



BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE BRANCH NEWSLETTER
<http://bcc-md.aauw.net>

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Branch Meeting
Saturday, October 14, 10:00 a.m., Fox Hill,
8300 Burdette Road, Bethesda

Bill Frick
Representative of the 16th District
Montgomery County

“Legislative Preview”



Bill Frick has been a Member of Maryland House of Delegates since October 2, 2007 and is the current Majority Leader of the House. He has successfully championed legislation to rein in corporate welfare, promote clean energy, and help lower-income workers save for retirement. In his ten years in Annapolis, he has been part of votes to increase the minimum wage, enact marriage equality, support DREAM kids and repeal the death penalty. He'll discuss issues expected to come before the Maryland Legislature in the coming session.

October AAUW Book Club Announcement

Circling the Sun

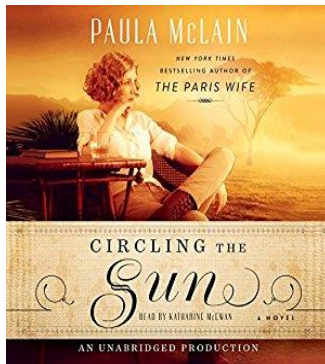
By Paula McLain

Meeting: **Wednesday, October 18**

Time: 12:30 pm

Location: **TBD**

Paula McLain, author of the phenomenal bestseller *The Paris Wife*, now returns with her keenly anticipated new novel that transports readers to colonial Kenya in the 1920s. *Circling the Sun* brings to life a fearless and captivating woman—Beryl Markham, a record-setting aviator caught up in a passionate love triangle with safari hunter Denys Finch Hatton and Karen Blixen, who as Isak Dinesen wrote the classic memoir *Out of Africa*.



Brought to Kenya from England as a child and then abandoned by her mother, Beryl is raised by both her father and the native Kipsigis tribe who share his estate. Her unconventional upbringing transforms Beryl into a bold young woman with a fierce love of all things wild and an inherent understanding of nature's delicate balance. But even the wild child must grow up, and when everything Beryl knows and trusts dissolves, she is catapulted into a string of disastrous relationships.

Beryl forges her own path as a horse trainer, and Her uncommon style attracts the eye of the Happy Valley set, a decadent, bohemian community of European expats who also live and love by their own set of rules. But it's the ruggedly charismatic Denys Finch Hatton who ultimately helps Beryl navigate the uncharted territory of her own heart. The intensity of their love reveals Beryl's truest self and her fate : to fly.

Set against the majestic landscape of early-twentieth-century Africa, McLain's powerful tale reveals the extraordinary adventures of a woman before her time, the exhilaration of freedom and its cost, and the tenacity of the human spirit.

BECOME A TWO-MINUTE ACTIVIST

Action Network is the cornerstone of AAUW's e-advocacy efforts. By signing up, you will join AAUW Action Network and receive urgent e-mail notices to contact your elected officials. With our online Two-Minute Activist tool, it takes just minutes to make your voice heard!

To sign up, go to www.aauw.org. Scroll down on right side of screen to "TAKE ACTION." Click on and then scroll down to "Become a Two-Minute Activist" and register.

Public Policy

Karen Braun and Fran Cressman have been busily contacting both state and Federal officials, who represent the state of Maryland, on various issues that concern branch members and AAUW in general. They have received several responses on the following topics:

Domestic Violence and Guns

Aruna Miller (Delegate, District 15, Montgomery County) writes that she introduced a bill that became law this past spring. The bill mandates courts to consider and honor victims' requests that offenders use electronic monitoring devices to track their location and alert the victim if the offender is near. This upcoming session, she plans to introduce gun legislation to close another loophole in Maryland's gun laws to keep guns out of the hands of certain individuals who could be a danger to themselves or others. She also raised another concern: the chilling effect on research caused when "Congress passed a measure forbidding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 'to advocate or promote gun control.' In effect, this prohibition stopped all CDC gun violence research and related studies funded by NIH." She said this makes it hard for policymakers, like herself, to get the evidence needed to guide decision making and encouraged us to stay engaged in these important issues.

Brian J. Feldman (Senator, District 15, Montgomery County) pointed out that Maryland passed strong gun legislation four years ago that requires fingerprinting and special training for handgun purchasers, as well as banning forty-five types of assault rifles and magazines. However, he says that there is more work to do.

Susan Lee (Senator, District 16, Montgomery County) sponsored legislation that passed to expand the disqualifying crimes list to include persons who received probation before judgment for domestically-related crimes.

Funding Public Schools

John K. Delaney (U.S. House of Representatives Maryland's 6th District) writes that he recently supported a stronger investment in early education and our nation's schools by introducing legislation to fund optional high-quality free pre-K to 4-year-olds across the country. In May 2017, President Trump's budget included a 13% budget cut to the Department of Education.

Escalation of Tensions between the United States and North Korea

Senator Ben Cardin (U.S. Senate) coauthored and helped pass a bill to impose significant sanctions on North Korea. He writes that the international community looks to the U.S. for leadership to avoid a military conflict, and it is imperative that the Trump Administration halt its threatening rhetoric and work with the Congress and allies to maintain a cohesive strategy towards the regime.

Jamie Raskin (U.S. House of Representatives Maryland's 8th District) writes that in an effort to restrain Trump from deliberately or accidentally launching a nuclear war, he cosponsored a bill to prevent the President from carrying out a first-use nuclear strike without a Congressional declaration of war that explicitly authorizes a strike. He says that he has also urged Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to restrain the President in his response to Kim Jong Un.

MEETINGS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- October 7
Saturday **Board Meeting**, 10:00 am, at Fox Hill, 8300 Burdette Road, Bethesda. All members are welcome.
- October 14
Saturday **Branch Meeting**, 10:00 am, at Fox Hill. The speaker will be Bill Frick, Representative of the 16th District (Montgomery County). He will present a Legislative Preview. Pat Stocker will be the hostess.
- October 18
Wednesday **AAUW Book Club**, 12:30 pm, at the home of Charlene Currie, 5709 Trafton Place, Bethesda (301-530-2442). The book is “Circling the Sun” by Paula McLain. RSVP: Pat Stocker (PatStocker@aol.com, 301-229-0991).
- October 26
Thursday, **Gourmet Group**, 7:00 pm, at the home of Karen Braun, 8027 Cobble Creek Circle, Potomac. The cuisine is Greek. Call Charlene Currie, at 301-530-2442, if you would like to attend.