

## 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.rocklandcountyny.org](http://aauw.rocklandcountyny.org)

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

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

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

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Tuesday, January 5      AAUW Board Meeting at Sylvia Miller's and conference call
- Thursday, January 7      AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club' at 1:00 p.m.  
Barnes & Noble NANUET  
*Family Life* by Akhil Sharma
- Saturday, January 16      AAUW FUNDRAISER at Elmwood Playhouse "HARVEY" 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 19      AAUW Book Group New City Library at 1:00 p.m. **NOTE Day & Time Change**  
*The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris* by David McCullough

**Tuesday, January 19      AAUW BRANCH MEETING 7:00 p.m. New City Library**  
**Topic: The New NY Bridge (replacing the Tappan Zee)**  
**Speaker: Daniel Marcy**

**See details within**

- Tuesday, February 2      AAUW Board Meeting CONFERENCE CALL 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 4      AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club' at 1:00 p.m.  
Barnes & Noble NANUET  
*Amsterdam: a history of the world's most liberal city*
- Saturday, February 27      DIVERSITY BRUNCH St. Charles A.M.E. Church 10:30 a.m.  
432 Valentine Ave., Sparkill, NY10976  
See reservation form on page 5.

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**

On behalf of our Board, I wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. As we begin this New Year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for participating in the events of last year and re-emphasize that your membership means more to us than the dues you pay every year.

We look forward to your participation in the activities and programs that we provide for your education and enjoyment. We will continue to have our two book clubs that meet monthly; January 16, 2016 some of us will be attending our fundraiser theatre event to see **HARVEY** at the Elmwood Playhouse in Nyack; our January monthly branch meeting scheduled on the 19th will be chock full of information about the new Tappan Zee Bridge; February is our Diversity Brunch scheduled for Saturday, February 27th; in March we will be celebrating Women's History Month with a program about the history of Women in the Military.

As you can see, we have a lot in store for you. So look out for our monthly newsletter providing further details on all our branch activities. I look forward to seeing more of you at our events in 2016.

Let's continue to strive to make the Rockland Branch of AAUW strong and relevant.

Best regards, Suzanne Young-Mercer

## **BRANCH NOTES.**

Welcome new member **Rabia Landy Nagin** who lives in Pomona. Details to follow.

Thank you **Rosemary Waltzer** for once again hosting our Annual Holiday Buffet and Auction at your home. And thank you members and guests who contributed delicious food AND participated in our LAF basket raffle and EOF auction. Suzanne Young-Mercer worked her magic as auctioneer. We had a grand time!!!

We trust that **Dr. Renee Brilliant** is making a successful recovery from her recent illness.

**Editor's Request:** Please let me know whenever you hear of a member's illness, special event, etc. so that we can include it in the newsletter. Thank you. Sylvia Miller at [aauwsam@optonline.net](mailto:aauwsam@optonline.net) or phone (845) 358-1680.

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

Pay equity is a matter of simple fairness. Yet in 2014, women working full time in the United States typically were paid just 79 cents for every dollar paid to men. Aileen Rizo's case, *Rizo v. Fresno County of Education*, highlights a significant factor that can contribute to the wage gap: employers' reliance on an employee's prior salary history to determine a new salary. AAUW is proud to support the case through our Legal Advocacy Fund.

## **NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COLLEGE WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS (NCCWSL)**

June 2 - 4, at the University of Maryland, College Park. Early-bird registration for the Student Leadership Conference opened December 7, 2015. Be sure to check out highlights from last year's inspiring Women of Distinction ceremony.

**CTAUN Conference at the UN**, Friday, January 22. Topic: Stewardship for a Sustainable World. Registration deadline is January 12. Go to [www.teachun.org](http://www.teachun.org).

## **BRANCH MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 at 7:00 P.M. at THE NEW CITY LIBRARY**

**220 North Main Street, New City, NY 10956**

### **Special Meeting on the New NY Bridge**

Where in the process of completion is OUR Bridge now? Are you curious? Instead of breaking your neck looking at the roadbed from your car as you drive across the Tappan Zee Bridge, come hear and see a representative from the **New NY York Bridge**, Mr. Daniel Marcy, who will share an audio and visual presentation with us. Mr. Marcy has been a member of the New NY Bridge Project's outreach team since 2012. The outreach team has held more than 700 meetings with residents, community groups, business associations, elected officials and other stakeholders. Prior to the New NY Bridge project, Dan was a project manager at Empire State Development. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Tufts University.

While we will not be driving on the new bridge (which needs a new name) in 2016, it is important for us to hear the progress and issues as changes occur. Come be a participant in shaping our future; bring your questions and insights **and friends and relatives!**

**This meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.**

### **PUBLIC POLICY by Ann Mulligan**

New York became the first state to expand the Affordable Care Act to add pregnancy as a qualifying event as a lifestyle change, thereby allowing a pregnant person to change their health care insurance coverage. This is necessary as a person would have to secure health care coverage for the pregnancy during the six week open enrollment period at the end of the previous year to ensure coverage as the vast majority of pregnancies are unplanned, securing coverage in advance of actual need was exceptionally difficult. The legislation passed the Assembly and Senate in 2015 and was signed into law by Governor Cuomo at the End of December. New York leads the country and provides a precedent for all states to follow NY in this important family friendly policy.

For 2016 we already know that Paid Family Leave will be an important legislative issue on the federal and New York State legislative sessions. The national AAUW will be taking a lead on the federal level. A New York state coalition for Paid Family Leave has already formed and taken action in districts across the state. AAUW-NYS is a campaign member of the Paid Family Leave NYS coalition. AAUW - Rockland will become a member as well. Citizen Action is the lead agency. Other groups in the coalition include business owners, faith leaders and labor unions. Unpaid family leave is often an impossible choice for new mothers in low income and financially strained situations. Additionally, new fathers would qualify for paid family leave. Paid family leave would be available to those with a birth, adoption or illness in the family.

Working to secure Paid Family leave will be an important public policy effort for our AAUW branch in 2016. If you are interested in being active on this legislation on the state and/or federal level, please contact Ann Mulligan at 845-893-2821 or [annm.aauw@gmail.com](mailto:annm.aauw@gmail.com).

### **Mark your calendars!**

Jan. 6	NYS Legislative session opens
Jan. 11	Human Trafficking Awareness Day
Jan. 12	Last State of the Union address by President Obama
Jan. 13	Governor Cuomo gives the state-of-state and budget address
Jan. 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan. 22	CTAUN Conference (Committee on Teaching about the United Nations) UN, NYC
Jan. 25	Family Planning Advocates of New York State's Day of Action in Albany
Jan. 29	7th Anniversary of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 signing
Feb. 2	Paid Family Leave Lobby Day in Albany

## **HAPPENINGS**

Saturday, Jan. 16 - **Rivertown Film** presents the **2nd Annual "What Inspires You?"** powered by PechaKucha at the Nyack Center, Nyack. 7:30 p.m. meet the artists. 8:00 p.m. program. Tickets are \$30 (\$25 for members of Rivertown Film). Purchase tickets online at [rivertownfilm.org](http://rivertownfilm.org) or call 800-838-3006.

Saturday, Jan. 23 – **Rivertown Film** presents ***Backpack Full of Cash*** at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY, 8:00 p.m. Explores the growing privatization of public schools and the resulting impact on America's most vulnerable children.

Wednesday, Feb. 10 – **Rivertown Film** presents ***Building Magic*** at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY, 8:15 p.m.

**VCS** is proud to announce the opening of a **Licensed Outpatient Mental Health Clinic** within their current site at 77 South Main Street, New City, NY 10956. VCS is now accepting clients with Medicare or Medicaid insurance coverage. VCS steadfastly remains as a counseling and family service with an anti-racist, social justice mission. Today, with the addition of the Mental Health Clinic, VCS expands their behavioral health services.

**VCS** presents **Woman to Woman - A Lesbian Support Group** on Tuesdays, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, Mar. 22, April 26, & May 24 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the Nyack Center's Middle Room, 58 Depew Ave., Nyack.

**RTC (Rockland Teachers' Center) EVENTS** Open to everyone! View all programs online at [www.rockteach.org](http://www.rockteach.org).

E-mail address for Bilha Berkowitz is [bberkowitz@rockteach.org](mailto: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** Please continue providing canned goods, juices, cereal, soups, peanut butter & jelly, etc. to PTP 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. – 4:30 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

## **SAVE THE DATE**

TUES. JAN. 5, 2016	BOARD MEETING at Sylvia Miller's + Conference Call 7:00 PM
SAT. JAN. 16	ELMWOOD THEATRE FUNDRAISER "HARVEY" 8:00 p.m.
TUES. JAN. 19	BRANCH MEETING at New City Library, 7:00 p.m. Speaker on the NEW NY YORK BRIDGE
FRI. JAN. 22	CTAUN Conference at the United Nations
TUES. FEB. 2	BOARD MEETING, 7:00 PM Conference Call 1-712-432-0460 Access code 454779
*SAT. FEB. 27	DIVERSITY BRUNCH, 10:30 AM St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church, Sparkill
TUES. MAR 1	BOARD MEETING, 7:00 PM Conference Call 1-712-432-0460 Access code 454779
THURS. MAR 3	INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
SAT. MAR 12 or 19	'WHAT'S REALLY COOL' CONFERENCE Finkelstein Library, Spring Valley
SUN. MAR. 13	BRANCH MEETING, 1:00 PM Celebration of Women's History Month
TUES. APR. 5	BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM At Karen Martin's
APRIL 15-17	AAUW NY STATE CONFERENCE Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs, NY
TUES. APRIL 19	BRANCH Business MEETING, "Pay Equity Program" & Election of Officers
TUES. May 3	BOARD MEETING, 7:00 PM at Charlotte Sorger's
WED. MAY 18 or 19	ANNUAL DINNER/Woman of Achievement 6:00 PM Installation of Officers
TUES. JUNE 7	JOINT BOARD MEETING, 7:00 PM New and old board members
July 22-24	AAUW NYS Leadership Conference, Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY

# 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DIVERSITY BRUNCH

HOSTED BY

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

In collaboration with the women  
Of  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2016  
10:30 AM UNTIL 1 PM  
ST. CHARLES A.M.E. ZION CHURCH  
432 VALENTINE AVE.  
SPARKILL, NY

\$25.00 ADVANCE DONATIONS/\$30.00 DOOR SALES

Make all checks payable to: **St. Charles AME Zion Church**

Mail to: AAUW Rockland County Branch, PO Box 962, Monsey, NY 10952-0962

Contact: Ann Mulligan @ 845-893-2821

**RESERVE NOW – LIMITED SEATING**

Cut\_\_\_\_\_

DIVERSITY BRUNCH PLEASE RESERVE # \_\_\_\_\_ SEATS FOR

NAME\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE/EMAIL\_\_\_\_\_

CHECK FOR \$\_\_\_\_\_ENCLOSED