**So, What’s Going on in Annapolis?**

**Branch Meeting Ingleside at King Farm**

**Derwood Room**

**February 18, 2023, Saturday at 10:30 am**

Learn about innovative bills in the Maryland State Legislature for women and families. In addition, we are supporting several other important bills. Let’s learn about them, briefly discuss them, and find out what we can do to (easily) support them. After our discussion, we will do lunch (on our own) at Ingleside for a fun, post Valentine’s Day.  Join us and bring guests.

**President’s Message**

Somehow, time marches on and we are already in the second month of 2023!

Our monthly programs continue. In February, we plan to hear about Project 1619, a history of the establishment of slavery in our country and our economy and in March, we will hear about the impact of Irish women on the economy and culture of Baltimore. Interesting topics which provide us with opportunity to share. I want to remind you that Dian Belanger has invited attendees at our meetings to join her for lunch at Kings Farm after the meeting (when we do not have lunches planned), so please think about joining the group afterwards.

This month is the time to think about nominations for Branch positions for the next few years. We have had several loyal and hardworking members deliver on certain roles and responsibilities for a while, but some of those members can no longer step up or want to move on to other roles. I will be “hosting” some conversations with groups this month so we can come up with ideas of how best to make our branch the best it can be!

Marsha Luce agreed earlier to coordinate the branch project to support women reentering the community after incarceration. We had a productive meeting in January with the Director of Reentry Services at the Montgomery County Detention Center and requested some guidance from them on how best to get our branch involved, though not in direct contact with the reentering women. I am excited that we are moving in this direction.

I hope you had a chance to provide comments to AAUW National about proposed bylaws changes. The response period was very short, and we did not have much opportunity to discuss our views. You will be asked to vote on the changes later this spring.

A flyer is included in this newsletter for Arts4ERA – it’s a traveling exhibit of art supporting today’s equal rights movement. On Friday, March 3, AAUW Maryland and three AAUW state branches will join other groups in hosting a [special free reception from 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM.](https://aauw.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b7774acceedf76f52c755070c&id=0ad02c9228&e=e6aa1ee567) This provides an opportunity to own a piece of the artwork! Space is limited, so register soon. We are willing to form carpools so if you are interested but driving is a challenge, please let me or Dian Belanger know.

Jeri Rhodes

**Save the Date/Event Alert – Artists 4 ERA!**

Three Maryland branches have come together to organize a fundraising event that will raise money for the effort to finally get the ratified Equal Rights Amendment enshrined into law as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. They are working through VoteEquality.org, a national organization whose mission is to advocate for the ERA to be certified by the National Archivist. This would be the last step in solidifying gender equality as law across the United States. The Baltimore, Howard and Anne Arundel branches successfully applied for a ‘mini grant’ which will

be used to set up an exhibit of ERA-related posters in Catonsville, MD, in late February/early March 2023.

*Artists 4 ERA* will be a unique event with posters by well-known artists, including one by Shepard Fairey, who created President Obama’s “HOPE” poster. These works of art visually heighten awareness of the need to finalize the ERA. The signed posters will be sold through a silent auction

and a raffle to raise money to advocate for the ERA. All of the posters can be seen at Artists4ERA.org. As stated on their website:

“Through partnerships with well-known artists, this project depicts diverse groups and communities, including LGBTQIA+, Black women, women of color, Indigenous peoples, and young people, to help them see themselves in the struggle for equal rights in the Constitution. The art created for the project will financially support VoteEquality’s work to ensure gender equality is part of our Constitution through online and live releases of limited edition, signed ERA art prints.”

**One example of the posters, created by Hannah Rothstein, 2021**

The Garrett County branch held a very successful reception and fundraiser with the Artists 4 ERA posters, and other items, earlier this year. Current AAUW Maryland President, Tracy Lantz, attended. She said she was “inspired by AAUW Garrett’s work in collaboration with other local

women’s organizations to host such a successful event. The artwork is beautiful, and it, along with the testimony of those involved, was a reminder that our work towards equal rights is not done.” In addition to raising funds with the posters, there will be two discussion panels with women of

different ages highlighting their experiences of incurring discrimination and overcoming gender bias.

Details on the Baltimore area event are:

**LOCATION**: Baltimore County Arts Guild Clubhouse– Catonsville: 10 St. Timothy Lane, Catonsville

**EXHIBIT DATES**: February 27 – March 5

**RECEPTION/SILENT AUCTION/RAFFLE**:

• Friday, March 3

• 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

**SAVE THESE DATES AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY ATTENDING THE RECEPTION!**

Heather Reichardt

AAUW Gaithersburg; VP Membership

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**A Time for Giving:**

* **AAUW 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.

**National Conference of Collegiate Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)**

State Senator Susan C. Lee as our 2023 Woman of Distinction! She will be honored at AAUW's 2023 National Conference of Collegiate Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) event in late May. Lee represents District 16, which is located in Montgomery County, and she is the State Senate Majority Whip. She is the first Asian American elected to the Maryland State Senate and was the first Asian American woman and first Chinese American to be elected to the Maryland legislature. She is one of the strongest advocates for women in the Maryland state legislature.

Thanks in advance for your generosity as we once again aim high to support this event! Maryland AAUW has a goal is to raise $20,000 to be a Platinum Sponsor of the NCCWSL Woman of Distinction event. As the end of the calendar year approaches, we encourage all members and branches to consider the Woman of Distinction fund in your philanthropy plans.

Let's honor Senator Lee for her support of all women in Maryland.

To donate by check:

Make your check out to AAUW

On the check put the fund name and number:

4355-Maryland Women of Distinction (NCCWSL) Fund

Mail to: AAUW

1310 L Street, NW

Suite 1000

Washington, D.C. 20005

To donate online:

Go to aauw.org. use the DONATE Tab.

Bea Dane and Tracy Lantz

AAUW Maryland Funds Vice President, and AAUW Maryland President

Upcoming Events:

**Wednesday evening, February 1 from 5-6:30 pm**

Legislative Briefing for the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women is Wednesday

Free Zoom

**Saturday, February 11, 2023, noon - 2pm**

Baltimore AAUW Luncheon Speaker Tiffany Sanchez, AAUW VP of Programs and Fellowships

Location:  Church of the Redemption, 1401 Towson Street, Baltimore MD 21230 Make you Reservation by February 4 Cost $25

Contacts:  Eileen Menton ([ementon@gmail.com](mailto:ementon@gmail.com), 410-206-6318) or Dorothy Fraquelli ([fraquelli@verizon.net](mailto:fraquelli@verizon.net), 410-828-1711)

**Artists 4 ERA**

EXHIBIT DATES: February 27 – March 5

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• Friday, March 3

• 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

**Interest Groups:**

**Literature Group**

Joyce Graf

[joyce@regraf.com](mailto:joyce@regraf.com)

Literature Group will meet by ZOOM at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, February 21.  The book to be discussed is Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight by Alexandra Fuller. The book is a memoir of the author’s early life on a farm in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe.) Ruth Spivack will lead the discussion.

All are invited to participate.  Contact Joyce Graf for the ZOOM information.

FYI the March 21 selection is Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr

To attend, send a message to [joyce@regraf.com](mailto:joyce@regraf.com)

Literature Group

No meeting in December

**Le Groupe Francaise**

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

**Le Groupe Française**

**TBD**

The URL will be sent out prior to the meeting**.**

**Great Decisions**

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

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

**The group will be discussing Chapter 2: War Crimes**

**Time:  Friday, February 10, 2023, at 2pm, PM Eastern Time**

**If there is a video talk first, it will be at 1:15 pm**

**Zoom URLs will be sent prior to both the discussion and talk**

**For Information contact: Anita or Bobbe**

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

**Literature Group**

Joyce Graf

[joyce@regraf.com](mailto:joyce@regraf.com)

Literature Group will meet by ZOOM at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, January 24, 2023  
The book to be discussed is THE PIONEERS by David McCullough. The Pulitzer Prize–winning historian relates the story of settling of the Northwest Territory by pioneers who overcame incredible hardships to build a community based on ideals that would come to define the United States.

To attend, send a message to [joyce@regraf.com](mailto:joyce@regraf.com)

Literature Group

No meeting in December

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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**