



ROCKLAND COUNTY (NY) BRANCH

FACETS

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

JUNE 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

President's Message

It is June and we are coming to the end of another productive year. Even during our confinement due to COVID, we were able to have programs every month and they were all memorable and well attended.

This June also marks the end of my term as President of this Branch. It has been my pleasure to serve as your President and work with the wonderful members who have served as board members over my three terms. The thing about being President is that the board makes it so easy to handle the responsibilities of leadership. You cannot be a leader without the people around you who make you look like you know what you are doing. There is a fellowship here that just cannot be beat.

Although, I will no longer be your President, I will continue to be a member and will help in any way I can to ensure the continued success of this Branch. We have established what I believe will be long lasting collaborations with many organizations in the Rockland community, such as the League of Women Voters, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, and Zeta Phi Beta sororities, the NAACP, Jamaican Civic and Cultural Association of Rockland (JAMCCAR) and the Center for Safety and Change. Collaboration with like-minded organizations will keep us vital recognized and RELEVANT in the community. We are a strong and vital organization making a difference in the lives of women and girls through education, advocacy and research. This continues to be important work because we have so much further to go.

Thank you again. I wish everyone a happy and healthy summer with caution that this pandemic is still with us, and we need to be ever vigilant.

Best regards,

Suzanne Young-Mercer



Would you like to join AAUW
Rockland?

Check out our [website](#) or
Contact Elda Graff at
eldagraff@gmail.com

June 11-12

AAUW NY STATE SUMMIT
(Registration Info Inside!)

June 15, 2021

June Branch Meeting – 7:00 PM

June 22, 2021

Board Meeting – 7:00 PM

MID-AUGUST

EOF BBQ (*Tentative*)
(Patricia Lopez's Backyard)

**All members are welcome to attend board meetings. Call (845) 598-8520 for join information.*



JUNE BRANCH MEETING
Installation of New Officers by
AAUW NY State President,
Janice Brown



Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 7:00 PM
[Click Here to Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Or Dial in 646 -876 -9923
Meeting ID: 811 7309 2738
Passcode: 218216

WHAT'S HAPPENING.

FROM CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, KIMBERLY WESTON: 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. kimberlyweston@msn.com

COMMUNICATIONS: Directory Request. Please review all your personal pertinent information in the 2020-2021 Directory. If any changes are necessary, please send them to Sylvia Miller at aauwsam@optonline.net or call (845) 358-1680. Thank you.

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: AAUW Rockland | P.O. Box 19 | West Nyack, NY 10994-0019

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND : Check out the latest court cases that AAUW publicly and financially supports <https://www.aauw.org/resources/legal/laf/> or contact LAF Chair, Charlotte Sorger

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: There is room for one more member to join the Nominating Committee for 2021-2022. This is a great place to get started being an important part of our great organization. If you are new to the group, you will have the opportunity to get to know some of the "old-timers", as well as to provide an important service. The committee will begin meetings in January, 2022 to discuss identifying people to fill office positions. This will be done via telephone or Zoom. Annual elections are in April. As past chair, I will be on hand to offer my experience and advice as needed. You will have the pleasure of working with Sandy Masiello, Ellie Grossman, Anita Nessin and Maureen Brown. Contact me if you want to know more: frblauvelt@msn.com Nominating Chairperson, Frances Riley Blauvelt

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

PUBLIC POLICY:

PAY EQUITY: The pending New York State salary range disclosure legislation would create a shift in practices, and in culture, to put all workers on more equal footing and to help end the pernicious wage gap that continues to rob some workers, particularly women of color, of fair wages and economic well-being. The bill is through committee in the Assembly awaiting action in the Senate in the Rules and Codes Committees. We are optimistic about getting to the floor for a vote.

CHILD CARE: Empire State Campaign for Child Care and our NYC partners in Campaign for Children are joining forces to push for legislation at the state level that would allow localities to better use their new federal child care funds to expand access to more families; provide stability to child care providers; and take another step toward transforming NY child care. Will you please reach out to your lawmakers (Senator Jim Skoufis, Assemblymember Ken Zebrowski, Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick, Assemblymember Mike Lawler by June 12, 2021)

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS: Our Reproductive Rights colleagues held two very important issues they wanted to get addressed in this NYS legislature. Those included bodily autonomy through comprehensive sexual education and affordability of abortion services which includes both public and private insurance. Again, please contact your NYS elected leaders to help lay groundwork with Rockland Senate and Assembly elected officials in the NYS 2021 legislative session to encourage them to support, sign-on, and vote in favor.

SEX EDUCATION – Sex education is not mandated in New York state. A study conducted with 2,500 students in K-12 who had participated in a six-week sexual education class showed that these students were less likely to be victims and perpetrators in peer sexual violence, or to be the victims of sexual dating violence. Sex-ed helps prepare young people to not only have safe sex and prevent sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancies, but it also prepares them to have healthier relationships, to make informed choices about whether or when to engage in sex, to understand and practice affirmative consent, to identify abusive behavior, to prevent dating violence, and to gain a strong sense of bodily and emotional autonomy. By failing to fund and require a comprehensive sex-ed curriculum, we are depriving students of the tools they need to live healthier and happier lives. (<https://nownyc.org/issues/get-the-facts-sex-education-in-ny>)

SEXUAL VIOLENCE The Adult Survivor Act would allow survivors of certain sexual offenses, who were eighteen years or older at the time of the offense and who are currently time barred from pursuing civil action, a one-year window to pursue civil action against the person who committed a sexual offense against them or the entity that enabled them.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: There is legislation before the Governor to ensure that no matter what may change on the federal level, conversations between DV survivors and advocates will be privileged unless the survivor provides a written, informed consent for release. This legislative package would raise the age of consent for marriage to 18. The bill has passed in the Senate and been sent to the Assembly for further action. PowHer NYS, our AAUW NY Pay Equity colleagues organized an event entitled, “*Re-Envisioning How We End Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence*”. Our host was NYS Attorney General Letitia James. The event was recorded and is available at https://youtu.be/FD_22HVQiQI

We must continue to provide advocacy and pressure beyond the June (12th) end of session, through campaigns and elections, into the final quarter of 2021, and prepare for the next 2022 legislative session. We must re-commit to grassroots actions with legislators, advocates, friends and family members. We need you to support AAUW’s Public Policy priority issues.

Ann Mulligan - amulligan125@gmail.com

Click here to register : \ [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)



Announcement:

AAUW NYS 2021 Summit

Friday Evening Speaker: Journey Gunderson

Executive Director of the National Comedy Center

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Friday evening, after a welcome by President Janice Brown, Ms. Gunderson will engage us with a talk and tour of the National Comedy Center, named by USA Today "Best New Museum" in the country. Join the fun by serving yourself a beverage and a snack, then clicking on the link.

Friday, June 11: 7-8:30pm: Social time, Comedy Talk & Virtual Tour

Saturday, June 12: 9-11am: Annual Meeting, Elections, Bylaws Changes Vote

The event is free to all and will be conducted online through ZOOM.

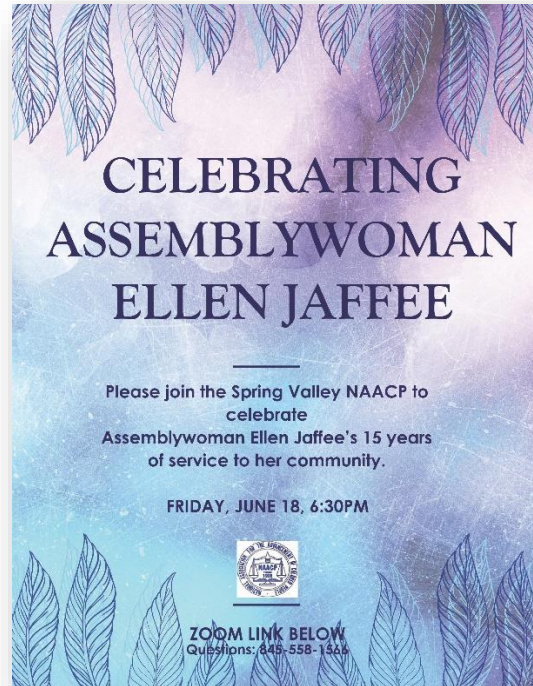
Registration Link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlkde6sqDosHdJImpEVU63kTggpfA6loqYD>



Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Doria E. Hillsman** for being selected as one of this year's New York State Women of Distinction by Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick. The ceremony will be held virtually. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

*Please join us as the Spring Valley NAACP
honors our own Ellen Jaffee for her 15 years of service to the
Rockland Community*




[ZOOM LINK – CLICK HERE](#)

OR DIAL- IN 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 892 5246 8882 Passcode: 770355

THE NATIONAL AAUW 2021 ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN!.....

- Julia Brown has been re-elected to serve as board chair for three more years.
- Malinda Gaul was re-elected as board vice chair, and Elizabeth Haynes and Joseph Bertolino will also retain their board seats. All are three-year terms.
- AAUW's public policy priorities were approved by 92% of voters.
- The ballot initiative to eliminate the membership requirement got 63% of the vote, which was just below the two-thirds majority needed to enact a bylaw change.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/>



ONCE AGAIN, AS WE COME TO THE END OF ANOTHER YEAR, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK SYLVIA MILLER FOR HER EXPERT PROOFING, REPORTING AND REMINDING. I DON'T THINK I COULD DO THIS WITHOUT HER.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO PEN A SPECIAL EDITOR'S NOTE OF THANKS TO OUR PRESIDENT

SUZANNE YOUNG-MERCER

SHE REMAINED FAITHFUL TO HER POST, GOING 'ABOVE AND BEYOND' BY AGREEING TO SERVE FOR A 3RD TERM WHEN HER LEADERSHIP WAS NEEDED MOST. SHE HAS LED AND REPRESENTED THIS BRANCH WITH STYLE AND GRACE, DESPITE HER RECENT ILLNESS – OH, AND HER MOVE TO PENNSYLVANIA!!! I KNOW THAT I SPEAK FOR THE ENTIRE BRANCH IN WISHING HER THE BEST IN ALL OF HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS AND IN HOPING THAT SHE WILL CONTINUE TO SHARE HER ENERGY, HER LEADERSHIP, AND HER SPIRIT WITH AAUW-ROCKLAND.

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO OFFERED KIND WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND PRAISE FOR MY EFFORTS AS EDITOR OF THE AAUW - ROCKLAND FACETS NEWSLETTER THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. YOUR KINDNESS WAS APPRECIATED MORE THAN YOU KNOW. THERE WAS A LOT OF PROGRESS AND SUCCESS MADE TOWARD OUR MISSION THIS YEAR. THERE IS MUCH MORE TO BE DONE. A SAFE, HEALTHY, AND RESTORATIVE SUMMER TO ALL – SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER...

DORIA