



Kensington-Rockville Newsletter

American Association of University Women

Website: kensingtonrockville-md.aauw.net

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January 2019

Kensington-Rockville

February Branch Meeting

A Taste of the Branch

February 16, 2019

11-12:30 pm.

At the Home of Maritsa George

Chase away the chill and winters blues with this chance for long-time members, newish members, and prospective members and guests to get to know the Kensington-Rockville branch -- and have a chance to eat and socialize.

Curious about what Great Decisions are being made? Parlez-vous francais or like to? Read a good book lately? What are we advocating for in Congress and Annapolis and how can you help? Looking for lunch with some great company? What are the newest AAUW funds? What's it really like to be a lobbyist for AAUW? What are some great surprises in the AAUW Archives? What might surprise you or others about who we are?

Share an interactive, sociable, and tasty time with members and guests.

RSVP to Maritsa: maritsageo@verizon.net

Women's Legislative Briefing



Lynn Peters, Edie Allison, Anita Rosen and Kate Campbell Stevenson and at the AAUW booth during Women's Legislative Briefing Sunday Jan 27.

Thanks Anna Palmisano, Margery Sullivan, Kate Campbell Stevenson, Lynn Peters and Terry Fuller from our branch and Edie Allison of Gaithersburg branch for all their help at the AAUW table and for general registration help at the Briefing. Our booth was quite successful, and we have a list of people who want to join AAUWMD branches. Many other Kensington-Rockville branch members were present and stopped by the table.

Anita Rosen

Remembering Alice Fitzjohn 1925-2018

The Reverend Muriel Alice Ayodele was born on November 3, 1925 in Ibadan, Nigeria. She and her husband, William Henry Fitzjohn, were international leaders in politics, education, and community service. She became a citizen of the world, spending many years of her life in several Africa countries, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as her husband, a Sierra Leonean, served in senior diplomatic Government Service.



Reverend Fitzjohn had a passion for promoting education for girls and young women and demonstrated this passion in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Swaziland. In 1976, she established the Sierra Leone Association of University Women. While living with her daughter in Swaziland during the mid-1990s, she encouraged a few Swazi women graduates to start a Swaziland Association of University Women. In 1997, she encouraged young Sierra Leonean women with university degrees to start a Sierra Leone Association of University Women – USA, with a Washington D.C. metro area branch. She received numerous civic awards at the state, local, and community levels for her contributions to education and civic life. She organized an evening around the AAUW board table on 16th Street that was attended by several SLAAUW members. Among the guests/speakers were the Sierra Leone Ambassador to the US and his

wife and a woman who was the ambassador from another South African country. Alice was that kind of force

She was known by many Sierra Leoneans as Mummy Alice and in 2003, the Mummy Alice Scholarship Fund (MASF) was established in order to honor her for her religious and civic service to the Sierra Leone Diaspora community in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. For several years, proceeds from the Fund supported high school students in Sierra Leone from the four girls' secondary schools at which she had taught in Sierra Leone.

She had some interesting stories of life when her husband was the Sierra Leone ambassador coming to DC, the segregated south, especially when they took the train from NYC and weren't allowed in certain train cars.

Rev. Fitzjohn was a member of the Kensington Branch of AAUW. She departed this life at the age of 93 on November 29, 2018.

Sylvia Crowder, Dian Belanger and Jeri Rhodes

Remembering Nancy Grace Roman, 1925-2018

Dr. Nancy Grace Roman, active AAUW member for seven decades (Washington, DC and Bethesda-Chevy Chase branches), enthralled the Kensington-Rockville Branch in September 2015 with stories of the challenges of being a woman in a man's time and place and the triumphs of her amazing career as a trailblazing astronomer.



With female tenure unlikely and janitors making more money, she left academia, joining the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shortly after its establishment in 1958. She became NASA's first chief of astronomy, thus first woman executive, though it took using her honorific Dr. "to get past the secretaries." She was tenacious in supporting female scientists as well as pushing her peers toward space astronomy. Ever seeking new technologies and design concepts to enable clear views of space from beyond the atmosphere, she managed efforts to put several astronomical observatories into orbits, beginning in 1962. But her leadership role in getting the first major telescope into space to photograph its wonders and gather data immortalized her as the Mother of the Hubble, whose actual launch took place a decade after her retirement.

AAUW MD honored Dr. Roman as the Maryland Woman of Distinction in 2016, raising \$20,000+ in her name to support AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders' Women of Distinction ceremony.

In 2017 Lego introduced a set of figurines honoring four NASA women pioneers. Nancy Grace was one—a fitting recognition of her lifelong mentoring of and advocacy for women and girls.

The work of Nancy Grace Roman put the universe before our eyes and a toy in the hands of girls who could well push the farthest frontier further thanks to her stellar example.

Dian Belanger

AAUW Funds Chair

Ella Iams ella.iams@verizon.net

The Kensington-Rockville Branch board has set a major goal for 2018-2019 to have one hundred percent (100% participation of the board and fifty percent (50%) of branch members contribute to AAUW Fund 4355; the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL Women of Distinction Ceremony Fund. This year the Woman of Distinction Honor is going to Judy Carbone from Garrett County.

Please make your contribution either by check or on-line and be sure to indicate Fund 4355 and our Branch code (MD2030). Our branch has made a contribution to both Fund 4355 and to a fund that helps defray the cost of the conference for the student leaders attending the conference.

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. 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.

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.

Interest Groups

GREAT DECISIONS

Marianne Jacobs
AAUWKenRock@gmail.com

Feb. 22 at the home of Ella
Iams

Le Groupe Française

Ruth Spivack

We meet in the evening to
read and discuss French
literature and culture.
For more information, please
contact Ruth Spivack
AAUWKenRock@gmail.com

The Afternoon Literature Group

Margaret Schweitzer
AAUWKenRock@gmail.com

The afternoon literature group will
meet on Tuesday, February 19th at
1:00 pm at the home of Ruth
Spivack. Please call Ruth if you plan to
attend. AAUWKenRock@gmail.com

The Cost of Courage by Charles
Kaiser will be discussed. This is
story of one French family's fight
against fascism during WW
II. Discussion leader is Jean
Thompson.

Lunch Bunch

Parma Holt AAUWKenRock@gmail.com

No lunch in February

Deadline for the March Newsletter is February 20.

Upcoming Events

February 12, 2019: MLAW Legislative Reception, Presidents Conference
Center registration is necessary.

Miller Senate Office Building, Annapolis, MD

March 16, 2019 Branch Meeting: Women's History Month-Unusual Directions for
Women details to be announced

March 28-30, 2019 AAUW Gaithersburg Book Sale for women's
scholarships at Asbury Methodist Village

April 12-13: AAUW Maryland State Convention Hosted by Garret County Branch
in McHenry, MD

May 11: K-R Branch's Annual Business 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.***

***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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