



BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE BRANCH NEWSLETTER

November 2022

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FOX HILL
8300 Burdette Road
Bethesda, MD 20817
Handicapped accessible. Plenty of parking.

THIS MEETING WILL BE IN PERSON. FOX HILL MAY CHECK YOUR VACCINATION CERTIFICATE AND YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK. YOU ARE WELCOME TO BRING GUESTS!

Saturday, November 12, 11:00 a.m.

Charting Our End-of-Life Journey

Donna Smith, Maryland Campaign Director, Compassion & Choices

Our AAUW branch members have expressed an interest in learning about and advocating for society that affirms life and accepts the inevitability of death, embraces expanded options for compassionate dying, and empowers everyone to choose end-of-life care that reflects their values, priorities, and beliefs. We will hear from Donna Smith of Compassion & Choices who will outline efforts to legalize efforts for people to have the right to participate in their own end of life choices. She will share plans for introduction of legislation in the 2023 Maryland legislative session.



Donna was the Chief of Policy and Community Programs for eight years at the Maryland Department of Aging. She led a team of program managers that implemented statewide programs for the aging and their caregivers. She was also detailed to work on the White House Conference on Aging in as a public relations specialist.

Donna has been employed by Compassion and Choices (C&C) for 7 years. She is the Diversity & Inclusion Advisor, State Director (MD/DC). In this capacity she leads the Diversity and

Inclusion efforts in the Advocacy department and leads the campaign to pass End of Life Option legislation in both the District of Columbia (the legislation passed in Feb. 2017) and Maryland, where she organized and engaged over 17,000 volunteers and acted as a spokesperson on behalf of C&C. She is a graduate of Tuskegee University and George Washington Law School,

Compassion & Choices improves care, expands options and empowers everyone to chart their end-of-life journey. They are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and have 450,000 supporters active in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Guam and Puerto Rico.

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

As I write this, I have just completed my mail-in ballot for the fall midterm election. It is a reminder to me of the importance of our voices – particularly women's voices – in setting the direction of our state and country. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will note that our two upcoming Bethesda-Chevy Chase branch meetings focus on **using our voices to make a difference**. For our November meeting, we will hear from Compassion and Choice about legislation being proposed in the Maryland legislature. Faced with a terminal diagnosis, Maryland residents deserve the full range of options for care at the end of life, including medical aid in dying. Medical Aid in Dying allows terminally ill adults to get a prescription they can take to end their life peacefully. This bill affirms life and accepts the inevitability of death, embraces expanded options for compassionate dying, and empowers everyone to choose end-of-life care that reflects their values, priorities, and beliefs. The bill supports the concept that medical aid in dying should be an open and accessible medical practice. If this is an issue that matters to you, this is your chance to learn more. Then for our December meeting, Senator Susan Lee, who represents Maryland's 16th District, will give us a preview of issues which are expected to come before the Maryland legislative session beginning in January 2023. A new member of our branch, Senator Lee is among Maryland's strongest advocates for women's issues of concern to AAUW, Susan led efforts to pass an aggressive agenda of legislation to fight domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking; economically empower women, children and families; secure funding for statewide rape crisis centers; and authorize the placing a statue of Marylander and American hero Harriet Tubman in the United States Capitol. I invite you to learn from these branch meetings about issues that affect you and your neighbors. Remember that all of our meetings are open to others, and you are welcome to bring your friends with you to any meeting.



See you November 12!

Pat

Pat Stocker, Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAUW President

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Branch meeting dates, all at 11:00 a.m. at Fox Hill, for this program year will be: **November 12, 2022; December 10, 2022; January 14, 2023; February 11, 2023; March 11, 2023; April 15, 2023; and May 13, 2023.**

Board/Leadership meetings will be held via Zoom on January 7, 2023; and March 4, 2023.

Upcoming Meetings

December 10, 2022

Women's Issues in Maryland: A Look Ahead to the Maryland Legislative Session

Senator Susan Lee, District 16, Maryland

Susan C. Lee represents District 16, which includes Bethesda, Chevy Chase, Friendship Heights, Potomac, Rockville, Cabin John, and Glen Echo. She was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 2002 and to the Senate in 2014 to represent



District 16 and has been described as the General Assembly's leader on cyber security and innovation, identity theft, online fraud, and consumer protection issues. Maryland's strongest advocate for women's issues of concern to AAUW, Susan led efforts to pass an aggressive agenda of legislation to fight domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking; economically empower women, children and families; secure funding for statewide rape crisis centers; and authorize the placing a statue of Marylander and American hero Harriet Tubman in the United States Capitol. Susan

also is a champion of education, the environment, public safety, civil rights, transportation, quality health care, telemedicine, bioscience, clean energy, and emerging technologies.

April 15, 2023

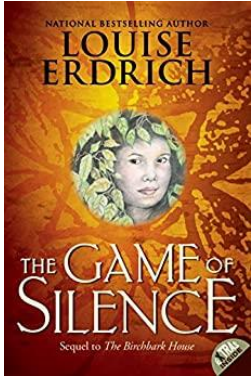
AAUW Maryland Convention – Howard County

More information to come, but this is your opportunity to spend a day with other Maryland AAUW members.

Literature Group /Book Club

The combined Bethesda-Chevy Chase and Kensington-Rockville Literature Group will meet on Tuesday, November 8 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will discuss **The Game of Silence** by Louise Erdrich.

Winner of the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, *The Game of Silence* is the second novel in the critically acclaimed Birchbark House series by *New York Times* bestselling author Louise Erdrich.



From Amazon: Her name is Omakayas, or Little Frog, because her first step was a hop, and she lives on an island in Lake Superior. One day in 1850, Omakayas's island is visited by a group of mysterious people. From them, she learns that the chimookomanag, or white people, want Omakayas and her people to leave their island and move farther west.

That day, Omakayas realizes that something so valuable, so important that she never knew she had it in the first place, could be in danger: Her way of life. Her home.

The Birchbark House Series is the story of one Ojibwe family's journey through one hundred years in America. The *New York Times Book Review* raved about *The Game of Silence*: "Erdrich has created a world, fictional but real: absorbing, funny, serious and convincingly human."

If you are interested in participating, please contact Pat Stocker at patstocker@aol.com.



AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW Vision Statement: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 135 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

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