



# Maryland Women's Hall of Fame & Maryland Young Women Leaders Awards **2024 Induction and Awards**

Celebrating Women's Leadership:  
Honoring Maryland's Firsts and Rising Leaders



## **Thursday, March 21, 2024**

**Presented by**

Women Legislators of the Maryland General Assembly, Inc.

Maryland Department of Human Services

The Foundation for the Maryland Commission for Women, Inc.





# 1965- 2024

The Maryland Commission for Women was first established in 1965 and was set in state law in 1971. An office in the Department of Human Services, the Commission is a 25-member advisory board whose duties outlined in its enabling legislation include: study the status of women in our state, recommend methods of overcoming discrimination, recognize women's accomplishments and contributions, provide informed advice to the executive and legislative branches of government on the issues concerning the women of our state, and direct attention to the critical problems confronting women. Commissioners are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor, with confirmation by the Maryland State Senate, and serve without compensation.

51 Monroe Street, Suite 1034, Rockville, MD 20850  
[www.marylandwomen.org](http://www.marylandwomen.org)

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Vacant, Executive Director  
 Tammy Wise, Management Associate

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● Tawanda A. Bailey

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Frederick County



● Maxine Griffin  
Somerville

### First Vice Chair

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 Rev. Tamara England Wilson, D. Min., Baltimore City



*Rafael López, Secretary*

## **Letter from Secretary López Department of Human Services**

February 5, 2024

On behalf of the Maryland Department of Human Services, congratulations to the remarkable women who are being honored with the 2024 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Award and the Young Women Leaders Award.

As we celebrate the historic accomplishments of women across our state, I'm reminded of the words of one of my favorite poets, Maya Angelou:

"Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently. You can practice any virtue erratically, but nothing consistently without courage." The women of Maryland are courageous.

Maryland has a rich history of women legislators, politicians, educators, community advocates, spiritual leaders, scientists, innovators, athletes, and philanthropists, who have paved the way for future generations through their courage and determination to move our state forward. This year's honorees are continuing this legacy. In each of their respective fields, they have taken our state to greater heights — even in the face of adversity.

We are proud to support the Maryland Commission for Women and its mission to assure that every Maryland resident, regardless of gender or identity, has access to the same opportunities to achieve their very best. We commend the Commission for creating space to celebrate women's contributions, and we extend our respect and very best wishes to this year's honorees.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rafael Lopez', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Secretary Rafael López

## 2024 Achievement and Recognition Commemoration (ARC) Committee



*Pier Blake, ARC Chair*

**Pier Blake**, Chair  
**Lenita Walker**, Vice Chair  
**Gloria Dent**, Vice Chair

**Committee Members:**

*Judith Emmel, Evelyne Steward Tawanda Bailey,  
 Maxine Griffin Somerville, Patricia Lambert*

Since the inception of the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 1985, the Commission for Women has memorialized the often unknown or overlooked contributions of women to our state's and our nation's history.

Every year in March, we recognize women whose achievements are of historic significance and whose accomplishments help to advance the rights of women and girls. Each year, the Commission for Women also recognizes young women in high school with records of academic excellence, outstanding leadership and extraordinary community service.

The theme for our celebration of Women's History Month this year is ***Celebrating Women's Leadership: Honoring Maryland's Firsts and Rising Leaders.***

In March, 2024 we are inducting five extraordinary women into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, and we are recognizing five young women – future leaders, every one – with the Maryland Young Women Leaders Award.

Much appreciation is due to all the ARC Committee members who worked so hard on this project this year.

Please explore this program booklet to learn more about the Commission for Women, The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, the Maryland Young Women Leaders Award, and to learn more about each of our honorees.

Thank you!

## 2024 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame



*Lenita Walker, ARC  
Committee Vice Chair*

This year, as we celebrate Maryland women who have made history, we honor Adrienne Jones the first African American and the first woman Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, Susan Lee the first Asian American to serve as Maryland's Secretary of State, first Asian American elected to the Senate, and first Chinese American elected to the General Assembly, Brooke Lierman Comptroller of the State of Maryland, the first woman to hold this office and the first woman independently elected to any one of Maryland's constitutional offices, Aruna Miller the second woman to serve as Lieutenant Governor and the first woman of color and the first immigrant elected to statewide office in Maryland, and Nancy Pelosi a U.S. Congresswoman (1987 - ) and Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (2007 – 2011, 2019 – 2023).

These exceptional women all have a vision of a better world and we pay tribute to them and thank them for their extraordinary service and selfless dedication.

[The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame](#) is a rich source of biographies of women who made significant and lasting contributions to the history and culture of our state and our nation. Established in 1985 as a partnership between the Maryland Commission for Women and the Women Legislators of Maryland, the Hall of Fame honors Maryland women whose lives and work are of historic significance to the economic, political, and cultural life of the state.

Normally, each year the Maryland Commission for Women and the Women Legislators of Maryland call for nominations of women who have made history in fields such as the arts, athletics, business, community advocacy, education, government, the humanities, human rights, law, medicine, the military, philanthropy, and science. Biographies of the honorees are displayed at the website of the Maryland State Archives at: <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/educ/exhibits/womenshallfame/html/index.html>. A physical exhibit of the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame is located on the campus of Notre Dame of Maryland University in Baltimore.



# Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Honorees

## 1985 – 2023

**1985**

Margaret Brent \*  
 Rachel Carson\*  
 Hon. Rita C. Davidson \*  
 Hon. Gladys Noon Spellman  
 Harriet Ross Tubman\*

**1986**

Lillie Carroll Jackson \*  
 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton\*  
 Henrietta Szold\*  
 Jeannette Rosner Wolman  
 H. Margret Zassenhaus, M.D.

**1987**

Clara Barton\*  
 Frances Ellen Watkins Harper\*  
 Juanita Jackson Mitchell  
 Mary Shaw Shorb, Ph.D.  
 Helen Brooke Taussig, M.D.\*

**1988**

Hon. Barbara Ann Mikulski  
 Sadie Kneller Miller \*  
 Mary Eliza Risteau \*  
 Martha Carey Thomas \*  
 Verda Freeman Welcome

**1989**

Bertha Sheppard Adkins \*  
 Eugenie Clark, PhD.  
 Hon. Lavinia Margaret Engle\*  
 Lena King Lee  
 Estelle R. Ramey, Ph.D.

**1990**

Hon. Lucille Maurer  
 Enolia Pettigen McMillan  
 Pauli Murray\*  
 Adele Hagner Stamp \*  
 Mary Lemist Titcomb\*

**1991**

Rita R. Colwell, Ph.D.  
 Mary Elizabeth Lange\*  
 Claire McCardell\*  
 Bessie Moses, M.D.\*  
 Alta Schrock, Ph.D.

**1992**

Annie Armstrong\*  
 Anna Ella Carroll\*  
 Rose Kushner  
 Hon. Margaret Collins Schweinhaut  
 Carmen Delgado Votaw

**1993**

Hon. Rosalyn Blake Bell  
 Lucille Clifton  
 Elizabeth King Ellicott\*  
 Jean Spencer\*  
 Martha Ellicott Tyson\*

**1994**

Hon. Rosalie Silber Abrams  
 Mary Elizabeth Banning\*  
 Harriet Elizabeth Brown  
 Hon. Constance A. Morella  
 Mary Adelaide Nutting\*

**1995**

Jill Moss Greenberg  
 Mary L. Nock\*  
 Amanda Taylor Norris, M.D.\*  
 Nettie Barcroft Taylor  
 Euphemia M Goldsborough Wilson\*

**1996**

Madeleine L. Ellicott\*  
 Ethel Llewellyn Ennis  
 Mary Digges Lee\*  
 Brigid G. Leventhal, M.D.\*  
 Barbara Robinson

**1997**

Diane L. Adams, M.D.  
 Sol del Ande Mendez Eaton  
 Catherine R. Gira, Ph.D.  
 Hon. Helen L. Koss  
 Rosa Ponselle\*

**1998**

Constance Ross Beims  
 Mary Katherine Goddard\*  
 Elaine Ryan Hedges\*  
 Mary Carter Smith

**1999**

Florence Riefler Bahr\*  
 Lillian C. Compton\*  
 Edith Houghton Hooker\*  
 Elizabeth Fran Johnson  
 Bernice Smith White

**2000**

Constance Uriolo Battle, M.D.  
 Lois Green Carr  
 Sonia Pressman Fuentes  
 Josephine Jacobsen  
 Rosetta Stith, Ph.D.

**2001**

Kathleen Feeley, S.S.N.D.  
 Misbah Khan, M.D.  
 Charmaine Krohe, S.S.N.D.  
 Eunice Kennedy Shriver  
 Sandra W. Tomlinson, Ph.D.

**2002**

Mabel Houze Hubbard  
 Florence P. Kendall  
 Mary Young Pickersgill\*  
 Hon. Lorraine Sheehan

**2003**

Virginia Walcott Beauchamp  
 Edith Clarke\*  
 Hon. Kathryn J. DuFour  
 Ruth L. Kirschstein, M.D.  
 Etta H. Maddox\*  
 Deborah A. Yow

**2004**

Emily Edmonson\*  
 Nancy Grasmick, Ph.D.  
 Esther McCready  
 Margaret Byrd Rawson  
 Vivian V. Simpson\*

**2005**

Shoshana S. Cardin  
 B. Olive Cole\*  
 Susan R. Panny, M.D.  
 Edyth H. Schoenrich, M.D., M.P.H.

# Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Honorees

## 1985 – 2023

### 2006

Susan P. Baker  
Liebe Sokol Diamond, M.D.  
Bea Gaddy\*  
Marilyn Hughes Gaston, M.D.  
Rebecca Alban Hoffberger  
Grace Snively\*

### 2007

Colonel Annette M. Deener  
Sally T. Grant  
Prasanna Nair, M.D., M.P.H.  
Karen H. Rothenberg, J.D., M.P.A.  
Hon. Audrey E. Scott

### 2008

Eleanora Fagan, "Billie Holiday" \*  
Ramona McCarthy Hawkins, R.Ph.  
Ellen Moses Heller  
Hon. Pauline Menes  
Toby Barbara Orenstein  
Emily Wilson Walker, M.D.\*

### 2009

Ilia Feher\*  
Diane Griffin, M.D., Ph.D.  
Harriet Legum  
Allyson Solomon  
Anne St. Clair Wright\*

### 2010

Claire M. Fraser-Leggett, Ph.D.  
Anne Catherine Hoof Green\*  
Irene Morgan Kirkaldy\*  
Almira Hart Lincoln Phelps  
Bernice R. Sandler, Ph.D.  
Lillie D. Shockley

### 2011

Lucy Diggs Slowe\*  
Carol Greider, Ph.D.  
Barbara Holdridge  
Ligia Peralta, M.D.F.A.A.P., F.S.A.H.M.  
Gertrude Poe  
June Willenz

### 2012

Maureen Black, Ph.D.  
Margaret Dunkle  
Hon. Diana Gribbon Motz  
Hon. Nancy Kopp  
Alice Manicur, Ed.D.  
Gwendolyn Rooks

### 2013

Hon. Helen Delich Bently  
Hon. Jean B. Cryor\*  
Charlene Mickens Dukes, Ed.D.  
Hon. Ellen Sauerbrey  
Linda Shevitz  
Beatrice Tignor, Ed.D.

### 2014

Dorothy Bailey  
Agnes Kane Callum  
Renee Fox, M.D.  
Susan Goering  
Henrietta Lacks\*  
Ann Cipriano Rees

### 2015

Hon. Beverly B. Byron  
Gail de Planque, Ph.D.\*  
Mary S. Feik  
Katherine L. O'Brien, M.D.  
Linda Singh  
Sue Fryer Ward\*

### 2016

Sophia Arabatzis Balis, D.D.S.  
Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms  
Mary C. Goodwillie\*  
Elaine Danforth Harmon\*  
Joanne Katz, Sc.D.  
Lizette Woodworth Reese\*

### 2017

Marsha Coleman-Adebayo, Ph.D.  
Carolyn W. Colvin  
Hon. Donna Edwards  
Mary Elizabeth Garrett\*  
Katharine Blodgett Gebbie, Ph.D.\*  
Kathleen Genevieve "Katie" Ledecy  
Helen Maroulis  
Lilian Welsh, M.D. \*

### 2018

Sandra I. Barnes, Esq.  
Sandra Williams Ortega, Ph.D.  
Emily Saunders Plummer \*  
Rita L. Robinson  
Hattie N. Washington, Ph.D.

### 2019

Hon. Marielsa A. Bernard, Esq.  
Augusta T. Chissell\*  
Dominique Dawes  
Virginia Hall\*  
Hon. Rosa "Rosie" Gumtaotao Rios  
Evelyn Williams Townsend\*  
Phyllis B. Trickeett  
Pauline Woo Tsui\*

### 2020

Victorine Quille Adams\*  
Evelyn O. A. Darden  
Claire L. Parkinson, Ph.D.  
Nancy Grace Roman, Ph.D.\*  
Leslie R. Wolfe, Ph.D.\*

### 2021

Elizabethn "Liz" Bobo  
Margaret Briggs Gregory Hawkins\*  
Rev. Dr. Ruby Reese Moone  
Nancy K. Welker, Ph.D.  
Celeste Revillon Winans\*

### 2022

Dorothe (Dottie) Toplitzky Blum\*  
Mary Cleave, Ph.D.  
Gloria Richardson\*  
Beatrice (Bea) Rodgers  
Odessa M. Shannon\*

### 2023

Brigadier General Janeen L. Birckhead  
Hon. Charlotte M. Cooksey  
Hon. Gloria Lawlah  
Edith "Jackie" Ronne\*  
Hon. Ana Sol Gutierrez

*\* Posthumously inducted*





Adrienne A. Jones

## Hon. Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates

Speaker Adrienne A. Jones shattered two glass ceilings when she was unanimously elected by the full House of Delegates to serve as the first African American and the first woman Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates.

Since becoming Speaker, she has led the Maryland House of Delegates in passing some of the most consequential bills in a generation. Speaker Jones ushered through The Blueprint for Maryland's Future, a 10-year plan that makes the largest investment in education in Maryland history. She implemented the

nation's first comprehensive statewide policy agenda for racial and economic justice and made transformational police reforms, including making Maryland the first state in the nation to repeal the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights. To protect women's reproductive health care, she led the effort to enshrine the right to reproductive freedom in Maryland's Constitution.

Prior to her election as Speaker, she also held the distinction of being the first African American woman to serve as Speaker Pro Tem in the Maryland House of Delegates, serving in that capacity under Speaker Mike Busch for 16 years. Speaker Jones served on the House Appropriations Committee, and was Chair of the Capital Budget and Education, and Economic Development Subcommittees. She has been a Delegate since 1997.

In February 2019, Speaker Jones received the Casper R. Taylor, Jr. Founder's Award, the highest award given to a member of the House of Delegates, recognizing her steadfast service. She was named three times to The Daily Record's "Top 100 Women in Maryland" and was inducted into the Circle of Excellence for Sustained Achievement. As the first Executive Director of the Baltimore County Office of Fair Practices and Community Affairs, she faithfully served the citizens of the County for over 37 years. She served as Deputy Director of the Baltimore County Office of Human Resources until her retirement from service in Baltimore County Government on June 30, 2014. During her civil service career, she worked with diverse populations of the County with dedication and sensitivity and founded the annual Baltimore County African American Cultural Festival.

Speaker Jones was born in Cowdensville, Maryland, a historic African American community located in Southwest Baltimore County. She attended Baltimore County Public Schools, graduating from Lansdowne High School and is a proud alumna of the University of Maryland Baltimore County where she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology. In 2008, she received an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from Goucher College, and in 2022, she received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree from Morgan State University. She is the mother of two adult sons and proud grandmother of two grandchildren.

*"I'm part of an organization whose motto is, 'Each one reach one; each one teach one.' That motto reminds me of why it's important to do this work. It's not about making history – it's about public service and blazing a path for more women to come after us.*



*Susan C. Lee*

## **Susan C. Lee** **Hon. Secretary of State**

Susan C. Lee was appointed as Maryland's 72nd Secretary of State on January 18, 2023 by Governor Wes Moore. She previously served over 20 years in the Maryland General Assembly, having been elected to the Senate in 2014 and to the House of Delegates in 2002 representing District 16. Lee, an attorney, is the first Asian American to serve as Maryland's Secretary of State, first Asian American elected to the Senate, and first Chinese American elected to the General Assembly.

During her time in the General Assembly, Lee was a leader the cutting-edge issues of cyber security, innovation, identity theft, online fraud, consumer protection, pay equity, gun safety, and championed laws to fight domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, child abuse, senior abuse, and hate crimes. Lee also led efforts to promote bioscience, nanobiotechnology, telehealth, IT, and emerging technologies. Lee was the lead senate sponsor of the Maryland Equal Pay for Equal Work Act, True Freedom Act, and Anti-Exploitation Act and laws to ban ghost guns, require background checks on long gun sales, and to empower women, children, families, and all hardworking individuals.

Lee served as the Senate Majority Whip, Member of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, Member of the Senate Executive Nominations Committee, Legislative Policy Committee, Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology and Biotechnology, Governor's Council on Family Violence, Workgroup to Study Safe Harbor Policy for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking, and Workgroup to Study Child Custody Proceedings Involving Child Abuse or Domestic Violence Allegations. She also served as the Co-Chair of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council Law & Policy Subcommittee, Co-Chair of the Maryland Commission on Cyber Security, Innovation and Excellence, Co-Chair of the Maryland Identity Theft Task Force, and Co-Chair of the Nanobiotechnology Task Force, and Member of the Council on Open Data, Maryland Student Privacy Council, State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services, State Advisory Board on Administrative Hearings, Task Force to Study Bicycle Safety on Maryland Highways, and Task Force to Study Recording Deeds for Victims of Domestic Violence. Lee was the first and past Chairman of the Maryland Legislative Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus and past President of the Women Legislators of Maryland (Women's Legislative Caucus). She also was a Member of the National Conference of State Legislatures Task Force on Immigration and Task Force on Cybersecurity and Member of the Communications, Technology & Interstate Commerce Committee, Member of the Maryland Council for New Americans, and a Presidential Elector.

Lee is the daughter of a World War II veteran of the US Navy and retired Washington Post artist. She is a product of the Montgomery County public school system, having

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## Susan C. Lee

### Hon. Secretary of State

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attended Leland Junior High School, Herbert Hoover Junior High, and Winston Churchill High School. She graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park and the University of San Francisco School of Law. Having served in both the public and private sectors, Lee was an attorney with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and Of Counsel with Gebhardt & Associates. She was appointed to serve on the United States Patent and Trademark Advisory Board during the Clinton Administration. Lee was a member of the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board, Jewish Foundation for Group Homes Board, Progressive Maryland, Co-Chair of the Montgomery County NAACP Multicultural Community Partnership, President of Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Greater Washington Area, and Board Member of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies.

Lee is an inductee of the Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame and the Montgomery County Women's History Archives. She is the recipient of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women's Legislative Leadership Award; Women's Law Center Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award; Maryland NOW's Leadership Award; Bethesda Magazine's Women Who Inspire Award; Baltimore Sun's 25 Women to Watch Award; The Daily Record's Maryland Top 100 Women; Equality Maryland's Out for Justice Award; National Center for Children and Families' Spirit Award for Humanitarian Leadership; Baltimore Child Abuse Center's Outstanding Community Hero Award; Maryland Health Information Management Systems Award, Village of Friendship Heights Community Service Award; Progressive Maryland's Progressive Leader Award; Charles E. Smith Communities Chairman's Award for Commitment and Support of the Elderly Community; Mothers Against Drunk Driving Merit Award; Chinese American Citizens Alliance's George Frisbie Hoar Award; Korean American Senior Citizens Association MD Outstanding Senior Citizens Advocate Award and many more.

*As a former state Senator and House Delegate and now as Secretary of State, I have been honored to have worked with outstanding advocates and leaders of women's, people of color, LGBTQ+, disability, faith, immigrant, civil rights, and other organizations to pass and implement landmark laws and policies that have helped uplift and empower women, children, families, and people of all backgrounds. We still must continue to work to protect and build on the significant strides made by those whose shoulders we stand on to ensure we are moving forward together to fulfil the promise of America and make this a better world for all.*

Maryland Secretary of State Susan C. Lee



*Brooke Lierman*

## **Hon. Brooke Lierman Comptroller, State of Maryland (2023 - )**

Brooke Lierman was elected the 34th Comptroller of the state of Maryland in November of 2022, winning over 60 percent of the vote. She took office in January 2023, becoming the first woman to hold this office and the first woman independently elected to any one of Maryland's constitutional offices.

Ms. Lierman was born in Washington, D.C. She graduated from Walt Whitman High School in Montgomery County, Maryland, earned her bachelor's degree in 2001 at Dartmouth College and her law degree in 2008 at The University of Texas at Austin.

Before entering law school, she served as an AmeriCorps VISTA member at The DREAM Program in Burlington, Vermont and worked as Special Assistant for National Security at the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C. She also worked as an organizer on several federal political campaigns, including for Senator Paul Wellstone. She practiced law for many years, focusing on civil rights and disability rights.

After law school, she and her husband moved to Fell's Point in Baltimore, where she clerked for a federal judge prior to joining a law firm. She was active in her neighborhood, and after experiencing the problems of poor transit service first-hand, she became a supporter of better public transit in Baltimore City. In 2013, she was selected for Baltimore Magazine's "40 Under 40." In 2014, she was selected as one of the Sun Magazine's "50 Women to Watch" and received The Daily Record's "Leading Women" award in 2015 and 2020. After the 2016 election, she co-founded Baltimore Women United, a women's organizing entity that sponsored a women's march for many years and served as an organizing entity for women to become more involved in politics. She was on the founding board of Emerge Maryland before leaving the board to join its first class in 2013.

She was twice elected as a member of the House of Delegates (2014 and 2018, both in which she was the top vote-getter), representing Baltimore City's 46th District in the Maryland General Assembly for eight years. While in the House, she held leadership roles on both the Appropriations Committee and the Environment and Transportation Committee.

Additionally, she was the House Chair for the Joint Committee on Pensions, sat on the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness, and founded the Maryland Transit Caucus. She successfully passed landmark legislation to invest in and improve public transit and public schools; prohibit the suspension and expulsion of young students from public schools; grant college students the right to use their name, image, and likeness; fund evidence-based gun violence prevention programs; aid sex trafficking victims; close

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## Hon. Brooke Lierman Comptroller, State of Maryland (2023 - )

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loopholes in affordable housing laws and create the office of statewide broadband.

Under her leadership, the Office of the Comptroller has adopted a vision to be a partner in creating a Maryland that is more equitable, more resilient, and more prosperous so that all Marylanders can reach their full potential.

She and her husband and two school-age children live in Baltimore City.

*"I am truly honored to be inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and to join a group of women who have inspired me through their persistence, leadership, and resolve. Each of us builds on the work of those who come before us, and I am grateful for and inspired by the many women who helped make it possible for me to put more cracks into the world's glass ceiling. When women do better, we all do better - and as our 34th Comptroller, I am focused on building a state that is more equitable, more resilient, and more prosperous for every Marylander. I am grateful to the Maryland Commission for Women and the Women Legislators of Maryland for this recognition, and I am committed to working for a world where all women have the opportunity to reach their full potential."*

Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman





Aruna Miller

## Hon. Aruna Miller Lt. Governor of Maryland (2023 - )

Aruna Miller was elected Lieutenant Governor of the state of Maryland, taking office in 2023. She is the 10th person and the second woman to serve as Lieutenant Governor and the first woman of color and the first immigrant elected to statewide office in Maryland.

Born in Andhra Pradesh, India, Miller and her family immigrated to the United States when she was seven years old. The daughter of a mechanical engineer, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Miller has devoted her life to public service and removing systemic barriers to opportunity.

As a civil and transportation engineer in Montgomery County's Department of Transportation, Miller worked to improve the safety of the public and alleviate traffic by creating equitable access to transportation throughout the county. For 25 years, she oversaw programs that advanced access to schools and employment centers, and made community facilities safe for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and people with differing abilities. From 2010 to 2018, she represented District 15 in the Maryland House of Delegates, where she worked with her constituents to create legislation to invest in STEM education, streamline the regulatory process for small businesses, and was a champion for working families, survivors of domestic abuse, and the environment.

Miller served on the Ways and Means Committee and its Revenue, Transportation, and Education Subcommittees. Additionally, in her second term, she served on the Appropriations Committee, where she served as chair of the Oversight of Personnel Subcommittee, vice chair of the Transportation and Environment Subcommittee, and vice chair of the Capital Budget Subcommittee.

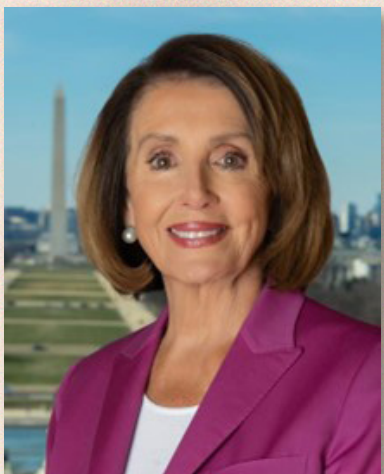
As Lieutenant Governor, her policy profile includes matters relating to transportation, mental health, and STEM equity.

She serves as chair of the Governor's Work Zone Safety Work Group, dedicated to making highway work zones safer and protecting the lives of workers, motorists, and law enforcement.

The Lieutenant Governor also chairs Maryland's first Council on Interfaith Outreach, which convenes faith leaders from across religions and across the state of Maryland to bridge divides, increase religious tolerance, end hate, and better serve all communities.

For over 30 years, she has lived with her husband in Montgomery County, Maryland, where they raised three daughters.

*I am grateful to stand among the remarkable Maryland women whose legacies inspire us to see more, do more, and be more. - Hon. Aruna Miller*



*Nancy Pelosi*

## **Hon. Nancy Pelosi U.S. Congresswoman (1987 - ), Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (2007 – 2011, 2019 – 2023)**

Nancy Pelosi served as the 52nd Speaker of the House of Representatives, having made history in 2007 when she was elected the first woman to serve as Speaker of the House. She made history again in January 2019 when she regained her position second-in-line to the presidency – the first person to do so in more than six decades.

Pelosi is the chief architect of generation-defining legislation under two Democratic administrations, including the Affordable Care Act and the American Rescue Plan. She led House Democrats for 20 years and previously served as House Democratic Whip. In 2013, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Seneca Falls, the birthplace of the American women's rights movement.

Pelosi has represented San Francisco in Congress for 36 years. Currently serving as Speaker Emerita of the House and as the Representative for California's 11th Congressional District, she is fighting For The People to lower costs, grow paychecks and create jobs.

Under the Biden Administration, Speaker Pelosi led the design and passage of the life-saving American Rescue Plan. This law turned the tide of the pandemic: vaccinating hundreds of millions of Americans, delivering direct assistance to families, creating millions of new jobs, supporting frontline workers and returning children safely to schools. Pelosi engineered passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to strengthen roads, bridges, ports, water systems and broadband access across the country. Under her leadership, the House paved the way for historic laws to lower health care costs and combat the climate crisis with the Inflation Reduction Act and reinvigorate American manufacturing and innovation with the CHIPS and Science Act.

During the Obama presidency, Speaker Pelosi orchestrated passage of the landmark Affordable Care Act: which has guaranteed protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions, forbid insurers from discriminating against women, ended annual and lifetime limits on coverage, and expanded affordable insurance to tens of millions more Americans. Pelosi also delivered the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to rescue the nation from the depths of the financial crisis; the Dodd-Frank reforms to rein in big banks and strengthen consumer protections; and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to restore the ability to fight pay discrimination in court.

A champion on climate, Pelosi has passed key investments in clean energy, conservation and community resilience. A defender of democracy, she has spearheaded House efforts to protect voting rights, to impeach President Trump for violating his oath of office, and to create the bipartisan Select Committee to Investigate

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## Hon. Nancy Pelosi U.S. Congresswoman (1987 - ), Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (2007 – 2011, 2019 – 2023)

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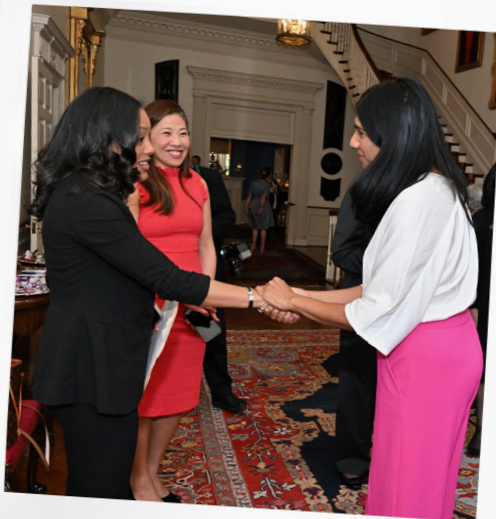
January 6th. A force for full equality, she has led the fight to repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” secure new protections against hate crimes and advance the watershed Equality Act. For decades, Pelosi has been a powerful voice for human rights in China and all around the world.

Additional key accomplishments signed into law during her four terms as Speaker include: landmark gun violence prevention measures; reform of the college financial aid system; expanding health care to eleven million American children; stronger ethics and transparency requirements in government; and more benefits for veterans and caregivers.

Pelosi comes from a strong family tradition of public service in Baltimore. Married to Paul Pelosi, she is a mother of five and grandmother of ten.

*When people ask me, ‘What are the three most important issues facing the Congress?’ I always say the same thing: ‘Our children, our children, our children.’ Their health, their education, the economic security of their families, a healthy, safe community in which they can thrive, and a world at peace in which they can reach their fulfillment – that is my ‘why.’*

U.S. Congresswoman - Nancy Pelosi





## 2024 Maryland Young Women Leaders Award



*Gloria Dent*  
ARC Committee Vice Chair

The Maryland Young Women Leaders Award was first established as the Women of Tomorrow Award in 1997 to recognize extraordinary young women who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to leadership, community service and academic excellence. In 2021, the name of the award was changed to more accurately reflect its purpose of recognizing and encouraging future women leaders. With a generous donation received from the Pai Ping Foundation to the Foundation for the Maryland Commission for Women, the honor will include a \$500 scholastic award for each student. Five extraordinary young women were selected for this award from the thirty-seven nominations received from across the state. We are very pleased to introduce these outstanding students and future leaders



### 2024 Maryland Young Women Leaders Award Selection Committee

- **Dr. Ida Jones**, Board of Directors, Maryland Women's Heritage Center
- **Dr. April Logan**, Professor, Salisbury State University
- **Anna S. Sholl, Esq.**, Executive Director, Maryland State Bar Association
- **Dr. Traki Taylor**, Provost & Vice President, Frostburg State University
- **Gloria Dent**, Commissioner, Maryland Commission for Women
- **Pier Blake**, Commissioner, Maryland Commission for Women



*Kiera Caffrey*

## **Kiera Caffrey, 11th Grade St. Timothy's School, Baltimore County**

*Nominated by Salli Ward, Co-Chair  
Baltimore Women's Giving Circle*

Kiera Caffrey was born in Baltimore and lived with her family in a downtown row house until she was 8 years old, when she and her family moved out of the city to a farm in Baltimore County. She attended Calvert School in the city from age 5 through 8th grade, and attends high school at St. Timothy's School (STT) in Baltimore County. The transition to farm life at age 8 was an exciting pivot for Kiera, as responsibilities caring for raising chickens, ducks, geese, goats, and horses became part of her daily routine. Working so closely with animals, Kiera developed a strong sense empathy, desire to help others, and a servant heart and spirit.

Kiera has a keen interest in finance and investments, and is the founder and president of both the STT Young Investors Society and the STT Investment Competition Team. Her interest in financial literacy combined with her love of giving back to others led her to initiate the Baltimore Teen Giving Circle through the Baltimore Community Foundation in 2023 in order to bring teens together to learn about philanthropy and to make an impact through collective giving. In the group's inaugural year, teens from seven area schools joined, \$2,000 was raised and granted with \$1,000 to the Baltimore Hunger Project and \$1,000 to Baltimore Reading Partners. Kiera's service has also included initiating and organizing food and clothing drives for the Maryland Food Bank, House of Ruth, and the Baltimore Hunger Project, with over 4,000 items donated.

Kiera is the recipient of the STT Public Service Scholarship and the Carson Scholarship. She was recognized via the Student Award for high academic achievement in 2022 and 2023, and the American Studies Award in 2022. She is a student ambassador for St. Timothy's School and an appointed member of the Calvert School Alumni Board of Governors. Kiera serves as her school's lead facilitator for Narrative 4, an organization that encourages compassion, civic engagement, and strong student community leaders. She was elected class president and class vice president in 2021-22 and 2022-23, she is the captain of the STT varsity squash team and plays on the varsity lacrosse team. Kiera also serves as head of both the Model United Nations and Entrepreneurship Clubs, and she is co-captain of the STT Certamen Competition Team. Kiera was her school's elected Diversity Captain in 2021 and was selected as school representative for the tri-state diversity conference, Be Seen Be Heard. In 2021 she received the Banner Award - the student who has had the biggest impact on the life and spirit of the school.

Kiera has been accepted to and participated in several competitive extra-curricular programs, including University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Global Youth Essentials of Finance Program, and the Wake Forest High School Entrepreneurship and Finance Program. In 2023, she was a summer accounting intern at NASA, working in project

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**Kiera Caffrey, 11th Grade  
St. Timothy's School, Baltimore County**

*Nominated by Salli Ward, Co-Chair  
Baltimore Women's Giving Circle*

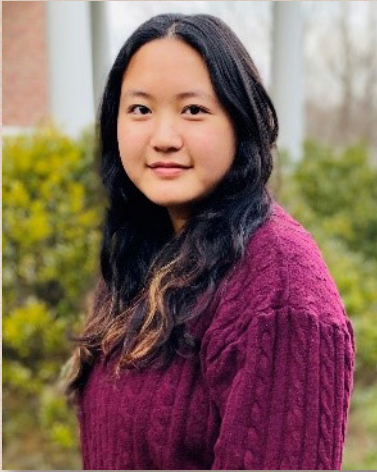
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management on the TIGERISS program (Trans-Iron Galactic Element Recorder for the International Space Station), designed to measure the abundances of ultra-heavy galactic cosmic rays.

In addition to all of Kiera's leadership and service achievements, she is enrolled in the highest rigor academic courses available in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, including a dual language track for French and Latin, and she has achieved straight A's as an exemplary student. Kiera is hungry to learn as much as she can while continuing on her path of servant leadership ahead.

*"There is an opportunity in everything we do to make the world better,  
and taking the lead through things we love is the key to making an impact."*





Emily Dong

## Emily Dong, 10th Grade River Hill High School, Howard County

*Nominated by Yun Lu, Vice Chair  
Board of Education of Howard County*

Emily Dong, a dedicated sophomore at River Hill High School in Clarksville, MD, has earned a 4.0 unweighted GPA with rigorous GT, AP, and Dual Enrollment coursework. She consistently obtains a spot on the principal's honor roll each quarter and is a proud member of the National English Honor Society.

In addition to her outstanding academic achievements, Emily's creative talents shine through multiple publications on national teen magazine and her recognition in the Scholastic Art and Writing competition with a Gold Key. Notably, she co-authored a compelling article titled "The Inclusion of Asian American Studies in Schools Becomes a Reality," published on the American School Board Journal. She is also two-time National Carson Scholar, National Qualifier for Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), and National Spanish Exam Bronze Medalist.

Emily's dedication extends beyond academics and creative pursuits. She actively serves on the River Hill Teen Advisory Committee and River Hill Village Development Advisory Committee. Additionally, she holds the officer-at-large position for the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club. Her passion for civic engagement is evident in her internship with a Maryland State Delegate, where she hones her research and analytical skills while gaining firsthand experience in government and policy development.

A true advocate for alleviating hunger, she co-founded Loving Hands Alliance during the COVID-19 pandemic and provided 1500+ homemade meals to homeless shelters. For the past four years, Emily has served as a core volunteer at Columbia Community Care, distributing food and assisting with translation in Chinese and Spanish biweekly. She has organized over 500 volunteers for Chinese American Parent Association (CAPA)'s Harvest for the Hungry events and Annual Turkey Drives, ensuring that hundreds have access to essential resources during the holidays.

Her commitment extends beyond food security; she led CAPA Youth group partnering with Kits to Heart to create 450 no-sew blankets and 400 holiday cards for cancer patients, bringing comfort and joy during difficult times. Every summer, Emily dedicates her time and talents to the Pheasant Ridge Rapids Summer Swim Team, coordinating crucial aspects like concessions, pep rallies, and award banquets. Her dedication has been recognized with the prestigious President's Volunteer Service Gold Awards, a testament to her over 600 hours of service.

*"Real change derives through power in numbers. I believe that none of us can make a change on our own, but it all starts with individual responsibility."*



Lily Peng

## Lily Peng, 12th Grade River Hill High School, Howard County

*Nominated by Kimberly Eggborn, Coordinator of Elementary Social Studies, Howard County Public Schools*

Lily challenges herself through rigorous coursework, maintaining a 4.91 weighted GPA and 4.0 unweighted GPA.

Lily applies her academic strengths, skills, and research as a debater of almost 8 years. She was the Debate World Champion of the 2023 International Public Policy Forum, 1 out of 140,000 eligible applicants selected as a Finalist for the USA Debate Team and was top ranked nationally in Public Forum debate.

She has taken/is currently taking a total of 16 Advanced Placement (AP) Courses throughout high school, scoring nine 5's and one 4 on her previous ten AP tests. Currently, she takes six AP classes in her Senior Year, with her only non-AP class being GT Orchestra, which she has been an active player in since freshman year. For her academic success and rigor, she was awarded the national AP Scholar with Distinction Award. She also achieved a perfect composite score of 36/36 on her recent ACT test and scored a 1550 on her SAT after just one attempt.

Lily Peng is an ambitious leader dedicated to fostering racial and educational equity. She's a strong Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) rights advocate, serving her second term as the elected Corresponding Secretary and first and sole Student Commissioner on the Howard County AAPI Commission appointed by County Executive Calvin Ball where she represents AAPI youth across the county. As the Co-Founder of Project Lotus, an AAPI advocacy organization, and an AAPI Youth Ambassador, she strives to increase AAPI representation, encouraging other youth to make an impact too. With Project Lotus, she led student testimony in front of the Maryland General Assembly, County Council, and Board of Education. She also was an Intern Team Lead at Maryland State Delegate Chao Wu's Office, leading the creation of several research reports. Planning events for thousands of people such as Howard County's AAPI Festival and River Hill's first in-school hours Culture Day, Lily leads her community in celebrating diversity.

Striving to help other youth find their voice, Lily currently serves as the President of the Maryland Youth Speakers Toastmasters Gavel Club. As a Judicial Intern for Judge Stephanie Porter at the Howard County Circuit Court for the past two years, Lily is a leader for other youth interested in law as a Student Ambassador for the Law Days of Summer Program.

Lily is also a leader for greater educational equity. She Co-founded the Gen Z Career Path Seminars, reaching thousands of youths nationally with free online seminars that promote financial literacy and career planning.

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## Lily Peng, 12th Grade, River Hill High School, Howard County

Nominated by Kimberly Eggborn, Coordinator of Elementary Social Studies,  
Howard County Public Schools

*...continued from page 21*

For her community service, Lily has received national recognition as the Distinguished Young Woman of Maryland, a 4-time national Ben Carson Scholar, and a 4-time recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award (2-time Gold, 1-time Silver, 1-time Bronze).

*"As I reflect on my high school experiences, service through leadership resonates with me as some of my most worthwhile activities. Knowing I was able to make an impact lasting beyond my four years in high school, whether it was through my organization Project Lotus or helping younger students find their voice through debate lessons, is truly rewarding and motivates me to continue leading for change within any community."*





Fariza Samadova

## Fariza Samadova, 11th Grade, Western School of Technology and Environmental Science, Baltimore County

*Nominated by Andrea Tavernia, School Counseling Chair*

Fariza's story as a high school junior at Western School of Technology and Environmental Science is nothing short of inspiring. She immigrated to the United States from Uzbekistan when she was five years old.

Fariza is more than a student; as her family's sole translator and caregiver, she is an advocate for her family. Balancing her educational goals with these familial responsibilities demonstrates her resilience

and unwavering dedication to her aspirations. What truly distinguishes Fariza is her commitment to uplifting others. Every weekend she volunteers to tutor low-income students, demonstrating her commitment to educational equality. Her interest in advocacy for women's rights and educational equity has made her a very inspiring young woman.

Fariza's exceptional academic record can be seen by her enrollment in multiple advanced placement (AP) courses, which speaks to her commitment to education. Fariza is an AP & dual enrollment student and she continues to challenge herself by taking multiple collegiate level courses. She has taken 4 AP's including this year and 2 dual enrollment classes, and she is planning to take several more during her senior year. She has received the Western Tech Honor Roll every quarter since her freshman year, which was awarded for her high GPA. In February of 2022, she received the Student of the Month award for her academic excellence and personal character in her classes.

But it's not just about her personal development; she's a passionate advocate for women's rights, and she's involved in a variety of organizations aimed at making society more equitable. She is actively involved with Baltimore County Student Council (BCSC) and the student council within Western Tech. With BCSC Fariza was the school representative as a member of the Board of Selected Students. This year, she has been appointed to the Executive Board and she helps run the Board of Selected Students. Fariza's most significant leadership activity includes being the Founder/President of Girl Up Western Tech which is a club dedicated to raising awareness of and fundraising for women in need globally. Through this club she has hosted different drives and workshops to spread awareness for women in need.

Fariza was accepted into the prestigious academic enrichment & research program, Yale Young Global Scholars at Yale University with a scholarship. At Yale, she was a student speaker, content creator ambassador, and presenter for the program. Finally, Fariza is currently working on creating her own nonprofit organization that focuses on helping ambitious Central Asian students worldwide get access to educational resources and opportunities.

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## Fariza Samadova, 11th Grade, Western School of Technology and Environmental Science, Baltimore County

*Nominated by Andrea Tavernia, School Counseling Chair*

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Fariza volunteers with different organizations at Western Tech, including Spanish Honors Society where she tutors other students and fundraising projects like their clothing drive for children. Fariza volunteers at the Pikesville Volunteer Fire Company every year with HOSA Future Health Professionals to educate the community on important healthcare topics. Fariza is also a part of the Academy of Health Professionals magnet at Western Tech, which allows her to be an unpaid intern at the University of Maryland Medical Center. As a part of the internship, she will be assisting patients with activities of daily living and helping medical professionals throughout her time there.

Fariza is an inspiring leader who is actively making a difference in her community.

*“Leading isn’t about age or gender; it’s about purpose.  
Strive to make your impact not measured by years but by the positive change you bring.”*







*Brooke Silver*

## **Brooke Silver, 12th Grade, Bethesda Chevy Chase High School, Montgomery County**

*Nominated by Rona Patron, Club Advisor*

Brooke Silver, the youngest of eight siblings, is a senior at Bethesda Chevy Chase High School (BCC) with a weighted grade point average of 4.89.

Whether guiding tours to welcome new families or presenting on AP curriculum to underclassmen, supporting school community is my priority. Brooke serves as an AP and Spirit Ambassador at BCC, welcoming new students and their families and initiating school-wide encompassing activities, including promoting an inclusive environment by

coordinating pep rallies, fundraisers, and diversity events; garner student involvement and advocate for interests.

As Editor-in Chief for the BCC student-run newspaper, The Tattler, Brooke is passionate about student reporting and using school publications to empower student voices. Athletically, Brooke is a defender on the BCC Varsity Field Hockey Team and enjoys the camaraderie among her team-mates.

Brooke feels a strong commitment to contribution and is president of Once Upon A Prom, a social enterprise dedicated to providing free prom attire to economically disadvantaged students. Making inclusivity a primary initiative, Brooke has worked hard to make prom accessible to LGBTQ+ students. Furthering this mission, Brooke recently launched a partnership with Children's Hospital, outfitting over 200 patients for their first prom since 1990.

Joining the Nordstrom's Ambassador Team this year, Brooke uses social media platforms to build an inclusive digital community for young adults. Believing it is important to have a network of goal-minded women as mentors, Brooke interned at the International Women's Forum in DC, creating content that connects women in business across 33 countries.

Working as Shiftlead at Playa Bowls, a local acai eatery, Brooke strives to ensure that each customer is treated with respect and given excellent service.

Above all, Brooke loves spending time with friends and family and is eager to begin the next learning journey of life, entering college in the fall.

*"All it takes is someone. If someone.....why not me?"*

# Much thanks to our Sponsors:

The Maryland Commission for Women is grateful for our sponsors who believe in our mission, vision, and goals. Your generous support sustains our work as a voice for Maryland women and to improve the lives of Maryland's women and girls.



[www.TheFMCW.org](http://www.TheFMCW.org)

## The Foundation for the Maryland Commission for Women, Inc.

**The Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supporting the programs, initiatives and activities of the Maryland Commission for Women. Foundation funds help sustain services to, advocacy on behalf of, and programs that recognize the achievements and contributions of Maryland's women and girls, and enhance the work of Maryland's all-volunteer Commission for Women. The Maryland Commission for Women especially appreciates the Foundation's support for the 2024 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and Maryland Young Women Leaders Awards.

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For its very generous donation of funding for the scholastic awards for the 2024 Maryland Young Women Leaders honorees

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