

AAUW New York State Convention 2018:
Marching Onward: Empowering Women by
 Stephanie Lemnios, Program Vice President.



Legacy Circle: Securing AAUW's Future by Nancy
 Mion, Development Vice President.

FOCUS

2018 Emerging Leader Award by Janet
 Forbes, District Director.



American Association of University Women • New York State

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CARRYING THE SUFFRAGIST TORCH

BY NANCY MION, DEVELOPMENT
VICE PRESIDENT

Branches in New York State are celebrating the centennial of women's gaining the right to vote in NYS in 1917 by reenacting the passing of the "Torch of Liberty" from Eastern Long Island to the rest of the state. The Suffragists carried the "torch to enlighten the State of New York upon the needs of its women." Also, the "Torch of Liberty" symbolized women's having the full rights of citizenship. It began its present journey August 26, 2017, at the home of Mary Manson, the woman who started



From right to left: Cynthia Katz, North Shore President passing the torch to Westchester County Co-President, Stephanie Lemnios who passed it on to Maria DeWald, Poughkeepsie President with AAUW-NYS President Roli Wendorf looking on.

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TOGETHER, WE MAKE AAUW IMPACTFUL

BY ROLI WENDORF, PRESIDENT

What is AAUW? How would we describe it to someone in a few words? Is it a mission-based organization, or is it more an educated women's social club? For sure, we enjoy many social activities in our branches, from book clubs and current events discussion groups to art and lunch outings. Our AAUW friendships with like-minded women sustain us and bind us as a community. However, our social programs are the icing on the cake.

AAUW would not be AAUW without our many mission-based programs that promote gender equity. Our branches hold a variety of mission-based programs in their local communities, in addition to their social interest groups. At the state and national levels, we are totally dedicated to the mission of AAUW.

How does AAUW make an impact? What gives us our megaphone on gender issues? Is it the work of any single branch? We make an impact because we have a

nationwide presence with our 1,000 branches that all reach out to the communities they serve. We also have our state and national organizations that give direction and keep all of AAUW focused on the same issues. These organizations provide an opportunity to advocate for our issues at the state and national levels.



Our collective voice makes us powerful. When AAUW supports a woman who has been discriminated against at work and is suing a large company or university for redress, we level the playing field by using our collective mega-

phone. Once AAUW supports a case, it frequently gets settled. This strength does not come from a single branch, but from our large base of 170,000 members and supporters who believe in these causes and donate generously to AAUW with their membership dues and their

(Continued on page 3)

Welcome to the Corning - Gaffer District Convention Activities by Kimberly Edgar, Convention Co-Director.

Branch News: AGJ Celebrates 50 Years, Buffalo Branch in the News and Westchester Branch in the News.

The Rock to Building Membership By Suzanne Scott, Co-President, Bath Branch.

AAUW NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION 2018: MOVING ONWARD, EMPOWERING WOMEN

BY STEPHANIE LEMNIOS, PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENT

The AAUW-NYS Convention will be held April 20th to 22nd at the Radisson Hotel in Corning, New York. The 2018 Convention theme is “*Moving Onward, Empowering Women*” and will focus on women continuing to take action one year after the Women’s March. The speakers and workshops that have been selected, we hope, will both inspire and provide tools for members as a “call to action.”

In addition to the interesting program, the location should prove to add an element of fun and discovery for attendees, too. The hotel is in a very easy walking distance to the Corning shops and restaurants. Also, a Friday afternoon tour has been planned to the wonderful Corning Glass Museum, along with the option to create a piece to bring home with you.

The convention program will kick off on Friday night with the President’s Dinner that will include honoring our 2018 Emerging Leaders. At this dinner, an AAUW National spokesperson will speak



about AAUW National’s current vision. On Saturday, there will be a panel discussion, “Advocacy in the Current Landscape,” that will provide viewpoints on how the changing media landscape affects people’s impressions and how advocacy messaging needs to work in this environment. The panel will be moderated by Crystal Sarakas, a local NPR Radio Show Host, and will include a diverse panel of AAUW Fellows and a Women’s March organizer.

There will be several workshops offered to appeal to different areas of interest:

Women’s Health Care & Reproductive Rights, Women Getting a Seat At the Table, Where We Are a Year After The Women’s March, and Media Literacy.

We are very excited about our Saturday plenary speaker, Aasha Shaik. In her talk, “*Vulnerability & Girls: The Keys to Moving the Movement Forward*,” Aasha will share her journey and inspiration to promote girls’ rights around the world. She is currently a second-year undergraduate at Rutgers University, in the Honors College and Douglass Residential College. She is triple majoring in political science, busi-

ness analytics & information technology, and Middle Eastern studies. After her sophomore year of high school, she began working at the United Nations for gender equity as a Girl Advocate of the UN NGO Working Group on Girls and for AAUW. Her passion for gender equity and social/political activism stems from a year she spent living in India, and the realities that she has been forced to confront since her time there and since returning to the United States. As a Girl Advocate, she organized and moderated large-scale UN events, wrote and performed the theme song for the International Day of the Girl - *Girls Speak Out*, researched and wrote policy recommendations, and held meetings lobbying UN policy makers, including Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau.

I encourage you to take this opportunity to attend the convention and network with some amazing AAUW members from throughout New York State. Our goal is to provide you with an educational, inspiring, and fun convention weekend.

Registration will open in January on the AAUW-NYS website: <http://aauw-nys.org>.

FOCUS, a quarterly newsletter, is published by the American Association of University Women-New York State. The distribution cost of \$4 is included in state dues.

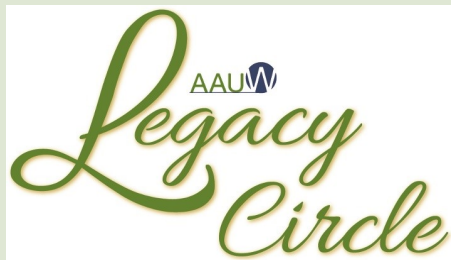
Questions and articles should be addressed to:
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Submissions are accepted at the discretion of the editor. **FOCUS** is a publication of the AAUW-NYS Board.



LEGACY CIRCLE: SECURING AAUW'S FUTURE

BY NANCY MION, DEVELOPMENT VICE PRESIDENT



The **LEGACY CIRCLE** is a way of leaving a gift to AAUW to continue its work for gender equity. You will have a good feeling knowing that you have made a contribution to AAUW's future. Your gift can be for any amount you wish. There are basically three ways of joining the Legacy Circle and receiving the beautiful Legacy Circle Pin.



FUNDS THAT HAVE A BENEFICIARY

You can name AAUW a beneficiary of a life insurance plan, retirement account, or any other kind of account where you name a beneficiary. This can be a specific amount or a percentage of the total amount. You should be able to just update this information with the managing company. It is best to let your attorney and/or financial planner know when you are making changes.

FUND FROM A TRUST OR DONOR ASSETS

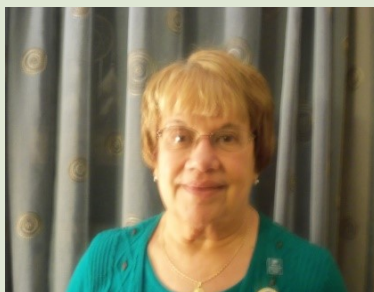
If the funds are to come from a trust or your assets covered in a will, you need to make an amendment to your will to have the bequest of a charitable gift honored. You should contact your attorney to be sure it is updated properly and is legally sound. That's the best way to ensure your wishes are followed and will not cause conflict when it is time to be executed.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

Here's how it works. If you give AAUW a charitable annuity gift, you will receive, based on your age, a percentage rate at which you will receive fixed payments for life. So suppose you give a Charitable Annuity Gift of \$10,000 and you are able to get 5%, you will receive regular payments of \$500 throughout the rest of your life; even if the amount of the original gift has been paid out you will still receive payments. At the time of death, any funds that remain from the gift will be bequeathed to AAUW. You must be 75 or older to set up an AAUW charitable gift annuity. If you are younger, you can fund a deferred charitable gift annuity, but the payments start later when rates are higher.

Want to talk to AAUW about it? Call Anne Bowersox 202.728.7629.

Join the Legacy Circle today and help secure AAUW's tomorrows.



Laurie Ginnitti

"I made AAUW the beneficiary of a small life insurance policy I took out when I was very young. I know the proceeds will be used to advance the mission I have believed in and supported my entire life.

It was a very easy process and AAUW guides to the Legacy Circle gave me all the information I needed to proceed."

- Loreen (Laurie) Ginnitti

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IMPACT *(continued from page 1)*

various AAUW Funds and Legacy Circle donations.

Our research reports are cited widely in the media. They bring focus to important issues such as barriers and biases affecting women in leadership, and how student debt disproportionately hurts women. These reports are used in our advocacy efforts at national and state levels, and also by branches implementing programs in local communities across the country.

When we say we support women in STEM, we bring a unified voice. We have research reports that explore the causes of women's under-representation and help set policy, and we have STEM conferences and summer camps held by branches nationwide.

As we move forward to make AAUW even more impactful in the future under the leadership of our new National CEO, Kim Churches, we will sharpen our focus to a few key areas and enhance our collective ability to make a difference. There are many exciting changes in store. A good way to find out the latest news is to attend the New York State Convention in Corning, April 20-22, 2018. We hope to have Kim Churches as a keynote speaker, to be confirmed by January.

SPRING FOCUS

Reminder: The submission deadline for the **SPRING 2018 FOCUS** is February 15, 2018.

Please send items to FOCUS Director, Laurie Eikemeyer at laurie.eikemeyer@gmail.com.

LEGACY CIRCLE *(continued from page 3)*



Peggy Coe and family

"Our three daughters have joined the Legacy Circle as well as our granddaughter. They know how important AAUW is and they believe in the mission. Participation is key. Think what it would add up to if every member of AAUW New York State left something in their will."

- Margaret (Peggy) Coe

2018 EMERGING LEADER AWARD

BY JANET FORBES, DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Soon it will be time for each branch to select its 2018 Emerging Leader to be honored at the AAUW-NYS Convention in April. AAUW-NYS and National are working on many fronts to develop leadership skills and opportunities for our members. Honoring Emerging Leaders both enriches our branches by recognizing the hard work and commitment of new branch leaders and serves as a tool to highlight those who may step into a leadership role at the NYS level. The development of a leadership pipeline also serves as an effective tool for outreach to prospective members, with a focus on younger women who are beginning or who are in the midst of their careers, or even still in college. Emerging Leaders serve as powerful role models for new and prospective AAUW members.

Look around your branch and begin to think about which newer members may be first-term board members, officers, or committee chairs who demonstrate leadership potential through their enthusiasm, creative ideas, networking skills, event or project planning and implementation, and commitment to AAUW's mis-



sion. These newer members may have recruited other prospective members, raised money for AAUW funds, planned programs, written articles for publication in newspapers, presented at a branch or community event, spearheaded a creative, new fundraiser, assisted with social media, or reached out

to young women at STEM events or on college campuses.

The AAUW-NYS Board of Directors approved funds to award each 2018

Emerging Leader a \$25 voucher to use for expenses to attend either the 2018 Convention or 2018 Summer Leadership Conference. The hope is that

more Emerging Leaders will participate in both Convention and Summer Leadership, get to know AAUW leaders and members from across the state, and expand their leadership skills and roles at both the branch and state levels.

The 2018 Emerging Leader application will be on the AAUW-NYS website by mid-December. **Applications will be due by February 15, 2018.** We are looking forward to honoring the outstanding 2018 Emerging Leaders at Convention in April.

***Applications are
due by
February 15, 2018.***

AAUW-NYS ELECTED OFFICERS

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Roli Wendorf (wendorfr@aol.com)

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Stephanie Lemnios (sblemnios@gmail.com)

Membership Vice President

Barbara Sarver (barbara.sarver@gmail.com)

Development Vice President

Nancy Mion (myown220@aol.com)

Public Policy Vice President

Cynthia Herriott Sullivan (cherri4849@aol.com)

Secretary/Bylaws Chair

Kimberly Blanchet (kablanchet@yahoo.com)

Treasurer

Diane Jablonski (dianejablonski@gmail.com)

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College/University Director

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Communications/Visibility Director

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Suzanne Young-Mercer (smym5225@aol.com)

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Elizabeth Brady (edemingbrady@gmail.com)



WELCOME TO THE CORNING - GAFFER DISTRICT CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

BY KIMBERLY EDGAR, CONVENTION CO-DIRECTOR

Springtime in Corning has so much to offer to Convention attendees and guests.

For a pre-Convention activity, on Friday, April 20, 2018, AAUW-NYS has arranged for an afternoon at *Corning Museum of Glass*. Two sessions of sandblasting workshops have been scheduled for 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm for attendees to select from,

CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS

along with several glassmaking demonstrations and exhibitions to watch. Registration will be through the Convention registration site for \$30 per person. All registered participants must pick-up their convention badges from the Radisson Hotel prior to going to the museum. Transportation to the museum can be by personal vehicle or on the Corning Visitor's Bus. The final deadline to register for the pre-Convention event is Sunday, April 8, 2018. No late registrations will be allowed and no cancellation refunds will be honored after Sunday, April 8, 2018.

Plan to bring your exercise clothes, swimsuit, yoga mat, and shoes with you to Corning. On both Saturday, April 21, 2018 and Sunday, April 22, 2018, in the morning prior to the day's Convention activities, we will be hosting walks around the Gaffer District and nearby Chemung Riverfront. A local historian will lead walks for individuals wanting to learn about the Gaffer District's History and another group of walkers will walk for exercise. Swimming at the hotel pool will also be available to participants. Voluntary contributions to the AAUW Fund will gladly be accepted by Nancy Mion for AAUW-NYS hosting these walks and swimming opportunities. AAUW Fund donations of \$10 or more will be rec-

ognized with an AAUW-NYS gift. No registration will be required. Simply meet other walkers each morning in the hotel lobby near the Registration Desk or jump into the pool.

On Saturday, April 21, 2018, in the late afternoon following the Convention workshops, an instructor-led yoga class will be held at the hotel for all participants. No additional registration is required.



For a post-Convention activity on Sunday, April 22, 2018, a docent-led tour of the *Rockwell Museum* will be held at 1:00 pm. The museum will have a juried exhibition of women artists closing that weekend, along with their regular exhibits. Registration will be through the Convention registration site for \$9.50 per person. The



Rockwell Museum is located within walking distance of the Radisson Hotel or participants may take the Corning Visitor's Bus. The final deadline to register for the post-Convention event is Sunday, April 8, 2018. No late registrations will be allowed and no cancellation refunds will be honored after Sunday, April 8, 2018.

The Convention Planning Committee is looking forward to seeing you in Corning and offering you a wonderful weekend of *Moving Forward* activities.

PROGRAMS ACROSS THE STATE

BY BETTY HARREL,
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Have an idea for a great program? Need some extra funding to make it happen? **Be sure to apply for an AAUW-NYS program grant!**

For the past few years, AAUW-NYS has provided grants to branches and districts to support mission-based programming. The proposal must include information on building AAUW visibility and leading to membership growth.

Several outstanding programs have taken place this year with the support of the grants. The Bath Branch produced an original suffragist musical, "Ladies: It's Time." Some of the women featured were Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, and Amelia Bloomer. The Southern New York Branch collaborated with the Kopernik Observatory and sponsored "Girl Power – Robotics" for girls in Grades 2-6. Girls were given problems and built robots to solve them. The District 2 Conference, sponsored by the Greater Rochester Area Branch, focused on "Women in Power – Stepping it Up!" High school girls and their parents were exposed to women of color who held positions of power in a variety of professions. The District 6 conference, coordinated by the Inter-branch Council, focused on Human Trafficking on Long Island. Participants heard about the local effects of trafficking and discussed actions that can be taken.

Applications are reviewed by the Finance Committee on a rolling basis. To apply, go to www.aauw-nys.org. Under Branch Support, click on NYS Branch and District Grants.

AAUW BUFFALO BRANCH IN THE NEWS

BY LAURIE EIKEMEYER
FOCUS DIRECTOR

September 21, 2017 — The Buffalo Branch's Public Relations Committee has been hard at work increasing their Branch's visibility, advertising their programs and scholarships, reaching out to the community, and having fun in the process!

They were recently asked by AAUW National to host a press conference that announced the latest pay gap data (to coincide with the updated census statistics that are released in September) and were highlighted for their efforts in the AAUW National State Spotlight:

State Spotlight

"The AAUW of Buffalo (NY) Branch teamed up with the Western New York Women's Foundation and the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women to host a press conference to highlight AAUW's updated state pay gap data. Speaking on behalf of the Branch, AAUW member Patricia Miceli called on state legislators to take steps to close the gender pay gap for New York women and their families. The event was held at the offices of local woman-owned business BAK USA, and generated lots of local press. Kudos to the Buffalo Branch for all their hard work!"

It was a great experience!



Members of AAUW Buffalo Branch along with Ulla Bak, President of BAK, USA, members of the WNY Women's Foundation, and Erie County Commission on the Status of Women.

AAUW AGJ BRANCH CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

November 8, 2017 — Members of the AAUW Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown (AGJ) Branch gathered at the Paul Nigra Center, in Mayfield, NY, to celebrate the Branch's 50th Anniversary. The event had a great turn-out, bringing lots of the Branch's history back and celebrating the women that made it happen.

AAUW-NYS Director for Cultural and International Affairs, Gabriela Hoover, was there to represent the state board, and presented the AGJ Branch Presidents, Ella Ryder and Nancy Peck, with the AAUW-NYS and AAUW National certificates in recognition of 50 years of work and advocacy for women's rights and equality in the AGJ-NY region.

Here is a link to the full coverage of the event, by reporter Dusten Rader, from the *Fulton County Express*:

<https://www.fultoncountyexpress.com/keynote-speaker-to-aaup-united-we-are-unstoppable/>



Wishing you
a Happy,
Healthy, and
Prosperous
New Year!



WESTCHESTER BRANCH IN THE NEWS:

EVENT ENCOURAGES GIRLS TO ENTER STEM FIELDS

Posted: Nov 04, 2017 5:29 PM EDT

Updated: Nov 04, 2017 5:34 PM EDT

(Link provided below)

ARDSLEY -

A local women's advocacy group is working to encourage more girls to enter the fields of science, engineering, math and technology.

The Westchester Branch of the American Association of University Women held its third annual "Wiz Girls Building the Future" event Saturday at Ardsley Middle School.

Girls enjoyed hands-on workshops and activities taught by female professional engineers and scientists.

One local high school student says she joined in to help foster a love of science in the youngsters.

"If you don't get exposed to something, you might not ever think of it as something you can do in the future," says Lauren Peacock, of Pleasantville.

Organizers say less than 20 percent of technology and engineering graduates are female -- and they say that underscores why it's important to expose girls to STEM careers.

<http://westchester.news12.com/story/36764785/event-encourages-girls-to-enter-stem-fields>

THE ROCK TO BUILDING MEMBERSHIP

BY SUZANNE SCOTT, CO-PRESIDENT, BATH BRANCH

Stone Soup is an old folk story in which a hungry stranger convinces villagers that he can make a delicious pot of soup with a magic rock. The town folk each share a small portion of their food to make a tastier soup. The stone slowly turns into a meal that everyone enjoys. They are all fascinated by the magic rock. Membership is like a pot of soup. Each member should be responsible for bringing an ingredient, and each new member becomes a valuable new ingredient in the growth of our organization.

The Bath Branch has had a 20% jump in membership this year, and we plan to keep it simmering. The meat is in the marketing. We have an "AAUW Bath Branch" sign on the "Welcome To Bath" sign. It sits next to Kiwanis and Rotary

club signs. Our branch takes lots of photos and sends a press release out monthly to the newspaper. If you shake hands for a scholarship, give an award to an emerging leader, or welcome a new officer, pictures and a brief description will get your branch in the paper. A few of our new members came from our treasurer's family. She brought them to our Suffragette High Tea with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and they joined there. Catherine, our membership chair, always has a table filled with brochures, free pencils, and chip clips. A show-board displays images of our past year. Catherine and I have designed standalone signs for our Chamber of Commerce and libraries. We made up glossy tri-fold brochures that are informative and inviting, using all of the guidelines set up by AAUW National. (We have a graphic

artist in our group). Our branch does not have a university in our area, so we do our best influencing local students.

We made up reminder business cards for our branch members. It has information on the front, and they can write our next meeting info on the back inviting a potential new member. Each year, we have an open meeting asking the public to join our branch. We advertise free in the community section of the local newspaper. This



year we had an excellent turnout for a suffragette movie at the Glenn Curtis Museum. We also have a "Bring a Guest and a Dish" picnic. It is a perfect time to meet and reach out to new women. We signed up three new members this year at our lakeside picnic.

Membership is an ongoing simmering pot of soup. The more ingredients added to it by the branch members, the more delicious it will be and the more for all to share.

"You cannot wait for inspiration; you must go after it."

- Jack London

**Women Making
a Difference**



MISSION STATEMENT

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW VALUE PROMISE

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

VISION STATEMENT

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

NEW YORK STATE FOCUS
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CARRYING THE TORCH

(Continued from page 1)

it originally on June 8, 1915. It is going from one AAUW branch to another on its trip celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in NYS.

The official struggle for women to have the right to vote started in NYS in 1848. That year, at the Seneca Falls Convention, they endorsed the *Declaration of Sentiments*, the purpose of which was to achieve equality and to bring change to a sexist society. It called upon women to organize and petition to gain the rights and privileges that they were denied. That is precisely what the people of New York did for the next 69 years. We were fortunate to have had many of the leading lights of the suffrage movement live in our state. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Matilda Gage, and others from NYS provided national leadership. However, it was thousands of women and men

throughout the state who, in the early 20th Century, made the vote for women a reality. Everywhere the "Torch of Liberty" went, rallies were held, encouraging the passage of legislation that would give women their right to vote.

People gathered along the route of General Rosalie Jones' Suffragists Army March to Albany in December 1912. Throughout the state, conferences and retreats with training sessions were held. They featured topics like *How to Reach the Voter*, *Hints for Suffrage Speakers*, and *How to Win*. Suffragists went door to door exhorting male voters to cast their ballot for candidates who supported women's suffrage. Local town and village Suffrage Clubs were formed. They held meetings, decided on actions,

developed rallies, marches, and campaigns. They withstood abuse and detractors such as the Anti-Suffragists.

It was people with ideas, courage, and determination who won for women the right to vote in NYS. New York State's

passing legislation that gave women the vote was a turning point in the national campaign. When President Woodrow Wilson realized a very major state like ours, the first in the east, approved votes for women, he changed his mind and became a supporter of the 19th Amendment.

Our AAUW "Torch of Liberty" has been passed 10 times so far in its statewide journey. Has your branch "Passed the Torch" yet?

Contact Nancy Mion for info at myown220@aol.com.



NYS President, Roli Wendorf, passes the torch to Suzanne Young-Mercer, President of Rockland County Branch.