



ROCKLAND COUNTY (NY) BRANCH

# FACETS

May 2018

*Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research*

Co-Presidents:

**Suzanne Young-Mercer** [smymaauw@gmail.com](mailto:smymaauw@gmail.com)

**Edwina Martin** [edwinamartin@hotmail.com](mailto:edwinamartin@hotmail.com)

Editor:

**Doria E. Hillsman** [dehillsman@earthlink.net](mailto:dehillsman@earthlink.net)

Tuesday, May 1

Board Meeting 7:00 PM  
Charlotte Sorger's Hom

**Tuesday, May 15**

**Woman of Achievement Annual Dinner**  
Nyack Seaport, Nyack, NY

Tuesday, June 5

Joint Board Meeting 7:00 PM  
Location: TBD

Wednesday, June 13

Branch Meeting 7:00 PM  
*Meet and Greet our Scholarship Recipients*  
Location: TBD



*Congratulations* to **Harriett Cornell** who was honored at the JCC Film Festival's showing of "Heather Booth: Changing the World" for her outstanding leadership on the Rockland County Legislature.

*Congratulations* to Our own **Suzanne Young-Mercer** who will continue to serve as NYS AAUW Diversity Chair.

*Congratulations* to **Doria E. Hillsman** who was listed as Emerging Leader for 2018.

*Thank you* to **Bach Tuyet Pham, Karen Martin** and **Sylvia Miller** for creating our latest Brag Board for the AAUW NYS Convention.

## **President's Message**

***On April 20-22, 2018, I attended the NYS AAUW Convention. The theme was "Moving Onward Empowering Women". Kim Churches, CEO of AAUW National, was the keynote speaker at our Friday night dinner. Ms. Churches is an especially dynamic speaker and spoke of her vision for AAUW. An issue she was particularly concerned about was the proposed bylaws amendments that are currently up for vote through June 9, 2018. No matter how we may feel about the bylaws and the merit of the issues, it is important that we make our voices heard and exercise our right to vote. "One person one vote" is what our democracy is built on.***

***There were two other speakers who had dynamic messages; Aileen Rizo, who was the Legal Advocacy Fund Speaker and Aasha Shaik, keynote speaker on Saturday night, who discussed "Vulnerable Leadership and the Power of Girls". Both made me recall why I believe in the mission of AAUW.***

***Additionally, we voted in our new President, Janice Brown, new Program VP, Jane Pendergast and new Development VP, Carol A. Griffith, each of whom will begin serving at the start of the 2018 – 2020 term. We also voted for new board members for 2018-2020 term.***

***I look forward to seeing you at the May 15<sup>th</sup> Women of Achievement Award dinner, one of our signature annual events. Please come out to meet our newly elected officers, Colleen Biavati who was elected to position of Co-President and Ellie Grossman who is taking on the position of Membership VP and our special 2018 awardee, Sister Cecilia LaPietra.***

***I want to take this opportunity to ask all Rockland AAUW members to reflect on why they joined the organization and recommit themselves to achieving equity for women and girls through advocacy, philanthropy, education and research. We have so much to continue to do especially now "MOVING ONWARD EMPOWERING WOMEN". Don't forget to VOTE!***



***Suzanne Young- Mercer***



## New York City Council Passes Groundbreaking Legislative Package Targeting Workplace Sexual Harassment

On April 11th the New York City Council passed a groundbreaking and far reaching sexual harassment legislative package, responding to the #MeToo movement and calls across the country for an end to workplace abuse. The " *Stop Sexual Harassment in NYC Act* ," championed by Speaker Corey Johnson, seeks to address harassment both within the City's municipal workforce and in the private sector.

Three of the bills would directly impact private sector employers -- requiring them to post a sexual harassment policy within their workplaces, and to conduct regular trainings for employees on harassment policy. We are unaware of any other municipality in the country that requires private employers to provide sexual harassment training to all employees. The Act also mandates public accountability regarding harassment in City agencies and departments in a way not seen before.



AAUW Rockland Co-President, Edwina Martin, with NYS AAUW President, Roli Wendorf and Jane Pendergast at the Equal Pay Rally in NYC in April.



Bach Tuyet Pham and Suzanne Young-Mercer at NYS AAUW Convention in Corning, NY



Edwina Martin, Sylvia Miller, Bach Tuyet Pham and friends at recent NYS AAUW Convention in Corning, NY.

The AAUW – Rockland Book Club meets in the Conference Room of the New City Library on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month from 2:30 - 4:00 P.M.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

May 21 Commonwealth,  
by Ann Patchett

June 18 Organizational Meeting and Luncheon  
\*Check with Library to confirm the date.

### Spring is Here!... Time for Membership Renewal!

**59 (AAUW National)**  
**13 (NY State)**  
**+13 (Rockland)**  
**\$85.00**



If you would like to be included in the directory, your dues must be received by **JUNE 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Remember \$82.00 is tax-deductible.*

If you would like to enter our drawing for **\$59.00 off** of next year's dues pay by **JUNE 5<sup>th</sup>** and your name will be entered **automatically.**

Checks payable to: AAUW Rockland County Branch | PO Box 19 | West Nyack, NY 10994



### AAUW Rockland's WOMAN of ACHIEVEMENT AWARD DINNER

**May 15, 2018**

**Nyack Seaport**  
**| 21 Burd Street | Nyack, NY**

We are happy to announce, once again, the selection of this year's Woman of Achievement, **Sister Cecilia LaPietra**, the founder and director of One to One Learning in Nyack, New York. One to One Learning is a not-for-profit outreach organization which provides immigrants with free evening classes in the English language, preparation for the GED, citizenship, computer skills, parenting, and nutrition. In its twenty-year history, the program has served approximately 6,000 students. The event will take place on Tuesday, **May 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 9:30 pm at the Nyack Seaport Restaurant.** Ticket price is **\$55.00** Checks should be made payable to: **Rockland County AAUW and mailed to: Sandra Masiello, 95 Green Road, West Nyack, NY 10994 with your name and phone number.**

*AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.*

*In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability or class.*

*By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through economic barriers, so that all women and girls have a fair chance.*

PO Box 19 | West Nyack, NY 10994-0019

[aaurockland62@gmail.com](mailto:aaurockland62@gmail.com)

<http://rocklandcounty-ny.aauw.net> educational



**Congratulations** to our newly elected officers:

**Co-President Colleen Biavati**

**Membership Vice President Ellie Grossman.**

And to **April Biggs** who is continuing as Recording Secretary.

*A special thank you to the **Nominating Committee** for a job well done*

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, semi-transparent blue shapes that create a sense of depth and movement, tapering off to the right.

On November 13, 2017, the **Eighth Annual Engineering Conference** for Rockland County High School Students was held at the Nanuet Library. The conference was organized by our STEM Sub-Committee for Engineering and was sponsored by both AAUW Rockland and the New York Society of Professional Engineers, Rockland Chapter. The conference began with an introduction to AAUW's commitment to STEM and STEM education for girls by AAUW Rockland President Suzanne Young-Mercer. Our keynote speaker this year was Professor Colonel Lisa Shay from West Point. She excited the audience with the engineering work going on at West Point including robotics and development of artificial limbs. Following a break for a buffet luncheon, Col. Shay stayed on to join our panel discussion moderated by Steven Grogg, Sr. Vice President at McLaren Engineering Group. The panel of four engineers included Megan Schultz and McLaren's Jennifer Cunney, civil engineer, and Matthew Saide, mechanical engineer. They were bombarded with questions from the students in the audience leading to an exciting and informative discussion. Thank you committee members: Amy MacDermott, Chair, Peter Arvanites, Corazon Gan, Marie Horton and Bach Tuyet Pham for another outstanding conference!

*EDITOR'S NOTE – THIS STORY WAS MISTAKENLY OMITTED FROM AN EARLIER EDITION*

### **L.A.F. Aileen Rizo's Equal Pay Victory!!!**

On April 9, 2018, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit reversed a decision from a smaller panel last year in *Rizo v. Fresno County Office of Education*, holding that prior salary alone as a "factor other than sex" or in combination with other factors cannot justify a pay differential. This case matters because basing pay on salary history can perpetuate the gender pay gap due to women being typically paid less in prior jobs than men in direct contrast with the intent of the Equal Pay Act (EPA) of 1963. This decision is a huge victory for employees within the jurisdiction of the 9<sup>th</sup> circuit. However, the fight for the protection of all workers continues. Federal legislation like the Paycheck Fairness Act, currently pending in Congress, would ban the use of salary history nationwide and provide much-needed updates to strengthen the EPA. Ms. Rizzo was the LAF Luncheon Speaker at the AAUW NYS Convention in April and her story was amazing. She has a BS in secondary mathematics, a masters in educational technology, a second masters in mathematics education and a PhD in curriculum and instruction. She is currently a research associate for math education and an adjunct faculty member at Fresno Pacific University. – Charlotte Sorger

**MIMI KORB SCHOLARSHIP** - Since we did not have a special fundraising event this year, we want to remind you that **contributions to the Mimi Korb Scholarship** (tax deductible) can be made to honor any occasion or to generously support this most worthwhile endeavor as you have in the past. Please make your tax-deductible check payable to AAUW Rockland County Branch and write "**Mimi Korb Scholarship**" on the detail line. Mail your check to: Sandra Blasy | 29 Hickory Hill Lane | Tappan, NY 10983

**16th Annual "What's Really Cool" conference**, held at the Finkelstein Library on March 24, 2018, drew approximately 60 girls from grades 7 - 12. The keynote speaker addressed the girls with wisdom and advice from a long journey that lead to health and happiness after decades of detours. She spoke movingly about her recovery from addiction to pills after having abused them for 40 years. For the first time ever, live music was included in the conference. Two separate student-led presentations included songs. The audience was blown away by the talent of these teen-aged performers. Two of the singers, sisters, performed a skit written by AAUW member Patricia Lopez. AAUW member Bach Tuyet Pham rolled up her sleeves and served pizza while Merle George, long time member, graced us with her presence and showed support for the program.

- **DON'T FORGET to VOTE for the AAUW National Bylaws Amendment.** You should have received an April 25 e-mail message entitled **AAUW Election Vote Today** - which includes your ID number and pin number. Just follow the prompts and be sure to VOTE before June 9 at 9:00 p.m. E.T. If you have questions or challenges submitting your online ballot — or would like to vote via paper ballot — you may request one by contacting [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) or calling **800.326.2289 Monday through Friday 10 a.m.–5 p.m. ET.** Requests for paper ballots must be received by **May 7**, and paper ballots must be postmarked by **May 21**.
- Voting closes on **Saturday, June 9, at 9 p.m. ET.** Results will be announced on **Sunday, June 10**, on AAUW's website

**MEMBERSHIP :** 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 \$59.00 portion** of their annual dues. Everyone who sends in their \$85.00 dues before the **June** Branch Meeting will have their names entered in a drawing to save the \$59.00 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 \$85.00 renewal before the deadline. Hope you are one of the lucky winners!! Checks should be made payable to: **AAUW Rockland County Branch** for \$85.00 and mailed to: Sandra Masiello, AAUW Membership, 95 Green Road, West Nyack, NY 10994 - Sandy Masiello, VP Membership

**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 be \$85.** That is \$59 for AAUW National; \$13 for New York State and \$13 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' above for the cutoff date. **\*\* Finally, please remember that \$82 of your dues is a tax-deductible donation\*.** Thank you for your continued support of our programs. - Sandy Blasy, Treasurer

**FROM CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, ANITA NESSIN:** Please forward any information regarding special events, such as weddings, illnesses, graduations, surgeries etc. She will be happy to send a greeting card. Please forward your birthday month and date (year is NOT necessary) so that your name can be placed on her special birthday roster.  
[Amn46@hotmail.com](mailto:Amn46@hotmail.com)

**PUBLIC POLICY:** On April 17<sup>th</sup> the Rockland County Legislature passed a resolution (R225 of 2018) which was initiated by AAUW Rockland and Ann Mulligan. The resolution originally penned by PowHer involved Pay Equity, specifically with respect to salary history. Ann received a commendation from Senator Carlucci for her leadership. The resolution was sent to the appropriate senate and assembly members on April 19. Way to go, Ann!



**MAY 15<sup>th</sup> WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD DINNER**

**6:00 PM – 9:30 PM**

**NYACK SEAPORT| 21 Burd Street| Nyack, NY**

**Checks should be made payable to: Rockland County AAUW and mailed to: Sandra Masiello, 95 Green Road, West Nyack, NY 10994 with your name and phone number. (See reservation form on page 8)**

Please come to a **Grants Opportunity Workshop.**

Assemblywoman Ellen C. Jaffee will be sponsoring an information session for non-profits and community members to learn more about the Grant process and opportunities that may be available.

**The event takes place on May 17, 2018 at the Suffern Library from 3:00- 5:00PM**

Participants include United Way of Rockland, Workforce Development Institute, Rockland County Foundation Community Development Specialist, Matt Jones and the Institute for Non-Profits-Rockland County

Learn how you can team up with others to achieve your goals and learn more about the process.

Please RSVP to Assemblywoman Ellen C. Jaffee's Office at [845-624-4601](tel:845-624-4601) or [Borstr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:borstr@nyassembly.gov) and spread the word to your colleagues.



**proposed amendments to the National AAUW bylaws requiring member vote are...**

- **A staggered term model for elected AAUW Board of Directors**
- **Up to 5 non-members of AAUW allowed to serve on the National Board of Directors**
- **Elimination of the degree requirement for AAUW membership**

**For an informed and thoughtful discussion on each proposal visit:  
<https://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>**

- If you have questions or challenges submitting your online ballot — or would like to vote via paper ballot — you may request one by contacting [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) or calling **800.326.2289 Monday through Friday 10 a.m.–5 p.m. ET.**
- Requests for paper ballots must be received by **May 7**, and paper ballots must be postmarked by **May 21.**
- The deadline for online voting is **JUNE 9, 2018, results will be announced on June 10, 2018 at [www.AAUW.org](http://www.AAUW.org)**

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

**WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT DINNER**

**In Honor of**

**Sister Cecilia LaPietra**

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

**Tuesday, May 15, 2018**

**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 person - Make Check Payable to:

The Rockland County Branch of AAUW

c/o Sandy Masiello, 95 Green Road, West Nyack, NY 10994

**RSVP ASAP May 3, 2018 to (845) 358-8240**

Cut here

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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