**AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch**

**Ingleside at King Farm - Derwood Room**

**Saturday, February 17, 2024, 10:30am-Noon**

**1615 A Piccard Drive or 701 King Farm Boulevard, Rockville**

,

**.**

⚖️ LEGAL PUZZLERS 🧩🧩

Today – and always – many of our most troubling moral and political issues are addressed as legal issues.

On February 17, you will be given the opportunity to test your legal intuition! You will be presented with the facts in a legal case. Some cases are actual, some hypothetical, but all will contain conundrums in the law.

No stress. The facts will be understandable and easy to grasp, but difficult to resolve. Led by our member and retired Administrative Judge, Bobbe Mintz, our group will try to reach consensus about how best to decide the case.

We will meet in the Derwood Room at Ingleside at King Farm, 10:30a.

Saturday, February 17, 2024.

Optional lunch following in the Courtyard Cafe.

**Presidents’ Message:**

During the past few weeks, you may have received notification from AAUW’s National Office of a campaign to change the membership requirement for membership in AAUW. This is not the first time the AAUW Board of Directors, and the Governance Committee have recommended that new applicants for membership will no longer be required to have a college degree. In fact, if enough of our current members vote to allow the passage of this proposal… any individual who supports AAUW’s purpose of advancing equity for women and girls, may apply for membership and upon completion of application forms and payment of dues, may join.

I know that all our members will want to learn more about this process and give careful consideration to this complicated, proposed amendment. While the commitment to higher education remains a recommendation, the proposed revisions and amendments would be far-reaching in the changes that would be made in Branch and National membership. However, the idea of embracing gender equity for all who endorse AAUW’s founding principles, does describe the passion we have always valued.

Your vote on this important proposal is needed and the time to comment on the plan is limited. The comment period closes on Friday, January 26 at 5 pm.

AAUW has created this site: openupaauw.org. for information. Please be aware that this material is entirely one-sided but have a close look and be prepared so you can vote with care.

Voting is scheduled for April 3rd- May 15th via an email to be sent to each member.

Maritsa George,

with Dian Belanger

K/R Co-President

**Kensington-Rockville Nominating Committee**

**Thank you, Anita Rosen, Maritsa George, and Ella Iams . . .**

. . . for stepping up to serve as KR’s Nominating Committee to seek and nominate branch officers for 2024-25.

Elected offices to be filled are President, Program Vice President, Membership Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Our bylaws stipulate that the term for each of these offices is one year, renewable for one or two additional terms (years), per officer agreement. New officers are voted upon and installed at the Annual Meeting in May. Names of the nominees must be presented to the membership in writing 30 days prior, so the committee needs to complete its work by late March, for printing in the April newsletter, or before.

Any current officer will be happy to share the specific requirements, and perks, of her job with potential nominees.

So. Please contact Anita, Maritsa, or Ella to volunteer to accept and fulfill the position of your choice! Or say yes to the committee’s call to serve. Leadership offers a wonderful opportunity to learn, to grow, to know better the interesting, talented, accomplished women and men among us.

A Note from Kate Campbell Stevenson

**Congratulations to Dian Belanger**, who has been selected to be AAUW Maryland’s 2024 Woman of Distinction!  Dian will be honored in Spring 2024 at AAUW’s National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).  AAUW Maryland’s goal is to donate $20,000 to be recognized as a platinum sponsor of the Women of Distinction capstone event at NCCWSL.

The mission of NCCWSL is to foster a moment that ignites a powerful movement. Year after year, this conference brings together hundreds of college women from across the nation for an immersive multi-day experience of leadership training, inspiration, and networking. AAUW strives to cultivate an inclusive and equitable space where attendees can enter as passionate leaders and depart with the skills, confidence, and perspective necessary to pursue their goals and drive meaningful change.

I have attended this event ten times. Each experience was my favorite, inspiring event of the year. (and I attend a lot of events!) The Women of Distinction Ceremony is filled with the energy and excitement of over 700 women ready to soak up wisdom from the evening’s honorees. **Dian’s** recognition and will be kicking off the celebration. As a platinum sponsor of this dynamic event. We, AAUW MD women and friends from throughout the state need to raise $20,000 which allows us to highlight and honor a deserving member at this special national conference. It is my hope that we have 100% branch member participation. Donate (whatever amount you feel appropriate for you) to honor our own **Dian Belanger** with this long overdue recognition. Below you’ll find the simple options and instructions to donate.

In solidarity and gratitude,

Kate Campbell Stevenson-

Proud K-R AAUW member

2018 Maryland Woman of Distinction

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: It’s easy!!

Go to aauw.org. Push the RED DONATE Tab on the upper right. Scroll down to Maryland Women of Distinction. Push the button.

**Save the Date ….. and Volunteer**

The Kensington-Rockville Branch (that’s us) is hosting the AAUW Maryland State Convention April 20. Mark your calendars to attend. And to volunteer to help Barbara and Terry (Convention co-chairs) make this one of the best ever. The venue is Ingleside at King Farm where we’ve held several recent meetings. Overnight guests can stay at the Comfort Inn nearby, thanks to Marista George’s efforts. Carol Fivozinsky is making arrangements for a pre-convention Friday evening dinner. Joyce Graf and Ella Iams are managing the reservations. But we still need help. Please volunteer by contacting the person named.

Goodie bag items and assembly: Anita Rosen anitarosen123@gmail.com

Assemble folders: Anita Rosen anitarosen123@gmail.com 301-928-1167

Registration desk on April 20 (must be at Ingleside by 8:15am: Bobbi Mintz bobbeandherb@comcast.net

Greeters, welcomers, direction givers on April 20 (must be at Ingleside by 8:15am): Yvonne Simms ylsimms@gmail.com or Renee Carlson reneepcarlson@comcast.net

Contact Convention co-chairs Barbara Gressman (bagressman45@gmail.com) or Terry Sayler (saylerterry2@gmail.com) for any other information.

**Discussion Groups:**

**Literature Group-Live!**

Joyce Graf  joyce@regraf.com

Ella Iams ellaiams@gmail.com

 The February selection is **This is Happiness** by Niall Williams. Williams' latest novel is an intricately observed portrait of an Irish community, its idiosyncrasies, and its traditions. Luminous and otherworldly, and yet anchored with deep-running roots into the everyday, it tells how stories make the texture and matter of our world, how they write and rewrite us.

The AAUW Kensington Rockville Literature Group will meet on Tuesday, February 20 at the home of Joyce Graf, the meeting time is 12:30-2:30 pm; discussion will begin at 1:00. Members are welcome to come early and bring their lunch. Drinks and light refreshments provided. Please RSVP to joyce@regraf.com.

The March 19 selection, **Minding Frankie** by Maeve Binchy, is also set in Ireland in a close-knit Dublin community.

**Le Groupe Francais**

Ruth Spivack raspivack@gmail.com

The **Le Groupe Français**will meet on Monday, February 12 at 7 p.m. via ZOOM.  The Zoom link will be sent out prior to the meeting.  We will finish reading “Une Femme” by Annie Ernaux.

Rsvp to Ruth so you can be included in the Zoom.

**Great Decisions-Live!**

Anita Rosen anitarosen123@gmail.com

Bobbe Mintz Bobbeandherb@comcast.net

**What:** We will be discussing Chapter 2 Global trade and green energy

**Time:** Friday, February 15, 11am. -12:30 pm.

**Place**: Coffee and drinks available for purchase. Cafe available before or after for lunch or BYOL. In case of inclement weather, a URL will be sent prior to 10:30 for a ZOOM discussion.

.

Details will follow.

**Calendar of Upcoming Events:**

26 January 2024     Deadline for providing online comment on proposed national bylaws change to open membership.

28 January 2024      Women's Legislative Briefing, Universities at Shady Grove, 11:30a-5p.

13 February 2024     Advocacy Day, Annapolis, to lobby for women's priorities as identified by the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW)

19 February 2024     Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) Rally, Lawyers Mall, Annapolis,1-2pm,

3 April-15 May 2024     Vote on AAUW Open Membership Bylaws proposal.

24 April 2024            AAUW Maryland Convention, Ingleside at King Farm, Rockville, 9a-4p.

30 May-1 June 2024     National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

31 May 2024                 NCCWSL's Women of Distinction Awards event, University of Maryland, Adele Stamp Student Union, early evening

late September 2024     Atlantic States AAUW Regional Conference, Fredericksburg, VA. Stay tuned!

**..**

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

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**