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## *President's Message*

June has arrived!

Along with the heat of summer, we have additional stressors in our lives – several mass shootings that have taken place AFTER 2 astounding incidents. Those incidents were in Buffalo, N.Y., where 10 people died at a grocery store, in what police have described as a racist massacre, and Uvalde, TX, where 19 children and 2 teachers were killed in an elementary school. How do we respond to such crisis? I have given this much thought and prayer. I now welcome you to share your feelings, experience, and solutions with us. Send your thoughts to the Triad at our email address where we welcome your expressions.

Deborah Thomas, this year's Woman of Achievement Award recipient, came to my mind. She experienced struggles and adversity, yet built and created positive outcomes for hundreds of children. THIS is what we must look to do in creative ways!

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Title IX, the landmark federal legislation that prohibits gender discrimination in any educational institution that receives federal funds. AAUW is holding a special virtual event to highlight their ongoing work on **Thursday, June 23, at 4:30 p.m. ET.** (see inside for the link). It is also time for membership renewal. Yeah! to those who have already renewed and to those of you who have not, HOP TO IT! See inside for full details. We are also looking for folks interested in fund raising!! Email Anita Nessin at [amnessin@hotmail.com](mailto:amnessin@hotmail.com).

June is also the closing time for some things: The Triad Presidents have enjoyed the comradery of working together this year. We have agreed to support in the future as well. If you find our organization exciting and have a desire to move it forward, please contact Maureen Brown at [mbrowsss74@gmail.com](mailto:mbrowsss74@gmail.com), the Nominating chairperson or any of the Triad presidents.

Finally, speaking for The Triad, we wish you a fun, exciting, restful and healthy summer. Stay tuned for developing events!

In the Spirit of Peace,

*Karen*



**Would you like to join AAUW Rockland?**

**Check out our [website](#) or**

**Contact Elda Graff at [eldagraff@gmail.com](mailto:eldagraff@gmail.com)**

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

**Tuesday, June 14, 2022**

**Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.\***

**Tuesday, June 28, 2022**

**Branch Meeting – 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

***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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# 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](mailto:kimberlyweston@msn.com)

**COMMUNICATIONS:** As our membership grows, so does the opportunity to add more members to our PHONE CHAIN COMMITTEE. The purpose of the Phone Chain committee is to keep in contact with all branch members and remind them of upcoming meetings and special events. It is a great opportunity to get to know more members through phone calls to them. If you are interested in joining the phone chain committee, please contact Sylvia Miller at [aauwsam@optonline.net](mailto:aauwsam@optonline.net) or 845 358-1680.

**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

**PUBLIC POLICY:** As leaders in the movement for equality in NY, AAUW-Rockland County, AAUW-NY State, and our coalition members are asking our members, friends and family to speak out NOW on three of our agreed upon legislative priorities:

- **Equality Amendment** - Krueger [S.8797A](#)/Seawright [A.10468A](#)
- **Statewide Salary Range Bill** - Ramos [S.5598D](#)/Joyner [A.6529B](#)
- **One Fair Wage Bill** - Biaggi [S.808](#)/Gonzales-Rojas [A.10203](#)

Call NYS legislative leaders who have the power to bring these bills to a floor vote. (Calls are far more powerful and your message will immediately be logged by a staff member in the Senator's or Speaker's office):

- Speaker Carl Heastie (518-455-3791) [Speaker@NYSAssembly.gov](mailto:Speaker@NYSAssembly.gov)
- Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins (518) 455-2585 [StewartCousins@NYSenate.Gov](mailto:StewartCousins@NYSenate.Gov)



## This month's Member Spotlight is on...

### *Sylvia Miller*



Born and raised in the Finger Lakes area of New York State (beautiful country). Graduated from St. Lawrence University with a BA in English. Enjoyed 4 delightful years there studying and participating in music and drama. Upon graduation, moved to Manhattan to start a job as health underwriter with MONY (Mutual of New York insurance company.) One day I had an unpleasant experience with my department manager who took me aside into a private office and screamed at me that he didn't like me. Nothing about my work ethic, just that he didn't like me. His face turned so red I feared he might have a stroke. Then he dismissed me and we went back to our respective desks. I was furious! The next day I submitted my resignation to personnel who asked my reason for leaving. I told them my story and they found me a much better job in the company as secretary in the regional office. Loved that job.

Meanwhile I had married George Miller (who worked for CBS TV news) and we enjoyed several years living in Manhattan with our two little daughters. Central Park was their playground. In time we moved to Rockland County for the excellent school system in Clarkstown at that time. I was an at-home mom for several years before returning to the work force, again as a secretary for a small Norwegian-owned pharmaceutical company in Ft. Lee, NJ. I spent the next 20 years with that company advancing from secretary to customer service manager to become the first woman product manager in the marketing department. This was a very fulfilling 20 years including many trips to Norway.

Meanwhile, our daughters have grown up, married and started families. Now there are 8 grandchildren and they are all growing up, some already graduating college and making their way in the world. Quality time spent with them.

Back in 1990, an ad in the local paper announcing an AAUW branch meeting changed my life, didn't it? My involvement began after my retirement in 1996. Since then, I have been corresponding secretary, treasurer, newsletter editor (thank you Doria for taking over this job), directory coordinator and Communications Chair, attended numerous Summer Leadership conferences and annual state conventions along with being a member of numerous committees while also being involved in the Rockland Sierra Club, League of Women Voters, AARP, gym classes, church deacon and choir member and Clarkstown Dem. Committee member.

That covers the last 20 plus years so maybe it's time for me to contemplate retirement once again. If anyone who loves to communicate would be interested in that position, please let me know. I would love to share!

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](mailto:triad.aauw@gmail.com)

Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, AAUW Rockland's **Woman of Achievement Celebration** was held virtually. This year's Woman of Achievement was Deborah Thomas who was nominated by our past president Joyce Brown. Deborah Thomas, mother of nine children has been very active in our Rockland County community. She has coached basketball and started and coached a track team, called "In Motion". There were approximately 50 participants including AAUW members, Deborah's family members and friends in attendance. In addition to our recognition, Ms. Thomas received certificates for her service from NYS Senator Elijah Reichlin Melnick, NYS Assemblymen Mike Lawler and Ken Zebrowski, Rockland County Executive Ed Day, and US Congressman Mondaire Jones.

Our outgoing State AAUW President, Janice Brown was with us for the event.

She installed our incoming officers and thanked our outgoing officers for their commitment to AAUW. The Branch also expressed their gratitude to the outgoing officers by presenting them each with a hanging plant.

I would like to thank the WOA committee, VP of Programming Doria Hillsman for all the tech support, and Karen Martin for serving as our MC. It was an inspiring evening. - Sandy Masiello, WOA Committee Chair.

***To view the recorded event, click on the image below.***



## AAUW-NYS Members



We are preparing a great virtual annual meeting. We will be celebrating 50 years of Title IX: "Getting Girls in the Game". We will start the Friday evening with a virtual presentation from the National Women's Hall of Fame followed by our first virtual paint & sip party. You will need to purchase your own supplies to participate([click here for supplies list](#)). On Saturday morning, we will continue with our business meeting along with a Title IX panel discussion of "Getting Girls in the Game". We will end with a keynote address from our very own CEO, Gloria Blackwell. Hope to see you in attendance. The AAUW-NYS Annual meeting starts on June 24th at 6:30pm and June 25, 2022 at 9:00am.

[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING



AARP Rockland will present their June ZOOM meeting on June 15 at 1:00 p.m. The topic is "Everything About Estate Planning that you were Afraid to Ask."

For further details, go to their website <https://www.technologytoday.us/AARP>.







## Celebrating 50 Years of Title IX

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Title IX, the landmark federal legislation that prohibits gender discrimination in any educational institution or program that receives federal funds. Through your support and advocacy, AAUW members are a key part of this law's legacy. To commemorate the day the legislation was signed (June 23, 1972), we're holding a special virtual event to highlight AAUW's important and ongoing work on Title IX and to recognize our generous supporters and affiliates. [Register now](#) for the virtual celebration on Thursday, June 23, at 4:30 p.m. ET.

You're also invited to [attend](#) a webinar on Wednesday, June 15, at 3 p.m. ET, titled "Exploring Tough Policy Issues Through an AAUW Lens: Title IX & Transgender Student Rights."

## OUR JUNE BRANCH MEETING...

Many feel that the most urgent issue of our time is the climate crisis. One report after another from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned the world that there is very limited time to avoid irreversible runaway climate change.

The question is, what can we do that will make a measurable difference? What are the most effective measures - and fast enough? The most powerful steps are those we take as a community.

An innovative new clean energy program in Rockland County offers a powerful climate action, helping communities quickly make the transition to clean, renewable energy and off polluting fossil fuels, while also helping to avoid rate increases.

Five Rockland communities are currently participating: Clarkstown, Orangetown, and the Villages of Haverstraw, Nyack, and Upper Nyack. Five new communities are planning to join the program this year: Suffern, Montebello, Piermont, Grand View-On-Hudson, and West Haverstraw. Two-thirds of Westchester communities are participating in a similar program.

**COME FIND OUT what makes this program so transformative at our Branch meeting on June 28 at 7:00 pm .** Where we will once again host energy advocate and environmentalist, Peggy Kurtz. Meanwhile, for more information you can find online Info Sessions at [www.rocklandcommunitypower.com/events](http://www.rocklandcommunitypower.com/events), or you can contact the local Community Coordinator at [peggy@joulecommunitypower.com](mailto:peggy@joulecommunitypower.com) or (845) 709-0802.

**ALSO... COME TO MEET SOME OF OUR MOST RECENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS. FIND OUT HOW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THESE YOUNG STUDENTS.**



We have come to the end of another business year! Whew! Many thanks to our Triad – what a tremendous job they have done in supporting the Branch and moving it forward – each with her own brand of grace and style. I would once again like to thank Sylvia Miller (our June Member Spotlight) for her dedicated and expert assistance in making FACETS 'happen' each month and for all of the kind and thoughtful ways that she has supported me throughout the year. I wish you and all of those whom you hold dear, a happy, healthy, safe, and productive summer. See you in September!

*Doria*