

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

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

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Celebrating Women's History Month

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.

Wednesday, March 8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Friday, March 17 **Happy St. Patrick's Day!**

Monday, March 20 AAUW Book Group New City Library at 2:30 p.m.
Nora Webster by Colm Toibin

***SATURDAY, March 25 BRANCH MEETING Celebrating Women's History Month 2:00 p.m.**
Valley Cottage Library- Community Room
110 Route 303, Valley Cottage, NY 10989
Topic: Cognitive Interventions for Healthy Aging
Speaker: Dr. Anna MacKay-Brandt from the Nathan Kline Institute.

See details within

Tuesday, April 4 AAUW Board Meeting at Dorothea Flieger's home 7:00 p.m.
Be sure to let Dorothea know if you will or will not attend.

Thursday, April 6 AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club' at 1:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble NANUET
Factory Man..... by Beth Macy

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

It strikes me funny that in America we pick different months of the year to acknowledge the accomplishments of different members of our society. For example, February is African American History month and March is Women's History month. If history was taught as it should be, all of these special months would be a part of American History which would be the fabric of learning throughout America every day of every year. Obviously this is too simplistic a concept to make good sense. In any case, I want to acknowledge all the contributions made by women during Women's History Month and look forward to all that women will continue to contribute to this great nation of ours into the future.

I want to also thank all of our members and friends for coming to our 18th Annual Diversity Brunch whose theme lead to a very insightful Diversity Brunch presentation on February 25, 2017. We were fortunate to have five exceptional women panelists: **Ellen Jaffee**, Assemblywoman of the 97th District; **Emily Dominguez**, Haverstraw Trustee; **Annmarie Uhl**, Chairperson Rockland Women's Political Caucus and Co-Campaign Organizer for Ellen Jaffee's re-election; **Tiffany Card**, Co-Campaign Organizer for Ellen Jaffee's re-election; and **Susanne Kernan**, Campaign Organizer for Family Court and Town Supervisor races who discussed "Take the Next Step: Empowering Concerned, Involved Women to Take the Next Step into the Political Arena." The discussion was a how to and why it is important as Women to be part of the political process and the ups and downs of running a campaign. I believe many left inspired to at least consider the possibilities.

AAUW Rockland will be celebrating Women's History Month, so save the date March 25, 2017 at the Valley Cottage Library. More information to follow below.

Remember that April 21 to 23, 2017 the NYS AAUW Convention will be held in Syracuse, NY (near Seneca Falls, the birth place of the Women's movement) with the theme "Women and Power."

AAUW Rockland exemplifies all that is good about being a member of this national organization making strides in advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research as we continue to march forward because there is still much to be done.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Young-Mercer

BRANCH NOTES

Welcome new member **Colleen Biavati**, of Pine Island, NY. Colleen earned her BS in Social Science from Dominican College and her Masters in Social Work from Fordham University. She will be attending our March branch meeting on March 25 at the Valley Cottage Library so be sure to meet her there.

Thank you to **Ann Mulligan**, **Suzanne Young-Mercer**, **Sandy Masiello**, **Bach Tuyet Pham**, **Dorothie Flieger**, **Sylvia Miller** and **Karen Martin** (beautiful appreciation certificates) for all your hard work to make the 18th Annual Diversity Brunch a success. At the Diversity Brunch, Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Reverend Sanders of the St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church and Dr. Cliff Wood (RCC President).

Dr. Wood sent the following letter to our President, Suzanne Young-Mercer.

"Dear Suzanne, I am writing you and all your members to first, congratulate you on a wonderful diversity brunch. The program was important, interesting and informative. The work of the Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy program is not only important to women, but to all Americans. We need more women to become involved in the political process.

Second, please thank them for the special appreciation award they presented to me. I have valued my association with the group and appreciate the support they have given to me and to our students.

All best wishes to you and the group for continued success.

Best personal regards, Cliff L. Wood, President

Last month we advised you of the death of long time member **Rosalie Saunders**. Her family has suggested that contributions in Rosalie's memory could be made to the Flower Mound Senior Center where Rosalie lived her last years. Make check payable to SIM Auxiliary, Inc. and mail to SIM Auxiliary, Inc. ATTN: Treasurer, P. O. Box 271756, Flower Mound, TX 75027-1756. For other contribution suggestions, go to www.flowermoundseniors.org . Contributions could also be made to our Mimi Korb Scholarship. Make check payable to AAUW Rockland and put *Mimi Korb Scholarship* in the detail line. Mail to AAUW Rockland Branch, P. O. Box 952, Monsey, NY 10962-0952.

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

MARCH BRANCH MEETING Saturday, March 25, 2:00 p.m.

Celebrating **Women's History Month** at the Valley Cottage Library Community Room

AAUW Rockland in conjunction with the League of Women Voters of Rockland will present a program for Women's History Month on **Cognitive Interventions for Healthy Aging**. Our speaker, Dr. Anna MacKay-Brandt from the Nathan Kline Institute, is a psychologist with specialized training in neuropsychology and geriatrics. She will discuss how cognition changes as we age and how cognitive changes are related to brain changes. She will review interventions aimed to reduce age-related changes. Please join us.

The program is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee presents our proposed slate of officers to be elected at the branch annual business meeting Tuesday, April 18, 2017.

Treasurer - Sandy Blasy (second term)

Program VP - Sherry Jackson

Corresponding Secretary - Anita Nessin

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*.

LAF (LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND)

Kurz et al v. Trustees of Indiana University et al. Successfully settled in the fall 2016.

Several national championship-qualifying volleyball team members filed suit against the school who hired a coach with a history of sexually harassing female athletes. The students notified the school of the coach's sexually harassing them but the school refused to protect them. The students claim that when the coach learned of their complaints, he dismissed them from the team. Thus they lost the opportunity to play AND their scholarships jeopardizing their educational futures. At that time there was no Title IX coordinator as required by law, and the school did not advise the students of their rights under Title IX nor did the school intervene to stop either the harassment or the retaliation that followed.

2017 WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT

The Executive Board is happy to announce that **Sylvia Miller** has been chosen as our 2017 AAUW Woman of Achievement. She will be honored at our Annual Dinner on Wednesday, May 24th, at the Nyack Seaport Restaurant. So, save the date. Further information will be forthcoming. Congratulations, Sylvia!!! You are truly our woman of achievement!



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.

2017 is the centenary of women's rights in New York State. Author Louise Bernikow will draw the connections between the suffragists and the women leaders of the future. Workshops include: *Getting the Inside Scoop*; *Blueprint for Intention and Action*; *Women and Group Dynamics*; also team building and taking action on pay equity. For registration, go to AAUW-NYS.org.

Suzanne Young-Mercer, Bach Tuyet Pham and Sylvia Miller are registered for the convention. Are you planning to attend? Car pooling works well. Contact Sylvia Miller at (845) 358-1680 if you are interested.

STEM

STEM continues to provide assistance to the students at Summit Park Elementary School through our interested and talented coaches. Plans are under way for the April Family Math Night.

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 distribution, etc. Come see how the children and parents enjoy the evening.

PUBLIC POLICY by Ann Mulligan

Wednesday, March 8 is International Women's Day. On March 8, AAUW will stand in solidarity with the millions of women across the country and around the world committed to advancing gender equality. Whether by observing International Women's Day, participating in the "Day Without a Woman" general strike, or taking action to advance policies that empower women and girls, AAUW members will observe March 8 not as a *day off* but as a "*day on*." Women cannot afford to wait for equality, and it won't happen without our mobilized action.

Did you know.

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. This day has been observed since the early 1900's. In 1908 great unrest and critical debate was occurring amongst women. 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights. In 1909 in accordance with a declaration by the Socialist Party of America, the first National Woman's Day was observed across the United States. In 1910 at a second International Conference of Working Women, held in Copenhagen, Clara Zetkin (leader of the 'Women's Office' for the Social Democratic Party in Germany) proposed that every year in every country there should be a celebration on the same day - a Women's Day - to press for their demands. The conference of over 100 women from 17 countries, representing unions, socialist parties, working women's clubs, and the first three women elected to the Finnish parliament unanimously approved the proposal and thus International Women's Day was the result.

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

Observations from a grad student at American University, Kathryn Strelevitz (Sylvia Miller's granddaughter.)

"The Women's March in DC was a really incredible experience. There were just so many people! I got there around 11 and was probably 10 - 15 blocks from the main stage. Still, there were so many people that it was at times absolutely impossible to move. As far as you could see in any direction, there were people with signs, hats, and opinions. It was overwhelmingly positive, and I was excited by the spectrum of people and views that were represented. The speakers were great too, though depending on where I was standing, I sometimes couldn't hear them at all.

Since the march, I've had conversations with a couple of people about aspects that were problematic: representation was mostly middle class, educated white women, and the concerns of lower income women of color were not highlighted. People were trying to start the march while speakers were still speaking - and the speakers happened to be women of color. To a degree, from what I can see, that's representative of the women's movement as a whole. In general, white women are aiming to be equal to white men, and the sense is that if a rising tide doesn't lift all boats, issues of women of color will be addressed...later. I don't have very well-formed (or well-informed) thoughts on that subject yet (because on the other hand, we have to start somewhere, a rising tide *can* lift all boats, and there are people working for concerns of communities of color), it has certainly been food for very interesting thoughts.

I protested on Inauguration Day, too. I had intended to watch the speech, but one thing led to another and my friend and I were marching. The contrast between the two experiences was stark. On Friday, the mood was more impassioned, reactionary, and almost desperate. People were more negative and more likely to lash out. There were fewer people, but stronger emotions. Overall, it was harder and more draining. We blocked a highway. My friend went to the Women's March with me too, and he felt that the people in the streets on Friday were going to be in it for the long fight, whereas people at the Women's March were, on the whole, involved more casually. In my view though, we need both groups. The "long fighters" have the fire to keep the issues at the fore; the "casual marchers" have the numbers to make a real impact with any action."

HAPPENINGS

Wednesday, March 8 - **Rivertown Film** presents **Weiner-Dog** at 8:00 p.m. at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY.

Sunday, March 19 - **JCC Jewish Film Festival** presents **THE LAW** at the Lafayette Theatre, Suffern, NY at 7:30 p.m. 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. It is the story of Simone Veil, a concentration camp survivor, who rose in the national government of France and fought for legalized abortion in the 1970's.

Saturday, March 25 - **Rivertown Film** presents **The Carson McCullers Centennial** at 8:00 p.m. at the Nyack Center. two films made from short stories written by Carson McCullers, a resident of Nyack 1945-1967: *A Tree. A Rock. A Cloud; A Domestic Dilemma.*

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."

Saturday, May 20 - **Rockland Community College** hosts the **Premiere of "Two Schools in Hillburn,"** a Documentary by Joe Allen, at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Theater, RCC, 145 College Rd., Suffern, NY. It is the compelling, 1943 story of how Thurgood Marshall and a community achieved the historic desegregation of a Rockland County elementary school. Free admission, reservations required at **two schools.bpt.me**.

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. 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

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.*

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

Monday, April 3 - **Board Meeting** at Dorothe 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 24 - **Annual Dinner/Woman of Achievement**, Installation of Officers at 6:00 p.m., Nyack Seaport.

May 31 - June 3 - **NCCWSL** conference at the University of Maryland.

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.

July 21 - 23 - AAUW NYS Leadership Conference, at Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY.

Monday, November 6 - **100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote in New York State.**