

The Rockland County Branch of the  
American Association of University Women, Inc.

Rockland County Branch AAUW  
P. O. Box 962, Monsey, NY 10952-0962  
**OUR WEB SITE:** [aauw.rockland.county.ny](http://aauw.rockland.county.ny)  
[AAUW/rockland.publicpolicy@yahoo.com](mailto:AAUW/rockland.publicpolicy@yahoo.com)

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

President: Suzanne Young-Mercer  
[smymaauw@gmail.com](mailto:smymaauw@gmail.com)

Editor: Sylvia Miller (845) 358-1680  
[aauwsam@optonline.net](mailto:aauwsam@optonline.net)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, April 4 AAUW Board Meeting at Dorothea Flieger's home 7:00 p.m.  
Be sure to let Dorothea know if you will or will not attend.

Tuesday, April 4 EQUAL PAY DAY

Thursday, April 6 AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club' at 1:00 p.m.  
Barnes & Noble NANUET  
*Factory Man.....* by Beth Macy

Thursday, April 6 SUMMIT PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FAMILY MATH NIGHT

Monday, April 17 AAUW Book Group New City Library at 2:30 p.m.  
*The Summer Before the War* by Helen Simonson

**\*WEDNESDAY, April 19** BRANCH MEETING/Business Meeting 7:00 p.m. and  
Meet & Greet for New Members 6:30 p.m.  
See details within Nanuet Library Community Room

April 21 - 23 NYS AAUW CONVENTION, Double Tree by Hilton, Syracuse, NY

Saturday, April 22 EARTH DAY

Tuesday, May 2 AAUW Board Meeting at Charlotte Sorger's new address 7:00 p.m.  
Be sure to let Charlotte know if you will or will not attend.

Thursday, May 4 AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club' at 1:00 p.m.  
Barnes & Noble NANUET  
*The Good Father* by Noah Hawley

Wednesday, May 24 AAUW ANNUAL DINNER - WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT and Election of Officers  
Nyack Seaport Restaurant, Nyack at 6:00 p.m. See reservation form at end of newsletter.

*VISION STATEMENT: 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.*

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

AAUW VALUE PROMISE: *By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.*

## **BRANCH NOTES**

**Welcome new member!!** We are delighted you have joined our branch.

**Mary Williams** of Garnerville achieved her AAS from the Borough of Manhattan Community College and her BSN from the College of New Rochelle. Currently she is one of the STEM coaches at Summit Park Elementary School.

Congratulations to **Tuula Pasolo-Alberino** upon the birth of her new grandson, Jay Pasola Rappaport.

Get well wishes to **Rita Garner** and **Sondra Gordon** after recent surgeries.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Nominating Committee presents our proposed slate of officers to be elected at the branch annual business meeting , Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

Co-President - Suzanne Young-Mercer (second term)  
Co-President - Edwina Martin  
Treasurer - Sandy Blasy (second term)  
Program VP - Sherry Jackson  
Corresponding Secretary - Anita Nessin

All positions are open for additional candidates. Nominations can be made from the floor at the April meeting *provided the person being nominated has agreed to do so prior to that meeting.*

Thank you Nominating committee: **Frances Blauvelt, Linette Almond, Elaine Bernard, Phyllis Morena, & Kathleen Sullivan** for a job well done.

## **ABSENTEE BALLOT for AAUW Officers for 2017-2018**

In case you will not be able to attend the April 19 Branch Meeting, please complete this Absentee Ballot and return it to Sylvia Miller by April 19. A quorum is required to vote for officers so PLEASE send this in promptly OR you can e-mail it to [aauwsam@optonline.net](mailto:aauwsam@optonline.net)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

	Yes	No
Co-President - Suzanne Young-Mercer (second term)	_____	_____
Co-President - Edwina Martin	_____	_____
Treasurer - Sandy Blasy (second term)	_____	_____
Program Vice President - Sherry Jackson	_____	_____
Corresponding Secretary - Anita Nessin	_____	_____

Mail to Sylvia Miller, 98 Foxwood Road, West Nyack, NY 10994

## **BYLAWS UPDATE**

Our Bylaws were updated in 2016 in order for AAUW to be in compliance with the requirements for all 501 (C)(3) organizations. They can now be found on our website. If anyone prefers to have their own copy, this can be forwarded to you via e-mail. Please contact Sylvia Miller at [aauwsam@optonline.net](mailto:aauwsam@optonline.net).

**\*Please note correct day and date for this meeting**

**APRIL BRANCH/BUSINESS MEETING \*Wednesday, April \*19, 7:00 p.m.**  
**with Meet and Greet for new members at 6:30 p.m.**

Nanuet Library Community Room, 149 Church St., Nanuet, NY 10954

Election of Officers, approval of the proposed 2017-2018 budget AND **a special program by Phyllis Morena** for all members; long standing, new comers and prospective folks! Join us for an interactive workshop that will help you identify your personality temperament. Learn new ways to communicate effectively with family members, folks at work, as well as in our branch. Share with us, your Rockland County branch, ideas you would like to explore through monthly meetings, community programs, and/or special events.

Looking forward to seeing you Wednesday, April 19th!

Refreshments will be served.



**Please be sure to vote on the proposed 2017-2018 budget.**

We urge you to attend our Branch Business Meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> when we will be voting on the new proposed budget. A copy was sent to you in a separate email last month for your review and questions. If you think you will be unable to attend, you may vote in advance of the meeting by sending in an absentee ballot to Sandy Blasy at [yoga54ny@gmail.com](mailto:yoga54ny@gmail.com) or at 29 Hickory Hill Ln, Tappan, NY 10983. Any questions you may have can be sent to my email address.

Sandy Blasy, Treasurer

**STEM at Summit Park Elementary School by Joyce Brown**

STEM at SPES has been moving along steadily toward the end of its 9th year. We have exceeded 70 coaches. One of our coaches, Maureen Liburd, was burned out in the early morning fire at Hickory Houses on Route 45 across the street from St. Joseph's Catholic Church. She escaped with her life, purse, passport and pajamas. Coaches are sending money cards addressed to Maureen Liburd. We are collecting them at the school. Rita Garner (AAUW), Bert Singer, and Sondra Gordon (AAUW) are dealing with health issues.

On Thursday, April 6, 2017, the program presented its annual **Family Math Night**. Starting with a delicious dinner of meatballs over rice, salad and bread, ending with a tremendous variety of desserts, approximately 250 people braved torrential rain with lightning to visit 15 activities in the gyms. Volunteers numbering 35 attended: 7 from AAUW, 7 coaches from the program, 10 from RSVP, 6 from Spring Valley Rotary, 2 from Rockland Community College and 10 from the Ramapo High School Honor Society. Several will return in the fall as coaches.

An invitation is extended to AAUW members to attend our End-Of-Year Luncheon to be held at the School on Wednesday, May 24, 2017, at 11:30 a.m. at the school in the front gym. That is our final day of program for this year.

A special thank you to Debby Frank and all the volunteers who helped make this event a great success.

## **LAF (LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND)**

In May 2014, the Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination (MCAD) upheld a ruling in favor of LuLu Sun in her gender and race discrimination case against the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. In June 2011 an MCAD hearing officer concluded that the university had violated Massachusetts' anti-discrimination laws and ordered the university to 1) promote Sun with retroactive back pay, 2) pay \$200,000 in emotional distress damages, plus 12% interest from the date the complaint was filed, 3) pay the commonwealth of Massachusetts a \$10,000 civil penalty, and 4) conduct an anti-discrimination training for its human resources staff, the dean of the UMass Dartmouth College of Arts and Sciences, the provost, and the chancellor. The university promoted her to full professor but appealed the emotional distress award, the civil penalty and the anti-discriminatory training. The most recent ruling upheld the MCAD hearing officer's decision and the university conceded any further appeal. AAUW is proud to have supported Sun's case and congratulate her on this final ruling.



American Association of University Women

### **New York State 2017 Convention**

April 21 to 23, 2017 at the Doubletree by Hilton Syracuse  
6301 State Route 298 East Syracuse, New York 13057 Phone: 315 432 - 0200

Friday tour and High Tea at the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation and a tour of the J.G. Stickley Museum in Fayetteville.  
For registration, go to [AAUW-NYS.org](http://AAUW-NYS.org).

## **EQUAL PAY DAY, April 4**

As the 115th Congress begins, women working full time in the United States are typically paid just 80% of what men are paid, a gap of 20%. The pay gap is even larger for women of color, especially for Hispanic and Latina women, who were paid only 54% of what white men were paid in 2015. It is imperative that federal action is taken to support pay equity. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 prohibits pay discrimination on the basis of sex. While this crucial law has helped to narrow the gender pay gap, disparities persist. Congress must pass a comprehensive update to this bill to close existing loopholes, including deterring discrimination by strengthening penalties for equal pay violations and prohibiting retaliation against workers who inquire about employer's wage practices or disclose their own wages. An updated bill should also create incentives for employers to follow the law, empower women to negotiate for equal pay and strengthen federal outreach and enforcement efforts. While Congress is on break, tell your Congress members to support strong, effective legislation to close the gender pay gap - not faux fair pay bills.

## **Did you know?**

That **Wylene Wood** was honored recently by Rockland's XI Lambda Lambda chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. at their annual Achievement Week Program. She was named *Rockland Person of the Year*. Congratulations Wylene! A lifelong educator, she has spent the last 13 years living in the county serving several special interest groups, including 10 years as president of the African American Historical Society of Rockland. She is also a three-term president of VCS, Inc. that provides counseling and family support programs. She enjoyed her time working with students at Rockland Community College and teaching the African Diaspora to people across the county. She and her husband, Dr. Cliff Wood, are moving to Vermont this summer. AAUW and Rockland County will miss them both and we wish them well in their future.

## **HAPPENINGS**

Saturday, April 8 - This year's **What's Really Cool Conference** is from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. in the Finkelstein Library in Spring Valley. The topic is "Your Successful Future."

Wednesday, April 12 - **Rivertown Film** presents **NERUDA** at 8:00 p.m. at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY.

Thursday, April 20 - **ROSA and Rivertown Film** present **The Wild & Scenic Film Festival** at 7:30 p.m. at the Lafayette Theatre in Suffern. A celebration of the Earth's beauty, the challenges facing our planet and the work communities are doing to protect the environment. It is the largest environmental film festival held in the US and tours the country. It is presented annually at the Lafayette Theatre. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the mighty Wurlitzer organ plays at 7:00 p.m. Film program runs 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20.00 at the door.

Saturday, April 22 - Sierra Club and 350NJ-Rockland invite you to **Earth Day in Nyack** from Noon - 5:00 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park, Nyack. Celebrate Earth Day in Nyack and connect with our community of activists. Help us to affect positive changes both locally and globally.

Through April 23 - The sordid story of the **building of the Palisades Center mall** by Rockland filmmakers Sarah Mondale, Vera Aronow and Roger Grange, is on view through April 23 at the Rockland Center for the Arts as part of **ACTIVISM IN ART: Art Changes Things**.

Saturday, April 29 - The **Rockland Women's Political Caucus** presents **RWPC Campaign School** from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at JCC Rockland, 450 West Nyack Road, West Nyack, NY 10994. This free workshop event will help women understand how to run for office and/or run a campaign. Please RSVP to [annmarieuhl2013@gmail](mailto:annmarieuhl2013@gmail.com) to reserve a spot.

Saturday, April 29 - **Sierra Club and 350NJ-Rockland** invite you to **March for climate, jobs and justice** in Washington, DC. To get involved sign up at [peoplesclimate.org](http://peoplesclimate.org).

Monday, May 8 - **Sierra Club** presents **CLIMATE CHANGE: Why is it Urgent to Act Now?** at 7:00 p.m. at the New City Library, New City, NY. Professor Klaus Jacob, a climate scientist at Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, will talk about what we can expect in coming years, the time frame, and why action is needed now.

Saturday, May 20 - **Rockland Community College** hosts the **Premiere of "Two Schools in Hillburn,"** a Documentary by Joe Allen, at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Theater, RCC, 145 College Rd., Suffern, NY. It is the compelling, 1943 story of how Thurgood Marshall and a community achieved the historic desegregation of a Rockland County elementary school. Free admission, **reservations required** at **two schools.bpt.me**.

**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE FOOD PANTRY** - PTP is serving over 1,400 families a month through their Food Pantry Program. That's about 4,000 people per month and nearly 50% of them are children. Please continue providing canned goods, juices, cereal, soups, peanut butter & jelly as often as you can. For more information, go to their web site: [www.peopletopeopleinc.org](http://www.peopletopeopleinc.org). Hours are Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. at 121 West Nyack Road, Nanuet, NY 10954. Questions? Call (845) 623-4900. THANK YOU!

## **SAVE THE DATE**

Saturday, April 8 - **"What's Really Cool" Conference**, Finkelstein Library, Spring Valley. Topic: Your Successful Future.

Wednesday, April 19 - **Branch Business Meeting** 7:00 p.m. Election of officers, budget approval, etc.

April 21-23 - **AAUW NYS Conference**, Double Tree by Hilton, Syracuse, NY.

Tuesday, May 2 - **Board Meeting** at Charlotte Sorger's at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24 - **Annual Dinner/Woman of Achievement**, Installation of Officers at 6:00 p.m., Nyack Seaport.

May 31 - June 3 - **NCCWSL** conference at the University of Maryland.

Tuesday, June 6 - **Joint Board Meeting** (new and current board members) at Ellie Grossman's at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 13 - **Branch Meeting** - Meet & Greet our Scholarship Recipients.

**June 14-17 - AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION**, WASHINGTON, D.C. Go to [AAUW National Convention](http://AAUW National Convention) to register. Make sure your voice is heard. Join hundreds of fellow advocates on Lobby Day at the National Convention.

**Save the Date!**  
**Join us at Cazenovia!**



**Summer Leadership Conference**  
All members of AAUW are invited

Register after May 1 at [www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org)

**July 21-23, 2017**  
**Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY**

- ▶ *Harnessing Women's Energy*
- ▶ *Building for Vitality*
- ▶ *Using Small but Mighty Idea*



**THE ROCKLAND COUNTY BRANCH OF  
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, INC.**

**WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT DINNER**

**In Honor of**

*Sylvia Miller*

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

**Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

**Cocktails (cash bar) at 6:00 p.m., Dinner at 7:00 p.m.**

**The Nyack Seaport Restaurant**

21 Burd Street  
Nyack, NY 10960

**\$55.00 per ticket - Make Check Payable to:**

**The Rockland County Branch of AAUW**

**c/o Sandy Masiello, 95 Green Road, West Nyack, NY 10994**

**RSVP by May 10, 2017 to (845) 358-8240**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ at \$55.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_