

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: [HTTP://ROCKLANDCOUNTY-NY.AAUW.NET/](http://rocklandcounty-ny.aauw.net/)
aauw.rockland.county.ny
AAUW/rockland.publicpolicy@yahoo.com

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

President: Suzanne Young-Mercer
[smymaaauw@gmail.com](mailto:symaaauw@gmail.com)

Editor: Sylvia Miller (845) 358-1680
aauwsam@optonline.net

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, May 2 AAUW Board Meeting at Charlotte Sorger's at 7:00 p.m.
Be sure to let Charlotte know if you will or will not attend.

Thursday, May 4 AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club' at 1:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble NANUET
The Good Father by Noah Hawley

Sunday, May 14 Happy Mother's Day

Monday, May 22 AAUW Book Group New City Library at 2:30 p.m.
The Nightingale by Kristin Hanah

***WEDNESDAY, May 24** **AAUW ANNUAL DINNER/WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT**
and installation of officers
Nyack Seaport, 21 Burd Street, Nyack, NY 10960

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

For reservations, see form at end of newsletter. Deadline for reservations is May 10.

Thursday, June 1 AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club' at 1:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble NANUET
H is for Hawk by Peter Macdonald

Tuesday, June 6 AAUW Board Meeting at Ellie Grossman's at her Suffern address at 7:00 p.m.
Be sure to let Ellie know if you will or will not attend.
New and old board members are invited to 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.

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The trees and flowers are blooming and Spring seems to have sprung. Welcome to May 2017.

On the heels of the AAUW-NYS Convention, I am even more committed to the success of Rockland AAUW and ask **everyone** to commit to its success.

November 2017 will mark 100 years of Women achieving the right to vote in NYS as the NYS AAUW theme reflected *Women and Power* for this year's convention. The convention had many breakout sessions where women were able to discuss how we move forward from here. Our branch achieved many distinctions which are listed below. It was a very rewarding weekend full of celebrating and mixing with women from different areas of New York discussing issues important to those different areas. We elected new board officers: VP of Public Policy-Cynthia Herriott Sullivan, VP of Membership - Barbara Sarver, Treasurer – Diane Jablonski, and Secretary of By-Laws - Kimberly A. Blanchett.

Women showed up in 2017 beginning with the Women's March on Washington and New York that showed the nation that we are here and we are not going anywhere. This was and is important because we are witnessing the pushing back on many of the advances that women have made over the course of the last 100 years that we need to keep a watchful eye on. This is not a time to take our eyes off the prize.

This month we will celebrate our annual Woman of Achievement Award Dinner, and this year we will celebrate and applaud the contributions to the Rockland Branch that Sylvia Miller brings every day. Please make it your business to attend this event slated for May 24, 2017 (see additional information below) to celebrate Sylvia and all that she does and has done to make our branch a resounding success.

NYS-AAUW Leadership Conference is scheduled for July 21-23, 2017 at Cazenovia, NY. Mark your calendars. This summer conference is a way to hone your leadership skills; whether you hold a leadership position or hope to hold a leadership position, Cazenovia is the place to gather those skill sets.

As we continue our activism to ensure equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research, I look forward to continue the work with you all to achieve our mission.

Suzanne Young-Mercer , Co-President

BRANCH NOTES

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NOMINEES WHO WERE ELECTED AT OUR APRIL MEETING:

Co-President - **Suzanne Young-Mercer** (second term)
Co-President - **Edwina Martin**
Treasurer - **Sandy Blasy** (second term)
Program VP - **Sherry Jackson**
Corresponding Secretary - **Anita Nessin**

Thank you Nominating committee: **Frances Blauvelt, Linette Almond, Elaine Bernard, Phyllis Morena, & Kathleen Sullivan** for a job well done. And a special thank you to our new and returning officers - without you, we would not be able to do all the great things that we do.

Get well wishes to **Marie Horton** after knee surgery.

Congratulations AAUW Rockland for receiving the following awards at the NYS AAUW Convention: *Website of Excellence, Visibility of Excellence, Newsletter of Excellence*, Membership 8% increase, LAF Top Ten Branch Contributions, Top Ten EOF Contributions,

AND a Certificate of Honor from National in recognition of our **55th Anniversary!**

From Your Treasurer

Spring is here! Time for membership renewal.

This year you have two options to renew your dues. Shortly an email will be coming your way providing you with the opportunity to renew directly online by credit card or to mail your check.

This year's 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. If you would like to be included in our branch directory that is distributed in September, your check should reach us **by June 30**. Additionally, if you would like to be in our drawing for a year of free National dues see 'News from the Membership VP' below for the cutoff date.

*** Finally please remember that \$77 of your dues is a tax-deductible donation.**

Thank you for your continued support of our programs.

Sandy Blasy
Treasurer

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 ***three of our members to save the \$49.00 portion*** of their annual dues. Everyone who sends in their \$80.00 dues before the **June 13** Branch Meeting will have their names entered in 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** for \$80.00 and mailed to: Sandra Masiello, AAUW Membership, 95 Green Road, West Nyack, NY 10994

Sandy Masiello
VP Membership

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

On Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 2 - 4 P.M., AAUW Rockland in conjunction with the Rockland League of Women Voters had their annual Women's History program at the Valley Cottage Library. This year we had Dr. Anna Mackey Brandt from the Nathan Kline Institute speak about cognitive interventions for healthy aging. She made us aware of the differences in brain changes of normal aging and disease and the positive effects of cardio fitness. Her very informative and clarity of presentation got the undivided attention of the sixty plus people who attended. There was a question and answer period where the attendees were given a chance to express their concerns and reactions. Sandy Masiello and Elda Graff provided most of the refreshments. Sandy Masiello was at the table at the entrance to welcome the guests and give out names tags and AAUW literature. A pleasant and thought provoking afternoon was had by all.

Thank you **Myrna Silberman** and your committee for another exceptional women's history month program.

AAUW WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT DINNER and Installation of Officers Wednesday, May 24 at 6:00 p.m. at the Nyack Seaport Restaurant, 21 Burd Street, Nyack, NY. See reservation form at the end of this newsletter.

This year our **LAF raffle** is something different. "*You Must Be In It to Win It !!!*." Bring your money and buy your tickets.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LIAISON, Patricia Lopez

On April 11th, I facilitated an AAUW *Smart Start Salary Negotiation Workshop* at Dominican College in Blauvelt, NY. The objectives of the two-hour workshop were to help participants to:

- understand the gender wage gap, including its causes and effects
- identify the steps of salary and benefits negotiation
- benchmark their target salary and benefits
- create a negotiation strategy
- and
- feel confident in their ability to negotiate a salary and benefits package

Although the target audience for the program was college women, the content of the program was just as valuable for the male participants and three faculty members who attended. This workshop is enormously useful to young people who will soon graduate from college and face the challenges of interviewing, beginning a career, possibly relocating, and creating a practical budget.

I recommend that other AAUW Rockland Branch members train to become facilitators for the AAUW Start Smart workshop for college students and for working women.

ANNUAL WHAT'S REALLY COOL CONFERENCE

Patricia Lopez, AAUW Rockland College and University Liaison, and Marcella Amorese of the Success Team of the Mental Health Association, would like to thank the following AAUW members for their time and assistance at the Annual What's Really Cool Conference: Charlotte Sorger, Colleen Biavati, Bach Tuyet Pham, Dorothe Flieger, Ann Mulligan, Sandy Masiello, and Joyce Brown.

The conference took place on Saturday, April 9th, at the Finkelstein Memorial Library from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. The program included a skit written by Patricia Lopez and performed by two Spring Valley High School students. The protagonist in the skit, truly a "cool girl," made a series of decisions that served her well in her pursuit of goals for a happy, successful future, even though she faced negative peer pressure and had to file a police report to protect her from a former boyfriend intent on controlling her and preventing her from doing what she needed to do to realize her dreams. The title of this year's conference was "Your Successful Future." One hundred young women in grades 7 - 12 heard an informative and inspirational talk given by Ms. Peggy Parraga, Program Assistant at Promising Pathways of MHA Rockland. Following Ms. Parraga's keynote, one of the Spring Valley High School students who had performed the skit, Miss Egypt Benjamin, gave her own talk to the room full of peers and was exceedingly well received.

The participants were treated to donut holes, pizza, and a generous goodie bag donated by local stores and schools.

STEM at Summit Park Elementary School

The program will be winding down soon. An appreciation luncheon for all the coaches will be held at the school on Thursday, June 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Come join us and learn about the program.

VOTE NOW for the AAUW Board, Bylaws and More. AAUW members can vote now until June 15 in our biennial election. Check out the voter guide online at AAUW.org and in the spring *Outlook* magazine and make your voice heard on AAUW's future. Be sure to review page E13 in the Outlook re: Article IV regarding including advocates in membership. Remember - one member/one vote.

SALMAGUNDI a mixture or medley of interests - something new!

Want to meet new friends, attend educational and cultural events with RC AAUW members who share your interests? Want to have some fun? Bring a friend. Join the Salmagundi Group.

Betty Vallone will be leading the Salmagundi group. This list will provide an inventory of what members are interested in so small groups with like interests could participate in local events, etc. The goal is to increase the camaraderie among our branch members. Activities are varied. Contact Betty Vallone at epvallone@gmail.com if you would like to be on the committee. For now let her know what you would like to do. **Just check the boxes next to the activities that interest you. Copy , paste and send to Betty at epvallone@gmail.com.**

	Watch films from various decades, listen/ participate in critical discussion of film.		Go to the movies
	Opera - local		Painting/wine party
	Show Westchester Broadway Theater		Watch foreign films
	Foreign language conversation group		Broadway shows
	Museums- local and NYC		Canasta
	Bridge		Mah Jong
	Write in your idea		Write in your idea

Did you know?

That Matilda Joslyn Gage was an activist along with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in the suffrage movement? Many of us who attended the NYS AAUW Convention were invited to high tea and a tour of the Matilda Gage Museum in Syracuse. The tea was delicious and the museum tour was enlightening.

HAPPENINGS

Monday, May 8 - **Sierra Club** presents **CLIMATE CHANGE: Why is it Urgent to Act Now?** at 7:00 p.m. at the New City Library, New City, NY. Professor Klaus Jacob, a climate scientist at Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, will talk about what we can expect in coming years, the time frame, and why action is needed now.

Friday, May 12 - **Rivertown Film** presents **MURDER, MAYHEM & THE MOVIES** at 8:00 pm at the West Gate Inn, Nyack, NY, 10960. This benefit for Rivertown Film provides a night of theater, music, food and fun. For tickets visit rivertownfilm.org or call 1 800-838-3006. Tickets are \$75 in advance and \$80 at the door.

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.

May 22-24 - VCS presents the **Undoing Racism Workshop** by the People's Institute for Survival & Beyond at the Rockland County Fire Training Center, Pomona, NY. Cost \$350 per person. To register by Phone, call (845)634-5729 x305 or 312.

Wednesday, May 24 - **RSVP** presents the **2017 Power of Age Conference** at RCC Field house from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Volunteers needed - contact Susan Ball, Program Assistant, RSVP of Rockland County.

Wednesday, May 24 - **Rivertown Film** presents **I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO** at 8:00 p.m. at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY.

The St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church cordially invites you to celebrate the Retirement of our Beloved Pastor and First Lady

REV. DR. LOUIS E. SANDERS

MRS. CONNIE H. SANDERS

Tribute & Praise

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2017 AT 7:00 PM

ST. CHARLES FELLOWSHIP HALL, 432 Valentine Ave., Sparkill, NY 10976

Retirement Gala

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

THE OLD TAPPAN MANOR, 127 ORANGEBURG ROAD, OLD TAPPAN, NY 07675

\$90.00 per person

Make check payable to St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church and mail to SANDERS RETIREMENT, C/O Dana G. Stilley, 141 Piermont Ave., Piermont, NY 10968

RSVP no later than June 1.

Worship Service

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2017 at 10:45 A.M.

Monday, August 7 - **VCS 14 Annual Golf Outing** at the Rockland Country Club to support VCS Child Abuse Prevention Programs. Register at (845) 634-5729 x350, or email blewart@vcs-inc.org.

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

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 at 7:00 p.m.

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 Summer Leadership Conference** at Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY.

April 21-23, 2018 - **AAUW NYS CONVENTION** at the Radisson Hotel in Corning, NY.



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

WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT DINNER

In Honor of

Sylvia Miller

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

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Cocktails (cash bar) at 6:00 p.m., Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

The Nyack Seaport Restaurant

21 Burd Street
Nyack, NY 10960

\$55.00 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 10, 2017 to (845) 358-8240

Cut here

Name: _____

Address/Email: _____

Number of Reservations _____ at \$55.00 each = \$ _____