

**Kensington-Rockville Branch Meeting**

**Women’s Rights in the Workplace: Are Women Getting a Fair Playing Field in Maryland and the US?**

**Speaker to be confirmed shortly**

**Saturday Feb 15, 2020**

**10:30am- 12:00 noon**

**Ingleside at King Farm, Ellicott Room**

**701 King Farm Blvd. Rockville, Maryland**

 **(parking and entrance in the rear)**

**You are invited to purchase lunch, network and chat afterward at Ingleside**

In the year 2020, women are still fighting for equal pay for equal work. But the issue of women having a fair playing field nationally and in Maryland is more complex than it might seem. This meeting seeks to present a broad array of current issues for women, women of color, and women in academia that go beyond the workplace to impact retirement and aging. We will have a chance to look at current bills on the state and national levels and discuss some new directions for change. Your comments, suggestions and experiences are encouraged.

**Message from the Branch President**

The Board of Directors of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women has confirmed the 2020 MLAW Legislative Agenda. The nine bills are:

* Eliminating Marriage as a Defense to Sex Crimes
* Sexual Solicitation of a Minor
* Strangulation – First Degree Assault
* Protective Orders Relief Eligibility – Rape and Sexual Offenses
* Expansion of Maryland’s Vacatur Law for Survivors of Human Trafficking
* Background Checks for all Gun Sales in Maryland
* Correctional Services – Prerelease Unit for Women Requirement
* Labor and Employment- Salary History Information Disclosures
* Time to Care – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program

Two of the bills have interest to AAUW and its fight for women’s economic security: A Salary History bill and a Paid Family and Medical Leave bill.

Delegate Karen Lewis Young and Senator Susan Lee are lead sponsors for the Salary History bill. “This bill will ensure women and people of color aren’t forced to carry lower earnings and pay discrimination with them from job to job by prohibiting employers from seeking and relying on job applicants’ salary history and by requiring employers to provide the salary range for a position upon a job applicant’s request. It should be noted that Montgomery County Pay Equity Act went into effect August 2019. The Pay Equity Act prohibits County Employers from requesting salary history from new applicants applying for County Jobs and prohibits the County from relying on previous salary history for determining a starting salary.

Delegate Ariana Kelly is sponsoring the “Time to Care” act which establishes an insurance program for paid family and medical leave. The Federal Family and Medical Leave Act provides unpaid leave and job protection to employees who work for businesses that employ 50 or more individuals. Only 17% of U.S. workers have access to paid family leave and fewer than 40% have paid personal leave for short term disabilities. The “Time to Care Act’ establishes a Family and Medical Leave Insurance program through which employees may take up to 12 weeks of paid leave from their jobs to care for new children, other family members with serious health conditions or disabilities or themselves. Wage replacement will be provided during the leave period ranging from $50 to $1000 per week and drawn from a fund pool into which employers and employees make mandatory contributions.

If you have any questions, you can contact Erin Prangley, AAUW Maryland, Co-Vice President, Policy at erin.prangley@gmail.com. Information about the other 7 bills is available at the MLAW website: <https://mdlegagendaforwomen.files.wordpress.com/2019/12/mlaw-2020-agenda-bills.pdf>

It’s not too late to register and attend the Women’s Legislative Briefing on January 26. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-womens-legislative-briefing-registration-75192112633>

**Ruth Spivack**

**What’s happening at AAUW**

**AAUW-Supported STEM Act Becomes Law**
In December, the bipartisan [Building Blocks of STEM Act](https://click.everyaction.com/k/13977509/145923823/-1177944826?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwNS8xLzc2OTU1IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjNmZjgwYjJkLWEzMzgtZWExMS1hMWNjLTI4MTg3ODRkMDg0ZiIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAibXN1bGxpdmFuQG5pYWlkLm5paC5nb3YiDQp9&hmac=vw490aDAR4c63bcY8RLdffAmEB9WpJVvlvKM3N8_PF8=&emci=790d8e3c-0b37-ea11-a1cc-2818784d084f&emdi=3ff80b2d-a338-ea11-a1cc-2818784d084f&ceid=930367) was signed into law by the President, with a little help from AAUW Lobby Corps. The legislation expands educational opportunities in math and science for young women and students of color. Thanks to Nevada Senator Jacky Rosen for championing the bill!

**January Branch Meeting Speaker**

Dr. Suzan Jenkins, CEO of the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County enlightened branch members about the programs sponsored by the Commission at our January Meeting. Financing for the commission originates with the Federal National Endowment for the Arts, comes down to the states and eventually is funneled and accepted by our County Council. County funding and donations pushed the year’s the budget over $5.6 million.

The Arts and Humanities Council’s activities have a strong economic impact on the county. The diversity of the programs sponsored by the council make MC an attractive place to the relocation of businesses and family.

Dr. Jenkins and her staff determine which county programs will be funded. All jurisdictions receive funding for their arts and humanities programs. In 2019-20 the council awarded 89 grants to organizations and 42 grants to individuals/artists. The scope of the programs is inclusive. e.g. Strathmore, dance programs, workshops on various topics, and professional development help for arts related groups. The AHCMC Website lists what is going on in Montgomery County. CultureSpotMC provides information to help plan your weekend and future performances. Some activities are free others have entrance fees.

The council has the Betty Mae Kramer Gallery and Music Room gallery at the Silver Spring Civic Center.

Margaret Schweitzer

**Kensington/Rockville’s Got Talent**

**A good time was had by all at the Branch Sing Along**



**Maryland Woman of Distinction**

Maryland Woman of Distinction Dr. Yvette Myrick of the AAUW Baltimore Branch will be the 2020 Maryland Woman of Distinction. She will be honored at the 2020 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) held at UM College Park on May 29, 2020. She has committed her life to the pursuit of knowledge, education and advanced learning and enthusiastically mentor others. Dr. Myrick co-created a blog “Thriving in Higher Education Careers” which has developed into a book, Thriving in Higher Education Careers, co-authored by Dr. Estelle Young. These are resources for people in higher education or anyone desiring personal growth in their career. **Maryland Women of Distinction Fund** – (4355) AAUW Maryland’s primary philanthropy supports this NCCWSL Women of Distinction Event the Maryland AAUW fund’s goal is $20,000 by April 1, 2020.

**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

The AAUW Literature Group will meet on Tuesday February 18 at 1 p.m. at the home of Margaret Schweitzer.  We will be discussing The Folded Earth by Anuradha Roy.   Ruth Spivak will be leading the discussion. All are welcome to attend.

***GREAT DECISIONS***

Marianne Jacobs

mariannejacobs@verizon.net

 The next meeting of the Great Decisions Discussions group will be

Feb. 21 at 1p.m. at the home of Margaret Schweitzer.

**Upcoming State and National Events**

**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 Montgomery County Commission for Women and our many co-sponsoring organizations invite you to the 2020 Women's Legislative Briefing. The purpose of the Briefing is to inform the residents of our state about legislative proposals before local, state, and national legislative bodies that address issues of specific concern to women.

 AAUW MD is once again a proud sponsor of this event. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-womens-legislative-briefing-registration-75192112633>

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

**Saturday, March 21, 2020** AAUW Maryland State Convention

8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Unitarian Universalist Church, Annapolis.

Kate Campbell Stevenson will present her new show, *Amending America: How Women Won the Vote*. She uses music and theater as an agent of change.

**Deadline for the March Newsletter is February 20.**

**Newsletter Editor Circulation Editor**

Margery Sullivan Ruth Spivack

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**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**