



ROCKLAND COUNTY (NY) BRANCH

FACETS

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

January 2021



Suzanne Young-Mercer,
President

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Programming Vice-President
Editor

Elda Graff,
Membership Vice-President

Sandra Blasy,
Treasurer

April Biggs,
Recording Secretary

Anita Nessin,
Corresponding Secretary

Sylvia Miller,
Communications

AAUW -NY STATE

President's Message



AAUW-NYS Members,

As we come to the close of 2020, there is much to reflect upon. We have indeed overcome an unprecedented year. We have witnessed the death of many well-known trailblazing women; we have witnessed the power and the impact of the women's right to vote and we have witnessed the first African-American woman elected as Vice-President of the United States.

Going into 2021, we will continue to make strides and move women forward to a more just and equal lifetime. We still have much work to do. Knowing the strengths of our members, we will continue to align our strategies toward accomplishing our goal, "Advancing Equity for Women and Girls."

****Thank you for your continued commitment. ****

Wishing you a safe, prosperous, and enjoyable New Year.

****Cheers to a great 2021****

Respectfully,
Janice Brown, President
AAUW-NYS

AAUW-"Advancing Equity for Women and Girls #timeisnow



Tuesday, January 19

January Branch Meeting
7:00 PM via ZOOM
(See inside for details)

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

Wednesday, May 19

Woman of Achievement
Award Ceremony

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

- * January 11, 2021 “ The Book of Unknown Americans”, by Christina Henriquez
- * February 8, 2021 “ The Splendid and the Vile” by, Erik Larson

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

IT'S OFFICIAL



We would like to announce that the AAUW-NYS board met in November and approved to initiate a **one-year NYS dues waiver**. Therefore, we are sharing our savings with you, our dedicated members. This means that every member of AAUW-NYS will not pay the \$13 to the state for dues this upcoming fiscal year starting in March. The covered timeframe will be from July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 for the waiver. This decision has no impact on what your local branch decides to do to offset the dues increase. The dues waiver is the State's effort to help branches and members during this difficult time, and in light of the announcement of the National dues increase.

The State will carry on as always, including providing grants and assistance as needed to the branches.



PHONE TREE COMMITTEE. Thank you, members Sandra Countee, Ann Kinney and Denise Valentine Philpotts, for joining our Phone Tree Committee. And thanks to current committee members: **April Biggs, Karen Martin, Sandy Masiello, Anita Nessin, Bach Tuyet Pham** and **Myrna Silberman** for a job well done in 2020. The purpose of the committee is to remind members of upcoming branch meetings and special events. During 2020, it also allowed us the opportunity to keep in touch with each other in socially isolating times. Each committee member is responsible for contacting a specific list of members (5 or so) before meetings. It is an easy job and allows members to get to know each other better. All members are welcome to join the committee and chat with other members. If you are interested, contact Sylvia Miller. aauwsam@optonline.net, 845 358-1680

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

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 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

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Greetings and Wishes for a Happier 2021! The following positions **must** be elected this year. They are two- year terms, 2021-2023.

President – It has been suggested that this position be shared by three people. If we can do this, there won't be a need for a Co-President. *Please consider serving as one of the three presidents.* Many hands make less work. Suzanne will be available to train those elected.

Program Vice-President - Plan and host regular branch and executive board meetings – (not responsible for special programs)

Corresponding Secretary - Report and record branch correspondence. Acknowledge important occasions of members.

Treasurer – Monitor and record all branch income and disbursements. Report monthly to executive board.

Members of the Nominating Committee are Sandra Masiello, Ellie Grossman, Anita Nessin, and Maureen Brown. We will begin meeting via conference calls in January. The nominations must be completed **by March** as the election is in April.



Congratulations, once again to our own Phyllis Frank who received an extensive interview in the December 28, 2020 edition of the Journal News for her seminal work in the LGBTQ+ Community. To see the interview ...[WATCH HERE.](#)



AAUW ROCKLAND January Branch Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2021
at 7:00 PM



Guest Speaker: L'Tanya M. Watkins, Esq.
*"She Matters – Advocating for Women and Children Against
'Acceptable' Forms of Systemic Violence"*

[Click Here to Join Zoom Meeting](#)

OR Dial In – 1.646.876.9923

Meeting ID: 820 8443 0274 Passcode: 618601

Call (845) 598-8520 for more information



[Click here](#) to Join on January 19th at 7:00 PM **OR DIAL IN 646 876 9923**

Meeting ID: 820 8443 0274 Passcode: 618601



Are you an **AAUW member** with a passion for creating works of art? This year's contest begins on **January 6** with entries accepted through **February 3**.

The six winning entries will be featured in a collection of notecards mailed to AAUW members in the spring. Meanwhile, take a look at [the rules on how to enter](#) your work in the upcoming contest and peruse past winners for some inspiration on your submission. **REPRESENT!!!**



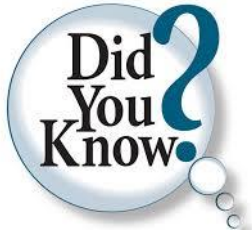
Laurel Karas, Founding member of the New City AAUW

I met Laurel Karas 38 years ago when I came to an AAUW meeting, new to Rockland and pregnant. She was warm and very welcoming. She told me she joined AAUW at the suggestion of one of her professors when she graduated college. She told me she never regretted joining.

I too can say I never regretted joining. Most of my long-time friends came out of AAUW. I, and many of the stay-at-home members, found AAUW to be our personal and intellectual life line. She was there every Tuesday night at the New City Library listening and opining of the topics presented. She did not shy away from the difficult. Who can forget the talk about Artemisia Gentileschi - the Renaissance painter who decapitated her subjects on her canvases? ... or the presentation on incest... She was an avid reader and we would meet up in the book group whenever she was up north.

Laurel was the epitome of an AAUWer - friendly, welcoming, informed, articulate. She will be missed.

~ Betty Vallone



AAUW 's Priority Issues for 2021 are...

- I. Removing Bias from Education
- II. Fighting for Fair Pay and Economic Equity
- III. Advancing Women in Leadership

Check out [AAUW.org](https://www.aauw.org) for more information.

In our December Branch Meeting, Peggy Kurtz of the Rockland Community Power Program gave a most informative presentation on sustainable energy in Rockland. As a follow up to the meeting, Peggy shared the information below regarding a recent letter from Suez written to Rockland residents advising of the discovery of PFOA (perfluorooctanoic Acid) in our water if you'd like to get the facts, REGISTER TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT COMMUNITY EVENT...

To register, click [HERE](#) or go to: <https://bit.ly/rocklandwater>



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