



## Kensington-Rockville Newsletter

American Association of University Women

Website: [kensingtonrockville-md.aauw.net](http://kensingtonrockville-md.aauw.net)

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## Kensington-Rockville AAUW Holiday Party

Sunday, December 11, 2:00-4:00

10108 Frederick Avenue, Kensington

Please join us for a social gathering at the home of Jeri Rhodes, who has graciously offered to host us again for our holiday open house. You are encouraged to bring a snack to share. Your contribution of cheese and crackers, veggies and dip, pita and hummus, fresh fruit, sweet treats, or your favorite seasonal specialty will provide a bountiful buffet.

Our annual drop-in creates a festive opportunity to chat informally with branch friends and their guests as we welcome the holidays and share the spirit of the season. This has become a branch tradition so please come. To help with planning refreshments please RSVP to Kate Campbell Stevenson [kcamstev@aol.com](mailto:kcamstev@aol.com) to let us know you are coming. Looking forward to seeing you there to celebrate AAUW and the season!

**Save the Date:**

January 13: Branch meeting, docent Dr. Jurate Landwehr, will lead a tour of the Hall of Human Origins, at **The National Museum of Natural History is located at 10<sup>th</sup> Street & Constitution Avenue NW**. Details in next month's newsletter.

## Presidents' Message

We hope you all are enjoying the holiday season! We cannot help but be thankful for the gift of AAUW, and all that it has meant to us this past year.

The year started off with a bang - who can forget the amazing Women's March on Washington? Proudly marching with AAUW or on our own with family and friends, we asserted we are united in our mission to make the world a better place for women and girls. We joined millions of people worldwide, asserting nothing will turn back the clock on the hard-fought human and civil rights earned by the sacrifices of our foremothers.

Our literary club brought us together to share feminist stories of tragedy and triumph. Along the way, we learned so much about each other's personal connections to the characters and circumstances. We built great friendships over delicious tea and treats debating the motivations of the characters and meaning of each tale.

Great Decisions enriched our minds and broadened our perspective on the global affairs. We are so much more alike than different from people all over the world! And, it is never too late to learn from the curriculum, and each other, about who we are as a society and how we can make the world a better place.

The French Club and Lunch Bunch continue to thrive keeping friendships and culinary exploration alive! Of course, our monthly meetings punctuate our uniqueness as AAUW with shared projects like NCCWSL's Maryland Fund and Montgomery College Food Drive and fascinating programming.

Coming together to support one another through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research, we each bring our own perspective and strength as we continue our journey as the Kensington-Rockville branch. Thank you all!

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and happy new year!

Sincerely,

Kate and Erin

## Learning from Our AAUW History

Our November 11 Kensington-Rockville joint branch meeting with Bethesda Chevy Chase at Fox Hill proved to be a stimulating success! Over 50 people braved cold temperatures to learn



*Kate Campbell Stevenson,  
moderator*

more about the 1977 National Women's Conference in Houston. AAUW along with other women's organizations (BPW, NOW, and LWV) was instrumental in coordinating and helping to produce the conference. From November 18 to 21, 1977 delegates from 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories debated, caucused, and after two and one-half days endorsed 25 resolutions calling for greater government involvement in establishing equal rights, protections, and opportunities for American women. Then AAUW President Marjorie Bell Chambers stated, "AAUW members can be proud of something that happened in Houston. As I stood up to speak on sex discrimination in education, I had no more than announced who I was when there was resounding applause, which frankly threw me off balance. Others assured me, however, that this was a

demonstration of recognition by the delegates that AAUW had indeed played a very significant role in the Network and in the Pro-Plan Caucus."



*Tina Hobson, first director of  
Federal Executive Women (FEW)*

Kate Campbell Stevenson, current co-president of the Kensington-Rockville branch, led a panel of outstanding women leaders who shared their challenges and successes in helping move women's leadership in 1960's to the present. Panelists Tina Hobson, first director of Federal Executive Women (FEW) recounted with great humor and sobering statistics how her first office was in a closet behind her boss' secretary's desk! But with great tenacity Hobson helped move women out of the sequestered background to leadership positions in the Federal Government.



Dr. Patricia Fenn, Charter Appointee and Former Chair, Prince Georges' County Commission for Women was a Maryland delegate to the 1977 Houston Conference. and shared her excitement as a very young woman attending and participating in numerous caucuses at the conference. Her Houston experience helped foster greater leadership skills working together with diverse women's groups. Fenn is a current leader with Maryland NAACP and is a board member of MLAW and Women's Legislative Briefing.



Ellouise Schoettler, Former ERA Campaign Director, National Staff of League of Women Voters and Founder and Executive Director of National Coalition of Women's Arts Organizations shared poignant stories of how attending the Houston Conference was an awakening of the power of women to shape their own lives. Her passionate personal stories working for the passage the ERA and going forward after its defeat to create the National Coalition of Women's Arts Organizations were insightful of the time and truly inspiring.

*Panelists Tina Hobson, Patricia Fenn and Ellouise Schoettler (in Red)*



Those in the audience had an opportunity to share their stories as well. Invited guest, Wendy Schaezel Lesko, executive director of the Youth Activism Project and recognized nationally as a [youth voice](#) expert—gave a fabulous update on School Girls Unite.

Wendy Lesko – Youth Activism Project reporting on School Girls Unite This dynamic youth driven organization successfully lobbied elected officials all over the country to declare October 11 as *The Day of the Girl*. They texted, emailed and personally visited mayors of cities, commissioners of counties and governors of states to accomplish their mission. Their appeal ended, "It's time to show the world that our nation stands for girls rights everywhere." Many Kensington-Rockville

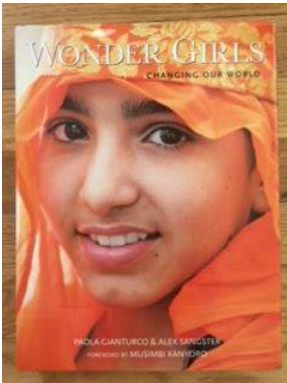
Branch members have been supporting School Girls Unite events since 2005. School Girls Unite is featured in a new book, *Wonder Girls, Changing Our World*, by Paola Gianturco and (her grand-daughter ) Alex Sangster. The Global Fund for Women receives 100% of the authors' royalties for this book and it would make an excellent holiday gift.



Author and historian Dian Belanger, Kensington- Rockville former Branch President, former AAUW MD State President and current National Lobby Corps member shared comments about AAUW history and current involvements.

Another audience member, Karen Leggett Abouraya shared her experience as a cub reporter for WMAL radio covering the 1977 Houston Conference and her challenge to remain neutral in her reporting when she supported all of the conference's planks. She added that it was extremely emotional when at the end of the three day event all 2000 women in attendance (including her) joined hands and sang the song "We Shall Overcome" to celebrate their success.

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Kensington-Rockville Co-President, and AAUW MD Public Policy Chair, Erin Prangley closed the meeting with updates on MLAW and WLB pledge cards to help us focus our *actions* on what we can do TODAY to move women's equality FORWARD!

Submitted by Kate Campbell Stevenson

## Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women Conference

AAUW Maryland was a Gold Sponsor for this year's MLAW Conference. Several KR branch



AAUW MD members with Del. Terri Hill at MLAW Conference

members joined the over 200 Maryland women at the MLAW Conference to hear about women's priority legislation for the 2018 Maryland State Assembly. We heard from several elected officials, including **Delegate Ariana Kelly and Delegate Terri Hill**. To read about the issues that were presented at the conference, you can view the detailed information on MLAW's website at:

<https://mdlegagendaforwomen.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/mlaw-2018-proposals.pdf>

We were excited to hear that AAUW priority legislation drafted by the Howard County Branch was one of the legislative proposals being considered. KR branch endorsed this legislation which would allow family courts to order child support for higher education for children up to the age of 23.

There is an upcoming Legislative Reception and Briefing in Annapolis on February 8, 2018. We will be discussing carpools and hope for a great turnout from our branch.

Submitted by Erin Prangle

## “Loveland feminist donates life’s work to Alice Paul Institute in New Jersey”

For some of us, this *Loveland (Colorado) Reporter-Herald* headline alone tells the Margaret Zierdt story—a perfect coda to an astonishing achievement we witnessed in progress over several decades.

Margaret was a long-time member of the Rockville, and then Kensington-Rockville, Branch.



*Margaret Zierdt at home in Loveland, CO, with daughter Carolyn and her husband.*

Well, yes, she did drop her membership for a time to protest AAUW’s vote to admit men in 1987! But she returned, and we welcomed back Margaret’s encyclopedic knowledge of women’s history, passionate advocacy for gender equality, and proud, feisty self. She moved to Colorado in 2010 to live near Carolyn Taylor, her devoted daughter.

Now 96, Margaret is moving to a senior care community. But what of all the feminist literature she has amassed—some 650 books, periodicals, and her own copious research files, writings, and speeches? She documented women from the 5<sup>th</sup> century on, from witches to mathematicians, and “how women have been contributing forever and not recognized,” says Carolyn, amazed.

Happily, as the newspaper notes, thanks to fundraising assistance from the National Women’s History Project, on whose board of directors Margaret long served, her entire collection (minus two boxes of files on specific women already donated to the Maryland State Archives) will go to the library of the Alice Paul Institute, housed in the legendary suffragist’s childhood home in Mount Laurel, New Jersey.

How fitting! Alice Paul, a lifelong militant activist for women's equality, organized the massive parade for national women's suffrage in Washington, DC, on 3 March 1913, the day before Woodrow Wilson's inauguration. Some 8,000 women and nine bands marched, but the mostly male crowd harassed and assaulted them, hospitalizing 100. Police stood by. It would take seven more years for the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to become law. Margaret, at 90+ years, marched in the centennial commemoration of this seminal parade on a blustery 3 March 2013. Both indefatigably championed the Equal Rights Amendment, which Paul introduced 1923, and remains unratified.



*Margaret, marching with other National Women's History Project leaders in the Suffrage March Centennial.*

Dian Belanger

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

## Montgomery College Food Pantry Receives Donation from KR Branch Members

According to a September 2017 report from the Urban Institute, more than one in 10 college students experience food insecurity-- lacking consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. The report, "Assessing Food Insecurity on Campus: A National Look at Food Insecurity among America's College Students," found that certain students, particularly those who are in two-year colleges and students of color, are significantly more likely to experience food insecurity.



*Om Rusten from the Montgomery College Women's & Gender Studies Program accepts food donated by members of the KR Branch for the Food Pantry.*

Recognizing the need to address food insecurity in its own student population, the Montgomery College Food Pantry, run by the staff of the Women's and Gender Studies Program, provides nonperishable food items - particularly snack items, that students and the community can access on campus. The items are stacked in a rolling cart and placed outside the Women's and Gender Studies Program offices allowing students to discretely take what they need. The staff also fill bags of staple items like beans, rice, and soup, for individuals and families who ask for help.

During the September and October KR Branch meetings, members generously donated several boxes of food for the Food Pantry. If you would like to learn more about ways to help the Food Pantry through donations of food and money to keep the shelves stocked during the winter months, please contact Prof. Genevieve Carminati at 240-567-7446 or Om Rusten at 240-567-4100 or by email at [om.rusten@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:om.rusten@montgomerycollege.edu).



Submitted by Erin Prangle

## AAUW Funds

At the October 2017 board meeting, AAUW Maryland selected **Kate Campbell Stevenson** as Maryland's 2018 Woman of Distinction. She will be honored at the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) Women of Distinction Ceremony on May 31, 2018.

The Conference, which attracts more than 1,000 students from throughout the United States, is held in late May/early June at the University of Maryland, College Park. As the platinum sponsor of the Ceremony, AAUW Maryland names its own Woman of Distinction. To date, Barbara Fetterhoff, Janet Crampton, Jenny Forehand, Dr. Mary Grace Roman, and Cleopatra Campbell have been honored thanks to generous donations from AAUW Maryland members who provide the platinum sponsorship cost of \$20,000 each year by April 1.

The Kensington/Rockville AAUW Branch Board has set goals for contributions to this fund: 100% of Board members and 50% of Branch members, a contribution of any amount. You can contribute on-line at the AAUW website or write a check to AAUW Funds. Write the fund number (4355) in the memo section of your check as well as your branch affiliation (MD2030). Mail your check to the AAUW Development Office P.O. Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045.

Thank you to the KR Branch members who have contributed to the NCCWSL Maryland Fund:

Katherine Campbell Stevenson  
Anonymous  
Ella W. Iams  
Margaret F. Schweitzer  
Janet W. Crampton  
Sylvia W. Crowder  
Ruth Spivack  
Erin Prangle

Please let me know if you donated and your name is not on this list so you can be recognized in the next newsletter. Remember, our goal is 50% participation from our branch! Whether you have \$10 or \$100, please consider making your tax-deductible contribution to the Maryland Woman of Distinction (NCCWSL) fund today!

## Congratulations Dr. Nancy Grace Roman!

Dr. Nancy Grace Roman long time AAUW member -was recognized at the Nov 11th Kensington-Rockville and Bethesda Chevy Chase joint Branch meeting with much fanfare for being featured on the new NASA women LEGO addition. She is enjoying every minute of



*Kate Campbell Stevenson and Nancy Grace Roman*

NASA women scientists' recognition as excellent role models for young students. This newest LEGO addition is going like hotcakes! Dr. Roman was the first Chief of Astronomy in the Office of Space Science at NASA Headquarters and the first woman to hold an executive position at NASA. In her role, she had oversight for the planning and development of programs including the [Cosmic Background Explorer](#) and the [Hubble Space Telescope](#).



*Dr Roman told Alex Wedeneyer good you want to be and engineer, we need more women engineers.*

## BECOME A TWO-MINUTE ACTIVIST

**Action Network** is the cornerstone of AAUW's e-advocacy efforts. By signing up, you will join **AAUW Action Network** and receive urgent e-mail notices to contact your elected officials. With our online Two-Minute Activist tool, it takes just minutes to make your voice heard!

To sign up, go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). Scroll down on right side of screen to "TAKE ACTION."

Click on and then scroll down to “Become a Two-Minute Activist” and register.

## Join the AAUW Archives Corps!

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](mailto:dobelanger@comcast.net).

## Join the AAUW Lobby Corps!

### Lunch Bunch

Parma Holt

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

No lunch in December, looking forward to seeing you in January.

Does  
the

### Le Groupe Française

Ruth Spivack

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

Next Meeting is Monday,  
December 11  
at 7 p.m.

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](mailto:erin.prangle@gmail.com).

## Interest Groups

**Deadline for the January  
Newsletter is December 20.**

### ***The Afternoon Literature Group***

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

No meeting in December

Jan 16, 2018, the group will be  
discussing **The Pearl that Broke  
Shell: A Novel** by Nadia Hashimi

## **Upcoming Events**

January 13: Branch meeting, Hall of Human Origins, at **The National Museum of Natural History is located at 10<sup>th</sup> Street & Constitution Avenue NW.** Details in next month's newsletter.

### ***GREAT DECISIONS***

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

TBA

January 28 Montgomery County Legislative Briefing, 12:30–6 pm, The Universities at Shady Grove, Bldg. II 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville, MD  
**See attached flyer**

February 8: MLAW Legislative Reception, Miller Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD

April 14: AAUW Maryland State Convention Hosted  
by Baltimore Branch

May 12: K-R Branch's Annual Meeting. Pot-luck. Anita Rosen's home, Silver Spring, MD

**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 measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.***

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