



# Kensington-Rockville Newsletter

American Association Of University Women

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## Kensington-Rockville AAUW Branch Meeting

Saturday, March 11

Edgewater Maryland

**Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC)**

Followed by lunch at the home of Angela Mickalide on Beards Creek

### Road Trip to “The Edge”

Angela Mickalide has arranged for a unique visit to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Edgewater, MD. We will visit the laboratories, hear a research scientist’s views on the effects of climate change “on the edge,” and enjoy luncheon at Angela’s home.

Featured speaker, Smithsonian plant physiologist Dr. Bert Drake studied the effects of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> on a Chesapeake Bay wetland. The Charles McC.Mathias Laboratory on the SERC campus opened in 2014. It is the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Platinum building in the Institution.



After the tour of the laboratory, Angela has invited all to lunch at her new home on Beards Creek in Edgewater. Her address is 3155 Rolling Road, Edgewater Maryland. Telephone number is 240-793-5342 (cell) and 410 956 4846 (home)

SERC has requested a list of people attending, and Angela would appreciate a count for lunch. When you RSVP, please let me know if you are willing to drive a car pool and how many passengers you can take. We will make every effort to accommodate EVERYONE!! So, if you

plan to attend, RSVP by March 7 to Joyce Graf at 301 502 2551 or [joyce@regraf.com](mailto:joyce@regraf.com).

**March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Schedule**

**Tentative Schedule**

**9:00 - 9:15 am**           Carpools to depart Rockville/Kensington  
**10:15 - 10:30 am**       Arrive at the Mathias Laboratory, meet in Room 1013 for coffee  
**10:30 - 11:30 am**       Talk by Dr. Bert Drake in Room 1013  
**11:30 am – 12:30 pm**   Short tour of Mathias Research Laboratory with Karen McDonald and,  
time permitting, a short visit to the Reed Education Center  
**1:00 - 2:30 pm**         Luncheon at Angela Mickalide's, 3155 Rolling Road, Edgewater, MD

RSVP by **March 7** to Joyce Graf at 301 502 2551 or [joyce@regraf.com](mailto:joyce@regraf.com)

**Driving Directions from the Washington Beltway (I 495):**

Drive on U.S. Route 50 east toward Annapolis  
Take exit 16, south at MD Route 424, (Davidsonville Road)  
Turn left (east) at traffic light onto MD. 214 (Central Ave.)  
Follow Central Ave. (MD 214) east to the traffic light at MD 468 (Muddy Creek Road).  
Turn right (south) onto Muddy Creek Road.  
Proceed about 1 mile, then turn left (east) at the SERC highway sign onto Contees Wharf Road.  
Turn right at the three-way stop. The **Mathias Lab** is the large modern building at the end of the circular driveway. The meeting will take place in Room 1013.  
The **Reed Education Center** is located on Dock Road. From the Mathias Lab, drive back toward the entrance on Contees Wharf Road, but turn RIGHT at the three way stop onto Dock Road. The Center is located near the end of the road.

**Additional information.....**

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Edgewater, MD is the leading national research center for understanding environmental issues in the coastal zone. Headquartered on Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary, its 2,650-acre campus spans forests, wetlands, marshes and 12 miles of protected shoreline. The site serves as a natural laboratory for long-term and cutting-edge ecological research, permitting scientists to explore the most pressing issues affecting the environment. For an introduction to the work of the Center, look at the You Tube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0VWiGBIbqQ> and the fact sheet at <http://newsdesk.si.edu/factsheets/smithsonian-environmental-research-center>. Other sources of information are: <https://serc.si.edu/users/bert-drake/drakeb6112002> and <http://newsdesk.si.edu/releases/smithsonian-opens-new-sustainable-research-lab>

The Philip D. Reed Education Center includes a multipurpose classroom/laboratory, library, exhibit hall, and office space. The center is used to host students, teachers, and members of the public participating

in environmental education. It serves as the visitor center, with brochures, trail maps, exhibits, and information about the work of the Center and the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay.

## Message from the President

### President's Notes

#### Oh, the Places We Go!

It's been a busy, purposeful month since I last wrote. Kensington-Rockville Branch co-sponsored and was well-represented at the Maryland Women's Legislative Briefing at the Universities at Shady Grove, and both the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) reception and AAUW Maryland's Lobby Day in Annapolis—all in hardly more than a week. We learned from issue experts and effectively met with allies, legislators, and their pertinent aides. Thank you, so many of you, for your enthusiastic, informed, reasoned, nonpartisan AAUW presence in the political arena!



In addition to AAUW/MLAW priorities, we lobbied for the Maryland Patients' Bill of Rights, the brainchild and consuming cause of Anna Palmisano, new member, who presented the case for her bill at our November meeting. She's got strong so-sponsorship in both houses, including that of Sen. Susan Lee, also a branch member and leading legislator for women. With attention and action ***we will make history, not be pushed around by it!***



Thanks to you all who found your way to the National Portrait Gallery for our February meeting. What fun it was to share with you an afternoon of extraordinary women in American history!

In March we'll once again venture forth, this time to Edgewater, new home of Angela Mickalide, who has generously invited us all to lunch. But first we'll steep ourselves in climate change and what we can do about it at the nearby Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. As we know too well, we live in challenging times.

Dian Belanger  
[dobelanger@comcast.net](mailto:dobelanger@comcast.net)

## President's Notes

### Mary Church Terrell: Change Agent Extraordinaire

I ended our February tour of Women at the National Portrait Gallery with highlights of the life of Mary Church Terrell (1863-1954), this beautiful, highly educated, accomplished leader who brought about the racial desegregation of AAUW in the 1940s. I cringe to think we ever denied membership to any qualified woman (we were only women then), much less a woman of her exceptional achievement. I'm grateful that she persisted and we finally did the right thing (years before our nation did).

As I also noted, in 1950 Mrs. Terrell challenged the refusal of restaurants in the nation's capital to serve people of color, bringing a lawsuit, ultimately successful, all the way to the Supreme Court. But she also worked on the streets—in her late 80s leading picketers at Hecht's downtown department store where African Americans could spend their money but not enjoy a cup of coffee in its café. Hecht's did at last bow to the pressure and changed its policy.

I was thrilled to learn last summer that a permanent monument to Mary Church Terrell has been placed on the old Hecht's building on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and F streets, NW. Worth a pilgrimage.

Dian Belanger  
[dobelanger@comcast.net](mailto:dobelanger@comcast.net)



## Branch Yearbooks Available

It has come to our attention that many members did not receive a copy of the Branch Yearbook. They are being mailed to the members we can identify as not receiving one. If you have not yet received your copy, please send an email, text message, or call to Joyce Graf at [joyce@regraf.com](mailto:joyce@regraf.com).

## Kensington-Rockville Branch Members in Annapolis

### Sponsor and Testify for Legislation

Kensington-Rockville member Erin Prangley testified in support for one of this year's most important Maryland Legislative Agenda (MLAW) Equal Pay bills – SB404/HB 398—Job



Announcement and Salary History Information Disclosures. She is pictured with Kensington-Rockville member Senator Susan Lee's the chief sponsor of the Senate bill. Although Maryland has passed very progressive equal pay legislation, there are still some practices in the interviewing process that disproportionately discriminate against women. It prohibits larger employers from seeking salary history information for applicants or positions. As we know, if women

are paid less than men, salaries based on that lesser, previous salary mean that women will always fall behind men. In addition the bill requires certain employers to announce positions in a fair manner, with equal pay and salary range.

## AAUW Lobby Day in Annapolis a Success

AAUW Maryland's first Lobby Day in Annapolis on February 6, 2017, was an energetic, active achievement! Thank you to all Kensington-Rockville members who attended—nine of us: Dian



Belanger, Kate Campbell Stevenson, Maritsa George, Joyce Graf, Angela Mickalide, Anna Palmisano, and Erin Prangley, in addition to myself and our intrepid state Senator, Susan Lee.

Lobby Day was held in collaboration with the Women's Economic Security Agenda (WESA) Symposium, organized by Working Families. Our delegation wore AAUW Advocate pins, and we enjoyed great

networking opportunities as we shared our issues with dozens of WESA participants.

We made group and individual visits to key legislators and committee members, some of these courtesy calls to supporters. Special thanks to Anna Palmisano and Erin Prangley for their willingness to partner on appointments, engage legislators, and help lobby novices learn the ropes. All of our Lobby Day volunteers made a difference and were terrific representatives of AAUW.

Beyond the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women and WESA priorities, we gave special attention to promoting Anna's Patients' Bill of Rights bill (SB660/HB808) and supported the Howard County Branch's bill to change the age of majority in cases of divorce.

We are grateful to many legislators for their support of our issues, but in particular Senator Lee and Del. Ariana Kelly, a district delegate of some of us, who have been leading the way on women's issues.

AAUW made its voice heard on February 6th. Let's continue our advocacy on our two AAUW-initiated issues and all the others. Please make a simple call or two every time you receive a legislative Action Alert.

Anita Rosen  
Public Policy, Kensington-Rockville Branch and AAUW Maryland  
[anitarosen123@gmail.com](mailto:anitarosen123@gmail.com)

## A message from the Kensington/Rockville Human Trafficking Tasks Force

Over the past several months, the Human Trafficking Force has refined and reworked our presentation on the facts about Human Trafficking in Montgomery County.

We received the new, official power point visual from the Montgomery County Human Task Force with updated text and are ready to go on the road to help the public understand the prevalence of human trafficking in the Washington area.

What we need from our Branch members are references to any organization which would be willing to host us for this hour long presentation.

For further information please contact:

Marsha Luce: [marsha.luce@Verizon.net](mailto:marsha.luce@Verizon.net)

Maritsa George: [maritsageo@Verizon.net](mailto:maritsageo@Verizon.net)

## Interest Groups:

### ***GREAT DECISIONS***

Marianne Jacobs  
[AAUWKenRock@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWKenRock@gmail.com)

The March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at the home of Ella Iams.

### ***Le Groupe Français***

Ruth Spivack  
[AAUWKenRock@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWKenRock@gmail.com)

The group is reading "La Nuit" by Elie Wiesel.

### **Lunch Bunch**

Parma Holt [AAUWKenRock@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWKenRock@gmail.com)  
The Lunch Bunch will celebrate St. Patrick's Day at Lahinche Tavern & Grill on Friday, March 17, at noon. The restaurant, located at 7747 Tuckerman Lane in the Cabin John Center of Potomac, offers a fusion of Irish and American dishes. Please notify Parma by Wednesday, March 15, if you plan to join us.

### ***The Afternoon Literature Group*** Judy Burr

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

**TBA**

## Save the Date:

Jun 14-17, 2017    AAUW National Convention  
Washington, DC

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

*AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 135 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.*

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*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.*

**Deadline for the April Newsletter is March 20.**

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