**AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch**

Ingleside at King Farm - Club Room

Saturday, May 17, 2025, 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. Our program speaker will be **Arlinda Clark, Chair of the Montgomery County Commission for Women** who will provide a brief update on Commission programs, the Women’s Legslative Briefing and the status of women in Montgomery County. We will also have information on how women’s issues fared in Annapolis this last session.

**For 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!**

Anita Rosen & Bobbe Mintz, VPs Program

**Program Speaker Bio:**

Arlinda J. Clark, Esq., Chair of the Montgomery County Commission for Women, has been a resident of Montgomery County for more than ten years. Her affinity toward enhancing the lives of others and addressing social action matters led her to develop several programs to address diversity and other social issues within Montgomery County on behalf of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated – Eta Pi Zeta Chapter, a community-conscious, action-oriented, non-profit organization.

Professionally, Arlinda is a corporate regulatory and compliance attorney with responsibilities that require her to plan, advise, execute, and monitor various regulatory and technology matters. She received her Juris Doctor degree from Pennsylvania State Dickinson School of Law and her Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Central Missouri.

**President’s Message**:

An extra for our branch, on Saturday morning, May 3, is one of our favorites—a **“field trip.”** We’ll tour the Josiah Henson Museum and Park in North Bethesda, where Henson was born into the shameful horrors of slavery on this very site. What he did with the rest of his life, though, would have profound direct and indirect effects on his own times and even today. Don’t miss! Let me or Anita Rosen know if you’d like, or can give, a ride.

Please join us for our **annual meeting and potluck luncheon** in the Ingleside Club Room on Saturday, May 17, 11:30a. Bring friends, or family, or both! And a favorite yummy to share. We have so many common interests/concerns with the Montgomery County Commission for Women. Arlinda Clark, the current MCCW chair, will inform and update us on its work and our joint women’s achievements in the just-completed Maryland General Assembly session. Review Anita’s fine details on the opening page.

We’ll get updates on our **Montgomery College scholarships**, too—with luck, in person. Always inspiring.

**Vote**. You should have received from AAUW an email headed AAUW Election 2025. (Mine arrived on April 14.) On the ballot currently before us are the nominated candidates (single slate) for the national board of directors, proposed bylaws amendments, and a revised public policy statement. Visit:  <https://aauw.simplyvoting.com/>, which has information on the candidates and issues. Cast your votes on the above by May 13, 5pm. There are no real choices or major controversies this time, but VOTE. National needs to hear our voices and know that we want our voices heard.

Do give a glance to your **email from AAUW**, too. There are significant happenings and efforts afloat. Upcoming and recorded webinars often contain useful information. The public policy updates and invitations to get involved are crucial in these challenging times. Become a “Two-minute Activist.” It’s fast, easy, and impactful. Donate when you can but feel comfortable ignoring that ever-present button.

Dian Belanger

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**Notes from the Convention of AAUW Maryland**

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

The **AAUW Maryland Convention** is an annual highlight of our AAUW year, this one aptly named and delivered on April 26, 2025. A bit of the inspiring content follows.

Keynoter **Rep. Lily Qi** (say Chee) has served in the Maryland House of Delegates since 2019. Having grown up during China’s Cultural Revolution, she was grateful when Mao’s death led to being able to listen to the Voice of America. She was intrigued. The brutal massacre at Tiananmen Square in 1989 impelled her to emigrate, alone, to a job in the “middle of nowhere” “cornfields of Indiana,” among “people so nice” (nothing like her native Shanghai).

Qi felt drawn to civic, then political involvement. She became a citizen in 1999. Running for Maryland public office, she faced a “triple whammy—being a woman, an Asian, and an immigrant.” Her most challenging voters, surprisingly, were Chinese Americans, who equated Democrats, her party, with socialism (thus homeland communism). She “taught” them “Democracy 101.” Would she choose America again, now? “Yes.”

Following Qi, two speakers focused on women helping women in business.

**Robyn Nietert**, President of the Women’s Microfinance Initiative, spoke enthusiastically about a nonprofit effort begun by six women at her kitchen table. They proposed to offer small loans (now up to $1,000) to women in rural East Africa—Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda—to start what’s become a wide range of businesses, like retail store ownership, commercial farming, fashion design, banking. The money comes with training in financial literacy and business skills. To date, the WMI has awarded 110 loans totaling $15 million. The women now train each other, their healthier marriages are more equal, and these small communities are more prosperous.

**Bria Marie Hodge**, Director of Small Business Development at the Latino Economic Development Center, proudly oversees analogous efforts in the Washington area. Since 1991 the LDEC has provided catalyst loans ($250 to $250,000) to Latino and other underserved communities to fund entrepreneurial, business, and financial skills schooling. Graduates receive empowering certificates.

Roxann King, AAUW MD Public Policy Vice President, reviewed the substantial successes that we and allies had prioritized in the 2025 legislative session as well as important shortfalls we’ll persistently pursue. She promoted AAUW’s Two-Minute Activist opportunities.

Another day of national protest is set for May 1st, May Day! Find a location near you to stand with others working to save our democracy. Join the clever sign-makers brigade. If you wear any AAUW identifiers, make sure what you say is arguably nonpartisan.

AAUW of Virginia’s Kristin Moyer, representing AAUW’s Legacy Circle, promoted planned giving and recognized Maryland’s six Legacy Circle members in attendance.

Tracy Lantz updated us on program plans for the September 2026 Atlantic Regional Conference in Lancaster, PA. They sound timely, crucial, and exciting. Let’s go en masse! The ratified Equal Rights Amendment remains in limbo but, Tracy reported, efforts toward acknowledgment continue.

We were delighted to sing Happy Birthday to Mary Wykes, who has faithfully served the hosting Gaithersburg Branch in every possible way and will be celebrating her 100th on May 13!

Dian Belanger

President, AAUW Kensington-Rockville

PS Did you know that both Maryland and Montgomery County are now, in racial and ethnic terms, majority minority? We take DEI seriously.

**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 preparation?

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

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**Interest Groups**:

**Le Groupe Francais**

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

The **Le Groupe Français**will meet on Monday, April 28 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.

**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, May 20.  The meeting place will be sent out later.  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 May selection is **Tom Lake**by Ann Padgett.  The book relates the story of three daughters who yearn to know about their mother's youthful relationship with a famous actor.

**We need a volunteer to host the meeting**.

**Great Decisions-Live!**

Anita Rosen [anitarosen123@gmail.com](mailto:anitarosen123@gmail.com)

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

What: Chapter 5: International Climate Cooperation in an Era of Geopolitical Turmoil

When: Friday, May 23,2025 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 5 for May 22.

**Calendar of Upcoming Events:**

Kensington Rockville AAUW branch field trip May 3 10:30 at Josiah Henson Museum Rockville.

May 17 at 11:30 at Ingleside the branch Annual meeting and potluck Luncheon

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The deadline for the next Newsletter is May 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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