

**October Branch Meeting by Zoom**

**AAUW Kensington-Rockville-Bethesda Chevy Chase October Program Meeting**

**Saturday, November 7, 2020. 10:00 am**

ZOOM will open at 9:30 and the program will begin at 10:00 am.

The ZOOM information will be sent in to the Meeting.

**Topic: Moving Forward with Black Lives Matter-**

**A Panel Discussion.**

**Moderator: Jacqueline Gray, AAUW Maryland State Diversity Chair**

The national outpouring of demonstrations, concern and discussion following the death of George Floyd and other African Americans has heightened our attention to issues of racial justice, racial discrimination, and racial disparities. How is Montgomery County addressing these issues? Our invited speakers will help us examine some of the ways government and community organizations are attempting to move forward on these issues.

***The ZOOM information will be sent the week prior to the meeting. We encourage you to invite a guest***.

**Confirmed Speakers**

Dr. Rachel N. Bonaparte-Hagos. Interim Director, Institute for Part-Time Faculty Engagement & Support (IPTFES) Chair, President's Advisory Committee on Equity and Inclusion, Montgomery College.

Arlinda J. Clark, Esq., an attorney and member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. – Eta Pi Zeta Chapter, a community-conscious, action-oriented, non-profit organization in Montgomery County: “Attorney Clark’s affinity toward enhancing the lives of others and addressing social action matters has led her to develop several programs to address diversity and social issues in Montgomery County on behalf of her sorority.”

Lieutenant Monique Tompkins, Deputy Director of the Major Crimes Division.

Montgomery County Police Department.

Natalie Williams, representing the Director of the Equity Initiatives Unit for the Montgomery County Public Schools is a School Counselor for 8th graders. She is a member of the Sandy Spring Slave Museum and African Art Gallery Board of Directors and serves on the Education and Outreach Committee. Natalie has done extensive research on the Black Kinship Communities of Montgomery County.

Message from the President:

**Update on AAUW dues and educational requirements for membership**

In September the AAUW National Board Chair, Julia Brown, and Vice-Chair, Melinda Gaul held a virtual town hall meeting on issues vital to AAUW members: an increase in membership dues will be voted upon at the October AAUW board meeting and a change in the by-laws to eliminate the educational requirement for membership. After watching the video, I wrote up some of my notes on information that was noteworthy and of interest to me.

**Dues Increase:** The Board is considering an increase in the range of $3 to $10, for the next fiscal year and possibly additional increases. The current national dues are $59 which includes $3 for advocacy work and which is not tax- deductible. The AAUW Board of Directors voted in June 2017 to enact the first dues change in almost a decade. Effective March 16, 2018, national dues increased from $49 to $59. (Note: State dues are $10 and branch dues are $16 for current total dues of $85.)

Currently dues cover 15 to 20% of annual budget which is now approximately 16 million dollars. In the past three years, there has been a concerted effort to reduce the budget which had been 24 million dollars at one point. Membership dues bring in 2.9 million, but according to Kim Churches, Executive Director, it costs approximately 3.9 million to provide services to members including technology, the Membership Services Database, IRS reports, and other membership-based services. She mentioned that the National has been economizing in many ways including a staff reduction from 107 full-time staff three years ago to a current level of 46 full-time staff equivalents. This reduction has impacted member services as a reduced staff responds to member questions only by e-mail through **connect**@**aauw**.org.

The National Board will vote on the increase, to be effective in 2021 at the mid October board meeting.

**Change in Educational Requirement:** The Board is taking the initiative in advocating for an elimination of the degree requirement for AAUW membership. The Board believes that AAUW should be an organization that not only advocates for equity, but is an organization of equity. In order to make the change, AAUW members have to vote a change in the by-laws. First there has to be a quorum of 5 or 10% of the membership voting and secondly, the vote to make the change must be by a 2/3 majority. There have been several previous attempts to change the bylaws. In 2005, the by-laws were changed to require either a 4 or 2 year educational degree. The change to eliminate any educational requirement was rejected by membership in 2017 and 2018.

The main argument for an elimination of an educational degree is that an organization which advocates for equity for women and girls should not be hypocritical in its membership requirements. One of the goals of AAUW is to break down barriers in education and the organization should not create an educational barrier to belong to the organization. Also, AAUW must look to the younger generation to continue the organization and the generations born after 1980 value “inclusion”. Kim Churches, interjected that AAUW’s membership degree requirement was one impediment to obtaining corporate or foundation funding.

The change would not require any change in the name of the organization. A popular argument goes: AAUW is not just an American organization, it’s not just a group for women and it certainly should not represent “university women”, but for all people fighting for equity for women and girls.

Historical information on AAUW funding can be found in the Summer 2019 Marylander newsletter in an article written by Eileen Menton, a National Board Member: “Doing Less with Less with More Impact” available [at https://aauw-md.aauw.net/files/2019/06/marylander-summer-2019-final.pdf](file:///%5C%5Cai-fas6.niaid.nih.gov%5Cmsullivan%24%5CCitrix%5C10%5CDesktop%5CKensington%20Rockville%202019-2020%5Cat%20https%3A%5Caauw-md.aauw.net%5Cfiles%5C2019%5C06%5Cmarylander-summer-2019-final.pdf)

The AAUW Board Town Hall: Dues and Education Requirement is available on You Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhkHHqKwT3w>

Ruth Spivack

**Kensington Rockville Membership Details**

1. There are 52 paid members: 18 Life Members and 34 Branch Members
2. Members live in:

 Silver Spring (15)

 Rockville (14)

 Bethesda (7)

 Kensington (5)

 Potomac (4)

 Other (4) Vermont, Chevy Chase, Brookville and Catonsville

 District of Columbia (2)

1. Members joined AAUW in:

1956-59 (3)

1960-69 (5)

1970-79 (12)

1980-89 (5)

1990-99 (7)

2000-09 (5)

2010-19 (12)

2020 (3)

**Educational Foundation**

AAUW has awarded over $115 million in fellowships and grants to more than 13,000 scholars and organizations in 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and Guam and 150 countries, one of the largest scholarship programs for women in the world.

**Interest Groups**

**What is Great Decisions? And, Why You Should Join our group for 2021?**

The mission of the Foreign Policy Association today, as it has been for over 100 years, is to serve as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding, and informed opinion on U.S. foreign policy and global issues.

The 2021 book will cost about $30. Want more information? Anita Rosen anitarosen123@gmail.com The Group meets the 3rd Friday of the Month by Zoom.

This a list of the preliminary topics for the upcoming **2021 edition of Great Decisions Book**. The topics will each have a corresponding episode of GDTV that will broadcast on PBS and be available on DVD or streaming with Vimeo.

**Preliminary Topic Listing for 2021**

Topic 1: The role of international organizations in a Global Pandemic

Topic 2: Global supply chains and national security

Topic 3: China and Africa

Topic 4: Korean Peninsula

Topic 5: Persian Gulf Security

Topic 6: Brexit and the European Union

Topic 7: The fight over the melting Arctic

Topic 8: The End of Globalization?

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**Interest Groups**

***Literature Group***

Margaret Schweitzer margaretsfchweitzer@gmail.com

The Literature group will meet at 1 p.m. Tuesday November 17 on Zoom. We will be discussing "A Woman of No Importance" by Sonia Purnell: a book about a Baltimore Woman who worked with French Resistance Groups in World War II.

The group is choosing books for 2021. Please choose 5 books and send to Margaret.

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Margaret will send the URL prior to the meeting.

Contact Anita for details.

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**Le Groupe Français**

Ruth Spivack raspivack@gmail.com

Le Groupe Français meets in the early evening via ZOOM to read and discuss French literature.

 Contact Ruth for the URL.

**GREAT DECISIONS**

Anita Rosen

anitarosen123@gmail.com.

Bobbe Mintz

Bobbeandherb@comcast.net

The Next Great Decisions Group is November 20, 2020, 2:00 p.m. Chapter 8: Artificial Intelligence and Data. For questions contact Anita or Bobbe.

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They will send the URL prior for the meeting.

Contact Anita for details.

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**Upcoming Meetings:**

**December 12, 2020 Branch Holiday Get together**

A Holiday ZOOM. Meet AAUW Fellows, scholarship recipients, and a celebratory toast to Women

**Deadline for the December Newsletter is November 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**