

KENSINGTON-ROCKVILLE AAUW BRANCH MEETING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2017, 11:00am



The Debt Gap: Why College is More Expensive for Women

Dr. Catherine Hill

Branch member and former Vice President for Research at AAUW and the author of many publications; see <http://www.aauw.org/author/catherinehill/>.

Montgomery College – Rockville Campus
51 Mannakee Street, Rockville, MD 20850
Science Center (SC), Room 152

Following the talk and a discussion/questions period, we will have a brief branch business meeting and then lunch. Boxed lunches must be pre-ordered by completing the form below and sending the form with \$11.00 payment to Jane Gentleman no later than Monday, September 11.

The Montgomery College Women's and Gender Studies Program will be accepting donations for the [MC Student Food Pantry](#) at our meeting. Please bring a donation of individually packaged snacking food items that students can eat on campus (e.g. granola bars, crackers, cookies, shelf stable cheese or peanut butter individual packages, etc.).

Parking: Free parking in Parking Lot 10 (Student Parking, outside lot) or Parking Lot 11 (Faculty & Staff Parking, outside lot); see campus map.

Campus map:

http://media.montgomerycollege.edu/communications/maps/Rockville_Campus.pdf.

Message from Our Branch Presidents

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time."

--John Lubbock, The Use of Life

Welcome back AAUW Kensington-Rockville wonder women (and men)!

We hope you all had a restful summer and are energized to come back to AAUW Kensington-Rockville as we begin our 2017-2018 program year. During the past few weeks, we've heard from branch members who celebrated special birthdays, traveled on exciting adventures, saw all the "summer blockbusters" at the movies (Have you seen "Wonder Woman" yet? You should!) and continued to live life to the fullest -- and we would expect nothing less from our dynamic group.

We are excited to get down to business at our first meeting as co-presidents of the Kensington Rockville AAUW branch which will be held at Montgomery College (Rockville Campus). In addition to a short, but important, branch business meeting, we will all go back to school to learn more from Dr. Catherine Hill who will provide a unique presentation on the debt gap faced by women who take out loans for higher education. We are so honored that Montgomery College has agreed to co-host this event and has offered to work with our programs committee on future events. We will be inviting other branches to join us, so please feel free to spread the word with your family and friends. The more the merrier!

We look forward to getting back together and sharing our journey to empower women and girls in our community.

Yours in AAUW,
Erin and Kate

Welcome to New Members

Submitted by Ella Iams and Gail Greenberg, Membership Vice Presidents

We look forward to meeting our new branch members:

Mary Dominick

Mary Dominick joined the branch in June and attended the program planning meeting. She graduated from Vanderbilt University with a B.A. in International Relations and a J.D., both from Vanderbilt, and an LL.M. from Columbia Law School.

Joan Neisser

Joan Neisser joined our branch in the last couple of days. She graduated from Rutgers with a major in French and a law degree from Stanford. She knows Anita Rosen and plans to attend Great Decisions.

Please remember that 2017 Membership renewal in AAUW expired June 30th for non-life members. If you want to continue to support the AAUW mission, please send your dues to Ruth Spivack. The renewal information is in your Directory.

Kensington-Rockville Members Participate in AAUW Maryland Summer Leadership Conference

Submitted by Anita Rosen



Here is a one person summary of the 2017 AAUW Maryland Summer Leadership Conference held in Frederick Maryland on July 29. The theme was “Actions to Bold, Effective Leadership.” Besides gracious hosts, the meeting brought some interesting speakers and greeters. Jan Gardner, the Frederick County Executive Director had really

done her homework about AAUW and was an engaging greeter. I was happy to see a smart, dynamic woman serving as County Executive. We hope that Frederick AAUW branch recruits her to AAUW!

Eileen Menton provided a brief but effective strategic plan update and an overview of AAUW Maryland's successes with national leadership, fundraising, support for the national and state advocacy and lobby days, the Women of Distinction Award (Cleopatra Campbell fund in 2017) and recognition of AAUW Maryland and branches at national Convention. We may not be a big state but our generosity and accomplishments are great and we certainly know how to demonstrate “effective, bold leadership”!

The main speaker was Kimberly Churches, the new CEO of AAUW Maryland. She was an engaging, energetic speaker, and challenged those present to look at what AAUW is and where we should be headed. Some of the issues she discussed were a bit controversial and certainly thought provoking such as: Would it strengthen AAUW to become a non-membership organization? and Should we allocate our resources in very different ways? She made it clear that it is very important for the CEO and national office to hear from AAUW members

and branches. Members took the opportunity to tell our new CEO about what has remained vitally important for 136 years. In addition, as a gerontologist, I do have some concern about the way our organization was described as "aging" in terms of average age of branch membership. From my point of view, while we don't want to become moribund, what's so bad about actively recruiting middle aged and older women to AAUW branches? It is clear that AAUW needs to learn how to recruit and engage a diverse group of branch and online members to remain vital. But my take on our "aging" Maryland members is that we are a smart, creative, generous, well-traveled and well-read group of people who helped make AAUW Maryland's 2016-2017 Strategic Plan a success!

In addition to food for thought about who we are and where we should be headed, our state officers lead break-out sessions for attendees to prepare for the coming year. Of the six sessions, two were directed by Kensington-Rockville Branch presidents-- Kate Campbell Stevenson VP for Program and Erin Prangley VP for Public Policy. They were terrific!

As a final note, the Business Meeting included discussion and information about increasing Maryland's online community, supporting the 2018 Women of Distinction at NCCWSL, enhancing strategic public policy coalition partnerships, a 2018 Lobby Day in Annapolis, and enhanced action and communication technologies.

AAUW Maryland voted to continue support for a platinum sponsorship of the 2018 AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) Women of Distinction Ceremony. Branches will be asked to raise funds to support NCCWSL at this high level. We will again have a Maryland Woman of Distinction Award, and everyone is encouraged to submit nominations no later than October 1 to Bea Dane at bea_dane@comcast.net. A vote to select the Maryland Woman of Distinction Award will take place at the October 21 board meeting.

The Maryland board also agreed to support two state bills sponsored by branches - A bill to extend child support for post-secondary education (Howard County) and the Maryland Patients' Bill of Rights (Kensington-Rockville). AAUW Maryland will also work coalition with the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW); Fight for \$15 (minimum wage); and Fair Scheduling Coalition to advance statewide public policy priorities.

The statewide meetings are a great place to learn more about what other

branches are doing to help empower women and girls. It is also a way for you to speak up and shape AAUW Maryland priorities. Everyone is encouraged to attend the next AAUW Maryland meeting which will be held on October 21 in Gaithersburg. Look for details in the next AAUW Maryland newsletter!

Branch Members Meet with Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh

Submitted by Erin Prangley

On August 7, AAUW Maryland met with Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh for a productive meeting about AAUW Maryland's Title IX delivery project and public policy agenda. Kensington-Rockville members Erin Prangley and Anna Palmisano were invited to attend. Erin, the AAUW Maryland Vice President for Public Policy, spoke about the importance of AAUW's [Title IX Delivery Project](#) in the current climate of less rigorous enforcement of Title IX on college campuses and in our K-12 schools. Anna, the founder of Marylanders for Patients Rights, asked for the Attorney General's support for the [Maryland Patient's Bill of Rights](#). Anna and other K-R branch members have provided testimony in the past for this important legislation which would require a comprehensive, transparent, and consistent set of rights for Maryland hospital patients, whether they are admitted to the hospital or being treated in the emergency room or an outpatient clinic.



Bev Fallick (Howard County Branch), Erin Prangley (Public Policy VP AAUW-MD), Attorney General Brian Frosh, Eileen Menton (President AAUW-MD), Caitlin Brauer (College and University Representative), Anna Palmisano (Kensington-Rockville Branch).

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund: Persistence Pays Off, Saga of the Feather River Cases

Submitted by Janet Wert Crampton

Paul Thein finally has his settlement—\$2 million in May 2017. The three AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund-supported cases against Feather River Community College are closed.

Paul Thein, Laurel Wartluft, and Michelle Henley are former employees of Feather River Community College in California. In 2006, they filed whistleblower lawsuits against Feather River, alleging that the college violated [Title IX](#) by retaliating against them for complaining about sex discrimination, among other claims. Although their suits were filed as separate cases, all three cite related incidents in 2005. AAUW began supporting their cases in 2007.

Thein, as vice president for student services, was concerned that the college was not in Title IX compliance because the women's sports coaching staff was being treated differently from the men's sports coaches. As he probed the situation, the college ended his employment.

Wartluft had been hired on an emergency basis as head women's basketball coach and part-time faculty member. She applied for the permanent position when it was advertised and thought she had been hired because she began teaching and coaching the next academic year, but remained without contract and unpaid until her job was abruptly terminated.

Henley was investigating reports of sexual harassment of students by a college staff member, only to be warned to be careful because the alleged harasser's father was a senior faculty member. She herself was then harassed by college staff and faculty, disciplined for an action she did not commit, and quit her job in April 2006 rather than suffer more retaliation.

Thein filed suit against Feather River in August 2006; Henley and Wartluft filed similar suits in November 2006. Each plaintiff filed a whistleblower lawsuit, alleging that the college violated [Title IX](#) by retaliating against them for

complaining about sex discrimination, among other claims. AAUW LAF began supporting the cases in 2007.

The cases were eventually referred to California's State Personnel Board. In August 2009, a California personnel board judge issued a decision in favor of all three plaintiffs, ordering their reinstatement and awarding them back pay and damages. Feather River appealed that judge's decision. After a lengthy appeal, the full personnel board upheld the 2009 decision in the plaintiffs' favor. Henley and Wartluft settled their cases in 2015.

Civil rights laws like **Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972** do more than prohibit gender discrimination in education. Title IX also protects educators who challenge discriminatory treatment on their campuses. Too many educators who stand up for fair treatment face retaliation. The Feather River cases highlight the importance of protecting educators who do the right thing. Faculty and staff who are willing to fight for fairness on campus and in the classroom should not be terminated by colleges and universities in retaliation for their activism.

Read the Feather River cases story at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/feather-river-community-college-cases/>. Contribute to AAUW Fund (unrestricted #9110) to keep supporting those who do the right thing.

A Very Special Celebration!

Submitted by Kate Campbell Stevenson

On July 27th Mrs K's Toll House in Silver Spring was all abuzz. I arrived at 5 p.m. not wanting to be late for this very special event--Lifetime AAUW member Julie Snell's Surprise 94th Birthday Party! Julie's son, Scott Snell had been plotting and planning this surprise party for his mother for over a month. He thought the best way to celebrate would be to include her AAUW sisters. Ella Iams helped me track down names and phone numbers and arranged special transportation to bring 12 AAUW members to party on and pull off a great surprise for Julie. As you can tell from these pictures a fine time was had by all-- Happy Birthday Julie! We love you. Thank you for being my inspiration to join AAUW over 20 years ago!





Join the AAUW Archives Corps!

Submitted by Dian Belanger

Does the Past stir your juices? Are you curious about what AAUW has done to keep women loyal and committed for 136 years, and counting? Have you ever wondered who all those thousands of women were, and would become, that we have supported with AAUW fellowships and grants since 1888? Do you enjoy piecing together long-forgotten stories from fragile, faded papers?

Join the AAUW Archives Corps to work with other local members, under staff direction, to rediscover, process, and preserve for future use the documentary record of AAUW's extraordinary history. Archives volunteers commit to one partial day per month, usually the first Monday or Tuesday. Intrigued? Query Dian Belanger, dobelanger@comcast.net.

Join the AAUW Lobby Corps!

Does the Future push your buttons, especially the future for women and girls? Do you care about Title IX, sexual harassment, pay equity, voting and human rights? Does today's political atmosphere keep you up at night? Would you like to rationally promote and influence nonpartisan progress at the highest level?

Join the AAUW Lobby Corps on Capitol Hill to inform and urge legislative action for a more just world. Volunteer lobbyists, trained and briefed by AAUW public policy staff, commit to Thursday mornings when Congress is in session. Impassioned? Query Erin Prangle, erin.prangle@gmail.com.

Kensington-Rockville Branch's new leadership team:

Kate Campbell-Stevenson and Erin Prangley, Co-Presidents
Jane Gentleman, Sylvia Crowder, Virginia Collins, and Monique Briand-Walker,
Program Co-vice Vice Presidents Program Team
Ella Iams and Gail Greenberg, Membership Co-Vice Presidents
Ruth Spivack, Treasurer
Joyce Graf, Secretary
Margery Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Interest Groups

GREAT DECISIONS

Marianne Jacobs
AAUWKenRock@gmail.com

The next meeting will be September the 15th at 1 pm at the home of Monique Briand-Walker. We will be discussing Chapter # 7 from the Foreign Policy Book "Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan".

Le Groupe Français

Ruth Spivack
AAUWKenRock@gmail.com

Le Group Francais Le Groupe Francaise will meet September 187:30 p.m. at the home of Lynn Balabanis.

Lunch Bunch

Parma Holt AAUWKenRock@gmail.com
TBA

The Afternoon Literature Group

Judy Burr AAUWKenRock@gmail.com

TBA

Upcoming Events

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| September 16 | Branch meeting at Montgomery College |
| October 21 | AAUW Maryland Fall Conference in Gaithersburg |
| October 14 | Branch meeting at Montgomery College |
| November 11 | Branch meeting at Montgomery College |

BOX LUNCH ORDER FORM for Saturday, September 16

BOX LUNCH ORDER FORM for Saturday, September 16, 2017 K-R Branch Meeting

Mail this form with your check for \$11 to Jane Gentleman, 3217 Geiger Avenue, Kensington, MD 20895, to be received by Monday, September 11.

Current Montgomery College students will receive a free box lunch (courtesy of the College) if this form is received by the stated deadline. No check required.

A box lunch includes a sandwich, chips, cookies, fresh whole fruit, and a drink.

3 sandwich choices: Turkey breast & swiss cheese; Tuna salad; or Grilled veggie wrap

4 drink choices: Pepsi; Diet Pepsi; Ginger Ale; Bottle of water

Your name: _____

Are you a current Montgomery College student? _____

Your email address: _____

Your affiliation with AAUW and/or other organization(s): _____

Your choice of sandwich: _____

Your choice of drink: _____

Deadline for the October Newsletter is September 20. Thank you to all who have submitted material for this Newsletter.

Newsletter Editor

Margery Sullivan

msullivan@niaid.nih.gov

Circulation

Ruth Spivack

raspivack@gmail.com

The American Association of University Women (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.*

AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch
6540 Wiscasset Rd
Bethesda, MD 20816-2113