

**Kensington-Rockville Branch Meeting**

**No May Meeting**

**No June Maryland AAUW State Meeting**

**Message from the President:**

**The attached ballot is in lieu of the Annual Meeting to elect branch officers for 2020-21. Please return to Margaret Schweitzer** **margaretfschweitzer@gmail.com** **by May 15, 2020**

Thanks very much to Pat Stocker for the submission and sharing of the minutes below. Please send any suggestions and comments on the merger process to raspivack@gmail.com (or other board members, as you wish.)

**Second Meeting of the Joint KR and BCC branch leader to discuss a potential merger of the two branches**.

**Minutes**

**Bethesda-Chevy Chase and Kensington-Rockville Proposed Merger**

**Conference Call April 6, 2020**

**4:00 – 5:00 pm**

On the call were branch presidents Ruth Spivack and Pat Stocker and members Pat Ameling, Dian Belanger, Karen Braun, Gayatri Datta, Lorraine Douglas, Maritsa George, Erin Prangley, Anita Rosen, and Margaret Schweitzer

Ruth and Pat provided a brief overview of the conversations to date regarding the proposed merger between the Kensington-Rockville and Bethesda-Chevy Chase branches of AAUW. There was one in-person meeting and one previous conference call. There is general agreement to move toward a merger.

This meeting focused primarily on cultural issues – how we do things differently in our branches and how we can make a transition to an effective new branch.

1. Meeting location: We discussed possible meeting locations. While we favor meeting at our two current locations, issues such as continuing concerns about the coronavirus and policies for these senior living facilities may dictate a change in location. We agreed to address this issue later once our options are clearer.
2. Program planning: Anita Rosen provided a detailed description of the program planning process for the Kensington-Rockville branch. There was general agreement that this will be the appropriate planning process for the 2020-2021 program year. Branch presidents Ruth Spivack and Pat Stocker will call a meeting via Zoom (or other technology) for the brainstorming session in late May or early June. We will consider speakers, concepts, etc. and individuals will be responsible for exploring specific topics. Officers and chairs from both branches will be invited to participate as well as anyone else from both branches who is interested. Below these minutes is a tentative program schedule for the year – scheduling meetings on the 2nd (or in some cases, the 3rd) Saturday of each month.
3. Branch name: Pat Stocker reported that she had discussed options with Angie Cooper in the national AAUW office. The name “Montgomery County” would be acceptable, even though there is another branch in the county, the Gaithersburg branch. This is done elsewhere. We should inform Gaithersburg of this action once it is determined. There was general agreement that “Montgomery County” would be the preferred name for the new branch. (Note: Margaret Schweitzer pointed out that are other Montgomery Counties, so it might be necessary to add a “MD” to Montgomery.)
4. Bylaws: Since this merger is actually an integration of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase branch into the Kensington-Rockville branch, bylaws for the K-R branch will need to be updated and filed under the new branch name. We agreed that this could be done during the transition year.
5. Membership renewals and finance issues: We agreed that each branch would handle renewals this spring as usual. We also agreed that expenses for the coming program year would be split between the two branches. We anticipate that for spring 2021, all memberships would be with the new Montgomery County branch. B-CC will provide membership information which can be included in the yearbook for the new branch.
6. Officers: We discussed having co-officers in some positions, and we agreed to review the proposed officers for Kensington-Rockville and suggest the co-officers from B-CC where appropriate. We also agreed that Ruth Spivack would serve as president of the branch.

We anticipate holding another conference call to continue these discussions, and a date will be set (a Monday at 4:00 p.m.) for that call. Pat and Ruth will coordinate this.

Submitted by Pat Stocker

April 7, 2020

**Joint Kensington-Rockville and Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAUW Branch Program Schedule 2020-2021**

All meetings except as noted will be held on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Locations will be determined as part of the planning process. Meetings are generally the second Saturday of each month but may instead be held on the third Saturday.

September 12, 2020

October 10, 2020

November 14, 2020

December 12, 2020 – Holiday Gathering (afternoon)

January 9, 2021

February 13, 2021

March 13, 2021

April 10, 2021 (Check on date for Spring State Convention and determine whether to hold April branch meeting)

May 15 (Note: May 9 is Mother’s Day) – Officer Installation and Year End Celebration (potluck lunch)

**Did You Know . . .**

**that Walt Whitman was a pioneering feminist?**

Long before feminism acquired that name, Walt Whitman (1819-1892), America’s famed, tradition-challenging poet of the nineteenth century, championed America as a “centre of equal daughters, equal sons.” He called himself “the poet of the woman the same as the man,” and wrote, “Every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.”

Rare for his time, Whitman understood that disempowered members of society, as individuals or in groups, could never, would never, rise to social or political parity without the support of kindred spirits among the already endowed. As we know, the votes of (only) men added the 19th Amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing women’s right to vote in 1920. Privileged as a (white) man, Whitman argued that gender (also racial) inequality was an artificial and political corruption of democracy and of nature itself.

Early on, Whitman was apparently impressed and influenced by, among others, intellectual giant Margaret Fuller, author of *Woman in the Nineteenth Century* (1845), who insisted that a woman could, and should be encouraged to, do “anything. Let her be a sea captain if she will.” Whitman clipped and saved her newspaper columns as a literary critic, investigative reporter, and foreign correspondent (all firsts for a woman).

Whitman biographer John Burroughs opined that, “The more democratic, . . . the more tolerant, fraternal, sympathetic we become, the more we are ready for Whitman; . . . the more the woman becomes the mate and equal of the man, the more social equality prevails,—the sooner will come to Whitman fullness and fruition.”

The poet was more complicated, of course, but his commitment to gender equality seems genuine and earns our grateful respect.

Dian Belanger

Gleaned from “Brain Pickings” posting by Maria Popova, via NPG docent Lorna Grenadier.

DUES ARE DUE DUES ARE DUE DUES ARE DUE

 **Renew by JUNE 30, 2020 Life will be easier for the Treasurers**

We encourage you to logon to the member database and pay by credit card. <https://svc.aauw.org/recore/MPP/MPP_individual_renew_ALL.asp?member_id=5020801&branchid=MD2030>

You might also receive an email invoice from AAUW with a link that allows you to pay without logging in.

If these electronic options are not for you, then use the form below to join or renew your membership in Kensington-Rockville AAUW. Complete it and mail with a check made out to Kensington-Rockville AAUW. PLEASE, PAY YOUR DUES BY JUNE 30.Annual dues are $85 (Association = $59; AAUW MD = $10; branch dues $16: Total = $85)

Honorary Life members pay no dues.

Life members of AAUW pay $26 in state and branch dues.

Note: Note: AAUW national membership dues are $59, of which $56 is tax deductible as a charitable contribution. The remaining $3 is not tax deductible because it supports the AAUW Action Fund’s section 501(c)(4) Capitol Hill Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote activities.

Name:

Name of Spouse (optional, for yearbook):

Street Address:

Telephone number(s):

Email address:

May we publish your email address in the yearbook?

Are you willing to receive the newsletter via email?

**Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Are you an AAUW Life Member?

**For new members:**

College/University:

College/University City: State\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Degree: Year\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Major:

Other Degree(s), including college or university:

**Send the form and your dues check made payable to Kensington Rockville AAUW to JOYCE GRAF, 1368 Canterbury Way, Rockville, MD 20854
Phone 301-502-2551 Email:** **joyce20854@regraf.com**

**Interest Groups**

**Le Groupe Français**

Ruth Spivack

raspivack@gmail.com

TBA

**The Afternoon Literature**

**Group**

Margaret Schweitzer margaretfschweitzer@gmail.com

TBA

***GREAT DECISIONS***

Marianne Jacobs

mariannejacobs@verizon.net

TBA

**Deadline for the June Newsletter is May 20**

**Newsletter Editor Circulation Editor**

Margery Sullivan Ruth Spivack

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

**2020 Census**

Hope you have returned your 2020 census report. Responding to the census is not only your civic duty, it affects the amount of the funding our community receives, how our community plans for the future, and how our community is represented in the state and federal government. AAUW depends on the information for its reports and studies. For example:

The AAUW Fall 2019 report, “The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap” states that “On average, women in America are paid only 82 cents for every dollar paid to men. At the current rate of progress, the pay gap will not close until 2093.”

This quote is based on statistical information published by the U.S. Census Bureau.

 You can learn more about the 2020 Census by visiting[2020census.gov.](https://2020census.gov/)

**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**