**AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch**

**Ingleside at King Farm - TBA**

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

**February 15, 2025**

**Saturday 10:30 am**

**Derwood Room**

**Let’s Have a Salon**

Back by Popular Demand we will have another chance to engage with each other.

What is a salon? As a reminder, it is simply a gathering of people, held by a host "either to please or to educate" (Wikipedia). As a reminder, the Salon has a fascinating history that dates to the 17th Century,

“Often in the past, the salon was an informal education for women, where they were able to exchange ideas, receive and give criticism, read their own works, and hear the works and ideas of other intellectuals. Many ambitious women used the salon to pursue a form of higher education.”

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salon\_(gathering)#:~:text=The%20salon%20was%20an%20informal,a%20form%20of%20higher%20education.

For our purposes, the salon is simply a chance to interact and push you away from the usual questions and automatic answers. You will get a chance to think in some new ways. There are no wrong or right answers. We will not be political or argumentative. We will be listening, sharing, and learning from each other.

We invite you to join with others for Café lunch on your own us after the program and business meeting.

**President’s Message**:

Thank you, Anna Palmisano, for sharing your expertise on and commitment to patients’ rights in Maryland at our January meeting! I hope you could sense the interest and energy in the room on the critical issue of Emergency Room wait times. Waiting while ill or injured in an ER is no fun, and too often risky. Learning that Maryland ranks last among the states is downright embarrassing, not to mention frightening. But the short-staffing cause is fixable. Let’s help fix it!

The Maryland General Assembly is now in session. There will be an Advocacy Day in Annapolis on Tuesday, February 11th. Other critical issues demand our attention as well—especially now, as women’s rights are increasingly threatened. Let’s go and make some Good Trouble! —or at least compelling cases to our legislators. Let me know if you’d like to carpool.

Thank you, Barbara Gressman, for setting up the Zoom connection allowing our hybrid event—critical since Anna herself was snowbound.

We look forward to a participatory “salon” with you on February 15th and other exciting and important events upcoming—especially in Annapolis and Washington.

AAUW is now in its 144th year of championing education and equity for women and girls. It lives thanks to all of us.

Dian Belanger

dobelanger@comcast.net

 **The AAUW Archives Corps Invites You!**

Upcoming: Monday, January 27, 2025

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 the fun, with 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 and ongoing guidance are provided so we can confidently process and preserve our historic past. Our important efforts make these records usable and accessible to present and future researchers.

Yes, much of what we do is scut work: remove staples, arrange papers chronologically (or in other logical sequence), cull duplicates, transfer the organized documents to acid-free folders. But what a thrill it is to uncover an awesome, unusual, funny, or long forgotten missing link. My favorite finds so far: A member/leader bequeathed a Montana gold mine to AAUW in the 1970s! (Then what? Still searching . . ..)

Bring or buy your lunch nearby. There’s a parking garage adjacent; or it’s about a five-block walk from the Farragut North or Metro Center Metro.

Questions? Ready to sign up?

Please contact Dian Belanger

dobelanger@comcast.net

**The AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps Seeks You!**

Upcoming: Thursday, January 23, 2025

Do you care if the now-fully approved **Equal Rights Amendment** gets added to the Constitution as the 28th Amendment? Is it right that over half a century after **pay discrimination** became illegal in the United States, women working full time are still paid 83 cents for every dollar earned by men? Why are we last among developed nations to provide **paid family and medical leave** for all?

If you are feeling called to *do* something positive in these challenging times, do consider joining the AAUW Lobby Corps, which has actively advocated on Capitol Hill since 1975. Member volunteers, well trained and briefed by AAUW public policy staff, visit assigned congressional offices, in pairs, to promote nonpartisan progress toward a more just nation. Training lately has been virtual, with in-person briefings in the appropriate House or Senate cafeteria prior to the day’s visits. Written position papers and talking points are emailed in advance. It’s easy. It’s truly rewarding—well, sometimes frustrating. It always matters.

The Lobby Corps currently works only one morning per month when Congress is session—usually on the 3rd Thursday but individual dates may vary if needed.

Questions? Please ask. I’ve been at it, not continuously, since 1975. Maritsa George joined perhaps a year ago. Her enthusiasm will sweep you away!

Dian Belanger

dobelanger@comcast.net

**Maryland Women's Heritage Center Zoom Program**

Upcoming: February 12 at 7:30

Dear Friends,

  Am sharing this information about our Maryland Women's Heritage Center Zoom program Feb 12 @ 7 p.m. featuring Eliza Newlin Carney Co-founder of The Civic Circle [A nonprofit that empowers young students to understand and participate in democracy through music and the arts.](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftheciviccircle.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cmsullivan%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cbe69afca8e8848b07abd08dd3a9a1d13%7C14b77578977342d58507251ca2dc2b06%7C0%7C0%7C638731155763760218%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WK6IVdRZuY3j4L7idxqerzbN1MvDN5evQLwjDzX6arA%3D&reserved=0) Many of you may have heard of her. (bio below)

  With our democracy headed into extreme challenges.  The Civic Circle's innovative programs through the arts gives me great hope for educating children about the seven steps to democracy, the importance of civic responsibility and engagement (thereby bringing their parents into the conversation as well.)

I invite you to join us for enlightenment and hope for a better future. Please forward to any of your contacts you believe would be interested. Thank- you. The program is free, donations are welcomed.

 In solidarity,

Kate Campbell Stevenson              Former MD State Co-President AAUW

                      Former Co-President K-R AAUW

 Maryland Women's Heritage Center

Board member and Cultural Ambassador

MLAW, Board Member

  **Interest Groups**:

**Le Groupe Francais**

Ruth Spivack raspivack@gmail.com

The **Le Groupe Français**will meet on Monday, January 27 at 7 p.m. via ZOOM.  The Zoom link will be sent out prior to the meeting.   We will continue the novella, “Carmen” by Prospere Merrimee.

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**Great Decisions-Live!**

Anita Rosen anitarosen123@gmail.com

Bobbe Mintz Bobbeandherb@comcast.net

**What: Chapter 2: The Evolution of U.S. Leadership in the Global Economy: Dilemmas and Choices**

**When:  Friday, February 28, 10:00 am-11:30 am.**

**Where:  Ingleside at King Farm, Derwood Room (map attached)**

Coffee and light snacks are available for purchase.

Please feel free to join in with others for lunch at the Cafe after the discussion.

A ZOOM URL will be sent to view the Master Class Video for Chapter 2 prior to the meeting.

**Calendar of Upcoming Events:**

**The Literature Discussion Group**

**Ella Iams** **ella.w.iams@gmail.com**

The AAUW Literature Group will meet on Tuesday, February 18 at the home of Joyce Graf, 1368 Canterbury Way, Rockville.  The meeting time is 1 to 3 pm.

We will discuss:

BLACK CAKE, a novel by Charmaine Wilkerson.

Eleanor Bennett loses her battle with cancer, leaving her children a flash drive that holds untold stories of her journey from the Caribbean to America; the stories shock her children and challenge everything they know about their family's origin.

The book is the basis for been an 8-episode drama on Hulu.

The March book selection is THE HEAVEN AND EARTH GROCERY STORE by James McBride.

**The AAUW Archives Corps Invites You!**

Upcoming: Monday, January 27, 2025

**MLAW February 5, 2025 5 pm** [**https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mlaws-2025-virtual-legislative-briefing-tickets-1144908565339?aff=oddtdtcreator**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mlaws-2025-virtual-legislative-briefing-tickets-1144908565339?aff=oddtdtcreator)

**Maryland Women's Heritage Center Zoom Program**

Upcoming: February 12 at 7:30

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

Newsletter Editor Circulation Editor

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AAUW NATIONAL MISSION: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. VISION: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

**Kensington-Rockville Branch**

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