



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

March 2018

President
Renita Johnson
202-262-6602
renita1x106@yahoo.com

Editor
Charlene Currie
301-530-2442
charlene.currie@verizon.net

Branch Meeting
Saturday, March 17, 10:00 a.m., Fox Hill,
8300 Burdette Road, Bethesda

Court Watch Montgomery:
Protecting Domestic Violence Victims

Laurie Duker
Co-Founder and Executive Director, Court Watch Montgomery



Laurie Duker is co-founder and executive director for Court Watch Montgomery. Court Watch changes and saves lives by improving the way Montgomery County judges, interpreters, bailiffs and clerks handle domestic violence cases. In 2017, seventy residents of Montgomery County, including some members of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Branch of AAUW, put in over 8,000 hours working with Court Watch to make sure that our courts are fully implementing domestic violence law to help victims end their abuse quickly and permanently. Court Watch was started in 2010 by Laurie Duker and Judy Whiton.

They had been helping domestic violence victims and were both very troubled by what they observed in domestic violence hearings. They together began Court Watch and started local and statewide discussions about what systemic changes were needed to better protect intimate partner violence victims. Their impact has gone well beyond Montgomery County. Indeed, when Samantha Bee took on the issue of domestic violence on her Full Frontal show, she used Court Watch's "Abusers with Guns" report to do it.

Laurie will update us on the work of Court Watch Montgomery, including issues that have come before the Maryland State Legislature this session.

Concert
Students from the Duke Ellington School for the Arts

There will also be a short concert by students from the Duke Ellington School for the Arts at the beginning of the meeting. They are always extremely talented and entertaining. The Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAUW branch makes a modest donation to the school each year.

**THE MONTGOMERY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER
FOR THE 2017-2018 ACADEMIC YEAR**

We are again asking for your 100% tax-deductible contribution to the Bethesda-Chevy Case AAUW Montgomery College Scholarship Fund. Last year we gave \$1,520 to a deserving woman. Support for our own community college is not a part of the AAUW Educational Fund but is encourage by AAUW Maryland and enables our individual branch members to voluntarily provide needed funds for mature women of high scholastic merit and financial need to pursue their educational goals.

PLEASE HELP! ANY CONTRIBUTION WILL BE APPRECIATED.

Please clip and mail with your 100% tax-deductible contribution, made payable to **THE MONTGOMERY COLLEGE FOUNDATION**, to Charlene Currie, 5709 Trafton Place, Bethesda, MD 20817.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

AMOUNT_____

Esther Alford recently died. She was a longtime member of the branch and a generous donor to the Montgomery Scholarship Fund. The board decided that the funds donated by this branch will be given to the Montgomery Scholarship Fund in memory of Esther.

MEMBERSHIP DUES – 2018–2019

Regular Members **\$82 (\$85 if paid after May 31)**
Includes \$59 for national association (raised \$10),
\$10 for AAUW Maryland, and
\$16 for Bethesda–Chevy Chase Branch

\$56 is TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Paid Life Members	\$26
Honorary Life Member	0
Dual Member (multiple branches)	\$16

NAME_____

–

ADDRESS_____

PREFERRED PHONE_____

EMAIL_____

–

DEGREE(S) & COLLEGE/UNIV_____

If you have an e-mail address on file with AAUW, you will have the opportunity to renew on line. They will send you the information via e-mail. If you would prefer to send a personal check, please send this form and a check made out to B–CC AAUW to: Charlene Currie, 5709 Trafton Place, Bethesda, Maryland 20817.

PUBLIC POLICY

By Karen Braun

CourtWatch Montgomery is a non-profit which our branch has supported with donations the past two years. Read what they have achieved as a result of their advocacy.

In 2017, County Executive Ike Leggett added initial funds for a Safe Exchange Center to provide for both monitored child exchanges and supervised visits for families experiencing domestic violence. Such Centers can reduce stress for the entire family by providing a critical safety net and a healing environment for families in crisis.

Survivors of domestic violence will now be able to transfer their children for court-ordered visits without fear of violence or harassment while avoiding all contact with their abuser. No more stressful and dangerous handing children over in public parking lots. At the Center, a parent enters one side of the building, passing through a security system and then waiting in cheerful, child-friendly rooms until the other parent enters using another parking lot and a different door, then waiting in a different room until the child (or children) are transferred by a trained monitor.

Judges may also order supervised visits to occur in one of the Safe Passage playrooms when they believe unsupervised visits may put the child at risk. All services are free to County residents.

On January 19, an enthusiastic group of interested parties, volunteers and County Council members celebrated the opening of the Center with tours, a ribbon cutting, and nibbles. Laurie Duker, the Executive Director of CourtWatch Montgomery, was acknowledged by just about every speaker as being the force behind the legislation that authorized the Center. One Council member who spoke said this was the most significant accomplishment of his years on the Council. Another noted that the entire County Council voted unanimously to not only support Mr. Leggett's funding for the Center, but to add needed funds for additional security equipment and staff to allow the Center to be open more hours. He then said he looks forward to more centers opening in the future for the convenience of families in different sections of the County.

Laurie said CourtWatch will continue to monitor the awarding of Protective Orders, the usage of the Safe Exchange Center, and to advocate to further protect abuse victims and their children. I was proud to attend the ribbon cutting as a representative of our branch.

March AAUW Book Club Announcement

Being Mortal **Medicine and What Matters in the End** By Atul Gawande

Meeting: **Wednesday, March 28**

Time: 12:30 pm

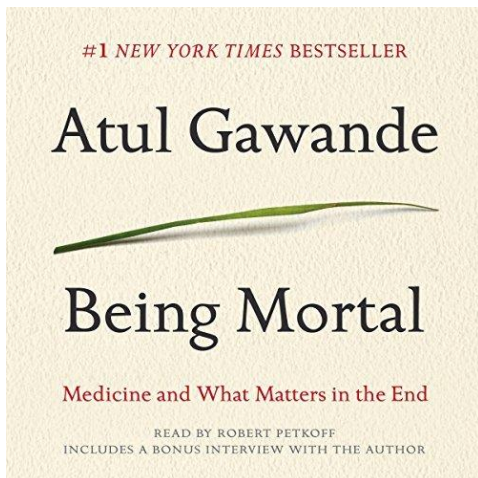
Location: The home of Lorraine Douglas

6104 Kirby Road

Bethesda, MD 20817

RSVP: Pat Stocker at patstocker@aol.com or 301-254-7141

Bring your own sandwich; beverages will be provided



In *Being Mortal*, best-selling author Atul Gawande tackles the hardest challenge of his profession: How medicine can not only improve life but also the process of its ending.

Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming birth, injury, and infectious disease from harrowing to manageable. But in the inevitable condition of aging and death, the goals of medicine seem too frequently to run counter to the interest of the human spirit. Nursing homes, preoccupied with safety, pin patients into railed beds and wheelchairs. Hospitals isolate the dying, checking for vital signs long after the goals of cure have become moot. Doctors, committed to extending life, continue to carry out devastating procedures that in the end extend suffering.

Gawande, a practicing surgeon, addresses his profession's ultimate limitation, arguing that quality of life is the desired goal for patients and families. Gawande offers examples of freer, more socially fulfilling models for assisting the infirm and dependent elderly, and he explores the varieties of hospice care to demonstrate that a person's last weeks or months may be rich and dignified.

Full of eye-opening research and riveting storytelling, *Being Mortal* asserts that medicine can comfort and enhance our experience even to the end, providing not only a good life but also a good end.

MEETINGS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| March 10
Saturday | Board Meeting , 10:00 am, at the home of Jane Josephs, 9109 Frairs Road, Bethesda. All members are welcome. |
| March 17
Saturday | Branch Meeting , 10:00 am, at Fox Hill, Performing Arts Center, Bethesda. Speaker: Laurie Duker will update us on the issues of Court Watch Montgomery. There also will be a short concert by students from the Duke Ellington School for the Arts at the beginning of the meeting. Karen Braun will be the hostess. |
| April 11
Wednesday | Gourmet Group , 7:00 pm, at the home of Fran Cressman, 11 Old Stage Court, North Bethesda. A dinner celebrating spring will be prepared. Call Karen Braun at 301-983-1216, if you would like to attend. |
| March 28
Wednesday | AAUW Book Club , 12:30 pm, at the home of Lorraine Douglas, 6104 Kirby Road, Bethesda (301-229-9096). The book is "Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End" by Atul Gawande. RSVP: patstocker@aol.com or 301-254-7141. |