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Our Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

President's Letter

Erin Prangley, President, AAUW Maryland



AAUW MD members are capable of incredible things when we work together towards a common goal. This issue of the Marylander shows ways our AAUW MD Community is resilient. Many

AAUW MD branches and individuals have adapted to carrying out our mission to promote gender equity despite the restrictions of a global pandemic. We can do this! The next challenge is making sure none of our members are left behind as we continue to adapt to the conditions created by the pandemic.

More and more AAUW MD programs and branches are using technology to connect and carry on important business. For example, dozens of AAUW MD members from several branches listened and learned about systemic racism and how it is connected to our work on gender equality through the lens of the movie "13TH." The hosts, Jacki Gray, Pat Stocker, and Tracy Lantz, brought us a virtual movie discussion group. Next up, another discussion on the timely and controversial movie "Rigged: the Voter Suppression Playbook," brought to us by our Public Policy Vice Presidents, Kashay Webb and Roxann King, on September 26, at 3 p.m. Anne Arundel Branch hosted a virtual "Cocktails and Conversations" among other zoom programs. These programs bring branch members and members from across the state together in ways that we could never have imagined.

But we know there are gaps. Some branches are canceling their fall programming, including our beloved book sales. Many of our members are not comfortable using technology to access branch meetings and programming. We need to realize that some members might feel disconnected, isolated, and separated from their AAUW MD friends. They miss the book club. They miss the branch meetings. They miss their friends. On top of that, many of us may have experienced health problems and loss of friends and relatives related to the COVID-19 virus. It's hard not to feel the profound sadness and loss that many of us are feeling right now.

For many of us, including me, AAUW MD branch meetings and state programs are where I go to find friends and seek a shared connection to people who care deeply about not just making the world a better place, but about the wellbeing of each other personally. I've missed seeing my friends and worry about losing touch. How can we reach out to our "regulars" that we haven't seen on the Zoom calls? How can we bridge the gaps created by social distancing and stay home orders?

That's why I am hoping you will join us at the October 3rd meeting as we discuss ideas on how to fight social isolation in our AAUW MD community. I look forward to "seeing" you all at our fall meeting where we can work together to make sure all members of our AAUW MD community know that we are there for them during these difficult times.

**Save the Date! Oct. 3: 10 am
 AAUW MD Fall Meeting**

Save the Date!

Saturday, September 26, 3 p.m. – Rigged



Join us for a virtual screening of the award-winning documentary **Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook**, on Saturday, September 26, at 3 p.m. At 4:15 a panel discussion will follow the 70-minute movie. All AAUW MD members are invited to attend. Panelists include Ralph Watkins, former Vice President for Voters Service for the League of Women Voters of Maryland, and Mac Heller, Executive Producer of Rigged.

Here is the link to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/118548506775>

You may choose to watch the film beforehand here:

<https://vimeo.com/369584224>

password: rigged

Remember to register for the discussion!

Save the Date!

Virtual Fall AAUW MD Meeting Oct 3

Plan to attend the fall Maryland AAUW MD meeting October 3rd at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. In addition to discussing ideas on how to fight social isolation, a short program will be part of the meeting. We will watch and discuss the acclaimed short (17 minute) documentary “Segregated by Design.” This is an engaging, informative, and compelling exploration of racial divisions in our cities. The film helps us understand many of the policies that have paved the way for the segregation we experience today. All members are invited to attend.

Save the Date!

MLAW's *Virtual* Fall Agenda Conference is set for Saturday, November 14, 2020

The MLAW Fall Agenda Conference will be held online on **Saturday, November 14, 2020**. To make the conference as safe and informative as possible, this year's event will be virtual instead of our normal in-person conference. More details including speakers, agenda, registration materials and sponsorship opportunities will be provided soon. For now, please mark your calendars and plan to participate!

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women's groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent, voice for Maryland women and families. The group advocates for progressive legislation and policy that promotes and protects the well-being of Maryland women and their families and provides them opportunities to develop their full potential.

<https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/>

Why NCCWSL?

Submitted by Dian Belanger, AAUW MD Funds Vice President



AAUW Maryland has focused its philanthropic efforts on the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL—we say *nick-whistle*) for a decade now. This annual late-Spring event brings together

many hundreds of (mostly) young college women from all over the country. In Washington they meet strong role models in multiple fields, network for graduate school or employment, and enhance their skills and confidence to change the world. They're already smart, poised, and driven.

But why NCCWSL? What's in it for us?

- **We serve AAUW's mission, advancing gender equity.** By raising \$20,000+ each year we become the Platinum Sponsor of the Women of Distinction award ceremony, NCCWSL's marquee event.
- **We are recognized.** Collectively, AAUW's chosen Women of Distinction represent and lead in every imaginable field of achievement, with innovation, determination, and grit. Some are famous; some aren't (yet). We get front-row reserved seats to observe them as they dazzle and inspire the students.
- **We are rewarded.** For our Platinum Sponsorship efforts, we get to name our own Maryland Woman of Distinction, in whose honor we raise the necessary funds. She opens the program with her unique story and advice to the eager attendees.
- **We can meet this challenge.** The amount required is doable for a small, but generous, state like Maryland.
- **We promote our neighborhood.** The University of Maryland's Adele Stamp Student Union hosts the Women of Distinction event, an opportunity for us to tout our state and our organization. We encourage attendees to pay it forward through AAUW membership.
- **We commemorate an AAUW pathfinder.** Adele Hagner Stamp was not only the university's first Dean of Women, she co-founded AAUW Maryland! She served on AAUW's national Board of Directors, too.
- **We salute tomorrow's change makers.** Today's young women student leaders are tomorrow's Nancy Pelosi, Oprah Winfrey, Indra Nooyi (PepsiCo CEO), Ruth Bader Ginsburg,...

I hope you agree that NCCWSL is a fundraising opportunity that has AAUW Maryland's name on it.



Sadly, like so much else, NCCWSL 2020 fell to the COVID-19 pandemic. But we will celebrate this year's intended honoree, Dr. A. Yvette Myrick, Ed.D. of the Baltimore Branch, in 2021.

Dr. Myrick is a native of Baltimore and is currently Dean of the School of Transitional Education at Colorado Mountain College. Yvette has a great passion for helping others achieve their educational goals and will be a true inspiration to the women attending the NCCWSL event. An outstanding role model, she has committed her life to the pursuit of knowledge and education and enthusiastically guides others along the same path. She continues to be an active member of the Baltimore Branch.

We're not there yet, financially, so please keep your fundraisers going and individual gifts coming. Funds exceeding our MD Woman of Distinction sponsorship requirement go to NCCWSL scholarships. The more the better.

Thank you for your generosity.

How to Donate to the MD Woman of Distinction Fund:

To donate by check: Make the check out to AAUW and indicate fund 4355 – *Maryland Women of Distinction (NCCWSL) Fund* on it. Mail to AAUW, 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005.

To donate on-line: Go to the AAUW NCCWSL Donation page.

(<https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/?treatment=AAUW2504-STRATEGIC>)

Click on the button next to: Use my gift to support Maryland Women of Distinction (NCCWSL) Fund.

Indicate whether you want monthly or a onetime donation and the amount.

Then click Donate.

Legislative Update:

The Census, the Vote, and Racial Justice

Submitted by Roxann King and Kashay Webb, Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy



Lobbying efforts by AAUW Maryland for the 2021 General Assembly session kick off with the MLAW (Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women) Fall Agenda Conference November 14. This year's conference will be online. In 2019 advocacy groups presented twenty legislative proposals for consideration. MLAW members choose seven or eight bills to support during the session. 2020's shortened session was amazing: six of the eight bills supported by MLAW passed both houses. One bill was vetoed by Governor Hogan: the bill to establish a pre-release unit of women in correctional facilities.

AAUW Maryland may also support bills that are advocated by our branches: most recently the Patients' Bill of Rights and parental support for children over 18 seeking higher education.

This year is an election year. During election years some branches team with the League of Women Voters or other non-partisan groups to offer candidate forums. The coronavirus has forced these to be online activities. Support your local forums!

The 2020 Census is an issue. In Maryland, currently only about 50% of households have responded to the 2020 Census; for depressed neighborhoods, this is only about 30%. Our membership can help: ask people you meet or speak with, whether they have completed the census for their household. This is important. It determines federal funding for a variety of services, including free and reduced school lunches. Share the link: <https://my2020census.gov/>. Click here for a sample census questionnaire.

Voting is an issue: should you vote in person or by mail? Our help is needed in getting out the information on voting. For safety during covid-19, we need to remind our contacts to **vote early or request a mail-in ballot early**. We are urged not to print out the mail in ballots, because that information needs to be hand entered in order to be counted, which can lead to errors. Requests for mail-in ballots were mailed to all registered voters the last week in August: mail it back right away. **You can request a mail-in ballot online before October 27.** When you get the ballot, get it in the mail right away or take it to one of the secure drop-off/polling locations. (Note: if you request a mail-in ballot and then decide to vote in person, you will have to vote a provisional ballot.) **If you are planning to vote in person, vote early: early voting begins October 22 and ends October 29.** Many voting locations have recently been changed to allow for social distancing; any registered Maryland voter can vote at any location.

How can we help? **Set a goal:** each branch member should share census and voting information with ten or twenty other Marylanders!

To learn about the candidates for whom you are eligible to vote and other ballot questions, be sure to visit the League of Women Voters online Voters' Guide: **VOTE411.org** (goes "live" on September 19).



Editor's Note: check out the updates on AAUW's Action Fund website and the new resources for the election here: <https://www.aauwaction.org/>

And finally, AAUW supports racial justice. We are encouraged to:

First— listen. Listen to the Black and Brown leaders and members of your community when they speak. Second— learn. Read AAUW's recent statement highlighting AAUW's stand against racism and this Washington Post article by 2016-17 AAUW American Fellow alumnae Keisha Blain about the problematic history of policing in this country. Systemic racism is firmly rooted in the

United States— from police brutality to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color. Then talk to your family, children, and friends. Talk to them about how today's injustices mirror our own country's shameful history. Saying "Black lives matter" is important and needed. This is an historic moment that requires your vocal support.

AAUW Maryland's Diversity Program Discusses the Documentary Film 13TH

Submitted by Jacqueline Gray, Chair – Diversity & Inclusion, AAUW Maryland



As a Diversity and Inclusion program offering for the month of August, AAUW MD members were invited to watch the documentary film 13TH, followed by a group Zoom discussion. During the months of July and August 2020, the film was streamed for free by

Netflix and was also available on YouTube. Members were asked to watch the movie during the July/August timeframe and to participate in a Zoom discussion on Saturday, August 29, 2020 to voice opinions and reflections on the film.

Released in 2016, the film 13TH is a shocking and riveting exposé, which explores racial inequality and the mass incarceration of African Americans in the United States. Ava Duvernay, an award-winning writer, producer, and director, best known for films such as *Middle of Nowhere*, *Selma*, and *A Wrinkle in Time*, directed the film 13TH. The film gets its name from the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, passed in 1865 to abolish slavery in the United States, however, the film exposes a loophole in this law, which effectively excludes criminals from the institution of slavery.

13TH, is currently very relevant, especially in light of the wave of recent protests happening across the

U.S. and around the world in response to the racial disparities and injustices inflicted against black and brown people by many police officers across the U.S.

Below is a list of resources available to help AAUW members dive deeper into the causes and effects of mass incarceration of Black Americans in the United States. AAUW MD is considering additional Zoom meetings, reading suggestions, and other activities to continue conversations regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions on ways to move forward.

Published Books Discussing Incarceration of Black Americans in the United States

1. *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America*. Author: James Forman, Jr.
2. *Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South*. Author: Talitha L. Leflouria
3. *Worse Than Slavery: Parchman Farm and the Ordeal of Jim Crow Justice*. Author: David M. Oshinsky
4. *The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America*. Author: Khalil Gibran Muhammad
5. *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II*. Author: Douglas Blackmon

Additional Resources

- The Bail Project (<https://bailproject.org/>)
- Equal Justice Initiative. www.eji.org
- Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project. www.exonerate.org
- Campaign Zero (works to end police brutality). www.joincampaignzero.org
- The Sentencing Project, www.sentencingproject.org
- Families against Mandatory Minimums, www.famm.org
- A New Way of Life. www.anewwayoflife.org

An article discussing subminimum wages paid to inmates working in Maryland prisons:
<https://www.baltimoresun.com/politics/bs-md-prison-wages-20200102-6kx5nzhtzfw3fmin662lcqcm-story.html>

Movies to Watch: Just Mercy, a film co-written and directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, tells the true story of Walter McMillian, who, with help of defense attorney Bryan Stevenson, appeals his murder conviction. The film is based on a memoir of the same name, written by Stevenson.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Just_Mercy

THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE FILM DISCUSSION!

Bylaws Committee Report

Submitted by Diane Roca, Chair

The Bylaws Committee has completed our review of the AAUW Maryland bylaws and will make several recommendations such as clarifying the procedures for selecting the Nominating Committee and affirming the validity of electronic meetings and votes.

The Bylaws are the first section of the AAUW MD Handbook for Officers, and the committee has moved on to review the next sections, Policies and Procedures.

Our recommendations will be presented to the Board in the fall. Committee members are Terri Massey-Burrell, Janet Crampton, Eileen Menton, Diane Roca, and Christine Schmitz.

Membership Matters!

Submitted by Carol Mueller, Membership VP



First, I want you to think about why you joined AAUW. Put it into words so you can share with anyone you meet. For me it was to help future generations of women have an easier time

navigating and achieving their higher education goals, but what I got was so much more. Our local

chapter had provided me with a network of caring like-minded individuals. Although we have differences, we all cared about advancing the status of women in our community. The Harford Branch for many years has provided scholarships for women in the GED program at Harford Community College among other things. As a state, we have worked toward legislation increasing the rights of women. When we help women, we help the community.

Local branches also have enrichment groups: cooking, book clubs, travel groups, etc. Each branch is different and unique, based on the interests of the local area. All are part of the state and national organizations and contribute to research, opportunities, and advocacy.

Too busy for meetings with a local branch, but still want to be involved. Consider joining the online branch.

From the National Website:

AAUW has been transforming women’s lives for more than a century. And now that we’ve won the fight to give women equal access to education, we’re taking on one of the most defining issues of our time: gender equity. But we can’t do it alone.

Your AAUW membership will help close the gender pay gap by 2030, ensure schools and workplaces are free of discrimination and harassment, and create more opportunities for women to lead. It will also connect you to a powerful network of more than 170,000 women and men across the country who are as passionate as you are about building a fairer future — with a few other perks to boot. As a member, you will:

Make a Difference

By becoming an AAUW member, you’re not only joining a community committed to our cause. You’re also directly funding our work to:

- Train millions of women to [negotiate for higher salaries and benefits](#).

- Support state and local [fair-pay legislation](#) to ban the use of salary history in hiring, a practice that puts women at a financial disadvantage.
- Develop more women leaders through workshops and [conferences](#).
- Fund the [research](#) that is informing national conversations on the gender pay gap, women's student-debt burden, and other key equity issues.

Important News from National

Submitted by Eileen Menton, AAUW Board Member



Addressing Racism. The AAUW Board and staff are addressing systemic racism within AAUW. Julia Brown, the Board Chair, is setting up a **Racial and Social Justice Working Group** made up of staff and members to address racial and

social justice issues. At the September 2, board meeting, members discussed racism after reading or listening to several assigned articles. I will be happy to provide you with the reading list.

Reconsidering our membership requirements. One of the issues raised by former AAUW staff members has been the question of our membership requirements. They, and many members believe that are membership should be open to all who are committed to our mission.

Just as when we expanded membership to men and to associate degree holders, changing the membership requirements is not expected to lead to a significant membership increase. And, we will continue to be differentiated from other equity organizations by our broad mission, as evidenced in our being one of the largest funders of women's graduate education, our research, our mission-related activities such as NCCWSL and salary negotiation training, and our public policy network in every state.

This is not a new concept for the Baltimore Branch, which was founded as the College Club in 1894, as an independent club, which joined AAUW in 1921. Its members valued commitment to higher education for women rather than a degree when setting their membership requirements. While most of the charter members were college graduates, one of them - Mary Fisher Goucher - never attended college. Mary Goucher was vice president of the Association for the Extension of University Education for Women, 8 of whose members formed the College Club. Along with her husband John, Mrs. Goucher strongly believed in higher education for women. They used her inheritance from her father and uncles to help found what are now Goucher College and Morgan State University and helped found several schools in East Asia and India. Openness to having non-graduates as members continued for many years. In 1941 almost 40% of the College Club's members were not college graduates.

The State of AAUW's Finances. AAUW's fiscal year ended on June 30. After many years of reducing unrestricted assets, which support Public Policy, Archives, and Membership Services, we are now "living within our means." It has not been easy. Staffing has been reduced by more than 50% and popular programs have been curtailed. Because they are permanently endowed, Fellowships and Grants are not affected. Details of AAUW's finances, including budgets, audit statements, and 990s, are available on at <https://www.aauw.org/about/years-in-review/>

AAUW Dues Increase. On August 17, Julia Brown set out a notice to all members, as required by the bylaws, that the Board will consider a proposal to raise dues at the October 16 board meeting. Rather than wait for 10 years, as we did two years ago, we are considering raising the dues effective July 1, 2021. Two options have been proposed: (1) An increase to take effect on July 1, 2021, of an amount between \$3 and \$10, or (2) An increase to take effect on the 1st

of July of each of the next three fiscal years of between \$3 and \$10 each year.

Membership dues cover between 15% and 20% of AAUW's annual budget and have not kept up with inflation. Increasing Individual Member dues will help AAUW cover more membership-related expenses, including important functions like the Connect team, critical technology and infrastructure such as the website and Member Services Database, and other member support, all of which are not covered by our endowments or other restricted funds. I recognize that no one likes dues increases, and we are also paying state and branch dues. Let me know which option you prefer and what increase amount you would recommend. Call me at 410-206-6318 or email me at ementon at gmail.com.

The AAUW Webinar Series Continues. AAUW has launched two series of webcasts that are available on-line and live. Notices of upcoming webinars are sent out by AAUW every week or two. Sign up to participate in a live "Zoom" session or watch past sessions on-line. They are available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/c/AAUW/videos> and on the AAUW website

Branch News

Anne Arundel County Branch

Submitted by Debby Chessin

The Anne Arundel County Branch is planning for a productive 2020-2021 despite the restrictions we all face due to COVID19. Since March 2020, our scholarship committees, Women-to-Women and Transfer, met, reviewed applications, held online interviews with their most promising candidates, and selected recipients for the 2020-2021 academic year.

In April, one virtual "Cocktails & Conversation" was held via Zoom which gave us an opportunity to 'see' and visit with each other. The State Board and delegates from each branch met in a conference call on May 26 and elected the

incoming officers. Congratulations to Roxanne King who will serve on the Policy Committee for the State as well as our Branch and thanks to the nine board members who served as Convention delegates. As the largest single branch in the state, we also had the largest contingent of delegates.

After much consideration, the Board has voted to cancel the Fall Membership Luncheon and the annual Book Sale for Fall 2020. The Book Sale has provided a portion of the Branch operating budget and all of our scholarship funds – we are still collecting books at the storage facility on two scheduled days and by appointment to be sold directly to wholesalers. We are not expecting to match our revenue from the last two years, but we hope to collect enough money to offer proportionate scholarships to Anne Arundel County women. By July 28, we had collected 216 boxes of books and through old and new connections, we have packed up and moved the books from two estates. To encourage a community of giving, we have invited Branch members and their family and friends to donate to the scholarship funds in lieu of sweat equity.

We are looking forward to Branch meetings in the spring, COVID19 permitting!

Howard County Branch

Submitted by Beth Hayden

The Howard County Branch held a Board meeting August 20 via Zoom video conferencing. We have decided to postpone our honorary tea and fundraiser until next spring. We are planning to go forward with two Branch meetings using Zoom. On September 15th, we will have an informal talk with the President of the HoCo League of Women Voters, Cynthia Williams, about putting together a voting plan given the various ways in which you can exercise your right to vote. There are certain changes in how and where to vote during the November 2020 election as a result of the pandemic.

On October 20th, we will hold our second Branch meeting via Zoom for a presentation by our member, Lucie Geinzer, who will address whether we should abolish the electoral college. We will learn what the framers of the Constitution intended when they established the Electoral College, how the system works, separating facts from myth, and how we can abolish the electoral college.

Great Decisions (discussions on international issues) will meet via Zoom for the last time this year to discuss America's uneven approach to Artificial Intelligence and its consequences.

Looking for Program Ideas? Look at the AAUW Five Star Recognition Program

Mission-related programming is one of the elements of AAUW's Five Star recognition program. AAUW encourages states and branches to hold mission-related programs that are open to the public. Program ideas include publicizing the availability of the Work Smart online salary negotiation tool, or focusing on equity, leadership, education, or other elements of AAUW's strategic plan.

The five areas that the Five Star program emphasizes include programs, communications, public policy and research, advancement, and governance and sustainability. Program development resources on AAUW's website include

- Work Smart Online - <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/salary/>
- Operation Equity: Reading for Results - <https://www3.aauw.org/resource/operation-equity/>
- Career Center - <https://www.aauw.org/resources/career/boost-your-career/>
- Community Resource Mapping - <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/community-resource-mapping/>
- Fellowships and Grants - <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/>

- NCCWSL - <https://www.nccwsl.org/about/administrators/>

Earn a star for programs by hosting two to four programs that relate to AAUW's strategic plan and are open to the public. It's easy for Branch Presidents, Program VPs, Membership VPs, or Finance VPs to give your branch credit and report your progress on the AAUW Five-Star Program website at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>

Reflections from Kate during COVID-19

Submitted by Kate Campbell Stevenson

AAUW MD 2019-2020 Co-President



COVID-19 has presented all of us with physical, emotional, and economic challenges. We've had to learn to navigate this *new normal* with begrudging creativity to try to expand our "thinking outside the box." Much of our time is spent looking for new solutions on how to live meaningful and safe lives in a world still filled with the threat of contagion.

However, it's been a time of opportunity, too... Decluttering my house! No, that's really not going so well. The first few weeks we made progress clearing the piles in several rooms. Although we have good intentions...*someday* we'll finish that project. COVID-19 has forced us to reflect and reaffirm what is really important to us... family, good health, food, a roof over our heads and friends. So many people through no fault of their own have lost some or all of these things since this novel virus infected our country. My heart aches for them, for us, for all who have been so negatively impacted. But even through sadness, I've found opportunities to focus on gratitude.

I've been thinking of how AAUW has inspired me over the last quarter century. Virginia Guest guided me from some county women's conference to a

Kensington-Rockville Branch board meeting the following week. There I met Julie Snell, Jean Thompson, Margi Sullivan, Ella Iams, Parma Holt and Jean Colburn at Jeri Rhodes house. They changed my life. The warm welcome of the whole board uplifted me and gave me confidence as they listened to my pitch about a musical one-woman show featuring strong women role models. Their validation provided the inspiration I needed to make my endeavor a reality. Shortly thereafter, I heard Dian Belanger speak at a Rockville Branch meeting about the newly released AAUW report *How Schools Shortchange Girls*, featuring the groundbreaking research of Drs. Myra and David Sadker. Wow—that report was exactly what my daughter was experiencing in school at that time. I found “my people” who really understood my deep concerns about women’s issues and my young children’s education.

Over the years I’ve been schooled and mentored by some amazing AAUW women leaders from throughout Maryland and other Mid-Atlantic states. The MAR (Mid-Atlantic Regional) Conference at Bryn Mawr College was an early outstanding experience for me. I learned valuable leadership lessons watching Anita Rosen and Marsha Luce negotiate and skillfully merge the Kensington and Rockville Branches in 2002. A most memorable time was when the K-R Branch hosted, housed, fed, and chauffeured an amazing group of emerging young Russian women leaders for five days.

It was mind-blowing to me to learn that these young Russian women had no idea about non-profit groups and especially how they get started. They thought the government just gave you the money to start it. No, we explained, most grass roots non-profits are born with a group of thoughtful, committed people sitting around a kitchen table discussing good ideas to help solve big problems. That seemed unfathomable to our guests. I remember feeling exhausted after many tours to national monuments, a county court judge, women’s shelters, many shared

meals and conversations, and performing a show about American Women in history for them. When we said goodbye to the Russian women as they stepped onto their bus, I was mighty proud of our combined K-R Branch for pulling off this major event.

As the years went by, I worked with and learned from many amazing AAUW leaders. I stand on your shoulders with gratitude for my personal awakening on so many issues.

Within the last five years I’ve been truly inspired and feel called to participate more in Public Policy to advocate for laws to improve the lives of women and families. I invite anyone interested to contact the public policy team. I first learned how to be a better advocate for women and girls through Anita Rosen’s dedication to getting the word out through the AAUW two-minute activist posts and connecting members with our local and state politicians. Recently working with Anita and Erin Prangley, Kashay Webb, Anna Palmisano, Senator Susan Lee, and members of MLAW- I found my voice to go to the state legislature and testify in front of various legislative committees. I learned it’s *hard* to get a new law passed and it takes time and effort. And now with Erin Prangley’s State leadership and our new Public Policy Chairs, Roxanne King and Kashay Webb we continue to be in an excellent position for AAUW MD to be a powerful voice to improve the lives of women and children in our state. I encourage anyone interested in contributing in this effort to contact Roxanne or Kashay. YOU can really make a difference.

Being part of AAUW provides constant opportunities to be better educated on so many issues. I’m excited and grateful for the efforts of Jacki Gray-Baltimore Branch, who heads up the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Through her leadership and perseverance, especially the last two years, we are learning how to be better informed--How we can be part of the solution to our serious national challenges on race equality, by listening, leading and better advocating. Stay tuned to new zoom events.

COVID-19 has changed our personal and professional worlds and how we connect with our friends and membership. I've had some wonderful phone conversations with many of my AAUW friends during COVID-19—just checking in with them to see how they are doing. I realize in writing this reflection I benefit as much as they- or even more during that connection. because they are the ones who have graced me with their friendship, time, and talents for so many years. I shall remain forever grateful.

I'm thinking of all of you! Stay well, happy, and active in whatever way possible.

In solidarity, Kate



Centennial Summit Available to View

AAUW MD was a proud co-sponsor of the Maryland Commission for Women's excellent August 26 virtual Summit, which commemorated the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment. A highlight was the keynote address by Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera of the Maryland Court of Appeals, the first woman to serve as the Chief of Maryland's highest court. She stressed the importance of making the promise of *equality under the law* a reality. Informative panel discussions focused on history, leadership, and the intersectionality of race and gender. A recording of this excellent event is available to view at the Maryland Commission for Women website:
<https://dhs.maryland.gov/maryland-commission-women/>

Seeking Nominations for State Office

Each year AAUW MD elects officers to serve two-year terms. At the spring 2021 AAUW MD convention we will be electing the following officers:

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Public Policy VP
- Membership VP

This year's Nominating Committee consists of representatives of four branches: ***Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Frederick, Garrett County, and Howard County Branch Presidents should either be selecting a person to serve on the Nominating Committee or plan to serve as the Committee member.***

Bernadette Low (who chaired last year's nominating committee) and Kate Campbell Stevenson (Co-Past President of AAUW MD) are also ex officio members of the Nominating Committee for this year.

The Committee will need ideas from all branches to identify those willing and able to serve. **Nominees may come from any branch or be members of AAUW MD without branch affiliation.**

Nominations will be needed by early in 2021 to provide required notice before the spring convention tentatively scheduled for May 22, 2021.

Reminder: Virtual Meetings Only

COVID-19 is still all around us, and the safety of our members and staff remains AAUW's top priority. AAUW strongly advises states and branches to avoid holding any in-person meetings or events at least through the end of the year, and in compliance with local and state guidance. We are proud of the affiliates holding creative and successful virtual meetings, elections, and programs. Keep up the great work!



The Marylander
 AAUW Maryland
 1343 Andre Street
 Baltimore, MD 21230

Our Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Our Vision: Equity for all.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status

Calendar	Contents
September 25 AAUW MD Executive Board Transition Meeting	Page 1.....President’s Letter
September 19 AAUW MD Bylaws Committee (10 am)	2.....Oct. 3 Fall Meeting Preview 2.....“Rigged” movie & MLAW Fall Meeting links
September 26 Screening (3 pm) & Discussion (4:15-5 pm) of the documentary movie Rigged	2.....Why NCCWSL?
October 3 AAUW MD Fall Meeting 10 am	4.....Legislative Update
November 14 MLAW virtual Fall Conference	5.....AAUW MD’s Diversity Program 6.....Bylaws Committee Report
December 1 Submit articles for the next issue of the Marylander to aauw-md@aauw.net	6.....Membership Matters!
May 22 AAUW MD Spring Meeting (tentative)	7.....Important News from National
Please check the calendar at https://aauw-md.aauw.net/calendar/ for ongoing updates and send activities for posting to aauw-md@aauw.net	8.....Anne Arundel County Branch News 8.....Howard County Branch News 9.....Looking for Program Ideas? 9.....Reflections from Kate during COVID-19
	11...Centennial Summit Available to View 11...Seeking Nominations for State Office 11...Reminder: Virtual Meetings Only