**Annual**

**End of Year Meeting and Potluck Luncheon**

Ingleside Club Room

**Saturday, May 13, 2023, 11:30am**

1615 Piccard Drive or 701 King Farm Boulevard, Rockville

Let’s enjoy a chance to meet and greet at the Annual end -of -year Potluck and sample some tasty food. This will be an opportunity to catch up with each other, get a brief update on 2024 session in Annapolis (many successes and items still to be addressed), find out what our scholarships at Montgomery College are accomplishing, and share our experiences with Kensington-Rockville’s Interest Groups, including a great opportunity for all this summer.

**For the Potluck**: Please bring enough of your choice (appetizer, entrée dish, vegetable,

salad, fruit, dessert) to serve 6-8. Cold drinks will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you, and your special guest also is welcome!

Dian Belanger CoVP Program

dobelanger@comcast.net

See Map for parking// Masks required for transiting the building

**President’s Message**

We will meet this month to celebrate our 2022-23 year and to acknowledge the work done at the branch and state level in this past year. As we take steps each day, it is good to look back from time to time and see where we’ve come. I hope you can join us for a potluck on Saturday, May 13th.

This is a time for change for everyone – Covid changed many of our practices and as members of the branch grow into new family roles, carrying the traditional AAUW branch model is a challenge. We are scheduling a hybrid meeting in June to talk about the reality of the years ahead. Please plan on joining us for that important discussion.

AAUW National has an election ahead and is considering bylaws changes that affect how members and branches interact with the National organization. If you are dues paying member for 2022-23, you should have received an email inviting you to vote on those by-laws’ changes. You can access those changes without voting in order to consider the changes thoughtfully. But please vote by May 15!! As we hear in the local, state and national political elections, your vote counts!!

We had a great State Convention in Columbia this month. The Howard County hosted a terrific event, and our state program chairs completed their year long discussion of women’s health issues with a very engaging discussion of the “Fourth Trimester” – the first part of our babies’ lives and the mother’s lives as well. The summer state meeting will be on July 29th in Harford County.

Marsha Luce has been working with the Montgomery County jail system to figure out how best we can engage with them to offer resources to returning women. It has been a delicate – and long – process, but we are trying to do the right thing the right way. It takes time and I appreciate her careful efforts.

My best to all and especially my thanks to those who persist in spite of the challenges of life.

Sincerely,

Jeri Rhodes

**Join the Joyful Ruckus!**

Did you know that this July is the 100th anniversary of Alice Paul’s introduction of the Equal Rights Amendment? GenerationRatify, a group of young women (most under the age of 19) are hosting a convention in Seneca Falls, NY to mark the occasion and to amplify the need to get the ERA certified and part of our US Constitution. Of course, we can’t celebrate yet, so the focus of the event is cultivating a new generation of ERA activists and setting goals for constitutional equality for the next year including an action plan for finalizing the federal ERA and getting state ERAs passed in all remaining 23 states.

AAUW Maryland has decided to join forces with VoteEquality and Maryland NOW to support these young women as they work to bring about change so that everyone in this country will be treated equally under the law. We will be traveling via caravan from Hagerstown, MD to Seneca Falls, NY! We’ll depart from Hagerstown on Thursday morning, July 20th and travel with the VoteEquality RVG (it’s a HUGE motor home, dubbed the Ruthless Vote Getter) to NY making a few quick stops along the way to spread the word about the ERA.

I’ll be attending the ERA Centennial Convention on July 21st-23rd and hope that you will join me. We are booking a rental home nearby, so we’ll have reasonably priced accommodations. It’s a three-day event with Sunday as a day to soak up a bit of the history of the area. The Convention will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls where the National Woman’s Party first unveiled the ERA-at the exact same podium Alice Paul gave her speech that day, 100 years ago. Here’s the link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/era-centennial-convention-tickets-461810366237> Please contact me if you’re interested at tklantz@verizon.net by May 21st. Your registration fee supports the attendance of a young woman aged 25 or under.

Tracy Lantz

AAUW Maryland President

**Message from Anna Palmisano**

**Maryland Patients’ Rights Bill**

Yesterday, the Emergency Room wait time bill got revived in the 11th hour when the Senate Finance Chair finally called for a vote on a version she had amended. It passed the Senate unanimously! But the Senate Chair's amendment meant it had to go back to the House for a vote on the amended version and the clock ran out.

So, it least I know there is broad support for the bill. If the Senate chair had only called for a vote last week, we could've made it through!

Frustrating!

It was a wild ride toward the end and almost made it through, after being pummeled with amendments. We'll try again next year.
 Definitely worth pursuing again next year, and both sponsors are on board.

Support from AAUW was so vital to the bill, and I hope we can have a successful outcome next year.

Many thanks for all your help!

Anna Palmisano, Ph.D.

Anna recently won the 2023 Robert L. Wears Award for National Leadership in Patient Safety in the volunteer category.

**Reminder June Branch Meeting**

We will be having a joint Zoom and in person meeting, **June 10** at Ingleside. Details will be sent at a later date.

**Message from Maryland AAUW Co Vice President for Public Policy**

First a reminder that the deadline for the branch mini-grant proposals is May 15. Details are on the [AAUW Maryland website](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Faauw-md.aauw.net%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cmsullivan%40niaid.nih.gov%7C7717ccb2b6194b1adbee08db42a779fa%7C14b77578977342d58507251ca2dc2b06%7C0%7C0%7C638177059294126490%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=mEaCy7i4j1yp4RsnGjWJ%2F1NmD7%2BH2TCgcVycLePqyOU%3D&reserved=0) under Tools for Leaders.

The Maryland General Assembly 2023 session ended on April 10. Eight bills passed which AAUW Maryland support.

* The bill which makes the constitutional right to reproductive liberty a ballot item on the next Maryland general election.
* The bill to make reproductive healthcare available to students at public colleges and universities.
* The bill that repeals marriage as a defense for sexual crimes.
* The bill that holds the new Maryland Gun Control Center responsible for tracking guns surrendered due to final protective orders.
* The bill that absolves trafficked youth from non-violent crimes committed while being trafficked.
* The Collaborative Care Model bill, which expands the very successful model of providing mental health and addiction care management through a primary care physician.
* The Childcare Sustainability Act, which continues supports for childcare that were federally supported during the pandemic; and
* The Reproductive Health Protection Act, which would protect both patients and providers from out-of-state lawsuits and inquiries.

On the national level, immediate attention is focused on the expected Supreme Court decision regarding the legality of the Texas ban on the FDA-approved drug, mifepristone.

Roxann King

**AAUW Archives Corps Needs YOU!**

Do you enjoy discovering hidden treasures? Are you curious about AAUW’s amazing past? Would you like to make a significant contribution with no ongoing advance preparing?

If so, please join other dedicated member volunteers from the DMV area who comprise the AAUW Archives Corps. We meet on the 4th Monday of alternate months at our national office at 1310 L Street NW, Washington, DC, 10:00a-2:00p. Training is provided so you can process and preserve historic records that, thankfully, have been saved and stored. Our important efforts make them usable and accessible to present and future researchers.

Yes, much of what we do is scut work: remove staples, provide chronological (or other logical) order, cull duplicates, transfer organized records to acid-free folders. But what a thrill it is to uncover something awesome, unusual, or long forgotten. My favorite find: A member/leader bequeathed to AAUW a Montana gold mine!

Questions? Ready to sign up?

Please contact Dian Belanger, dobelanger@comcast.net

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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. 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 has have enabled us to continue being a Platinum Donor for the Woman of Distinction Evening at the University of Maryland College Park Campus Friday evening June 2.

**Extra Help Needed to Cover the Branch email Account**

The branch has an email account, AAUWKenRoc@gmail.com

It comes in automatically to my cell phone, but I sometimes miss messages.

I need at least two other responsible people to monitor this account.  The only rule is to BLIND copy the others who are checking messages on your responses.  If you are willing to check this account periodically, I will call you with the password and help you to set it up. If you already have a Gmail account, you may already know how to do it.

Thanks

Joyce Graf

**Upcoming Events:**

AAUW is holding a public policy webinar, *How to Engage with Elected Officials*, on Wednesday, **April 27, at 3 p.m**. This webinar will help you meet with officials at any level, providing steps to ensure you are prepared, guidance on what to focus on in the meeting, and tips on how to continue the relationship after the meeting is over.  Panelists include AAUW Public Policy Committee co-chair **Barbara Price**, AAUW Lobby Corps chair **Becky Gaul**, and members of the AAUW Lobby Corps. Click [here](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.everyaction.com%2Fk%2F62063830%2F402195379%2F-1883575068%3Fnvep%3Dew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwNS8xLzc2OTU1IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjU1MWJhNjI4LWE1ZGYtZWQxMS04ZThiLTAwMjI0ODMyZWI3MyIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAicm94YW5uLmtpbmcxQGdtYWlsLmNvbSINCn0%253D%26hmac%3D9HSUxMkS7K1-cwQ4QZ2cvnVIOPgiou6EtB8FqosoPls%3D%26emci%3D9c2923f1-3edd-ed11-8e8b-00224832eb73%26emdi%3D551ba628-a5df-ed11-8e8b-00224832eb73%26ceid%3D933917%23%2Fregistration&data=05%7C01%7Cmsullivan%40niaid.nih.gov%7C7717ccb2b6194b1adbee08db42a779fa%7C14b77578977342d58507251ca2dc2b06%7C0%7C0%7C638177059294126490%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=u4PFAdWxan04wpiY18HOtQ7VMqN8hwQ21%2FYiT7ERkes%3D&reserved=0) to register. **AAUW Maryland Public Policy Update**

Student National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) **May 31- June 2**, at University of Maryland College Park Campus. At the Woman of Distinction Ceremony **June 2**, Friday night, Maryland as a platinum sponsor of the event will honor Maryland Secretary of State Susan Lee. if you are interested in attending contact Bea Dane

ERA Centennial Convention Seneca Falls, NY **July 21-22**

Summer AAUW-MD Conference **July 29** Harford County

**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, May 23.  The book to be discussed is This Tender Land by William Kent Kreiger. A heartfelt true to life Depression-era story about four orphans who escape an abusive Indian Training school.
Their epic journey through the magnificent American landscape takes courage, determination, and heroism.

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

FYI On June 20 we will meet to discuss selections of books for next year at and for *al fresco* luncheon.  Location and time to be determined.

Literature Group

No meeting in December

**Great Decisions**

Anita Rosen anitarosen123@gmail.com

Bobbe Mintz Bobbeandherb@comcast.net

**The group will be discussing Chapter 5: Political Trends in Latin America. Time:  Friday, May 12, 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 May 20.**

**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

Newsletter Editor Circulation Editor

Margery Sullivan Ruth Spivack

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

**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**