



BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE BRANCH NEWSLETTER

January-February 2024
Website: <https://bcc-md.aauw.net/>

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

Saturday, February 10, 2024
11:00 a.m.

Facts and Falsehoods about Islam and Muslims: A Woman's Perspective

Dr. Sahar Khamis, University of Maryland

Dr. Sahar Khamis is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. Khamis is a media commentator and analyst, a public speaker, a human rights commissioner in the Human Rights Commission in Montgomery County, Maryland, and a radio host, who presents a monthly radio show on "U.S. Arab Radio" (the first Arab-American radio station broadcasting in the U.S. and Canada). Dr. Sahar Khamis is an expert on Arab and Muslim media, and the former Head of the Mass Communication and Information Science Department in Qatar University. She is a former Mellon Islamic Studies Initiative Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago.



She is the co-author of the books *Islam Dot Com: Contemporary Islamic Discourses in Cyberspace* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009) and *Egyptian Revolution 2.0: Political Blogging, Civic Engagement and Citizen Journalism* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), and the co-editor of *Arab Women's Activism and Socio-Political Transformation: Unfinished Gendered Revolutions* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018). Additionally, she authored and co-authored numerous book chapters, journal articles and conference papers, regionally and internationally, in both English and Arabic. She is the recipient of a number of prestigious academic and professional awards, as well as a member of the editorial boards of several journals in the field of communication, in general, and the field of Arab and Muslim media, in particular.

Upcoming Programs

**Saturday, March 9, 2024
11:00 A.M.**

Update on the Maryland Legislative Session

Senator Ariana Kelly, Maryland District 16

Senator Ariana Kelly will speak with us at our March meeting to discuss the current Maryland legislative session. A member of the Maryland House of Delegates from 2011-2023, she has been a member of the Maryland Senate since February 27, 2023,



filling the position of Susan Lee, who was named Maryland Secretary of State. Ariana Kelly grew up in Bethesda where she attended Walter Johnson High School. Kelly also attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she studied History, Women's Studies, and TV/Film Production.

She has an extensive background in nonprofit management, media, and social service. In her early career, she worked at Travelers Aid International, Girls Inc, and Legal Momentum. Brannigan Kelly also produced PBS' *To The Contrary*, a weekly news program. She covered a wide range of issues including state and federal legislation, business, education, health, and the environment. She specialized in the perspective of underrepresented populations including women and minorities.

Ariana also served as Executive Director at NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland where she led a nationally recognized campaign to investigate crisis pregnancy centers, and published *The Truth Revealed Report*. She also served as a Campaign Director for *MomsRising.org* where she worked on Healthcare Reform, Paid Family Leave, Pay Equity, Environmental Health, and Childcare.

Saturday, April 13, 2024

11:00 A.M.

A Million Miles: My Peace Corps Journey

Jody Olsen, Former Director of the Peace Corps

Dr. Josephine (Jody) Olsen, PhD, served as the 20th Director of the Peace Corps from March 2018 to January 2021. She worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tunisia from 1966 to 1968. From 1979 to 1981, she served as the Country Director in Togo before becoming the Regional Director for North Africa, Near East, Asia, and Pacific from 1981 to 1984. From 1984 until 1989, Jody served as Vice President of Youth for Understanding, a national student exchange organization.

She was the Peace Corps Chief of Staff from 1989 to 1992, the executive director of the International Exchange of Scholars from 1992 until 1997, the senior vice president of the Academy for Educational Development from 1997 until 2002, a development



consultancy. and the Deputy Director of the Peace Corps from 2002 to 2009. She also served for a time as acting country director for Kazakhstan. Prior to returning to the Peace Corps in 2018, Dr. Olsen was Visiting Professor at the University of Maryland-Baltimore School of Social Work for eight years where she founded the University's Center for Global Engagement. She directed inter-professional global health projects for graduate students, oversaw health research projects in Malawi, and taught international social work, global social policy, and global health.

From 1992 to 1997, she led CIES, the organization responsible for the global Fulbright Senior Scholar Program.

Olsen was born in Utah and moved to Maryland in 1959 after her father, David S. King, was elected to the United States House of Representatives as a Democrat. Her grandfather, William H. King, represented Utah in the Senate from 1917 to 1941. Olsen graduated from Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, Maryland in 1961.

Olsen received a bachelor's degree from the University of Utah as well as a master's degree in social work and doctorate in human development from the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

After leaving the Peace Corps, Olsen served as a Resident Fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School. Her upcoming book *A Million Miles: My Peace Corps Journey*, is expected to be released later this year.

Saturday, May 18, 2024
11:00 AM

Navigating Your Health Care Journey: Getting the Care You Need and Deserve

Charlene Rothkopf and Colette Edwards, M.D.

Navigating the healthcare system can be one of the most difficult and complicated journeys you can take. This session can help us gain the knowledge and confidence to advocate for ourselves (and our loved ones) and obtain the care we deserve throughout our unique healthcare journey. Charlene Rothkopf and Dr. Colette Edwards are the authors of *Navigating Your Health Care Journey: Getting the Care You Need and Deserve* published in May 2023.



Charlene Rothkopf is the Founder and President of the Wellness Consulting Group, LLC, an executive coaching and organizational consulting firm specializing in executive and leadership development, managing change, and organizational health and well-being. As a corporate executive for over 35 years, Charlene's experience includes the planning and implementation of company-wide initiatives, talent management, and group facilitation. She is a certified Health and Wellness coach and has been the co-chair of the Patient and Family Advisory Committee for a large hospital system.

Z. Colette Edwards, MD MBA, has been active in most segments of the healthcare arena, including, first and foremost, as a practicing gastroenterologist. She has leveraged additional training in health and wellness coaching at the Maryland University of Integrative Health and in health equity as a member of the NIH Scholars program in translational health disparities.

Over the course of her career, Colette has served in a variety of roles. They include being the associate medical director of a multispecialty group practice and serving in health plan medical roles. Her work has also encompassed positions at two Fortune 50 companies, including as the national medical lead for health disparities, with an initiative that won a national innovation award and as a corporate medical executive for employee health and well-being, with a multi-year record of national awards won by the team: NBGH Best Employers for Healthy Lifestyles, top 10 ranking in the "Healthiest 100 Workplaces in America," Gold status in the AHA's Workplace Health Achievement Index, and a citation for Excellence in



Mental Health.

Dr. Edwards is the managing editor of the Wharton Healthcare Quarterly and the author of *Be Less Stressed* and a McGraw-Hill GI text. She is a member of the board of two nonprofits, Bread for the City and T1D Exchange, and an Advisor to Keen.

She received her BA from Harvard University, her MD from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and her MBA from the Wharton School. She completed her GI fellowship at UCSF, San Francisco.

President's Letter

Dear AAUW Friends,

Today I had a conversation with Olive Lewis, a long-time member of Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAUW and past president. This was an important reminder to me of the importance of our organization to our members old and new. Health problems preclude Olive from attending meetings, but she related to me her personal love of our branch and the women who are her "sisters" here. Those of you who know Olive know that her life as a professor and wife of a prominent Caribbean physician was a busy one, and she and Charles raised a daughter who is a physician as well. She talked to me about the important work we had done together and her affection for our members. There are others who are no longer with us or who are unable to attend meetings, including Fran Cressman, Joy Panagides, Joan Stanley, and Nancy Grace Roman who contributed so much to our AAUW branch and received insights and opportunities. I know there are many more who should be named, but for me this is a reminder of why our Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAUW branch has such a rich history. We continue the journey they were on as we learn together and advocate together for women and girls' rights.

Thank you for being an enthusiastic member of AAUW. I find I learn from each of you and I look forward to seeing you at meetings. We have a wonderful spring series of speakers on topics of interest to all of us. Dr. Sahar Khamis, a Muslim feminist from the faculty of the University of Maryland, will share with us perspectives on Arab and Muslim beliefs as they affect women. Senator Ariana Kelly will speak with us about the Maryland legislative session. A strong feminist, she will particularly focus on issues of importance to AAUW. Dr. Jody Olsen, former director of the Peace Corps, will share her "million mile journey" with us – integrating her personal life and her Peace Corps mission and passion. And finally, Charlene Rothkopf and Dr. Colette Edwards will share information from their recently published book *Navigating Your Health Care Journey*, offering ways to ensure that we each get the health care we need. You are welcome to bring guests to any meetings – we have a large meeting room at Fox Hill – and we welcome spirited conversations with our speakers.

My best wishes to you as we look to 2024 and its opportunities and challenges.

Pat Stocker
President

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Officers 2023-24

President	Pat Stocker	Newsletter	Charlene Currie
Vice President	Patty Howie	Public Policy	Carol Starr
Treasurer	Karen Braun	Fox Hill Liaison	Inge Baer
Secretary	Carol Whitley	Program	Pat Stocker

MEMBERSHIP DUES – 2024-25

Join or Renew Now!

Dues:

\$98

**Includes \$72 for national AAUW
\$10 for AAUW Maryland, and
\$16 for Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAUW Branch**

\$69 is TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Note: AAUW national membership dues are \$72, of which \$69 is tax deductible as a charitable contribution. The remaining \$3 is not tax deductible because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's section 501(c)(4) Capitol Hill Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote activities

Honorary Life members pay no dues.

Life members of AAUW pay \$26 in state and branch dues.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PREFERRED PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

DEGREE(S) & COLLEGE/UNIV _____

YEAR(S) OF GRADUATION _____

To renew by check: Make your check for \$98 payable to B-CC AAUW, complete the enclosed form above and mail it to our branch treasurer:

Karen Braun - 9707 Old Georgetown Road, Apt. 1302, Bethesda, MD 20814

For questions, you can reach Karen at: karen.braun@verizon.net



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 an 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.