



FACETS

April 2016

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.rocklandcountyny.org)

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

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- Tuesday, April 5 **AAUW Board Meeting** at Karen Martin's home

- Thursday, April 7 **AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club'** at 1:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble NANUET
Savage Harvest by Carl Hoffman

- Saturday, April 9 **"What's Really Cool?" Conference** 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
Finkelstein Library - see details within

- Tuesday, April 12 **Equal Pay Day**

- April 15 - 17 **AAUW NYS CONVENTION**
Hilton Inn, Saratoga Springs, NY

- Monday, April 18 **AAUW Book Group** New City Library at 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. **NOTE Day & Time Change**
A Spool of Blue Thread by Anne Tyler

Tuesday, April 19 AAUW BRANCH MEETING 7:00 p.m.
Nanuet Library, main level meeting room
149 Church Street, Nanuet, NY 10954

Special Guest Speaker: Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee, Pay Equity Program, business meeting, election of officers.

- Thursday, April 22 **EARTH DAY!**

- Sunday, April 24 **Celebration of the life of Dr. Susan G. Gordon** at 3:00 p.m. at RCC. Details within.

- Tuesday, May 3 **AAUW Board Meeting** at Charlotte Sorger's home
Be sure to let Charlotte know if you will or will not attend.

- Thursday, May 5 **AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club'** at 1:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble NANUET
All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doer

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

It's April. Spring is in the air, but Winter is fighting back. What happened to *in like a lion, out like a lamb*? In any case we have two exciting events for April. At the NYS Convention in Saratoga Springs, I and a few other members of our branch are going to represent Rockland and help to elect a new President for NYS AAUW along with several other positions. I will have news on the convention in our next Newsletter.

Second, the NYS Primary is April 19, 2016 (also our branch business meeting - see details below). This election season is very important for the protection of the rights for women and girls, and it is important that everyone understand what is at stake. We have had some wins in NYS especially recently with the Paid Family Leave Law that was passed as part of the budget. More importantly though are the forces running for election that want to move the gains that we have made as women back to the early 1900's. We cannot allow that to happen so we must get out and vote to make sure that people who represent our beliefs are in a position to get into office and support the causes we believe in. We cannot go backwards; we must keep forging ahead to our final destination of equity for women and girls in NYS, in the USA and in the World.

Finally, in May at our end of the year dinner we are honoring Joyce Brown as the Woman of Achievement. Please make every effort to fill out the reservation form and plan to attend this wonderful event honoring our own Joyce Brown. Happy Spring!

BRANCH NOTES.

Welcome new member **Melissa L. Roy** of Valley Cottage, a graduate of Tufts University with a BA and a JD from Boston University School of Law. We look forward to seeing you at our April meeting.

Ladies Who Lunch will be back in business in April. Restaurant suggestions should be sent to Charlotte Sorger at (845) 352-1488 after March 31.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee presents our proposed slate of officers to be elected at the branch annual meeting Tuesday, April 19, 2016.

Recording Secretary - April Biggs
Co-President - _____

If anyone is interested in the co-president position, please contact Frances Blauvelt at frblauvelt@msn.com.

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.*

ABSENTEE BALLOT for AAUW Officers for 2016-2017

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

Name _____	Yes	No
Co-President –	_____	_____
Recording Secretary – April Biggs	_____	_____

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

Frances Blauvelt asks us to support the East Ramapo students by attending the **Ramapo High School Thespians production of HAIRSPRAY** on Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Ramapo High School, Viola Road, Spring Valley.
 Tickets are Adults - \$10.00, Students - \$8.00, seniors and Veterans - \$5.00.

Frances hopes many of our members will come to support these kids who have it so rough in learning anything in the arts nowadays in East Ramapo schools.

APRIL BRANCH/BUSINESS MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016 7:00 p.m.
Nanuet Library, main level meeting room
149 Church Street, Nanuet, NY 10954

This is our annual business meeting at which we elect new officers and review the previous year's activities so come learn about all the great events achieved. We also feature pay equity and this year are proud to have **Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee** join in this discussion and other topics.

Women's History Month Program

Thank you to Myrna Silberman, Sandy Masiello, Amy MacDermott and Elda Graff for another wonderful program for women's history month. Myrna sent the following press release to the Rockland news publications. Watch for it on our website with photos.

"The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Rockland County branch held their annual Women's History program at the Valley Cottage Library on Saturday, March 12, 2016 in celebration of Women's History month. This year the topic was *Women in the Military: Past, Present, and Future*. Major Shauna Hann, an instructor from West Point, spoke about the history of women in the military from Revolutionary times to the present. Captain Jessica Dawson, also an instructor from West Point, spoke about her experiences in the army. In addition, she is a contemporary fiction author who depicts the challenges that confront Veterans and their families when they return to civilian life. Captain Susan Branam, who is presently Deputy Director of the Rockland County Veteran's Service, talked primarily about her experiences as an Apache Helicopter Pilot. All three shared their experiences in a personal and meaningful way that resonated with the audience. County Legislator Harriet Cornell gave out awards of recognition from the County Legislature, and Assembly Member Ellen Jaffee gave out recognition awards from the State Assembly to the guest speakers for their service to their country."

STEM UPDATE by Joyce Brown

The last two months have been very busy ones for STEM at Summit Park Elementary School. February 12, 2016 was Rockland Read-In Day at many schools in the county. In addition to the coaches who usually work in the program, several AAUW members and several Spring Valley Rotary members joined in a total of 92 guests who read to our students. After lunch, STEM coaches and branch members wheeled carts of books that we have amassed to the grade areas where students came to the hall to select a book for their private libraries. Oh what fun it was to share our favorite authors, books and collections with students. Their "Thank you" notes were so authentic that we made a bulletin board to share our favorites.

We sponsored 3 clubs for 3rd graders this year which met on Fridays for 30 minutes from November 1 - March 31 during recess. A very special thanks to Rabia Nagin (art club), Annette McBride (book club) and the "Chess Men" Ralph Chavarria, Mark Barabell, Steve Becker and Rick Young. In addition Steve Becker made a presentation to 3rd grade classes from the garden division of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Wednesday, March 16, 2016 was "International Math Night," 6:00 - 8:30 PM. Our stalwart planning committee Debby Frank, Sandy Gordon, Joanne Feniger and Joyce Brown prepared an exciting night to demonstrate to

parents how to help their children with math in inexpensive, fun ways and to show parents how smart their children are getting. The origami table manned by Dr. Suzanne Belisle and the chess games were among the most popular activities. Twenty percent of the chess players were girls who surprised their parents with their skill. Also volunteering were members and spouses of the Spring Valley Rotary and its international arm, "Schools to End Poverty," which provides financial support for Family Math Night. Thanks also to Sharon Stephenson, the Ramapo High School Honor Society and our additional RSVP volunteers. Thanks to Joanne Robinson-Silas and Alicia Grampus and the Family Resource Center for a delicious hot dinner.

Friday, April 1 at Summit Park ES was Grand Marshal Appointment Ceremony for the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, Westchester County, NY for Eli Whittaker, a student at the school. Eli was born at the hospital 15 weeks prematurely at 1 pound 6 ounces. His appointment heralds his successful survival. He was celebrated by his fellow first graders and the East Ramapo Marching Band with a ceremony, proclamations and a parade around the school. He will serve as Grand Marshal for the hospital's annual fund-raising marathon on May 1, 2016 in Westchester.

Tuesday, April 5th was "Mayor's Day of Recognition for National Service" celebrated at Summit Park Elementary School with a luncheon hosted by RSVP and Foster Grandparent Volunteers of Rockland County. The goal of the initiative is to highlight the impact of national service that helps solve local problems and manages volunteers for greater impact and to thank national service members for their commitment. Fifty percent of the volunteers in attendance were coaches in our STEM program. We networked over a sumptuous lunch. A special thanks to Cora Gan, Bach Tuyet Pham and Mary Williams for helping to transform the gym into a beautiful oasis.

Two important dates: Thursday, May 12 - Family Reading Night - Join us!

Thursday, June 2 - Coaches' Appreciation Luncheon rescheduled from May 25.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND (LAF)

NYS State Legal Advocacy Fund Director Nancy Mion reports the following:

"The Legal Advocacy Fund, launched in 1981, has been supporting cases of sex discrimination for 35 years. During that time LAF has disbursed nearly \$2,000,000 to more than 100 plaintiffs. Before 2009, LAF only supported cases in academia, but now LAF supports select cases in any workplace. It is wonderful to report success thanks to your generous support. At the 2015 NYS Convention Michelle Jaureguito Henley shared her moving story about the results of the retaliation she received from Feather River Community College in California when she complained about sex discrimination. There is an article about the case that I wrote in the spring 2015 Focus. She and a colleague, Laurel Wartluft, filed whistleblower lawsuits alleging that the college violated Title IX. Finally after ten long years, the two women have settled their cases."

The U. S. Supreme Court vacancy created by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia has dominated the news over the last few weeks. The vacancy and President Barack Obama's nominee to fill the vacancy will be major topics in the 2016 election. AAUW LAF and public policy staff held a conference call on March 3 to discuss the politics around the nomination and the effect a vacant Supreme Court seat could have. Listen to the conference call at

<http://listsrv.aauw.org/t/105624/8226812/2630/68> and sign the petition

<http://listsrv.aauw.org/t/105624/8226812/2631/69> urging the Senate to fulfill its constitutional duty and consider the president's nominee.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FUND (EOF) Patricia Lopez

In 2015-2016, AAUW awarded a total of \$3.7 million in funding for individual women and community projects. Do you know a woman who is pursuing full-time study to complete a dissertation, conducting post-graduate research full time, or preparing research for publication for eight consecutive weeks? If so, please encourage her to consider applying for an AAUW American Fellowship. The deadline is November 15th, and the funding is between \$6,000 and \$30,000.

AAUW NYS 2016 Convention

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

April 15 - 17, 2016 Hilton Inn, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Some of the highlights:

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

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 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

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

Registration on the state website at www.AAUW-NYS.org. Late fee after March 10.

PUBLIC POLICY by Ann Mulligan

Paid Family Leave included in state budget. Hooray! And minimum wage increase also approved!

Empowering Yourself

14th Annual

"What's Really Cool?" Conference

to empower young women

Open to all **young women** grades 7 - 12 (**ONLY**)

Saturday, April 9th, 2016 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Career Fulfilling Your Purpose Making a Difference

Sponsored by

Rockland Success Team / MHA and

American Association of University Women (Rockland Branch)

Finkelstein Memorial Library Fielding Room

24 Chestnut St. Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 352 5700

Refreshments served, Community Service Credit

Call 267-2172 ext. 324 with questions

Self-Confidence

Helping Others

Money

Happiness

ONLY 100 GIRLS admitted (no younger siblings)
(DOORS OPEN AT 1:00 pm - ADMISSION ENDS AT 1:30 pm)

SPECIAL INVITATION

Please join us for the Celebration of the Life of Dr. Susan G. Gordon Sunday, April 24, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Theater of Rockland Community College. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the CEJJES Institute. www.CEJJESInstitute.org. For further information, please contact wylenewood@aol.com or cedwards@afchange.org or call CEJJES Institute at 845-362-8610.

Susan Gitt Gordon, MD (March 8, 1924 - January 25, 2016)

Dr. Gordon was our branch member and supporter of AAUW for many years. Born on International Women's Day, Dr. Gordon was a licensed and board certified pediatrician who had a distinguished career as a physician, educator and social activist. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1946 and entered the Woman's Medical College, in Philadelphia, PA. She transferred to Howard University College of Medicine and received her medical degree in 1950. She married Edmund Gordon in 1948 and they moved to New York City and founded the Harriet Tubman Child Health and Guidance Clinic in Harlem. In 1954 they moved to Rockland where she had a pediatric office in Haverstraw. In 1958 she became an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at New York Medical College and then at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons where she taught for 25 years. Dr. Gordon served as a member of the National Panel on the Measurement of the Program Effects of Head Start. She served on the East Ramapo Central School District Board of Education for 8 years, 3 years as president; was a member of the Board of Trustees of Nyack Hospital; a long-standing board member of the Martin Luther King Multi-Purpose Center and president of its board of trustees. With her husband, Dr. Edmund W. Gordon, they founded the CEJES Institute whose mission is to promote social justice, principally in relation to issues of health and education with a particular emphasis to encourage the well-being of children from marginalized communities.

HAPPENINGS

Wednesday, April 13 – **Rivertown Film** presents *Janis: Little Girl Blue* at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY, at 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 20 - ROSA and Rivertown Film Present *Wild & Scenic Film Festival* at the Lafayette Theatre in Suffern at 7:30 p.m. This year Rivertown Film joins ROSA (Ramapo Organized for Sustainability and a Safe Aquifer) in helping bring *Wild & Scenic* to our region. Celebrate award-winning films about sustainability and the preservation of the great outdoors. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The mighty Wurlitzer organ plays at 7:00 p.m. Film program runs 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

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

Wednesday, April 27 - **LWV meeting at the Pearl River Library at 7:00 p.m.** celebrating Earth Day with speaker Patricie Drake, Task Force Coordinator of the Rockland County Legislature's Task Force on Water Resources Management.

Saturday, April 30 - **Rivertown Film** presents **45 Years** at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY, at 8:00 p.m.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE FOOD PANTRY In 2015, PTP served an average of 1,410 families a month through the 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, 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. APR. 9	"WHAT'S REALLY COOL?" CONFERENCE Finkelstein Library, Spring Valley, NY
APRIL 15-17	AAUW NY STATE CONVENTION Hilton Inn, Saratoga Springs, NY
TUES. APRIL 19	BRANCH BUSINESS MEETING, Pay Equity Program, Ellen Jaffee & Election of Officers
SUN. APRIL 24	THE CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF DR. SUSAN G. GORDON, RCC
TUES. MAY 3	BOARD MEETING, 7:00 PM at Charlotte Sorger's
WED. MAY 18	ANNUAL DINNER/Woman of Achievement, 6:00 PM Nyack Seaport Restaurant
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



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

Woman of Achievement Dinner

In Honor of

Joyce Clark Brown

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

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

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

The Nyack Seaport Restaurant

21 Burd Street
Nyack, New York 10960

\$50.00 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 2, 2016 to (845) 358-8240

Cut here

Name: _____

Address/Email: _____

Number of Reservations _____ **at \$50 each** = \$ _____