



FACETS



ROCKLAND COUNTY (NY) BRANCH

FEBRUARY 2023

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

President,
Karen Martin
aauw.kmartin@gmail.com

FACETS Editor
Programming Vice-President,
Doria E. Hillsman

Membership Vice-
President,
Elda Graff

Treasurer,
Sandra Blasy

Recording Secretary,
Ann Kinney

Corresponding
Secretary,
Kimberly Weston

Communications Chair,
Sylvia Miller

EOF Chair,
Ellie Grossman

LAF/ Scholarship Chair,
Charlotte Sorger

Public Policy Chair,
Ann Mulligan

President's Message

The 2nd month of the New Year, what do we think of? Hearts, roses, and valentines? Black History month? What do they have in common? Hmmm. We intentionally think...of their importance! We pay homage in each, we remember the deeds done, highlight the efforts, consider the contributions.

It was not always this way for people of color. In 1976, President Ford took the week Carter Woodson established as Black History Week (1926) and declared it Black History MONTH as a time to highlight historical accomplishments and contributions of Black people. Furthermore, this month we must challenge what we learned in history, learn anew, and provide due diligence for the future. We continue to have great needs in education addressing inequities, career work, fair housing practices and discrimination, health equality, civic engagement and economic development. We need to address voting rights, and racial profiling. The work is not done. The commemorative month remains necessary because racism and bias continue to shape every aspect of life in the U.S. Help us remain vigilant in the struggle for freedom, equality and justice. Black history is American History. Our January Branch meeting proved to be an eye opener. 25-30 attendees learned about "Food Insufficiency and Insecurity in RC by Julian Palmer, Exec. Dir. of TOUCH. This organization, in Rockland and Orange County has for 30 years, provided individual medical case management for people living with chronic conditions, nutritional counseling, and community support. The organization has distributed over 1 million tons of food and is accessing over 30 partner food pantries in Rockland County. You can go to touchny.org to learn about outreach as well as how you can help.

Where are we going in February? Mark February 25th in your calendar for the SHOWCASE of DIVERSITY. See inside for more details. Where are we going in the future? While I was reluctant initially, to take on the role of President, I have now done so for almost 2 years. This year, I have taken on other obligations and need to step down. **We cannot have a branch without a president.** Please consider 2 years of leading or co-leading and call Maureen Brown. Take a moment. Think of someone you love. Take a piece of copy paper. Cut out a heart! Or lots of hearts, and inside write "I think enough of you to make THIS VALENTINE !!!" Sign and Mail! Who is going to BE MINE? ...

Fondly,

Karen



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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Tuesday, February 7	Executive Board Meeting*
Monday, February 13	Book Club Meeting
Saturday, February 25	22nd Annual Diversity Brunch <i>Register TODAY!!! (See inside)</i>
Monday, March 13	Book Club Meeting
Tuesday, March 14	Executive Board Meeting*
Saturday, March 25	Women's History Month Celebration
Tuesday, April 11	Executive Board Meeting*
Tuesday, April 25	Annual Business Meeting
Tuesday, May 9	Executive Board Meeting*
Tuesday, May 24	Woman of Achievement Award Dinner
Tuesday, June 13	Executive Board Meeting*
Tuesday, June 27	June Branch Meeting

*All are welcome.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: Our AAUW Rockland Directory will be off the press shortly. Would you prefer your copy via email instead of a paper copy? Just let me know at aausam@optonline.net. Thanks, Sylvia.

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

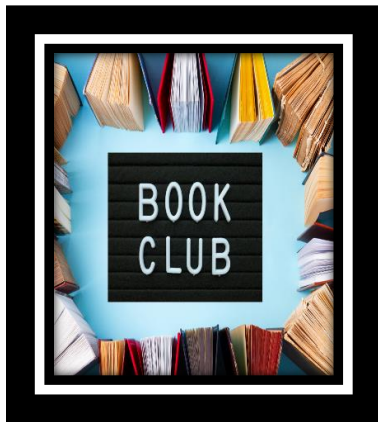
NOMINATING COMMITTEE: In order for the Branch to move forward, as of July 2023, the following executive board positions must be filled: 1) President 2) Vice-President of Programming 3) Treasurer. Please consider “stepping up to the plate”, to keep the Branch active and vibrant. We need YOU! – Maureen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

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

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
aaurockland62@gmail.com
<http://rocklandcounty-ny.aauw.net>
aauw.kmartin@gmail.com



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

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

February 13th - “Bomber Mafia”, by Malcolm Gladwell

March 13th - “The Nature of Fragile Things”,
by Susan Meissner



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](#) - or text AAUW to 21333 to receive text notifications!!

Showcasing Diversity in Rockland

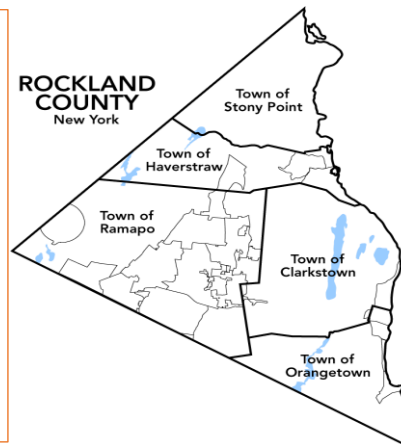
AAUW Rockland Branch
23rd Annual Diversity Brunch
Saturday February 25, 2023

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Pilgrim Baptist Church
80 N. Franklin Street
Nyack, NY

\$25 Payable at the Door

PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE



REGISTER TODAY AT: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YDFFCZY>

Organizations Represented on Panel Discussion

Phyllis B Frank Pride Center of Rockland

Konbit Neg Lakay

100 Hispanic Women of Rockland County



This Month's Member Spotlight is on ...
Maureen Brown



It's Black History Month 2023 and my mind's eye travels back to family and history. I feel a sense of joy in that my grandparents, great aunts, uncles and parents must have played an active part in the "First Great Migration" (including the Depression) here in Rockland during the mid to late 1920s. I am "a born in Rockland native"; raised by a nuclear family and a vast sea of extended family members which included long lists of 'other' moms and dads beyond the neighborhood. I learned to appreciate and treasure these life-long "other moms and dads", and close family friends. Countless valuable relationships and friendships were nurtured all throughout junior high and high school rivalries, sports or social events! Remembering the best places to meet up and see friends were at local 'teen happenings' like the popular Tiger's Den in Spring Valley, or those sticky warm evenings in Nyack for "Live Battle of the Bands" at Memorial Park, and dance parties at the first "Nyack Center" to name a few, a lot of night time fun but always "...inside by 11:00".

In prepping for this month's spotlight, I asked a few close friends who are sprinkled around the county to travel virtually with me on a Route 59 road trip. We "visited" McDermott's Ice Cream parlor, the movie theater on North Broadway in Nyack, the original Nanuet Mall, EJ Korvette's, Shopper's Paradise, the Nanuet Theatre Go-Round, and the county airport off of Smith Road in Nanuet. What a thrill to remember those prop planes that took to the sky and flew over the New York State Thruway!

At last, it was off to college for me. At S.C. State University (an HBCU) I earned a Bachelor's degree in Teacher Education, the Master's degree in Counseling followed after a long-awaited break from substitute teaching in the junior high school. I then found myself in the right place, at the right time and landed a graduate assistantship position in the busy Career Services Center on main campus. After finishing my studies, I returned home to search for and accept full time employment serving the county's developmentally challenged population. For a brief time, I made a career switch taking a stab at business and sales. However, I gravitated back to what I enjoyed the most, assisting others who wanted to help themselves progress. I accepted a grant-funded administrator level position at Rockland Community College as part of a team that provided structured academic and social programs to traditional aged students, returning adults, single parents and US service veterans. In addition to programming, I offered academic and financial advisement services, career and transfer services to students at the campus Student Services Center. I retired from Rockland Community College as a tenured Associate Professor.

Let me say "thank you" to my family elders for their "Great Migration" journey, their survival, and for paying it forward to the generations that followed. Present day family that now hail from all points and ports of the US are forever grateful for those that shared their journey.

As a current member of the Rockland County Branch of AAUW, I am an active participant on the program committee and the nominating committee. Kudos and thanks to long time member and former Branch President, Joyce Brown for introducing me to AAUW.

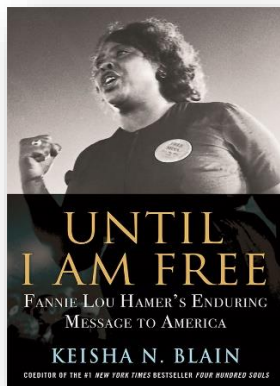


Albany – On Tuesday, January 24th, the State Senate and Assembly passed for the second time a proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the State Constitution. The amendment, [S.108/A.1283](#) sponsored by Senator Liz Krueger and Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, will extend current constitutional protections against discrimination to several new protected classes, as well as protecting access to contraception and abortion. The Legislature first passed the measure in June 2022 after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Following today's second passage, the amendment will now go to voters for ratification in the November 2024 general election.

(Excerpted from <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/liz-krueger/legislature-passes-equal-rights-amendment>)

AAUW CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH - ALUMNA PUBLICATION

Author Dr. Keisha N. Blain was awarded the AAUW Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship 2016-2017



***Until I Am Free: Fannie Lou Hamer's Enduring Message to America* Keisha N. Blain, Ph.D. 2016-17 AAUW American Fellow**

Award-winning historian and *New York Times* best-selling author Keisha N. Blain situates Fannie Lou Hamer as a key political thinker alongside leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Rosa Parks. She demonstrates how Hamer's ideas remain salient for a new generation of activists committed to dismantling systems of oppression in the United States and across the globe. A blend of social commentary, biography and intellectual history, *Until I Am Free* is a manifesto for anyone committed to social justice. The book challenges us to listen to a working-poor and disabled Black woman activist and intellectual of the civil rights movement as we grapple with contemporary concerns around race, inequality and social justice.

[Click here to watch AAUW CEO Gloria L. Blackwell discuss the book with Dr. Blain](#)