**Kensington-Rockville Branch Program**

**Annual Holiday Celebration**

**with**

**AAUW Fellows and Montgomery College Scholars**

**via Zoom**

***Sunday*, December 12, 2021, 2:00-4:00 pm**

A ZOOM URL will be sent prior to the meeting

Bring your own favorite beverage, holiday treat, and special someone as you join us for Kensington-Rockville’s annual gathering to celebrate the holiday season.

It’s time again to renew our pride in, and commitment to, our historic mission of advancing education for women. We will hear the always-inspiring stories of two current AAUW Fellows, pertinent to us, who are studying in Maryland.

 Daniela Tizabi, American Fellow PhD, Microbiology: earth, atmospheric, and marine sciences University of Maryland College Park



Susana Hernandez Martin, International Fellow (Cuba) MA, Women’s Studies: women, leadership, and social change Towson University

Recipients of KR Branch-funded scholarships at Montgomery College will share their academic goals and career plans, followed by Francene Walker, the Montgomery College Foundation’s director of planned giving.

While we once again must miss seeing each other in three dimensions, we will make time for checking in and catching up with one another.

Dian Belanger, co-Program Vice President

**President’s Message**

It is already December and time for us to think about this last year as we prepare for our lives and our work in the year ahead. 2021 has been an interesting and ever-changing year for all of us – health changes, loss, more “alone” time than we thought we ever needed, uncertainty in our political world, dramatic events on the climate front...

What hasn’t changed, in my view, is our need to keep pushing for social change in all the ways AAUW has done consistently for these many years. At the MLAW meeting in November, the legislative agenda was laid out and I hope each of you will find a way to support the work to encourage the legislature to make the changes and improvements we seek. That support includes financial support, voting (of course!) and lobbying our elected officials. I look forward to hearing the ways in which our branch members are active in the year(s) ahead.

I hope everyone has a happy and healthy holiday season and to the extent possible, that you are able to join your loved ones in celebrating those holidays.

Jeri Rhodes

Jeri Rhodes

President.

**November Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women Conference**

On November 13, 2021 the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women held its annual agenda setting conference entitled: *Turning Crisis into Opportunity: Building a Stronger Care Infrastructure.* AAUW Maryland is one of the Platinum Sponsors for the event. The Conference provided information and strategies to activate and energize participants to successfully advocate for legislation impacting women and families during the 2022 Maryland General Assembly Session. After the presentation at the conference, members are asked to vote on the proposals through ranking in the next few weeks. The result of the vote helps guide AAUW Maryland’s legislative agenda in Annapolis for the coming year.

A chief theme of the Keynote Speakers and panel was that the pandemic has highlighted many disparities in employment, health and services for women and families and our goal should be to build a solid care infrastructure that addresses these disparities.

The MLAW Conference schedule and a list of all 15 bills that were proposed, with explanation, can be found at:

<https://mdlegagendaforwomen.files.wordpress.com/2021/11/mlaw-2021-conference-packet.pdf>

Also included at the end is a form for becoming a member of MLAW.

Anita Rosen

**AAUW Values:**

## Intersectional. Inclusive. Intergenerational. Empowering.

Though we are nonpartisan, we are not values-neutral: We fight to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. We train women to negotiate for pay and benefits and to pursue leadership roles. And we advocate for federal, state and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination. From AAUW.org

**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:**

**Literature Group**

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

The group does not meet in December but will resume on January 11, 2022.

We will be discussing The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich.

Maritsa George will be leading the discussion.

Happy Holidays to all!

**Great Decisions**

Anita Rosen

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

Bobbe Mintz

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

There is no monthly December meeting.  We have completed the 2021 book

Meetings will resume with the new 2022 book.

We are aiming for our first session on January 17th if the

books arrive in enough time to distribute them.

If you would like to purchase a book and join the discussion, contact Anita.  2022 topics include:

: “Changing Demographics” (Bonus Article) by Joseph Chamie

: “Outer Space” by Eric Berger

: “Climate Change" by Ron Bee

: “Russia and the U.S." by Allen Lynch

: “Myanmar and ASEAN by Hunter Marston

: “Quad Alliance” by Kevin Rudd

: “Drug Policy in Latin America” by Mónica Serrano

: “Industrial Policy” by Jonathan Chanis

: "Biden's Agenda" by John Ikenberry

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

**For Information contact: Anita or Bobbe**

**Le Groupe Française**

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

**Contact Ruth Spivack for ZOOM link for the next meeting**

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**Deadline for the January Newsletter is December 20.**

**Newsletter Editor Circulation Editor**

Margery Sullivan Ruth Spivack

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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.**

**AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch**

**6540 Wiscasset Rd**

**Bethesda, MD 20816-2113**