

**No Zoom Meeting in June**

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| **Voting Rights Under Siege according to the Legendary Lisa Maatz** (This is a summary of Lisa’s presentation to AAUW Maryland on April 25, 2021. Lisa is the former Director of Public Policy for AAUW.)What has brought about the current relentless attacks on voting rights, so far 253 bills in 43 states? Nothing less than our huge success, says Lisa Maatz, for fifteen years (2002-2017) sagacious and adept head of AAUW’s national public policy efforts on Capitol Hill. In a Saturday morning Zoom some of us were fortunate to attend, she cited the massive 2020 election turnout, broad voter diversity, and sensible pandemic adjustments such as mail-in ballots and drop-boxes. Those who prosper with fewer voters have gotten right to work, proposing “blatantly racist,” “targeted” restrictions, such as reducing voting hours, days, and locations (meaning, at best, longer lines); curtailing mail-in ballots by, for example, requiring them to be notarized; accepting only a few specified types of voter identification; forbidding “no excuse” absentee ballots; purging registered voters who have missed one election (mid-term turnout is lower). In Georgia it’s now a crime to offer a voter waiting in a slow line a drink of water! As only Lisa could put it, these actions are “diabolically smart.” So, what can we/must we do? Lisa suggests two critical bills before Congress that need our focused advocacy:1. **H.R. 1, For the People Act**. This federal legislation ensures consistency and best practices in voting, based on lessons learned in 2020. It equalizes voter access, insists on traceable paper ballots, eliminates dark money, cracks down on voter intimidation, automates voter registration, and combats gerrymandering by assigning nonpartisan commissions to set voting district boundaries. H.R. 1 passed the House in March 2021. The Senate has taken no action.
2. **H.R. 4, John Lewis Voting Rights Act**. The purpose of this narrower bill is to restore the full 1965 Voting Rights Act, which in 2013 the Supreme Court, in *Shelby County v. Holder,* eroded by striking portions that required certain (read “Jim Crow”) states to obtain federal pre-clearance for any changes to their voting laws. Black leaders prioritize this approach.

Lisa also outlined pros and cons of eliminating the Senate filibuster and the difficulties of just reforming it, including a recent proposal to “democratize” this once-rare practice by counting the number of voters represented, not the number of states, to activate or suppress debate. A reminder: AAUW has always been, and is, a nonpartisan organization. Our political action is issue-based. We do our research and present reasoned, fact-based positions. Voting is not—well, should not be—a partisan issue. Let’s get going!Dian Belanger**Final Report from MLAW see attachment.** **Kensington- Rockville Annual Meeting Minutes May 15, 2021**At 10:00 **Anita Rosen** introduced our speaker, **Roxanne King**, the State Public Policy Co-Vice President to speak on Maryland Women’s Issues and MLAW.King first thanked us for the invitation and branch support, especially **Anna Palmisano** for ongoing support of the Patient Bill of Rights. In listing legislation results, there were two bills passed by override votes: gun background checks and funding for a women’s pre-release unit (the first.)Other passed actions:* Child abuse regulations continued
* Marriage not a defense for sex abuse
* Menstrual supplies in middle schools
* Mental health community funding for underserved areas
* Essential workers protection act, severely reduced

Not passed:-Paid family and medical leave (influenced by the pandemic)-Requirement for judges to explain rationale for granting custody to an abusive parentWe are urged to see the “Two-Minute Activist” on the AAUW website.Next, **Janet Crampton** spoke about our ongoing branch scholarship at Montgomery College. We have two continuing recipients, neither of whom could join us on the meeting. Rosa Choi is now a CNA and has a position at the Hebrew Home. Jessica Moskowitz continues her studies in medical technology. They both send their thanks for our scholarship support.As a member of the Montgomery College Foundation staff, **Francine Walker** spoke to us about our important role in supporting the students of the college. Scholarship donations are needed now so that Fall students have funding available. The way to direct the donations appears elsewhere in the Newsletter.**Ruth Spivack** introduced the business portion of the meeting with announcements.-May 17 is the last date to vote on the National AAUW slate and issues.-Margery – June Newsletter is May 20.-Jeri – Branch and association dues renewal before end of June.Next order of business is electing the slate of officers for 2021-2022: President – **Jeri Rhodes** Program – **Dian Belanger** and **Anna Palmisano** Membership – **Janet Crampton** and **Anita Rosen** Secretary – **Pat Ameling** Treasurer – **Ruth Spivack** Ruth moved the election of the slate; **Maritsa George** seconded. Ruth called for a show of hands in the Zoom windows, and the slate was elected.**Kate Campbell-Stevenson** acted as installation officer by describing the responsibilities for each office and asking for the individual acceptance. The installation was completed by 10:55 a.m.A discussion period followed, including: Thanks to the outgoing board members, by Maritsa. Janet emphasized the need for scholarship funding. Anita asked for interest in a social hour to be held in the summer, perhaps in person, outside venue, etc. It depends on the Covid protocols. She also mentioned some hybrid meetings to come with diversity themes and the ongoing interest groups, to enable broad participation. Dian asked for suggestions from branch members for program planning for the coming year, with plans to meet about them in June.  **Margaret Schweitzer** will check regularly for access to Ingleside for in-person meetings. Kate said there will be a June newsletter update on the Maryland Women’s Heritage Center with a new facility in Baltimore. Branch history needs to be archived; the Rockville and Kensington records are at the University of Maryland. Yearbooks, newsletters to be saved.  **Angela Michalide** suggested the Kensington Historical Society as a possible repository. Submitted by **Pat Ameling,** Secretary |
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**Results of AAUW’s 2021 National Election:**

Julia Brown, board chair; Malinda Gaul, board vice chair; and Elizabeth Hayes and Joseph Bertolino, board members were re-elected.

AAUW’s public policy priorities were approved by 92% of voters.

The board-recommended ballot initiative to remove the college-degree membership requirement did not receive the two-thirds, or 66.6% vote required to enact a bylaw change.

**Help Plan the 2021-22 K-R Monthly Programs:**

The new co-VP's for program planning, Dian Belanger and Anna Palmisano, would like to get ideas from AAUW Kensington-Rockville members for program activities. These may include guest lecturers, field trips, and other get togethers.  If you are interested in participating in a brainstorming session by zoom, please let Anna know your availability for an afternoon meeting on one of the following dates:

June 2

June 3

June 4

Anna is at palmscience@verizon.net. This promises to be a lively discussion! Please join us!

**DUES ARE DUE DUES ARE DUE DUES ARE DUE**

 **Renew by JUNE 30, 2021 Life will be easier for the Treasurers**

Several members have already responded to the email from National and have paid their dues for next year. Thank you very much for renewing! Please let Jeri know if you have not received an email and would like to renew electronically. You may prefer to 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 at your earliest convenience.

**Annual dues are $88 (**Association = $62; AAUW MD = $10; branch dues $16: Total = $88) Note: AAUW national membership dues are $62, of which $59 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.

**Honorary Life members pay no dues**.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse (optional, for yearbook): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Other Degree(s), including college or university: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Send the form and your dues check made payable to Kensington Rockville AAUW to JERI RHODES. 15115 Interlachen Drive #821, Silver Spring, MD 20906.**

**Email Jeri at** **jerirhodes@verizon.net** **if you have questions.**

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**A Time for Giving:**

**\*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.

**Interest Groups:**

**Great Decisions**

Anita Rosen

anitarosen123@gmail.com

Bobbe Mintz

Bobbeandherb@comcast.net

Great Decisions Group will meet informally June 17, 2021 at 2:00 pm for a general discussion.

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

The French group is meeting on June 1 via Zoom at 5:30 p.m.

Please contact Ruth for the specifics and the URL.

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**Literature Group**

Margaret Schweitzer margaretfschweitzer@gmail.com

The AAUW Literature group will meet on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at the home of Maritsa George at 1 p.m.  Bring your own sandwich. Our hostess will provide salad and beverages.  We will be discussing books for the 2021-2022 year while we eat. (I will email you her address later)

I have already received suggestions from Pat, Bernie, Ella, Nancy, Karen, and me. I will have a list of these books at this meeting, but you can bring additional books. You can send me more ideas now.

Plan to promote your suggestions in the discussion. If you are unable to attend, please designate a friend to advocate for your suggestions.

 Please call Maritsa maritsageo@verizon.net so she can plan seating.

 We will be voting at this meeting and those not in attendance can vote later. Please come! It will be fun and a great break from our recent isolation.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

June 21, 2021 Gaithersburg AAUW branch meeting see attachment

SAVE the DATE September 12, 2021 2 - 4 p.m.  Sandy Spring Museum, 17901 Bentley Rd., Sandy Spring, MD.

Join K-R branch member Kate Campbell Stevenson and The Maryland Women's Heritage Center as we celebrate a new National Votes for Women Trail Marker honoring Sandy Spring Quaker Suffragists, Mary Bentley Thomas, and Caroline Hallowell Miller. See attachment

**Deadline for the September Newsletter is August 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**