



# FACETS

ROCKLAND COUNTY (NY) BRANCH

DECEMBER 2022



## President's Message

December and winter have arrived! Hunker down, pull out your warm sweats & socks and grab a hot beverage. I have a few things for you to think about...“The American Association of University Women (AAUW) strongly condemns the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization. The decision overturns the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling that established abortion as a constitutionally protected right nearly 50 years ago and ignores the will of the American people, 80% of whom support legal abortion.” (AAUW .org) **How is this decision changing our community and way of life?** “American women... hold nearly two-thirds of the nation’s student-loan debt... President Biden’s recent announcement to forgive \$20,000 of student loan debt for Pell Grant recipients, \$10,000 for many other borrowers, and to extend the federal student loan payment pause for all borrowers.” (AAUW .org) **Will women feel empowered and encouraged to pursue higher education and incur more debt?** “In a calculation of the latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau comparing full-time, year-round workers, women took home 83.7% of the pay of men in the same demographic—a figure that is not statistically different from the pay gap in 2020.” (AAUW .org) ...While Equal Pay Day for Native American women was November 30<sup>th</sup>, Equal Pay Day for Latinas is December 8. **What advocacy efforts are you/we making to combat this inequality?** Please think about the questions above as you consider your participation, and support of AAUW.

Our November branch meeting had about 25 folks attending to hear Dr. Latoya Blount, the Title IX Coordinator at RCC speak about Title IX. Her presentation was specific and concise; the information well received. On Saturday, December 3 nine members enjoyed delicious food and conversation as we partook in The Ladies who Lunch. Check this newsletter for information on the upcoming Engineer’s Conference and our Holiday Fund Raiser.

The Branch has drafted a Strategic Plan for 2022-23 and possibly beyond. This will be presented to the board at the next meeting. We express gratitude to the committee but a special thank you to Sandra Countee for her guidance and direction. In July, new officers were added to our national board. In April we expect to add new officers to Rockland AAUW. All of you are qualified to carry our mission forward. A Nominating Committee person will be calling you soon. Please be thoughtful; be prepared and say, “Yes, I will serve”.

I wish The Visit of a Cardinal upon you! ([Look it up](#)) I am blessed for the support of our board members and all branch members. Thank you. Peace and Joy,

Karen

**“We are committed to a multipronged approach to achieving pay equity...We are committed to fighting for women’s economic security with every tool available. It’s the only way we will be able to make progress in this unrelenting battle to close the pay and wealth gaps.” AAUW CEO Gloria L. Blackwell.**

President,  
Karen Martin  
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EOF Chair,  
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Charlotte Sorger

Public Policy Chair,  
Ann Mulligan

# 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.**



<b>Saturday, December 3</b>	Ladies who Lunch
<b>Tuesday, December 6</b>	Executive Board Meeting*
<b>Thursday, December 8</b>	High School Engineering Conference
<b>Monday, December 10</b>	Book Club Meeting <i>"The Murder Room", by John McDonald</i>
<b>Saturday, December 17</b>	EOF Holiday Party
<b>Monday, January 9</b>	Book Club Meeting <i>"The Personal Librarian", by Marie Benedict</i>
<b>Tuesday, January 10</b>	Executive Board Meeting*
<b>Thursday, January 24</b>	Branch Meeting
<b>Tuesday, February 7</b>	Executive Board Meeting
<b>Saturday, February 25</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Diversity Brunch

+ 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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# WHAT'S HAPPENING.

**FROM CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, KIMBERLY WESTON:** Please forward any information regarding special events, such as weddings, illnesses, graduations, surgeries, etc. We 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 our special birthday roster.

[kimberlyweston@msn.com](mailto:kimberlyweston@msn.com)

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Please see information regarding our Holiday Party on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> and Tricky Tray Raffle. Happy Holidays!

**ENGINEERING COMMITTEE:** The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Engineering Committee will be held (virtually) on **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM**. All members are welcome to attend!

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

**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.

**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

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** In order for the Branch to move forward, as of July 2023, the following executive board positions must be filled: 1) President 2) Vice-President of Programming 3) Treasurer. Please consider “stepping up to the plate”, to keep the Branch active and vibrant. We need YOU! – Maureen Brown

**PUBLIC POLICY:** The NY City Council signed into law a pay transparency law. It has been made public information and will be enforceable in December. The NY State bill was passed by both houses of our state legislature and sent to Governor Hochul for her signature and become law in our state. It remains without signature. Our coalition with PowHer NY on pay equity and additional issues of economic importance to women and girls provides many opportunities to become involved in these policy issues. Find out more at <https://www.powherny.org/>

**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

**WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT:** Every December our committee seeks nominees from our branch membership for our Rockland Woman of Achievement award. The nominee should be a Rockland resident who has affected a positive change in our community. A one- page summary on why nominee is deserving of this award should be mailed to: AAUW Rockland Branch Woman of Achievement Committee | PO Box 19 | West Nyack, NY 10994 – 0019. Please submit your nominee by **January 14, 2023 to** Sandy Masiello at - [sandymasi22@yahoo.com](mailto:sandymasi22@yahoo.com)

We will be hosting our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Engineering Conference on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 at 9:00 AM.

The event is virtual. PLEASE JOIN US! [CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)



## AAUW-NSPE 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Engineering Conference

Thursday, December 8, 2022 9:00 – 10:30 AM

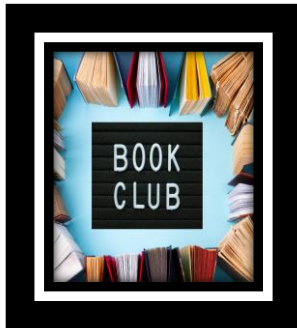
*Presenter, Felicia Long is a Rockland County native, a graduate of Howard University and works as an Electromagnetic Effects Engineer for the Boeing Company in Oklahoma City, OK.*

REGISTER YOUR STUDENTS TODAY FOR THIS DYNAMIC IN-SCHOOL FIELD TRIP

(845) 598-8520 FOR MORE INFORMATION

**RESERVE** a smart space in your building  
**RECRUIT** students who want to 'attend'  
**REGISTER ... TODAY!**

Games... Prize\$\$\$... College and Summer Engineering Program Info ... Scholarships... and MORE



The AAUW Book Club meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday from  
3:00 – 5:00 PM.

For details on the location of the December meeting call (845)  
634-8211.

December 12<sup>th</sup> – “The Murder Room”, by John McDonald

January 9<sup>th</sup> – “The Personal Librarian”

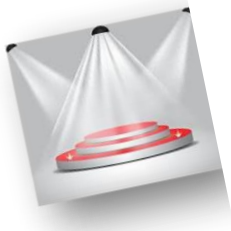


ALL AAUW Members should be receiving ACTION ALERTS.

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!

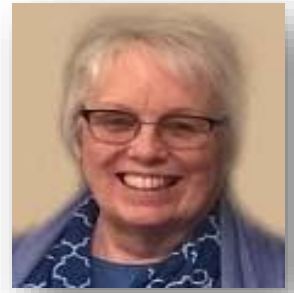
[Click Here to SIGN UP TODAY](#)





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

# Suzanne Belisle



When we sold my mom's house, I 'inherited' all the photos and documents. My job was to organize and digitize photos and documents and distribute originals and copies to family members. My mom had gotten all of *her* mom's documents and photos, since she was the only one who lived locally. As I went over the documents, to my surprise, I discovered that both my grandmothers were born in Maine, but

had citizenship documents. Both my grandfathers were born in Canada. I ended up with three generations of photos and documents for both my maternal and paternal grandmothers. Both my grandfathers died before I was born. I could not figure out why my grandmothers who were both born in Maine had *citizenship* documents, and although I asked older family members, no one seemed to know...

A few years later in 2017, I read an interesting article entitled: "*That Time American Women Lost Their Citizenship Because They Married Foreigners.*" This article provided me with extensive facts and information to pass on to the next generation regarding the puzzling citizen documents of my grandmothers. The author of the article was Tanya Ballard Brown. At the time she wrote this article, she worked for National Public Radio (NPR). I wanted to share the information and republish the article through AAUW, however, NPR refused permission for me to publish the article even after I offered to make a donation to NPR honoring Tanya Ballard Brown. The reason given was that it is because AAUW is an advocacy group and NPR does not want to be associated with any advocacy groups.

Fortunately, we have Wikipedia. Ms. Brown's keywords enabled me to be to conduct more in-depth research. In my family, both my grandmothers were born in the United States but when they married, they became aliens. They could become naturalized citizens only if their husbands applied for, were accepted, and completed the naturalization process. At that time if the marriage was terminated by annulment, divorce or death, repatriation for women was possible by taking various steps. (see Expatriation Act of 1917) It is important to note that an immigrant wife of an American man immediately became a US citizen upon marriage, but an American woman who married a foreigner and continued to live in the United States lost her citizenship.

The Cable Act was introduced into the House by John L. Cable and passed the House of Representatives on June 20, 1922, passed the Senate on September 9, 1922 and was signed into law by President Harding on September 22, 1922. The Nationality Act of 1940, in effect repealed the first four sections, and amendments of the Cable Act, allowing all women whose citizenship had been lost by marriage to repatriate without regard to their marital status. Fortunately, by providing the names of two key pieces of legislation, Tanya Ballard Brown shed light on an important piece of history that had significant impact on my grandmothers early in their married life. We know that during the First World War, some American women were in danger of being relocated and expatriated if they had married a foreign national.

The hundredth anniversary of the passage of the Cable Law was this year on September 22, 2022. This law determined the trajectory of my family's nationality (on *both* sides) and is responsible for the citizenship that my family will enjoy for generations to come.

SUE



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**

**Call Anita Nessin at (845) 369-98945 to save your place!**

**Donations for the Tricky Tray Raffle should be given to Sylvia Miller**  
**no later than December 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Call Sylvia at (845) 358- 1680 to arrange donation drop-offs.**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!!! And a HAPPY 2023!!!**

**2023**



*We extend our sincere condolences to our member Phyllis Morena  
whose husband Tony died on Nov. 19, 2022.  
It has also been learned that former member Edna Andreassi lost her  
husband Eugene in October, 2022.  
Thoughts of sympathy, courage and peace are sent to both these ladies  
and their families.*