



## BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE BRANCH NEWSLETTER

October 2024

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**FOX HILL**

**8300 Burdette Road**

**Bethesda, MD 20817**

**Handicapped accessible. Plenty of parking.**

**JOIN US FOR OUR OCTOBER MEETING!  
BRING A GUEST!**

**Saturday, October 19, 2024**

**11:00 a.m.**

### ***Climate Progress Amid Challenges and Current Political Realities***

**Bob Deans**

**Director, Strategic Engagement, Natural Resources Defense Council**

Bob Deans is Director of Strategic Engagement for the Natural Resources Defense Council. In this role, he is a spokesman, writer and advocate for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). The mission of NRDC is to safeguard the Earth: its people,



its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends. He is also the author of many books and appears regularly on television interview shows. Previously, he was White House Correspondent for Cox Newspapers and was President of the White House Correspondents' Association.

Issues of climate and energy affect all of us.

Decisive and immediate action must be taken to save lives. According to scientific reports, climate-fueled tragedies aren't only going to get worse, they're getting worse much faster than previously predicted. A report by the UN International Panel on

Climate Change says that every fraction of a degree of warming matters. If we surpass 1.5 degrees Centigrade and reach 2 degrees, hundreds of millions more people will suffer, as unyielding drought and blistering heat take a growing toll on livestock and crops, water sources become depleted, and disease spreads more rapidly worldwide. At the same time, we need to accelerate the shift from fossil fuels to clean energy and work toward a clean-energy future.

Bob Deans will talk with us about these challenges and share ways we can be involved to stop attacks on the environment, formulate a way to respond to climate change, and safeguard the earth for our children and generations of children of the future.

The Natural Resources Defense Council combines the power of its more than 2 million members with the expertise of more than 500 scientists, lawyers and policy advocates across the globe to ensure the rights of all people to the air, the water and the wild.

## **Upcoming Programs**

**November 16 (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday because of Veterans' Day)**

### ***Women's Microfinance Initiative in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania***

**Robyn Nietert, President, Women's Microfinance Initiative**



Women's Microfinance Initiative (WMI) is a non-profit organization founded by a network of professional women in the Washington, D.C. area. WMI makes loans available to impoverished women who have no access to banking services. Issuing affordable, collateral-free loans for as little as \$50, WMI promotes women's economic participation and carries the hope of prosperity to poor, rural areas of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. Microfinance helps the poor grow tiny businesses to generate income that they can use for basic needs, education, healthcare, and savings. After two years in the WMI village-level loan program, women can transition to bank loans or their businesses can become self-financing. They achieve financial autonomy and join their country's formal economy. WMI distributes loans through village-level organizations and works with these partners to develop social outreach networks.

A native of Long Island, New York, Robyn holds a B.A. from George Washington University and a J.D. from the National Law Center at George Washington University. For over 25 years she was a member of the Washington, D.C. law firm of Brown, Nietert and Kaufman, which specialized in telecommunications law, with a focus on innovative wireless technologies.

**December 14**

### ***Looking Forward to the Maryland General Assembly***

**Maryland Senator Sara Love, 16th District**

Sara Love was appointed to the Maryland State Senate by Governor Moore in June 2024. She was first elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 2018, where she served on the Environment & Transportation Committee and two of its subcommittees, the Motor Vehicle & Transportation Subcommittee, which she chaired, and the Environment Subcommittee. She chaired the Land Use, Transportation, and Public Safety Committee for the Montgomery County House Delegation.



Prior to the General Assembly, Sara spent her career working to make the world a better place, focusing mainly on reproductive rights and civil liberties. After graduating from Princeton University, Sara earned her law degree from Northwestern University School of Law.

As a young lawyer she worked on several important cases focusing on equal justice. She worked on a mortgage discrimination case with another young lawyer -- Barack Obama. She also worked on a nationwide case against anti-choice extremists who used force, threats and violence to shut down women's health care clinics. From there she became general counsel to nine clinics across the country and worked with federal, state, and local law enforcement to train them on the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE). Following her passion for women's rights, she went to NARAL Pro-Choice America and became their General Counsel and Legal Director where she worked on federal reproductive rights policy and led a staff to support affiliates across the country working on state policy.

Sara's work on the ACLU Board led them to ask her to join the staff as their Public Policy Director, where she led their policy and legislative work for four years. During that time, she worked on many issues including reproductive rights, racial justice, public funding for public schools, criminal justice reform, saner drug policies, technology and privacy, the First Amendment, open government and accountability, and voting rights.

### **2025 Program Dates – speakers to be announced**

- January 11, 2025**
- February 8**
- March 8**
- April 12**
- May 10**

### **Bethesda-Chevy Chase Officers 2024-25**

**President**            **Pat Stocker**  
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**Secretary**            **Carol Whitley**

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## President's Letter

Dear AAMW Friends,

As we prepare for the upcoming state and national elections, I want to go back to our AAMW values and mission. Since 1881 our organization has been in the forefront of issues focusing on advocacy, education, philanthropy and research to promote equity for women and girls. As you look at your state and national electoral decisions (I have already received my mail-in ballot), look for candidates - men and women - who fight for rights of women and girls. In my own lifetime, I have seen great progress - and also great backsliding. In so many ways we have made major changes that are measurable and significant. The percentage of women in higher education institutions has grown such that more women than men pursue degrees. Medical schools and law schools are also increasingly filled with women. And yet, there remains much to be done. Family leave, health care, freedom of choice, and women's leadership in business and government remain areas where we need to continue our efforts.

I am thankful to be active in two organizations which lead in these fights. Obviously, AAMW, an organization which all of us know, continues its effective legislative efforts, court challenges, and public media to champion our issues. Another organization in which I am honored to be involved, is Women Graduates International (WGI) and its US affiliate, Graduate Women USA (GW-USA). On September 27 - 29, the WGI-USA Annual Conference was held in Bethesda, and I had the privilege of coordinating the meeting. The focus was on "Strengthening Our Voice" and Kate Campbell, whom many of you know, kicked off the program as Eleanor Roosevelt, who certainly learned to use her voice to become a major - perhaps the major - advocate at the time for women's rights in the US. We learned from Mark Medish, someone else many of you know, shared his perspectives on how US policy affects and is affected by international issues. He noted the importance of the upcoming national elections - Presidential, House, Senate - as they affect our future. Dr. Jody Olsen, former Director of the Peace Corps, again someone many of you know, shared her Peace Corps experience as an example of one way the US is involved very positively in the world. Many others joined in this important meeting, but I wanted to share with you that among our speakers for the Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAMW, we continue to hear from people - men and women - who have state, national and international prominence.

Our upcoming October meeting includes another such high-profile speaker, Bob Deans, who serves as director of strategic engagement for the Natural Resources Defense Council. We wanted his presentation prior to the election so that he could help us understand the approach of political leaders on the ballot in the crucial issue of climate change. Bring your friends (no membership required) to hear his informed views.

Thank you for your membership in AAMW and even more for your participation and championing equity for women and girls in your own lives. We are in a marathon, not a sprint, but this fall is a critical time in setting our national direction.

Pat

President, Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAMW

## Update from AAUW National Board

By Christine Schmitz (current treasurer of AAUW Maryland and member of the AAUW national board)

I would like to take this opportunity to share with Branch and State leaders some of the key takeaways from my first National Board meeting. A major focus for the current fiscal year July 2024 through June 2025 is the updated Five Star Program. The details can be found at



<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>. AAUW National is encouraging every affiliate (Branch and State) to participate in this Five Star Program. The key emphasis of this program is to increase mission-based programming and public policy/advocacy work by the affiliates. Getting more reporting about Branch and State activities will help National showcase AAUW's impact across the country. Also, an emphasis on member support for AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund is very important. The Greatest Needs Fund is the unrestricted funds which are vitally important to the day to day running of the organization at all levels, Branch, State and National. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any

questions or need specific guidance. Christine Schmitz / dialacpa@aol.com

## Dues are Due

**FY25 National dues remain the same - \$98 total for a year, including branch, state and national. As of January 2024, all National dues are FULLY tax deductible! College/University Membership dues are \$250 and include two national memberships and unlimited student memberships. There is still time to pay your national, state, and branch dues.**



**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.**

# MEMBERSHIP DUES – 2024-2025

## Join or Renew Now!

**Dues:**

**\$98**

Includes \$72 for national AAUW  
\$10 for AAUW Maryland, and  
\$16 for Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAUW Branch  
AAUW National will send renewal notices to your e-mail on file

**\$72 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)