**Climate Commitment—Right Here, Right Now**

Via Zoom

Saturday, September 11, 2011, 10:30 a.m.

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

Covid won’t let go, so our plans to celebrate being together again, at long last, had to (sigh). But:

We are fortunate and delighted to welcome Edith Allison, who will speak to us about Montgomery County’s recently released draft Climate Action Plan. Its ambitious intent is to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions by 100 percent by 2035! How will we, can we, do this? How will we, can we, pay for it? How will our lives and lifestyles be changed by the changes required of us to slow global warming in our own neighborhood?

Edith Allison is a semi-retired consulting geologist specializing in communicating energy policy to non-technical decision makers. Her career included some industrial experience, followed by years of leading research in unconventional oil and gas technologies at the US Department of Energy. Later she directed the Geoscience and Energy Office of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, with whose support she published “Petroleum and the Environment” in 2018.

Edie is also our friend and neighbor, currently president of the Gaithersburg Branch and secretary of AAUW Maryland. She’s a past state president, too.

Please review the proposed branch budget, see attachment, and email any questions or concerns to treasurer Ruth Spivack, [raspivack@gmail.com](mailto:raspivack@gmail.com), so we can complete its necessary passage in a brief business meeting.

Anna Palmisano, who conceived, drafted, and advocated Maryland’s Patients Bill of Rights into law in 2019, with AAUW help, will briefly update us on the mandated implementation of this landmark achievement. And we’ll catch a glimpse of our interest groups’ plans and how we might participate.

Do join us on Zoom, link forthcoming, and invite a friend. Or several.

Dian Belanger and Anna Palmisano

Co-Vice Presidents for Program

**President’s Message**

August 2021

I am excited to start my term as President of the Kensington-Rockville Branch of AAUW.  I have worked with many of you through the years and am honored to be working with you again – and to be given the opportunity to meet our new and not so new members.

We had a rich year of meetings and discussions last year, even if they couldn’t be in person.  I look forward to continued discussions in this branch – with speakers, about books and on the great decisions of the day.  We had hoped to start our year with an in-person meeting but that is not to be... as we know with so many gatherings.  I hope you will mark your calendar and join us and continue our Zoom journey.

One of my goals for this year ahead is to have a branch project.  Our branch has had a long history of projects that invite members to get involved for a specific period of time on a topic that is meaningful to us and pertinent to the mission of AAUW.  Whatever project we agree upon is not intended to conflict with our ongoing groups, such as Great Decisions or the French group, two examples of gatherings that continue as long as there are interested members.  We are thinking of doing something in conjunction with Montgomery College using materials generated by AAUW.   In order to realize this goal, we need:

* An agreed upon project
* A project leader (I plan to get involved but would like at least a co-leader)
* Once we decide what and when we’re going to accomplish, we will need members to help out.

We will chat more about this at our meeting on Sept 11th.

I hope you’ve had a good summer and, while we were freer from infection, that you had a chance to see family and loved ones.   Please continue to take care of yourselves and your loved ones during these uncertain times.

Jeri Rhodes

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# **AAUW Awards an Unprecedented $5 Million in Fellowships and Grants**

July 13, 2021

## Funding Opens More Doors to Women and Girls

**WASHINGTON DC —**A bilingual scholar at Georgia State University received a grant to support her in achieving her goal of providing health education to minority communities.

An engineering student at the University of Maryland was awarded a fellowship to research COVID-19’s effect on public transportation systems and its long-term implications.

Two Florida Polytechnic University professors got funding for a program encouraging girls to study STEM.

These scholars are among the outstanding 260 recipients receiving an unprecedented $5 million in fellowships and grants from the American Association for Women (AAUW) for the 2021-22 academic year. The awards advance educational and professional opportunities for women and girls in the United States and globally.

“For more than a century, our funding has opened doors and created opportunities for women and girls,” said Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW’s executive vice president and chief program officer. “Our current focus is on providing increased support for women of color and women in the STEM fields, where barriers to women’s full participation still persist. We’re confident that this year’s recipients will benefit from our life-changing grants and fellowships, and more importantly, our society will benefit from their important work.”

AAUW is one of the world’s leading funders of graduate women’s education: Since 1888, it has provided more than $115 million in fellowships, grants and awards to 13,000 women from 150 countries. The impressive list of past fellowship and grant recipients includes such luminaries as best-selling author and historian Keisha Blain; professor and journalist Melissa Harris-Perry; astronaut Judith Resnik; and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, director general of the World Trade Organization, to name just a few.

“Our alumnae have done remarkable work in so many different ways, and we know that this year’s award recipients will continue in that esteemed tradition,” Blackwell said.

The fellowships and grants programs are also a cornerstone of AAUW’s commitment to easing the growing [burden of student debt](http://www.aauw.org/research/deeper-in-debt/), which disproportionately affects women, particularly women of color. The ability to pay off that debt is hampered by a [lifelong pay gap](https://www.aauw.org/resources/research/simple-truth/)that affects women in nearly every profession. AAUW’s generous awards alleviate student debt so women can focus on developing their skills and qualifications. In a feature unique to some AAUW awards, the funding may be used for expenses outside of those traditionally associated with academic study, including child care and transportation, which supports recipients continue, return to and successfully complete graduate programs.

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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.

**Great Decisions**

Anita Rosen

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

Bobbe Mintz

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

Sept Great Decisions on Zoom

**Chapter 6: The Two Koreas**

**Friday, September 17, 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.

**Interest Groups:**

**Literature Group**

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

The Literature Group will meet at 1 pm. at the home of Ella Iams on Tuesday Sept. 21. We will be discussing **Caste: The Origins of our Discontents** by Isabel Wilkerson. Pat Stocker will be leading the discussion.  The group is open to all.   Contact Ella atPlease send an email to Ella at ella.iams@ [verizon.net](http://verizon.net)

This book features a portrait of the unseen phenomenon of the caste system in the U.S.A. It is a carefully researched look at American caste, Nazi Germany's modeling and the history of caste in India.  It should be an interesting discussion.

If you would like to be in on the discussion and receive details of Ella's house please

contact me Margaret Schweitzer) at

margaretfschweitzer @ [gmail.com](http://gmail.com)

**Le Groupe Française**

Ruth Spivack **raspivack@gmail.com**

**Next meeting is Sept. 21 at 5:30 p.m. via ZOOM**

**Contact Ruth Spivack for ZOOM link**

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**Deadline for the October Newsletter is September 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 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**