



# FACETS



ROCKLAND COUNTY (NY) BRANCH

MAY 2023

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

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## *President's Message*

May! What conjures up in your head? April rains bring May flowers or perhaps the celebration of Mother's Day? I love May...my cardinal pair visit me daily as I start a new day. Thinking of others...

- We celebrate Asian American heritage in our Diversity resource calendar.
- On April 24th, our own Suzanne Young-Mercer conducted a webinar on Diversity and Intersectionality which was nationally attended.
- For our April business meeting, Ann Mulligan took it away with her PowerPoint of an in-depth look at public policy. It was enlightening to hear!

Our Woman of Achievement Award Dinner is earlier than usual this year. Please contact Sandy Masiello ASAP to make arrangements to reserve your place, congratulating our longtime supporter, Linda Berns. *(see more about Linda in this month's Spotlight)*

AAUW National elections are going on until May 15, 2023. Information went out mid-April; email your questions to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org), and see inside for the NYS AAUW Albany Lobby Day initiative. It's time for Membership Renewal...And we have more on our calendar.

Does this sound like a branch that wants to disband? Not at all! At our Business meeting, we voted to postpone nominations (and therefore elections) until June in the hopes that a presidential candidate(s) will come forth. NYS AAUW President Griffith is fully aware of our situation, and I have reached out to National and secured the procedure for disbanding. We will continue communicating. If you are interested in making a difference and securing the continuation of this 61-year-old Branch – PLEASE contact Maureen Brown at [mbrownsss74@gmail.com](mailto:mbrownsss74@gmail.com)

Thank you all for your continued support.

*Karen*

*"The most difficult thing is the **decision** to act. The rest is merely tenacity."*

~ Amelia Earhart

**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>Monday, May 8</b>	Book Club Meeting
<b>Tuesday, May 9</b>	Executive Board Meeting*
<b>Wednesday, May 10</b>	Woman of Achievement Award Dinner
<b>Tuesday, June 13</b>	Executive Board Meeting*
<b>Tuesday, June 27</b>	June Branch Meeting
<b>Saturday, July 15</b>	Elmwood Playhouse Fundraiser <i>Mark your calendar and contact Sylvia Miller for ticket information</i>

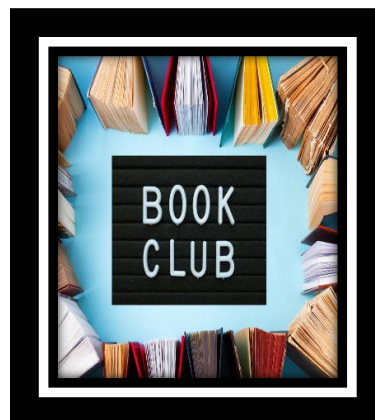
**Information on Summer BBQ Fundraiser to follow...**

\*All are welcome

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.

May 8<sup>th</sup> – “The Most Beautiful Girl in Cuba”, by Chanel  
Cleeton



**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 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

[aauwrockland62@gmail.com](mailto:aauwrockland62@gmail.com)

<http://rocklandcounty-ny.aauw.net>

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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:** For those of you who did receive your Membership Directory, please Contact Sylvia Miller at [aauwsam@optonline.net](mailto:aauwsam@optonline.net). **SAVE THE DATE FOR AN EXCITING EVENING AT ELMWOOD PLAYHOUSE IN NYACK ON SATURDAY, JULY 15.** We are joining with Spring Valley Rotary in a fundraiser evening. The show is "A Sherlock Holmes Showcase." Put it on your calendar now so you won't forget. More details will be forthcoming. Thank you, members who donated canned goods for Rockland's hungry. They have been delivered to People to People in Nanuet. 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. Joyce Brown was a lifelong advocate of education for women. ***Please consider making a contribution in her memory to the Korb Scholarship.*** 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 . 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 our **Annual Dinner/Woman of Achievement Celebration** will be held on Wednesday, May 10th from 6 to 9PM at La Terrazza Restaurant, 291 South Main Street in New City. We will be honoring Linda Berns, President of the Rockland League of Women Voters. The Dinner fee is \$60.00, **Checks should be made payable to the: Rockland Branch of AAUW.** They should be mailed to the Rockland County AAUW, PO Box 19, West Nyack, NY 10994. Plan to come and enjoy the evening. It's not too late. Contact WOA Dinner Chair, Sandy Masiello to make arrangements [sandymasi22@yahoo.com](mailto:sandymasi22@yahoo.com)

**IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO ATTEND!!!  
CONTACT SANDY MASIELLO ASAP**

[Sandymasi22@yahoo.com](mailto:Sandymasi22@yahoo.com)



**AAUW ROCKLAND WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD DINNER**  
Wednesday, May 10, 2023 6:00 – 9:00 PM  
La Terrazza 291 South Main Street, New City, NY  
Honoring  
*Linda Berns*  
**President of the Rockland County League of Women Voters**

Ticket price \$60 Make check payable to "Rockland County Branch of AAUW"  
Mail to AAUW Rockland Branch | PO Box 19 | West Nyack, NY 10994 – 0019  
For more information call (845) 358-8240



SPRING is a new beginning and with AAUW it is the time we renew our commitment and membership in organization that continues to lobby for the rights of women and girls. Along with renewing our membership we also need to renew our commitment to our local branch.

We are not only in need of your financial support but also your leadership skills to help our Branch remain strong. We cannot continue to rely on the few that have served continuously. When renewing your membership, please think of ways you can serve our Branch.

**The renewal dues for the FY 2023/24 year are \$92 and may be paid either by check payable to AAUW Rockland County Branch or by debit/credit card on the AAUW National website.\***

To pay by debit/credit card: Login to your account at: <https://www.aauw.org>

To pay by check: make check payable to :AAUW Membership

Mail to: AAUW Rockland County Branch | PO Box 19 | West Nyack, NY 10994

**We thank you for your continued support of AAUW's mission. Your Membership Committee**

\*Of the \$92 paid to AAUW National, only \$89 is tax deductible; \$3.00 of AAUW National's dues is given to a 501(C)4 and therefore cannot be acknowledged as a donation. There is a three month renewal window. During this time you will receive renewal email reminders and your account will stay active on the Rockland County Branch roster.





## Woman of Achievement Spotlight Linda Berns



Linda Berns is our 2023 Woman of Achievement. She has been on the Board of the Rockland County Chapter of the League of Women Voters for over 50 years and serves as League President to this day. Linda received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia University, Barnard College with a major in chemistry and later earned a Master of Public Education from Long Island University. Early in her career, Ms. Berns worked as a bench chemist at Pfizer and as a chemist and executive assistant for Oncolab. She also taught chemistry at Columbia University and at Rockland Community College.

Her community service is extensive. She has worked as a Literacy Volunteer, tutoring students from Ecuador, Dominican Republic and Iran, teaching speaking, reading and writing. Since 1993 she has worked as a Mediator at Rockland Mediation Center, Nyack, and in Town and Village Justice Courts where she mediates disputes. She is an Arbitrator for the Administrative Judge, in the Unified Court System of the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and she is a Group Leader in the Domestic Violence Program for Men at VCS in New City.

Linda is past Chair and member of the Rockland County Human Rights Commission. She has been the Chair of the Fair Housing Board since 1978. She was an organizer of the Rockland Housing Action Coalition. Her master's thesis was entitled "*An Affordable Housing Policy for Rockland County*". She worked as a Library Assistant at Spring Valley High School for five years. Linda is a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for abused children and has been working in this capacity since 2015.

From 1996- 2012, Ms. Berns worked as the Executive Director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, lower Hudson Valley Chapter, covering Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Putnam, Ulster, Dutchess, and Sullivan Counties. She also worked as a Docent and Educator for Rockland Center for Holocaust Studies in Spring Valley.

She is a member of National Organization for Women, NARAL, AARP, ACLU, Common Cause, R.S.V.P. and Rockland Community College Senior Citizens' Club and Rockland Coalition for Democracy and Freedom. Linda also works closely with AAUW Rockland. She has served faithfully on the Woman's History Month Committee for many years. Her service and dedication to social justice, voting rights and the entire Rockland Community have been exemplary. We are proud to honor her as our 2023 Woman of Achievement.



## **5/23/23: AAUW-NYS Lobby Day in Albany!**

*The next **AAUW-NYS Lobby Day** in Albany is coming up soon! Please plan to come to Albany with us, on **Tuesday, May 23**. AAUW branch members from across the state will meet on the Capitol steps at 1:00 PM. This year’s Lobby Day theme is “**AAUW Supports Higher Pay for Home Health Care Workers**”. Nan Scinta, AAUW-NYS Public Policy Chair, will have signs available to carry as we march with other AAUW branch members, and possibly other Home Health Care agency advocates.*

*We will arrange in advance to meet with our legislators to advocate for our aging AAUW population. The group will also have opportunities to meet with State Office of the Aging personnel. The Adirondack branch Home Health Care advocacy group is in contact with Al Cardillo, Roger Noyes, and Kathy Febraio, and they may also be able to meet with us to give a detailed picture of the New York Home Health Care situation.*

**Remember:** *New York State is 30th in low pay in Home Health Care wages! If we choose to stay in our homes as we age and need help from time to time, there might not be any help available, because the workforce has moved into other occupations. With a higher wage and a workforce that wants to work variable hours, there will be a much greater chance to receive the care we need when we need it.*

*Please let me know if you’re able to go to Albany on 5/23...*

Ann Mulligan

[AMulligan125@gmail.com](mailto:AMulligan125@gmail.com)

AAUW Rockland County 845.694.9708



### **Two One-Act Plays Adapted from Classic Sherlock Holmes Stories**

The iconic Sherlock Holmes and his sidekick Dr. Watson are back in these two intriguing one-act adaptations of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s mysteries. They crack codes, survive a rare disease, and decipher perplexing clues to keep you guessing throughout “The Adventures of the Dancing Men” and “The Dying Detective.”

**AAUW FUNDRAISER- SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2023**  
*Contact Sylvia Miller for Ticket and Showtime Information*  
[aauwsam@optonline.net](mailto:aauwsam@optonline.net)