



Kensington-Rockville Newsletter

American Association Of University Women

aauwkenroc@gmail.com

Volume 14 No. 7

April 2016

Kensington-Rockville Meeting

Planning Meeting for 2016-2017

June 9, 2016 at 1:00 pm

At Maritsa George's home to plan programs for the coming year.

Special Interest Group leaders, Committee Chairs and everyone with great program ideas for our Branch are welcome.

Charting the Course: Reminder

If you would like to help our branch become a **Charting the Course Navigator**, in honor and recognition of Janet Crampton's munificent giving, please go online to **Charting the Course** at <https://ww2.aauw.org/ctc-gift/?treatment=AAUW4402-1>. It's easy, and your donation will automatically be credited to the Kensington-Rockville Branch. (If you are a dual member, let Dian know and she'll alert staff to assign your gift to KR.)

Or, make your check payable to AAUW, with **Charting the Course**, #4402 on the memo line, and send it to: AAUW Development Office, PO Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090.

To learn more about this major gift campaign, which seeks to raise \$1 million by December 31, 2016, in unrestricted funds, see: <http://www.aauw.org/chartingthecourse/>. Latest word is that we're currently at about \$800,000. Getting there!

Message from the President:

Time to Reflect, Time to Celebrate!

What a year! I hope that you feel as pumped as I do about the Kensington-Rockville Branch. We have welcomed several stimulating new members, launched a handsome, informative website, expanded our outreach and visibility, and made a tradition of breaking bread together.

We learned: how a female astronomer earning less than a janitor at her university ultimately became NASA's "Mother of the Hubble"; how recent Supreme Court decisions impact women; how to better understand, appreciate, and even write poetry—which we did, and dared to share.

We journeyed: to the Maryland Women's Heritage Center in Baltimore for the AAUW MD fall conference, where we heard the goals and gratitude of women scholars supported by AAUW fellowships and grants; to Capitol Hill for a lively and instructive tour of the extraordinary Folger Shakespeare Library and Theater; to Howard County for the annual state convention, where AAUW's latest research report, *Barriers and Bias: the Status of Women in Leadership*, was highlighted.

We engaged our community: by participating in Sonya Kovalesky Day to promote STEM careers for girls and continuing to build our relationship with Montgomery College; by cooperating with the county's Human Trafficking Task Force and informing ourselves and others about the horrors and costs of this life-shattering scourge; by helping to host a useful School Board candidates' forum; by attending lectures at the Universities at Shady Grove to introduce ourselves while enhancing our comprehension of the migrant and refugee crises at this chaotic, dangerous time.

We acted. We met, button-holed, and listened to local, state, and national political leaders at the Commission for Women's annual Women's Legislative Briefing. We received updates and strengthened commitments at a reception of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women. We wrote, lobbied, and testified in Annapolis—and won significant victories. Equal pay for equal work is now the law in Maryland!

We gave. Kensington-Rockville was Number 1, again, in branch giving to AAUW priorities. We provided scholarships for two mature women students at Montgomery College. We are well on our way to earning the status of Charting the Course Navigator in AAUW's campaign to raise \$1 million in unrestricted funds.

THANK YOU! Until we all gather again in September, I wish you the summer you long for.

Dian Belanger
President

AAUW Funds Ella Iams

Spring has arrived and students have received college acceptance letters. It is time for members to consider making a donation to the Montgomery College Foundation so the college can award scholarship money to a woman returning to school. To contribute, make checks payable to the Montgomery College Foundation and add "AAUW Kensington Rockville Scholarship TS 1007" on the memo line. Mail checks to Montgomery College Foundation 40 West Gude Drive #220 Rockville, MD 20850. You can also donate on-line. The web address is in the Directory.

Message from the Membership Vice Presidents: Jean Thompson and Virginia Collins

Welcome to New Members:

Jeannette Parshall

Jan was the first respondent to our new branch website! Jan has lived in Leisure World for a few years. She has a BA in English from the Colorado College in Colorado Springs. Since she is an English major, she attended our branch meeting on poetry. She is interested in joining our literature group.

Penny Dolinger

Penny graduated from American University with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Her major was Russian Language. Penny has attended our literature group as well as our Great Decisions group. She has lives in Leisure World.

Editor's omission from March 2016 newsletter

Monique Briend-Walker

A French native born in Brittany, Monique Briend-Walker received her Master's degree in English and comparative literature in 1971 from Université de Haute-Bretagne, in Rennes, France. In 1970, she came to the University of Rochester, N.Y, as a graduate exchange student and as a Fulbright Scholar. At the U of R, she studied comparative literature and taught French to undergraduate students. In the summer of 1971, she traveled throughout the US under the auspices of the United Nations Youth Peace Program, and made life-long friendships among her American host families. Mrs. Walker has taught English, Spanish and French in France, in England, and in the USA. She was a Senior lecturer at Dartmouth College from 1982 through 1987. She has taught languages in various private schools in the DC area since 1989 when she founded a summer immersion program in

France that she led for 26 years. She is the mother of 3 children. Monique is a published translator of many books and she continues to enjoy teaching young children, and young-at-heart adults. In her recent semi-retirement she has indulged her passion for the cinema, and has been privileged to discover new friendships and stimulating circles of readers and activists in the AAUW networks.

Public Policy Update 5/22/16

Anita Rosen, Maryland AAUW Vice President for Public Policy

Thank you AAUW and thank you Kensington-Rockville Branch! Why the thank -you's? Well, without AAUW I would not have had the opportunity to be standing behind Governor Hogan as he signed SB 481 / HB 1003 The Equal Pay bill on Thursday, May 19th. And standing next to me was Senator Susan Lee, another member of Kensington-Rockville AAUW. Senator Lee was the main sponsor of the Senate bill, who spoke eloquently for it at committee the hearing, and worked so effectively with the many partners to make Maryland one of the most progressive states in the US in regard to Pay Equity legislation and eliminating barriers to Equity such as the "employer Defense" loophole and prohibiting retaliation against sharing salary and job information. Thanks to AAUW's national office



who supplied legislative alerts, research data, and materials that helped make our case. Thanks to our coalition partner, *Working Families*, who invited Senator Lee and me to speak at the Press Conference in front of the State House before the bill signing. We were pleased that Kate Nielson of the National AAUW staff joined us for that event. It was her first bill signing as well as mine! But it certainly was not Senator Lee's first--she has successfully sponsored a number of bills that help make Maryland a better place

for women, children and families. And last, but certainly not least, THANK YOU. So many Kensington-Rockville Branch members responded to calls to help promote important legislation. Your calls really do make a difference!

NOTE: For the newsletter or for website, please add that if members would like to be added to the State Public Policy Update and Alert email list, send me a simple request with AAUW MD Alerts in the subject.

Kensington-Rockville Branch Members Well-Represented at the Maryland State Convention

Jean Thompson

On Saturday, April 30th, several members of the Kensington-Rockville Branch attended the Maryland AAUW State Convention at Howard County Community College. In addition to hearing presentations from national Board and staff members and a public policy update, the members attended the business meeting. Several topics were discussed:

1. Promote National members to join the state without joining a branch. This is now possible, but it needs to be encouraged. Angela will head up a committee to look into ways in which we can promote this idea. Joyce, Anita and Pat Stocker volunteered to be on the committee.

2. Do we need a Public Policy Statement for the state? Anita will head a committee to look into printing a brochure and/or putting both bills that we've worked on and general information about our positions. Anita asked about applying for an Impact Grant for Public Policy and it was voted to do so. This would pay for extra expenses involved in printing a brochure.

3. Bylaws. The current bylaws that need to be changed. For example, branch presidents are not members of the State board at the present time and that should be changed. Dorothy Fraquelli asked for a volunteer to redo the bylaws, but there were no takers!



4. The summer conference will be on July 23. The location is uncertain.

5. State convention for 2017 will be in Easton either late March or early April. It will be the 75th.

6. Eileen Menton encouraged people to give AAUW MD's archives to the U. of Maryland.

7. Eileen also asked for someone to handle Facebook for the state—maybe the website, also.

Kensington-Rockville Branch won, again, first place in the financial support of AAUW funds.

April Branch Meeting

On Saturday, April 23rd, approximately 15 members of the Branch convened at the Schweinhaut Senior Center in Silver Spring to attend a creative writing workshop led by poet Craig Flaherty. Since retiring as a church musician in 2001, Mr. Flaherty has been writing poetry and playing chamber music. Having studied with Ann Becker, Poet Laureate of Takoma Park, he now regularly attends her workshop "Writing a Village." He divides his time between his yellow pad and playing music at the Montgomery County Chamber Music Society in Rockville. Long-time friend Maritsa George declares that "Craig is a wordsmith who finds poetic thought in music and the spoken word. He is a maker of connections between thought, emotion and self, a great friend with a great laugh." The attendees



learned that every culture has its own poetic style, ranging from iambic pentameter to haiku to villanelle. According to the presenter, poetry emerges from listening and feeling (e.g., glad, mad, scared and sad) and seeks to overcome our tendency to live from the "ears up and the wrists down." Mr. Flaherty described various techniques for writing poetry such as recalling aromas from

childhood, using pictures to stimulate thoughts and emotions, picking a random word from the dictionary as a prompt, and writing words on a card and selecting one from a jar to begin the artistic process. After reading some of Mr. Flaherty's many poems, and writing and sharing their own creations, the Branch members convened for a leisurely lunch at a nearby Asian restaurant, Red Maple. .

Message From the Treasurer: Ruth Spivack

It's time to renew your AAUW membership. You can renew on-line or by mailing a check to Ruth Spivack, the Branch Treasurer. See attached form.

To facilitate on-line renewal on the AAUW website, I will be sending each member an-email with a direct link to easily renew your membership on line, as well as make a contribution. **JUST CLICK AND RENEW ONLINE WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD** It is not necessary to log in to the AAUW website with Member ID or password. After you complete the process, you will receive an e-mail confirmation. It doesn't get any easier than this.

2016-17 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: AAUW KENSINGTON ROCKVILLE BRANCH

BRANCH DUES FORM

Use this form to join the AAUW Kensington Rockville Branch or to renew membership. Complete the form and mail it with a check payable to **Kensington-Rockville AAUW**. Association dues are \$49; AAUW MD dues are 10; branch dues are \$16: totaling \$75. Life members of AAUW pay \$26 (state & branch). Student dues are \$20.

Name: _____

Name of Spouse (optional, for yearbook): _____

Street Address: _____

Telephone number(s): _____

Email address: _____

May we publish your email address in the yearbook? _____

Are you willing to receive the newsletter via email (only)? _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Are you an AAUW Life Member? _____

I would like to help the Kensington Rockville Branch grow. My interests are checked below:

_____ **Public Policy** (legislative meetings, member information on public issues)

_____ **Communications** (newsletter, brochures, member to member information, website)

_____ **Membership** (outreach to new members)

_____ **Program** (community outreach and educational programs to fulfill our mission)

_____ **Educational Foundation** (planning and implementing the fundraising events for EF and LAF)

_____ **Historian** (providing historical perspective and association memory; creates/maintains scrapbooks)

_____ **Donations** -- I would like to contribute \$_____ to the AAUW Kensington Rockville Branch mission.

Interest Groups:

GREAT DECISIONS

Marianne Jacobs

Contact: aauwKenRock@gmail.com

Friday, June 17th at 1 pm at the home of Gail Greenberg. We are discussing Chapter # 6 in the Foreign Policy book.

The Afternoon Literature Group

Judy Burr

Contact: aauwKenRock@gmail.com

The Literature Group will meet at noon on Tuesday, June 21st at the home of Gail Greenberg . Bring a lunch and Gail will provide beverages for us. We will discuss **Still Live with Bread Crumbs** by Anna Quindlen. We will also vote on our book selections for next year. Please let Gail know if you are coming. 301-

Le Groupe Francais

Ruth Spivack

Contact: aauwKenRock@gmail.com

Next meeting is Monday, June 13 at the house of Ruth Spivack (301) 946-8626 at 7:30 p.m.

Lunch Bunch

Parma Holt

Contact: aauwKenRock@gmail.com

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on Friday, June 3, at El Patio Argentine Restaurant, 5240 Randolph Road, Rockville. Ample free parking is available in the parking lot of the shopping plaza. Please notify Parma by Thursday, June 2, if you plan to join us.

Deadline for the September Newsletter is August 20.

Newsletter Editor

Circulation: Ruth Spivack

Margery Sullivan

Contact: aauwKenRock@gmail.com

*The **American Association of University Women (AAUW)** advances equity for **women and girls** through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.*

AAUW Vision Statement: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measureable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

**Kensington-Rockville Branch
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