**Kensington-Rockville Branch Program**

**Celebrating Past Achievements,**

**Engaging a New Challenge**

 Saturday, March **5**, 2022, **11:30** a.m. [note date change, time change, new location]

Were you there when AAUW’s Kensington Branch played a major role in the founding of the Kensington Day Care Center in 1970, back when women were just beginning to reenter the workforce? Did you know that the Silver Spring Branch researched, wrote, and disseminated a bound study titled “Montgomery County Women Making History”? Do you still treasure items purchased at the Rockville Branch’s decade-long Arts and Crafts Fair in support of AAUW fellowships? How many Montgomery County middle school girls did we help honor and encourage with Math/Science Awards via Inter-Branch and Sonya Kovalevsky Day at Montgomery College?

 Let’s stir our memories (or learn afresh) about these and other significant contributions our branches and members have made over the years toward the betterment of our communities, state, and nation. We have much to be proud of!

 What can we do now, as one branch, to promote a more just, caring broader community? Following the concerns provoked by Diana Bailey’s January presentation on incarcerated women, a branch planning committee is seeking an organization already supporting women in prison who are without means and necessarily separated from their children. Via that group, we envision providing, say, books, school supplies, backpacks, and other practical needs for these kids, and offering evidence that someone cares. Let’s learn more and do what we readily can.

**Note**: We are eager to come together again in person, and this celebration of AAUW’s historic importance and contemporary potential seems an ideal occasion. Trusting we are vaccinated and boosted, we propose meeting at 11:30 at Farm Sook, a woman-owned Thai restaurant in King Farm, 800 King Farm Blvd, Suite 125, 301-258-8829 (near Ingleside). We will have time to chat, lunch together (ordering off the menu), and conduct our program and business in a separated wing of the space.

 Are you ready for and comfortable with meeting in 3-D? Zoom of course remains the other option. Please email Jeri Rhodes with your view either way by Wednesday, March 2nd. Stay tuned; we’ll email the final decision.

In either case, please join us and invite your friends.

**President’s Message**

 The phrase that comes to mind today is “the more things change, the more they stay the same.” While we have all been released from mask mandates, we are still uncertain about Covid, trying to avoid it, recovering, grieving. As we struggle to recover from the economic uncertainty of the last few years, we still know of people trying to get work and trying to rebuild a life on minimal wages and benefits. Our young people came out in droves in the 2020 election, and we know that many states have passed very restrictive voting requirements. Our current beat of war is also a reminder that peace is not yet part of our lives. It is a constant push towards equity and justice – even after yesterday’s victories.

So here we are as active and involved members of an organization that has led the way on many changes that have made our lives as women better – and there is always more to do. I am a member of AAUW because I need the support and energy of women working towards the world we seek for our daughters and granddaughters. I thank each of you who provide that energy.

 On a different note – we will celebrate some of our joint accomplishments at our meeting on March 5th and talk more about a branch project we are envisioning. We are considering having an in person meeting next week, so if you have a strong view (Zoom or in person) please let me know right away.

 In addition to our branch meeting, the Maryland AAUW State Convention will be held in Annapolis on March 26th. We have often participated in that meeting as our monthly branch meeting. While we are doing something else this month, I encourage those of you who are able to attend the meeting. It promises to be a good one.

Jeri Rhodes Jerirhodes@verizon.net

**AAUW Maryland Challenge for Woman of Distinction**

Dr. Pat Stocker has been chosen by AAUW Maryland to be this year’s Maryland’s Woman of Distinction at the National Conference of College Women Students (NCCWSL). To achieve this Maryland must reach the Platinum Donor Level raising $20,000 by March 31, 2022.

AAUW Maryland is challenging each branch to have all **its Board members and fifty percent of Branch members** contribute to the Maryland Woman of Distinction Fund, **Fund 4355.**  Branches meeting the goal will be recognized at the AAUW Summer Conference.

AAUW Maryland is making this challenge to provide Branch members a larger sense of belonging to AAUW beyond their Branch. By donating to the Women of Distinction Fund each member is participating in both an Association and Maryland State AAUW Project. The Association project is the sponsorship of the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) which takes place in early June. The State project is raising the sponsorship money of $20,000 to honor a Maryland Woman of Distinction. By achieving our $20,000 goal, a platinum sponsorship of the Women of Distinction event, Pat Stocker will address the NCCWSL conference attendees at the Women of Distinction event at the University of Maryland, College Park, as the AAUW Maryland Woman of Distinction.

Please give generously and help Maryland AAUW reach our goal.

To donate online: Go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) and click **Donate** button at top right. Scroll to very bottom and click **Give to Support SCCWSL** (tiny print). **Click second box: Maryland Woman of Distinction (NCCWSL) Fund [4355].** Choose $ amount and whether one time or monthly payment. Click **Donate Now** to provide ID and payment card information.

To donate by check: Make check payable to AAUW and indicate Fund 4355 Maryland Woman of Distinction (NCCWSL) Fund on memo line. Mail to AAUW 1301 L Street, NW Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005. The **donation deadline is March 31, 2022.**

After you have made your donation, please notify Ella Iams by email ella.w.iams@gmail.com so I can keep track of the number of donors from our Branch. Ella Iams

**Tea for Maryland’s Women of Distinction.** Limited space so contact Tracy asap. Please join us for afternoon tea on March 6th from 2-4 pm at the home of Anita Rosen. We'll be honoring Pat Stocker as Maryland's newest Woman of Distinction for 2022.

This is a popular event and space is limited so if you'd like to spend an afternoon with friends enjoying tea and other delights, please RSVP to Tracy Lantz at tklantz@verizon.net or as soon as possible (by February 26th at the very latest).

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

**Newsletter Editor Circulation Editor**

Margery Sullivan Ruth Spivack

msullivan@niaid.nih.gov raspivack@gmail.com

**Interest Groups**

**Le Groupe Français**

Ruth Spivack **raspivack@gmail.com**

Contact Ruth for the next meeting of Le Groupe Français.

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**Great Decisions**

Anita Rosen anitarosen123@gmail.com

Bobbe Mintz Bobbeandherb@comcast.net

The March Meeting will be held on Zoom Friday, March 15th at 2:00 pm.

We will be discussing ***Chapter 1, Outer Space***

A Zoom URL will be sent prior to the meeting. Also, a video Zoom presentation URL, with viewing times will be sent,

For Information contact: Anita or Bobbe

**Literature Group**

Margaret Schweitzer margaretfschweitzer@gmail.com

The AAUW Literature Group will meet on Tuesday March 22

at 1 p.m. on Zoom.  We will be discussing *American Dirt* by Jeannine Cummins.

Lydia Perez, a a Mexican woman who is forced to flee with her son into the United States when threatened by a drug cartel. They know why they are fleeing but their journey presents new awareness of other people who flee. Joyce Graf will be leading the discussion.

The Zoom link will be sent prior to the meeting. If you want to participate

and are not on my list, please contact me.

**Upcoming Events**

**March 12, 2022, Bethesda Chevy Chase Branch meeting**

**11:00 am Fox Hill Bethesda in person meeting**

**Climate Change: Updating the International Agenda**

 **Bob Deans Director, Strategic Engagement, Natural Resources Defense Council**

Saturday, March 26, 2022, AAUW MD State Convention in person

 Annapolis MD 8:30 am see attachment

**TITLE IX: 50 YEARS OF PROGRESS**

**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**