

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



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President's Message

We have come to November... time to decide by voting who and how our country will be guided, celebrate Native American Heritage Month and consider what we are thankful for.

Do you know the answer to the question: When were American women given the right to vote? I thought I knew that answer... but I didn't know when ALL AMERICAN women were given that right. The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits states from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex, in effect recognizing the right of women to vote. In August of 1920, 26 million American women were given the right to vote in the presidential election! Despite this, however, millions of American women continued to be disenfranchised! I remember watching TV and seeing water hoses and dogs attacking African Americans – the Voting Act of 1965 gave them the right to vote. Native Americans were barred from the ballot until 1957. National immigration laws prevented Asians from gaining citizenship (and voting rights) until 1952. Hispanic English -speaking women could vote in 1935 but bilingual ballots didn't come until 1975. ALL were Americans. Wow... what it took! Now, please, with energy, call a friend, take a buddy and **go VOTE**.

Sunday, October 23rd was our branch meeting, held at the JCC in conjunction with League of Women Voters and 5 other organizations for their Candidate Forum. About 60 folks came out to hear representatives from newly redrawn districts 96 and 97. I'm glad I had the opportunity to hear additional views and to see who else might be elected.

Mark your calendar for next year. November 1st begins the observance of Native American Heritage Month. Set aside by President Bush in 1990, we take this time to focus on the culture, traditions, and achievements of the nation's original inhabitants and their descendants. Please Google "[10 Ways to Celebrate Native American Heritage Month](#)".

We are almost at the end of the year and still have two groups which have not equaled last year's pay for white males. Native women are being paid 50 cents for every dollar paid to white men. Their Equal Pay Day is November 30th. See inside for the article on gender bias in education and info on our upcoming branch meeting, Tuesday, November 29th. The topic of discussion will be Title IX. Please plan to attend.

Our country has set aside time for us to be intentionally thankful with both our thinking and our actions. Many community organizations welcome donations, particularly at this time. I am thankful to wake up every morning healthy, wealthy, and retired! I love "expecting" God to work in my life. What are you going to celebrate this Thanksgiving?

With a grateful heart,

Karen

"Women can help turn the world right side up. We bring a more collaborative approach to government. And if we do not participate, then decisions will be made without us". Wilma Mankiller, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation since 1985.

JOIN US TODAY

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



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



Monday, November 14	Book Club Meeting ⁺ <i>"I Was Better Last Night", by Harvey Feirstein</i>
Tuesday, November 15	Executive Board Meeting*
Tuesday, November 29	Branch Meeting
Saturday, December 3	Ladies who Lunch
Tuesday, December 6	Executive Board Meeting*
Thursday, December 8	High School Engineering Conference
Monday, December 10	Book Club Meeting <i>"The Murder Room", by John McDonald</i>
Saturday, December 17	EOF Holiday Party
Tuesday, January 10	Executive Board Meeting*
Thursday, January 24	Branch Meeting

⁺ 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.

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CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Community Action Grants

DO you know of a local group with an interesting project?

Funding: \$3,000-\$10,000

Opens: August 1 every year

Deadline: December 1 every year

Community Action Grants provide funding to individuals, AAUW branches and AAUW state organizations as well as community-based nonprofits for innovative programs that promote education and equity for women and girls. Since 1972, AAUW has provided support to hundreds of communities across the United States.

Find out more: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/current-opportunities/community-action/>

Thanks to Patricia Lopez for contributing this information.



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



LADIES WHO LUNCH

**Saturday, December 3, 2022 @ 12:30 p.m. at AQUA TERRA GRILLE, 420 N. MIDDLETOWN ROAD, Pearl River, NY (across from Pfizer)
845-920-1340**

Come and join AAUW members who like to eat and share latest, and not-so-latest activities. We hope that all who are currently working will join those of us who are no longer gainfully employed.

Contact Charlotte Sorger charlottesweb914@aol.com

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: Let your voice be heard!!! Be sure to vote AND flip the ballot over to vote on the proposed environmental bond act of 2022.

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.

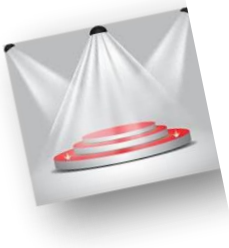
PUBLIC POLICY: The initial PowHer Equity Summit was held on 10/13 /22. The work product will be the coalition’s public policy agenda for legislative action in 2023. During the 2022 NY legislative session, there was an intense effort to get a **NY State Wage Transparency Law**. After lots of work by various members of our coalition, we succeeded in getting the language agreed to by Senate and Assembly. The agreed upon legislation was sent to the Governor for signature after which it will become NY State Law. The Governor has not yet signed legislation into law. New York City succeeded in getting their bill signed into law and it became law and went into effect November 1 for NY City. AAUW NY State and the branches across the state will continue our effort to pass this pay equity law in the 2023 legislative session. – Ann Mulligan



ALL AAUW Members should be receiving ACTION ALERTS.

Action alerts are notifications sent to members when there is an urgent need to communicate with legislators regarding issues which are aligned with our mission to advance equity for women and girls. If you have not signed up to receive ACTION ALERTS. Please do so today!

[Click Here to SIGN UP TODAY](#)



This month's Member Spotlight is on...

April N. Biggs



Hello, my name is April N. Biggs. I am the eldest of seven children, two girls, the oldest and the youngest and five boys in between. I grew up in a home in Hollis, Queens, NYC. Since my parents had so many children, we grew up learning how to do many tasks around the house. Our parents were very practical and brought us up to be "do-it yourself'ers" for which I am grateful. We, as a family always made things and made repairs around the house. We each had a turn in the kitchen and during the summer we would help paint, build, change tires, scrape floors and do wash as well as other things to do around the house. I attended the HS of Art and Design and majored in Sculpture.

Sculpture was a love I didn't know I had. The study of sculpture led to my understanding of how to finish and polish stones and wood. This would later aid me in my other loved activity, making jewelry. I attended CCNY and at first majored in Art Education. During my junior year at college, I found out that there were no jobs in NYC for art teachers. It was at that time I found out about Industrial Arts. Girls at that time were never allowed to take shop classes and so I had no idea what Industrial Arts was. I investigated and decided that it was what I wanted to study. I then changed my major to Industrial Arts Education, preparing me to become - a shop teacher.

After finishing my studies at CCNY I married my high school sweetheart, Anthony. Soon after this, we both got our first corporate jobs. I was at Xerox Corp as a Technical Representative and Anthony was as an architect at IBM where he still works today. I was trained by Xerox Corporation to diagnose and repair Xerox copiers. I passed the exam required for this position with such high marks, that I was accused of getting the answers from my brothers, who had taken the test a few years before. They just couldn't believe that a woman would score so well on a technical exam! I loved that job until it took too much time from my growing family. My daughter was born. Living in SE Queens required my commuting time to be a total of 4 hours in addition to 35 working hours. I then decided to work as a Para Professional at the neighborhood high school. I had worked there for 2 years when my Assistant Principal told me that she wanted me to teach a jewelry making Industrial Arts class. Even though I had completed all of the work required for graduation from CCNY, I did not have my degree conferred. I advised my AP of this and she responded, "Well you'd better go back and get your degree because you will be teaching this course in February". Well fast forward, I did have my degree conferred at that time and also took the NYC and the NYS teachers' exams and passed. I became a teacher.

It was not easy at first, but the more I taught the more I enjoyed it. Soon, my husband's job required him to relocate to Rockland County. Off we moved to Rockland County. Coming from Queens, I never knew of this area. With two additional children (twin boys), I stayed at home for 5 years here in Rockland and then decided to go back to work. My first job was working as a specialist at Deer Mountain Day camp. It was a gentle way to get back into teaching. I then applied for a substitute teaching job at ERCSD and was hired as a full time Electronics teacher. While working as a technology teacher because of the shortage of teachers I worked in 3 different schools in ERCSD. I also earned my Master's degree while teaching there. My teaching career led me to work at SOCSO. I worked for 11 wonderful years there and learned a great deal from the great teachers, administration, students and parents in that district. It also introduced me to Science Olympiad, an after-school science club. I was one of 3 coaches for the club. We were very successful and went to the State competition 7 times. One of the organizations I learned about while working at SOCSO was AAUW. Joyce Brown had a program which introduced Middle School aged girls to college programs at RCC. My technology classes were notified and several girls in my classes were invited to take part in the program. This program lit a fire in all of us and most of the students in this program continued to study STEM in High School and in college.

After retiring from SOCSO I joined AAUW and became the Recording Secretary for the Rockland Branch. Since retiring, I am enjoying the hobbies I have always loved, I have the great joy of studying metal smithing, lamp glass bead making and traveling the world with Anthony. Thank you for this opportunity to share part of my life with you.



If you have not already voted, you may wish to confirm your voting district or polling place. New Yorkers can find this information at <https://www.vote411.org/> a resource for ALL voting information and deadlines provided by the League of Women Voters Education Fund.




Absentee Ballot Information

***November 7** is the last day for an applicant or agent to **apply in person** at the Board of Elections for the November General Election absentee ballot.

***November 8** is the last day to **postmark the General Election absentee ballot** by mail. **The ballot must be received by the Board of Elections no later than November 15 (7 days).**

November 8 is the last day to **deliver the General Election absentee ballot** in person to the Board of Elections or at any poll site throughout the county, by the close of the polls on election day.



The AAUW Book Club meets every 2nd Monday from 3:00 – 5:00 PM. The November meeting will take place in the home of Betty Handelman. For details call (845) 634-8211.

November 14th – “I Was Better Last Night”, by Harvey Fierstein

December 12th – “The Murder Room”, by John McDonald


MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!! IMPORTANT TITLE IX INFO!!!



November Branch Meeting
Tuesday, November 29, 2022 7:00 pm

Title IX – What You Should Know
GUEST SPEAKER – DR. LATOYA BLOUNT

Dr. Blount is the Executive Director of Student Engagement and College Life and serves as Title IX Coordinator at SUNY Rockland Community College. She will be sharing information on the history, enforcement, and efficacy of **Title IX**, a federal regulation which prohibits sex discrimination of any kind in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Please plan to JOIN US for this dynamic and informative presentation.



CLICK BELOW TO JOIN THE MEETING

[Join Zoom Meeting- CLICK HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 847 8495 4489 Passcode: 062789 OR DIAL- IN 646 931 3860



Our *Holiday Luncheon* is set for
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2022
 at **12:00 PM**

Golden Mushroom Chinese Restaurant
425 N. Highland Avenue Nyack, NY 10960
 the cost is **\$25.00**

Contact *Ellie Grossman*, (845) 642-5226 to reserve *TODAY!*

Are YOU or someone you know interested in learning tips and principles for growing and maintaining a small business? Don't miss:

"From Surviving to Thriving: A Guide for Small Business Owners"

Register at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkd-yorj0uE9xXItpw6VkCERrvSmp1Mj1W>

Pass it on!



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Rockland County Alumnae Chapter
Ouida Foster Toubeton, President

**From Surviving to Thriving:
 A Guide for Small Business Owners**

NOVEMBER 17, 2022
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Virtual - Zoom

Join us and learn about marketing, mentorship, business credit, legacy planning and growing your business

Free and open to the public

Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkd-yorj0uE9xXItpw6VkCERrvSmp1Mj1W>



Chris Fields
Moderator



Bob Janesak
Chair, SCORE



Dr. Ivy Rentz
Owner, Kidz Korner



Louis Scamardella
Regional Director, SBDC



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 NAACP**

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<https://www.instagram.com/rcacdsl/>

www.rcacdsl.org

