

**Kensington-Rockville Branch Meeting**

**Kensington-Rockville AAUW Holiday Open House**

**Sunday, December 15, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**At the home of Howard and Ella Iams**

Please join us for our holiday open house at the home of Ella and Howard Iams. 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 or drink will provide a bountiful buffet. Our annual drop-in creates a festive opportunity to chat informally with new members, friends, guests, partners and spouses as we welcome the holidays and look forward to exciting State and Branch events and activities for the coming year. The holiday open house has become a branch tradition and we look forward to seeing you.

PLEASE RSVP TO Ella by Wednesday Dec. 11 ella.iams@verizon.net

**Message from the Branch President**

I wish you all the best for the upcoming holiday season. May you and your family gather together and have an abundance of good things to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. May the lights of Christmas and Chanukah and any other seasonal holidays you celebrate shine brightly in December and into 2020.

Here is a suggestion for holiday gifts passed on by two former Branch presidents, Erin Prangley and Kate Campbell Stevenson. Several years ago, they suggested giving a gift book featuring women to a grandchild or child. I took their suggestion and gave a book to my granddaughters. I’ve read a few of them.

And of course, don’t forget to support AAUW’s Mission. See below for information on the AAUW funds.

Don’t forget the Montgomery College Foundation. You can give online on their website or write a check payable to the Montgomery College Foundation and add “AAUW Kensington/Rockville Scholarship” on the notation line. Mail your check to Montgomery College Foundation, 9221 Corporate Blvd., 3rd Floor, Rockville, MD 20850.

**Ruth Spivack**

**AAUW Funds**

**AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (9110)** This Fund a general fund for unrestricted gifts, which are used when and where they are most needed. This provides flexibility to respond to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls and to utilize your gift where it’s needed most.

You may also contribute to individual funds and allocate your contribution on the check memo line. Note that some fund names and numbers have changed.

* **Education and Training Fund** (4450) Addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women by championing equal access to education and ensuring that education at every level is free from sex discrimination.
* **Economic Security Fund** (4449) Ensures livelihoods for women through achieving pay equity for women, providing training in salary negotiation, and deepening women’s retirement security and quality of life.
* **Leadership Fund** (4452) Supports the effort to close the gender gap in leadership opportunities by bolstering the participation of and increasing the number of girls and women in leadership roles, particularly in education and nonprofit organizations.
* **Legal Advocacy Fund** (3999) The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. AAUW resources range from community outreach programs to backing of major cases.
* **Eleanor Roosevelt Fund** (9170) This fund honors an individual, project, organization, or institution for outstanding contributions to equality and education for women and girls. The award is given for a broad range of activities including classroom teaching, education and research, and legal and legislative work in equality for women and girls.
* **Maryland Women of Distinction Fund** – (4355) AAUW Maryland’s primary philanthropy supports the NCCWSL Women of Distinction Event held annually in June in College Park, MD. The fund goal is $20,000 by April 1, 2020.

**The AAUW Action Fund**, established July 1, 2009, supports AAUW’s continuing goal of breaking through barriers for women and girls through member activism and voter mobilization.

**Contributions to the Action Fund are NOT tax deductible**. AAUW Action Fund, 1310 L St. NW, Ste 1000, Washington, DC 20005; telephone 800.326.2289 or email connect@aauw.org

**What’s happening at AAUW**

# **AAUW Reacts to EEOC Announcement on Pay Data Collection**

**September 11, 2019**

**WASHINGTON, DC** — Kim Churches, CEO of the American Association of University Women, issued this statement in response to today’s 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.”

**Interesting Tidbits from the AAUW Archives**

**Found in the Archives:**

**Marion Talbot’s Moral Choice, AAUW’s Response to Nazi Cruelty**

AAUW founder Marion Talbot was 82 years old in June 1940 when she penned a thoughtful letter to Dorothy Atkinson, chair of the AAUW Fellowships Endowment Committee. Driven by alarming reports of Jewish women in Nazi-occupied Europe being summarily dismissed from their academic positions and facing acute hardship, she proposed declaring a “moratorium of one or two years” in the association’s ongoing campaign to “secure the balance of the Million Dollar Fund [to endow the fellowships program].” Instead, members should direct those dollars toward raising “the wherewithal to rescue university women in foreign countries whose dreams have been shattered and who are suffering physical distress and mental anguish.”

Concerned that “our aim, to keep the field of scholarship open to women, is threatened with failure in these days of disaster,” Talbot yet argued, “I think we have a great service to perform which nobody else can put through. Such an act would not I think weaken our far-seeing project but would create a new understanding of its significance.” “What terrible responsibilities we have to meet if a better civilization is to be the outcome of today’s horrors,” she concluded.

Talbot wrote to no one else, but Atkinson apparently consulted Kathryn McHale, AAUW’s General Director. McHale responded dismissively, criticizing Talbot’s “inconsistency”: opposing “the tendency she discerns in the Association to stray outside its chartered purpose—education—yet [suggesting we] put aside our outstanding contribution to education in favor of relief work!” While Talbot was asserting, in effect, that this was “no ordinary time,” McHale seemed to construe her plea for temporary redirection as “envision[ing] a complete discontinuance of the fellowship endowment work.”

Whether or not a formal moratorium was observed, AAUW did establish, in 1941, a War Relief Fund to assist displaced Jewish women, including some whose scientific research was Nobel Prize-worthy. (Their male partners won that honor.) Esther Brunauer, tireless staff International Affairs Secretary, and AAUW leaders and members, working with and through the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), sought to help more than a hundred targeted women: finding them suitable positions in safe countries, assisting their emigration (escape) efforts, supporting their research through AAUW International Fellowships. If the success rate was modest, the efforts were anything but.

A notable example: In April 1938 Albert Einstein, himself a Jewish refugee, personally appealed to AAUW on behalf of Dr. Henrietta Blau, an Austrian physicist doing pioneering research in radioactivity. She had lost her job for being Jewish and needed to leave her country. AAUW worked to connect her with teaching positions abroad and Einstein eventually got one for her at the University of Mexico City. She finally made it to the United States in 1944. (In 1989 AAUW donated Einstein’s original letter to the Albert Einstein Archives at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. We kept a copy, of course.)

Dian Belanger

dobelanger@comcast.net

**Upcoming State and National Events**

 Saturday, January 11 Women**, Music and Arts in Montgomery County/Kensington-Rockville’s Got Talent.** Speaker: Dr. Suzan Jenkins, CEO, Arts and Humanities Council, Montgomery County and a branch jam session and sing-along. 10:30 – 12:00 Ingleside at King Farm 701 King Farm Blvd., Rockville. Optional Luncheon to follow.

**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.**. 11:00-6:00, Campuses at Shady Grove, Rockville.

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.

**January 29, 2020**  Celebration of 100th Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Miller Senate Building West, Annapolis 6 pm to 8:00

**Interest Groups**

***Le Groupe Français***

Ruth Spivack raspivack@gmail.com

We will be reading "Gigi" by Colette.

Please contact Ruth Spivack for more information.

**The Afternoon Literature**

**Group**Margaret Schweitzer margaretfschweitzer@gmail.com

We do not meet in December but a Happy Holiday to all. We will meet in January, at Ruth Spivak’s house on January 21

We will be discussing "The Rules of Civility" by Amor Towles.

***GREAT DECISIONS***

Marianne Jacobs

mariannejacobs@verizon.net

There is no meeting in December. We will order the books for 2020 at that time, any new participants in interested in having the book that contact Marianne.

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

**Newsletter Editor Circulation Editor**

Margery Sullivan Ruth Spivack

msullivan@niaid.nih.gov raspivack@gmail.com

**AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.**

***The Afternoon Literature Group***

Judy Burr judyb429@verizon.net

October 17, 2017, the group will be discussing My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante

**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 and 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.**

**AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch**

**6540 Wiscasset Rd**

**Bethesda, MD 20816-2113**