

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

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

President: Suzanne Young Mercer
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DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, November 3

BE SURE TO VOTE

Tuesday, November 3

AAUW Board Meeting at Karen Martin's at 7:00 p.m. (Location change)
12 Valley Drive, Nanuet, NY 10954
Please let Karen know if you will or will not attend.

Thursday, November 5

AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club' at 1:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble NANUET
The Light Between Oceans by M L Stedman

*Monday, November 16
* Note change of day.

AAUW Book Group New City Library at 4:00 p.m.
To Kill A Mockingbird / and *Go Set A Watchman* by Harper Lee

Tuesday, November 17 Branch meeting 7:00 p.m.

**Nanuet Library Young People's Room, First Floor
149 Church Street, Nanuet, NY 10954**

Come hear member Betty Vallone tell us about her new book Heaven, Hell and Hoboken

Free and open to the public. See details within

Tuesday, December 1

AAUW Board Meeting at Sandy Masiello's at 7:00 p.m. (Location change)
64 Green Road, West Nyack, NY (845) 358-8240
Please let Sandy know if you will or will not attend.

Thursday, December 3

AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club' at 1:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble NANUET
The Monuments Men by Robert Edsel

Wednesday, December 9

AAUW HOLIDAY BUFFET AND AUCTION 6:00 p.m.
At Rosemary Waltzer's home. See details within

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.*

President's MESSAGE Suzanne Young-Mercer

As we head into the holiday season, I am reminded that we live in a country where we like to celebrate all occasions. Halloween has just passed and Thanksgiving is coming up fast. What are you thankful for this year? I am thankful that I live in a country where as a woman I can vote. As I write this message, it is November 3, 2015 and I am able to vote because of the women who came before me who took to the streets to demand their equality and enjoy this simple right. Since June 4, 1919, women have been making strides to ensure "equal justice for all." We still have a ways to go, but we cannot get there without exercising our right to vote and electing individuals who have and will continue to demonstrate concern and advocate for women's true equality.

We can no longer wait for our elected officials to attain the political will to address the needs of women and girls; we must push them by holding them accountable if they do not do what we ask of them. Our vote is a precious commodity not to be squandered on politicians who say the right things when they are on the campaign trail, but act differently once elected or in direct contravention to what they proclaimed.

We live in a country that we must make live up to its moral creed, "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men and women are created equal". By the time you read this I am sure that you have already scanned that document that selects those you are entrusting to do your bidding as your representative, but your service to your community has just begun because now the real work begins.

I am thankful for you, my AAUW family, and all that you have helped me to see and all that you will help me to accomplish as the President of the Rockland AAUW. I also must be pushed to continue to make our group a relevant organization in Rockland so that together we will continue to do great things for the advancement of women and girls.

BRANCH NOTES.

Once again we extend our condolences to past members whose husbands died in October: Sonya Shapiro's husband Milton Shapiro, and June Molof's husband Dr. Alan Molof.

Phyllis Morena sent this comment about **Ladies Who Lunch**. *"Thanks to Charlotte Sorger for arranging a delightful – and tasty – lunch at Alfredo's in New City on Friday, October 30. I'm not always able to attend branch meetings but this gathering brought me back with the intelligent, committed women we have in our group, and our conversation flowed from the November 3 elections to branch activities, to New York City visits, to how we can downsize as our families get smaller to upcoming travels. We shared a variety of topics as well as sharing our dishes. Please consider joining us at the next Ladies Who Lunch, and if you have a restaurant to suggest, let Charlotte know."* **Ladies Who Lunch** will resume in the spring.

Congratulations to:

Stephanie Hausner who is being honored at the Keep Rockland Beautiful Gala on November 7 at the Dolce Hotel, IBM Palisades, 334 Route 9W, Palisades, NY.

Phyllis Frank and VCS (Volunteer Counseling Service) who received the Virginia Atkins Beasley Lifetime Achievement Award at the Spring Valley NAACP's 64th annual Freedom Fund Membership Gala last Friday.

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"HARVEY" IS COMING TO ELMWOOD!!! The comedy will be performed at Nyack's Elmwood Playhouse and we will join the Spring Valley Rotary in a fundraiser night in January 2016. So watch for details and plan to attend for a fun-filled night.

STEM

STEM at Summit Park Elementary School is a math and reading coaching program where volunteer coaches in both subjects work one or more days per week with individuals or pairs of students to promote academic success. The program utilizes special low-key strategies to promote the success of students, especially girls, to enable them to successfully choose careers in the fields of **S**cience, **T**echnology **E**ngineering and **M**ath. Coaches come from AAUW, RSVP, Rockland Retired Teachers' Center, friends of coaches and other organizations with similar goals. The primary qualification is that coaches love reading and/or math and that they are willing to share that love. The program works collaboratively with the East Ramapo School District to provide a solid foundation. The program now involves 50 coaches supporting grades 1 through 3 in reading and math. Service days have been expanded to five days per week. The program joins with the Family Resource Facilitator and math and reading staff developers to support Family Math Night and Family Reading Night structured to help parents learn how to help their children in fun ways, especially during vacation periods. Six clubs have been added during the recess period for third graders: Arts & Crafts, a book club, chess club, LEGO building, science club, and a computer coding club. For the past 8 years, Summit Park ES has performed in the top 2 places in both reading and math among the primary schools.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (EOF)

The **AAUW Fund** advances AAUW's mission by sustaining all our programs and activities. Your unrestricted gift to the AAUW Fund helps incubate and disseminate programs that above all, advance equity for women and girls; strengthen AAUW's role in the global community; respond to and eradicate the persistent challenges facing women and girls; leverage new opportunities and attract new audiences to our mission.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND (LAF)

Burhans vs. Yale update. Adopted 2015. Susan Burhans was hired by Yale University in 1999 as a communications specialist and served the University as a security education coordinator. In 2012, Burhans filed suit against Yale, alleging sex discrimination and unlawful retaliation under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and other laws. Burhans claims she was discriminated against and eventually terminated after years of attempting to help survivors of sexual assault on campus and alert Yale to potential Title IX violations. The suite was originally filed in 2012. Burhans filed an amended complaint in 2014.

PUBLIC POLICY

Congratulations NYS Women!!! The Women's Equality Bills have been signed by Governor Cuomo. It is time to celebrate. The Women's Equality Bills that were passed during the 2015 legislative session are now law. To get complete information on what the bills include, go to [*The New, New York State Law Primer*](#). This webpage reviews the laws including the bill numbers, what the bill does and a downloadable one sheet. Now that these bills have been signed into law, we must spread the word, educate the public about these new rights and work for strong enforcement. And, together we will push for other reforms to ensure that women have full access and opportunity to succeed!

AAUW Branch Meeting Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.

Nanuet Community Library (First floor room)
149 Church Street, Nanuet, NY 10954

Our guest speaker will be **Elizbeth Vallone**. She will be sharing her writing experience and speaking about her latest published historical novel, a dark WWI tale of the Germans of Hoboken, entitled **Heaven, Hell and Hoboken**. Betty, as her friends call her, is a retired teacher and a member of AAUW Rockland. She was a contributing author to the anthologies *Imprints on Rockland County History* (1983) and *Durragia: Writings of Italian-American Women* (1998). *Beyond Bagheria*, her first attempt at historical fiction, is set in New Orleans and was published in 2005. This was followed by *Barbarossa's Princess* in 2011. Betty is presently preparing a work of non-fiction based on the life of Hezekiah Easter, the first African-American legislator in Rockland County, New York. This program is free & open to the public – bring your friends to hear about a fascinating tale.

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE!!! <http://rocklandcounty-ny.aauw.net/>

What do you think of our website? Now that we are up-to-date and adding more information regularly, we would like to receive comments from our members. What else should be included? Any and all comments gratefully received as well as your contributions. Please send comments, articles, pictures, etc. to Sylvia Miller at aauwsam@optonline.net and we will gladly include them. Thank you.



DECEMBER AAUW HOLIDAY POT LUCK DINNER AND AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9 6:00 p.m.

At the home of Rosemary Waltzer, 16 Sandusky Road, New City

This is our very special winter event! Members will provide the food as well as new items or almost new (appropriate as holiday gifts) to be auctioned off after dinner. One item per member will be sufficient. It is a wonderful time to meet new members and get reacquainted with others.

Please e-mail **ROSEMARY WALTZER at rosescorf@gmail.com or phone 845 634-7928 * by Friday, December 4** to let her know what food item you will bring. Appetizers, entrees, salads, beverages, etc. are needed. Please make your contribution to serve 8 portions and bring **already prepared goodies**. As a courtesy to our wonderful hostess, please let her know your plans by Friday, December 4.

The holiday auction raises funds for the branch contribution to AAUW's **Education Opportunities Fund**. Each member brings a gift (or regift), new (or almost), but just not your type. Auction items can be paid for by check to the *AAUW Fund* which is a 501 (c) (3) fund. (tax deductible)
Otherwise just bring \$\$\$ for the raffle and auction. This year we have a mystery auctioneer. The auction is a riot and the party is fun, fun, fun.

We will also have our **LAF basket raffle** – this year's theme is "Holiday *Spirits*." Suggested items to be included are: wine, eggnog mix, crackers, cookies, candies, nuts, dried fruits, candles, cocktail napkins, anything festive. Please take your contributions to Pam Guevara at Red Hill Nursery (previously Van Houten Gardens) located at 241 South Little Tor Road, New City before December 4.



HOLIDAY WRAPPING AT BARNES & NOBLE, NANUET



Our holiday fund raiser is here again. AAUW **needs volunteers** to wrap presents at Barnes & Noble, NANUET for the Holiday Season. The dates are Wednesday, December 23 and Thursday, December 24. Select dates for your time to volunteer; just a couple hours would be a great help.

Times are:	<u>Dec. 23</u>	<u>Dec. 24</u>
	9 – 11 am	9 – 11 am
	11 – 1 pm	11 – 1 pm
	1 – 3 pm	1 – 3 pm
	3 – 5 pm	3 – 5 pm
	5 – 7 pm	5 – 6 pm
	7 – 9/10 pm	

Come out and enjoy your fellow AAUW members, meet the shoppers.
Just have fun while you are helping AAUW continue its mission.

E-mail Suzanne Young-Mercer at smym5225@aol.com
or call (845) 425-8559



FUNDRAISER AT ELMWOOD PLAYHOUSE, 10 Park St. Nyack, NY

On _____ January __, 2016 **at 8:00 p.m.** our branch will partner with the Spring Valley Rotary to present the comedy **HARVEY**, a delightful classic comedy about a kind hearted, middle-aged eccentric named Elwood P. Dowd whose best friend is an invisible Pooka, a benign but mischievous mythological creature resembling a six-foot tall rabbit. Genuine characters and uncomplicated values of love and friendship keep this play's appeal intact almost 70 years after it was written

AAUW has 33 tickets to sell at \$35 per ticket. This is one of our few fundraisers of the year so it is very important that we sell all of our tickets.

There are 2 ways that you can support this effort:

1. Buy or sell tickets - if **each member** buys at least one ticket for themselves or someone else, we will achieve our goal.
2. Make a donation if you cannot buy or sell any tickets.

For ticket sales, please contact: Sandy Blasy at (845) 398-2054 or yoga54ny@gmail.com

Tickets will be mailed to you upon receipt of your check made out to *AAUW Rockland Branch* and mailed to P.O. Box 962, Monsey, NY 10952-0962 up to January _____. Please indicate "Elmwood" in memo line. After that your tickets will be made available at the door the night of the performance.

Tickets can be reserved at our November 17 branch meeting. Just bring your money and save us the 49 cent postage. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!!!

Book Lovers: An Exciting and Rare Opportunity! November is Native American Heritage Month, and AAUW National is recognizing it with the first Adelante! Book of the Month Club **online** book discussion. Plan to meet to talk about ***The Cherokee Rose*** on Thursday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. ET for our virtual book discussion with the book's author, former AAUW grantee and MacArthur Genius Grant winner Tiya Miles. When you register for the discussion by November 22, you'll also be able to submit a question for Miles to answer at the meeting.

HAPPENINGS

Sunday, Nov. 8 – **Sierra Club Lower Hudson and the Rockland Water Coalition** present **The Climate Change Solutions Tour!** at Temple Israel Center, 280 Old Mamaroneck Road, White Plains, 3:00 p.m. Zephyr Teachout (Breakaway 2014 Candidate for NY Governor) will speak on solutions to climate change, the most urgent environmental problem of our time!

Wednesday, Nov. 11 – **Rivertown Film** presents ***Best of Enemies*** at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY, 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 18 – **Rivertown Film** presents ***The End of the Tour*** at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 22 – **VCS** presents **Transgender Day of Remembrance – opening reception**, 12:30 p.m., Nyack Library, 59 S. Broadway, Nyack, NY and film ***Growing Up Trans***, a PBS documentary, at 2:30 p.m. at the Library.

RTC (Rockland Teachers' Center) EVENTS Open to everyone! View all programs online at www.rockteach.org. E-mail address for Bilha Berkowitz is bberkowitz@rockteach.org. Additional trips and gallery tours are online. **Reminder:** For a special discount on Air Brook Limousine Service, call 1 800-800-1990 and mention code CC6059. 5% discount on luxury sedan and van service PLUS a 5% donation in your name to the Rockland Teachers' Center.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE FOOD PANTRY In November the *Talk Turkey* program provides more than 2,000 low-income or poverty-level Rockland households with a turkey and all the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. In December more than 1,000 low-income Rockland parents will look to PtoP's **Project Joy** program to help them provide holiday gifts for their kids. Please continue providing canned goods, juices, cereal, soups, peanut butter & jelly, turkeys, etc. to PTP as often as you can. And visit their office to adopt a family's wish list for the holidays. For more information, go to their web site:

www.peopletopeopleinc.org

Hours are Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 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

Charlotte Sorger is looking for members to join her **Scholarship Committee**. If interested, please contact Charlotte at (845) 352-1488.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, November 3 – BOARD meeting at Karen Martin's, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 5 - Rockland Readers Book Club, Barnes & Noble, Nanuet 1:00 p.m.

*Monday, November 16 - AAUW Book Group, New City Library, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 17 – BRANCH meeting with author Betty Vallone and her new book, *Heaven, Hell & Hoboken*

Wednesday, November 18 – STEM Engineers' Luncheon at the Nanuet Library, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 1 – BOARD meeting at Sandy Masiello's 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 3 - Rockland Readers Book Club, Barnes & Noble, Nanuet 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 9 or ? – AAUW HOLIDAY BUFFET AND AUCTION, 6:00 p.m. at Rosemary Waltzer's

Wednesday, December 23 – AAUW WRAP at Barnes & Noble, NANUET

Thursday, December 24 – AAUW WRAP at Barnes & Noble, NANUET

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Tuesday, January 5 – BOARD Meeting Conference Call 7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 22 – CTAUN Meeting at the United Nations –“Stewardship for a Sustainable World: Education in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”

Saturday, January 23 or

Sunday, January 24 - AAUW Branch Meeting, afternoon.

Saturday, February 27 – Diversity Brunch at St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church, Sparkill, NY 10:30 a.m.