



Kensington-Rockville Newsletter

American Association Of University Women

Website: kensingtonrockville-md.aauw.net

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February 2017

Kensington-Rockville AAUW Branch Meeting

**The Branch is going touring at the National Portrait Gallery
With our Branch President/ NPG Docent**

**Saturday, February 11, 2017 Noon
Kogod Courtyard in the National Portrait Gallery**

Lunch at the Kogod Cafe in the Courtyard.

Dian Belanger, will lead our tour after lunch.

Take the Red Line Metro to the Gallery Place/Chinatown stop. The Portrait Gallery is located between 9th and 7th Streets N.W. and G and F Streets. There are two entrances, both very near the Metro exit, one on F Street and the other on G Street.

The National Portrait Gallery is a lovely place on a winter day, easy to get to and our tour guide, Dian, has entertaining and thoughtful insights to share.

Bring a friend! This will be a marvelous tour!

Message from the President

President's Notes

Dian Belanger

dobelanger@comcast.net

President's Notes Where To Now?



First, thank you, Margaret Schweitzer and program team, for hosting our memorable January luncheon in Ingleside's new Bistro and finding such a compelling speaker, Tovah Kasdin, to bring us sobering knowledge about elder abuse in Montgomery County. The many of you who were there, in turn, contributed to the richness and usefulness of the day with your pertinent stories and thoughtful views. Another warm welcome to you new or newish members and friends.

Please see my take on the thrillingly massive Women's March, below, as we consider AAUW's place in this unfamiliar world we now find ourselves. To all the opportunities described in these pages, that are right at hand, to make a difference for women and girls, I can only add, please choose among (or all?) and join us.

Paraphrasing theologian James Luther Adams, via the Rev. Meg Riley, we must **make** history, not be **pushed around** by it!

Dian Belanger
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Marching for Women in Washington and around the World!

AAUW was there—at the Women’s March on Washington on Saturday, January 21, 2017, passing out gigantic AAUW buttons, to identify us and invite questions about our historic organization. We (Brian and I, Tracy Lantz, and her friend Mindy) were there. I hope you were—though beyond our rendezvous at the Newseum, we gave up trying to find anyone we knew among the more than half a million(!) women and men, and children, from all over the country proclaiming that “**Women’s Rights Are Human Rights.**”



As more and more people kept coming all day, crowding ever closer, we all seemed ever happier, friendlier, nicer, more helpful to one another, delighted and grateful for the validation and power we achieved together. The planners had to, finally, call off the "march"; there were too many people too packed together to walk! We did shuffle along, stop and go, for several blocks but on Jefferson Drive on the Mall, not the official Independence Avenue route, because we couldn't get near the latter. More thousands thronged Pennsylvania Avenue.

A sea of pink pussyhats and countless clever (some unprintable) placards spoke of women’s anger when men (in truth, that man) groped women’s private parts and bragged about it: “**Keep Your Paws Off My [photo of hissing cat]!**” **Girls Just Want FUN—damental Rights.**” “**I do not like you down my shirt, I do not like you up my skirt, I do not like you near my rump. I do not like you, Mr. Trump!**”

Other committed kindred spirits championed every imaginable compatible cause—family planning: “**Keep Your Theology Off My Biology**”; racial justice: “**Black Lives Matter**”; LGBTQ rights: “**Respect My Existence or Expect My Resistance**”; immigration: “**Build Bridges, Not Walls**”; Muslims: “**This [varied photos] Is What America Looks Like**”; global warming: “**Polar Bears Against Climate Change.**”

There was virtually no security. There was no need. No violence. No unpleasantness, even with the few counter-protest signs scattered about. It was a peaceful, uplifting, exhausting, exhilarating, impelling, historic day.

And we were only one (by far the largest) of more than 600 similar protest marches all over the United States and on every continent—including Antarctica! “**Make America Kind Again.**” “**Make America Think Again.**” “**Love Trumps Hate.**” “**Men of Quality Value Women of Equality.**”

Dian Belanger dobelanger@comcast.net

Members and Friends at Marching for Women

Dian Belanger, Brian Belanger, Tracy Lantz, Erin Prangley and Alex and Margery Sullivan

Molly, Congressman Raskin, Ty Fox (NC), Hanna Fredericks and Kynga (Mexico) former AAUW members



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

New Members:

Sheila Hixson (Delegate)

Maryland House of Delegates
1008 Broadmoore Circle
Silver Spring, MD 20904
[\(301\) 384-4739](tel:3013844739)

Erin Prangle

16 Kentbury Way
Bethesda, MD 20184
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Erin Prangle

Erin Prangle is an attorney with 20 years of experience helping elected officials, non-profit organizations, and individual clients with matters concerning state and federal governments. She has worked for several members of congress, was staff director for the Congressional Women's Caucus, and owned her own law practice. Some of us are familiar with Erin's work when she was a senior lobbyist for AAUW's national office. She graduated from the University of Southern California (BA - Sociology) and American University Washington College of Law (JD) where she met her husband Dan. Erin joined AAUW in 2004 as a San Fernando Valley, CA branch member. She feels a profound responsibility to show her daughter, Alex (10 yrs), that women of good conscience have the power to make their community and the entire world a better place.

AAUW Lobby Day in Annapolis February 6

We will be holding a Lobby Day in Annapolis on February 6, 2017. Besides our usual calls, support letters, and testimony, we will partner with the Women's Economic Security Agenda Coalition (WESA), who have helped us be effective around pay equity and fair pay issues. From 12: 45- 4:00 pm there will be a WESA Symposium that AAUW Maryland is co-hosting. The afternoon will consist of panels and speakers about

- Healthy Working Families Act (Earned Sick Days)
- Fight for \$15 (minimum wage)
- Fair Workweek Initiative
- Affordable Child Care

There will be many state legislators invited. Refreshments will be served to those registered. During the afternoon, you may also plan to make appointments to speak to your local legislators about these and other AAUW issues. You may also lobby in the evening since most Legislators are available on Monday evenings to meet with you.

The symposium will be a great chance to have a central meeting place, get information, meet legislators and lobby for AAUW. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maryland-womens-economic-security-agenda-symposium-tickets-30472567269?aff=es2> It is free!

Interest Groups:

The Afternoon Literature Group

Judy Burr AUWKenRock@gmail.com

The meeting is Feb 21 and the book is *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Location TBA

Lunch Bunch

Parma Holt AUWKenRock@gmail.com

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on Wednesday, February 8, at Nova Europa in Silver Spring. The restaurant is located in the Kemp Mill Shopping Center at 1311 Lamberton Drive, just off Arcola Avenue between University Boulevard and Kemp Mill Road. Please notify Parma at AUWKenRock@gmail.com by Tuesday, February 7, if you plan to join us.

GREAT DECISIONS

Marianne Jacobs
AUWKenRock@gmail.com

Great Decisions Group is Friday, Feb. 17th from 1 to 3 pm at the home of Margaret Schweitzer. We will be discussing Chap. # 2.

Le Groupe Français

Ruth Spivack
AUWKenRock@gmail.com

The next French Club meeting is scheduled Monday, Feb.20 at 1:30 pm. at the home of Ruth Spivack..

We will begin reading "La Nuit" by Elie Wiesel.

Save the Date:

Jun 14-17, 2017 **AAUW National Convention**
Washington, DC
Pledge now to register for chance at
Free registration.

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

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community

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.

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.

Deadline for the March Newsletter is February 20.

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