



BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE BRANCH NEWSLETTER

January 2025

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Handicapped accessible. Plenty of parking.

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

Saturday, January 11, 2025

11:00 a.m.

**What is the Role of Religion in the National Dialogue
in the Trump Administration?**

David Gray

In the new Trump administration, the role of religion in approaching national issues, Supreme Court decisions, and voting patterns has increased. Issues of separation of church and state are being challenged by some – particularly conservative – religious groups. David Gray, senior pastor of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, heads a congregation committed to interfaith concerns. Bradley Hills is a unique space that houses three faith traditions. In 1967, Bethesda Jewish Congregation (BJC) joined the BHPC campus. In 2019, they welcomed Maqaame Ibrahim Islamic Center (MIIC). Each November they hold a well-attended interfaith service where members of our three faiths worship together.



Before his call to ministry, he worked in business and law and continues to serve on for-profit and non-profit boards. David is a former scholar, program director, and senior



fellow at the New America Foundation think tank. His articles have appeared in a variety of religious and secular publications and as assignments in courses. David's books include, *Practicing Balance: How Congregations Can Promote Harmony in Work and Life*; *The Five Letters Every Christian Should Write*; *Christian Fellowship: Discipleship and the*

Gospel of John for the Post-Pandemic World; *Blessed Benedictions: Sending Them Home with a Good Word*; *Faith in Service*; *1015*; and *Spiritual Calcium*. He has enjoyed the privilege of speaking and preaching in a variety of contexts nationally.

David is a former Acting Assistant Secretary for policy at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), where he managed a 54-person team and the DOL offices of regulatory policy, programmatic policy, compliance assistance/technology, and economic analysis/research. He staffed and was principal in several White House working groups and represented the U.S. abroad in negotiations in Mexico and Chile. He has served as a counsel to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Government Management and Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and as a legislative aid to several members of Congress.

He has been a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations, was a founding board member of the Journal of Inter-Religious Studies and is a college fellow at Yale University. David received a bachelor's degree in history from Yale University, a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University, with a focus on non-profit management, a juris doctor from Northwestern University School of Law, and both a master of divinity with honors and a doctor of ministry in church leadership from Wesley Theological Seminary.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Officers 2024-25

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Upcoming Programs

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 national and international policy decisions from previous administrations. In the recent national election, his views were in stark contrast to those of the other Presidential candidate. Mark Medish will share his insights into how US policies throughout the world and current US politics are changing under the Trump Administration – and the implications of those changes. Actions of the Supreme Court and legislative elections also have profound implications for the US and the international community. He has a unique view on US foreign policy. Mark Medish, a member of the US National Security Council under President Bill Clinton and a former deputy assistant secretary of the Treasury, is a co-founder of Keep Our Republic, a non-partisan civic organization. He is also Vice Chair and Director of Panterra.



He 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, 2000-2001. He also served at the U.S. Treasury as Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs under Secretaries Robert Rubin and Lawrence Summers, from 1997 through 2000. He also worked at the State Department and UNDP.

Medish was previously president of Guggenheim International, a division of the diversified financial services firm Guggenheim Partners LLC, with over \$220 billion of assets under management. Prior to joining Guggenheim in 2012, he was Executive Vice President of APCO Worldwide, Inc., a global public affairs firm. Medish worked with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where he served as Vice President for Studies focusing on Eurasia and China. He was a partner at the international law firm Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld LLP, where he led an advisory practice on sovereign debt restructuring and emerging markets investment.

Medish was educated at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, Harvard Graduate School, Harvard Law School, and Oxford (Merton College)

Remaining 2025 Program Dates – speakers to be announced

March 8

April 12

May 10

President's Letter

Dear AAUW Friends,

Happy New Year! As I write this, I have just returned from family holiday activities in Colorado – and my wish for you is that you have joys and successes in 2025. I know many of us are concerned about the direction of our country, but activist women – like us – will make sure that important issues are part of the discussion. Our voices will be heard!



One significant reason for my optimism comes from our recent (December) meeting with Maryland Senator Sara Love. I confess to have been won over to her first based on her resume alone – undergraduate from Princeton, law degree from Northwestern, important work with equal justice issues and major contributions to groups advocating for women's rights. Once I met her, I felt that even more strongly. We are lucky to have someone of her passion, expertise, experience, and practical approach on our side. I urge all of our members to follow issues when the Maryland Legislature opens in January, and AAUW will help you with regular updates. Carol Starr, our vice president for public policy, and I will pass along key updates via e-mail, and you can get involved in issues of importance to you. MLAW, Maryland Legislative Action for Women, of which AAUW is an active member, will shortly announce priorities for the coming session.

We together can make a difference. We are privileged to live in a state which continues to address important issues which affect women and to be a leader nationally in passing legislation which ensures that for the future.

Please join me with your involvement with our state government as we make decisions about our future, our priorities, and our shared interests. Working with Maryland AAUW and members of other branches, we will have a significant effect on the legislative process and decisions made in Annapolis.

Pat

Pat Stocker, President, B-CC AAUW

Highlights from Fall Programs



Robyn Nietert, President, Women's Microfinance Initiative, shared the inspiring story and history of the "Women's Microfinance Initiative in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania." The success of this "women helping women" movement has found surprising success over several years of operating in this region. She is shown here with Carol Starr, branch vice president for public policy (left) who has been a long-time supporter of the initiative.



Bob Deans, Director of Strategic Engagement for the Natural Resources Defense Council, shared perspectives on “Climate Progress Amid Challenges and Current Political Realities” with our branch. He shared his concerns about US commitments to global climate change - and progress which has been made during the current Biden administration.

Maryland Senator Sara Love, left, spoke with AAUW state president, Heather Reichert, center, and



AAUW past state president, Kate Campbell Stevenson, right, following her presentation to the Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAUW branch in December. Senator Love talked about her previous work in the legislature as a Delegate and now as Maryland Senator for District 16 and issues expected to come before the Legislature in the coming session, which opens in January. Kate Stevenson currently represents AAUW on the MLAW – Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women – board.



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.