



BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE BRANCH NEWSLETTER

November 16, 2024

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

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FOX HILL

8300 Burdette Road

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Handicapped accessible. Plenty of parking.

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

Saturday, November 16, 2024

11:00 a.m.

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

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Officers 2024-25

President **Pat Stocker**
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Vice President **Patty Howie**
E-mail: pbhowie@verizon.net

Treasurer **Karen Braun**
E-mail: karen.braun@verizon.net

Secretary **Carol Whitley**
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Newsletter **Charlene Currie**
E-mail: charlene.currie@verizon.net

Public Policy **Carol Starr**
E-mail: carstarr@gmail.com

Program **Pat Stocker**
E-mail: patstocker@aol.com

Seeking Program Speakers – January – May, 2025

Have you heard a good speaker lately on a subject related to equity for women and girls? Do you have a friend or acquaintance who is an expert on a subject of interest to our members – or who has written a book of interest? If so, please let us know. We generally wait to schedule our spring series until news events suggest topics of particular interest. We do have a tentative schedule, but at this point it can be changed for the spring.

Ideas? Please contact Pat Stocker at patstocker@aol.com

Want to work on Legislative Issues during the upcoming General Assembly?

Maryland AAUW has an active presence during the Maryland General Assembly which begins in January. As a member of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW), we prioritize issues coming before the Assembly and lobby for them with other women's organizations. How can you be involved? You can attend the MLAW Conference November 23 to help select legislation to support and you can get involved with lobbying – including writing letters, testifying, lobbying your legislators – during the session. For information on the MLAW conference, see the article below.

For information on how to get involved, please contact our Public Policy Vice President, Carol Starr at carstarr@gmail.com.



Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

Celebrating 30 Years of Success

November 23, 2024



Register Today for MLAW's Fall Conference!

We will host our annual fall conference on Saturday, November 23, 2024. This year's conference will be held in person at **The Meeting House** in Columbia, MD. This is a special year as we celebrate **30 years of success** in advocating for progressive legislation for Maryland's women and families!

The Conference will provide information and strategies to activate and energize participants to successfully advocate for legislation impacting women and families during the 2025 Maryland General Assembly Session.

Join us to:

- Celebrate MLAW's **30th Anniversary**
- Gain valuable insights from advocates and legislators presenting **2025 legislative proposals**
- Network with other MLAW supporters, advocates, and legislators from around Maryland about these important issues.
- Honor former **State Senator Ariana Kelly** with the **Legislative Leadership Award**
- Welcome and keynote speakers pending. Stay tuned!

Please visit mdlegagendaforwomen.org for more details and to register. Tickets are \$45 through 11/10; late registration after is \$50. Student tickets are available for \$25. Current MLAW members will receive a \$5 off coupon towards their registration. There will be no on-site registration, so please register early.

For more information, call 443-519-1005 or email mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com. We hope to see you at the conference in November! If the link below doesn't work, go to: mdlegagendaforwomen.org to register.



Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW)

102 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 100
Towson, MD 21204
Phone/Fax: 443-519-1005

mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com www.mdlegagendaforwomen.com



President's Letter

Dear AAWW Friends,

As we begin the month of Thanksgiving, I am focusing on the many things for which I am thankful from our Bethesda-Cherry Chase AAWW family. I value our mutual desire to learn, to make a difference in the world, and to support other women. Thank you!

We have two upcoming programs directly relating to supporting women and girls. You won't want to miss them! Robyn Nietert, President of the Women's Microfinance Initiative which 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. This has been one of the most successful microfinance programs in the country. Then in December, Senator Love will share insights into the coming legislative session so that we can make our voices heard when issues of concern are introduced.

Thank you for your membership in AAWW 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-Cherry Chase AAWW

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 _____

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