**AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch**

**2025 AAUW Maryland State Convention**

**Women Supporting Women: Global Influences and Opportunities**

Hosted by the Gaithersburg Branch of AAUW – MD

**Saturday, April 26, 2025**

**Pathways Baptist Church 200 West Diamond Avenue, Gaithersburg MD 20877**

Come together with like-minded women from around the state to discuss local and global issues and explore opportunities for women’s economic security. This event is a great opportunity to network, share experiences, and learn from each other. Let’s learn about how to help make a positive impact locally and globally!

**Event Agenda:**

8:30 AM – Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM – Welcome

Edie Allison, AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

Heather Reichardt, AAUW Maryland President

9:15 AM – The Challenges and Joys of Immigrating to the US

Speaker: Delegate Lily Qi

Born in Shanghai, China, Lily Qi grew up during the Chinese Cultural Revolution. She immigrated to the US in 1989, became a US citizen in 1999, and now represents the 15th legislative district in the Maryland House of Delegates. She previously served as a chief administrator for economic development under Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett.

10:00 AM – Break

10:15 AM – Panel Discussion: Women Supporting Women Domestically and Globally

Panelists: Bria Marie Hodge, Director of Small Business Development, Latino Economic Development Center: Robyn Nietert, President, Women’s Microfinance Initiative

Moderator: Kate Stevenson, former Co-President, Maryland AAUW

11:15 AM – Women Supporting Women: Results from the Maryland Legislative Session

Speaker: Roxann King, AAUW Maryland Vice President for Public Policy

12:00 PM – New Officer Voting & Installation

12:30 PM – Lunch

For those who wish to stay, the Business Meeting will begin at 1:15 PM and adjourn at

4:00 PM – Adjourn

To find out more and to register see the Marylander.

To register On line at Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/women-supporting-women-global-influences-and-opportunities-registration-1264641529859?aff=oddtdtcreator>

Paper registration form attached.

**President’s Message**:

How fortunate we were to have our friend and AAUW sister, Dr. Pat Stocker, speak to us at our March meeting. She shared her knowledge and understanding of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women—from her perspective as a delegate to CSW. The CSW represents 45 countries (impressive, but many more needed). Its revolving chair is currently held by Saudi Arabia. (Think about that!) Pat’s report on its busy then-ongoing meeting left me exhausted, and exhilarated.

At the UN Pat represents Women Graduates-USA, a sister organization we are invited to join. You can use the brochure she distributed to access the membership application.

April will be special, and different, for Kensington-Rockville. AAUW Maryland’s annual convention will be held on Saturday, April 26th—in neighboring Gaithersburg. This event, whose theme is Women Supporting Women: Global Influences and Opportunities, will be our branch meeting. The program promises to be outstanding, keynoted by Lily Qi (say Chee), who grew up in China at the height of the Cultural Revolution and now serves in the Maryland House of Delegates. Let’s carpool and show up en masse.

But we don’t have to wait that long to get together again. Anita Rosen, our intrepid program vice president, has arranged a “field trip” for us that tells a historically significant story that’s both local and international. See her report, and don’t miss! Rides arranged.

Give a glance to your email from AAUW, too. There are significant happenings and efforts afloat.

Dian Belanger

[dobelanger@comcast.net](mailto:dobelanger@comcast.net)

**The AAUW Archives Corps Invites 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 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](mailto:dobelanger@comcast.net)

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

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](mailto:dobelanger@comcast.net)

**Interest Groups**:

**Le Groupe Francais**

Ruth Spivack [raspivack@gmail.com](mailto:raspivack@gmail.com)

 The **Le Groupe Français**will meet on Monday, April 21 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](mailto:anitarosen123@gmail.com)

Bobbe Mintz [Bobbeandherb@comcast.net](mailto:Bobbeandherb@comcast.net)

**What: Chapter 4: India: Between China, the West, and the Global South**

**When: Friday, April 25 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 4 for April 24.

**The Literature Discussion Group**

**Ella Iams** [**ella.w.iams@gmail.com**](mailto:ella.w.iams@gmail.com)

The AAUW Kensington Rockville Literature Group will meet on Tuesday, April 15 at the home of Ruth Spivack, 10115 Frederick Avenue, Kensington.  The meeting time is 1:00-3:00 pm.  Drinks and light refreshments provided.  Please RSVP to [raspivack@gmail.com](mailto:raspivack@gmail.com)

The April selection is **An Unfinished Love Story,** a personal history of the 1960s.  This book provides a look at the period and key players through the lens of Doris, a historian, and her late husband Dick, a speech writer for Presidents and political leaders.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

**Kensington Rockville AAUW branch field trip early in May.**

**Deadline for the next Newsletter is April 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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