

**April Zoom Branch Meeting**

**Saturday, April 10, 2021 10:00 a.m.**

**AAUW: Our History, Our Legacy, and Our Current Challenges.**

Join us for an exciting glimpse of AAUW’s history by **Dian Belanger**, our resident AAUW historian. She will provide a brief captivating tour of AAUW’s origins and legacy allowing new and old members to learn about and be inspired by AAUW. Joining her will be **Eileen Menton** current national board member of AAUW who will discuss current issues and challenges for AAUW and future. You will be fascinated, amused, moved, and challenged by this program.

We welcome you to engage with our speakers and ask questions.

Guests are welcome

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

**About our speakers:**

**Dian Belanger** joined AAUW in 1968 and has served in many leadership positions including branch and state president and Middle Atlantic regional director. Her national leadership includes serving as Vice President, having an International Fellowship in her name, and serving as an AAUW archivist. She is currently the Maryland AAUW Funds Vice-President.

Her many accomplishments as an Historian include teaching, consulting, and publications. She is the author of *Deep Freeze: The United States, the International Geophysical Year, and the Origins of Antarctica’s Age of Science* (University Press of Colorado, 2006). Her first book, *Managing American Wildlife*, won The Wildlife Society’s national book award as “the outstanding publication in wildlife ecology and management.”

Prior to COVID, she served as a docent at the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery.

**Eileen Menton** has been a national director of AAUW since 2017. She was the president of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (now Women First International Fund), which provides grants for women and girls worldwide. She is a long-time leader of AAUW, serving as past president of AAUW Maryland and president of the AAUW Baltimore Branch. She has been a director of AAUW’s national board since 2017. She worked as a legal systems manager at the U.S. Justice Department and a business analyst at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**Message from the President:**

**Equal Rights Amendment Update**

***Section 1:* Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.**

***Section 2:* The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.**

***Section 3:* This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.**

The Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced in Congress in 1923. In 1972, the legislature finally passed the ERA and state legislatures were given until 1979 to ratify the amendment. Congress extended the ratification deadline to 1982. The final deadline passed and only 35 states approved the ERA, three states short of ratification. Subsequently, Nevada in 2017, Illinois in 2018, and Virginia in January 2020 ratified the ERA. The attention then shifted to Congress to remove the deadline.

Why do we need the Equal Rights Amendment? We have the Fourteenth Amendment which guarantees to both men and women the equal protection of the law and myriads of sex discrimination laws and precedential court cases which establish and sustain the rights of women.

According to legal scholars there are several reasons why the Fourteenth Amendment is not sufficient, and the ERA is relevant in the twenty-first century.

1. Many of the advances in state laws can easily be overturned by a simple majority and court rulings can be overruled by a change in the ideology of the newly appointed judges.
2. Currently under the Fourteenth amendment, there is a differential legal standing which assumes that men hold rights, but women must still prove that they have rights.  The ERA would eliminate that different legal standing and, consequently, shift the burden of proof to the party accused of discrimination.
3. Both the Equal Protection Clause and Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act’s sex discrimination prohibition are limited in their effectiveness for women because only an intermediate standard of scrutiny is applied in sex discrimination challenges.  The ERA would establish a strict judicial scrutiny test, the same used in race discrimination cases.

Additionally, the equal protection requirement calls for proof of intentional discrimination – something that is very difficult to establish in court.

Currently, ERA advocates are working to have Congress extend the deadline and ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to provide the highest and broadest level of legal protection against sex discrimination. However, there is a Department of Justice opinion written during the Trump administration stating that Congress can’t revive the proposed amendment, but only restart the ratification process. H.J. Res. 17/S.J. Res. 1 would remove the deadline for ratification, allowing states like Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia to count toward ratification, and recognize that the ERA is now the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. On March 17, 2021, the House of Representatives voted, with bipartisan support, to remove the deadline for ratification of the ERA. This critical resolution now moves to the Senate.

**Celebrate the ERA:** On March 29 at 7 p.m., the Maryland Women’s Heritage Center is sponsoring “Marylanders Rise Up for ERA”. The virtual event will honor and celebrate decades of persistent work towards the enactment of the ERA. You can register at [**https://marylandersriseupforera.eventbrite.co**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kRR1pDkJGL1l_tjXwmqI0TThJI27cSpqEg0T-pF4diO_0ZIpiNMC702lrj5Ocv9jjTlunw054Nr5b-O7hClqls83K3EkrnXxbzydZjU7_UwHYqSq5VxXIgjBUNAT4hBvoL4lCzdlDbYGulWmKGeR9CN-y6W_wepqZVpTKzUgdrHE6BXguP7u1Q==&c=lh77L7Lf2W2WeXbY-QT027wUCoo7Ml7X2YMatsWQfic5bZe9e5vkUg==&ch=neo-tOIaDYzJMRzg1rjJGQEG9_sw7YlZ807nWLktWKLvkimzno5wpQ==)

Ruth Spivack

**Minutes of K-R business meeting March 13, 2021**

Prior to the branch program, President Ruth Spivack called for a vote to elect the 2021 nominating committee for the Kensington Rockville AAUW branch. The slate included Maritsa George, Ella Iams and Joyce Graf. A show of hands of those members present was called; the result was positive for election of the 2021 K-R AAUW Nominating committee.

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Announcements included:

Reminders for the Book Group and Great Decisions meetings

Newsletter deadline is March 20

National AAUW has a webinar on recruitment on March 16

National AAUW member vote on the education requirement for

membership will be held between April 7 and May 17

March 23 is Women’s Equal Pay Day

In May the annual meeting of Maryland AAUW will be held on two days by Zoom, details to follow.

Submitted by branch Secretary Pat Ameling

**Nominating Committee**

Nominations are open for one-year terms on the Kensington Rockville Board. Terms begin on July 1. Our bylaws limit members to two consecutive years in any position. This year, many officers will not continue, so this is a chance for YOU to become more involved.

A nominating committee has been elected. They are Maritsa George, Joyce Graf, and Ella Iams. We are seeking nominations for the offices of **President, Treasurer, Secretary, Program Vice President, Membership Vice President.** Two members can share any board position. Questions? Contact the nominating committee members!

If you can volunteer for any of these jobs, please email a member of the nominating committee. There is a special need in Program and Membership, which are often filled by Co Vice Presidents. NOTE: A committee of all interested members assists in setting the program agenda for the year.

Joyce Graf joyce@regraf.com

Maritsa George maritsageo@verizon.net

Ella Iams ella.iams@verizon.net

**Resolution of the proposed merger of Kensington Rockville and Bethesda Chevy Chase AAUW branches**

Dear Friends of Kensington-Rockville,

The board of Bethesda-Chase AAUW met today, and after a productive conversation determined that it is not in the best interests of our branch to continue merger discussions with Kensington-Rockville. This is in no way a criticism of your branch but rather a response to the desire of our branch to meet monthly in a familiar and convenient location and to preserve our own autonomy. We have truly enjoyed our joint meetings and activities this program year.

We would propose that both branches continue to invite each other to participate in activities as appropriate and, of course, continue with our joint programs through May. We will also encourage members of both branches to reach out to cooperate on issues of mutual interest, including lobbying efforts and other activities where that is appropriate. We are happy to invite your membership to any of our meetings and hope we would be welcomed at yours.

Pat Stocker, President, Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAUW

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I Accept[Privacy Policy](https://www.aauw.org/privacy-policy/)

[**Legal Advocacy Fund**](https://www.aauw.org/resources/legal/laf/)

**Current Cases**

LAF challenges sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

AAUW has provided millions of dollars to support hundreds of cases

[**Paige v. USAID**](https://www.aauw.org/resources/legal/laf/current-cases/beth-paige-et-al-v-usaid/)

Three women, each of whom worked for USAID for more than 27 years in overseas posts, achieved the highest rank in the Senior Foreign Service (Career Minister). But in 2016, each discovered that, despite their greater seniority and higher rank, they were paid considerably less than dozens of lower ranking and less experienced male Senior Foreign Service officers.

[**Glasson v. Google**](https://www.aauw.org/resources/legal/laf/current-cases/glasson-v-google/)

Chelsey Glasson had a long history of exceptional performance at the tech companies she worked for — until she began to speak out against the pregnancy discrimination she witnessed and then began to experience herself as a Google employee.

[**Portz v. St. Cloud State University et al.**](https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy-center/laf-overview/current-cases/portz-v-scsu/)

Portz v. St. Cloud State University et al. is a case involving 10 female student athletes who filed a lawsuit against St. Cloud State University (SCSU) and Minnesota State College and University Systems alleging violations

[**Freyd v. University of Oregon**](https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy-center/laf-overview/current-cases/freyd-v-university-of-oregon/)Jennifer J. Freyd has been a Professor in the University of Oregon’s Psychology Department for more than 30 years and is a national leader in the field of trauma psychology. She is the most senior staff member of University of Oregon’s Psychology Department based on years in rank. Her salary, however, is substantially less than that of several of her less-senior male colleagues.

[**Jane Doe v. The University of Kentucky**](https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy-center/laf-overview/current-cases/doe-v-uk/)

To ensure access to education for women and girls, AAUW advocates for the full protections of Title IX. AAUW’s Legal Advocacy Fund supports this case to reform the sexual assault hearing process on campuses. Currently, alleged assailants have multiple opportunities to re-victimize survivors through the hearings process, under the guise of due process.

**New at AAUW**

AAUW has joined with the Eos Foundation to fund a new report “The Power Gap” finding that the highest-earning professionals at the nation’s leading colleges and universities — arguably those wielding the most power — are still overwhelmingly white men. Kim Churches and Andrea Sibert of Eos have written an op-ed article in US Today, March 03, 2021.

They hosted a superb webinar earlier which I attended. All the information can be found at [www.womenspowergap.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/WPG-Power-Gap-at-Elite-Universities-2021-Study-4.pdf](http://www.womenspowergap.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/WPG-Power-Gap-at-Elite-Universities-2021-Study-4.pdf)

Margery Sullivan

**Condolences**

AAUW sends condolences to member Bobbe Mintz on the death of her husband, Herb Mintz on February 27, 2021 at age 74. Herb was born in Brooklyn, New York attended Cooper Union where he graduated with a degree in chemical engineering and was a graduate of the George Washington University School of Law, Herb served for two years as a law clerk to a federal appellate judge and joined the patent law firm of Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner where he spent his entire career practicing patent litigation, including an appearance before the United States Supreme Court. Among many accomplishments, Herb was a composer of many children and adult musicals. May his memory be a blessing.

**A Time for Giving:**

**Deadline for NCCWSL April 1, 2021 for Maryland Sponsorship of Conference**

**\*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 funds of the $20,000 needed to qualify for the 2021 virtual ceremony, 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](mailto: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.

\***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.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

April 7 and close May 17, 2021, 5:00 p.m. ETVoting on Proposed elimination of AAUW’s educational requirement Members can vote either on-line or request a paper ballot. To be approved, 5% of AAUW membership must vote and the measure must be approved by two-thirds of the votes.

May 22, and 23 2021 AAUW MD 2021Virtual State Convention.The Power of Women Voters

**Interest Groups:**

**GREAT DECISIONS**

Anita Rosen

[anitarosen123@gmail.com](mailto:anitarosen123@gmail.com)

Bobbe Mintz

[Bobbeandherb@comcast.net](mailto:Bobbeandherb@comcast.net)

The next Great Decisions Group ZOOM discussion is April 16, 2021 2:00 p.m. Chapter 4– The Arctic: The Coldest War: Toward a Return to Great Power Competition in the Arctic

For questions and further information, contact Anita or Bobbe.

They will send URLs prior to the discussion and viewing opportunities for the video.

Contact Anita for details.

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**Le Groupe Français**

Ruth Spivack raspivack@gmail.com

Le Groupe Français will meet on April 27 at 5:30 p.m. on ZOOM.

We will continue reading "La Farce de Maître Panthelin."

Contact Ruth Spivack for the URL.

***Literature Group***

Margaret Schweitzer [margaretfschweitzer@gmail.com](mailto:margaretfschweitzer@gmail.com)

The AAUW Literature Group will meet by Zoom on Tuesday, April 20 at 1 p.m.  We will be discussing the book "*Exiles"* by Christina Baker Kline.

Maritsa George will be leading the discussion.

*Exiles* tells the story of three women who went to Australia

when it was a penal colony. The 1840’s are an interesting time for single women in Australia. It deals with the challenges

to single women in the 1840s in an interesting time in the early settling of

Australia.

The URL will be sent prior to the discussion.

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

**Newsletter Editor Circulation Editor**

Margery Sullivan Ruth Spivack

[msullivan@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:msullivan@niaid.nih.gov) [raspivack@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 ased 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**