



# THE MARYLANDER

## AAUW MARYLAND NEWSLETTER

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research

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Table of Contents	Page
Greetings from Presidents	1
Save the date MLAW	2
Summary of Legislative Proposals from MLAW	3
Fallston Community Stem Club Speaks to Harford County	5
African American Educators Recall Experiences	6
Patuxent River Branch and Barbara Fetterhoff Honored	6
Sonya Kovalevsky Day	
AAUW Funds Report	8
Make Plans for Annual Maryland Convention	9

## Greetings from the Presidents

Dear AAUW Members,

As we enter this busy time of the year, we should also take time to inform ourselves of upcoming events and activities for AAUW. The next Convention is June 18 – 21, 2015, in San Diego, CA. This means there will be proposed changes to the bylaws and the Public Policy Program, as well as the election of new Officers

and Directors. As members of AAUW, we need to stay abreast of any changes to these policies in order to vote for our best interests in 2015.

Check the AAUW web site, and the resources located here:

<http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/> . Through this web site you will be able to comment on proposed changes.

We have an additional reason to pay close attention to the elections this year. Eileen

Menton will be running for AAUW Board of Directors. Please provide Eileen with your support.

It's never too soon to consider running for a state office. The State Nominating Committee will be meeting soon and will be looking for members to serve at the state level, so please think of the members who you feel would support and enhance the mission of AAUW as we look forward to an awesome year.

We also encourage our members to celebrate Computer Science Education Week (CS Ed Week). This year it takes place this year on December 8–14, 2014. An easy way to do this is to participate in an "Hour of Code" project at a local school. Check out the web site <http://hourofcode.com/us>.

Public policy is important to AAUW and its members. Elsewhere in the *Marylander*, you will find details on the Maryland Legislative Briefing for Women (MLAW) and the legislation that will be followed during the upcoming session in Annapolis. Please plan to attend the Women's Legislative Briefing on January 25, 2015 in Rockville.

AAUW Maryland will continue to support the Women of Distinction Award Ceremony at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

Our best wishes to you this holiday season!

*Dorothy Fraquelli and Sandra (SassC) Smith*

## Save the Date

### **2015 Women's Legislative Briefing:**

### **Build the World You Want Through Advocacy and Legislation**

**January 25 11:3 A.M.to 6:00 P.M.**

**The Universities at Shady Grove Campus  
Building II  
9630 Gudelsky Drive  
Rockville MD 20850**

**\$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.**

**To register on line go to:**

**<https://wlb2015.eventbrite.com>**

## SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO MLAW FOR 2015

Anita Rosen

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women's fall conference was held on Saturday, November 15, 2014. Lead groups presented proposed legislation items of interest for consideration. Below are brief summaries the proposals. In a few weeks, MLAW members will vote on the agenda for the year. The top 4-6 will be selected. Here are the important issues:

**1. Protective Order- Relief of Victims of Dating and Sexual Violence.** Proposal by MCASA/Legislative sponsors, Senator Chris Shank and Delegate Kathleen Dumais. Protective Orders are civil orders to protect individuals against future violence and harassment. This bill would move sexual assault out of the Peace Order statute to the Protective Order statute. The bill will provide victims/survivors of dating and sexual violence with heightened protection, address the majority of dating violence cases, and create a better systemic response

**2. Akins Law- a bill to permit termination of the parental rights of a rapist when a child is conceived as a result of rape.** Proposal by the Maryland Coalition against Sexual Assault (MCASA)/ Sponsors, Senator Jamie Raskin & Delegate Kathleen Dumais. Background: In August 2012, Congressman Todd Akin suggested that women did not become pregnant as a result of "legitimate rape" and that pregnancy from rape is a rare occurrence. In fact a published study found that 5% of rape victims of reproductive age became pregnant as a result of rape. Though in the last session of the legislature this bill had a majority of the House and Senate members as co-sponsors, the bill failed to make it out of the House Judiciary Committee.

**3. Maryland Earned Sick and Safe Leave Act.** Proposal by Working Matters/ Lead sponsor, Senator Catherine Pugh. This legislation would allow workers to earn a limited number of annual paid sick and safe days from their employer. Forty-one percent of American workers are unable to earn paid sick leave. In Maryland, 700,000 of our neighbors, are forced to make impossible choices: go to work sick, send an ill child to school or day care, or stay home and sacrifice much-needed income. This is particularly a big problem for restaurant and food workers. Working women need paid sick days. This legislation was first proposed in 2013; in addition to sick time, it allows "safe time" to allow women who have been victims of domestic abuse or sexual assault to use their accrued paid sick leave to care for their health, seek legal protections or new housing. *MLAW participants and others are encouraged to contact their Delegates and Senators to cosponsor this legislation.*

**4. State Personnel- Limits on Use of Leave for Birth, Adoption, foster Placement or Care of Child.** Lead sponsor, Women's Law Center/ Delegate Ariana Kelly, contact. This bill would allow state employees to receive the full benefits of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) as afforded to all other employees who are not both employed by the State. Currently, State employees are entitled to 12 weeks of leave at the birth or adoption of a child or to care for a sick family member. Currently, if both spouses are working for the state, their leave is a combined limit of only 12 weeks and they are penalized for both being State employees. This legislation would remove the aggregate limit.

5. **Domestic Violence-Protective Order-Additional Relief.** Lead sponsor, Maryland Network for Domestic Violence. This bill expands the relief available in a final protective order by authorizing a judge to order any other relief the judge deems appropriate under the circumstances to protect a person eligible for relief. Maryland's Family Law contains very specific forms of relief available to a petitioner. There is very little flexibility. This simple legislation would allow the judge to consider such things as ordering a respondent to maintain petitioner and children on respondent's health insurance, to provide the petitioner and petitioner's children with a passport, or order respondent to stay a certain distance away from the petitioner's residence.

6. **Midwife License Bill** Sponsor, Association of Independent Midwives of Maryland. Midwives are illegal in Maryland and most women in Maryland who want home births have no access to a legal provider. This bill seeks to create a process to license and regulate Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs).

7. **Bill to direct the Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation to conduct a feasibility study to determine best practices for implementing a proposed Paid Family and Medical Leave Program in Maryland and require DLLR to apply for any further federal funding available for such programs.**

Sponsors, Montgomery County Young Democrats/ Delegate Ariana Kelly contact. Currently Maryland is not eligible to apply for such funds.

In addition to these seven bills, it is expected that there will be proposed legislation in relation to the serious problem of **Human Trafficking** in Maryland. As soon as such proposals are available, you will be informed. In the meantime, if you speak with your State Legislators, you may wish to convey to them that AAUW Maryland and its Branches have keen interest in humane and effective legislation to address this serious problem.

## Fallston Community STEM Club Speaks to AAUW Harford Branch

*Hazel Hopkins*

There were smiles on our faces as we marveled at the self-assured and knowledgeable young women at our October 20th AAUW Harford Branch meeting.



Program Vice-President Marlene Butler introduced Lynn Faulkner, the club's organizer who explained the club's philosophy and described some of their activities. She then turned the meeting over to 7th grader Jade Schlegel, who without hardly a glimpse at her notes, explained the life of a star. For instance, she informed her audience that a blue star is the hottest and a red star, the coolest.

Jade introduced Sophia Faulkner who demonstrated how to make polymers.



Sophia introduced Brooke West. Brook's presentation, "Five Divers," illustrated how and at what rate



water is displaced.

After her presentation, Brooke visited with audience member, AAUW Branch member, and her former 5th grade teacher, Carol Houck.

All the young women have had a wide variety of STEM experiences including the Women's STEM Day at the Naval Academy, the USA Science and Engineering Festival in DC, Digital Harbor, Destination Imagination and Seaperch at APG.

As the presentations were winding down, the students and the audience became engaged in talking about their building and racing of cardboard boats. They entertained and amazed their audience as they described the trial and error nature of this project.

The enthusiasm, skill, and knowledge of these young people assured that science is moving to the forefront for women.

## African American Teachers Recall Experiences

Mary Wykes

Retired African-American, Montgomery County educators (l. to r. Nina Clarke, Katie Harper, Annie Rhodes and Margaret Williams) discussed their experiences as students and later as teachers before and after school integration, at the October meeting of the Gaithersburg Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW).



## Patuxent River Branch and Barbara Fetterhoof, President honored by Mediation Center

On October 17th the Calvert County Community Mediation Center honored the Patuxent River Branch of AAUW and Barbara Fetterhoff with the 2014 Peace Builder Award. The certificate awarded stated the following: "This award is presented to Barbara Fetterhoff for her lifelong commitment to and leadership of the American Association of University Women, both nationally and in Southern Maryland. Barbara is dedicated to eradicating injustice and has contributed significantly to building peace

within our community. Calvert County is a better place to live as a result of her and her branch's efforts." Mentioned specifically in the presentations were the 39 Dare to Dream grants and Anne Harrison's work on that project between 2007 and 2013.





## Sonya Kovalevsky Day 2014

*Anita Rosen*

On Saturday November 15, the Math Department of Montgomery College hosted 56 middle school girls for Sonya Kovalevsky (SK) Day, a one day conference to introduce middle school girls to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics activities were held in the Science Center on the campus, and coordinated by Andrea Steelman of College and Chair of SK Day. AAUW Montgomery Interbranch (Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Gaithersburg, Kensington-Rockville and Silver Branches) is a long-time cosponsor of the event resources, Girls' STEM related take-home and volunteer assistance throughout the day's



(STEM). All Rockville Montgomery County

Spring and provides materials, activities.

The conference opened with an inspiring talk by Ms. Jill Hubbard, a current engineer on the Silver Line METRO Project. Ms. Hubbard discussed her background, challenges of being a woman in a male-dominated field.



After hearing the keynote through several activities: from University of Maryland, by Dr. Rachel Ndonye & Professor Explorations led by Dr. Leah presenters did an excellent job activities.

speaker, the girls rotated Robotics led by Dr. Jan Plane Chemistry Experiments led Nevart Tahmazian,, and DNA Allen. Each of these engaging the girls in the

During lunch Katie from Computer Connect conducted a lively, interactive discussion on internet safety. She talked about privacy, security, and best practices for password protection. The day ended with each group attending a mathematics-related interactivity activity followed by cake and prizes.



Each girl received a t-shirt, a bag, and many STEM-related gifts as well as a science project to complete at home.

## AAUW FUNDS REPORT

CHRISTINE SCHMITZ, AAUW Maryland Funds Vice President

We are approaching the end of 2014 so this is the perfect time to take a look at what donations we have personally given or our Branches have given during this year. AAUW gives us many fund-giving opportunities. Here is a rundown of some of our options:

**AAUW Funds** – to provide general support where it is needed to protect, educate, advocate, research, and lead so that all women have a fair chance.

**Legal Advocacy Fund** – to protect the rights of those facing discrimination.

**Educational Opportunities Fund** – to educate women for a lifetime of success.

**Public Policy Fund** – to advocate for policies and laws that are fair to women.

**Eleanor Roosevelt Fund** – to research issues that are important to women and girls.

**Leadership Programs Fund** – to lead and teach others to lead in their schools, workplaces, communities, and country.

One of our key fundraising goals for Maryland is the **Jennie M Forehand Honorary Fund (Fund #4355)**. This fund can be found on the AAUW National website at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) under Special Funds. Just go to the site and click on **GIVE NOW**. Click through the options until you get to the page which has Special Funds. Select the drop down and you will see this Fund appear. We have this great opportunity to once again raise \$20,000 by April 1, 2015 so that we can be the Platinum Sponsor of the Women of Distinction Ceremony at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (held at University of Maryland College Park). This year's Ceremony is scheduled for Thursday May 28, 2015.

I know a lot of Branches are engaged in fundraising to support this Fund and I want to encourage all of you to consider gifts to the Fund when you make your choices as to where to give your final charitable contributions for 2014.

Please feel free to call me at 410-795-5091 or email me your questions. [dialacpa@aol.com](mailto:dialacpa@aol.com)

Thank you for your continued support,



## Make Plans Now for the AAUW Maryland Annual Convention

*Theme: Honoring the Past, Protecting Our Future*

The AAUW Maryland Annual Convention will be held from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, April 25, 2015. The Kensington-Rockville Branch will host the one-day event which will feature outstanding speakers on the history of AAUW as well as preventing intimate partner violence, the business meeting, breakfast and luncheon and induction of officers. All members and the public are welcome!

**Location:** Montgomery College Rockville Campus  
Theatre Arts Building, First Floor  
51 Mannakee Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

**Venue Amenities:** Free parking  
Handicapped accessible entrance and bathrooms  
Catered breakfast and lunch

**Hotel:** Hilton Garden Inn & Homewood Suites Rockville-Gaithersburg  
14975 Shady Grove Road  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Rate of \$89 per night king; \$99 per night double plus tax  
Call 877-782-9444 to make your reservation and specify code AAU

**Cut-off date for the room block is April 1, 2015**

**Hotel Amenities:** Complimentary shuttle service is provided within a 3-mile radius of the hotel, including Montgomery College and the Shady Grove Metro  
Complimentary ample free parking onsite  
Complimentary wireless Internet access throughout entire property  
Onsite Restaurant & Bar and Room Service  
Walking distance to Falls Grove Shopping Center with Mama Lucia, Moby Dicks, Panera Bread, Starbucks, Chipotle, Krispy Kreme, etc.

***Hospitality Suite #101 on Friday night courtesy of Joyce Graf and Anita Rosen***

### Registration

The cost is \$50.00 per person, including breakfast, lunch and all program materials. Please send a check no later than **April 1, 2015**, to: Ella Iams, 5516 Oakmont Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20817-3528. Onsite registration is \$55 per person, but advanced registration will help us better prepare for the event.

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Name\_\_\_\_\_

Branch Affiliation\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

For voting purposes, please let us know if you hold a leadership role in AAUW:

State Officer\_\_\_\_\_ (specify role)

Branch Officer\_\_\_\_\_ (specify role)

Calling all Facebook users.

**Like the AAUW-Maryland Facebook Page**

**<https://www.facebook.com/aauw.maryland?ref=hl>**

**Have a Wonderful 2015**



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