**Impact of Irish Women on the Economy of the 19th Century**

**March 18, 2023, at 10:30-12:00**

**Speaker Sammie Samuels from the Irish Railroad Museum in Baltimore**

Sammie Samuels, the executive director of the Irish Railroad Workers Museum in Baltimore, will share the experiences of Irish **women immigrants in Baltimore from the period of the Great** Hunger and the years afterwards. After the Great Hunger, land ownership rules in Ireland changed and the money that laundresses, nannies and cooks earned in the United States funded families, businesses and land transfers in Ireland. But these women also helped build the Catholic cathedrals in American cities and supported the ability of middle-class women, who were not Irish, by providing household labor.

The meeting will be a Zoom meeting with Sammie speaking from Baltimore.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89986726677?pwd=blBKRlBNTHR1RUFocTA3VG1INVdNZz09>

**President’s Message**

March 2023

This month we officially celebrate Women’s History Month, though I am sure most of us think of our own histories more broadly all year long as we read and engage on current and past events. There are lots of activities ahead in the AAUW world and I hope you will consider engaging with at least some of them!

Our branch meeting will be held on Saturday, March 18th. Sammie Samuels from the Irish Railroad Workers Museum in Baltimore will speak to us about the impact of Irish women on the economy in the 19th century. It is an interesting story of how the rise of the middle class in the 19th century was supported

AAUW Maryland is supporting a fund-raising effort called Arts4ERA. A reception will be held on Friday, March 3rd in Catonsville. I am planning to attend and will coordinate a carpooling effort. The reception starts at 6:30 pm, so I will be gathering fellow travelers at 5 pm at the Giant parking lot at Leisure World. Please call me at 202-256-6684 or email me at jerirhodes@verizon.net if you want to join us on the trip.

AAUW Maryland has been a generous support of the Women of Distinction event at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). held on June 2, 2023. Susan Lee, a member of the Kensington-Rockville and Bethesda-Chevy Chase branches of AAUW AND the Secretary of State, is the honoree this year! Pat Stocker and I are in the process of putting together a fundraising tea this month. Pat is confirming a few possible dates and you’ll hear from us. In the meantime, please consider a contribution to this event. You can use the AAUW website to contribute and be sure to designate this fund-raising event or send a check to our Treasurer, Ruth Spivack.

We have already engaged with the first round of changes in the AAUW bylaws by providing feedback. There will be a vote on those bylaws later this spring. AAUW is looking at our organization and I hope we will hear more specifically about what the National Board is considering. In the meantime, our branch continues to evolve as we age, as we move into different living situations and as new members join us. I am scheduling two discussions this month via Zoom – one for those who’ve joined in the last five years and one for those of us who’ve been around “for a while”. If there are specific questions, comments or concerns, please let me know, but this will be an opportunity for us to gather and share.

At the February meeting, Eola Lewis Dance presented a great program on the first landing of Africans at Fort Monroe, Virginia. I was impressed that she received an AAUW membership from a professor many years ago and has been a constant member ever since. What a great gift for a person who has stayed with her love of history and research – and how fortunate our AAUW members are that she gave back by joining us. It made me think – again – of the women in our lives who may benefit from a membership, even if we don’t know how it will turn out. With the graduation season ahead, there may be an opportunity to open that door for someone.

It is a busy time and as Spring nears, I hope you will join us in some of the activities. I look forward to seeing or hearing from you in the month ahead.

Jeri Rhodes, President

**Artists 4 ERA!**

The Baltimore, Howard and Anne Arundel branches have received a “mini grant” from VoteEquality.org to sponsor an exhibit of ERA-related posters in Catonsville, MD. ***Artists 4 ERA***. The exhibition will be February 27- March 5. Friday night March 3 there will be a reception/silent auction/raffle to support ERA. Our branch is planning to carpool to Baltimore County Arts Guild Clubhouse– Catonsville: 10 St. Timothy Lane, Catonsville to support Maryland AAUW and the sponsoring branches. Contact Jeri Rhodes 202-256-6684 or email me at jerirhodes@verizon.net if you want to join us on the trip.

***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.”

**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 & MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY ATTENDING THE RECEPTION!**

**Testimony for the Maryland Patients’ Rights Bill**

On Thursday, February 23, Kensington Rockville members Anna Palmisano and Anita Rosen testified in support of SB387 "Task Force on Reducing Emergency Dept. Wait Time" along with AAUW MD VP of Public Policy Roxann King, a representative of AARP Maryland and a hospital emergency room nurse.

Branch Member Ruth Manchester submitted the following testimony to the Maryland Senate Finance Committee.

**Testimony in Favor of SB387**

**“Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait Times”**

Hello, Members of the Finance Committee.

I would like to respond in favor of SB378-in part-based on my recent hospitalization.

I am a member of the American Association of University Women of Maryland. We are 13 branches and 465 members strong.

I was recently hospitalized with a urinary tract infection leading to a blood infection. I entered the hospital via ambulance January 15 around 9:30 p.m. with fever and rigors. Blood cultures were drawn, and I was given a dose of IV antibiotics and discharged at 4:00 a.m. January 16 with a prescription for oral antibiotics. I took two doses that day, but in the middle of the night (January 17), I was again febrile and had shaking. I wondered what to do next. Shortly thereafter, at 5:30 a.m., an Emergency Room doctor called me and said to get right back to the hospital as my blood culture showed gram negative rods. As a nurse, I know this can be very serious if not treated promptly with powerful antibiotics via the intravenous (IV) route.

 Since I came by car to the ER, I sat in the waiting room for four hours before being admitted to an actual space in the treatment area. I was placed on a stretcher; my “room” was the hall as all cubicles were occupied. Ultimately, an in-patient bed was found, and I stayed in the hospital five days receiving IV antibiotics and was discharged with five more days of self-administered IV medication.

I offer this testimony to give witness to the back up in Emergency Rooms. Patients sit in hard chairs, some visibly suffering—waiting for their turn. Yes, triage works in some cases—especially cardiac. But a more organized, systematic method needs to be developed for triaging the patients and making them comfortable while they wait.

Having worked in hospitals for over 49 years, I know that off and on, we go through a period of nursing shortages. Now is such a time. Thus, more nurses need to be educated and hospital staffing ratios of nurses to patients needs to be increased. Delay in treatment can lead to more serious consequences, and thus, increased hospital stays and cost.

Thank you for taking my testimony. If you have further questions, I can be reached at:

Ruth Manchester

301-213-1669

ruthgmanchester@hotmail.com

Dear AAUW friends,

I am so grateful to Anita for doing an absolutely superb job testifying for AAUW to the Senate Finance Committee in favor SB387 Task Force on Reducing Emergency Dept. Wait Time. Anita did a shout out to her Senator Ben Kramer on the committee---he seemed very pleased to be acknowledged by a witness and voter from Leisure World! We had another marathon session waiting for hours, since our bill was scheduled last. We appreciate Roxann's moral support during the long wait!

Once again, AAUW was in the forefront in Annapolis working for better healthcare for women who are both patients and caregivers.

We now fight the battle on who will control the Task Force which MHA is trying to take over, despite failing for 7 years to reduce wait time.

Keep fighting the good fight! Anna

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

Maryland State Secretary Susan C. Lee is AAUW Maryland’s 2023 Woman of Distinction! She will be honored at AAUW's 2023 National Conference of Collegiate Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) event in late May. Secretary Lee is a member of our branch, a former State Senator who recently accepted the position of State Secretary, has attended many branch meeting over the years has told us about what had happenings in the State Legislature. Maryland’s commitment to NCCWSL $20,000 is our donation to AAUW for the event which will be at the University of Maryland College Park Campus Friday evening June 2.

Please send you donation to:

**To donate online:**

Go to aauw.org

Click on the big red Donate button on the upper right corner

Scroll down until you see:

**4355-Maryland Women of Distinction (NCCWSL) Fund**

AAUW Maryland Women of Distinction (NCCWSL) Fund

Click on **Count Me In**

You will then be asked to login or create a new account if you don’t have one

This should bring you to the donation page

Choose the amount you wish to donate

Complete the other required information and **Checkout**

**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**

A tea is being planned to honor Secretary Lee. The tea is being organized by Kensington-Rockville and Bethesda-Chevy Chase branches. Information will be coming soon.

Upcoming Events:

State Convention Saturday April 15, 2023, Howard County

Dinner April 14 Friday night to honor Eileen Menton for her years of service to Maryland AAUW and AAUW National.

**Artists 4 ERA**

Baltimore County Arts Guild Clubhouse

EXHIBIT DATES: February 27 – March 5

RECEPTION/SILENT AUCTION/RAFFLE:

• Friday, March 3

• 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

**Literature Group**

Joyce Graf

joyce@regraf.com

The Kensington-Rockville AAUW Literature Group will meet by ZOOM at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, March 21.  The book to be discussed is Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr. The author traces the journey of an ancient story from 15th century Constantinople to a current day library, then to an interstellar ship. In the face of danger, the characters find resilience, hope, and a book.
Joyce Graf will lead the discussion.

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

FYI the April 11 selection is Eternal by Louise Scottoline.  Please volunteer to facilitate this discussion, especially if you are familiar with the author.

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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

Literature Group

No meeting in December

**Interest Groups:**

**Le Groupe Francaise**

**Ruth Spivack** **rasspivack@gmail.com**

**Le Groupe Française**

**TBD**

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

**Literature Group**

Joyce Graf

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

Literature Group

No meeting in December

**Great Decisions**

Anita Rosen anitarosen123@gmail.com

Bobbe Mintz Bobbeandherb@comcast.net

**The group will be discussing Chapter 3: China and America**

**Time:  Friday, March 10, 2023, at 2pm, there is a video talk first 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 March 20.**

**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.**

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