



## BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE BRANCH NEWSLETTER

April 2024

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

President  
Dr. Pat Stocker  
301-229-0991 Home  
301-254-7141 Cell  
patstocker@aol.com

Editor  
Charlene Currie  
301-530-2442 Home  
301-613-2442 Cell  
charlene.currie@verizon.net

### FOX HILL

8300 Burdette Road  
Bethesda, MD 20817

Handicapped accessible. Plenty of parking.  
GUESTS WELCOME!

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.

### **Upcoming Program**

**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.

## Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendars!

- **April 20<sup>th</sup> AAUW MD Spring Convention** hosted by the Kensington-Rockville branch in Rockville Maryland. Dinner Friday April 19 at Farmsook Thai Kitchen. Convention begins Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Signup at with the link in the current Marylander or mail registration form, also in the Marylander, by April 6 for best rate. The convention is at Ingleside at King Farm in Rockville, an easy drive from Chevy Chase and Bethesda.
- **May 14 Maryland Primary Election (Early voting May 2 through May 9** in the county where you live.) Registered voters have always been able to vote during early voting, but now individuals who are eligible but not yet registered can register and vote. To register and vote during early voting, go to an early voting center in the county where you live and bring a document that proves where you live. This document can be your MVA-issued license, ID card, or change of address card, or your paycheck, bank statement, utility bill, or other government document with your name and new address. You will be able to register to vote and vote. See the **State Board of Elections website** for more information.
- **July 20<sup>th</sup> AAUW MD Summer Conference** hosted by AAUW Baltimore at the Maryland Nonprofits Headquarters in Baltimore. The Maryland Nonprofits organization helps nonprofits throughout Maryland collaborate, share best practices, and work to improve the quality of life in Maryland.
- **September 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference** in Glen Allen, VA, at the Virginia Crossings Resort. More information will be available in your September newsletter.

# Gaithersburg Branch Annual Used-Book Sale is Coming – April 11-13, 2024

By Edie Allison, President, Gaithersburg Branch

The Gaithersburg branch annual used-book sale, which began about 50 years ago, will resume in April at Asbury Methodist Village after being suspended due to Covid. Proceeds from the sale provide scholarships for deserving female students at *Montgomery College* and *The Universities at Shady Grove*, and support AAUW-US educational funds and activities.

Everyone is invited to help us make this the most successful ever: tell your friends and plan to get books for friends and relatives. The popular History, Children's and Fiction Sections are well categorized for easy perusing.

We all take pride in the funds raised by our branch for scholarships. The students who receive the scholarships are **Role Models of the Future**. They have been generally near the top of their class and are often the first in their families to attend or graduate from college. They frequently face challenges as their families struggle to support them attending college. Their interests are broad, but their leadership potential has been evident.

## Schedule:

**Thursday, April 11, 9 am to 8 pm**

**Friday, April 12, 9 am to 8 pm (Senior Discount Day)**

**Saturday, April 13, 9 am to 4 pm (Reduced per-bag price)**

**Location:** Rosborough Center, Bldg. 409, Asbury Methodist Village, Gaithersburg, MD 20977

Enter the Campus at 301 Odendhal Avenue Gatehouse

**For More Information contact:** Edie Allison, [edieallison@gmail.com](mailto:edieallison@gmail.com) or text 301-231-0109

## Membership Update

As we move through the upcoming program year, you'll obviously want to renew your membership at some point. Currently, depending on when you initially joined AAUW, your membership renewal date may vary from a fellow member. If you initially joined AAUW before February 2022, your membership runs from June 30<sup>th</sup> of one year to June 29<sup>th</sup> of the following year. However, if you joined after that date, your membership runs for an entire year from that point in time. So, if you joined April 1<sup>st</sup>, your membership is good until March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

Confused? Don't worry. National headquarters at AAUW sends out a reminder to each member about 2 weeks before their membership expires. However, sometimes this may go to your spam or junk mail by accident, so please check those mailboxes as well.

Christine Schmitz, our AAUW Maryland Treasurer, also reminds us that if you are not sure if you have renewed your dues, you can look up your membership on the National website at <http://www.aauw.org>. Just log in and scroll down to the “Join On” and “Member Thru” dates at the bottom of your Personal Snapshot page. Of course, the “Member Thru” date will also tell you when to start keeping a look-out for the renewal email mentioned above. You can also reach out to your Karen Braun, B-CC Treasurer at [karen.braun@verizon.net](mailto:karen.braun@verizon.net).

## President’s Letter

Dear AAUW Friends,

As I write this letter, I have just returned from serving as a representative to the 68<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSM) in



New York at the UN Headquarters. It was an inspirational, yet troubling conference, as we learned about how women and girls are facing violence and terrible living conditions in many parts of the world – with child marriage, rape, constant war, famine, and many other challenges that we in the US are most often able to avoid. I was inspired by the efforts of many organizations, as well as the UN, to intervene in these troubled areas. I was there as a representative of Women Graduates USA, the US affiliate of Women Graduates International. AAUW was also there, represented by Gloria Blackwell, CEO of AAUW national. She presented an impassioned plea to get the ERA through the final gate so that it will finally become the law of the land.



One thing I always observe at international meetings such as this one is the dedication and knowledge of volunteers. While I enjoyed and learned from the formal sessions, my one-on-one conversations with others attending the meetings were even more valuable. We can make a difference – each of us and all of us! If you would like to talk more about this, please contact me. I would be glad to share my observations.

The Maryland AAUW Annual Convention is coming up. This is a chance to meet with many wonderful AAUW members from our state and learn together. I always attend this convention and never leave without learning something new and meeting someone new. Please join me!



Our program year is coming to a close in May. We will begin planning programs for the next program year, beginning in September, very soon. If you have suggestions for speakers or would like to be involved in the planning, please let me know. Our programs are always interesting, educational, and often fun. This year I was fascinated to learn from Dr. Sahar Khamis, a University of Maryland professor, about restrictions on women that are not in the Koran but rather are part of traditions which do not have religious bases. And Senator Ariana Kelly shared with us the



rough and tumble action in the Maryland legislature. We recently learned that Senator Kelly will resign at the end of this session in order to take on the role as Executive Director of the Maryland Commission for Women. As we observed her passion for women's issues at our meeting, I think we can agree that she will be a strong voice for women in her new position.

Thank you for your constant efforts to support women and girls!

*Pat*

Pat Stocker, President



**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.**