



ROCKLAND COUNTY (NY) BRANCH



# FACETS

June 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)

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**Tuesday, June 5**

Joint Board Meeting 7:00 PM

Location: TBD

**THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR BRANCH MEETING THIS MONTH.**

**WE ARE HAVING AN EMERGENCY MEETING to discuss strategies to increase membership participation. ALL MEMBERS are asked to attend.**

**We are the premier organization for Women's Rights Advocacy in Rockland County. Membership participation is needed more now than ever before. The meeting will take place on**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM**

**LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED**

**Your attendance is needed.**

**Saturday, August 11**

EOF Fundraiser Cookout

Hosted by Ellie Grossman

The Home of Patricia Lopez 22 Doris Drive, Nanuet

**Saturday, September 8**

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike

Elmwood Playhouse Fundraiser 8:00 PM

(see inside for details!)

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## ***President's Message (From our newly installed Co-President)***

***First and foremost, I would like to thank you, the members of Rockland AAUW for voting me in as Co-President. It is truly an honor. I was born and raised in Rockland County and although I now live in Orange County, my heart is still and always will be in Rockland. I am a graduate of Dominican College of Blauvelt where I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and went on to obtain my Master's Degree in Social Work from Fordham University.***

***I began my career working with individuals with disabilities before moving to the Rockland County Department of Social Services (DSS), where I have had the privilege of working for almost 20 years. I first worked as a Caseworker in Adult Protective Services helping adults who were at- risk. Over the years I have worked with DSS in their adolescent services unit, child protective services and I am now a Senior Caseworker in children services working with children in foster care, and their families. I am a strong believer in Human Rights and Social Justice. In addition to my membership with AAUW, I am also a member of National Association of Social Workers. I have been an active member of the National Association of Social Workers and am very involved in the NY State Chapter and representing the Hudson Valley Division.***

***I met my husband, Mark, while we were attending Rockland Community College. We have two beautiful daughters, Ashlee (27) and Amanda (20). Ashlee and her husband, Travis, have blessed us with our first grandson, Elijah Joseph. My love of God is the core of who I am, and I am an active participant in church ministry at Christ Church in Warwick. My family and I are avid animal lovers and have participated in 4H with rabbits, goats, chickens and dogs for many years. We now have seven dogs, one rabbit and two cats.***

***As we look back on AAUW's 2017-2018 year, we have accomplished much and have a great deal to be proud of. Working together, I anticipate another great year ahead, as collectively our potential is boundless. I welcome any ideas that you may have and hope that you will seek to have your ideas implemented by working on at least one of our committees. I am looking forward to working collaboratively with all of you and I hope that we will create many opportunities to learn together, to stand together, to advocate, and to continue to empower women and girls in Rockland and beyond.***

***Colleen Biavati***



**The results for proposed amendments to the National AAUW bylaws are...**

- A staggered term model for elected AAUW Board of Directors YES 92.92%**
- Up to 5 non-members of AAUW allowed to serve on the National Board of Directors NO 51.33%**
- Elimination of the degree requirement for AAUW membership NO 55.52%**



**Congratulations AAUW Rockland Branch** for receiving the following awards at the  
**April NYS AAUW Convention:**

**Website of Excellence** - Thank you Sandy Blasy

**Newsletter of Excellence** - Thank you Doria Hillsman

**Visibility of Excellence** - Thank you Sandy Blasy, Edwina Martin and Ann Mulligan

**LAF Top Ten Branch Contributor** - Thank you Elaine Drummond

The AAUW – Rockland Book Club says “Thank You” to Nancy Materese who has facilitated the Book Club for the last 14 Years and has decided to retire. She will remain a member, and Fran Carlson will be taking her place! Thank you, Fran, we know you will do a good job! Stay tuned for next year's selections!

Happy Reading, Everybody!



*On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the members of the STEM Engineering Subcommittee, Bach Tuyet Pham, Marie Horton, Peter Arvanites submitted a letter read by committee chair, Amy MacDermott announcing that they will be ‘passing the torch’ and will no longer organize the event.*

*Many many thanks to Bach Tuyet, Marie, Peter and Amy for the exemplary job they have done in making career opportunities in engineering accessible to the youth of Rockland County. The Engineering Conference has been one of the branch’s shining stars for the past 8 years. We are hopeful that the program will continue with new leadership and the promised help of the former committee.*

*Thank you all for your dedicated and outstanding service.*



May 30 was **Mothers' Equal Pay Day**, the day when, on average, working mothers' pay catches up to working fathers' pay?

*It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of Rosalind Maxwell on May 29, 2018. Ros was an active member of AAUW Rockland from 2004 until she and Helena moved to Guatemala in recent years. She was Joyce Brown's right-hand person in the STEM program at Summit Park Elementary School for many years. Previously, she had served as branch co- president, program vice president, membership vice president, and corresponding secretary. She was a vital contributor to our branch for over a decade. Our sincere sympathy is extended to her daughter Helena. Contributions in memory of Ros can be made to the Mimi Korb Scholarship by making your check payable to AAUW Rockland and putting Mimi Korb Scholarship on the memo line. Mail c/o Treasurer, Sandy Blasy at AAUW Rockland, P. O. Box 19, West Nyack, NY 10994-0019. Or donations to EOF can be made online to AAUW National (indicate EOF 4336). If you might be writing a check, it can be made out to AAUW Funds with EOF number 4336 in the memo line. Send c/o Sandy Blasy at AAUW Rockland, P. O. Box 19, West Nyack, NY 10994-0019. Anita Nessin will ensure that the family is made aware of each donation.*

*Memorial service details are forthcoming.*



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.**

**CONGRATULATIONS to Bach Tuyet Pham and Phyllis Morena for winning the FREE Membership Drawing!!!!**

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

Sister Cecilia LaPietra



9/7 - 9/29

Vanya  
and  
Sonia  
and  
Masha  
and  
Spike

AAUW Rockland will be co-hosting this Elmwood Playhouse fundraiser event with the Rotary Club on **Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00 PM. Tickets are only \$30.00!!! Act quickly, we're almost already **SOLD OUT!!!**  
**Contact Sylvia Miller at (845) 358-1680**

### Annual Woman of Achievement Dinner – May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Despite heavy winds and rain, 58 hearty AAUW members and guests attended our Annual Dinner held at the Nyack Seaport Restaurant. Sister Cecilia LaPietra, the founder and director of the One to One Learning was our honoree and Woman of Achievement. We wish to thank our MC, Edwina Martin who travelled from lower Manhattan and Mary Lou Davis, past NYS president who travelled from Lagrangeville, near Poughkeepsie to conduct our installation of officers. We also wish to thank our committee: Sylvia Miller, Bach Tuyet Pham, Sandy Blasy, Kathleen Sullivan, Dorothe Fliieger, Charlotte Sorger, Elda Graff, and Sandy Masiello. A good time was had by all.

**Many thanks and a special shout out to our Woman of Achievement Dinner Photographer...**

**MANNY GUEVARA**

**Manny is a former National Geographic photographer and works in and around Rockland County.**

**PHOTOS and COMPOSITION by MANNY G PHOTO  
(845) 641-4558**



# What's Happening

**L.A.F.** An important role of AAUW's legal advocacy work is demonstrating the real-life impact of pay discrimination on people. One such person is **Zoe Spencer**, Ph.D., a professor of sociology at Virginia State University who is suing the university alleging wage discrimination and retaliation under the Equal Pay Act of 1963 (EPA) and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII). For more information on the Spencer case, read her case profile <https://www.aauw.org/resource/spencer-v-vsu/>



Dr. Zoe Spencer

**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: AAUW Rockland c/o Sandra Blasy | PO Box 19 | West Nyack, NY 10994-0019

**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.*** 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: Take Action Now to Fight for Fair Pay!

The New York state legislature is currently considering two pieces of legislation that could help close the gender pay gap, and your representatives need to hear from you:

- **Ban salary history.** Asking job candidates about their previous wages and using that information to set pay in a new job can contribute to and perpetuate the pay gap many women and people of color face. A.2040C/S.6737A would ban the use of salary history in the hiring process, preventing pay discrimination from following workers throughout their careers.
- **Eliminate the tipped minimum wage.** New York's two-tiered wage system is badly broken, with some workers making as little as \$2.13 an hour, forcing them to rely on tips. Since women make up a majority of the tipped workforce, this contributes both to the pay gap and to high levels of sexual harassment.

Use of salary history in hiring and the tipped minimum wage both contribute to the gender pay gap, and they must stop. **Contact your state representatives today to urge them to support legislation banning these harmful practices!**

This can be done easily online by going to

[http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50796/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action\\_KEY=24665](http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50796/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=24665)

Register Today at....

<http://aauwnyswp.aauw-nys.org/wp/index.php/state-events-2/nys-summer-conference/>

*Save the Date!*

# AAUW-NYS *Summer Conference*

July 20-22, 2018

*Cazenovia College Campus*

*"Real Tools for Action in Your Hometown"*

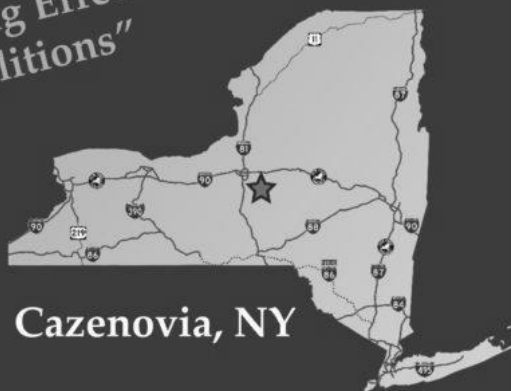


*"Using Social Media as  
an Organizing tool"*

*"Lobbying Made Easy"*

*"Building Effective  
Coalitions"*

*"Tools to Gather  
Your  
Community"*



Cazenovia, NY



*As we come to the end of this calendar year, I would like to wish our outgoing co-president, Edwina Martin a very fond farewell. Whenever you could make it to be with us, your energy and intellect always made the occasion better. You will be missed.... I'd like to wish all of our incoming officers a restorative and restful summer as we gear up for the challenges that await us in the year ahead.*

*I'd also like to thank you all for the many kind words regarding FACETS. This is a new venture for me, but I've enjoyed it immensely. Most of all I'd like to thank Sylvia Miller for everything. Over the year she has given me news and information, a keen edit on every draft and more patience, help and encouragement than I deserved. I wish you all a wonderful summer.*

*Hope to see you at the EOF on August 11<sup>th</sup>!!!*

**-Doria**



## **August 11 – EOF Fund Raiser**



**The Home of Patricia Lopez | 22 Doris Drive | Nanuet**

*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.*

**AAUW Rockland County Branch**  
**PO Box 19 | West Nyack, NY 10994-0019**  
[aauwrockland62@gmail.com](mailto:aauwrockland62@gmail.com)  
<http://rocklandcounty-ny.aauw.net> *educational*