



# FACETS



ROCKLAND COUNTY (NY) BRANCH

MARCH 2023

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

## *President's Message*

*President,*  
Karen Martin  
[aauw.kmartin@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.kmartin@gmail.com)

*FACETS Editor*  
*Programming Vice-President,*  
Doria E. Hillsman

*Membership Vice-*  
*President,*  
Elda Graff

*Treasurer,*  
Sandra Blasy

*Recording Secretary,*  
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*Communications Chair,*  
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*EOF Chair,*  
Ellie Grossman

*LAF/ Scholarship Chair,*  
Charlotte Sorger

*Public Policy Chair,*  
Ann Mulligan

Since March is Women's History Month many organizations are likely planning to pay tribute to the women on their teams and recognize the many contributions that they have made. Women have long played an important role in shaping history, society and culture while bringing attention to issues of gender discrimination, gender inequality and women's rights.

As I researched the topic of women's history month, I found some fascinating information. I found articles on women trailblazers in sports, music, photography, industry, medicine, even LEADERSHIP. I also learned women's top 3 health concerns are: heart disease (1 in 3), cancer (skin), and stroke (60% of deaths). More importantly, WE have issues. Top issue, according to AAUW (what better reference material?) is education. Early gender bias creates the STEM gap! Thank heavens for Title IX. Next issue is the workplace and economic equity: the gender pay gap leads to gapolis in retirement, so we can't! The third issue is leadership where implicit bias daily affects the status of our leadership...the glass ceiling is real!

February's event was a Celebration of Diversity. Our presenters each spoke eloquently about their organization, their goals, and their needs. They expressed their need to be heard – by all of us. They expressed their need to be supported – by all of us. We are interconnected – which was demonstrated by audience participation. By our INTERSECTIONALITY! How about that?!

I'd like to bring to your attention 2 upcoming events. See inside for the upcoming event on the History of Women in Finance. Also, the UN is hosting the Commission on the Status of Women, March 6-17<sup>th</sup> in NYC and some sessions are online. The presentations are from around the world – you have your choice! Registration is available at [https://whova.com/portal/webapp/ngocs1\\_202303/](https://whova.com/portal/webapp/ngocs1_202303/)

**We continue to need a person or persons to lead this organization or THE ROCKLAND BRANCH of AAUW WILL BE NO MORE.** Usually, the slate for officers is presented along with the budget at the April meeting. In the next Board meeting, we will discuss disbanding and what that entails. All members are welcome to come to board meetings.

In Solidarity,  
*Karen*

*Fight for the things that you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you. ~ Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

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



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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<b>Wednesday, March 8</b>	International Women's Day
<b>Monday, March 13</b>	Book Club Meeting
<b>Tuesday, March 14</b>	Executive Board Meeting*/ <b>EQUAL PAY DAY</b>
<b>Wednesday March 15</b>	AAUW President, Gloria Blackwell UN Commission on the Status of Women
<b>Saturday, March 25</b>	Women's History Month Celebration
<b>Monday, April 10</b>	Book Club Meeting
<b>Tuesday, April 11</b>	Executive Board Meeting*
<b>Tuesday, April 25</b>	Annual Business Meeting
<b>Monday, May 8</b>	Book Club Meeting
<b>Tuesday, May 9</b>	Executive Board Meeting*
<b>Tuesday, May 10</b>	Woman of Achievement Award Dinner
<b>Tuesday, June 13</b>	Executive Board Meeting*
<b>Tuesday, June 27</b>	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](mailto:kimberlyweston@msn.com)

**COMMUNICATIONS:** For those of you who did not attend the fantastic Diversity Brunch, your AAUW Rockland Directory for 2022-2023 will be mailed to you shortly. EXTRA BONUS: please look inside the cover to find our newly resurrected trifold brochure about us. Please enjoy it and share with prospective AAUW members. More copies are available if you need them. Contact Sylvia Miller at [aauwsam@optonline.net](mailto:aauwsam@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

**WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT:** This year's dinner will be held IN-PERSON at La Terrazza in New City on **May 10<sup>th</sup> from 6-9PM**. Linda Berns, President of the Rockland League of Women Voters is our honoree.

*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.*

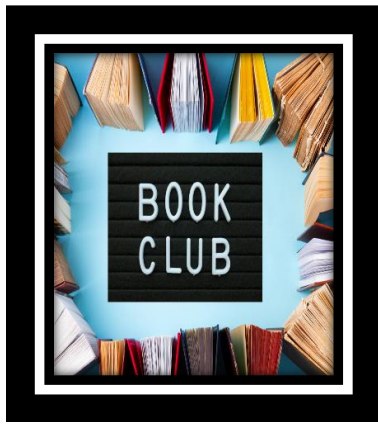
AAUW Rockland County Branch

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

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

March 13<sup>th</sup> - “The Nature of Fragile Things”,  
by Susan Meissner

April 10<sup>th</sup> - “The Magician”, by Colm Tolbin



**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!!



## AAUW Rockland's 2023 Women's History Month Celebration



Please JOIN US for this *virtual* meeting on  
**Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 2:00 PM**

**“The History of Women in Finance”**

**Our Special Guest, Lisa Kaess**  
*Economist, Analyst, and International Finance Consultant*

Join Zoom Meeting Or Dial- In 646.931.3860  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84784954489?pwd=RzdMNCtVN25xUk1neUl4Q0VadGU4dz09>  
Meeting ID: 847 8495 4489 Passcode: 062789

Join Zoom Meeting Or Dial- In 646.931.3860  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84784954489?pwd=RzdMNCtVN25xUk1neUl4Q0VadGU4dz09>  
Meeting ID: 847 8495 4489 Passcode: 062789



WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2023



**UN Commission on the Status of Women: March 6-17, 2023**

The start of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is fast approaching! This year it's possible to attend either virtually or in person. The conference lasts two weeks with 20+ presentations each day.

*Plan to attend when Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO, will conduct a virtual presentation on March 15, from 2-4pm.*

WHOVA (free) is being used for registration, viewing the agenda, and viewing virtual presentations. Registration is open and you can register now by downloading the WHOVA app on your android or Apple device or going to [https://whova.com/portal/webapp/ngocs1\\_202303/](https://whova.com/portal/webapp/ngocs1_202303/) your computer. This is a great opportunity to get a global perspective on what different organizations are doing around the world to support women and girls in their careers. The presentations are from around the world in many time zones - you have your choice.



[UN Women at a Moment of Change - Video](#)

This date symbolizes how far into the year (white) women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year.



# Our 23<sup>rd</sup> Diversity Brunch

On Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, we held our 23<sup>rd</sup> Diversity Brunch: “Showcasing Diversity in Rockland County.” After 2 years of not having it in person, it was wonderful to see people outside of their small Zoom boxes. By all accounts it was a roaring success. Over 55 people attended. Our guest panelists were, Brooke Malloy, Founding Executive Director of the Phyllis B. Frank Rockland County Pride Center, Diana Lopez-Infante, President of 100 Hispanic Women for Rockland County and Renold Julien, Executive Director and CEO of Konbit Neg Lakay. Each panelist spoke passionately and eloquently about what their organization is about, their goals for the communities they serve and the issues they face. There were many overlapping concerns. For the first time, the brunch was held at the Pilgrim Baptist Church in Nyack. The women of the church did a wonderful job of setting up and decorating the room and providing a wonderful continental brunch for everyone. The cost of the brunch went to cover the cost to the church of the food and room. We hope this is the beginning of a continuing relationship with the church and the organizations represented.

~Anita Nessin



Karen Martin, Dr. Frances Pratt, Patricia Araka



April Biggs



Ann Finney, Sandy Masiello, Maurenn Brown  
Charlotte Sorger, Pam Guevera, Elda Graff,



Patricia Brimais Tenemille, Brooke Malloy,  
Renold Julien, Diana Lopez-Infante



Anita Nessin, Sylvia Miller, Ann Mulligan



## In Memory of Joyce C. Brown

Joyce Brown was born in Washington DC, graduated from Howard University with a degree in Fine Arts. She taught music in the public schools of Baltimore County, MD. She later married Warner Brown, Jr., and had two children, son Warner III and daughter Holly. The family moved to the Bronx. Joyce taught preschool followed by teaching music at JHS 127, Stevenson High School, South Bronx High School and Evander Childs High School; where she taught English, Music, African American History and Honors Humanities.

She earned a Master's degree in Secondary School Administration and then two subsequent graduate degrees at Manhattan College and the College of New Rochelle simultaneously. Joyce became Supervisor of Special Education at JHS 127, then JHS 85 before returning to the high school level as the Alternative High School Superintendent from which she retired in 2001. As Director of Christian Education at Laconia Community Presbyterian Church, ever the acceptor of a challenge, Joyce managed three boys' basketball teams which grew from the biggest losers, with no wins to first place for Pee Wees and Seniors – all within three years.

Since moving to Rockland, she has been active as a board member of the League of Women Voters of Rockland County, the Statewide Senior Action Council, the New York Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the CASS program at Rockland Community College, the Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center, and served as the chair of the Spring Valley Rotary scholarship committee and RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award). Joyce joined AAUW Rockland Branch 2002. She served as AAUW Rockland Branch President 2004 - 2008 and 2013 - 2015. AAUW NY State Diversity Director 2007.

Joyce travelled to Vietnam with nearly 30 other Rotary members and friends as part of the international arm of the club STEP (Schools to End Poverty). She described the experience as life changing. In 2010, Joyce was honored by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Tau Gamma Zeta Chapter with their Pearl of Excellence award. Joyce was also honored by the Spring Valley Rotary as one of their Woman Warriors. In 2007, Joyce founded the STEM Tutoring Program at Summit Park Elementary School, bringing together many caring community members which offered academic enrichment to elementary students. With this initiative, Joyce bridged partnerships with Summit Park and Grace Cornerstone Church and the Nanuet Barnes & Noble where management committed to donating books, supplies and materials for the students. Her daughter, Holly Brown once said that Joyce's belief in AAUW's mission was the catalyst for her ambitious drive to bring science, technology, engineering and math education to our young people.

In 2009, Joyce received the AAUW NY State Lifetime Achievement Award for the dramatic growth of the Branch's membership and programs. Joyce was single-handedly responsible for recruiting many, many of the Branch's members. She was awarded the AAUW Rockland Woman of Achievement Award in 2015. Gerri Zabusky, former Director of RSVP, says that during the years of 2007 - 2015, Joyce as an RSVP volunteer served an astonishing 5,216 hours of service.

Joyce transitioned after a brief illness on February 9, 2023. She will be dearly missed by everyone who had the pleasure to know and work with her and by all of the children whose lives she so graciously touched.



*Celebrating the Life of*

**JOYCE C. BROWN**

*November 9, 1940 - February 9, 2023*

**OMEGA OMEGA & MEMORIAL SERVICE**

*Saturday, March 11, 2023*

*At 10:00 am*

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

52 SOUTH 6TH AVE, MT. VERNON NY

**LIVESTREAM: [HTTP://GRACECHURCHTODAY.ORG/](http://gracechurchtoday.org/)**

**\*\*ATTENDEES MUST WEAR A MASK THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE**