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President's Message

Welcome to spring. After what was (hopefully), one last, final blast, we can finally wave goodbye to winter. Trees are starting to bloom and daffodils and other bulbs are peeking up from the earth. Nature is waking up.

We had a wonderful new member zoom meeting. It was great getting to know everyone and I look forward to meeting everyone in person and continuing to learn about you. I encourage you to select a committee you would like to work with.

If you attended our Women's History Month presentation, you met and heard from some amazing and accomplished women. It was inspiring to hear the stories of their journeys to their positions of leadership in the field of education, their philosophies and approaches to their jobs and what they accomplished. As usual Myrna and her committee did a great job. I'd also like to thank Doria and April for the slide show before and during the presentation.

Our April branch meeting is coming up on the 26th. This is an important meeting because our elections take place then. This is also our business/budget meeting.

We're looking forward to our virtual Woman of Achievement presentation on May 25, please mark your calendars, save the date, and plan to attend.

Remember, we are an organization that depends on the active participation of our members. We value your input. If you haven't been active, perhaps now is the time for you to share your ideas and insights.

Anita



Would you like to join AAUW Rockland?

Check out our [website](#) or

Contact Elda Graff at eldagraff@gmail.com

N.B. Unless otherwise indicated, all events will be held virtually via Zoom.

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.*

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Business/ Budget Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.*

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

WOA Award Dinner

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.*

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

Scholarship Presentations – 7:00 p.m.



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 you are part of a community dedicated to changing the climate for women and girls. Along with renewing our membership we also need to renew our commitment to our local branch.

We are not only in need of your financial support but also your leadership skills to help our Branch remain strong. We cannot continue to rely on the few that have served continuously. When renewing your membership, please think of ways you can serve our Branch.

The membership renewal period runs until **June 30th** and we ask that you submit your dues by that time. The renewal dues for the FY 2022/23 year are **\$90***. Please mail your check payable to **AAUW Rockland County Branch** to:

*AAUW Membership
AAUW Rockland County Branch
PO Box 19, West Nyack, NY 10994*

Renewals by debit/credit card are not available at this time due to a website software update at AAUW National. We expect it to be available shortly and will let you know as soon as it is.

* Of the \$67 paid to AAUW National, only \$64 is tax deductible, because \$3.00 of AAUW National's dues is given to a 501(C)4 and therefore cannot be acknowledged as a donation



The AAUW – Rockland Book Club will meet virtually via ZOOM for the month of April from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Contact Betty Handelman for more info.

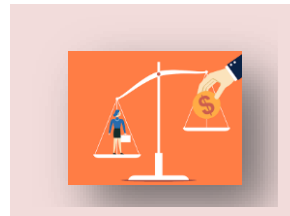
ALL ARE WELCOME!

April 11, 2022 “The Absolutist”, by John Boyne

May 9, 2022 “Have You Seen Luis Velez?” by Catherine Ryatt Hyde

March 15th was EQUAL PAY DAY...

Equal Pay Day marks the number of additional days that the average salaried woman must work to equal the average salary of white men in the previous year. The Equal Pay Day calendar according to AAUW.org is listed below...



- **Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Women’s Equal Pay Day** is May 3. Asian American and Pacific Islander women are paid **75 cents for every dollar** paid to white men.
- **Black Women’s Equal Pay Day** is September 21. Black women are paid **58 cents for every dollar** paid to white men.
- **Native Women’s Equal Pay Day** is November 30. Native women are paid **50 cents for every dollar** paid to white men.
- **Latina’s Equal Pay Day** is December 8. Latinas are paid **49 cents for every dollar** paid to white men.

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

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

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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: The **ADDENDUM for the DIRECTORY** was emailed to all members in March. If you did not receive it, please contact me and I will send it again. Thank you - Sylvia Miller

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.

Please note: If you are so inclined, contributions to the Mimi Korb Scholarship may be sent in honor of our recently departed member, Sondra Gordon. 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:

THIS YEAR'S SLATE FOR THE APRIL 26th MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS...

President- OPEN

We need someone to take this position by July1, 2022. (A new "team" of presidents is another possibility)

Vice-President of Membership- Elda Graff

Recording Secretary- Ann Kinney

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: On Saturday, March 26th we had a very well attended and inspirational program on Women in Education Leadership. Our six (6) distinguished panelists shared their respective journeys and accomplishments. The event was recorded and can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#). Many thanks to all who attended and supported this event.



This month's Member Spotlight is on...

Phyllis B. Frank



Phyllis is a long-time community leader in Rockland County, well known for her exemplary, trailblazing work confronting all forms of oppression. Even as a child, she was introduced to the idea of social justice by her family. Her passion for justice has been evolving throughout her life.

Her career has had a long and distinguished history. In 1979, as a staff member at VCS (Volunteer Counseling Service), Phyllis was asked to design a court-ordered program that would hold men accountable for intimate partner violence. It was the beginning of a new endeavor across the country and Phyllis was one of the pioneers. The brilliance and groundbreaking nature of her ideas was such that government officials, lawmakers, academics and practitioners began to seek her advice.

As Phyllis continued to think about the problems of men's violence against women, her clarity and courage led her more fully to an understanding of the problem as deeply rooted in sexism. In time, she began to consider how sexism was interconnected with other forms of oppression, most notably racism, heterosexism, and classism. She expanded her already broad range of activities to begin to challenge our community to confront these issues.

Phyllis began to energize hundreds of people in Rockland and surrounding counties to participate in a range of anti-racism programs. Some years ago, she presented a film to the Rockland Community entitled 'The Color of Fear' which drew hundreds of people. The film enriched the conversations about race in our community. But Phyllis always believes there is more to learn.

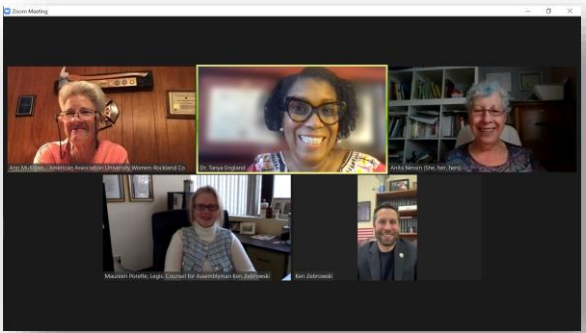
She inaugurated the Gay Pride Rockland celebration which has changed the climate here for so many families. Most recently she has been educating the community on Transgender issues. She also co-facilitates monthly roundtables on racial and gender justice. There are hundreds of people who have never met Phyllis who are safer, walk taller, and live more fully because of her.

Phyllis was inducted into the Rockland Civil Rights Hall of Fame in 2013 and continues to work diligently for social justice, equity and equality in her current position as Chief Program Officer at the Center for Safety and Change. She will turn 80 years old this month! To celebrate, she asks that if any members are so inclined, that they contribute to either the Center for Safety and Change, (9 Johnsons Ln, New City, NY 10956) or to the Phyllis B. Frank Pride Center of Rockland County (28 S Franklin St, Nyack, NY 10960) or at www.celebratephyllisbfrank.com. Happy Birthday, Phyllis!

Excerpts taken from <https://patch.com/new-york/newcity/bp--civil-rights-hall-of-fame-to-honor-phyllis-b-frank>

Won't you share a brief article about yourself for our new "Spotlight" byline so that we can get to know you better? Please include something that you'd like everyone to know... It can be as long or as short as you like. Please include a photo as well... Send your article to Anita Nessin at triad.aauw@gmail.com

AAUW Rockland ALBANY LOBBY COMMITTEE



AAUW – ROCKLAND
Legislative LOBBY Agenda - 2022

CHILD CARE ... commitment to create a high quality, culturally responsive, universal child care system within four years; phase-in of universal child care system to subsidized child care, address long standing inequities and the current staffing crisis. Child care is currently unaffordable for vast majority of families we want increase in number of families eligible for assistance. 65% of child care workers in the state must rely on public services to 'make ends meet' Child care workers' salaries should be comparable to public school teachers.



SALARY RANGE TRANSPARENCY... Wage Transparency - Pay Equity - Salary History Transparency
The new pay transparency law makes it an "unlawful discriminatory practice" under the New York City Human Rights Law ("NYCHRL") for an employer to advertise a job, promotion, or transfer opportunity without stating the position's minimum and maximum salary in the advertisement. We'd like this to be established state-wide. N.B. IN ROCKLAND COUNTY, many positions listed on the civil service job listing page (<https://mycivilservice.rocklandgov.com/prom>) list salary as: "In accordance with the appropriate labor agreement". People applying for these positions are required to **PAY FEES TO TAKE EXAMS FOR POSITIONS** for ...

ERA w/ new language ...

Passage/ ratification of this amendment and support of the Federal ERA is imperative. Thanks to Senators Skoufis and Reichlin-Melnick for co-sponsoring state amendment S-1268 .
And **Title IX Coordinator in every secondary school in Rockland.**



AAUW Members, **Frances Blauvelt, Tanya England, Doria Hillsman, Ann Mulligan, Anita Nessin, and Suzanne Young Mercer** met virtually with State Assemblymen, Mike Lawler, and Ken Zebrowski and State Senators, Elijah Reichlin-Melnick and James Skoufis in March to discuss the lobby agenda, composed of the three (3) most urgent concerns decided upon by the Lobby Committee. (See Calling Card →) All meetings were productive and pleasant and all of the officials assured us that they were in agreement with our positions and pledged support.

Follow-up from Skoufis and Lawler are forthcoming on Title IX Awareness in the County high schools and updated information on Maternal Morbidity and Mortality in Rockland County.

Many thanks to this committee for presenting our concerns to our elected officials and for representing AAUW Rockland so well!



Inspiring Female Students at the College Level: An Interview with RCC's Dr. Katherine Lynch

By Lauren Rodgers

Dr. Katherine Lynch became the Chair of the Sam Draper Honors Program at Rockland Community College in 2014. She is also a mentor and a teacher at the college. While at RCC, Dr. Lynch has realized that many female students “have imposter syndrome”, which she describes as “really smart, intelligent, capable women who don’t think that they belong in the honors program, or they don’t think they belong at a great 4-year school.”

In order to help her students’ progress and succeed in their futures, Dr. Lynch works to provide her students with the mentorship and guidance, as well as “the skills and the tools to take the next step”. She also works to reassure them and give them the confidence they need to believe in themselves and their own capabilities. By helping her students with their college essays, putting together applications, writing letters of recommendation, and helping them take the classes they need, Dr. Lynch has been able to help women find other colleges and communities that will support them and help them succeed, rather than push them down or belittle them.

Although Dr. Lynch identifies as non-binary and has adapted the pronouns “she/they” in order to further express her truest self, she continues to cherish the female aspect of her identity because it is a part of her and allows her to understand the world through a female perspective. Dr. Lynch said, “I think we need everybody who possibly wants to, supporting Women’s History Month”, because change cannot occur unless there is support from the majority. In the future, she hopes that women can learn to “become more collaborative and less competitive” in order to further progress in the workforce.

Lauren Rodgers, a student at SUNY Rockland Community College is the AAUW Rockland’s Student Correspondent. Thanks again to Patricia Lopez for recruiting Lauren,

Sybrina Fulton, mother of slain youth, **Trayvon Martin**, will speak at the 62nd Annual Nyack NAACP (Virtual)Membership Dinner.

Ticket price to this virtual event includes one adult NAACP membership for one year.



Tickets can be purchased at the [Nyack NAACP Website](#).



DON'T FORGET

APRIL BRANCH BUSINESS MEETING
on
TUESDAY, APRIL 26th at 7:00 pm.
via
ZOOM

[Join Zoom Meeting Click Here](#)

Dial in 6468769923

Meeting ID: 879 9338 1048
Passcode: 557053