



## **BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE BRANCH NEWSLETTER**

**March 2024**

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

**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.

## **Upcoming Programs**

**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.

## Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendars!

- March 14, 2024                      Invitation to the AAUW-Maryland Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Virtual Town Hall 7:00 – 8:00 pm  
email: [diversitychairaauwmd@gmail.com](mailto:diversitychairaauwmd@gmail.com). Please respond no later than Saturday, March 9 if you wish to receive Zoom information for the town hall.
- April 24, 2024                      AAUW Maryland State Convention, Ingleside at King Farm, Rockville
- May 30 - June 1 2024              National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)
- May 31, 2024                      NCCWSL's Women of Distinction Awards event, University of Maryland, Adele Stamp Student Union, early evening
- Late September 2024              Atlantic States AAUW Regional Conference, Fredericksburg, VA. Stay tuned!

## Bethesda-Chevy Chase Officers 2023-24

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

## AAUW Maryland – Public Policy Update

Roxann King, Vice President, Public Policy, AAUW Maryland

Last week was busy in Annapolis. Twelve of our members attended the ERA rally on February 19 at 1 p.m. where Judy Carbone (Garrett branch president and head of the AAUW Maryland ERA Task Force) did a great job of speaking for the ERA. AAUW Maryland attendees were: Heather Reichardt, Susan Wierman, Dorothy Fraquelli, Kate Campell Stevenson, Judy Carbone, Tracy Lantz, Teresa Freligh, Sheila Allen, Roxann King, Susan Crawford, Cheryl Menke, Janice Zimmerman, Barb Carter, Mary Ann Gorman, Alice Harrison, Barbara Marder. Afterwards, seven of us (Kate, Teresa, Sheila, Roxann, Susan, Barb, Barbara) visited legislators' offices. We urged support for the End-of-Life Options bill, Wage Transparency, a ReEntry program for soon to be released incarcerated women, and a Safe Staffing Bill. The short committee meeting held Thursday, February 19, served mainly to confirm the bills that we would support on Advocacy Day. It was attended by Kate, Pat Crane, Sheila, and Roxann.

We have four bills which need attention right now. **support for end-of-life options ( 2 committees), support for a new Emergency Room Wait Time Commission, without amendments;** and **opposition to a Emergency Room Task Force Part 2 Bill, which would extend the ineffective committee started in 2023 which had the hospitals examining themselves.** Please contact Carol Starr, Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAUW Public Policy Vice President, for information. E-mail: [carstarr@gmail.com](mailto:carstarr@gmail.com).

Look forward to Getting out the Vote activities prior to the election of 2024. AAUW national is holding a webinar on Wednesday, March 6th, at 7 p.m., entitled "It's My Vote: 2024 Voter Engagement Campaign Launch". You must register in advance for this webinar at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_m-jERKTdSzCrsscw7cRGpQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_m-jERKTdSzCrsscw7cRGpQ).

Our AAUW Maryland Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Carolyn Fisher, just sent out an **Invitation to the AAUW-Maryland Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Virtual Town Hall, March 14, 2024, 7:00 – 8:00 pm.** RSVP to Carolyn, [diversitychairaauwmd@gmail.com](mailto:diversitychairaauwmd@gmail.com), by Saturday, March 9, if you wish to attend.

## **NCCWSL and Maryland's Woman of Distinction**

(Reprinted from the Kensington-Rockville March Newsletter – slightly edited)

The 2024 AAUW National College Conference of Women of Student Leaders or NCCWSL will be held on May 30-June 1, 2024, at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

This amazing event attracts young women from all over the United States with close to 500 colleges sending participants. Who are these students? What is so compelling about this event known as “nick whistle”?

Most of the students who attend are rising juniors or seniors and about 50% are women of color. This cohort is near that point of the university experience when students must begin to think, ‘what’s next’ for themselves and for the larger world. Taking part in NCCWSL offers them that opportunity. Students may attend lectures/workshops featuring published authors, founders of financial institutions, legislators etc., all women, all successful and role models for the students. Speakers from many industries and areas of endeavor are represented during the event. Here, these young leaders can pursue goals they have dreamt of, and they may network for their future careers in the wider world as they go forward. About 50 different panels and workshops are offered, each with a skilled presenter(s).

For more than 30 years, AAUW has organized this annual gathering offering a dynamic meeting place for leadership opportunities, networking, and inspiration. AAUW Maryland has been a Platinum Sponsor of the event and has had the opportunity to have a Maryland Woman of Distinction present at the event. Dian Belanger is this year’s Woman of Distinction, MD. AAUW must raise funds to honor Dian. Previous honorees include these Bethesda-Chevy Chase branch members: the late Nancy Grace Roman, Pat Stocker, and Susan Lee.

To donate and support this unique event, please follow the directions below:

**To donate by check: Make out your check to AAUW.  
Write 4355-Maryland Woman of Distinction (NCCWSL) Fund  
Mail to: AAUW  
1310 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20023**

**To donate online: It’s easy!!  
Go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org). Push the RED DONATE Tab on the upper right. Scroll down to Maryland Women of Distinction. Push the button.**

## **Help Needed!** **AAUW Gaithersburg branch April 2024 used book sale.**

The Gaithersburg branch used book sale is resuming after a Covid-enforced pause. All income from the sale supports scholarships for eligible female students at Montgomery College and the Universities at Shady Grove.

The size of the sale - about 30,000 books will be on sale - requires many workers. AAUW members, their family, friends, and students participating in Student Service Learning, SSL, hours are needed. (Let your children or grandchildren know about this opportunity to fulfill their requirements.)

Participation of other Montgomery County AAUW branch members is needed for sorting books, supervising students, acting as cashiers during the sale, and helping to publicize the event. If you are interested in helping contact Liz Hessel at [liz@meral.com](mailto:liz@meral.com) or 301-840-1258.

Dates when volunteers are needed:

- Book sorting and setup at Asbury Methodist Village, Gaithersburg, Thursday, April 4 through Wednesday, April 9.
- Sale opens for Asbury residents and associates: Wednesday, April 10, 2024.
- Public sale: Thursday through Saturday, April 11-13, 2024.

## **President's Letter**

Dear AAUW Friends,

We are in the midst of the Maryland Legislative Session. Printed above is a current report from Roxann King, AAUW Maryland's VP for Public Policy. You can get involved in ways big or small – whether contacting your senator or delegate by phone or e-mail or getting involved with lobbying in Annapolis. Prior to the legislative session, AAUW – along with MLAW (Maryland Legislative Action for Women) – set priorities for this session for issues that are most important to us. Carol Starr, our branch vice president for public policy, is your best contact to find out ways to help. She can be reached at [carstarr@mail.com](mailto:carstarr@mail.com).

The current legislative session will also be the focus of our March meeting. Senator Ariana Kelly will speak about current issues in the Senate, particularly those affecting women. Many of us live in Senator Kelly's district, but whether or not you do, you will hear insights into the issues before our elected officials. Don't miss this important conversation – and feel free to bring guests.

I urge you to look at other upcoming opportunities for involvement in branch or state activities. We are lucky to have opportunities to make a difference in the lives of women and girls – thanks to the hard work of our volunteers!

Pat Stocker  
President

# 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** \_\_\_\_\_

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**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](mailto: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.**