



BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE BRANCH NEWSLETTER

February 2025

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

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8300 Burdette Road
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Handicapped accessible. Plenty of parking.

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

**Saturday, February 8, 2025
11:00 a.m.**

National and International Perspectives on Early Trump Initiatives

Mark Medish

The Trump Administration has advocated for significantly different domestic and foreign policies from previous administrations. In the recent national election, incoming President Trump's views were in stark contrast to those of the other candidate.



Mark Medish will share his insights into how U.S. policies are likely to unfold under the new Trump Administration and their implications in a changing and challenging geopolitical environment.

Mark Medish served at The White House as a Special Assistant to President Bill Clinton and Senior Director on the National Security Council and at the U.S. Treasury as Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs. Medish also served at the State Department/USAID and UNDP.

Medish currently works as Vice Chair and Director of Panterra, a boutique strategic advisory company headquartered in London. He maintains a small private law practice. Medish is a co-founder of Keep Our Republic, a non-partisan civic organization.

He was previously a law partner at Akin LLP and head of the international division of Guggenheim Partners LLC, an investment fund. Prior to that, Medish was Vice President for Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Medish was educated at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, Harvard Graduate School, Harvard Law School, and Oxford (Merton) where he was a Fulbright Scholar.

Upcoming Programs

**Saturday, March 8, 2025
11:00 a.m.**

Challenges in the Health Care System: Suburban Hospital Perspectives

LeighAnn Sidone, President and Chief Operating Officer, Suburban Hospital

The national's health care system, including hospitals, is facing increasing challenges in terms of providing needed care, staying financially viable, providing top level medical care, working with insurance companies, running the area's main trauma center, serving the broader community, and many other challenges. Dr. LeighAnn Sidone, D.N.P., R.N., C.E.N.P., is Suburban Hospital's president and chief operating officer and coordinates the hospital's responses to the many challenges.



She oversees Suburban Hospital's inpatient and ambulatory services and leads the hospital's quality and safety programs and financial initiatives. She also works with Suburban Hospital's Board of Trustees and Johns Hopkins Medicine executive leadership to facilitate strategic growth in the National Capital Region, while ensuring that plans align with and support Suburban's daily operations. Suburban Hospital is part of the Johns Hopkins Medical System.

LeighAnn has more than 30 years of service to Suburban, primarily as a nurse and head of the nursing services at the hospital. beginning her career as a patient care technician at the hospital. As vice president of nursing and chief nursing officer, she oversaw all nursing activity at the hospital, including quality improvement, nursing

standards and professional practice. Under her leadership, Suburban Hospital achieved American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet designation in 2019 and 2024, a distinction awarded to fewer than 10% of hospitals in the United States. In the most recent designation review, Dr. Sidone’s leadership was cited as one of the organization’s nine exemplars. The national reviewers called out specifically her exceptional communication skills, impressive visibility within the organization and her commitment to a culture of caring for both patients and team members.

Please note that March 8 is also International Women’s Day, and we honor those who keep the fight for fully ratifying the ERA active and those women on whose shoulders we stand in our continuing efforts.

Remaining 2025 Program Dates – speakers to be announced

April 12
May 10
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Other Upcoming AAUW Maryland Events

January 8 to April 7 - Maryland Legislative Session (please see Carol Starr’s article about how to be involved.)

February 5, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. – MLAW Virtual Legislative Briefing
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mlaws-2025-virtual-legislative-briefing-tickets-1144908565339?aff=oddtcreator>

February 11, 10:00 a.m. – Noon – AAUW Maryland Advocacy Day in Annapolis

April 26 – Maryland AAUW Spring Convention

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Officers 2024-25

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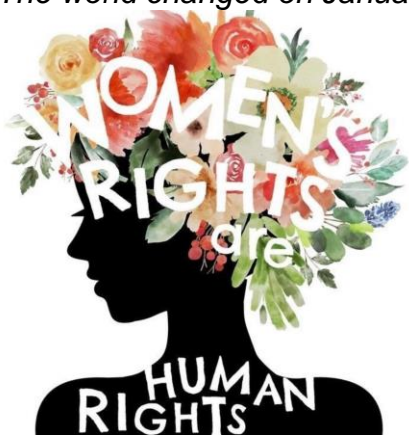
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President's Letter

Dear AAUW Friends,

The world changed on January 20 with the inauguration of Donald Trump as US President. Whether or not you are an advocate of President Trump, each of us needs to stand up for rights we as women value – and which are now under threat. I urge you to respond to requests from AAUW and other women's groups to get involved in issues challenging women's rights and opportunities. I have been inspired, as I know many of you have been, by the courage and honesty of women who have used their platforms to make statements to support all of us. I was especially impressed by The Right Rev. Mariann Budde, Episcopal Bishop of Washington. "Let me make one final plea, Mr. President," she said from the pulpit of Washington National Cathedral. "I ask you to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now," she said.



"There are gay, lesbian, and transgender children in Democratic, Republican, and independent families, some who fear for their lives," Budde preached. She said, "the vast majority of immigrants are not criminals," calling them "good neighbors" and "faithful members" of religious communities. She has been criticized by the President and others for her remarks, but I see her as a strong woman who used her role to speak her truth.

I have also been inspired by Maryland's elected officials, at the county, state and national levels, and their commitment to values we share. I particularly want to focus on Jamie Raskin, the US Representative for many of us in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAUW branch. Jamie exemplifies the courage, intelligence, communication skills and even risk-taking that are needed in today's political environment. He has received death threats, has been singled out for legal action by the current administration, and has faced countless attacks. People say there are no statesmen left in our country; I personally know at least one – Jamie Raskin.



So my friends, I urge all of us – myself included – to speak out to defend not only our own rights but those of marginalized people. We have a voice. We have an opinion. And we have an obligation to speak our truth.

Pat

Pat Stocker, President, B-CC AAUW

Public Policy Report
Carol Starr, Vice President, Public Policy
carstarr@gmail.com

The bills listed below are prioritized as to importance by collaboration between MLAW AAUW, other groups supporting women's issues. AAUW is organizing and asking that members lobby for their passage. February 11 has been designated as Lobby Day for AAUW to lobby in Annapolis. Let Roxann King (roxann.king1@gmail.com) or Carol Starr (carstarr@gmail.com) know if you can join us that day and email your Senator and Representatives urging that they support these bills.

MLAW Announces Our
2025 Legislative Agenda
Sign On to Support!

In November, leaders of state-wide organizations, legislators, and advocates addressing issues of concern to women of Maryland participated in a conference to identify potential legislative initiatives for the 2025 Maryland General Assembly. Fourteen bills were presented at the conference for consideration. A ballot was sent to MLAW members who voted on the top priorities which will make up our official 2025 Legislative Agenda.

As we prepare for the start of the 2025 session of the [Maryland General Assembly](#), we are thrilled to announce the bills that will comprise MLAW's **2025 Legislative Agenda**. The issues selected are listed below and [described in more detail here](#).

The bills selected are:

- Stop Silencing Survivors
- Firearm Relinquishment and Victim Notification
- Abortion Care Access Fund Act of 2025
- Correctional Services-Comprehensive Rehabilitative Prerelease Services-Female Incarcerated Individuals
- Prescription Drug Affordability Board Act
- Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Services – Program and Coverage
- Corrections – Segregated Housing – Limitations
- Protecting Nursing Home Quality Care
- Birth Certificate Modernization Act
- Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot Program Sunset Repeal

One of the most powerful advocacy tools for the Agenda is your signature as a supporter. Organizations and individuals are invited to sign on as a supporter of the 2025 Agenda. We also encourage you to invite your friends and colleagues to sign on. A list of supporters will be attached to the document before it is distributed to legislators and the public, as well as included on our website. The document will be released at our Legislative Briefing and will be distributed to all legislators.

Cooperative action is the basis upon which MLAW operates. One voice is important but the collective voices of many impacts public policy and enables advocates and legislators to demonstrate concern and support for women's issues. Make your voice count for women and their families in the 2024 session of the Maryland General Assembly.

To add your name to the list of supporters, [complete this simple online form](#). If you would like to add multiple names of friends or colleagues who give you permission to add their names, please email them as well. Spread the word and ask others to support this agenda. You do not need to be a member of MLAW to add your name.

The 2025 Agenda will be officially announced at our annual Legislative Briefing on Wednesday, February 5th. Please join us to learn more about these initiatives and how you can get involved. [Click here to register.](#)

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

MLAW Board of Directors

Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW)

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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.