



ROCKLAND COUNTY (NY) BRANCH

# FACETS

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

DECEMBER 2020



Suzanne Young-Mercer,  
President

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Corresponding Secretary

Sylvia Miller,  
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## *President's Message*

Happy December and Happy Holidays to Rockland AAUW Board and Members. I hope you and your families had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are well and staying safe. This has been a year of significant upheaval in our country. We have witnessed a pandemic (Covid-19) that has caused devastation to more than 270,000 families who were touched by the virus. Millions of people have been infected and thousand continue to be infected every day.

Through all of this AAUW Rockland Board Members have worked to make sure that we bring relevant programming to our members through our new virtual medium. In addition, as part of their concern for the members of the state and in response to AAUW National's recent decision to raise National Dues, AAUW-NYS has decided to waive the NYS portion of dues (\$13.00) for the 2021 - 2022 fiscal year. AAUW-NYS understands the hardship that this year has brought to many of our members and their families and feels the need to provide this relief.

Our branch has been fortunate to have a Programming Committee which has done a fantastic job of bringing information to our members that is informative and timely. We are also fortunate to have a Board of Directors that is concerned about our members and reaches out to ensure that you are all well and safe as we continue to fulfil the mission of our organization.

Unfortunately, we are not out of the woods yet. We all still need to wear masks, social distance and wash our hands. This is a very small thing to do to keep ourselves and everyone else safe because we are all in this together. I wish you all a very Happy and Safe Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy 2021!

*Suzanne Young-Mercer*



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**Tuesday, December 8**

**December Branch Meeting**  
*Clean Energy in Rockland*  
**7:00 PM via ZOOM**

**Tuesday, December 15**

**Board Meeting – 7:00 PM**

**Tuesday, January 19**

**January Branch Meeting**  
**7:00 PM via ZOOM**

**Tuesday, January 26**

**Board Meeting – 7:00 PM**

**Tuesday, February 16**

**Board Meeting – 7:00 PM**

**Saturday, February 27**

**AAUW Diversity Brunch**

**Saturday, March 20**

**Women’s History Month Celebration**  
*Women and the Law*

**Tuesday, March 23**

**Board Meeting – 7:00 PM**

**Tuesday, April 13**

**April Branch Meeting**  
*Business/ Budget/ Elections*

## The Voters Have Spoken



Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, Americans cast their ballots in record numbers and elected Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to lead our nation forward. We celebrate that Vice President-elect Harris has shattered so many barriers, becoming the first woman, Black American, Indian and South Asian American to assume the second highest office in the land.

Read the AAUW-National Full Statement  
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/aauw-statement-on-the-election-of-joe-biden-and-kamala-harris/>

The AAUW – Rockland Book Club will meet at the home of Fran Carlson (outdoors) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month as long as weather permits from 2:30 - 4:00 P.M

\* December 14, 2020 “The Island of Sea Women”, by Lisa See

\* January 11, 2021 “The Book of Unknown Americans”, by Christina Henriquez

\*Contact Fran Carlson for more information (845) 634-9648

### Did You Know about the Cable Law?

*In March, 1907, Congress passed the Expatriation Act which decreed, among other things, that “U.S. women who married non-citizens were no longer American citizens.” If their husband later became a naturalized citizen, they could go through the naturalization process to regain citizenship. (None of these rules applied to American men when they chose a spouse.) Changing this law became an important part of the women’s suffrage movement. Once American women got the right to vote in 1920, they started lobbying lawmakers to recognize that their citizenship should not be tethered to that of a husband. In 1922, Rep. John Cable of Ohio introduced The Cable Act, also known as the Married Women’s Independent Nationality Act, which stated that “women kept their citizenship if they married a man who could become a citizen.” (At this time Asian aliens were not eligible for citizenship.) Expatriated women still had to petition the government to regain their citizenship and other restrictions still applied. Finally, in the 1940s as attitudes changed and laws evolved, women born in the U.S. no longer had to limit their marriage prospects to native-born men or naturalized citizens.*

*Contributed by Sylvia Miller and Suzanne Belisle*

# 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)

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Communications are key! With the pandemic continuing to keep us apart, please consider calling other members of our branch just to say hello and see how they are doing. Work is in progress for our next Directory. Just a reminder that ONLY PAID-UP MEMBERS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE 2020-2021 DIRECTORY. Any changes to your information in the Directory should be sent to Sylvia Miller at [aauwsam@optonline.net](mailto:aauwsam@optonline.net) or call 845-358-1680 ASAP. **The 2020-2021 Directory will also be available via email.** Please let me know if you would prefer to have your Directory emailed to you. - Sylvia Miller

**EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FUND (Now the Education and Training Fund):** Please send whatever you would like to contribute in lieu of our fund raiser activities to the 'Education and Training Fund'. Mail your check to: AAUW Development, P.O. Box 98045 Washington, D.C. 20090-8045 – Ellie Grossman

**STEM/ SSEC:** The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual AAUW (Rockland)-NSPE Secondary School Engineering Conference was held on Saturday, November 21, 2020. Over 70 students from elementary school through college from all over the country attended the virtual meeting. They were treated to information about AAUW, NSPE and the field of engineering. Many thanks to Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee for her unwavering support and special thanks to committee members Deborah Barnes, April Biggs, Charlotte Sorger, Denise Valentine and Thomas Broderick (NSPE-NY Rockland) for the work and time dedicated to making this program an outstanding success. – Doria E. Hillsman

**FROM TREASURER, SANDY BLASY:** If you would like to make a donation to National, individual donations can be made directly online <https://www.aauw.org/> or by sending your check directly marking your donation with their new fund name of 'Education and Training' fund. Mail to: AAUW Development, P.O. Box 98045 Washington, D.C. 20090-8045



**MIMI KORB SCHOLARSHIP:** Contributions to the Mimi Korb Scholarship (tax- deductible) can be made to honor any one, 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: AAOW Rockland| P.O. Box 19| West Nyack, NY 10994-0019

***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>



**Peggy Kurtz, Community Coordinator**  
**Rockland Community Power Program**

*"Clean Energy in Rockland County"*  
*Moving as a community to renewable energy*

Dial In 646 876 9923  
Meeting Code: 836 0778 4742 Passcode:  
301935

December Branch Meeting  
Tuesday, December 8, 2020  
7:00 PM

[Click here](#) to Join on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM **OR DIAL IN 646 876 9923**  
Meeting ID: 863 0778 4742 Passcode: 301935

### Memorium:



Betsy Wade, the first woman to edit news copy for The New York Times and the lead plaintiff in a landmark sex discrimination lawsuit against the newspaper on behalf of its female employees, died on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at her home on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. She was 91.

Four years after being fired as a reporter for The New York Herald Tribune for being pregnant, Ms. Wade landed at The Times on Oct. 1, 1956, and instantly broke a 105-year-old practice of male copy editing in the news department, where women were rare, relatively underpaid and confined largely to reporting on fashions, cooking and other subjects considered by male colleagues to be "women's news," or to clerical or secretarial jobs.

[See full article:](#)



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

