



The 2021 Program Report

Tracy Lantz and Pat Stocker, Co-Vice Presidents

In spite of the shutdown due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, AAUW had busy and engaging program year providing virtual meetings on a variety of topics. We are grateful to our members who participated enthusiastically in the programs outlined below, and for the patience of members as we all continue to wait for the opportunity to meet in person once again. We assume future programs will be offered both in person and virtually.

Highlights from the year:

September 26, 2020

Screening and discussion of “Rigged: The Voter Suppression Handbook.” This program, offered through Zoom, was in conjunction with Jacki Gray, Diversity Chair for AAUW Maryland. It dealt with incarceration of Black Americans and related issues.

October 3, 2020

As part of the Fall Conference, the film “Segregated By Design” was shown, followed by a discussion with Naimah Bhuruku from the Diversity and Inclusion Office of the Goddard Flight Center. The session focused on racial divisions in cities.

January 16, 2021

Although there is not generally a program component of the winter meetings, we included a structured discussion of the proposed national AAUW Bylaws change to remove any educational requirement for membership. Janet Crampton and Eileen Menton spoke in favor of the proposal while Dian Belanger and Pat Stocker spoke against the proposed change. As had been previously decided, the board took no position and the limited discussion was respectful and constructive.

April 24, 2021

Lisa Maatz, former head of government relations for national AAUW, spoke on “Let’s Discuss What’s Happening in Washington and Voting Rights” in a Zoom conference. She emphasized the threat to democracy posed by the voting restrictions proposed in many states, generally being put in place to discourage voting by minority and poor citizens.

May 22 and 23, 2021

The Maryland AAUW State Convention was held virtually this year, with the theme “The Power of Women Voters.” The primary focus was the Suffrage movement and passage of the 19th amendment just over 100 years ago. Kate Campbell Stevenson presented “Amending America: How Women Won the Vote,” a musical tribute to the women who campaigned for voting rights. Dr. Ida Jones spoke on “A Complicated Story of Women’s Suffrage in Black and White.” Dr. Jones is an author and University Archivist at Morgan State University, who noted that the path to voting rights for Black women was both

longer and more difficult than for White women. Other outstanding speakers included Delegate Lily Qi who addressed “Asian Americans and Maryland Politics” and Senator Susan Lee, who spoke on “Women’s Perspectives: A View from the 2021 Legislative Session.”