

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



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*LAF/ Scholarship Chair,*  
Charlotte Sorger

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Ann Mulligan

## AAUW LEADERSHIP



Meet **Gloria L. Blackwell**, our (fairly) new CEO. Gloria, is also AAUW's main representative to the United Nations. Among her many accomplishments is her 15-year management of AAUW's highly esteemed fellowships and grants program—awarding more than \$70 million in funding to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and overseas. Thank you for your leadership and your service, Gloria!



Meet **Carol Griffith** our new New York State President. Carol has served AAUW on the state level for many years. She has attended several of our virtual meetings and is a friend to the Rockland Branch. She hails from the Buffalo Branch. We look forward to working with Carol and wish her a productive and successful term!



...and in case you haven't heard... our own **Suzanne Young Mercer** was just elected in June 2022 as the NY State President-Elect. Suzanne continues to serve on the state board as the Diversity/Cultural Director and remains an active member of the Branch. Congratulations, Suzanne. Once again, you 'do us proud'!

# JOIN US TODAY

Check out our [website](#) or  
Contact Membership Vice- President,  
Elda Graff at [eldagraff@gmail.com](mailto:eldagraff@gmail.com)



***N.B. Unless otherwise indicated, meetings will take place via ZOOM.***



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<b>Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Book Club Meeting <sup>+</sup> 3:00 PM <i>Betty Handelman's home</i>
<b>Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Executive Board Meeting*
<b>Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Branch Kick-Off Meeting
<b>Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Book Club Meeting <sup>+</sup>
<b>Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Executive Board Meeting*
<b>Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Candidates' Forum w/ LWV <sup>+</sup>
<b>Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Book Club Meeting <sup>+</sup>
<b>Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Executive Board Meeting*

<sup>+</sup> Book Club Meeting locations will be announced monthly (3-5pm).

\*All are welcome.

***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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*AAUW awarded over \$6 million in funding to more than 320 fellows and grantees in the 2022-23 award year. These exceptional recipients will empower women and girls through their work*

**FACES OF AAUW**

# Meet a Grantee



As an advocate for social justice, Chasity J. Deal is currently researching the correlation between inadequate housing and inequitable health care within our underrepresented and underserved populations.

Her work also focuses on poverty and health, and how this correlation affects entire populations. She intends to pursue her doctoral degree upon earning her master's. Her goal is to start a nonprofit research organization devoted to eradicating food and water insecurity in the United States.



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

### AAUW Membership Renewal FY 2023

With the renewal period ending shortly, if you haven't renewed your membership, we're asking you today to continue the legacy of moving women forward and renew your membership for \$90 payable to the AAUW Rockland County Branch.

As you renew your membership, take pride in knowing that the work being done does continue to make a difference in the lives of women and is very important. Kindly mail to:  
AAUW Membership AAUW Rockland County Branch, PO Box 19, West Nyack, NY10994

Thank you. Your Membership Committee

# 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:** It is DIRECTORY update time once again. Please review your personal information in the 2021-2022 Directory and let me know if any changes are required. Remember, the Directory only includes information for **paid** members. Many of you have not paid your dues yet so please do so ASAP.

**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

**MEMBERSHIP:** With the renewal period ending shortly, if you haven't renewed your membership, we're asking you today to continue the legacy of moving women forward and renew your membership for \$90 payable to the AAUW Rockland County Branch. As you renew your membership, take pride in knowing that the work being done does continue to make a difference in the lives of women and is very important.

Kindly mail to: AAUW Membership, AAUW Rockland County Branch, PO Box 19, West Nyack, NY 10994 Thank you. Your Membership Committee

# in Memoriam



Our oldest member, **Dorothie Flieger**, died June 4, 2022 on her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was born in Brooklyn and then grew up in Queens. As a teenager, Dorothie sneaked out with a boyfriend to take flying lessons without her parents' knowledge, stopping only when she stopped dating the flyboy. During World War II, she trained in the Cadet Nurse Corps.

In 1950 she married George J. Flieger. They built their home themselves on Strawtown Road in New City where they raised three children and lived the rest of their lives, looking out at Lake De Forest and watching nature. Here, they enjoyed hosting big family reunions and star-gazing sleepovers in the backyard with their children and then their grandchildren. Returning to college in her 40's, Dorothie earned her BA from SUNY-Empire State College, her master's from the College of New Rochelle and a degree in advanced administration from SUNY New Paltz. She worked as a special-education teacher and as an instructor for special-ed teachers before becoming the supervisor of Rise West School in West Nyack from 1976 to 1983. She then served as supervisor of the Clarkstown Central School District's special education program for the next 10 years. In 1993 she was honored by the Rockland County Association for Disabilities, and was recognized by Rockland County's Executive, the state Assembly and the U.S. Congress for her community service. In 1997 she was elected to the school district's Education Hall of Fame. After she retired, she volunteered with People to People, Meals on Wheels and Nyack Hospital.

Dorothie and her husband enjoyed traveling around the world, visiting friends and relatives across Europe and Australia, and most of the 50 states. She went parasailing in her 60's for the first time in Hawaii. In her 80s, she made two humanitarian trips to Vietnam as part of the Spring Valley Rotary Club initiative with U.S. veterans to build schools there. She had fun kayaking through the jungle and riding on motorcycles through the rice paddies with the veterans. The trips more importantly had touched her soul. Helping educate young Vietnamese girls became a priority for her, and she started a scholarship fund for them.

After her husband's sudden death in 1989, Dorothie went on many mother-daughter trips with daughter Nanette Fishman through the U.S. and Canada. In her 80s and 90s she travelled to France and Italy. She especially enjoyed visiting her grandchildren in Denver and Boston and having them stay with her in New York. On her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday, she celebrated by zip-lining for the first time with her children and grandchildren.

Dorothie was the founder and president of the Rockland County chapter of New York State Special Educators, Inc., was a member of the Spring Valley Rotary Club, the Historical Society of Rockland County and the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was a member of AAUW Rockland for 15 years, our recording secretary for four years and a member of many committees especially the Woman of Achievement Committee. Her family held a wonderful celebration of Dorothie's life on August 27, 2022. Many AAUW members attended and shared more memories with families and friends. Dorothie was an extraordinary woman and we were privileged to have her as a member of our AAUW branch. We will all miss her charm and smiling face. To honor Dorothie, contributions can be made to our Mimi Korb Scholarship by mailing a donation to AAUW Rockland Branch, P. O. Box 19, West Nyack, NY 10994. Include "**Mimi Korb Scholarship**" in the memo line.

# in Memoriam



*I'm so sorry to hear that Dorothy has passed away. She will always be remembered for a blessing ~ Ellie Grossman*

*So sorry to hear this. Dorothy was a wonderful person always extending her home to us in my early days as a member. A life well lived. ~ Suzanne Young-Mercer*

*I am very sorry to hear of Dorothy's passing. She joined AAUW in 2008 and was a member of the Annual Dinner/Woman of Achievement Committee. Always a gracious and giving lady, she will be greatly missed. ~ Sandy Masiello*

*I am very sorry to hear about Dorothy Flieger's passing. She was a very bright, accomplished and productive woman even during her later years. She was a neighbor of mine -she was within walking distance from me. ~ Myrna Silberman*

*She had one amazing life and we will miss her charm and smiling face. Our sincerest sympathy is extended to Dorothy's family. ~ Sylvia Miller*



The AAUW Book Club meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday from 3:00- 5:00 PM. Meeting locations will be announced monthly. The September meeting will take place in the home of Betty Handelman. Call (845) 634-8211 for details.

September 12<sup>th</sup> – “The Exiles”, by Christine Kline

October 10<sup>th</sup> – “The Sea of Tranquility”, by Emily St. John Mandel



## WHERE WE STAND: Reproductive Rights

The U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 ruling in *Roe v. Wade* established abortion as a constitutionally protected right. However, the promise of *Roe v. Wade* has never been a reality for all, and abortion rights have been under attack ever since. AAUW strongly condemns the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. AAUW believes everyone has the right to make decisions about their own reproductive lives without government interference. Abortion access is vital to women's ability to control their lives, bodies and futures. Without reproductive freedom, there can be no equity. (Read the full AAUW position statement at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/rallying-for-repro-rights/>)



*Member Anita Nessin (shown here) wished to share this intensely personal story in hopes of, "stimulating further submissions or conversations". Thank you for sharing your story, Anita.*

### **One Woman's Story**

By Anita Nessin

It was 1965. Fall. I'd just turned 19. I was a sophomore at Boston University. He was a senior at Northeastern. I'd had intercourse for the first time. Unprotected. Selling any contraception/birth control device was illegal in Massachusetts. My period was late. Nothing terribly unusual there. It was often late, but now I'd had sex. Unprotected because neither of us were expecting it to happen. Dumb. I know. I was totally naïve about sex. I went to a clinic and lied. I claimed to be married. The result, pregnant. We panicked. Something had to be done and fast. Neither of us wanted to have a baby. We started very cautiously and under the radar asking around. No one knew anyone who could help us. We heard that abortions could be had in Puerto Rico. We tried calling and asking. No luck. The December break was coming up and my parents were expecting me home. I tried saying I was invited to a friend's house for the holiday. No luck. I could never put anything over on my mother. Just saying "hello" and she would know if something was wrong. I had to tell them.

I was told in no uncertain terms to get my ass on the bus and come home. A very long four hours. They met me at Port Authority. Back then, cars could pull up to the curb and pick up passengers exiting the building. There they were. The drive home to Nassau County was the longest car ride of my life. I remember long, deep silences in my parents' small house. I withdrew into silence myself. I had disappointed them. Daddy's little girl had gotten pregnant. I had disappointed my father. I had never known despair so deep. My uncle, my mother's brother-in-law, was our family doctor. He refused to help. Not only did he refuse to do anything, he wouldn't even give my parents names of colleagues who might. (I later learned he had also refused to help at least two of my cousins who had come to him for the same help.) I never knew who my parents called, who they asked, probably my mother's sisters, but we were lucky. They got a name. A doctor who worked at the VA hospital in the Bronx. We met with him. I was so deeply withdrawn, I have only a vague, shadowy memory of the meeting. Arrangements were made, a price agreed on. I never knew how much, several hundred, I'm sure. Not an easy amount for my parents, I know, but they were able to do it for me. Not long after that meeting, we drove out to his home office out on Long Island, and it was done. My memory of it is as if looking at old, faded black and white photos of someone else.

I was married in March 1966. It was the only way I was able to go back to school in Boston. My father died in 1992, my mother in 2012, but that day right before Christmas, 1965 was never spoken of again in my family. I see photos of my parents from that time, and I see it on their faces, especially my father, the stress, the worry. I never regretted getting an abortion. I have always regretted putting them through that. Eight years after my illegal abortion, *Roe v. Wade* was decided based on a woman's right to privacy as protected by the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution. Women, and the doctors who helped them, no longer had to sneak around. They were no longer criminals.

On June 24, 2022, women in this country lost the right to the privacy of their own bodies that for fifty years was guarantee by the Constitution. And so, it starts again, and more families will experience the stress and despair. Many will not be as lucky as I was.