

The Rockland County Branch of the
American Association of University Women, Inc.

Rockland County Branch AAUW
P. O. Box 962, Monsey, NY 10952-0962
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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

Celebrating Black History Month

Thursday, February 2 AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club' at 1:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble NANUET
The Sixth Extinction - An Unnatural History by Elizabeth Kolbert

*Saturday, February 4 AAUW Board Meeting CHANGE at Sylvia Miller's home

Tuesday, February 14 Happy Valentine's Day!

Monday, February 20 AAUW Book Group New City Library at 2:30 p.m.
The Paris Architect by Charles Belfoure

*SATURDAY, February 25 **18th ANNUAL DIVERSITY BRUNCH 10:30 a.m.**
St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church
432 Valentine Avenue
Sparkill, NY 10976

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

Thursday, March 2 AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club' at 1:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble NANUET
The Turner House by Angela Flournoy

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

*Saturday, March 25 AAUW Branch Meeting - Celebrating Women's History Month
Valley Cottage Library, 110 Route 303, Valley Cottage
Topic: Cognitive Intervention for Healthy Aging

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.

BRANCH NOTES

Thank you **Anita Nessin** for an excellent program at our January branch meeting on Nutrition and Perfect Weight Perceptions. There is plenty to learn about what weight is right for each person and how nutrition impacts us all. Anita is happy to meet with any member who would like to learn more. Contact her at (845) 893-7193.

Editor's note: Our January branch meeting was scheduled long before the WASHINGTON WOMEN'S MARCH was created. Did you go to Washington, D.C. or New York City to participate? If so, please send me a note telling about your experience so it can be included in our next newsletter. Thank you.

Thank you to **Laurel Karas** for a donation to the Mimi Korb Scholarship in celebration of Laurel's LIFE MEMBERSHIP to AAUW. She has been a member for 50 years! Congratulations, Laurel. Keep up the good work!

Get well wishes to **Ellie Grossman** after her surgery. She is at home with a long recuperation expected. Do give her a call at (845) 642-5226.

We have received a lovely note from the family of **Rosalie Saunders** who died January 9. Here is the Note:

"It is with great sadness that we notify you that Rosalie Saunders passed away peacefully, in her sleep during the early morning hours of Monday, January 9, 2017.

A graveside service was held on Monday, January 23 at the Dallas National Cemetery where she was buried next to her husband, Michael.

It is worth noting that Rosalie lacked 3 days passing on the one year anniversary of Michael's death on January 12, 2016.

I hope that you will find peace in the knowledge that it was her wish that I contact each one of you to let you know how very important you were to her."

from Glenn Saunders

3100 Heatfield Dr.

Flower Mound, TX 75022

Rosalie was a long time member of our Rockland County branch and a paid life member of AAUW. She served as President, Hospitality Chair, in many other positions and was also our Woman of Achievement award recipient in 2001. After her children were grown, Rosalie went to college and achieved her BA and then her Master's degree and taught special education for many years. As a volunteer at the Tolstoy Foundation, she provided clothing for Russian children who visited in the summer and taught them English. She was very active in her church. She and her husband Mike were noted for their Filet Mignon Dinner Fundraisers at Pat & Jim Cropsey's home. Upon retirement she and Mike moved to Texas to be closer to their son and grandchildren.

PUBLIC POLICY by Ann Mulligan

The New York State Assembly passed two progressive pieces of legislation: The Reproductive Health Act (RHA) and the Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act (CCCA) which would safeguard access to abortion and contraception in New York State shielding New Yorkers from the dangerous effects of federal efforts to undermine reproductive rights. However, the State Senate has not. Call your state senator today and urge him to pass the RHA and CCCA.

Watch for **Karen Martin's** report on the January CTAUN conference at the UN in the next newsletter.

18TH ANNUAL DIVERSITY BRUNCH - Saturday, February 25, 10:30 a.m.

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

Topic: ***TAKE THE NEXT STEP: Empowering concerned, involved women to take the next step into the political arena.***

Our annual diversity brunch in collaboration with the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and The Rockland Women's Political Caucus (RWPC) is always a special event with outstanding panelists 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 by mail after Thursday, February 16. Call Ann Mulligan at (845) 694-9708.

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 c/o S. Miller, 98 Foxwood Road, West Nyack, NY 10994.

For phone reservations, contact Diversity Brunch Chair Ann Mulligan at (845) 694-9708.



Mark your calendars for the
American Association of University Women
New York State 2017 Convention
April 21 to 23, 2017
at
DoubleTree by Hilton Syracuse
6301 State Route 298 East Syracuse, New York 13057
Phone: 315 432 - 0200

Plan to come early Friday for a tour and High Tea at the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation and a tour of the J.G. Stickley Museum in Fayetteville. We will recognize the efforts and achievements of Gage by focusing on her life and her work.

Special Invitation from Eleanor Aronstein, President of the Schenectady Branch of AAUW.

Come to Syracuse! If you have never spent time in Syracuse, you've missed a gem of a city. As one of a string of mid-sized cities along the northwestern border, it offers varied cultural and culinary attractions. It boasts a lovely old theater which has been rehabilitated and now serves as a venue for touring shows. It boasts its own wonderful opera company with a first rate orchestra! It is home to the Erie Canal Museum and the Everson Museum of Art (designed by I.M. Pei) and the Onondaga Historical Society. On Sundays, the carillon of its magnificent cathedral is played for almost an hour at noon, and there are park benches nearby so you can enjoy the music.

The Doubletree offers comfort and good location; you're almost in downtown Syracuse and you're very close to Syracuse University - with its lovely campus and walking areas.

Syracuse combines the sophistication of an arts-savvy city with the charm of a small upstate city. It's a great place for an AAUW Convention...and the opportunity to participate in both AAUW activities and enjoy the many attractions of this city should be an inducement to attend.

LAF (LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND)

Susan Burhans was hired by Yale University in 1999 as a communications specialist and served the university as a security education coordinator. In 2012, Burhans filed suit against Yale, alleging sex discrimination and unlawful retaliation under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and other laws. Burhans claims she was discriminated against and eventually terminated after years of attempting to help survivors of sexual assault on campus and alert Yale to potential Title IX violations. The suit was originally filed in 2012. Burhans filed an amended complaint in 2014.

THE WOMEN'S MARCH ON WASHINGTON, JANUARY 21, 2017

Member **Annmarie Uhl** sent her experience of this day.

"The day after the inauguration on January 20, 2017, will now be remembered as the day that women all over the world came together to have their voices heard. I had the opportunity to join with my fellow Rockland Women at the Women's March on Washington, D.C. Early in the morning, I stood shoulder to shoulder with women of all backgrounds washed in a sea of pink knitted hats. We stood in solidarity as we listened to the empowering speakers from all races, religions, and gender talk about the issues that we all must keep in mind and fight for the next four years.

As I stood on Independence Avenue and 7th Street, I met women from Boston who were here fighting for a women's right to comprehensive medical care which included the right to choose! I met two LGBT young men who were at the march to support women but also to recognize the rights of the LGBT community. Beside me stood a couple from Michigan who brought their young daughter. The mother was fighting for equality in the workplace so that her skills are valued just as much as her husband's skills.

The most powerful speaker for me was Gloria Steinem. She spoke about how over 40 years ago, she marched with her fellow women marchers for women's reproductive rights and equality. She said, "The time has come to put our bodies where our beliefs are." The crowd roared.

To the chant of , "THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE," we took to the streets. With over 500,000 marchers, we peacefully spilled over the barricades and into the street. We marveled and talked about the protest signs that many marchers brought. They all represented in their own whimsical manner the reasons why the marchers came to DC that day. The message was loud and clear. We are here so that our voices are heard. We are here so that our issues as women are not marginalized. We are here with all our sisters of every race and creed to say we are not going to allow you to make decisions about our healthcare, our bodies, or our daughters.

The march in DC energized all that were there, but we know this is only the beginning. We need to stay focused on the issues that matter the most to us as women and as an organization. I will remember January 21, 2017, as the day I went to Washington, D.C., and my voice and my actions were heard!"

STEM

STEM continues to chug along at Summit Park Elementary School . We continue to acquire interested, talented coaches. Our number of coaches has exceeded 65. The students are having a wonderful time participating in the Art, Book, Chess and Knitting clubs.

We had a gratifying opportunity to supply a teacher's need. Tennis balls were needed for 28 chairs to reduce the noise level for a hearing-impaired student. A call to RSVP resulted in the immediate delivery of 106 balls. We still need 12 more to complete that class and we need 112 for a second class. They must be clean - only one use and *flat* is good. Balls can be delivered to the school at 925 Route 45 or to the RSVP office at Rockland Community College. You have no idea how happy the children were to receive them.

The Rockland Read-In on Friday, Feb. 10, at SPES was a complete success! Sorry you missed it. The children were there, the readers were there, delicious food was there. Blizzards don't stop the Diversity Brunch and the Nor'easter didn't stop the Rockland Read-In at Summit Park!

SAVE THE DATE April 6 FAMILY MATH NIGHT If you are interested in volunteering, contact Joyce Brown at (845) 352-3275. Help with registration, afternoon set up, food, etc. Come see how the children and parents enjoy the evening.

Did you know about **Matilda Joslyn Gage**? She was born in Cicero, NY in 1826. She received a liberal education and became a prolific writer in the cause of both abolition and women's rights. She co-authored with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony the first three volumes of *A History of Woman Suffrage*. She also addressed her own concerns about male dominance within Christianity with the publication in 1893 of *Woman, Church and State*. Her efforts to document the historical 1848 Seneca Falls Convention resulted in her publication in her newspaper (*The National Citizen and Ballot Box*) of portions of *A History of Woman Suffrage*..as recorded by Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Gage was a hands-on activist, frequently attempting to vote, defending the rights of other intrepid women who dared approach the ballot box! She is primarily responsible for securing women the right to vote in school board elections!!! In 1880, she became the first woman to vote in Fayetteville under that law. While it would be several decades before women's voting rights became secure, we would be remiss if we didn't offer our homage and respect to this intrepid woman. Her lifelong motto - engraved on her cemetery grave stone is: ***There is a word sweeter than "Mother," "Home" or "Heaven," that word is "Liberty."*** COME TO THE NYS CONVENTION EARLY AND ENJOY HIGH TEA AND A TOUR OF THE MATILDA GAGE FOUNDATION.

HAPPENINGS

Wednesday, February 8 - **VCS** presents **Working Together for Racial Justice** monthly meeting at 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY.

Wednesday, February 8 - **Rivertown Film** presents ***The Trials of Muhammad Ali*** at 8:00 p.m. at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY.

Saturday, February 25 - **Rivertown Film** presents **Third Annual INSPIRED!** at 7:30 p.m. at the Nyack Center.

Saturday, February 25 - **RCAC Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.** Hosts **UNDERGROUND** at 8:00 p.m. at the **Shades Repertory Theater, 64 New Main Street, Haverstraw, NY**. A tale of two families and the Underground Railroad as it traveled through Rockland County during the 1850's. For more information call (845) 575-8044. Tickets \$15.00.

Friday & Saturday, March 3 & 4 - **Sarah Lawrence College's 19th Annual Women's History Conference**. *Topic: Black Women in White America, Revisited*. For details, contact the college's Women's History Dept. (Patricia Lopez has attended this conference in the past and says it's excellent and free.)

Sunday - Tuesday, March 5-7 - **VCS** and The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond present **UNDOING RACISM WORKSHOP** at the Rockland County Fire Training Center, 35 Firemen's Memorial Drive, Pomona, NY. To register call (845) 634-5729 x 305.

Sunday, March 19 - **JCC Jewish Film Festival** presents **THE LAW** at the Lafayette Theatre, Suffern, NY. This film has the message of women's health and life and focuses on people who worked in public life and made a huge difference to make society better.

Saturday, April 8 - This year's **What's Really Cool Conference** is from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. in the Finkelstein Library in Spring Valley. The topic is "Your Successful Future."

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE FOOD PANTRY - PTP is serving over 1,400 families a month through their Food Pantry Program. That's about 4,000 people per month and nearly 50% of them are children. Midwinter break is coming up and children will be home from school for breakfast and lunch usually provided for many of them at school. Please continue providing canned goods, juices, cereal, soups, peanut butter & jelly 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. - 4:00 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

Friday, February 17 - **AAUW Program Planning Committee Meeting**, 11:30 a.m. at the Nanuet Library.

Saturday, February 25 - **Annual Diversity Brunch**, 10:30 a.m. at St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church, Sparkill, NY.

Tuesday, March 7 - **Board Meeting** conference call 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 8 - **International Women's Day**

Saturday, March 25 - Afternoon **Branch Meeting** - Celebration of **Women's History Month** at the Valley Cottage Library at 2:00 p.m.

Topic: *Cognitive Intervention for Healthy Aging. (One in six women will get Alzheimer's.)*

Speaker: Dr. Anna Mackay-Brandt from the Nathan Klein Institute.

Monday, April 3 - **Board Meeting** at Dorothie Flieger's at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 4 - **Pay Equity Day**

Friday, April 7 - **AAUW Program Planning Committee Meeting**, 11:00 a.m. at the Nanuet Library.

Saturday, April 8 - **"What's Really Cool" Conference**, Finkelstein Library, Spring Valley. Topic: Your Successful Future.

Tuesday, April 18 - **Branch Business Meeting** 7:00 p.m. "Pay Equity Program" & election of officers.

April 21 - 23 - **AAUW NYS Conference**, Double Tree by Hilton, Syracuse, NY.

Tuesday, May 2 - Board Meeting at Charlotte Sorger's at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 17 or 24 - **Annual Dinner/Woman of Achievement**, Installation of Officers at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 6 - **Joint Board Meeting** (new and current board members) at Ellie Grossman's.

Tuesday, June 13 - **Branch Meeting** - Meet & Greet our Scholarship Recipients.

June 14-17 - AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION, WASHINGTON, D.C. Go to [AAUW National Convention](#) to register. Make sure your voice is heard. Join hundreds of fellow advocates on Lobby Day at the National Convention.

18th ANNUAL DIVERSITY BRUNCH

HOSTED BY

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

In collaboration with the women
of
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
Rockland Women's Political Caucus

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2017
10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
ST. CHARLES A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
432 VALENTINE AVE.
SPARKILL, NY 10976

TOPIC: TAKE THE NEXT STEP:
Empowering concerned, involved women to
take the next step into the political arena.

\$25.00 ADVANCE DONATIONS/\$30.00 DOOR SALES

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

Mail to: AAUW Rockland Branch c/o S. Miller, 98 Foxwood Rd., West Nyack, NY 10994

Contact: Ann Mulligan @ 845-694-9708 **RESERVE NOW - LIMITED SEATING**

Cut_____

DIVERSITY BRUNCH

PLEASE RESERVE # _____ SEATS FOR

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

PHONE/EMAIL_____

CHECK FOR \$ _____ ENCLOSED