

Maryland Women's Hall of Fame *and* Maryland Young Women Leaders Awards

2021 Induction and Awards Presentation

Valiant Women

Making History, Building Our Future



Thursday, March 25, 2021

Presented by

Maryland Commission for Women

and

Women Legislators of the Maryland General Assembly, Inc.

Maryland Department of Human Services

The Foundation for the Maryland Commission for Women, Inc.

The Pai Ping Foundation

Maryland Commission for Women

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Yun Jung Yang, Chair

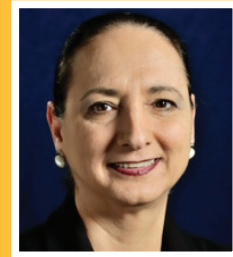
The Maryland Commission for Women was first established in 1965 and was set in state law in 1971. An office in the Department of Human Services, the Commission is a 25-member advisory board whose duties are outlined in its enabling legislation, including: study the status of women in our state, recommend 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.



*Tawanda Bailey,
First Vice Chair*

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Tawanda A. Bailey, First Vice Chair, Frederick County
Carole Jaar Sepe, Second Vice Chair, Frederick County



*Carole Jaar Sepe,
Second Vice Chair*

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Tammy Wise, Management Associate

Letter from Secretary Padilla Department of Human Services



Congratulations to the extraordinary women who will be inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 2021, and to the exceptional young women who will receive the Maryland Young Women Leaders Award.

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) is the state's primary social service provider, serving over one million people annually. The Department, through its 24 local departments of social services, aggressively pursues opportunities to assist people in economic need, provide preventive services, and protect vulnerable children and adults in each of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. Our vision is of a Maryland where people independently support themselves and their families and where everyone is safe from abuse and neglect.

Lourdes R. Padilla, Secretary

We are also the proud home of the Maryland Commission for Women and are pleased to support its work to assure that every resident of our great state, regardless of gender or identity has access to the same opportunities to achieve their very best.

The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and Maryland Young Women Leaders Awards are one way of highlighting the contributions women have made and continue to make to our history and our future. We commend the Commission for Women for this work and extend our very best wishes to all the honorees.

Lourdes R. Padilla

Department of Human Services



2021 Achievement and Recognition Committee



Deborah L. Cartee, Chair

Deborah L. Cartee, Chair

Roberta Pardo, Vice Chair

Lauren Lambert, Vice Chair

Committee Members:

Tawanda Bailey, Gloria Chang, Maureen Colburn,
Eugenia Henry, Bonnie Luna, Ishrat Memon,
Luanne Ruddell, Carole Jaar Sepe, Corinna Shen,
Maxine Griffin Somerville, Evelyne Steward, Yun Jung Yang

Among the duties assigned to the Maryland Commission for Women by its enabling legislation is the recognition of women's accomplishments and contributions. The Commission's Achievement and Recognition Committee is responsible for coordinating the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and Maryland Young Women Leader Awards every year.

Each year, the volunteer commissioners develop the program, issue the calls for nominations, establish and coordinate the selection committees and the selection process, and plan the awards and induction for our honorees. It is a difficult but gratifying task, as the goal is to memorialize women of extraordinary accomplishments and to recognize and encourage the development of future women leaders. This year's theme, *Valiant Women: Making History, Building Our Future* perfectly describes the women being honored in 2021. Much thanks is due to every commissioner who worked on this project throughout the year, and to our sponsors, especially the Pai Ping Foundation which made possible the \$500 scholastic award our Young Women Leaders will receive. Most importantly we give our warmest congratulations to all our honorees!



2021 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame



*Roberta Pardo,
ARC Vice Chair*

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, cultural and social life of the state.

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.

An independent, all-volunteer committee representing leaders of state-wide women's organizations reviews the nominations and selects those to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Brief biographies are displayed online at the Maryland Women's Heritage Center (www.mdwomensheritagecenter.org) and full biographies are posted online at the website of the Maryland State Archives at: <http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/educ/exhibits/womenshall/html/whflist.html>.



2021 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Selection Committee

Margie Kotzalas, Secretary, Business & Professional Women of Maryland (BPW/MD)

Rachel Mygatt, Board of Directors, Maryland Women's Heritage Center (MWHC)

Roberta Pardo, Commissioner, Maryland Commission for Women

Susan Wierman, Co-President, American Association of University Women (AAUW MD)



Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Honorees

1985 – 2020

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, Ph.D.
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.

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 Bentley
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.*

* Posthumously inducted



Elizabeth “Liz” Bobo Politician, Maryland’s First Female County Executive

Nominated by the Howard County Historical Society, Ellicott City, MD

Elizabeth “Liz” Bobo was the first woman to be elected to the office of County Executive in the state of Maryland, making Howard County the first in the state to elect a woman as its chief executive. She also served as a member of the Howard County Council for two terms and as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates representing a district of that county for 20 years. During her many years in public office, Bobo focused on social, economic, and environmental justice.

Elizabeth Gilner was born in Baltimore on December 21, 1943. Her mother, Helen, though not having completed her fourth year in high school, was, in Liz’ words, “one of the most widely read people I have ever known.” Her father, Bernard, “Barney” to her, worked as the head of the photo engraving department at the Times Herald newspaper in Washington, D.C. He died at an early age from Parkinson’s disease.

After graduating from high school, she earned a B.A. in Literature from the University of Maryland. She attributes her choice of that major to having observed her mother’s deep love of literature.

Married in the early 60’s, she and her husband, Clifford Bobo, had two children – Christine and Clifford. When the children began elementary school, she became involved in public policy in Howard County. She returned to the University of Maryland, earning a Juris Doctor degree in 1981 and later was admitted to the Maryland Bar.

In 1977, Bobo was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Howard County Council. She won election to that seat the following year and served until 1986 when she was elected as the County Executive of Howard County, the first woman in Maryland to attain that office. During her tenure, the county received its first AAA bond rating and national recognition for its innovative method of preserving farmland, the installment purchase agreement, which was later adopted by numerous other counties across the nation experiencing the pressure of rapid growth and development. Her administration also initiated considerable preservation of historic sites and buildings, particularly in Historic Ellicott City along the Patapsco River Valley.

Following her service in Howard County, Governor Schaeffer appointed Bobo as the Assistant Secretary for Programs in the Maryland Department of Human Resources where she worked for several productive years. In 1993 she married Lloyd Knowles, a recognized land use planning advocate with whom she had served on the County Council years before. When a state legislative district opened up as a result of the redistricting that followed the U.S. Census, Bobo sought public office again. In 1994, Bobo was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates, where she became a leading legislator on justice in financial regulation, representing a district comprised of mostly West Columbia.

Liz Bobo has received many awards over the years for her extraordinary public service and leadership and was inducted into the Howard County Women’s Hall of Fame in 1997.

“It was an honor to be elected as the first woman to serve as County Executive in the state of Maryland, giving me the opportunity to achieve accomplishments in the areas of social, economic, and environmental justice for all, regardless of gender or race. Now it is another great honor to be included in the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame.”



Margaret Briggs Gregory Hawkins (1877-1969) Suffragist

Nominated by Reverend Canon Dr. Sandye A. Wilson, President, DuBois Circle

Margaret Briggs Gregory Hawkins (1877-1969) was a Baltimore Public School teacher, civil rights activist, and humanitarian. A resident of Baltimore for 50 years, her contributions sought to improve social and economic opportunities for all. Born on August 5, 1877, she was the only daughter of James M. Gregory and Fannie Emma Whiting Hagan in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Her father worked as the principal of Bordentown Academy. Her childhood home, the aspirations of her parents and their dedication to social justice infused her with a birthright calling to disrupt injustice through education.

Her maternal grandmother, Margaret Mahammitt, was a native of Frederick, Maryland whose quest for racial equity impelled her to leave her natal state for Pennsylvania during the mid-nineteenth century. Mrs. Hawkins was named in honor of her maternal grandmother and throughout her life she exhibited similar displeasure with injustice and utilized her education, access, and clout to shatter the sturdy walls of discrimination.

The Gregory family held a deep belief in education as the principal tool to dismantle racism. Hawkins graduated from the preparatory department of Howard University, attended St. Augustine College in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Boston University where she majored in history. After graduation she entered the field of education and taught high school at the Bordentown School for two years. She arrived in Baltimore in 1903 and joined the faculty at Frederick Douglass High School, teaching American history. While at Douglass she met her future husband, Mason A. Hawkins, the principal of that school. Margaret and Mason were married in Bordentown, New Jersey in 1905. Her marriage to this highly credentialed educator amplified her crusade against injustice through education.

She served on the Board of Managers of the Druid Hill Branch of the YWCA and was the first African American woman to serve on Central Branch YWCA executive committee of the Board of Directors. In 1931 she was appointed by Maryland Governor Albert T. Ritchie to the Board of Managers of the Maryland Training School for Colored Girls which later merged with the majority white Montrose School for Girls. Hawkins sought to expose the young women to a modified curriculum using educational, religious, and physical training to improve their lives. In 1939 after a successful term she received another six-year appointment to the Maryland Training School Board.

Hawkins and Augusta T. Chissell (1880-1973) were close friends and neighbors at 1532 and 1534 Druid Hill Avenue. Hawkins and Chissell used their West Baltimore homes as meeting places for women's and human rights organizing. Hawkins was a founding member and served as the first president of the DuBois Circle in 1906. She served as the vice president of the Progressive Women's Suffrage Club. Her suffrage activities included the 1909 effort by African American women to ensure the retention of the 15th amendment voting rights for men in Baltimore City.

For Hawkins, education and enfranchisement were symbiotic elements of true citizenship, which she intended to ensure all owned, enjoyed and exercised.

"[My] philosophy [is] co-operating with the inevitable."



The Reverend Dr. Ruby Reese Moone Human Rights Activist

Nominated by Jodi Finkelstein, Executive Director, Montgomery County Commission for Women

The Reverend Dr. Ruby Reese Moone is Pastor of The Sweet Hour Of Prayer Ministry in Rockville, Maryland where she is a resident, who has dedicated her life to civil and human rights. Born in segregation-era Georgia in 1938, Rev. Moone was the sixth of ten children born to Alexander Reese, Sr. and Annie Bundridge Reese. She did not often attend school as a child because she and her siblings would help their parents, who were sharecroppers, chop and pick cotton. Despite her attendance record (or perhaps because of it), Rev. Moone was a diligent student and excellent reader, skipping several grades as a child and excelling in high school.

One of Rev. Moone's earliest experiences with racism was having to walk seven miles each way to and from her segregated school while White students rode the bus. Rev. Moone's experiences of poverty and systemic racism motivated her to attend college to help her family, church, and community. She majored in sociology and pre-professional social work. Upon graduation in 1959, Rev. Moone worked in Georgia as a high school Guidance Counselor.

Rev. Moone's political advocacy began at the height of the civil rights movement in the American south. In partnership with her husband, she started working with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLS) and Vernon Jordan in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She participated in the demonstrations across the south, including the Selma to Montgomery March across the Edmund Pettus Bridge with John Louis that inspired the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Rev. Moone and her husband organized efforts to register people to attend the March on Washington, which sparked her interest in moving to the Washington, D.C. area, settling in Montgomery County. Rev. Moone was hired as a Guidance Counselor at Poolesville High School where she authored a proposal for the Montgomery County Public Schools to establish Career Center to assist students in college, technical institutes and career preparation. Her work has been immensely impactful for Maryland students and youth. Dr. Moone chaired the District 17 Scholarship Committee for many years awarding thousands of dollars to many students in that district. She retired after working forty years as a Guidance Counselor and parents established The Ruby Reese Moone Foundation to provide textbook assistance for low income college students.

Dr. Moone and her late husband were leaders in establishing the Montgomery County Maryland chapter and the Maryland State Unit of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She was the first female chair of the Montgomery County Dr. Martin Luther King, Commemorative Committee and the Maryland State President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Dr. Moone has received many honors and awards including the Woman of Distinction, induction into The Montgomery County Maryland Human Rights Hall of Fame, and recognition as one of five National Women of the Dream. She was a special invitee to the White House under President Bill Clinton and was an official guest at the White House when President George H. Bush signed the No Fear Act.

Rev. Moone was married to the late Rev. James Clark Moone, Ph.D. for forty years. Rev. Moone has two daughters and six grandsons. Her most passionate expression:

“We are commissioned to elevate all the people.”

(Derived from The Holy Bible, The Great Commission, Matthew 28:19-20)



Nancy K. Welker, Ph.D.
Physicist, Technology Pioneer

Nominated by Eileen Buckholtz, Director, Queens of Code Project, Inspiring Stories from the National Security Agency's Computing Women

Dr. Nancy K. Welker is a physicist and nationally recognized expert in superconducting electronics. She was a pioneer in technology development in Maryland and nationwide. During her 55-year distinguished career with the National Security Agency (NSA), she led groundbreaking research in superconducting materials and integrated circuit manufacturing which made it possible to develop a new generation of faster and more powerful computers.

Dr. Welker earned an A.B. in physics in 1963 from Mount Holyoke College and her M.S. and Ph. D. in physics from American University. She came to NSA in 1963 and worked there until her retirement in 2018.

One of her many major accomplishments was the creation of NSA's Microelectronics Research Laboratory (MRL) in support of NSA's groundbreaking integrated circuit fabrication facility, the Special Processing Laboratory (SPL), which produced otherwise commercially unobtainable products for NSA and other government agencies. Dr. Welker went on to manage the SPL as it produced state-of-the-art Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor (CMOS) chips in a wide range of designs and configurations - all critically important to the Agency's mission.

Dr. Welker was the first woman appointed as Chief of the Research and Development (R&D) group where she had previously held several key management positions. She enjoyed her work both early on as a hands-on researcher in experimental physics and later as a senior manager working to bring the promise of a range of computer switching techniques and major research efforts to fruition.

During her career, Dr. Welker significantly contributed to the development of NSA's technical workforce. She served on the governing board for the Senior Technical Development Program (STDP), the Agency's highest-level development program, and chaired that board for nearly 20 years. She considers this work, along with individual mentoring, to be the most lasting of her contributions since both will support technical excellence for decades to come and allowed her to encourage women in technical fields.

She has been an active participant in NSA's Queens of Code project which encourages a new generation of women to pursue STEM-related careers and she works with the Center for Cryptologic History. Giving back to the community, Dr. Welker served on many NSA and external technical advisory boards, the NSA Advisory Board's History, Literature, and Museum Panel and Cryptologic Quarterly Editorial Advisory Board.

Recognition for her work includes the Federal Women's Program Lifetime Achievement Award in engineering, the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Lifetime Achievement Award, the Meritorious Presidential Rank Award and the Exceptional Civilian Service Award.

Throughout her 55-year career, Dr. Nancy K. Welker has been a technology pioneer, one of Maryland's most distinguished women in science and technology, a role model for thousands of women, and an advocate for women in the workplace.

"For me, the honor of being admitted to the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame is enhanced by my hope that my career example will inspire more young women to become science and technology professionals. Excellence in these fields has become increasingly critical to the challenges of the modern world."



Celeste Revillon Winans (1823 - 1861) Philanthropist

Nominated by Paul H. Belz

Celeste Winans opened the first known soup house for the poor in the U. S. She was likely the nation's first woman philanthropist and the first philanthropist of either gender in Maryland. The facility across Baltimore Street from the family's Alexandroffsky estate served between 600 and 4000 per day all year, with *The Baltimore Sun* citing the latter number. Mrs. Winans ran the Soup House from its date of purchase on June 15, 1854 until her tragic death in 1861. Her husband continued it in her honor after her death until it was used as a hospital for Gettysburg wounded during the Civil War.

Celeste Marguerite Louise Revillon was born in 1823 to George Revillon and his wife Marguerite Louise Bonjour Revillon. She was the oldest of the couple's eleven children and was raised in St. Petersburg, Russia, where her father was a notable engraver and the family operated a ship-waterproofing business. She married Thomas De Kay Winans in that city on August 23, 1847 and moved to Baltimore, Maryland in December 1850.

At his wife's urging, Mr. Winans purchased the German Evangelical Reformed Church for the purpose of housing her Soup Kitchen. The expense log from June 3, 1861 to May 1862 lists bills totaling \$26,970 for items including potatoes, beans, rice, bread, beef, pepper, flour, tin ware, labor, peas, lime, wood and coal. That was a significant annual sum for that era. Mrs. Winan's administrators petitioned the city for help providing the necessary eight-hundred gallons of water a day.

She personally served dinners, helped for a time by Tilly and Marie Revillon, sisters visiting from Russia. She had colored cards distributed around the city which the poor could obtain. Each color represented a time of day and her intent was to reduce the self-consciousness of the poor by shortening waiting lines. She made private visits to the poor, bringing clothes and food. The family donated funds to free blacks to help buy the freedom of their spouses, and the family employed free blacks to work on its estate.

Celeste Revillon Winans died on March 19, 1861 at the age of 38, a few days after giving birth to a stillborn baby.

Her charitable endeavors were so far reaching that both *The News American* and *The Baltimore Sun* honored her with what was probably their first obituaries for a woman, with *The Baltimore Sun* stating that female deaths were private family matters but in her case, the extent of her charitable work demanded public notice. Her funeral mass drew throngs of poor whites and free blacks to Baltimore's Cathedral, even though it could not accommodate them inside.

"She was Baltimore's Lady Bountiful. She was one of the best friends of the suffering poor among us. It was in the quiet seclusion of her own purpose that Mrs. Winans performed most of her charities. Despite the fact that the death of a woman is a private, family matter, she was so largely a public benefactress that everyone would seem to have some claim to utter the grief and sympathy that will overflow from thousands of hearts."

-- *The News American*, March 20, 1861

2021 Maryland Young Women Leaders Awards



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. This year, 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, for the first time, a \$500 scholastic award for each student.



2021 Maryland Young Women Leaders Award Selection Committee

Susan Horst, First Vice President, Business & Professional Women of Maryland (BPW/MD)

Lauren Lambert, Commissioner, Maryland Commission for Women

Kate Campbell Stevenson, Co-President, American Association of University Women (AAUW MD)

Toni St. John, Director of Development and Communications, Women's Law Center of Maryland





Esha Ahmad, 12th Grade, Northern High School Calvert County

Nominated by Ellen Oldham, School Guidance Counselor

Esha is a first-generation immigrant born in Pakistan. At a very young age, her family moved to Italy where she spent 10 years of her childhood. Even though her family struggled financially, rooted to her parent's core was a desire to provide for their children and stress the importance of an education. This was a leading motive for their decision to immigrate to the U.S. at the beginning of her 6th grade year. At the time, Esha spoke minimal English and was placed in the English as a Second Language (ESOL) class. Her academic tenacity was recognized by her teachers despite the language barriers, and within a week she was placed in honors classes. By the end of the year, Esha was able to leave ESOL classes and attend her local middle school.

The following year, and taking everyone by surprise since it was only her second year in the U.S., Esha received an English award and was nominated as the Academic Student of the Year. She is among the top three percent of her graduating class and has won countless academic awards. Recently, she was selected as a national finalist for a college admission and scholarship process. In addition to her academic pursuits, Esha is a great support for her family and has played a significant role in their settling down in the country.

Despite sexist, racist, and Islamophobic comments that she faced at school and in the community, Esha stayed true to her identity. She is a go-to person for many, never hesitates to help others. From serving the Key Club Capital District as its Editor, to planning homecoming and spirit weeks as Student Government Association's President, she has been a very active student leader. In fact, she devolved much time and energy supervising various projects, discussing student issues with administrators, and helping her teachers after class.

Esha is a Muslim, Pakistani-Italian-American, immigrant, philomath with a love for neuroscience and cultural promotion, a Spanish music and Korean drama enthusiast, community service leader and social advocate!

“...I’m committed to taking the necessary routes to reach my ambitions. I won’t let sexist comments close doors for me, but rather, I’ll make my own.”



**Georgia Hammond, 12th Grade, Hereford High School
Baltimore County**

*Nominated by Laura Bankey, Vice President of Conservation Programs,
National Aquarium*

Georgia is a graduating senior. She is a straight-A student, earning a perfect 4.0 Grade Point Average while taking six Advanced Placement classes and six dual enrollment college classes. She is a member of five national honor societies and is the president of the Science National Honor Society at her school.

Georgia pursues engineering projects that have community-wide impact. During her sophomore year, she led a team of aspiring women engineers to a first-place finish regionally, and second-place finish nationally in the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Next Generation Design Competition. Her team tackled the issue of agricultural runoff in the Chesapeake Bay watershed by encapsulating algae in permeable spheres for use as biofilters. Georgia designed and, with her team, delivered a hands-on class to 385 elementary school students, modeling the power of women in engineering and emphasizing the importance of environmental protection. Georgia and her teammates founded the first SWE club at her school, leading activities designed to encourage young women to pursue engineering endeavors.

During her junior year, Georgia pitched her plan for a satellite ground station to the Maryland Space Grant Consortium, ultimately winning its support as a financial stakeholder in her project. Georgia established the first active SatNOGS (Satellite Networked Open Ground Station) in Maryland, allowing scientists around the globe to access data transmitted by low Earth orbit satellites.

Georgia intends to study biology and engineering in college, with plans to pursue a career dedicated to reducing human impact on the environment.

*“Welcoming change allows us to surf over the ever-shifting waters instead of
being swept away by the waves.”*



Elaine Huang, 12th Grade, Atholton High School Howard County

Nominated by Dana Meledick, School Guidance Counselor

Elaine has a 4.0 unweighted and 4.86 weighted Grade Point Average. She has taken 15 Advanced Placement (AP) courses and is a National AP Scholar. In addition to being an active member of six honor societies, Elaine is the Vice President of the National English Honor Society and the Principal's Advisory Committee where she works closely with Atholton's administrative team and students to enhance the school community.

Outside of school, Elaine is a U. S. Figure Skating Gold Medalist and competitive figure skater, competing at the 2019 U.S. Figure Skating National Showcase and other state-wide competitions. When not training, Elaine devotes her time to fostering the next generation of ice skaters by volunteering as a Learn to Skate USA coach at the Columbia Ice Rink.

As a second-generation Taiwanese immigrant, Elaine is a member of the Formosa Association of Student Cultural Ambassadors (FASCA), promoting the Taiwanese culture through volunteering. While impacting hundreds of people across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, she has been able to share her love for the beautiful country of Taiwan.

Since the summer of 2020, Elaine has been interning at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory as an ASPIRE intern for mathematics and data analysis. Working under the Air and Missile Defense Sector, she is engaged in developing algorithms to strengthen our nation's defense.

A testament to her leadership and service, Elaine is a 2021 Coca-Cola Scholars Semifinalist currently undergoing Phase 2 of the selection process.

*“Vision signifies the courage to transform a desire for a better future
into a reality for all to embrace.”*



Brina Ratangee, 12th Grade, Urbana High School Frederick County

Nominated by Katherine E. Warehime, School Guidance Counselor

Brina Ratangee, is a senior at Urbana High School. She has lived in four different states (New Jersey, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland) and nine different residences throughout the course of her childhood. Each time she has moved, Brina needed to adapt to a new environment, which included adjusting to new schools, developing her reputation as a diligent student, and making new friends. Her moves meant spending no more than three years in a single state.

Brina has a passion for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and community service. She has been involved in many leadership activities in the community and inside the school that have shaped her. A list of just a few of these would include: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Adventist Health Care Shady Grove Hospital, Distinguished Young Women (DYW) National Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council - Subcommittee Captain, International Academic Competitions (IAC) - Co-authored a 120 page Science Bee Study Guide, Student Voices - a Frederick County Public School initiative to bring high schools together, Urbana Volunteer Firefighter Department, and Urbana Library - Collections Committee Chair. In September 2020, she was named a National Merit Semifinalist. In addition, she has earned many medals for the Maryland Science Olympiad (MSO).

Brina is the founder of ApCYCLE. She started the project after completing an Advanced Placement (AP) exam and thinking about what she should do with her leftover resources. She collects and distributes gently used exam review books for AP, International Baccalaureate (IB), and SAT to disadvantaged students. She has expanded the distribution to states with chapters in Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Virginia. The social media sites are - website: apcycledonate.weebly.com - Instagram: @apcycledonate The project was featured on Dr. Alban, superintendent of Frederick County Public Schools tweet of the week.

*“When confronted with mistakes or failures, a leader must bounce back.
When team morale wanes, a leader must spread encouragement and hope.
When goals seem impossible, a leader must adjust the action steps, never
losing sight of her ambitions.”*



Ashley Thommana, 11th Grade, Montgomery Blair High School Montgomery County

Nominated by Rachel Greene, School Guidance Counselor

Ashley, a junior attending the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Program at Montgomery Blair High School, has maintained a 4.75 weighted Grade Point Average while challenging herself in advanced courses. She is a columnist on her school's award-winning newspaper, Silver Chips and a member of the National Science and Math Honor Societies. Ashley is also conducting research at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research into influenza transmission pathways in dorms.

Ashley is the Public Relations Director for the International Youth Neuroscience Association, an organization with more than 4500 members. She placed first in a regional Brain Bee competition and qualified for the 2021 national championship. As a Code Girls leader, Ashley mentors underrepresented high school girls in the field of computing. She has coordinated and hosted a Women in STEM seminar, applied for funding, and developed a curriculum to teach coding languages.

Ashley has earned more than 715 community service hours including 340 hours at Suburban Hospital and Walter Reed Pediatric Oncology unit. For two years, Ashley has served as a Youth Commissioner on the Montgomery County Commission for Children and Youth, advocating for, helping develop, and pass legislation to improve programs and services. She has also dedicated time to being a scout at the Montgomery County First Aid Unit.

Ashley is passionate about pursuing a future in medicine, hoping to become a neurosurgeon. She enjoys writing poetry in her free time and has recently developed an interest in learning multiple languages.

“Women trailblazers persevere, adapt, and excel. They draw upon their passion, kindness, and integrity to push forward, overcome obstacles, and succeed. Women leaders choose to be resilient.”

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