

**December Holiday Social and Branch ZOOM Event**

**Sunday December 13, 2020, 2-4 pm**

**note the day and time**

**ZOOM invitation will be sent prior to the meeting**

**So, NO potluck with yummy food and wine.**

**But YES, for your own snacks and beverage!**

**We will do a brief review of the year and a preview of coming attractions.**

**We will hear from an AAUW Fellow, and hopefully a Montgomery County AAUW Scholarship recipient.**

**We will even have some break-out rooms for chit-chat and socializing.**

**Join in for fun and a meet and greet.**

Message from the President:

**DON’T LET THE LIGHT GO OUT**

This refrain from my favorite Chanukah Song, “Light One Candle” by Peter, Paul and Mary rings true as we approach the coming darkness of winter 2020-21. Astronomically, the Winter Solstice will arrive on December 21 at which time the hours of daylight are the shortest of the year. Existentially, we have the prognosis of Dr. Fauci and other public health specialists who believe that we are in for a very dark winter due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Thus, we need to continue to light our candles.

We in AAUW have many candle lighters. Several members of both the Kensington-Rockville and Bethesda-Chevy Chase branches serve as officers for the Maryland State AAUW who are in the forefront using technology to connect with members, carry on important initiatives like gender equity and systemic racism and work on legislative priorities for women as part of MLAW, a statewide coalition of women’s groups.

The leadership of the Kensington-Rockville and Bethesda-Chevy Chase branches has provided with a highly informative series of virtual programs: the Maryland legislative agenda; a public health perspective for older adults on the Corona virus and a panel discussion on Black Lives Matters. Next on the agenda, following the Holiday celebration on Sunday, December 13, will be a talk on post-election issues by Mark Medish, a former Clinton administration official.

Our branch interest groups continue to enlighten our members

going virtual with both English and French literature discussions and dialogues on current events in the Great Discussions Group.

The approximately ninety members of the two branches are all “stars” and can be described as one of the “thousand points of light,” first conceived in 1989 by George H.W. Bush to foster the spirit of helping others. Individual branch members continue to support the goals of AAUW through advocacy, education and philanthropy, as well as working with many other organizations and causes.

Finally, please come together with our members on Sunday, December 13 to celebrate our fellowship, meet Montgomery College Foundation scholars and our branch fellows and light a candle for the future.

Ruth Spivack

**It’s Holiday Season: A Time for Giving**

At this time of living, meeting, and acting virtually, we cannot do something fun or even offer a glass of wine or a plate of cookies in thanks. Still, we appeal to your generosity and commitment to supporting the causes we share as AAUW members:

**\*Maryland Women of Distinction Fund, #4355.** For the past decade AAUW Maryland has been Platinum Sponsor of this signature event of AAUW’s annual **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders** **(NCCWSL)**. We are short $6300 of the $20,000 needed to qualify for the 2021ceremony, our major national project. The deadline is 1 April 2021. Please see the September 2020 *Marylander* for more about NCCWSL and why we support this life-changing experience.

To donate: Go to aauw.org. Click on Donate at upper right. Near the bottom, in smaller print, click on NCCWSL, then on Maryland Women of Distinction Fund (#4355, if numbers are given). Insert your dollar amount below that and click Donate button below. You’ll need your credit card information. Or, write a check to AAUW, Maryland Women of Distinction Fund #4355. Write “Credit Kensington-Rockville (MD) Branch” in the memo line. Mail to AAUW Development Office, P O Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045. Contact AAUW staff at development@aauw.org or call 202-728-7629 if you need more information.

**\*Greatest Needs Fund, #9110**. This general fund is for unrestricted gifts, which are used when and where they are most needed, thus providing flexibility to respond to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls.

To donate: Start with aauw.org. Then click Donate. Greatest Needs will be at the top of the list of donation choices. Use your credit card, or write a check, as above, designating your preferred fund(s). If you do not state a preference, your gift will go to Greatest Needs.

The above are current priorities. Or you can select from the options below, using the same procedures:

**Education and Training Fund, #4450.**  For equal access to discrimination-free education.

 **Economic Security Fund, #4449.** For pay equity, salary negotiation training, student debt relief, deepened retirement security.

**Leadership Fund, #4452.**  For greater participation in more leadership opportunities for women.

**Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), #3999.** For challenging sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

**Fellowships and Grants.** For supporting higher education for women.

\***Montgomery College Foundation**. Gifts support scholarships for women returning to school, while supporting themselves and dependent(s).

To donate: Give online with credit card at <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/alumni-friends-donors/foundation/donate.html/>. Or write check payable to Montgomery College Foundation, with “AAUW Kensington/Rockville Scholarship” in the memo line. Mail to Montgomery College Foundation, 9221 Corporate Blvd, 3rd Floor, Rockville, MD 20850.

Thank you!

Dian Belanger

**The Simple Truth about the Gender Gap- Not Enough Change**

Over half a century after pay discrimination became illegal in the United States, a persistent pay gap between men and women continues to hurt our nation’s workers and our national economy.

Women working full time in the U.S. are paid 82 cents to every dollar earned by men — but it doesn’t stop there. The consequences of this gap affect women throughout their lives. Though women now outpace men in higher education, women also hold [nearly two-thirds of the outstanding student debt](https://www.aauw.org/resources/research/deeper-in-debt/) in the United States. And because of the gender pay gap, women have a harder time repaying loans. The pay gap even follows women into retirement: As a result of lower lifetime earnings, they receive [less in Social Security and pensions.](https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/02/Simple-Truth-Update-2019_v2-002.pdf) In terms of overall retirement income, women have only 70% of what men do.

Pay equity will continue to be an AAUW priority until the gap is fully eliminated. We hope this latest edition of *The Simple Truth* motivates and empowers you to join us in this cause.

Download the newest report.

https://www.aauw.org/resources/research/simple-truth/?emci=073e56ba-742a-eb11-9fb4-0003ff196a4c&emdi=ce5ec92d-3a2b-eb11-9fb4-00155d43b2cd&ceid=930367

**Member News**

Dr. Denise Decker, who was a longtime leader in AAUW, passed away on November 4. Below is a link to her obituary on today's Post. There is a nice quote from AAUW. Many of us knew Denise who was an amazing activist for women and for people with disabilities. Despite being blind from birth, she got a Ph.D. from the Sorbonne, spoke four languages, and traveled all over the world with her seeing eye dogs. She always credited AAUW for a fellowship they gave her for grad school--after many other organizations had turned her down because of her blindness. She often said that knowing AAUW believed in her made all the difference. We have lost a great advocate for women and for people who have disabilities.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?n=denise-decker&pid=197122357>

Anna Palmisano

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**AAUW GAITHERSBURG VIRTUAL BRANCH HOLIDAY GATHERING!**

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Log in to Zoom meeting:  7:15pm

Presentation begins:  7:30pm

**A HOLIDAY MUSICAL PERFORMANCE**

Wynne Roos - Harp

We will see Ms. Roos perform a selection of seasonal and holiday songs on two different harps via video.  Then she will discuss the differences and unique characteristics of the harps and answer any questions members have.  Bring your own snacks and beverages!  Happy Holidays!

**NOTE**:  Please send an email to Heather Reichardt, hjr1234@gmail.com with your email address  and that of any friends and family who wish to attend this zoom meeting, at least 3 days prior to the event, to be included in the invitation email.

**Interest Groups**

**Le Groupe Français**

Ruth Spivack raspivack@gmail.com

The next meeting of Le Groupe Francaise will be via ZOOM on Tuesday, December 15 at 5:30 p.m.

We will read Alphonse Daudet's short story, "Le Chevre de M. Seguin."  Please contact Ruth Spivack for the URL.

 Contact Ruth for the URL.

***Literature Group***

Margaret Schweitzer margaretsfchweitzer@gmail.com

The Literature group is not meeting in December.

Contact Anita for details.

Ster

**GREAT DECISIONS**

Anita Rosen

anitarosen123@gmail.com

Bobbe Mintz

Bobbeandherb@comcast.net

The Next Great Decisions Group is December 18, 2020, 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome for a general discussion because we have completed the 2020 book. We will be discussing foreign relations issues in incoming Biden Administration. If you are not a regular and want to join us for the meeting, contact Anita Rosen for a ZOOM invitation.

They will send the URL prior for the meeting.

Contact Anita for details.

Ster

.

**Saturday, January 9, 2021, 10:00 a.m. Branch Zoom Meeting**

**Implications of the November Elections**

**Mark Medish**

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**