



BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE BRANCH NEWSLETTER

April 2025

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**FOX HILL
8300 Burdette Road
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Handicapped accessible. Plenty of parking.**

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

**Saturday, April 12, 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 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 trauma centers, 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 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.

**Saturday, May 10, 2025
11:00 a.m.**

The Challenges and Joys of Immigrating to the US: State Legislator. Immigrant. Rebel. Champion for Economic Vitality and Cultural Inclusiveness.

Delegate Lily Qi

"When I first landed in America three decades ago, I would never have imagined that one day I would be elected to the Maryland State House. A story like mine is only possible in America where people would vote for a name they can't even pronounce! As an immigrant who came here by choice, I know why we must be competitive and inclusive at the same time." – Lily Qi

Lily Qi was born in Shanghai, China on November 4, 1963. She grew up during the height of the Cultural Revolution, during which her family was persecuted. She migrated to Indiana on February 22, 1989, where she attended Manchester University on a sponsorship from Manchester professor Al Deeter, for whom she worked as a translator



when he visited Shanghai. While at Manchester, she met her future husband, Yu "Phil" Peng. She graduated from Manchester University in 1991, earning a M.A. degree in communication studies.^[5] Afterwards, the couple worked at universities in Athens, Ohio, and Morgantown, West Virginia. In 1997, the couple moved to Montgomery County, Maryland after Qi accepted a position working on multicultural affairs at American University. She became a citizen of the United States in 1999 and earned a M.B.A. degree in marketing and

global information technology management in 2001 while working at American

University. After graduating, Qi began working on economic development for a couple of nonprofit organizations.

She represents the 15th legislative district in the Maryland House of Delegates and previously worked as a chief administrator for economic development under Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett.

2025 AAUW Maryland State Convention

Women Supporting Women: Global Influences and Opportunities

Hosted by the Gaithersburg Branch of AAUW – MD

Saturday, April 26, 2025

Pathways Baptist Church 200 West Diamond Avenue, Gaithersburg MD 20877

Come together with like-minded women from around the state to discuss local and global issues and explore opportunities for women's economic security. This event is a great opportunity to network, share experiences, and learn from each other. Let's learn about how to help make a positive impact locally and globally!

Event Agenda:

8:30 AM – Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM – Welcome

Eddie Allison, AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

Heather Reichardt, AAUW Maryland President

9:15 AM – The Challenges and Joys of Immigrating to the US

Speaker: **Delegate Lily Qi**

Born in Shanghai, China, Lily Qi grew up during the Chinese Cultural Revolution. She immigrated to the US in 1989, became a US citizen in 1999, and now represents the 15th legislative district in the Maryland House of Delegates. She previously served as chief administrator for economic development under Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett.

10:00 AM – Break

10:15 AM – Panel Discussion: Women Supporting Women Domestically and Globally

Panelists: **Bria Marie Hodge**, Director of Small Business Development, Latino Economic Development Center: **Robyn Nietert**, President, Women's Microfinance Initiative

Moderator: Kate Stevenson, former Co-President, Maryland AAUW

11:15 AM – Women Supporting Women: Results from the Maryland Legislative Session

Speaker: **Roxann King**, AAUW Maryland Vice President for Public Policy

12:00 PM – New Officer Voting & Installation

12:30 PM – Lunch

For those who wish to stay, the Business Meeting will begin at 1:15 PM and adjourn at 4:00 PM – Adjourn

To find out more and to register see the Marylander or contact Pat Stocker.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Officers 2024-25

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President's Letter

Dear AAUW Friends,

As I write this, I am reflecting on my personal experience as a delegate to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). This group meets in March each year, and I have had the privilege of attending for three years in person (and the first year, virtual because of Covid).

These are difficult times to represent the United States to a global community. The current US Administration has criticized the United Nations for activities related to diversity, inclusion and equity – cornerstones of the CSW agenda. AAUW and countless other US organizations which support women are making their voices heard. Our sisters in Africa and elsewhere lament the end of USAID support for their communities. We often exaggerate that people are dying from policy decisions; in this case, we actually do know that people are dying from AIDs, from starvation, from neglect. We need to hold our government accountable. From my Canadian friends also attending CSW, I was offered a maple leaf flag to wear to avoid criticism; I declined, proud of our country's history and passionate about continuing our long fight for women's equality. AAUW is taking a lead in protesting changes related to women's issues – particularly those affecting universities and education.

As we see the beloved cherry blossoms throughout the metro area, we are reminded that spring does come – and with it, promise of new beginnings.

Our program year ends in May, and we have two outstanding educational programs upcoming. Leighann Sidone, president of Suburban Hospital, will share her perspectives on health care issues and how one hospital is responding to the challenges. Delegate Lily Qi will share her amazing and inspiring story of an immigrant who not only found her niche in the U.S., but rose to become an elected official in Maryland. As we plan to our next program year, beginning in September, I urge you to share with us issues you would like to see on our Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAUW agenda. We share an interest in lifelong learning, and our branch is committed to providing opportunities for our members – and any others who wish to join us – to learn about important issues facing all of us.

Finally, I want to remind you that our AAUW State Convention is coming up April 26 in Gaithersburg. There is information in this newsletter about the convention, and you can get additional information and register on-line in The Marylander, our state newsletter. Look for "Marylander" in the subject line of the e-mail.

Thank you for continuing to advocate and fight for women's equity!

Pat Stocker, President, Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAUW



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.