

Raya Kenney

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CEO with a proven track record in leadership, advocacy, & public speaking, committed to championing positive change

EDUCATION

Kenyon College

Gambier, OH

Bachelor of Arts, Art History, Law & Society

Graduated cum laude

- *Awards: 4x Merit List, Recipient of highest scholarship offered for academic prestige, Kenyon College's Robert L. Baker Prize for the best historical essay of the year*

LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY

WWII Women's Memorial Foundation

Executive Director

2018 – Present

- Leader of the 501(c)(3) mission to pass legislation for a national memorial on federal land in Washington, DC to honor the working women of WWII.
- Lobby congressional offices on both House and Senate sides.
- Organize fundraising and host related events, manage board meetings & set the foundation's vision and budget.
- Manage several teams and a Board of Directors

Legislative Accomplishments

- Successfully lobbied for the passage of **Public Law No. 117-328** and **H.R. 2290** (current)
- Collaborated with key stakeholders and Hill offices to ensure bipartisan support for the legislation.

Public Speaking & Honors

- **Guest of Honor** at the 2023 State of the Union Address, recognized for leadership in WWII women's advocacy.
- **Featured Speaker:**
 - The Congressional Medal Reception for the Rosie the Riveters
 - The Congressional Service Women & Women Veterans Caucus
 - Montgomery, MD Business and Professional Women + NOW
- **Educational Outreach:** Guest speaker at schools: Hyde-Addison, The Langley School, and The Burgundy Farm Day School, inspiring younger generations about WWII history and women's contributions.
- **Co-subject** in a film production about the women of WWII, produced by **PBS** and **Boeing**.
- **Subject of documentary**, "V for Victory", currently in production, chronicling the legacy of working women during WWII and the journey to establishing the national memorial.

WORK HISTORY

Shop Made in D.C.

Washington, DC

Senior Sales Associate/Emergency Manager

2021-present

- Provide sales assistance to customers, as well as executing tasks related to sales, merchandising, and operations. Maintain high-level visual store standards and strong knowledge of product
- Acting manager and corporate support when needed

Kenyon College Bookstore

Gambier, OH

Sales Associate

2023-May 2024

Kenyon College Advancement Office

Gambier, OH

- Phonathon Student Supervisor* 2022-23
- Managed students in the Phonathon calling room, ensuring communication standards were met, headed letter writing campaigns, and connected with alumni of Kenyon college for donation solicitation
- Murphy Kuhnert Art Consultancy** Washington, DC
Intern Summer 2020
- Helped appraise art collections for numerous well-established art galleries in the DC area

VOLUNTEER WORK

The Next Generation Program	Best Defense Foundation
<i>Volunteer</i>	<i>Summer 2024</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected from an international pool of young people to travel to Normandy, France to help 47 veterans return to their battlefields for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day 	
Student Life Committee – Office of Student Engagement	Kenyon College
<i>Board Member</i>	<i>2021-2024</i>
Specialty Housing Board – Office of Residential Life	Kenyon College
<i>Board Member</i>	<i>2023-2024</i>
Student Engagement Board – Office of Student Engagement	Kenyon College
<i>Board Member</i>	<i>2022-23</i>
Horn Gallery Board	Kenyon College
<i>Board Member</i>	<i>2021</i>
Persimmons Magazine	Kenyon College
<i>Assistant Editor</i>	<i>2021-22</i>
Sunrise Senior Living	Washington, D.C.
<i>Volunteer</i>	<i>2014-19</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cared for elderly with severe cases of dementia and Alzheimer's, led games and art activities (500+ hours) 	

PUBLISHED MEDIA

- Author**, “Blick-Harris Study Collection Oral History: Boris Blick,” ARHS Dept. Grant recipient, *Digital Kenyon*, Summer 2024.
- Author**, “Adjectivally-Oriented: Stylistic Shifts In Magazines As Represented By Image-Generating AI,” *Digital Kenyon*, Fall 2022.
- Contributor**, *National Women's History Alliance*, “Championing a National Memorial to the Women Who Worked on the Home Front,” March 2022.
- Contributor**, *The Georgetowner*, “Mapping Georgetown: A Georgetowner Leaving Her Mark,” March 2022
- Interview**, *CBS News Exclusive*, “Sen. Tammy Duckworth pushes for memorial to the working women of WWII,” 2022
- Recorded story**, *CBS Evening News*, “Teen determined to honor the working women of WWII with their own monument,” 2020.
- Letter to the Editor**, *Washington Post*, “Experts gave their best ideas for ending harassment,” 2018
- Letter to the Editor**, *Washington Post*, “Penny Marshall told women's stories and inspired many others,” 2018