**Kensington-Rockville Branch Program**

**Maryland Legislative Challenges: Review and Preview**

**Via Zoom**

**Saturday, November 20, 2021, 10:30 a.m.**

**Maryland General Assembly Delegate**

**James**

**Gilchrist**

**Note change of date**

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

With the 2022 legislative session soon upon us, we are pleased to welcome Maryland General Assembly Delegate James Gilchrist who will Transportation Committee and chair of its Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Agriculture.

We have asked Del. Gilchrist to address Governor Hogan’s proposed widening of Interstate 270 and the Capital Beltway—the public-private partnership concept, the costs, likely traffic outcomes, environmental consequences, other impacts. He will also briefly review such vital programs as restoring Chesapeake Bay, preserving agricultural land, and relieving pandemic-related stresses on the State Parks.

Jim Gilchrist has represented District 17 (Rockville, Gaithersburg), which includes many of us, for sixteen years, four terms. He first served on the Ways and Means Committee, a baptism by fire during the Great Recession of 2007-09. Prior relevant experience includes work with the Montgomery County Legislative Office, the Maryland Department of Legislative Services, and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. He graduated from Grinnell College and earned his master’s degree from the George Washington University.

Members who attended the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women session on November 13th will brief us on MLAW’s priorities to advance women’s interests and concerns in the coming session.

Do join us on Zoom, link forthcoming, and invite your friends.

Dian Belanger, co-Vice President for Program

**President’s Message**

November 2021

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is almost here. Even though we have each dealt with the constraints and consequences of COVID-19 for the last 18 months, many of us have been able to reconnect face to face with our families and loved ones, some of us have traveled and we’ve been able to resume some of our normal activities. The “new normal” continues to evolve at its own pace as the calendar keeps whizzing by!!

Members of our branch are busy with activities, as you can see by the notices in this newsletter. Opportunities to connect with our members are available – the book group, the Great Decisions, the French group and of course our monthly meetings – as well as opportunities to continue our work legislatively and from a policy perspective. These are all important parts of our AAUW membership, and I hope you find your place to be active in these gatherings. I must admit, that even though zoom meetings have kept us connected, I really do miss the face-to-face connection.

I was pleased to see that Gloria Blackwell has been chosen as our new leader for the National AAUW Organization. Her knowledge and experience with AAUW will support us as the organization continues to adapt to the times.

Have a wonderful holiday season ahead! I look forward to seeing you as we gather in our different groups.

Jeri Rhodes

President.

**September 11, 2001, in Russian Eyes**

Kensington-Rockville member Linna Liberchuk, still in St. Petersburg and mindful of our September meeting date of 9/11, shared sympathetic published Russian reports from twenty years ago. (These were Google translated, with perhaps a few minor inaccuracies?) Among them, this poignant poem by Mikhail Etelzon:

Before my eyes … the road … On Tuesday …

Smoke over Manhattan from Gemini …

In minutes they will hit again …

Feeling the beginning of the war … and the end …

One hundred floors, the doomed thirty.

There is no escape from the inevitable.

Ten minutes to call and say goodbye

To hear a voice, and maybe forgive ...

The flame is already raging under your feet—

Walls, seconds, bridges melt;

Knocked out the windows and into hell—through the flames—

Down … to survive, to somehow escape ...

Before the eyes . . . the torn film:

Held hands, rushed down;

A couple of seconds over New York flight,

A couple of seconds ... and life will end ...

The planet will tremble, watching everything,

Not Hollywood, but live coverage:

A house of cards are crumbling, melting,

Burying everyone, floor by floor …

Russians convinced me personally, back in 1975, of their reverence for poets and poetry.

President Putin, in a statement, called the day’s catastrophe “an unprecedented act of aggression” by international terrorists, an “impudent challenge to all mankind, at least to all civilized mankind,” a happening that “transcends national boundaries.” “Russia knows firsthand what terror is, and therefore understand[s] the feelings of the American people,” he said, citing “Russia’s proposal to unite the efforts of the international community in the fight against terror, this plague of the 21st century.” Putin offered his “sincere deep condolences” to the victims and their families. “I want to say that we are with you, we fully and completely share and feel your pain. We support you.” [my edits, for space] “Kommersant,” September 12, 2001

Dian Belanger

## Student Debt Makes It Hard for New Graduates to Make Ends Meet May 20, 2021 — Student debt is making it nearly impossible for many women to afford their basic living expenses after graduating from college, a new analysis by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) shows. The 2021 AAUW’s Deeper in Debt report finds that women hold an average of $31,276 in student debt, leaving them with a monthly loan payment of $307 the year after graduation. Given that women graduating with a bachelor’s degree expect to earn an average of $35,338—only 81% of what men anticipate earning—meeting that loan obligation is challenging at best. AAUW.org

**MLAW – the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women**

**Turning Crisis into Opportunity: Building a Stronger Care Infrastructure**

The MLAW fall conference will be held on Saturday, November 13, 2021 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm online via Zoom.

The Conference will provide information and strategies to activate and energize participants to successfully advocate for legislation impacting women and families during the 2022 Maryland General Assembly Session.

Join us to: Start the day with a welcome message from Delegate Anne Healey, President of the Maryland Women’s Caucus of the Maryland General Assembly

Listen to a video conversation with Dr. Lena Wen on our public health crisis; Hear a Panel Discussion addressing how Maryland can build a stronger care infrastructure though legislative and grassroots action. Confirmed speakers to date: Ana Rodney, MomCares; Myles Hicks, Maryland Rise; and Ricarra Jones, 1099SEIU

Gain valuable insights from Advocates and Legislators presenting 2022 Legislative Proposals.

Network with other MLAW supporters from around Maryland about these important issues in breakout rooms

Tickets are $25 until 11/10/21, Sponsorship opportunities are available and encouraged. For more information, call 443-519-1005 or email us at  [mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com](mailto:mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com) or visit our website at [www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org](http://www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org) for sponsorship levels benefits and pricing. To register, visit: <https://mlaw2021conference.eventbrite.com>

**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.

**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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**Great Decisions**

Anita Rosen

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Bobbe Mintz

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

**November Great Decisions on Zoom**

**Chapter 8: The End of Globalization?**

**(Last Chapter for 2021)**

**Friday, November 19, 2021- 2:00 PM**

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

**For Information contact: Anita or Bobbe**

**INTEREST GROUPS**

**Literature Group**

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

The literature group will be meeting at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, November 9

Please note early date.  We are meeting by Zoom.  We will be discussing "The Lions of Fifth Avenue". by Fiona Davis

This book is about the history of the New York Public Library.

It is part family saga, part high-stakes heist, and part love story.

Meet two women living two decades apart, with family secrets

and a place in society and history.

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

**Newsletter Editor Circulation Editor**

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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**

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