



# FACETS

**September 2019**

*President:*

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

*Editor:*

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

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Tuesday, August 27

Board Meeting\* 7:00 PM  
Sylvia Miller's Home

Saturday, September 14

**"Last Fall"** Fundraiser 8:00 PM  
Elmwood Playhouse (SOLD OUT)

Tuesday, September 17

Kick-off Meeting  
Suffern Library 6:30 PM  
*See inside for details*

Monday, September 9

AAUW Book Club 2:30 PM  
New City Library

Tuesday, September 24

Board Meeting\* 7:00 PM  
Ann Mulligan's Home

Monday, October 14

AAUW Book Club 2:30 PM  
New City Library

Tuesday, October 22

Board Meeting\* 7:00 PM  
Myrna Silberman's Home

Sunday, October 27

Candidates' Forum and Debate 2:00 – 4:00 PM  
JCC Campus

Tuesday, November 5

**ELECTION DAY - VOTE**

Tuesday, November 12

Membership Meeting 7:00 PM  
Location TBD

\*All are Welcome

# *President's Message*

*Welcome to a New Year with AAUW Rockland. I hope that everyone had a wonderful, and enjoyable summer.*

*This summer, I was able to attend Summer Leadership Conference at Cazenovia College. If you have never participated in this AAUW re-charge, you have really missed a great opportunity. Summer Leadership brings you together with other members of the AAUW- NYS community to share and exchange ideas. It makes you realize how many like- minded women believe in what AAUW stands for.*

*2020 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment which guaranteed women their constitutional right to vote in the United States. Our NYS - AAUW President, Janice Brown is looking to celebrate in a big way at our next Annual Convention scheduled sometime in April 2020. More information to follow.*

*This year we have re-committed ourselves to remaining true to the AAUW mission. In order for us to be successful, we will need all members of the Rockland branch to actively and consistently participate in our mission-based programming. There is much work to do and we need 'all hands on deck'!*

*In the coming months we will, as a Branch, be asked to share our ideas on how to move forward as we re-organize and support current programming. How we do this will truly determine how we sustain ourselves into the future. I wish you all a very productive year.*

*Suzanne Young-Mercer*

# LAF EXPRESS *(excerpts from August 2019)*

## **LAF Supported Case, Portz v. St. Cloud State University, Decided in Favor of Female Student Athletes**

In early August, a judge in the U.S. District Court in the District of Minnesota found in favor of a class of female student athletes at St. Cloud State University (SCSU) who alleged gender discrimination in violation of Title IX.

In March 2016, the SCSU athletic department announced plans to cut six teams from its athletic program, including both the women's tennis and Nordic skiing teams. At the same time, the school also unveiled a roster management plan — a way to cap participation on men's teams and pad participation on women's teams — designed to achieve Title IX compliance. Plaintiffs who are, or recently were, members of SCSU's women's tennis and Nordic ski teams, allege that SCSU violated Title IX. They represent a class of all present, prospective, and future female students at SCSU harmed by sex discrimination in the allocation of athletic opportunities and benefits. The case went to trial in December 2018. In August, the judge issued an opinion agreeing with the plaintiffs and finding that SCSU did not meet any of the three prongs of the test to determine compliance with Title IX's anti-discrimination provisions, meaning SCSU must maintain the women's tennis and Nordic skiing teams, improve the facilities of women's sports teams to create equity with the men's teams, and take other relevant steps to provide female students with equitable athletic opportunities.. AAUW is proud to support the students in their lawsuit. We will continue to monitor this case if SCSU decides to appeal. AAUW hopes that this judgment will reaffirm that equal access in all areas of education must be protected and respected both on and off the field.

## **Transgender Student Rights Upheld in Virginia Case**

On August 9, U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Virginia sided with transgender student Gavin Grimm, ruling that his former high school's refusal to let him use the bathroom that aligned with his gender identity constituted discrimination under Title IX and violated his rights under the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. AAUW signed onto an amicus brief supporting Grimm at an earlier stage in the case.

## **Update: New Briefs Ordered in Aileen Rizo's Pay Equity Case**

AAUW will continue to support Aileen Rizo through our legal case support program and to advocate for pay equity and fairness in compensation and benefits as a means to achieve economic self-sufficiency for women.

## **Supreme Court Wrap-up Call Recording**

On July 25, 2019 AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund reviewed several significant decisions reached by the U.S. Supreme Court during the October 2018 term. Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Research Deborah J. Vagins and State Policy Counsel Kate Nielson analyzed the recent cases that impact our most fundamental rights and AAUW priorities. If you missed the call, want to hear it again, or would like to pass it along to other branch members, listen to the recording online.

<https://www.aauw.org/event/2019/07/supreme-court-review-call/>

The AAUW- Rockland Book Club meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> monday of each month  
New City Library at 2:30 PM.

*Contact Fran Carlson for more details.*

September 9<sup>th</sup> – “The Line Becomes a River”, by Francisco Cantu

October 14<sup>th</sup> – “Educated”, by Tara Westover



**VOTE**

**November 5<sup>th</sup>**



*Ladies Who Lunch will meet  
in October... details to  
follow.*

*If you plan to participate  
contact Charlotte Sorger  
(845) 352-1488*



**SEPTEMBER KICK-OFF MEETING WILL BE  
HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**THE SUFFERN LIBRARY**

**210 Lafayette Street Suffern, NY**

**at 6:30 PM**

**Contact Kathleen Sullivan to sign-up for  
your finger food or beverage  
contribution.**

**Ksullivan7@aol.com**

**(845) 735-3824**

**Please plan to arrive before 6:30 PM so  
the meeting can begin promptly.**



**Sandra F. Countee.** She lives in Upper Nyack and received  
her BS from Kansas University, MS from Columbia University  
and her MPA and PhD from New York University.

*Be sure to say hello at our Kick-off Meeting on 9/17!*

**THANK  
YOU**

*We offer a special thanks to Joyce Brown for 10 years of  
dedicated service to the children of Summit Park Elementary  
School. You made us ALL look good. We hope to honor your  
legacy by continuing the program, but even if it does not  
continue, please know that you and your wonderful  
volunteers have made a difference in our community and in  
the lives of many, many children.*



# AAUW ROCKLAND - SUMMER 2019



**AAUW Rockland Reps at  
Leadership Conference in  
Cazenovia, NY**



**AAUW-NYS Executive Board**  
Back: Janet Forbes, Lynne Rapin, Jane Pendergast  
Front: Karen Martin, Carol Griffin, Barbara Van Italie,  
Janice Brown, President



**EOF SUMMER BBQ and FUNDRAISER**



**Bach Tuyet Pham**



**Frances Blauvelt gives tribute to  
Ros Maxwell at BBQ**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING.

**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)

## **LAF: AAUW offers *Know Your Rights* Primers**

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund recently updated all of our Know Your Rights at Work and Know Your Rights on Campus resources. These primers, developed by our in-house experts, provide up-to-date content and reflect the latest legal developments, so you know you're getting current information on some of your basic questions about your workplace and campus rights. See AAUW.org to learn how to order a copy for you or for someone you know.

**EOF:** The EOF Fundraiser/ BBQ on August 3<sup>rd</sup> was a huge success. Donations were made in memory of our dearly departed member and friend, Rosalind Maxwell. Several tributes were made to "Ros" during the luncheon by members who knew and had worked with her closely over the years (*see page 9*). She is sorely missed. Her daughter, Helena, recently returned from living in Guatemala, joined us to share memories, food and fellowship. It was a lovely afternoon.

**MIMI KORB SCHOLARSHIP:** 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

**MEMBERSHIP:** The season for online membership registration is past, but you can become a member TODAY by contacting Ellie Grossman (845) 642-5226 or go to <https://rocklandcounty-ny.aauw.net/membership/> and print out a membership form. Complete and mail it with your **check of \$85.00** to AAUW Rockland Branch | PO Box 19 | West Nyack, NY 10994 – 0019. What are you waiting for?

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:** The 2019 Mimi Korb Scholarship was awarded to **Alana Renee Fontanez**. Ms. Fontanez earned 15 credits from RCC while still in High School. She has attended SUNY Plattsburg and will be attending Dominican College full time in the fall. She is a Biology Major and is interested in the medical field. The 2019 Myneder Scholarship was awarded to **Nathisa Zamor**. Ms. Zamor has attended RCC and Nyack College and will be attending Dominican College in the fall. She intends to major in biology. – Elda Graff

**STEM:** Director of Volunteers for the STEM at Summit Park Program and Program Founder, Joyce Brown will be retiring effective October 10, 2019. Principal, Kim Hewlett and all of the coaches involved would like to see the program continue. The program is in need of a new director – if you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Suzanne Young-Mercer ASAP. – Joyce Brown

# Town Talk.



## THE LAST BLACK MAN IN SAN FRANCISCO

Showing: Wednesday, September 11 – 8:00 PM -- [Nyack Center](#)

Genre: Drama Jimmie Fails is trying to hold onto a sense of home in San Francisco. His parents are MIA, his old house is now lived in by others. He flops with a friend, while searching for home— both literal and existential...



## SATAN & ADAM

Showing: Wednesday, September 25 – 8:00 PM -- [Nyack Center](#)

Genre: Documentary, Music This gritty, lovely documentary follows the unlikely musical partnership between Sterling "Mr. Satan" Magee, a black studio and backup musician for stars like Etta James, James Brown, and Marvin Gaye in the '60s and '70s, and Adam Gussow, a white Princeton graduate who grew up in Rockland County.

See [Rivertownfilm.org](http://Rivertownfilm.org) for more information

**BACK 2 SCHOOL CHARITY EVENT**

Place: Konbit & Neg L  
16 East Church St.  
Spring Valley, New York  
Date: Sunday September  
Time: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Hosted by Al Ahkkt Lodge No. 1 A.F.M.R. in collaboration with Konbit & Neg L

Students will receive a brand New and Comfortable Backpack along with supplies like:

- Notebooks
- Erasers
- Crayons
- pencils
- Pens
- Colored Pencils
- Sharpeners
- Bookmarks
- Rulers, etc...

The "Back to School Giveaway charity event" will provide a minimum of 120 new Backpacks furnished with school supplies for students. These school supplies will provide each student with the essentials required to start off his or her school year in high gear and momentum.

646.543.2367  
alahkkt01@gmail.com  
Al Ahkkt Lodge No.1. A.F.M.R.  
**MOORISH RITE FREEMASON**



SAVE THE DATE!



**5K RUN & WALK**  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH  
ROCKLAND LAKE STATE PARK

**WALK FOR WELLNESS**

REGISTRATION INFORMATION COMING SOON!

[www.namirockland.org](http://www.namirockland.org)  
845-359-8787

REGISTRATION: \$25  
RACE STARTS: 9AM



## Movement for Joy

This is a class where gentle movement brings well-being, friendships, and joy!

This class is for people with all types of movement challenges including Parkinson's, MS, arthritis, aging, etc. (presented for 10 years)

Join us

on Mondays, 10:30 AM

at Adult Learning Center

(Meals on Wheels),

121 West Nyack Rd., Nanuet.

\$10 donation suggested, free parking, ground floor-no-steps-entrance.

For questions call Jim Evers at 914-263-1164







There have been several reports of scam emails sent to our AAUW-NYS members. They LOOK LIKE they come from President Janice Brown and ask for money or assistance in some financial matter. Janice wants all members to know that these are NOT from her and that she will not be sending out individual solicitation messages. If she needs to speak with anyone directly, she will call that person.

We hope these scams have not caused a problem for anyone.

### **Memories of a Farm on Ackertown Road - Barbara Stolzenberg (Hopp)**

Barbara Stolzenberg's father, a successful orthodontist from Brooklyn, fulfilled his dream to own a farm by purchasing 246 acres on Ackertown Road, in today's Chestnut Ridge, in 1937. His only daughter, Barbara, began working on the farm at the age of 9. She worked side by side with the men and boys, fed chickens, sorted eggs and gathered fruit from the orchards. Her experiences highlighted the then accepted practices of **gender pay inequity**: the girls earned 50 cents per hour to pick and box tomatoes, cucumbers and berries while the boys earned 75 cents per hour. In 1950 Barbara Stolzenberg was one of only four women in a graduating class of 150 at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. She became the first woman orthodontist in Rockland County in 1955.

*Information from an article by Laurie Hopp Rindskopf in the Historical Society of Rockland County's "South of the Mountains" publication contributed by Sylvia Miller.*



**Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
League of Women Voters**

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

<https://www.aauw.org/article/a-victory-for-equal-pay/>

***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**



## Tribute to Rosalind Maxwell 2019

by Joyce Brown

*As I prepared to write this tribute, I encountered the last gift given to me by a wonderful and sorely missed friend, a souvenir pouch from Guatemala that hangs around the neck. It is especially important to me when I wear pocketless garments so that I can manage my stuff as I move about the building.*

*We met as neighbors but our friendship developed in AAUW. Midway of our 8 years together she confessed that she joined to get rid of me, planning to disappear after*

*3 - 4 meetings. By the 3 - 4 meetings, she was vice president of program. Besides, she lived less than 500 feet from my house. How had she planned to disappear? As you know, her plan did not work. We became road buddies travelling initially to plays, lectures and AAUW events in the metropolitan area. We rode around Rockland looking for new spaces to schedule programs for the branch. Ros and Helena drove tandem with Holly and me to Baltimore, Md for a Community Action Grant event (AAUW Education Foundation) where Dr. Claire Passentino, author of "Let's Read Math," and Graham Boose, past president of the West Chester PA branch of AAUW, encouraged branches to consider replicating the program. Our branch was awarded a \$500 grant. Using \$350 of the funds we purchased the most germane materials. Summit Park principal Mrs. Kim A. Hewlett purchased the remainder. The program looked promising because it focused on math-related stories and hands-on activities. Alas, it turned out to be an appetizer. We sought a main course, a new approach with tactile and different materials. Intensive tweaking was not enough to rescue the program.*

*Over the course of a developing friendship, Ros and I travelled around the U.S. visiting STEM programs and attending AAUW and League of Women Voters conventions in Phoenix, Arizona, Kansas City, Missouri, New Orleans, Louisiana, Atlanta, Georgia and more locations as well as travelling abroad to Vietnam, Italy, Israel and Croatia along with other friends and AAUW members. It was through her leadership and perseverance that the branch's relationship with Barnes & Noble was formed. Whatever nonsense I created Ros was there to support me. She was funnier than you will ever know. We laughed that we would have to burn her car when it could no longer transport us because it knew all our secrets and our silly jokes.*

*Whatever she chose to do, she could count on me. I knew she had my back. It isn't often that you have a true, devoted friend like her. I was blessed.*

