



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

# FACETS

JUNE 2020

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

Editor in Chief:  
Doria E. Hillsman [dehillsman@earthlink.net](mailto:dehillsman@earthlink.net)



## AAUW-ROCKLAND NEEDS YOU

*An urgent word from Past President, Phyllis Morena*

**Our president, Suzanne Young Mercer will complete her final term in May, 2021.  
Presently, we have NO ONE running for Co-President.**

### **THIS OPPORTUNITY IS FOR YOU!!!**

National AAUW is known for its legacy of “providing women with leadership skills and networking opportunities to ignite personal and professional growth”. Let me assure you - it’s true!

As past president of our branch, I had the opportunity and pleasure to work with members who shared my interest in family, community and national issues. None of us was born a leader, but each of us had a passion, a vision for what we could do together and all of us grew together in our ability to communicate, to motivate and to express ourselves publicly.

Now we offer YOU that chance to strengthen your confidence and skills in supporting and facilitating the changes you would like to see happen. We know you joined because you trust our members to care about others and work with honesty and integrity in inspiring others to do what’s best for all.

Serving as Co-President of AAUW-Rockland with Suzanne Young-Mercer will give you the opportunity to develop and practice leadership skills in a supportive environment. To be considered, please contact Frances Blauvelt ASAP at (845) 356-3081.

We welcome you to Rockland County AAUW leadership.



**GET IT IN!!!! POSTMARK DEADLINE FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION FOR  
PRIMARY ELECTION IS TUESDAY, JUNE 16<sup>th</sup>!!**

# *President's Message*

*Hello, AAUW-Rockland. To begin, I would like to thank so many of you for all of your kind words of encouragement, advice, and support. I still have good days and not so good days, but I am feeling stronger every day and look forward to seeing you all again. While I am optimistic about what lies ahead, I am deeply troubled and concerned about the future of AAUW-Rockland.*

*As you know, we have an election every year; this year we needed to fill the positions of Co-President, VP of Membership and Recording Secretary. Although we have filled the positions of VP of Membership and Secretary, the Co-President position has yet to be filled. I am asking members who have been considering taking on a leadership position in the branch to **consider running for Co-President**. What better time to fill the position than while I am still President and able to provide support and guidance during the first year of your term?*

*I am sure that being the President of a branch of AAUW seems like a monumental challenge because as a leader one is expected to set the goals for membership to follow. But in AAUW, each branch must follow the goals and guidelines set by AAUW National, so the branch presidents simply apply those guidelines to do service and achieve the goals in our own communities. As President, I have a team (my board of directors) who help me to determine how we move the agenda forward in our Rockland. I am never alone in determining how we operate or how we provide information and service to our community. Many of our board members are themselves former branch presidents and so there is always a wealth of support and experience to rely upon.*

*Through this journey, I have met the most amazing women from all over the state of New York with much to offer and are willing to help and support each other to use our individual talents in pursuing our mission to advance equity for women and girls through education, research, and advocacy. I represent **you** as the President of Rockland AAUW, but I never do that alone because I have a team of women **who represent you** as well.*

*If you are serious about wanting to make a difference and have not considered taking a leadership role in AAUW-Rockland – there will never be a better time than **NOW**. Please consider taking on the role of Co-President. I look forward to working with you!*

*Suzanne Young - Mercer*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Please stay connected as we move forward with this pandemic. Now is a good time to use your Membership Directory to give someone a call, text or email to say hello and ask how are you doing? The new directory will be published in August. Please send any changes to your address, phone number, cell phone number, or e-mail address to Sylvia Miller, [aauwsam@optonline.net](mailto:aauwsam@optonline.net) or call 845 358-1680. **Only paid up members will be included in the new directory.** Sylvia Miller

**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)

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: JUNE 30<sup>th</sup> DEADLINE**

## Membership Matters

Spring is a new beginning and with AAUW it is the time we renew our commitment and membership in an organization that continues to lobby for gender equity. Membership with AAUW means being part of a community dedicated to improving the 'climate' for women and girls. When we renew our membership, we must also renew our commitment to the branch and to this mission.

We need your financial support and your leadership skills to help our branch remain strong. We cannot continue to rely on the faithful few who have always been willing to work. When renewing your membership, please think of ways that you can serve our branch.

**YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED** an email providing information regarding the opportunity to renew directly online. **IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THE EMAIL AND WOULD LIKE TO RENEW ONLINE, CONTACT SANDY BLASY AT [yoga54ny@gmail.com](mailto:yoga54ny@gmail.com)**

**This year's renewal dues are again \$85.** If you mail a check, **it must be received by June 30th.** The preferred address is:  
AAUW Membership | AAUW Rockland County Branch | PO Box 19 | West Nyack, NY 10994

*Thank you for your continued support to AAUW's mission – Your Membership Committee*

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Nominations for April 21, 2020 Annual Meeting are as follows:

Co-President: **none to date** Membership Vice President: Elda Graff Recording Secretary: April Biggs

**If you value the future of the Rockland Branch of the AAUW,** please consider forming a coalition to work together on the Co-President position. Suzanne needs to end her extended tenure as President by 2021." - Frances Blauvelt

**WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT:** DINNER POSTPONED UNTIL MAY 2021. – Sandy Masiello

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH:** EVENT (TENTATIVELY) RESCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 15, 2020 from 2-4- PM. We are planning a virtual panel discussion with some of the most dynamic women in political leadership in our community. SAVE THE DATE– Myrna Silberman



Members **Ann Mulligan and Myrna Silberman** received the AAUW National **Shape the Future** Award for their many years of dedication to the Rockland Branch. They were each awarded FREE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS.

Thank you for your service, ladies!!!!



**ON THURSDAY, JUNE 18 AT 7:00 PM JOIN US FOR THE**

**AAUW ROCKLAND JUNE BRANCH MEETING.**

**WE WILL HEAR FROM SOME OF OUR PAST SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AND  
- SPECIAL GUEST -**

**AAUW-NY STATE PRESIDENT, JANICE BROWN**

**PRESIDENT BROWN WILL BE GIVING A PRESENTATION ENTITLED  
“WAGE INEQUALITY”**

**Join via Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89906438231?pwd=Wjl1N3NLcUZRcGk4R1BpRERWRXR1Zz09>

**OR CALL 1-646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 899 0643 8231 Password: 10954**



**June 1-8, 2020**

AAUW-NYS Elections – Results announced on June 25<sup>th</sup>

**Tuesday, June 16**

**Postmark Deadline for Absentee Ballot Application**

**Thursday, June 18, 2020**

Branch Business Meeting 7:00 PM **via Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89906438231?pwd=Wjl1N3NLcUZRcGk4R1BpRERWRXR1Zz09>

**OR CALL 1-646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 899 0643 8231 Password: 10954**

**Tuesday, June 23, 2020**

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY – **VOTE**

Board Meeting\* 7:00 PM **via Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87603597692?pwd=cEhFOW1vc1VEEdUFjVUJSK1oxUVN3Zz09>

**OR CALL 1-646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 876 0359 7692 Password: 10954 \*All members are welcome to attend**

**Thursday, June 25, 2020**

Annual AAUW-NYS Meeting via Zoom  
Special Election results will be announced

**AUGUST, 2020 (TENTATIVE)**

Stay at Home BBQ and EOF Fundraiser  
*More info to follow*

**Saturday, August 15, 2020**

Virtual Women’s History Month Celebration  
*More info to follow*

*Just a note of goodbye to the 2019-2020 business year. Many thanks to MY editor, Sylvia Miller and to all of you for the kind and helpful feedback that I have received throughout the year. I am looking forward to the new normal that we are all about to embark upon. I know that you share in my hope that it will be a time where justice and equality will prevail. But just in case it isn’t, I hope that we will all be prepared to face 2020-2021 with renewed resolve and God’s help to make it so. Have a safe, happy, and healthy summer. See you in September!  
~ Doria E. Hillsman*



# WE STAND UNITED AGAINST RACISM

Taken from <https://www.aauw.org/>

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## The following is a statement from AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches

AAUW joins the country in mourning the losses of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and countless other people of color who have been unjustly killed across our nation. Our country needs healing. But healing will only come with justice. As an organization we condemn racism.

Systemic racism is firmly rooted in the U.S. and today's injustices mirror our shameful history — from police brutality to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color. There can be no justice or equality when Black and Brown communities are seen as less deserving of basic human and civil rights.

On behalf of our 170,000 members and supporters, we commit to fighting for justice, long-term and lasting change, and we stand in solidarity against racism. We also acknowledge that as an organization we have our own work to do.

And, as a member of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, we will work to advance the policies and systemic changes identified in [the New Era of Public Safety: A Guide to Fair, Safe, and Effective Community Policing](#) and [Vision for Justice](#) platform.

***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 and educational 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>

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Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/aauwnewyork>

