



Kensington-Rockville

Newsletter

American Association of University Women

Website: kensingtonrockville-md.aauw.net

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October 2019

Kensington-Rockville Branch Meeting

Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence National Portrait Gallery

Between F and G, and 7th and 9th Streets, NW, Washington, DC

Kensington-Rockville Branch Meeting
Saturday, October 12, 11:30 am

Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution in 1919, which, after some eight decades of struggle, finally acknowledged women's right to vote. We are about to observe the centennial of its ratification by three-fourths of the states, which brought it into force in August 1920.

Please join us for a tour of “Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence,” a timely exhibit at the National Portrait Gallery. Dian Belanger, branch member, historian, and NPG docent, will lead us through this complicated story of courage and resolve. We stand today on the shoulders of strong, brave women.

Logistics:

Travel by Metro will bring you right to the building. Exit the Red Line at Gallery Place-Chinatown. Follow platform signs to 9th and G streets. At street level, turn right to the nearest corner and right again on G to the 8th

Street entrance (ramp available here only). We will meet in the G Street lobby. Free lockers to stow bags and coats (recommended) are just off to the right. Restroom is to the left. The gallery opens at 11:30; we will begin as soon as all have gathered and tended to personal needs.

Optional lunch to follow. If interested, please RSVP Anita Rosen at: anitarosen123@gmail.com



“Columbia” summons robed representations of women’s Ideals (Justice, 1913 Charity, Liberty, Peace, Hope) in a dramatic allegorical tableau, Washington suffrage parade, March 3,



Silent sentinels picket the White House for 1917-August 1920 the White House for suffrage

Message from the Branch President

About twenty-five K-R branch members met attended the branch meeting to learn about the immigration visa processing system and to serve as “Immigration Czar” for the day and rank the importance of intending immigrants to the U.S. An immigration attorney, Samee Ahmadnia, of the law firm of Dzubow and Pilcher gave a comprehensive overview of the immigration visa preference system found in the Immigration Act of 1990. Under the Act, qualified individuals are eligible to obtain legal residence status (green cards) based on family relationships or employer sponsorship. U.S. citizens can petition for their “immediate relatives” (spouses, minor children and parents) who are immediately eligible for a visa, although the processing time could take six to twelve months.

Ms. Ahmadnia described the subcategories of the family and employment-based visas and then how the process unfolds. The branch asked many questions about the visa process, as well as questions on asylees and refugees, guest workers, translators and the diversity-visa program. The speaker pointed out that the processing time for the visa preference categories, as well as asylees has been gradually increasing over the past years and under the current administration has slowed down a great deal.

The K-R Immigration Czars were very generous in granting family and employment-based visas. The following is a list of those receiving the most “votes” by ranking. The Czars did not assign the “low” and “none” rating to anyone.

Very-High Importance:

- a highly-skilled scientist
- an owner of a large and successful business that wants to expand into the U.S.
- a young girl from an Islamic fundamentalist government who came to the U.S. fifteen years ago on a tourist visa
- a victim of domestic violence
- a victim of forced labor trafficking

- a participant in a failed military coup in his home country
- a young girl who would be subject to female genital mutilation in her home country

High importance

- a spouse and minor child of a U.S. citizen
- a U.S. citizen's adult child
- an outstanding basketball player
- an experienced nurse
- an adopted child of a U.S. citizen
- a victim of human trafficking
- an undocumented mother of a child with severe physical disabilities
- a mother of a young girl subject to female genital mutilation in her home country
- a recently-divorced woman whose husband was in the U.S. on a student visa
- a young girl from an Islamic fundamentalist government who came to the U.S. fifteen years ago on a tourist visa
-

Medium importance

- an adult sibling of a U.S. citizen with a spouse and 5 children
-

No consensus

- an agricultural worker who never finished high school

For those who would like to read more on the subject, here are some websites:

The Department of State Visa Bulletin:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-bulletin.html>

American Immigration Council/Fact Sheet – Immigration 101:

<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/practice-advisories>

National Immigration Forum/Fact Sheets on Asylum, Refugees and others:

<https://immigrationforum.org/article/fact-sheet-u-s-asylum-process/>

Ruth Spivack

What's happening at AAUW

AAUW Reacts to EEOC Announcement on Pay Data Collection

WASHINGTON, DC — Kim Churches, CEO of the American Association of University Women, issued this statement in response to the announcement by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) of its intent to stop collecting pay data from employers after meeting the court-ordered requirement that it do so this year.

“It is enormously disappointing, but sadly unsurprising, to learn the EEOC plans to stop collecting data that could help shed light on pay discrimination. Coming on the heels of yesterday’s U.S. Census data report showing the gender pay gap remains unchanged, this calls into question the Trump Administration’s commitment to pay equity for women — as well as to the economic security for American families. We need to do more, not less, to close the gender pay gap, and this data collection was a significant step in the right direction. AAUW will be watching the EEOC to see that the data currently required gets properly collected and sufficiently analyzed. And we will do everything we can to try to reverse this action to ensure the EEOC stays true to its mission of creating a fair and equitable workplace for all.”

- AAUW signed on to a [letter](#) urging the House Judiciary Committee to support the Equal Rights Amendment and hold a vote on H.J. Res. 38.

Work Smart Online

The Salary Negotiation Program is designed to empower women with the skills and confidence to negotiate for fair pay. Participants learn how to research competitive salaries, articulate their skills, qualifications and experience, and ask for — and get — the pay they deserve. Take the training yourself and then introduce at least one other person – a child or grandchild or friend to the training. It’s available at <https://salary.aauw.org/salary-negotiation/>

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.

A Call to Join the Leadership of the Branch

WEBMASTER: Our long-time webmaster, Marsha Luce, is retiring. 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.

Interest Groups

The Afternoon Literature Group

Margaret Schweitzer
margaretschweitzer@gmail.com

The AAUW literature Group will meet at 1 p.m. Tuesday October 15 at the home of Margaret Schweitzer. We will be discussing "The Professor and the Madman" by Simon Winchester. This book is a fictional story of the writing of the English Oxford Dictionary. All are welcome, the discussions are lively.

GREAT DECISIONS

Marianne Jacobs
mariannejacobs@verizon.net

The next meeting for the Great Decision group will be on Friday, October 18 at 1pm at the home of Joyce Graf. We will discuss Chap. 8. All members are welcome.

Le Groupe Français

Ruth Spivack
raspivack@gmail.com

Le groupe francais will meet on October 28. We will begin reading "Gigi" by Colette. Please contact Ruth Spivack for more information.

Upcoming State and National Events

October 26, 2019 AAUW-MD 2019 Fall Meeting Baltimore

Keynote Speaker: The Urgency of Civility Daniel L. Buccino, Director, Johns Hopkins Civility Initiative. Grace United Methodist Church, 5407 N Charles St, Baltimore, MD 21210 Auxiliary Hall.

See Marylander and the attached registration form

November 23, 2019 - Maryland **Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW)**

Fall Conference. The MLAW Fall Agenda Conference will be held at Chesapeake Arts Center located at 194 Hammonds Lane in Brooklyn Park, MD. <https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/join-mlaw/>.

The National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) is conducting a national survey asking women living in the U.S. about their top five issues or concerns, as women. They want to be sure that the voices of the women of Maryland are included in this survey. The Marylander Summer 2019 6 questionnaire is anonymous, confidential and brief - it takes just a few minutes to complete - and it will give us important information that will help us advocate for the needs of women and girls.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSch20HrXD013CQa2mvQtdeB4xHzwNVS5ikY9j6h3mnhnOLlxg/viewform>

January 8, 2020- Coffee with the (Women's) Caucus. AAUW will be the lead organizer once again for an opening day reception in Annapolis for members of the Women's Caucus in Annapolis.

January 26, 2020 - Montgomery County Commission for Women's 40th Annual Women's Legislative Briefing. The purpose of the briefing is to provide information on legislative issues of concern to women and families, including bills that will be introduced in the upcoming sessions of the Maryland General Assembly and U.S. Congress. AAUW MD is once again a proud sponsor of this event.

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 based on age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

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