



## BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE BRANCH NEWSLETTER

December 2025

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

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**FOX HILL**  
8300 Burdette Road  
Bethesda, MD 20817

Handicapped accessible. Plenty of parking. Guests welcome.



### **AAUW December Meeting**

**Saturday, December 13, 2025**  
**11:00 a.m.**

### **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.

Sara spoke with our branch a year ago as we looked forward to the 2025 General Assembly. In this session, she will provide insights into the upcoming 2026 Session.

## Upcoming Programs

Saturday, January 10, 2026

### National and International Perspectives on Trump Initiatives

#### Mark Medish

Mark Medish will share his insights into how U.S. policies are unfolding under the current 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.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

**Additional Program Dates – all at 11:00 a.m. at Fox Hill – Speakers TBA**

Saturday, February 14, 2026

Saturday, March 14, 2026

Saturday, April 11, 2026

Saturday, May 9, 2026

September 25-27, 2026

**2nd Biennial Atlantic Regional Conference**

Lancaster, PA (Details will be provided at a later date.)

## President's Letter

Dear Friends,

During this season between Thanksgiving and the December holidays, I am grateful to AAUW for continuing to fight the battle for equity for women and girls. With rights being threatened and previously fought victories reversed, we need to fight to protect safeguards like Title IX, fair college admissions policies which include understanding the barriers women – especially women of color – experience, reproductive rights, hiring rights and many more. AAUW is at the forefront of these battles on a national level – and we continue to work toward policies in Maryland which affect women.



On those policies, we are truly honored to have Senator Sara Love in our corner. When you review her background, it becomes obvious that she is a leader on issues of importance to us in Maryland – criminal justice reform, voting rights, funding for public schools, reproductive rights and dozens of other issues in which she is a leader and often the sponsor of legislation in our state. To the left is a photo of me with Senator Love from her meeting with us last year. I am sure we will again be interested and pleased with her

reports of issues on which she is working.

If you would like to get involved with lobbying during the upcoming Legislative Session, perhaps in a major way such as coming to Annapolis to lobby on our issues or sending letters and emails to your Senators and Delegates, Carol Starr coordinates the public policy efforts for our branch. You can contact Carol at [carstarr@gmail.com](mailto:carstarr@gmail.com). We work closely with the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW), of which we are a member along with other Maryland women's organizations.

May I close by thanking each of you for your efforts to promote women's equity through AAUW and your other interests. All of us need to keep up our efforts. Thank you!!!

*Pat*

## Bethesda-Chevy Chase Officers 2025-26

**President** **Pat Stocker**  
E-mail: [patstocker@aol.com](mailto:patstocker@aol.com)

**Vice President** **Patty Howie**  
E-mail: [pbhowie@verizon.net](mailto:pbhowie@verizon.net)

**Treasurer** **Karen Braun**  
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**Secretary** **Carol Whitley**

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**Newsletter** **Charlene Currie**  
E-mail: [charlene.currie@verizon.net](mailto:charlene.currie@verizon.net)

**Public Policy** **Carol Starr**  
E-mail: [carstarr@gmail.com](mailto:carstarr@gmail.com)

**Program** **Pat Stocker**  
E-mail: [patstocker@aol.com](mailto:patstocker@aol.com)

## National AAUW News

### Upcoming Webinars

Here are three upcoming online events that will offer fresh insights and actionable strategies for your branch. To register for any of these events, go to the AAUW.org website.

- **Working in Coalition: Building Power through Partnerships** — November 6 at 7:00 pm ET. Learn how strong partnerships can amplify your advocacy with real-world examples and first steps for building coalitions.
- **AAUW Member Recruitment Best Practices** — November 19 at 7:00 pm ET. Learn from a panel of branch leaders in a moderated discussion on what's working in member recruitment. If your branch is looking to grow or refresh your recruitment strategies, this is the session for you!
- **2025 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Award** — November 20 from 4:30-7 pm ET. Celebrate leadership, achievement, and community as we honor Yie-Hsin Hung in this special virtual awards presentation.

### Dismantling the Department of Education – Action needed NOW!

Last week, the Trump administration escalated its effort to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education (ED). On November 18, ED announced six “partnerships” moving the day-to-day work of major K-12 and higher education programs to other agencies, after slashing staff across the Department. This is not routine reorganization. It threatens students’ civil rights and access to opportunity. We need your voice now.

### Write to your members of Congress now to intervene and ensure the Department of Education can fulfill its responsibilities to students.

Why this matters: Congress created the Department of Education to enforce civil rights laws in education, administer federal aid, and ensure equal educational opportunity for all students. When ED is hollowed out and its expertise is scattered across agencies not centered on education:

- students lose a clear place to turn when discrimination happens;
- support programs become harder to reach and harder to hold accountable;

- women and girls, students of color, students with disabilities, LGBTQ+ students, Native students, immigrants, and student parents are hit first and hardest.

AAUW is already taking action:

We released a press statement from CEO Gloria L. Blackwell;

We joined a coalition letter urging Congress to block these transfers; and

We joined disability rights principles affirming that ED must remain independent and fully staffed to enforce IDEA and Section 504.

**Now we need every AAUW member and advocate to lift their voice.**

Urge Congress to block efforts to dismantle the Department of Education's ability to do its job — advancing gender and racial equity in every classroom and protecting students' rights. If Congress doesn't act, students and families will feel the fallout first. Please send your letter today. Thank you for standing with AAUW and defending inclusive, high-quality public education for all students.



### **Equity Through Education**

**“When a woman is educated, she unlocks not only her own power but the potential of entire communities. Education isn’t just a right—it’s the foundation of equity, the engine of opportunity, and the key to a future where every woman can thrive.”**

**Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW CEO**



**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.**

## **Our mission**

### **Higher Education & Economic Security**

**AAUW empowers women and girls by championing their success in higher education and pushing for bold policy solutions to create lasting change. For more than 140 years, AAUW has led the fight for gender equity in higher education and beyond. With a strong record of advocacy and action, AAUW continues to break barriers and defend the rights of women in education and the workplace.**

# MEMBERSHIP DUES – 2026

## Join or Renew Now!

**Dues:** **\$100**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU SHOULD RECEIVE A RENEWAL REMINDER FROM AAUW NATIONAL, AND IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE SEE OUR TREASURER, KAREN BRAUN. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE THIS REMINDER, YOU MAY USE THIS FORM TO RENEW.**

**Includes \$74 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**

**\$71 is TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

Note: AAUW national membership dues are \$74, of which \$71 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 \$100 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](mailto:karen.braun@verizon.net)