Branch, ESNYCB

Co-Director, Sonia Ramos, ESNYCB

Communications & Visibility Director:

Co-Director, Jessica Sims, Ph.D., AAUW Fellow, ESNYCB

Cultural Director & Young Women Task Force Liaison:

Raegan Sealy, ESNYCB

Diversity & Inclusion Director:

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

Co-Director, Sonia Ramos, ESNYCB

Public Policy VP: Ariah Tough, ESNYCB

Social Media Team

Jessica Sims, Ph.D., Maria Ellis, MBA

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 1, April 1, July 1, October 1) to mellis@fsacap.onmicrosoft.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.

