

**Kensington-Rockville Branch Meeting**

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**Women, Music and Arts in Montgomery County**

**Kensington/Rockville’s Got Talent**

**Saturday, January 11**

**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

Guest Speaker: Dr. Suzan Jenkins, CEO of the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County

Guest Talent:  You

Montgomery County’s got talent, and our guest speaker, Dr. Suzan Jenkins, CEO of the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (AHCMC) will speak about the important work of AHCMC in promoting the arts and artistic talent throughout our County

AAUW Kensington-Rockville’s got talent!  Come join us and bring your musical instruments, rhythm instruments, best singing voice, nimble dancing feet, or best oratorical elocution for a jam session following out guest speaker. We will warm up the room with music, song and fun.   You don’t have to be a star – just fun-loving! If you have a favorite song you want to play for us, great.  And we will have some songs prepared for everyone to join in.

**Message from the Branch President**

Happy New Year -2020

Welcome to the twentieth year of the 21st century, the first year of the 2020’s decade and a leap year. The previous decade began with a financial crisis and is ending with the impeachment of the President. Along the way we learned that “Black Lives matter,” #MeToo moves women to share their own experiences with sexual assault, harassment and sexism in the workplace and beyond; women can march and roar, win World soccer cups and Olympic Gold medals; our growing use of social media can foster mass protest movements as well as hoaxes and lies; human actions and inactions impact hurricanes, tornadoes and conflagrations; military guns kill large numbers of people; terrorists can attack marathons, outdoor concerts, shopping malls, churches and synagogues; same-sex marriage is legal; and Washington sports teams can win the Stanley Cup and the World Series.

Over the last decade the branch explored a wide range of topics. We focused on women’s history, candidates, health challenges, debt, the suffrage struggle, human trafficking, social security benefits, a survey of Maryland women’s voices, and were introduced to the life and work of Dr. Nancy Grace Roman, State Senator Jenny Forehand, a Nisei internee, and our branch member’s daughters. We learned about elder abuse, the environment, human trafficking, immigration and human origins. We went to museums, a mosque, the Women’s Heritage Center, the National Capital Radio and TV Museum, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, State and National AAUW conventions and the Montgomery County Commission for Women’s Annual Women’s Legislative Briefing. We lobbied and explored AAUW archives. We also convened to enjoy each other’s company at holiday parties and our annual luncheon as well as explore our interests in great decisions, literature and French.

In the ultimate year of the last decade, we learned about immigration priorities, viewed the memorabilia and portraits of the women’s suffragette movement, learned about the International Geophysical year. We will start 2020 with music which hopefully will set the tone for the coming decade.

**Ruth Spivack**

**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.

**2019 Kensington Rockville Holiday Party**

Twenty-eight branch members and guests attended the annual holiday party at the home of Ella and Howard Iams. All enjoyed good conversation, delicious food and inspiring words from two women AAUW award recipients who talked about their unique odysseys to a different career path than their initial choice. They each related a compelling tale of exploration and perseverance.

Dian Belanger introduced Ms. Shimrah, the recipient of the AAUW Maryland Dian Belanger International Fellowship. Ms. Shimrah initially was a social work major and worked on grassroots women’s inclusion in local governance and a women’s coalition campaign against female foeticide in rural northern India. Later, she transitioned to focus on peace building and conflict resolution, with an emphasis on women’s inclusion, participation and leadership. She’s studying for her PhD at George Mason University. She emphasized how important the fellowship is to her.

Janet Wert Crampton introduced Stephanie Fernandez who received a Kensington-Rockville scholarship through the Montgomery College Foundation which was represented by Francene Walker, the Director of Transformational Giving. Ms. Fernandez related that when she left her family in Peru to come to the United States, she promised her family that she “would not let them down.” She discussed her early success at Montgomery College where she explored the humanities and liberal arts and her subsequent employment in the hospitality industry. She started to explore the STEM fields and decided to focus on medical illustration which she is now pursuing at Montgomery College. She reiterated her promise that she would not let “us” down.

**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

**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 Literature Group Meeting readers and those who want to discuss the impact of an unplanned event on personal life, will find lively conversations at the home of Ruth Spivack on Tuesday, 21 January.

The book is, “Rules of Civility” by Amor Towles. This juicy, richly-imagined novel opens in Manhattan in the 30’s. The story is told through the voice of Katey, who goes to Manhattan to design an authentic life for herself.

Come and explore some universal themes brought up in this book, such as: Nothing is as it seems, the wealthy and ‘established’ are as uncertain as everybody else, good looks and self-confidence may vanish with an accident of fate, the certainty of happiness may be forever changing.

Looking forward to seeing all who are interested in lively discussions!

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

1 pm

Home of Ruth Spivack

***GREAT DECISIONS***

Marianne Jacobs

mariannejacobs@verizon.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 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 kick off the meeting with her new presentation, *Amending America: How Women Won the Vote*. She uses music and theater as an agent of change.

**Deadline for the February Newsletter is January 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**