



Kensington-Rockville Newsletter

American Association of University Women

Website: kensingtonrockville-md.aauw.net

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September 2019

Kensington-Rockville Branch Meeting

The Preference System – Who Should Legally Enter the U.S?

Saturday, September 21, 2019

11 am-12:30 pm

Ingleside at King Farm

701 King Farm Blvd. Rockville, Maryland

(New meeting room, and parking in the rear)

Sameen Ahmadnia, Esq. an associate at the law offices of Dzubow and Pilcher, will speak on the Immigration/Department of State Preference System.

Ms. Ahmadnia will discuss the Immigration Preference System as it currently works and how it might work to meet the demands of a changing economy and continue to honor our long history of humanitarian and family admissions. **You will have a chance to be an Immigration Czar and rank the categories of immigrants admitted into the U.S.**

Background: The Immigration Act of 1990 specifies how many legal immigrants can enter the U.S. each year (approximately 700,000 with a per-country quota) in each of specified categories: family-sponsored visas; employment based; humanitarian based (refugees and asylees) and diversity-visas. The Department of State administers the Preference System which is a method, based on the categories or “preferences” of distributing the limited number of immigrant visa numbers available each year. The only exception is immediate relatives of U.S.

citizens – spouse, minor children and parents of those 21 who are allowed to enter after being inspected. Under the current system, many individuals approved for a visa are backlogged with an average wait of 5 years and 8 months and for certain countries -- India, Mexico, China, Philippines and El Salvador/Guatemala/Honduras—the wait is much longer.

There have been several attempts over the past years to devise a new system which would admit immigrants with highly skilled occupations as well as lower-skilled occupations like agriculture, health and elder care and service-sector jobs. The current administration has proposed a system which considers labor-market needs and includes a point system which would reward employment in specialty or in-demand occupations and English ability. This system is currently used by Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Japan and China. Under this proposal many family-based visa holders who had been waiting for years in the backlog would never be admitted to the U.S.

Message from the President:

September is always an exciting month as we transition from “summer mode” to a “more disciplined and serious” schedule.

Our branch program team is planning a stimulating year to stretch our minds and delight our spirit. Our public policy team is preparing to tackle key issues in Annapolis and on Capitol Hill. Our various interest groups provide an opportunity to discuss current events, explore new fiction and non-fiction books, and speak French. The entire branch will work to advance equality for women and girls through advocacy and financial support.

In addition to our branch activities, there are opportunities offered by both AAUW National and AAUW of Maryland.

The AAUW National focuses on civil and voting rights, economic security, Title XI and education. Spend a few minutes on the webpage and you'll find an amazing amount of information on these issues. One subject is the gender pay gap, which is getting the attention it deserves due to the recent lawsuit filed by the Women's National Soccer Team. An AAUW member can easily express his or her opinion on this subject and others through the 2-minute activist which makes it extremely easy to contact your Congressional representatives.

The AAUW of Maryland consists of 13 branches and one on-line community.

Many of our branch members are active on the state level. Currently three members of our Branch are serving as officers of the State organization. Kay Campbell Stevenson is the co-president, Tracy Lanz is the Program Co- Vice President and Erin Prangley is the Public Policy Vice President. Also, several branch members including Anna Palmasano and State Senator Susan Lee, worked on the successful efforts to pass the Hospital Patient's Bill of Rights. This bill, signed into law on April 30, 2019, replaces an outdated and ineffectual law from 1978. Maryland AAUW is also working on the pay gap issue. In the 2019 legislative session, lawmakers in Annapolis did not pass S.B. 738/H.B. 634 which would have prohibited employers from relying on a job applicant's salary history to determine pay. This issue and others deserve our attention and efforts in the coming year. Take a look at the state webpage and read the quarterly newsletter, the Marylander.

The last opportunity available to all branch members is to partake of the camaraderie, knowledge, fun and caring shared within our branch.

I'm looking forward to serving as your President during the coming year and hope you will explore your opportunities.

Rath Spivack

Branch Budget

Attached is the proposed Budget for 2019-2020. There will be a discussion concerning the line item for the National Convention. In 2020 there will not be a national AAUW convention. There are several suggestions and room for more on how to allocate these funds. Please review it and be prepared to propose any changes at the September branch meeting.

What's happening at AAUW

AAUW Empower Workshops

AAUW sponsored two workshops this summer in Chicago and San Francisco. Empower Event Workshops provide women with leadership skills and networking opportunities to increase their skills and ignite personal and professional growth. The goal of the workshops is to increase participants confidence levels and understanding about how best to advance their potential and make their ambitions a reality.

Legal Advocacy in Action

AAUW Joins Additional Amicus Brief Supporting Contraceptive Coverage

The Trump administration issued rules rolling back the contraceptive mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) by exempting organizations with religious or moral objections. The rules were scheduled to go into effect in January 2019, but several states successfully challenged these “Final Exemption Rules” and were granted preliminary injunctions. AAUW signed onto several amicus briefs in support of those preliminary injunctions in many jurisdictions at the district and appellate court levels.



AAUW Start Smart is designed for college women who are approaching the job market and focuses on helping you negotiate for a new job.

AAUW Work Smart is designed for women who are already in the workforce at any career level and helps you negotiate for a new job, raise, or promotion. <https://salary.aauw.org/about/>

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.



WEBMASTER: Our long-time webmaster, Marsha Luce, is retiring. Thanks to Marsha for creating and maintaining the webpage since 2008. We now need someone to take over and keep the webpage up to date. Training is available. See <https://kensingtonrockville-md.aauw.net/>

NEWSLETTER MAILER: Every month the branch mails out several newsletters to members who request the service. The job which takes about one hour includes duplicating the newsletter on a home computer or copying store, stapling the newsletter and mailing with a stamp provided by a branch member's donation.

LUNCH BUNCH: For many years, Parma Holt has organized lunch gatherings at various eateries in the area. It was an opportunity to do what we all enjoy – talking as well as eating. Let's try to continue this pleasurable activity on a monthly or less frequent schedule. We will need a new organizer.

WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING: Join the committee that plans the January briefing. Volunteers meet once a month for 5-6 months to serve on the Women's Legislative Briefing planning committee representing AAUW MD and our Branch. Contact Anita Rosen if interested.

Interest Groups

The Afternoon Literature Group

The literature Group will meet on Tuesday, September 16 at the home of Joyce Graf at 1 p.m. We will be discussing *The Chillbury Ladies Choir* by Jennifer Ryan. Mary Slaby will be leading the discussion. This group is open to all who wish to come whether to a single meeting or to many.

Le Groupe Française

Ruth Spivack
AAUWKenRock@gmail.com

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

GREAT DECISIONS

Marianne Jacobs
AAUWKenRock@gmail.com

The next meeting for the Great Decision group will be on Friday, September 20th at 1pm at the home of Margaret Schweitzer. We will discuss Chap. 7, "The United States and Mexico Partnership Tested".

Deadline for the October Newsletter is September 20, 2019

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.

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.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

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