



FACETS

May 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
AAUW/rockland.publicpolicy@yahoo.com

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

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- Tuesday, May 3** AAUW Board Meeting at Charlotte Sorger's home
- Thursday, May 5** AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club' at 1:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble NANUET
All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
- Monday, May 16** AAUW Book Group New City Library at 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. **NOTE Day & Time Change**
The Traitor's Wife: The Woman behind Benedict Arnold by Allison Pataki

Wednesday, May 18 AAUW WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT ANNUAL DINNER
and election of officers
CELEBRATING OUR VERY OWN
JOYCE CLARK BROWN!!!

Nyack Seaport, 21 Burd Street, Nyack, NY 10960

Cocktails at 6:00 (Cash Bar) Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

For reservations, see form at end of newsletter.

- Saturday, May 21** Celebrating the Life of Renee Brilliant Donn at 2:00 p.m. View on Hudson see details within
- Thursday, June 2** AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club' at 1:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble NANUET
The \$64 Dollar Tomato by William Alevander
- Tuesday, June 7** AAUW Board Meeting at Ellie Grossman's at 5:30 p.m.
1 Sunset Court, Goshen, NY 10924
Be sure to let Ellie know if you will or will not attend.
New and old board members should attend.

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

On April 15-17, 2016, I attended the NYS AAUW Convention in Saratoga Springs, NY along with Shirley Brindle, Bach Tuyet Pham and Sylvia Miller. We learned and networked with other branch members of AAUW throughout the State. The theme this year was "*Women on the Move, Achieving Women's Economic Justice.*"

There were inspirational speakers, good food and definite fellowship. I would like to report that **Bach Tuyet Pham** is on the NYS AAUW nominating committee 2016-2017 and **I am now the AAUW District 5 Coordinator** and **also on the NYS Board as the Diversity Director**. The Rockland Branch is on the map and being recognized.

The Summer Leadership Conference at Cazenovia College will be July 22-24, 2016, and the 2017 NYS Convention will be in Syracuse, NY. See details on the NYS AAUW website.

Locally, we are celebrating one of our own, **Joyce Brown**, as this year's *Woman of Achievement*. This is a well-deserved acknowledgement of the woman who represents and embodies all that AAUW represents.

The annual dinner is Wednesday, May 18, 2016. See further details in this edition of the Newsletter. Please make every effort to attend and support the organization honoring Joyce Brown.

Best regards,
Suzanne Young-Mercer

BRANCH NOTES.

Happy recuperation to **Charlotte Sorger** - glad you are back in action again. And glad to have **Ellie Grossman** back in action too.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of our dear member **Dr. Renee Brilliant Donn** who died April 11, 2016. Her family has invited us to attend the memorial service which will be held May 21, 2016 at the View on the Hudson in Piermont. Details are available on page 5.

Congratulations to:

Our President, **Suzanne Young-Mercer**, and **Bach Tuyet Pham** on their new AAUW NYS positions.

April Biggs who was elected to be our new Recording Secretary and **Sandy Masiello** as continuing Membership VP.

Thank you Nominating Committee for all your efforts this year.

From Your Treasurer

It is the season for renewal!

Spring is a time for renewal not only in our personal lives and nature but also for AAUW. It is time to collect the annual AAUW renewal dues. AAUW values your membership and by being a member you are making a difference in the lives of all women through helping to advance equity through advocacy, education and research.

A separate mailing or email will be coming your way with the **2016-2017 Membership Renewal** form. With our membership year and fiscal year ending on **June 30** we ask that you send in your check by that date since the work on our Directory is done over the summer and we want to be sure that your name is included when we send out the Directory in September.

Your renewal dues will remain the same \$80. That is \$49 for AAUW National; \$13 for New York State and \$18 for the Rockland County Branch. Please remember that all but \$3 is a tax-deductible donation.

Also, if you have computer access, please consider receiving our newsletter via email. It saves the branch money and trees!

Thank you for your continued support to AAUW's mission.

Sandy Blasy

Treasurer

At the NYS AAUW Convention AAUW Rockland Branch received the following awards:

Emerging Leader - Sandra Blasy
 Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) **Star** Branch
 Visibility Award of Merit
 Website Award of Distinction
 2015-2016 STEM Action Programming
 2015-2016 Social Justice Action
 Public Policy VP's 2016 Special Leadership Recognition Award to Ann Mulligan

Congratulations to one and all for a job well done!!!

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP VP

AAUW RENEWAL TIME – WILL YOU BE THE LUCKY WINNER!

This year as an incentive to renew our dues before National's deadline of June 30th, our branch is offering an opportunity for two of our members to save the \$49.00 portion of their annual dues. Everyone who sends in their \$80.00 dues before the June 7th Board Meeting will have their names entered into a drawing to save the \$49.00 portion of their dues. The treasurer will then reimburse the winners!! (Executive Board members are excluded from this drawing.) We hope this will encourage many of our members to send in their \$80.00 renewal fee. Hope you are one of the lucky winners!!

Checks should be made payable to: AAUW Rockland County Branch in the amount of \$80.00 and mailed to: *Sandra Masiello, AAUW Membership, 95 Green Road, West Nyack, NY 10994*

Sandy Masiello
Membership VP

STEM

Family Reading Night at Summit Park Elementary School will take place Thursday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m.

The school is located at 924 Route 45, New City, NY 10956.

It is a fun filled evening including Art, Dance and Reading. All AAUW members are invited to join us. Come join the fun and find out more about our great program at Summit Park ES. Volunteers needed.

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

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND (LAF)

Following Justice Scalia's death, the now eight-member court heard arguments in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellersted*, which could become the most significant reproductive rights case in years. The case challenges Texas' extremely restrictive Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) law. If the court upholds the law, the majority of reproductive health clinics in Texas would be forced to close.

TRAP laws have been on the rise across the country, and the court's decision in the Whole Woman's Health case could affect access to reproductive health care in many states. Stay tuned for more information as the court's term progresses.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FUND (EOF) Patricia Lopez

The Educational Opportunities fund helps to sustain the mission of AAUW. It advances equity for women and girls by working to eliminate persistent challenges females encounter in school and in the workplace. It strengthens AAUW's role in the global community by creating opportunities for women and girls to pursue higher education.

SAVE THE DATE - Patricia Lopez has again offered to host an EOF EAT IN at her home in August. Watch for details in the June newsletter.

PUBLIC POLICY by Ann Mulligan

In 2016, we have both good and bad developments to report. Paid Family Leave has voted out of both houses of the New York State Legislature and been signed into law by Governor Cuomo on March 31, 2016. It applies to new parent of biological, adopted or foster child; individuals caring for gravely ill child, spouse, domestic partner or grandparent. It covers women and men, full or part-time, who have been with employer 6 months or more. New York's law is the strongest and most generous in the country. Paid Family Leave law also exists in California, Rhode Island, New Jersey and Washington.

The New York State \$15 minimum wage was increased on March 31, 2016 in the Governor's budget with a gradual increase to \$15 in New York City by December 31, 2018 and outside New York City by the end of 2021. This will increase the minimum wage for 10,000 workers who are of the state seasonal and permanent workforce with the vast majority upstate or outside New York City.

On the disappointing side was lack of action by the state for authority for veto power regarding financial decisions of the East Ramapo School Board. There was language proposed for inclusion in the Governor's Budget BUT it was not included in the final budget. Therefore, to achieve the necessary protection for public school students in East Ramapo, a separate stand-alone bill will need to be introduced. However, there are already significant problems to accomplish this in the Senate. AAUW supports a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity and diversity. Stay tuned.

What's Really Cool Conference by Patricia Lopez

The 14th annual "What's Really Cool" Conference was held on Saturday, April 9th, 2016 in the Finkelstein Memorial Library. Co-sponsored by the Rockland County Branch of AAUW and the Rockland Success Team/MHA, the event drew 90 girls from various schools in Rockland County.

Beverly Smith-Rice (f.k.a. Beverly Cooper) provided a powerful and thought-provoking keynote address about honoring oneself by making good decisions based on self love and respect.

Special thanks to **Suzanne Young-Mercer** who briefly addressed the girls to share information about AAUW's mission and possible future opportunities with the organization for them. Ms. Young-Mercer spoke to the girls about taking responsibility for their success.

Thanks also to **Dorothie Flieger, Ann Mulligan, Linette Allmond, Bach Tuyet Pham** and **Sandy Masiello** who helped distribute countless slices of pizza and doughnuts to conference attendees.

Ready, Set, GO....to Cazenovia! *Building Success with Smart Ideas*

Join with members from around the state at the AAUW-NYS Summer Leadership Conference July 22-24 at Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY.

Features this year include a national AAUW leader presenting **Work Smart/Start Smart**, a roundtable discussion on programming for success; a workshop on developing leadership skills; and the chance to share ideas with other AAUW branches. The conference is for ALL members!

For \$105 (\$110 for submitting paper registration) you'll have an air-conditioned room in a dormitory suite, 6 meals, an ice cream social, a game night, lots of fun and many good memories. Registration is available on the AAUW-NYS website at www.aauw-nys.org.

WANTED - FUNDRAISER PERSON

AAUW Rockland is searching for a member with creative ideas and lots of enthusiasm to help us achieve our fund raising goals. Are you that person? It's a challenging exciting way to become more involved with our branch and all the fabulous women actively working to achieve our mission. Contact Program VP Karen Martin at aauw.kmartin@gmail.com for more information.

In Memoriam - Dr. Renee Brilliant Donn

Our very special member, Dr. Renee (as we affectionately called her), died April 11, 2016 at the age of 90. She was born in Brooklyn and grew up on a chicken farm in New Jersey where she graduated from Bound Brook High School. She then graduated cum laude from New York University with a BA in math and physics followed by an MA in geophysics from Columbia University. While a graduate student, she met her future husband, William Donn. They married in 1960 and settled in Grand View-on-Hudson in 1964 where she became the first health officer. She received her medical degree from New York University followed by fellowships in Pediatric Hematology at Cornell University and Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital. All are amazing accomplishments at a time when women were not encouraged to pursue careers in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). She then practiced pediatrics with a specialty in hematology, first in Grand View and later at Clarkstown Pediatrics for many years. Her daughter, Tara, said it wasn't hard for her patients to remember her name. "Everybody knew her name because *Dr. Brilliant* is a great name for a doctor."

After retiring in the mid-1990s, she devoted nearly two decades of her life to humanitarian work and bringing her knowledge of medicine to Kenya, Africa. She co-founded the nonprofit Society for Hospital and Resources Exchange (SHARE) with New City's Dr. Martha MacGuffie. Its mission is to save lives, foster a sustainable future and improve the quality of life of children and adults in African communities devastated by AIDS, other life-threatening diseases and abject poverty. Later, she founded CAPA (Children's Aid Program for Africa) dedicated to helping children get medical support in Africa. Her many trips to Kenya also included establishing mobile clinics, supplying water systems to hospitals, setting up pit latrines and putting roofs on decrepit schools.

As a member of AAUW, Dr. Renee was active in the Rockland branch's STEM activities and was chairperson of our STEM Engineering subcommittee for four years. By partnering with the NYS Society of Professional Engineers, Rockland County chapter, she helped organize successful conferences to provide information to Rockland County high school students, particularly girls, about Engineering and the path to becoming engineers. In 2014, Dr. Renee was our *Woman of Achievement* award recipient for her outstanding role as a pediatrician and humanitarian.

Dr. Renee's wide-ranging interests included the Hudson River, the environment, Africa, France, good food and wine, gardening and the NYTimes Sunday crossword puzzle. She was also an active member of the Nanuet-West Nyack Rotary Club. In her post-retirement years, she also obtained her private pilot license and enjoyed flying to New England for lobster. A person of great inspiration, intelligence and modesty, she cared passionately about her family and was universally respected and deeply loved. She is survived by her son, Matthew, and daughter, Tara, who have invited us to her memorial service May 21. See below.

Celebrating a Life
Renee Brilliant Donn
May 21, 2016 2 PM - 5 PM
at The View on the Hudson
101 Shad Row
Piermont, NY 10969

overlooking the beautiful Hudson River that she loved so much...

Please join us in celebrating and remembering the life of our mother, Renee, who passed away on April 11, 2016.

In the spirit of Mom's wishes, we would love her family, friends and colleagues to come and share memories and anecdotes.

Also with Mom's spirit in mind, after viewing memorabilia and sharing stories, we will have a champagne toast in her honor followed by her favorite food - ice cream and all the toppings!

We hope to see you there. Matt and Tara

2-2:30pm: mingling and memorabilia, coffee/tea.

2:30 - 3:30/4 pm: open mic, share stories, champagne toast

3:30 - 4 pm: ice cream bar

If you have any questions, or would like to contact Matt or Tara, either reply to rosacleb@netscape.net or call Tara at 908-329-4157.

GIVE A GRAD A GIFT

Last year, colleges and universities in the United States awarded roughly 1 million associate degrees, 2 million bachelor's degrees, 800,000 master's degrees and 200,000 doctoral degrees.

As an AAUW member, you can gift one year of free AAUW national membership to as many recent graduates as you like. You will need to know their mailing address, phone number, e-mail address and alma mater for each of these future AAUW members. Then contact our Membership VP Sandy Masiello for details on completing the form at 845 358-8240 or e-mail at Sandymasi22@yahoo.com.

Reminder: Have you sent in your reservation for **Joyce Brown's Woman of Achievement Dinner May 18?** Contact Dinner Chair Sandy Masiello ASAP at 845-358-8240 or sandimasi22@yahoo.com. See form on page 7.

Our LAF raffle basket theme this year is READ & RELAX - contributions of books, candy, cheese, crackers, wine, juice, etc. should be delivered to Pam Guevara at Red Hill Nursery, 241 S. Little Tor Road, New City by **May 14.**

HAPPENINGS

Wednesday, May 11 – **Rivertown Film** presents **CHI-RAQ** at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY, at 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 12 - **Spring Valley NAACP** presents **East Ramapo Central School Board Forum** at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 26 S. Madison Ave., Spring Valley, NY, at 6:30 p.m. Come meet the candidates for the East Ramapo Central School Board.

Sunday, May 15 - **Hillburn School Historic Site Dedication Ceremony**, 45 Mountain Ave., Hillburn, NY, 2:00 p.m. Commemorating the National and State Historic designation of the Hillburn School and the brave women, men and students who led the fight for the integration of the Main and Brook Schools.

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

Wednesday, May 25 - **Rivertown Film** presents **KRISHA** at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY, at 8:00 p.m.

June 5 - 18 - **VCS's Juried Art Exhibit and Sale** at the Rockland Center For the Arts, 27 S. Greenbush Rd. West Nyack. To benefit VCS Rockland County Pride. Reception - June 5 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Gallery hours 1 - 5 Thursday - Sunday

Wednesday, June 8 - **Rivertown Film** presents **Peggy Guggenheim: Art Addict** 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

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 at Ellie Grossman's
JULY 22-24	AAUW NYS Leadership Conference, Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY
AUGUST	EOF EAT IN at Patricia Lopez's home



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 ASAP, 2016 to (845) 358-8240

Cut here

Name: _____

Address/Email: _____

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