**Voting Rights Legislation in Congress:**

**What are the Prospects? What’s at Stake?**

Via Zoom

Saturday, October 9, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

What's the difference between the For The People Act (a.k.a. H.R.1) and the Freedom to Vote Act? What about the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act? What will it take to get them passed in the Senate? What would it mean for Maryland? What can we do to help? If they don’t become law, what then?

Please join us to learn more about these congressional responses to

critical civil rights challenges we thought settled for good half a century ago.

Our expert speaker is Jackie Coolidge, the head of the League of Women Voters' volunteer "Lobby Corps" on Capitol Hill. She also works on redistricting reform for the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County. She is a retired economist from the World Bank, with degrees from Johns Hopkins University, Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs, and the University of Michigan. She has lived in Montgomery County for over 25 years.

**A ZOOM URL will be sent prior to the Meeting**

**President’s Message**

October 2021

Our September meeting was terrific! We engaged with Edie Allison, President of the Gaithersburg Branch of AAUW, on the Montgomery County plan for improving our energy footprint in the county. Great discussion and lots of ideas! We look forward to our October meeting – Dian and Anna have great plans for us.

We passed the operating budget for this fiscal year and determined that we could investigate getting our own Zoom account. More to come at the next meeting. We also have funds in the event we can pull together a project that engages more than our branch community. Lots of ideas and our members will see a short survey in the next week or so.

It seems we wake up each day to changes in what we knew last week and/or with more questions about what’s ahead. It is hard work to keep focused and energized during this uncertainty. I hope each of you is taking care of yourself and staying engaged at the right level for you. We do need your energy and your commitment, so please stay involved in your right place in our branch. We are glad you are with us!

Jeri Rhodes

President.

**Education: An AAUW issue**

As soon as girls start school, they encounter attitudes and expectations about what the ‘should and shouldn’t ‘do. This continues throughout their schooling, steering them toward certain career paths and away from others**.** 2019-20 AAUW American Fellow Victoria Reyes

**WHY IT MATTERS**

Attitudes about female behavior start from the moment a baby is swaddled in pink. Girls experience these gender stereotypes to varying degrees throughout their childhood and they become fully institutionalized in our education system. As soon as a girl starts school, she encounters subtle (and sometimes blatant) messages about her academic abilities and future potential. Students of color and those from low-income families face additional biases that limit their opportunity.

Even in the elementary school years, girls face barriers that ultimately hinder their achievement, particularly in math and science. These barriers are reinforced throughout middle and high school. As a result, when they enter college, women gravitate toward college majors that prepare them for lower-paying fields, and away from the STEM fields that lead to higher paying jobs. And although women have surpassed men in earning degrees, Research shows that women are disproportionally represented in 6 of the 10 lowest-paying college majors, while 9 of the 10 highest-paying majors (all in the STEM fields) are dominated by men.

**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.

**Deadline for the October Newsletter is October 20.**

**Great Decisions**

Anita Rosen

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Bobbe Mintz

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

**October Great Decisions on Zoom**

**Chapter 7: The WHO’s Response to Covid-19**

**Friday, October 15, 2021- 2:00 PM**

Zoom URL will be sent prior to the meeting for both the meeting and the video viewing

For Information contact: Anita or Bobbe

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

**Le Groupe Française**

Ruth Spivack [**raspivack@gmail.com**](mailto:raspivack@gmail.com)

**Next meeting is October 25 at 5:30 p.m. via ZOOM**

**Contact Ruth Spivack for ZOOM link**

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**Literature Group**

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

The Literature group will meet by Zoom at 1 p.m. on Tuesday October 19.  We will be discussing "The Four Winds" by Kirstin Hannah.  Ruth Spivak will be leading the discussion.

This book is set in the 1930s beginning with the Dust Bowl experience

in Texas and then in California. We will meet the people who worked

with little pay in the fields. The characters are memorable.  If you are not already of member contact Margaret. She will be providing the link.  All are welcome to join the group.

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**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 based on age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.**

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