



Assemblymember
Ellen Jaffee
 Assembly District 97



Dear Friends,



It's been a busy time in my District Office meeting with community leaders, advocates and stakeholders to discuss their concerns about the Governor's proposed budget and how we can meet the diverse needs of Rockland residents. Your input is always welcome. Working together we can make a difference.

Ellen

Advocating for Rockland Seniors

I met with Diane Adele Pomeroy, President of [NY StateWide Senior Action Council](#), Rockland (left) and Vivian DeGroat to discuss the impact of the proposed NYS budget on seniors. If you have questions about your rights as a healthcare consumer in a hospital, nursing home, or through home care call [StateWide's Helpline](#): 800-333-4374.



Thank a Caregiver Today



[National Caregivers Day, February 19th](#), honors our hardworking health professionals who provide compassionate long-term or hospice care. Thank you to each and every one of these dedicated individuals for supporting families and providing these vital services to loved ones. Take time to thank a caregiver for their dedication and care of our loved ones. Pictured are local CSEA members visiting the office.

POW'R Against Tobacco

Always a pleasure to meet with [POW'R Against Tobacco](#) advocates and Tappan Zee High School students who are helping to reduce the social and economic burden caused by tobacco use. According to the [CDC](#), if smoking continues at the current rate among youth in this country, 5.6 million of today's Americans younger than 18 will die early from a smoking-related illness. That's about 1 of every 13 Americans aged 17 years or younger alive today.



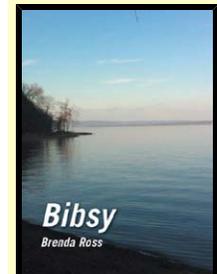
Opposing the Re-Licensing of Indian Point

The [release of radioactive water](#) on February 6, not the first release, or the first time Entergy's operation and maintenance has failed, only underscores the fact that Indian Point cannot continue to operate as it has. My primary concern is the potential impact this tritium-contaminated water may have on public health and our environment. I will continue to [express my vocal opposition](#) to the plant's re-licensing. For more information about our beautiful river, click [here](#) for a wonderful piece by our friend and advocate with the [Rockland Water Coalition](#), Laurie Seaman.

Funding Quality Childcare

At a hearing on February 9th, [I told the Acting Commissioner](#), New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Sheila J. Poole, that funding childcare in NY State must be an absolute priority. Simply put, if hardworking families and single mothers do not have access to safe, affordable child care, they cannot work. I have requested additional funding in the budget, beyond the Governor's proposed \$10 million, to ensure childcare providers can meet [newly mandated federal requirements](#).

African-American Roots in Rockland



At a recent African-American History month event, I had the pleasure of listening to Rockland author [Brenda Ross](#), discuss her terrific first novel [Bipsy](#). Although it's fiction, the book is grounded in her own family history as well as the history of [Rockland's larger black community](#), whose stories have often been silenced or marginalized, she said.

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