



BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE BRANCH NEWSLETTER

March 2025

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

President
Dr. Pat Stocker
301-229-0991 Home
301-254-7141 Cell
patstocker@aol.com

Editor
Charlene Currie
301-613-2442 Cell
charlene.currie@verizon.net

FOX HILL
8300 Burdette Road
Bethesda, MD 20817
Handicapped accessible. Plenty of parking.

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

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

**Eleanor Roosevelt:
Humanitarian and First Lady of the World**

Kate Campbell Stevenson



Eleanor Roosevelt will be with us for our March 2025 branch meeting! Kate Campbell Stevenson will present her popular program focusing on the work and life of Eleanor Roosevelt.

Kate combines over 40 years of professional experience in music, theatre and education to create *Women: Back to Future* leadership programs. In her series of one-woman shows Stevenson brings to life historic women leaders who raised the status of American women as they made significant contributions to our culture and human rights throughout the world. These courageous role models dared to speak out and took bold action to solve civic problems. Stevenson's programs entertain, educate and motivate participants

throughout the United States for schools, U.S Government and Military, conferences and conventions.

A lifelong community activist, Kate served as Board Chair of Empowered Women International from 2009-2013 and was recognized as “2012 and 2015, Maryland Top 100 Women” by *The Daily Record*, and was inducted into their Circle of Excellence in 2020 for her significant professional accomplishments, outstanding community leadership and inspirational mentoring. In 2018 Kate was recognized as the AAUW Maryland Woman of Achievement. In Jan 2015, The Maryland State Education Association honored Kate with the MSEA Dorothy Lloyd Women’s Rights Award. The award honors persons, groups, or programs for their accomplishments in the field of girls’ and women’s rights. Kate is currently featured in the Maryland Women’s Heritage Center’s travelling exhibit *Images and Expressions: Maryland Women in the Arts*.



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

Upcoming Programs

**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’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 office 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.**

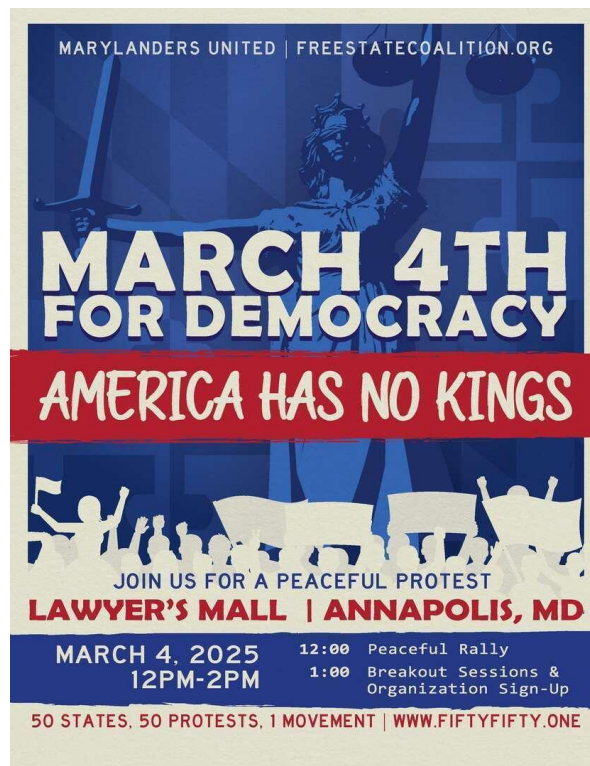
TBA

Other Upcoming AAUW Maryland Events

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

March 4 – March for Democracy in Annapolis (see flyer below)

April 26 – Maryland AAUW Spring Convention



Bethesda-Chevy Chase Officers 2024-25

President Pat Stocker

E-mail: patstocker@aol.com

E-mail: carol4600@verizon.net

Vice President Patty Howie

E-mail: pbhowie@verizon.net

Newsletter Charlene Currie

E-mail: charlene.currie@verizon.net

Treasurer Karen Braun

E-mail: karen.braun@verizon.net

Public Policy Carol Starr

E-mail: carstarr@gmail.com

Secretary Carol Whitley

Program Pat Stocker

E-mail: patstocker@aol.com

President's Letter

Dear AAUW Friends,

My apologies for the late distribution of this newsletter. Our planned March speaker had a family emergency and will be with us instead on April 12. But we are in for a treat: ELEANOR ROOSEVELT will be with us March 8! The incomparable Kate Stevenson will bring Eleanor to us "live and in person" for that meeting. Prepare to be educated and entertained!

As I write this note, I have just watched the exchange between President Trump and Vice President Vance with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy in the Oval Office of the White House. Regardless of your political point of view, I'm sure that you felt – as I did – that basic rules of hospitality were violated by this discussion. As a child, I learned from my mother that if you invited someone to visit, you were obligated to treat them kindly. If there were differences, these should be dealt with privately – not in the presence of others. Somehow this message seems to have been lost on our US leaders. We might not agree on how or in what way the US should support Ukraine, but I believe that basic rules of civility were violated in a way that embarrassed me as an American – and left the rest of the world confused, angry, and divided. We can do better!

In terms of good news, we are making progress on our issues in the Maryland Legislature. We have 14 priority bills, 10 of those which are part of the agenda of the Maryland Agenda for Women (MLAW) of which we are a member, and an additional four which we have added as AAUW. Even in a spirited session in which budget constraints dominate, we are lucky to have legislators who understand many of our concerns. We will keep you informed about the outcome of our issues.

Finally, I want to remind you that our March 8 meeting occurs on International Women's Day, celebrated throughout the world. We join with our sisters in celebrating the accomplishments of women and fighting for equity for women all over the world.

I will be attending the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March as a delegate. I look forward to sharing my experiences with you after the meetings are finished. I have been a delegate yearly since 2020 and celebrate the opportunity to meet with women from all over the world – sharing our joys and challenges.

Thank you for your continuing support of women and girls!

Pat

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

As the legislature meets, AAUW collaborates with the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women and the Maryland General Assembly Women’s Caucus to advocate for progressive legislation and policy that protects the well-being of women and increases opportunities to develop their full potential. AAUW representatives designated February 9 as Advocacy Day and sent a team of representatives to lobby for selected bills. As bills are heard in committee, we send alerts so that you can contact Committee members to encourage them to support and report them out of committee. The format of the alerts is to email these members easily, and we encourage you to do so. We will also send alerts enabling you to contact your representatives to support the final passage. Given the challenges of the budget constraints this year, it is more important than ever to continue support for this legislation. Below is the list of bills we are supporting as part of our MLAW partnership.

MLAW
2025 Legislative Agenda

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



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.