**AAUW Maryland Convention, April 15, 2023, = Kensington-Rockville Branch April Meeting**

Our state convention this year falls on our usual 3rd Saturday branch meeting day and will be our branch meeting for April. This is a wonderful opportunity to join with kindred spirits statewide to celebrate and advance AAUW’s mission as well as learn from experts about women’s health.

The Howard County Branch will host “***Continuing the Conversation . . . Inequalities in Health Care Affecting Women and Girls***” at Howard County Community College in Columbia. You may attend in person or virtually, and we hope that K-R will be well represented, as usual.

A special dinner honoring Eileen Menton for her long-time leadership at all levels of AAUW, her shared technical expertise, and extraordinary generosity will be a special attraction the evening before, on April 14th at Union Jack’s Restaurant.

Registration is now open. You should have received an email from AAUW Maryland with program details and registration forms on or about February 18th. If not, check the forthcoming *Marylander*, or contact Dian Belanger, dobelanger@comcast.net, or Anita Rosen, anitarosen123@gmail.com,

**Maryland Patients’ Rights Bill**

Message from Anna Palmisano

I'm sorry to report that our bill to establish a Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait Time (HB274/SB387) is stalled in the Senate Finance Committee and unlikely to be voted out. The Senate decided instead to create a "charge letter" to the Maryland Hospital Association and state healthcare agencies to address the ER wait time problem.

Here's what happened:

The original bill HB274 was a seven-person Task Force to focus on why Maryland has been consistently the worst in ER wait time, relative to other states of similar demographics. We appreciate all the people who came to the hearings and wrote their legislators in support of the bill.

The House subcommittee expanded the committee from 7 to 21 and also expanded the study to include the entire hospital system as well as neighboring communities. I expressed concern to the subcommittee about the large size and expanded scope of the amended bill, but House HGO loved the amended bill, and passed it with all members adding their names as co-sponsors. The amended, expanded bill passed the House unanimously.

Yesterday, the Senate Finance Committee held a voting session and reviewed the amended version of SB387/HB274. Almost every Senator expressed concern about the size of the committee being too large to be effective. The expanded size basically killed the bill. Senate Finance tabled the bill while a charge letter is drawn up for the MHA and a few state agencies to address ER wait time. Advocates and ER workers will not be involved.

This is, of course, a very disappointing outcome after a lot of engagement and hard work by all of you. I know Senator Lewis Young is committed to the effort, so we will continue to fight for shorter ER wait times in the future.

Many thanks,

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 meetings 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**

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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**

Did You Know:

**Claudine Gay, American Fellowship, 2003-04**

Dr. Claudine Gay will become the second woman and first African American to serve as President of Harvard University. She is a leading scholar of political behavior, considering issues of race and politics in America. Dr. Gay has explored such topics as how the election of minority officeholders affects citizens’ perceptions of their government and their interest in politics and public affairs, how neighborhood environments shape racial and political attitudes among Black Americans, the roots of competition and cooperation between minority groups, with a particular focus on relations between Black Americans and Latinos, and the consequences of housing mobility programs for political participation among the poor.

AAUW Website

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.

**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

The Kensington-Rockville AAUW Literature Group will meet by ZOOM at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, April 11.  The book to be discussed is Eternal by Louise Scottoline.  A work of historical fiction fueled by shocking true events; this tale of a love triangle unfolds in the heart of Rome…in the creeping shadow of fascism.

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

FYI the May 23 selection is This Tender Land by William Kent Kreiger.

Literature Group

No meeting in December

**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 4: Economic Warfare and U.S. Policy**

**Time:  Friday, April 14, 2023, at 2 pm, there is a video talk first at 1:15 pm**

The single Zoom URL for both the discussion and talk will be sent prior to the meeting.

For Information contact: Anita or Bobbe

**Deadline for the next Newsletter is April 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

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**