



BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE BRANCH NEWSLETTER

September 2024

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

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Handicapped accessible. Plenty of parking.

WELCOME TO THE 2024-25 PROGRAM YEAR!!!!

Saturday, September 14, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Reflections of a Retired Foreign Service Officer

Stephen E. Eisenbraun – Author, Editor, Retired Diplomat

Stephen E. Eisenbraun is a retired Foreign Service Officer whose assignments overseas included Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, and Kenya. His Washington assignments included, among other offices, the India desk, the Tunisia desk, and the combined Kenya and Uganda desks. Eisenbraun was a political officer during tumultuous times in South Asia when India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh experienced political turmoil, including an Air Force mutiny in Bangladesh and the burning of the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan. Eisenbraun was Deputy Chief of Mission in Sierra Leone and Principal Officer/Consul in Mombasa, Kenya. In Washington, Eisenbraun also worked on the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.



Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Eisenbraun studied Hindi at Delhi University in India under the auspices of a fellowship from the American Institute of Indian Studies. He has a master's degree in International Relations from the Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

In retirement, Eisenbraun continues to work as a consultant to the Department of State as the Editor in Chief of the Department's annual Country Reports on Human Rights. He is a past Chairman of the Editorial Board of the Foreign Service Journal.

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first newsletter for our 2024-25 Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAMW branch! I always enjoy my time with our members - and remember that you may bring guests at any time. We have plenty of room!

We will continue to meet at the Fox Hill senior community at 8300 Burdette Road in Bethesda (just inside the Beltway at the River Road exit).

And what an exciting fall this will be. As I write this letter, I have just finished watching the Democratic National Convention, and this fall promises to be an exciting one for those of us concerned with women's rights, national security, the economy, and a myriad of other issues.

I urge you to join us for meetings and to be involved with AAMW in any way for which you have an interest and time. During the legislative session, you will have the opportunity to lobby our legislators on issues of concern to our members - and even testify on bills if you have a particular perspective. You can also participate in state AAMW efforts including statewide meetings.

Contact me at any time (e-mail is often best because I travel a lot!) if you have questions about options for you. Carol Starr, our public policy chair, can advise you on options to get involved with issues.

Enjoy Labor Day - and please join us on September 14 for our first meeting of the new program year.

Pat

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Officers 2024-25

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Upcoming Programs

October 19 (3rd Saturday because of Yom Kippur)

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.

November 16 (3rd 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

Attend the AAUW Regional Conference, September 27-29



VISIT THE WEBSITE AND REGISTER NOW! <https://www.aauwatlanticregionalconference.com/>

AAUW Maryland is a co-sponsor along with states from Florida to New York.

AAUW-VA is hosting this three-day conference of AAUW members along the Atlantic coast at a resort/conference center just north of Richmond. Members of other organizations and your friends and family are invited to this powerhouse conference.



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.

Women Graduates – USA Invitation to National Conference in Bethesda



If you aren't attending the AAUW Regional Conference, you are invited to the Graduate Women-USA (affiliate of the Graduate Women International – GWI – and participant in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women), to be held September 27 – 29 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Bethesda. This organization is an outgrowth of AAUW. Pat Stocker is secretary of the national board and an organizer of the conference. This is the group through which she participates as a representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

<https://womensgraduatesusa.wildapricot.org/event-5770684>

Women Graduates Fall Conference

September 27-29, 2024

Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, MD

You are invited to the Women Graduates – USA (WG-USA) annual conference. It includes speakers, an evening's theatrical performance from "Eleanor Roosevelt" and a view of the United Nations connections with WG.

Kate Campbell Stevenson – Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Friday evening)

Kate Campbell Stevenson will perform as Eleanor Roosevelt. First lady of the United States of America from 1933 to 1945, Eleanor Roosevelt was appointed, in 1946, as a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly by United States President Harry S. Truman. She served as the first Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights and played an instrumental role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. At a time of increasing East- West tensions, Eleanor Roosevelt used her enormous prestige and credibility with both superpowers to steer the drafting process toward its successful completion.



Mark Medish – National and International Perspectives on US Policies (Saturday morning)

Mark Medish will share his insights into US policies throughout the world as well as perspectives on current US politics. He is founder of Keep Our Republic, a non-partisan civic action group dedicated to election and transition integrity. He also

served at The White House as Special Assistant to President Bill Clinton and Senior Director for Russian, Ukrainian, and Eurasian Affairs on the National Security Council. He served at the U.S. Treasury as Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, under Secretaries Robert Rubin and Lawrence Summers. Medish was educated at Georgetown, Harvard, and Oxford. He has held Fulbright, Luce, Mellon, and Shintaro Abe scholarships. Mark Medish's career has spanned law, business and government. He now advises heads of state on three continents. Mark Medish has over 30 years of professional experience as a lawyer, policy expert and strategic adviser based in Washington, D.C.



Dr. Jody Olsen - A Million Miles: My Peace Corps Journey (Saturday morning)

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. 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.

Dr. Yin Yin Win – Member and this year's scholar-recipient from our partnership with the IIE-SRF (Scholar Rescue Fund). She will recount her journey from Myanmar to the US. Dr. Yin Yin Win is this year's "rescue scholar" and is on the faculty of the Yale Law School.

The program will also offer **Advocacy Training** from the Washington based Congressional Management Foundation. This non-profit's mission is to educate and motivate individuals to become active and informed citizen-advocates.

We will showcase our current initiatives from our core issues in education, the prevention of Violence Against Women in all of its forms, safe access to women's healthcare and updates from CAMEUS in our 3-sister collaboration with Canada and Mexico.

Costs for registration:
 Friday evening in the rooftop room at the Hyatt, including dinner and Kate Campbell Stevenson's performance: \$100
 Saturday program: \$200
 Sunday half day program: \$100

For questions please contact Pat Stocker patstocker@aol.com

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**

\$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