

# The Marylander

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



# Recognizing the Value of AAUW Maryland

By Tracy Lantz, President, AAUW Maryland

Greetings! I hope you have a joyful holiday and enjoy new beginnings as we enter 2023.

Today I want to take time to address an issue that many of you have shared with me. While most members understand the value of activity in their local branch, occasionally I hear people ask, "Why should I belong to the state organization?" Well, I think there are lots of reasons that AAUW is organized with local branches associated under a state umbrella. Here are just a few:

• AAUW Maryland provides a **legislative** presence through our public policy initiatives and involvement of all our members - fighting for issues important to our

members.

- Our Maryland state leaders participate in MLAW
   (Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women) to effectively
   work with other women-focused organizations for a
   more powerful voice in the state legislative process.
- We can rely on statewide e-mail communication on issues of importance to AAUW. These emails also connect us with the activities of other branches from the mountains of western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, reaching the borders with our neighboring states of Pennsylvania, Delaware, DC, Virginia, and West Virginia.
- The *Marylander* itself is an excellent source of news and branch events for the entire state organization. We also have an outstanding website to keep you connected.
- Our statewide meetings bring branch issues and projects to a statewide audience. Our meetings provide critical interaction and mutual learning opportunities for our branches. This affords us opportunities to educate others on issues of importance to women and girls.

# AAUW MD 2022-23 Winter Board Meeting

Saturday, January 28, 2023 3:00 – 5:30 pm

Via Zoom

AAUW members welcome
To receive Zoom link, RSVP to

AAUW-MD@aauw.net

• We speak with a stronger voice to national AAUW when we work together as a state organization.

 We are powerful as a state organization when raising funds for important initiatives including NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders)

- The state organization provides **support for our individual branches** as they take on issues unique to their members and communities.
- The statewide organization allows us to organize **collaborative events** of importance such as the Artist4ERA exhibit.

For me, Maryland AAUW is also important for the connections I've made with wise women - and men - from across the state, many of whom have become friends over the years, and the ability to maintain these friendships through being a member of AAUW Maryland. Time and again, I've gone back to these colleagues to ask for advice, to hear their perspectives on important issues, and to educate myself about the policies and legislation that affect women and girls in our state. And through the activities and programming at the state level, we continue to learn together. That's why I've valued being a member of AAUW Maryland for more than two decades.

Tracy Lantz, AAUW Maryland President



# **Thanks to AAUW MD Officers and Committee Chairs**

Tracy Lantz, President (2022-2024)

Erin Prangley, Past President (2022-2023)

Jacki Gray and Heather Reichert, Co-Vice Presidents for Programs (2022-2024)

Bea Dane, Vice President for AAUW Funds (2022-2024)

Lydia Alcock, Susana Hernández Martín, Victoria Kinnear, and Susan Wierman, Co-Vice Presidents for Communications (2022-2024)

Roxann King and Debby Chessin, Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy (2021-2023)

Christine Schmitz, Vice President for Membership (2021-2023)

Edie Allison, Secretary (2021-2023)

Carol Mueller, Treasurer (2021-2023)

Carolyn Fisher, Chair of Diversity and Inclusion (2022-2024)

Diane Roca, Chair of Bylaws Committee (2022-2024)

Terry Saylor, Archivist (2022-2024)



# **2023 Nominating Committee Seeks Volunteers**

Becoming an officer or committee chair with AAUW Maryland is a great way to gain leadership experience, make new friends, and further the mission of AAUW. The 2023 Nominating Committee is charged with identifying nominees for AAUW MD Secretary, Treasurer, Public Policy Vice President, Membership Vice President, and the 2024 Nominating Committee. Members from any branch are eligible for nomination, so don't be shy! The 2023 Nominating Committee members are: • Ruth Spivak - Kensington Rockville, • Dorothy Fraquelli - Baltimore, • Jeannie Parr - Howard County, and • Bernadette Low - Harford County.

### **News & Announcements**

## **Public Policy Update**

By Roxann King & Debby Chessin, AAUW MD Public Policy Co-VP's, and Anita Rosen

### **Advocacy Training**

AAUW Maryland will hold a **virtual Advocacy Training session on January 10, 7:30 – 8:15 p.m**. If you would like to join the event, please register to attend using this link: <a href="http://evite.me/Txn2veEgRg">http://evite.me/Txn2veEgRg</a>.

### 2023 Women's Legislative Briefing - Virtual

AAUW MD Member Anita Rosen is representing us on the planning committee for the virtual 2023 Women's Legislative Briefing, from 12:30 - 5:00 pm on Sunday, January 29. This year's theme is: Empowered Women Protect Democracy. This will be the 43<sup>rd</sup> year for the Briefing, hosted by the Montgomery County Commission for Women. AAUW Maryland will again be a sponsor. The purpose of the Briefing is to inform the residents of our state about legislative proposals before local, state, and national legislative bodies that address issues of specific concern to women. If you wish to work with Anita in promoting this event, contact her at anitarosen123@gmail.com. This event is the biggest event in Maryland of its type, drawing individuals, sororities, advocacy groups, lawyers, and politicians from throughout the state to discuss the legislation needed to advance the welfare of women and their families.

The Montgomery County Commission for Women has established a tuition scholarship to support a high achieving student at Montgomery College who is pursuing a major in Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM). Please consider supporting this worthy cause when registering for the WLB. Again this year, special seminars will be offered for students in grades 6 - 12 through the **Emerging Leaders track.** 

To register for the virtual meeting go to: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-womens-legislative-briefing-registration-427538478097">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-womens-legislative-briefing-registration-427538478097</a>

\$22 - Now Through January 27, 2023

\$30 - January 28 - January 29, 2022

\$5 Students/Emerging Leaders

## Preparing for the 2023 Session of the Maryland General Assembly

After participating in the Fall Conference of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women and submitting our ranking for the proposed bills, we are awaiting the announcement of the MLAW agenda. As soon as it is announced, the branch public policy chairs will meet to determine our state agenda and begin work on testimony. The 2023 Maryland General Assembly meets from January 11 to April 10. We will be very busy very soon. Individuals and Branches are encouraged to be MLAW members. Here's where you can join: <a href="https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/join-mlaw/">https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/join-mlaw/</a>.

## **Upcoming AAUW MD Programs**



By Heather Reichert, Co-VP for Programs

#### <u>Save the Date/Event Alert – Artists4ERA! — Reception March 3</u>

Three Maryland branches have come together with other organizations to help organize an event to support enshrining the Equal Rights Amendment into law as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. They are working through VoteEquality.us, a national organization whose mission is to advocate for the ERA to be certified by the National

Archivist. This would be the last step in solidifying gender equality as law across the United States.

The Baltimore, Howard, and Anne Arundel branches successfully applied for an AAUW MD 'mini grant' to help set up an exhibit of ERA-related posters in Catonsville, MD February 27 - March 5, 2023.

Artists 4 ERA will provide posters by well-known artists. These works of art visually heighten awareness of the need to finalize the ERA. The signed posters will be sold through a silent auction and a raffle, raising money for Artists4ERA and VoteEquality.us to advocate for the ERA. All the posters can be seen at **Artists4ERA.org**.

As stated on their Artists4ERA website:

"Through partnerships with well-known artists, this project depicts diverse groups and communities, including LGBTQIA+, Black women, women of color, Indigenous peoples, and young people, to help them see themselves in the struggle for equal rights in the Constitution. The art created for the project will financially support VoteEquality's work to ensure gender equality is part of our Constitution through online and live releases of limited edition, signed ERA art prints."

The Garrett County branch held a very successful Artists4ERA reception, selling posters and other items, earlier this year. Current AAUW Maryland President Tracy Lantz, who attended, said she was "inspired by AAUW Garrett's work in collaboration with other local women's organizations to host such a successful event. The artwork is beautiful, and it, along with the testimony of those involved, was a reminder that our work towards equal rights is not done."

In addition to the poster silent auction, women of varying ages on two discussion panels will highlight their experiences experiencing discrimination and overcoming gender bias.

Members of the organizing committee include **AAUW**: Tracy Lantz (State President), Carolyn Fisher (State Diversity Chair), Roxann King and Debby Chessin (Anne Arundel Co.), Denise Gray (Baltimore), Beth Hayden (Howard Co.); **Maryland Women's** 

Example poster by Hannah Rothstein

MISSING

Heritage Center: Bea Dane; and Catonsville Dismantling Racism Committee: Nancy Henderson.

LOCATION: Baltimore County Arts Guild Clubhouse – Catonsville: 10 Saint Timothy's Lane, Catonsville

**EXHIBIT DATES: February 27 - March 5** 

RECEPTION/SILENT AUCTION/RAFFLE: Friday, March 3, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

SAVE THESE DATES AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY ATTENDING THE EXHIBIT AND RECEPTION!

## **AAUW Funds Update**



## **Support the 2023 AAUW Maryland Woman of Distinction!**

By Bea Dane, VP AAUW Funds

**AAUW Maryland congratulates State Senator Susan C. Lee as our 2023 Woman of Distinction!** She will be honored at AAUW's 2023 National Conference of Collegiate Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) event in late May. Lee represents District 16, which is in

Montgomery County, and she is the State Senate Majority Whip. She is the first Asian American elected to the Maryland State Senate and was the first Asian American woman and first Chinese American to be elected to the Maryland legislature. She is one of the strongest advocates for women in the Maryland state legislature.

As we have done for many years past, **our goal is to raise \$20,000 to be a Platinum Sponsor of the NCCWSL Woman of Distinction event**. As the end of the calendar year approaches, we encourage all members and branches to consider the Woman of Distinction fund in your philanthropy plans — **any amount is welcome!** (See below for how to donate.)

Thanks in advance for your generosity as we once again aim high to support this event! **Let's honor Senator Lee for her support of all women in Maryland.** 

To donate by check:

Make your check out to AAUW.

On the check put the fund name and number:

4355-Maryland Women of Distinction (NCCWSL) Fund.

Mail to: AAUW 1310 L Street, NW Suite 1000

Washington, D.C. 20005

#### To donate online:

Go to aauw.org

Click on the big red Donate button on the upper right corner.

Scroll down until you see:

4355-Maryland Women of Distinction (NCCWSL) Fund.

Click on Count Me In.

You will then be asked to login or create a new account if you don't have one.

This should bring you to the donation page.

Choose the amount you wish to donate.

Complete the other required information and **Checkout.** 

(All donations to this fund are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.)

#### **Thank you!**



## **Communications Report**



#### Welcome AAUW Maryland's New Co-Vice Presidents for Communications

By Susan S.G. Wierman, Co-Vice President for Communications & Marylander Editor

Thanking the Nominating Committee for quick work, the AAUW Maryland Board of Directors elected three volunteers to fill the vacant position created when Erin Prangley resigned as

Co-Vice President for Communications. Susan Wierman (Marylander editor) will continue as one of four Co-Vice Presidents, including Victoria Kinnear (<u>Facebook editor</u>) as well as Susana Hernández Martín and Lydia Alcock (<u>webmasters</u>). All are members of the Baltimore Branch. Here are brief introductions:

**Lydia Alcock** is the Director of Operations and Marketing at Maryland Nonprofits. She previously worked at Maryvale Preparatory School, Port Discovery Children's Museum, and the Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access, and she has extensive experience volunteering with an animal rescue nonprofit. Born in England and raised in New York, Lydia moved to Baltimore in 2008 to earn her B.A. from Johns Hopkins University, and recently joined the Baltimore Branch.

Susana Hernández Martín came from Cuba to Towson University as a recipient of the 2021-22 Dian Belanger fellowship from AAUW. She is the founder and co-director of "Q de Cuir," the only magazine in Cuba dedicated to and produced by members of the LGBTQ+ community. This year, while she finishes her master's degree, she is a Communications Fellow with Maryland Latinos Unidos and Maryland Nonprofits. Susanna creates marketing materials promoting the organizations' programs and initiatives.

**Victoria Kinnear** is a professional genealogist and owner of My Ancestors Lived Here. She has researched for television shows including Finding My Roots, Who Do You Think You Are? and Genealogy Roadshow. She is Vice Regent and Registrar of the General Smallwood Chapter in DAR, and she is the current Registrar for the Mary Young Pickersgill Chapter of the Daughters of 1812. Victoria also holds a position on the National Insignia Committee of DAR. Victoria earned degrees from the University of Maryland Baltimore County in Psychology, Sociology, and Interdisciplinary Studies focused on Violence and Aggression. She rejoined the Baltimore Branch after returning to Maryland from California.

## **Membership Report**



#### By Christine Schmitz, AAUW MD Membership Vice President

Thank you for all your efforts inputting your renewing and new members into the new Community Hub system. If you have any continuing questions with this work, please feel free to reach out to me. My cell is 410-375-1820 and my email is Christine.schmitz@glassjacobsonia.com. You can continue to add people even though the actual deadline of November 30 has passed.

I am pleased to say we have had some new members joining our various Branches recently. We look forward to meeting all of you throughout the coming year. Please know that you are always encouraged to attend AAUW Maryland events.



# **Branch Activities Connect Members and Advance Mission**

#### **Baltimore Branch**

Co-Chairs Janice Zimmerman and Denise Gray welcome all members to attend Baltimore Branch meetings. We are looking forward to a virtual **January 19** presentation by Nancy R Goldring about historic East Towson, Baltimore County's oldest African American community, founded by freed slaves from the Hampton estates. Email Baltimore-md@aauw.net for Zoom instructions. **On February 11, the branch will hold its annual Valentine's Day Luncheon featuring Tiffany Sanchez, Vice President of Fellowships and Programs at AAUW.** Details about this meeting will be available soon—email for more information.

### **Bethesda-Chevy Chase Branch**

Pat Stocker, Branch President, extends a warm welcome to attend the Branch's monthly meetings. The speakers planned for early 2023 include: January 14: Donna Phillips Mason on "Challenges of Aging." Ms. Mason is a specialist in the field of aging, with 30 years of broad-based experience at the national, state, and local levels. February 11: Former MD Attorney General, Brian Frosh on "Reflections on Over 35 Years of Service in Maryland Government." Before becoming Attorney General (2015-2023), Frosh served five terms in the Maryland State Senate and two terms in the Maryland House of Delegates. March 11: Mark Medish on "National and International Perspectives on U.S. Policies." Mr. Medish leads a civic action group dedicated to election integrity and previously served in the White House under President Clinton and at the U.S. Treasury as Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs.

Branch meetings are all at 11:00 a.m. at Fox Hill, 8300 Burdette Road, Bethesda, MD 20817. It's handicapped accessible, and plenty of parking is available.

### **Garrett County Branch**

Judy Carbone, Branch President writes that it's been said our Garrett Branch is small but mighty. The description is a good one. We consistently have about twenty-five members (give or take a few), but we always get a lot done with the support of a much larger group of friends, allies, and donors.

Since our last update, we have been involved with and accomplished a great deal. We've been involved in a craftivism project to help educate our community that the Equal Rights Amendment still needs to be certified as a part of the US Constitution. We've given out about a dozen scholarships to women continuing their education. We've held our Annual Meeting where we met some of our scholarship winners and elected our officers. We've held three Cocktails & Convos events. We've been part of the Victorian Chautauqua including the unveiling ceremony of the Julia Ruhl House. We were the lead organizer of the Women's Equality Day 2022 event, which focused on the work still to be done for women's equality. We've supported the creation of the new Women's Society in both Southern Middle School and Southern High School. We were part of the 150th Anniversary Celebration of Garrett County with some of our Women's Monologues about women suffragists in our local history. We successfully completed our 19<sup>th</sup> summer of managing the End-of-the-Line Bookstore. And we've tried to keep our community aware of women's equity issues through articles in the paper and an active AAUW-Garrett Branch Facebook page.

That's a lot of work for a small branch with so much going on in the world around us and in our personal lives! But we do it all with the involvement and support of so many people who believe in what we are doing. Our branch is strengthened when each of us is engaged and working on something meaningful to promote women's issues. We look forward to more of these and other activities in 2023. Our first event will be a session on AAUW History with Dian Belanger of the Kensington-Rockville Branch. She has graciously offered to come to Garrett County to deliver the presentation in person, although with Garrett County winter weather being as challenging as it is, we've set a snow date just in case. It'll be a great way to start the new year! All from AAUW-Maryland are welcome to attend."

### **Howard County Branch**

Beth Hayden, President of Howard County Branch, announced the branch is hosting a **fundraiser on Saturday**, **December 17 at the Horse Spirits Arts Gallery** in Savage Mill, MD from 1 to 4 pm. There will be a special tour, demo, and presentation by **artist Deborah Maklowski**, and two gift card drawings along with wine and light refreshments. We are asking for a \$20 donation which will all go towards our scholarships at Howard Community College. The event is open to the public and we hope others from nearby branches will stop in and perhaps finish their holiday shopping with a purchase from the gallery. The address is 8600 Foundry Street, The Cotton Shed Building, Savage Mill, MD. Come and have some holiday fun!

Howard County also looks forward to welcoming you to the 2023 AAUW Maryland Convention April 15. See next page for details, mark your calendar, and plan to attend!

# **Editorial: MD Waiting Times in Emergency Rooms Highest in U.S.**

Long waiting times in emergency rooms continue to reduce the quality of Maryland health care, and **Anna Palmisano of the AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch** continues to press for improvements. Her opinion article "How can we reduce wait times in Maryland Hospitals?" was published by **Maryland Matters** online December 8, 2022. She says Marylanders wait longer for Emergency Room care than those in any other state. "With an average wait time of almost four hours, patients may leave without treatment, leading to potentially adverse consequences and negative health outcomes." Palmisano calls for the General Assembly to establish a taskforce to study the problem in Maryland and other states, find best practices, and recommend improvements. (Thanks to Heather Reichert for calling attention to this opinion piece.)

As Director of **Marylanders for Patient Rights**, Anna Palmisano led a coalition of supporters in their four-year successful quest to finally get Maryland to adopt the **Maryland Hospital Patients' Bill of Rights** in 2019.

## My Healthy Maryland DNA Research Study

My Healthy Maryland Precision Medicine Research is a long-term research study developed by University of Maryland Medicine to create a resource representative of the diversity of Maryland to advance a broad range of health-related research, from understanding the genetic and molecular basis of rare and common health conditions, to studies to improve the value and efficiency of our health care system. They are looking for Maryland residents over age 18 to participate. If you're interested, check it out at <a href="https://www.marylandprecisionhealth.org/en/myhealthymaryland">https://www.marylandprecisionhealth.org/en/myhealthymaryland</a>. (Thanks to Eileen Menton for contributing this information.)



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



## **AAUW Maryland Annual Convention**

Hosted by AAUW Howard County Branch

Saturday, April 15, 2023 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Howard Community College in the Kittleman Room

## We will continue the discussion on

## **Inequalities in Health Care Affecting Women and Girls**

What is the "Fourth Trimester?" Health officials consider this a crucial period after the birth of a child. Unfortunately, the United States has a growing problem with providing adequate healthcare to women who have recently given birth. The rate of maternal death in the U.S. is nearly three times that of other developed countries.

We will hear from experts in this field to understand the reasons behind this startling statistic and what can be done to improve healthcare and monitoring for new mothers. Often the baby gets all the attention. The signals that the mother is struggling are missed—or dismissed.

We expect to accommodate both virtual and in-person attendance.

Registration form will be available soon.

Check the AAUW-MD website for ongoing updates.

We look forward to seeing everyone in April!

Jacki Gray & Heather Reichardt Co-Vice Presidents for Programs



#### Plan to Attend a Pre-Convention Dinner & Tribute to Eileen Menton

By Pat Stocker, former President, AAUW Maryland; President, AAUW Bethesda Chevy-Chase

Please plan to join us as we honor Eileen Menton on April 14, 2023, at a dinner the evening before the AAUW Maryland State Convention in Howard County. We will honor Eileen's life membership, steadfast commitment, selfless leadership, and extraordinary generosity.

As we mark the conclusions of her terms as a member of the national AAUW Board of Directors and co-Vice President of Communications for AAUW Maryland, it is a fitting time to recognize and thank Eileen for her extraordinary contributions.



Eileen is also a Past President of AAUW Maryland, and she has served as our Secretary, Educational Foundation Vice President, and Web Master/Facebook administrator. Eileen served as President of the Baltimore branch and in virtually every leadership capacity for the Laurel, Easton, and Baltimore branches.

In honor of her mother, Eileen created an AAUW International Fellowship that has helped support numerous students. In addition, from 2008 to 2014, she was President of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF) – now named Women First – an international fund helping women and girls in developing economies.

Eileen earned her bachelor's degree from Washington College (MD) and master's degree from the University of Maryland University College. For more than 32 years she worked at the U.S. Department of Justice, including positions as a legal systems manager and as the Associate Executive Officer for Planning and Administration at the Tax Division. Recently, she has worked online as a contractor serving the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Eileen's life has been about doing good, doing justice, doing giving. We are delighted to honor her past – and future – devotion to equality for women and girls at this special tribute dinner. Details will be provided with the announcement of the Maryland state convention.

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Pat Stocker, Erin Prangley, Sara Collina, Catherine Hill, and Tracy Lantz, at AAUW Maryland's annual convention, March 26, 2022, in Annapolis

# Tips for the New Year!



## **Take Care of AAUW State and Branch Records**

#### By Terry Sayler, AAUW MD Archivist

Wondering what to do with those AAUW records you have in a closet, in a box, under the bed? The AAUW MD records are held at the University of Maryland Libraries Special Collections. If you are a former State officer with AAUW MD papers that are cluttering your space, they may belong there. Here's a link to see what is held:

<u>Collection: Maryland Division of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) records | Archival</u> Collections (umd.edu)

If you have branch records that do not have a "home" and your branch does not deposit them at a local resource, like the public library, historical society or local college library, please contact Terry Sayler at saylerterry2@gmail.com. She is the State archivist and a volunteer at the University of Maryland Libraries Special Collections and will help you find a repository.

## Advance Your Leadership Skills & Find Key AAUW Policies & Resources

AAUW resources include dozens of Leader Essentials: how-to resources that help you build the necessary skills to be an effective leader and advance AAUW's mission. Leader Essentials include step-by-step processes, tips, and tricks for doing everything from recruiting new members to planning programs and developing future leaders. Here's the link: <a href="https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/">https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/</a>

## Remember to Pay your AAUW Dues!

The AAUW fiscal year began July 1. Have you paid your 2022-2023 dues? Check with your branch treasurer for confirmation or check your information on the AAUW website.

## Join the Community Hub

If you have trouble with the AAUW website, Eileen Menton is available to help. You can reach her at ementon@gmail.com. It's important to maintain your correct contact information on the AAUW website. Please remember to check your email and correct it as needed.



The Marylander AAUW Maryland 607 Wilton Road Towson, MD 21286

**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.

#### 2023 Calendar

- Jan. 10 Advocacy Training to prepare for the 2023 Legislative Session (Zoom)
- Jan. 28 Winter Board Meeting 3:00 pm via Zoom
- Jan. 29 Women's Legislative Briefing
- Feb. 27-Mar. 5 Artists4ERA exhibit at
  Baltimore County Arts Guild in
  Catonsville, including reception on
  Friday March 3
- April 14 Dinner and Tribute to Eileen Menton
- April 15 AAUW Maryland Convention at Howard County Community College

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