



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

January 2013



Celebrating 40 Years of Working Towards Equity for Women and Girls AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

January Events

BRANCH MEETING AND POTLUCK
February 16 - 10 A.M.

Wear red and bring a friend to our program on "Women's Heart Health." In recognition of Heart Month this February, Brenda Salas, the wellness coordinator at Montgomery College, will present an informative seminar to educate us on the unique signs of heart disease in women. According to Ms. Salas, "Each year about 1.2 million Americans are diagnosed with coronary heart disease, and about 700,000 people will suffer stroke. Half of these Americans are women, and heart disease is now the leading cause of death among women."

Brenda Salas holds certifications from the National Wellness Institute, the Mayo Clinic, the American College of Sports Medicine, and the National Board of Fitness Examiners. In addition, she serves on the advisory board for the Wellness Council of America (WELCOA). She has been responsible for developing programs that improve the health and well-being of over 1,500 Montgomery County employees.

We will gather on Saturday, February 16, from 10 a.m. to noon at Conley Hall at Asbury Village. Please bring something to share for our morning brunch. Wear red.

Sue Woodruff, Vice President for Programs

BOARD MEETING
February 11 - 7 P.M.

The AAUW Gaithersburg Branch Board of Directors will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, February 11, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury. All Branch members are welcome to participate.

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THE CO-PRESIDENT'S BLOG

- Terry Medlar

The Gaithersburg Branch had a wonderful holiday party. The food was great and the entertainment was lovely, but now it is time to get down to business.

We are happy to announce that we now have 60 members.

The Women's Legislative Briefing is scheduled for January 27 at the Universities of Shady Grove. There will be an AAUW table and several of our members have volunteered to be there. This is considered a "Shape the Future" event and may be a good opportunity to recruit new members.

One of the advantages of living so close to the Capital is that we can actively petition our congress people to support AAUW policies. Several of our Branch members lobby our congress people every Thursday morning. This is a very important and satisfying activity. AAUW members visit key congressional offices every Thursday morning that Congress is in session to speak out about AAUW priority issues. In 2012, the AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby

Corps made more than 1,200 congressional office visits on protecting college access and affordability, reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, preventing bullying and harassment, passing the Paycheck Fairness Act, and more. If you cannot commit to this weekly activity, you can become a two-minute activist. Sign on to the AAUW Web site and click "ACT." You can then select "two-minute activist." The latest issues are posted and you can personalize a message and post it to your congressperson. Takes very little time, but your voice is heard.



The "book masters" have been working very hard sorting and storing books for the May book sale. They also deliver those that we cannot sell to Wonder Book in Frederick. Call Liz Clark Hessel if you can lend a hand.

INTERBRANCH NEWS

- Louise Chatlyne, Interbranch Representative

On January 17 the eighth-grade girls participating in the Sonya Kovalevsky program volunteered at the Maryland High School Science Bowl sponsored by Montgomery College at the Rockville campus. The Web site for more information about the Maryland Science Bowl Competition or to volunteer yourself is <http://cs.montgomerycollege.edu/MarylandScienceBowl2013/>.

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Branch has opened an invitation to all branches of Interbranch to make the 2013 Interbranch program a part of

the Bethesda-Chevy Chase May 18, 2013, luncheon. The four-course luncheon will be held at noon at Normandy Farm. The guest speaker will be Lisa Maatz, director of AAUW's Public Policy and Government Relations Department. There is a charge, for a complete luncheon, of approximately \$33. While there is a limit to the room capacity at the event, I'm sure that there will be ample opportunity for attendance by other branches.



AAUW AT THE OSCARS?

AAUW-Supported Documentary *The Invisible War* Nominated for Oscar

- **Maria Roberts, From the AAUW Weekly Update**

The Invisible War, an AAUW-supported documentary on sexual assault in the military, received an Oscar nomination for best documentary feature. AAUW hosted a private screening of the movie in April 2012 and collaborated with the filmmakers to arrange screenings for our 1,000 branches nationwide. AAUW has a special connection to *The Invisible War*. The plaintiffs from two of the law-

suits that AAUW supports through our Legal Advocacy Fund case-support program, *Cioca v. Rumsfeld* and *Klay v. Panetta*, are featured in the film. The Academy Awards ceremony will air on Sunday, February 24.



Women's Herstory Interest Group

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

At the February 20 meeting, the Her-story interest group will begin discussion of *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. *Half the Sky* was selected by the University of Maryland to be its 2010 First Year Book, meaning all faculty, staff and students are encouraged to read the book and share discussions in classes, organizations and clubs and campus-wide forums. We decided to choose this book to add breadth to our learning, as all previous tales we've explored have been from the United States and its colonial period. The variety of stories in *Half the Sky* ranges from South Africa to the Mediterranean, and from Jordan to the Pacific Islands.

In February we will discuss the introduction and Chapters 1, 2 and 3. We meet the third Wednesday of each month, making our date February 20, and at 2:30. We will meet at Anita Taylor's.

The Montgomery County Library has 16 paper copies of the book, 8 e-subscriptions, and at least one audio book. The book, having been an NYTimes best seller is widely available from used-book sellers and is formatted and available for several formats of e-readers.

On January 16 we completed our coverage of Gail Collins' *American Women: 400 Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmeets and Heroines*. We finished with chapters covering women in the 20th century up to the beginning of World War II. Many of the themes seen throughout the previous years were repeated, such as great struggle, conflicts and paradoxes, strong will to survive and create better lives, and widening of women's involvement in a variety of reform movements. The numbers of women with higher education also increased. We noticed largely a new theme that grew as a middle class and well-being grew, that of women's primary role as consumer. We found it not surprising that industries marketed the plethora of new products for the home to women. But Collins made clear that the role of cosmetics, and women as their primary consumer, rocketed through these years, even continuing, for those who could find the money, during the depression of the '30s.



SOME NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

- Mary Wykes, Co-President

We have 60 members now, thanks to the hard work of Marilyn O'Connell, our membership vice president, and all of our members inviting friends and neighbors to enjoy the interesting programs and work that our Branch does to help advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. In looking at "History" in my "Agnes" box, I find that our Branch once had 109 members (in 1981-1982). Since our area population has grown exponentially since that date, I wonder if we can once again reach that number? Let's try!

Terry Medlar, Marilyn O'Connell and I will help our state membership V.P., Jennifer Ingram, at the AAUW table during the Women's Legislative Briefing at the Universities at Shady Grove on Sunday, January 27. Last year at this "Shape the Future" event, we recruited our new member Dr. Carolyn Fisher.

Our sincere sympathy to Program Vice President Sue Woodruff on the loss of her beloved mother-in-law, Edith Woodruff, during the holidays. Patsy Marks and I were privileged to attend the beautiful celebration of her life at the chapel at Wilson Health Care Center, Asbury.

Judy Wymer has recently had knee surgery and is recuperating at Wilson. Her husband Bill is at Kindley to be near her while she has therapy. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Many of our members traveled to visit their families over the holidays, including Jean Hirsch, who, with husband Roland, travelled to Vienna, Austria, to visit their daughter Betsy and family. It was interesting to hear about their visit during our gourmet luncheon at Pasha, the Moroccan restaurant, selected by Haydee Rolin for our venue this month. (Incidentally, it was a fabulous meal--felt like

the Arabian Nights--really a fascinating place with interesting and delicious food. I highly recommend you try it.



Cathy Manning, Carolyn Iverson, Diane Carvey and I visited Marion Plumb at her new home at Edenton Assisted Living facility in Frederick on Friday and enjoyed luncheon with her at a nearby restaurant. She misses her friends and is looking forward to seeing us again soon--perhaps at our Literature Group meeting. Meanwhile, I have contacted the Frederick branch of AAUW and they are going to invite her to their book club and other events. Her health is much improved and she looked great.

Dorothy Camara just returned from a vacation in Florida. Anna Fraker is in Florida for a six weeks' stay.

We are all anxiously awaiting a "travel" program to hear about Louise and Liz's trip (with their husbands) to the Galapagos, and Marilyn O'Connell's recent trip to Ireland.

The January meeting was very well attended and the speaker did an excellent job discussing the very difficult topic of domestic violence. We are looking forward to the next speaker, in February, who will speak on "Women's Heart Health." Thanks to Sue Woodruff for the fabulous job she is doing as program vice president.

Gourmet Group

- **Jean Friedmann, Coordinator**

A lunch get-together is being planned by Milla Garber for Saturday, February 23, at 12:30, at the Hibachi Sushi in Gaithersburg. The restaurant is located at 2-B Bureau Drive near Quince Orchard and Clopper roads. Call Milla and let her know if you want to participate in this tasty lunch plan.



Co-president
Mary Wykes

Co-president
Terry Medlar

Vice President for
Programs
Sue Woodruff

Vice President for
Membership
Marilyn O'Connell

Treasurer
Marilyn Leist

Recording Secretary
Dorothy Camara

Corresponding Secretary
Louise Chatlynne

Newsletter Editor
Qing Jiang

Literature Group

- **Bea Carasso, Coordinator**



The Literature Group will be meeting on Saturday, February 23, at 10:00 a.m., at the home of Jean Young.

French provinces with a dull husband. Her constant search for romance and adventure is never satisfied, leading to a tragic end.

We will be discussing the novel, *Madame Bovary*, by Gustave Flaubert. This famous novel deals with the life of a bored woman, living in the

GREAT DECISIONS

- **Vivian Otto, Coordinator**

On February 28 at 7 p.m. the Great Decisions group will meet to discuss the "Future of the Euro." We will discuss whether a euro crisis is inevitable and what implications there would be for the United States.

Call Vivian to find out the location of the meeting.



AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

Board of Directors	Monday, February 11 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting and Potluck	Saturday, February 16 - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Women's Herstory	Wednesday, February 20 - 2:30 p.m.
March Newsletter Deadline	Wednesday, February 20 - 6 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, February 23 - 10 a.m.
Gourmet Group	Saturday, February 23 - 12:30 p.m.
Great Decisions	Thursday, February 28 - 7 p.m.
Hold these dates:	
AAUW of Maryland Annual Convention	Saturday, April 13
NCCWSL Nat'l Conference	May 30 - June 11
AAUW Nat'l Convention, New Orleans	June 9 - 12

The American Association of University Women
Gaithersburg Branch