

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.rocklandcounty.ny.us

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

President: Suzanne Young Mercer
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Editor: Sylvia Miller (845) 358-1680
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DATES TO REMEMBER

Celebrating Black History Month

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

Tuesday, February 16 AAUW Book Group New City Library at 1:00 p.m. **NOTE Day & Time Change**
The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

Saturday, February 27 **DIVERSITY BRUNCH** 10:30 a.m.
St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church
432 Valentine Ave.
Sparkill, NY10976

See details within and reservation form at end of newsletter - \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door.

Tuesday, March 1 AAUW Board Meeting CONFERENCE CALL 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 3 AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club' at 1:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble NANUET
Redeployment by Phil Klay

Saturday, March 12 AAUW Branch Meeting Celebrating Women's History Month
Valley Cottage Library at 1:00 p.m.

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.

New member **Rabia Landy Nagin** is a graduate of Pittsburgh University with a BA in Art History.

Our sincere condolences to:

Member **Ellen Jaffe** upon the death of her husband, Steve.

The family of **Dr. Susan Gordon** who passed away January 25. She was a long time member and supporter.

Former member **Diana Worby** upon the death of her husband, Lou.

Congratulations to **Kenneth Mercer** (President **Suzanne Young-Mercer's** husband) who received the Buffalo Soldier Award on Thursday, February 4, 2016. The Journal News included a great article about Ken on Friday, Feb. 5, 2016.

The Executive Board is pleased to announce that **Joyce Clark Brown** has been chosen as our **2016 AAUW Woman of Achievement**. She will be honored at our Annual Dinner in May. Further information will be forthcoming as to the date, place, and time. Congratulations, Joyce!! You are truly our *woman of achievement*.

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. E-mail Sylvia Miller at aauwsam@optonline.net or phone (845) 358-1680.

STEM

The coaching activities at Summit Park Elementary School are in full swing. The various Friday clubs are being greeted with great enthusiasm by the students.

SUMMIT PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL READ-IN will take place Friday, February 12 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come spend a half hour reading to a class. RSVP to Elizabeth Hurley at 845-577-6290 or e-mail her at ehurley@ercsd.org. The school is located at 924 Route 45, New City, NY 10956.

WEAR RED OR PINK.

Preparations are under way for Family Math Night. Watch for more information.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND (LAF)

In January 2016, the plaintiffs in the LAF-supported case *Moshak v. University of Tennessee* successfully settled their Title IX lawsuit against the university. As part of the settlement, the university will pay more than \$1 million. Three former employees of the University of Tennessee's women's athletic department filed suit in 2012 against the university alleging sex discrimination and unlawful retaliation under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Equal Pay Act of 1963. The plaintiffs claim they were unlawfully discriminated against and eventually forced out of their positions during a university-led merger of the men's and women's athletic departments. AAUW is thrilled for the plaintiffs and proud to have supported this case.

DIVERSITY BRUNCH - Saturday, February 27, 10:30 a.m.

St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church, 432 Valentine Avenue, Sparkill, NY 10976

Topic: East Ramapo School District in Crisis - The existing situation for our East Ramapo students and where we need the school district to be for a full and fair education.

Our annual brunch in collaboration with the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority is always a special event with inspiring speakers and delicious food prepared by the skilled kitchen staff of the church under the able direction of Mrs. Green.

Be sure to make your reservation using the tear-off sheet at the end of the newsletter. Do not send reservations to the mailbox after Thursday, February 18, 2016. Call Ann Mulligan at 845-893-2821.

Checks should be made out to the **St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church** for \$25/person. (Payment at the door will be \$30/person unless reservations have been made in advance.) Checks are to be mailed to AAUW Rockland Branch, P. O. Box 962, Monsey, NY 10952-0962.

For phone reservations, contact Diversity Brunch Chair Ann Mulligan at 845 893-2821.

Our March Branch Meeting - celebrating Women's History Month "Women in the Military"

Save the date! Saturday, March 12, 2016 Place: Valley Cottage Library Community Room, 110 Route 303, Valley Cottage, NY 10989

AAUW NYS 2016 Convention SAVE THE DATE

"AAUW Women on the Move: Achieving Women's Economic Justice"

April 15 - 17, 2016 Hilton Inn, Saratoga Springs, NY

Some of the highlights of the Convention 2016 will be:

Special **Early Bird** registration prizes

A pre-convention "Culture Walk"

Guest speaker **Beverly Neufeld**, founder of PowherNY, a statewide network committed to securing economic equality for all New York women.

The second annual **New Leadership Track** for college and graduate students, featuring Dr. Nada Amid, Dean, NY Institute of Technology

Breakout sessions on: Paid Family Leave; the upcoming women's Suffrage centennials; women and STEM careers; and education as a tool to lift women out of poverty.

A Know Your Rights workshop (eligible for Continuing Legal Education credit for practicing attorneys!) focusing on recent state legislation impacting women and families and the Medicaid Long-Term Care System.

Branch awards and "FUN"-raising opportunities for cherished AAUW funds, old and new.

Many opportunities to re-connect with old friends, make new ones, create lasting memories and recharge your AAUW batteries!

Registration is now available on the state website at www.AAUW-NYS.org.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FUND (EOF)

Wait until you see the marvelous work Sandy Blasy has done with our website. She has included lots of information for making contributions to EOF funds. Be sure to take a look at [aauw rockland county ny](#).

PUBLIC POLICY by Ann Mulligan

On January 19, 2016, seven of the 8 legislative actions in the New York Women's Equality Act went into law. Governor Cuomo added another issue which is central to women's equality as economic breadwinners regarding paid family leave. **Unpaid** family leave can be utilized by middle and upper income families but women working for minimum wage and lower paying positions are unable to consider unpaid leave because their income is essential to meeting the economic needs of their families. The Paid Family Leave bill was passed by the New York Assembly for the fifth consecutive year. State Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan said he supports paid family leave in concept and is open to considering legislation in the coming session.

Friday, January 29th was the seventh anniversary of President Obama signing the Lilly Ledbetter Pay Equity Act into law. Coalitions are alerting members of Congress that we are looking to them to pass additional pay equity demands into law. Another issue raised during the anniversary was the importance of the Paycheck Fairness Act which has been introduced in Congress and the NY State Legislature.

To better protect college students from sexual assault, public health officials will provide training to faculty and staff at state colleges re: curbing sexual assault, stalking, and relationship violence.

WHAT'S REALLY COOL Conference, Saturday, April 9, 2016, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Finkelstein Library

This is the 14th year for this conference for young women grades 7 - 12. The topic is "Empowering Yourself." Beverly Cooper will be the speaker. Patricia Lopez has asked for a few AAUW volunteers to assist. Please contact Patricia at 845 624-3971 x 5374 if you can help. It's a great opportunity to observe what's happening with this age group.

HAPPENINGS

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

Saturday, Feb. 20 – **Rivertown Film** presents ***Mustang*** at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY, 8:00 p.m.
A moving portrait of sisterhood. Official selection representing France at the 2016 Academy Awards.

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.

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 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
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

*SAT. FEB. 27	DIVERSITY BRUNCH, 10:30 AM St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church, Sparkill, NY
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	BRANCH MEETING, 1:00 PM Celebration of Women's History Month, Valley Cottage Library
TUES. APR. 5	BOARD MEETING, 7:00 PM At Karen Martin's
SAT. APR. 9	'WHAT'S REALLY COOL' CONFERENCE Finkelstein Library, Spring Valley
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	ANNUAL DINNER/Woman of Achievement, 6:00 PM Installation of Officers
JUNE 2 - 4	NCCWSL, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
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

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17TH 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 1:00 PM****ST. CHARLES A.M.E. ZION CHURCH****432 VALENTINE AVE.****SPARKILL, NY 10976****TOPIC: East Ramapo Central School District - In Crisis****\$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

Do not send checks to the mailbox after Thursday, February 18, 2016. **RESERVE NOW – LIMITED SEATING**

Cut _____

DIVERSITY BRUNCH PLEASE RESERVE # _____ SEATS FOR**NAME** _____**ADDRESS** _____**PHONE/EMAIL** _____**CHECK FOR \$ _____ ENCLOSED**