



FACETS

June 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

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Thursday, June 2 | <u>AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club'</u> at 1:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble NANUET
<i>The \$64 Dollar Tomato</i> by William Alexander |
| Tuesday, June 7 | <u>AAUW Board Meeting</u> at Charlotte Sorger's.
Be sure to let Charlotte know if you will or will not attend.
New and old board members should attend. |
| Monday, June 13 | <u>AAUW Book Group</u> New City Library at 2:00 p.m.
Business Meeting. |
| Wednesday, June 29 | <u>AAUW Rockland Job Description Update Meeting</u> at Karen Martin's at 7:00 p.m.
Details to follow |
| July 22-24 | <u>AAUW Summer Conference</u> at Cazenovia College.
See registration form at www.aauw-nys.org |
| Saturday, July 30 | <u>AAUW Program Meeting</u> at Ann Mulligan's at 11:00 a.m.
Details to follow |
| Saturday, August 13 | <u>AAUW EOF FUNDRAISER</u> at Patricia Lopez's home. 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Details to follow |
| Saturday, August 20 | <u>AAUW Budget Meeting</u> at Sandy Blasy's
Details to follow |

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER

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

2016 has been a great year for the Rockland Branch of AAUW. We had good programming through the efforts of Karen Martin, Ann Mulligan, Myrna Silberman, Patricia Lopez, Joyce Brown, Bach Tuyet Pham, Sandy Masiello and all the committee members who supported their efforts. Our two book clubs continue to meet each month to read and discuss interesting books, and our STEM program in Summit Park Elementary School is still helping children achieve better scores in reading and math.

Our New York State Convention in Saratoga Springs in April was very informative, and our summer conference in Cazenovia, NY July 22 – 24 will provide information on building leadership, programming success and putting it all together. It has been my pleasure to serve as your President this year and I look forward to all the plans we have for programming next year. AAUW is made up of women and men who understand that we need to work within our community to make the changes we wish to see to help women and girls achieve. That does not happen through passive participation, it happens when individuals venture out of their personal space to volunteer their time and energy to a cause or causes they feel passionate about.

Our outgoing NYS AAUW President Edwina Martin said to me at the Women of Achievement Dinner that the Rockland Branch could be the template of what a diverse and active AAUW Branch should aspire to become. I take that as a complement that the Rockland Branch of AAUW is modeling the next generation of AAUW leaders.

So as we end our programming year, I ask our current members to send in their membership dues for the 2016/2017 membership year to continue to enjoy another year of membership in a vibrant and active organization that is making a difference in the lives of women and girls in Rockland, because all real achievement begins locally. My other task is to encourage you to ask other women in your community to attend our programs or to become a member of AAUW and become active in growing a vital Rockland organization that has Local, State and National outreach. I thank you all for your involvement and look forward to your continued participation in the coming year.

Have a great summer.

Suzanne Young-Mercer

BRANCH NOTES

Welcome new members!!!! We are delighted that you have joined us.

Samantha Bailey, Pearl River. RCC - AA Humanities & Social Science; SUNY Purchase - BA Liberal Arts; Manhattanville College - Masters Education/Special Ed K-6.

Patricia Green, Pomona. Princeton University - BA Sociology; New York University - MBA Marketing.

Doria Hillsman, Nanuet. Johns Hopkins University - BA Natural Science; University of Pennsylvania - MCE Chemistry Education. Welcome back, Doria.

Annamarie Uhl, Blauvelt. SUNY Albany - BA English; Iona College - MA English Education; Long Island University - Advance Certificate Education Administration.

Note from Joyce Brown. *I wish to thank the AAUW Executive Board, the Dinner committee and branch members for choosing me to be the Woman of Achievement for 2016. This was a terrific event. Even though I was heavily medicated due to bronchitis, I managed to enjoy the evening. It was truly an honor that I shall never forget. Thank you all.*

Congratulations to **Frances Blauvelt** and **Elda Graff** who were our winners of the early dues payment contest and will receive reimbursement from our treasurer for their National Dues for 2016-2017.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Our Program VP, **Karen Martin**, has been invited to exhibit her paintings and photographs at the Nanuet Library during July and August with an Open House on July 9 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Be sure to visit and view her extraordinary art works. She also has some of her photographs on exhibit at the Rockland Center for the Arts in their Juried Art exhibit through June 18.

Congratulations to **Patricia Lopez's** mother-in-law, **Rose Blickstein**, who was presented an award of appreciation by Rockland County Executive Ed Day for her service during World War II when she served as a nurse at Utah Beach during the D-Day invasion in Normandy.

Please note the following changes in phone numbers and e-mail addresses:

Karen Martin new email address is aauw.kmartin@gmail.com

Ann Mulligan new email address is annm.aauw@gmail.com; new phone number is (845) 694-9708

A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM YOUR TREASURER

YOUR AAUW ROCKLAND BRANCH DUES ARE DUE!

Please renew your membership and help us to continue to advance equity for women and girls. AAUW values your membership and by being a member you are making a difference in the lives of all women.

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.

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.

Checks should be made payable to: **AAUW Rockland County Branch**

Mail to: **Sandra Masiello, AAUW Membership, 95 Green Road, West Nyack, NY 10994**

Thank you for helping us make a difference!

Sandy Blasy, Treasurer

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND (LAF)

Earlier this year, the U.S. Supreme Court heard *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*, a case that challenged a long-standing precedent that protected union funding. AAUW signed on to an amicus brief urging the court to uphold the precedent. Union bargaining power is crucial for women in the workforce, particularly women of color and LGBT women. Following Justice Antonin Scalia's death, the now eight-member court issued a 4-4 decision upholding the rule (because when the Supreme Court is tied 4-4, the circuit court's ruling remains in place).

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FUND (EOF) Patricia Lopez

An EOF fundraiser will be held at the home of Patricia Lopez on Saturday, August 13, 2016 at 12:30 p.m. in Nanuet. The event will be held rain or shine. All AAUW Rockland members are welcome to attend this informal summer event. A buffet lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to let Patricia know if you will attend by calling or texting (914) 672-2607 or emailing aauwplopez@gmail.com.

The Educational Opportunities Fund provides fellowships and grants for women pursuing higher education in a wide variety of disciplines. The goals of the recipients include the improvement of schools, communities, and quality of life in general. EOF is dedicated to providing resources for women to empower themselves and others while breaking down barriers that have historically kept women from achieving their potential.

Please plan to attend this summer event and support the six fellowships and grants that are funded by EOF.

STEM by Joyce Brown

STEM at Summit Park Elementary School is grinding to a halt. The closing workshop and luncheon were held on Thursday, June 2, 2016. Students brought cards and tokens of appreciation to their coaches.

This year has been our most difficult. The health problems have been the most onerous for all. Nearly every human pillar who typically holds our program together has been compromised; however, we made it to the end of the school year! As of this report, the program should continue in Room 120 during the next year. We will need to recruit additional coaches, and there will be one full-time kindergarten class in Room 119.

There were several highlights this year. The chess program took off like a rocket headed by Ralph Achavarria, Mark Barabell, Steve Becker, Rick Young and Ira Sonin. The chess club started as a single session in November ending on May 24, 2016 with 15 third grade players. We decided to try working with first graders as an experiment. The first grade class with an energetic, supportive teacher and 28 students was chosen to "seed" next year's club. It was a real challenge but the "Chess Men" succeeded. Optimal service is for a 3 to 1 ratio or less, especially for 1st and 2nd graders.

This year we were able to sponsor 3 clubs: Arts - Rabia Nagin; Book Club - Annette McBride; Chess - (see above)

We have 6 coaches who are developing plans to begin a needlecraft club in November, hopefully with a 2/1 ratio. We are looking for coaches for LEGO, Science, Engineering and Coding Clubs, as well as tutors.

Rabia, coach of the Art Club, submitted the work of the club, 12 individual paintings inspired style-wise by Jacob Lawrence, to an art exhibit in honor of the naming of the Main Street School in Hillburn as a National Landmark. The students demonstrated their versions of the problems faced by the students who attended the unequal school for African American children and by their parents who, with the help of Thurgood Marshall in 1943, sought to attend the Main Street School. The paintings by the art club are posted on the main hall outside of Room 119-120. Congratulations Rabia!

Our most sincere thanks to all who helped us to succeed these past eight years.

2016 WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT DINNER. On Wednesday, May 18th, 2016, our branch honored **Joyce Clark Brown** as our distinguished *Woman of Achievement* at the Nyack Seaport Restaurant. One hundred twenty-seven guests attended including many of our AAUW members, Joyce's daughter, brother and sister, close friends from: her Church, Spring Valley Rotary, Summit Park Elementary School, her Sorority, her Travel Group, Rockland Women's Political Caucus, and others from her vast circle of dear friends. Everyone felt she was most deserving of this recognition for her caring dedication to Rockland County's children and community at large. **She is truly a woman who has made a difference in our society.**

A special thank you to Sandy Masiello, Dinner Committee Chair, and her committee: Sandy Blasy, Linda Fitzpatrick, Dorothe Flieger, Ellie Grossman, Sylvia Miller, Bach Tuyet Pham, Charlotte Sorger and Kathleen Sullivan for an outstanding dinner event this year for our very special Woman of Achievement Joyce Brown.

AAUW NYS SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE July 22-24 at Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY. "Building Success with Smart Ideas - Focus on Programming and Leadership"

Features this year include a national AAUW leader presenting Work Smart/Start Smart, a roundtable discussion on programming for success, workshops on developing leadership skills, and the chance to share ideas with other AAUW branches. The conference is for ALL members! **Register at aauw-nys.org by July 5, 2016.** For carpooling, contact Sylvia Miller at aauwsam@optonline.net or 845-358-1680.

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.

DID YOU KNOW

- That AAUW member Linda Harmon fought to restore Women Air force Service Pilots' eligibility for military honors at Arlington National Cemetery AND WON!
- According to The National Women's Law Center, a woman starting her career now will earn \$430,480 less than a man over a 40-year career. For African-American women, the losses are \$877,480 and for Latinas, the lifetime wage gap totals \$1,007,080.

HAPPENINGS

June 10 - 12 - **VCS** presents **Rockland County Pride Weekend in Nyack**. For details go to www.rocklandpride.org or gpr@VCS-inc.org

Saturday, June 11 - **Rivertown Film** presents ***The Birdcage*** at Memorial Park in Nyack at dusk. Free admission.

Wednesday, June 15 - **Public Service Commission public hearings on United Water/Suez water rate increase**, Stony Point Community Center (Rho Building), 5 Clubhouse Lane, Stony Point, NY 10980 at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Your presence tells the governor and the PSC that Rockland residents strongly oppose paying tens of millions of dollars for a desalination plant that never started construction.

Thursday, June 16 - **Public Service Commission public hearings on United Water/Suez water rate increase**, Rockland Community College Technology Center Ellipse Room, 145 College Road, Suffern, NY 10901 at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Your presence tells the governor and the PSC that Rockland residents strongly oppose paying tens of millions of dollars for a desalination plant that never started construction.

Saturday, June 18 - **The Nyack High School Advanced Chorus** is performing a benefit concert for *Soup Angels* at the First Reformed Church, 18 S. Broadway, Nyack at 7:00 p.m. This event is also in honor of the retirement of Drucilla Pluhowski.

Wednesday, June 22 - **Rivertown Film** presents *The New Girlfriend* at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY at 8:00 p.m.

Friday, July 15 - **Rivertown Film** presents *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial* at Nyack Memorial Park at Dusk.

Monday, August 1 - **VCS 13th Annual Golf Outing** to Support VCS Child Abuse Programs, at the Rockland Country Club, 380 Route 9W, Sparkill, NY. For information and registration, call (845) 634-5729, ext. 350 or email at blewart@vcs-inc.org.

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. The number continues to grow. During the summer, many children who received lunch and breakfast assistance at school, will be at home. 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

Tuesday, June 7 JOINT BOARD MEETING, 7:00 PM New and old board members at Charlotte Sorger's

Thursday, June 30 Last day of this AAUW membership year, so please send in your dues before that date.

JULY 22-24 AAUW NYS Leadership Conference, Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY

Saturday, Aug. 13 EOF FUNDRAISER EAT IN at Patricia Lopez's home