



Empowering Women
Since 1881

AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

October 2013

October Events

BRANCH MEETING

October 15

7 p.m. Hospitality - 7:30 p.m. Program

Beyond the Earnings Plateau: How Paycheck Fairness Can Help Women

AAUW-US has placed a major priority on women's economic advancement. Believing that employers' wage secrecy policies are a significant barrier to progress in this area, AAUW has urged passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act; your Lobby Corps members have visited congressional offices repeatedly on this matter. Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut has been a major champion of this Act, and on Tuesday, October 15, we welcome her chief of staff, Beverly Pheto, to speak to us on this issue. Ms. Pheto will define the major arguments in favor of the Act and will cite provisions constituting significant advantages accruing to business owners from its passage. She will also cite arguments heard from opponents of this bill to help us become effective advocates on its behalf. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. for social time, with Ms. Pheto speaking at 7:30 p.m. in the Rosborough Community Room of Asbury Methodist Village.

BOARD MEETING

October 8 - 7 P.M.

The next AAUW Gaithersburg Board meeting will be on Tuesday, October 8, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. All members are invited.

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REMEMBER OUR WEB SITE

You should remember that the Branch has a Web site. If you go to gaithersburg-md.aauw.net you will find the clearest, most easily maneuverable Web site you could find. It was set up by Edie Allison and is maintained by her. You will find your newsletter there, as well as news on meetings and projects and on our interest groups. You can also find links to other relevant sources.

If you don't remember the Web site address, just type in AAUW Gaithersburg and it will come up.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- *Mary Wykes*

What a wonderful start to our fall season at our September meeting! The panel of scholarship recipients from Montgomery College and the Universities at Shady Grove, moderated by Liz Clark-Hessel, told heart-warming stories of how much our support meant to them in helping attain their educational goals. It makes all our efforts to have a successful book sale worthwhile when we hear the dreams and ambitions of the young women benefitting from our work.

The day after our Branch meeting, nine members met at Anita Taylor's home for the Women's Herstory discussion group. Patsy Marks gave a spellbinding report on someone few of us knew anything about--Hetty Green--one of the richest women in the world in her time and an eccentric once referred to as the "Witch of Wall Street."

I am looking forward to our first of the year gourmet dinner at Jean and Roland Hirsch's home Saturday night and hoping my contribution to the Viennese dinner will turn out well -- it is tomato soup and will be made with fresh tomatoes from my son's garden in Frederick. Since it is the first time I have ever made it, time will tell!

I look forward to next week when I will attend the first fall meeting of both the Great Decisions and the Literature groups. We have some members who participate only in an interest group so I feel it is important that, as the president, I attend all the groups to keep in touch with as many of our members as possible. I enjoy the varied activities represented by our four interest groups, all educational in different ways.

I always look forward to the AAUW Mission & Action bulletin. The September issue emphasized the nationwide campaign that more than 165,000 members of AAUW are leading to try to close the gender pay gap and end pay discrimination. Women suffer this pay gap immediately upon graduating from college,

according to the AAUW Research Report, "Graduating to a Pay Gap." Be sure to tell all your friends about our October program on this subject, "Beyond the Earnings Plateau: How Paycheck Fairness Can Help," to be presented by Rep. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut's chief of staff, Beverly Pheto. We are fortunate to live in Maryland where the ratio of salaries for women vs. men is 85%, the second highest of all the states (the District of Columbia being first, Virginia being 21st), according to the AAUW chart of state rankings. (See fightforfairpay.org for more information.)



As always, the September issue of "The Marylander" is full of informative items. Our Branch member Edie Allison does a great job as editor. I look forward to attending the state Fall Board Meeting October 19 in Severna Park hosted by the Anne Arundel County Branch. There will be a discussion of follow-up actions the state AAUW plans to consider on the problem of human trafficking in Maryland, which they have been studying. Details of the meeting and a registration form are included in "The Marylander." All members are invited to attend. It is always inspiring to get together with members of other branches in the state and to learn what they are doing to support our mission.

I urge you all to explore the new AAUW Web site at AAUW.org to see all the activities of our organization. I enjoy searching fellowships@AAUW to see the amazing work current and recent former fellows and grantees in our area are doing.

Meanwhile, I urge you to invite your friends and neighbors to our October meeting or to an interest group of which you might be a part.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SPEAK AT SEPTEMBER BRANCH MEETING

- *Liz Clark Hessel*

From our book sale earnings AAUW Gaithersburg provides \$5,000 for academic scholarships to Montgomery College (MC) and \$2,500 to the Universities at Shady Grove (USG). These scholarships go to women who are studying toward careers where women have been traditionally underrepresented. To help develop the next generation of leaders we also sponsor three students to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in June at the University of Maryland in College Park.

Our September meeting provided a connection between the hard work our members do for the book sale to aid the scholarship beneficiaries. Three of our student scholarship recipients spoke, providing a moving testament of their own difficult circumstances, the life challenges they have encountered and the importance of the scholarships in completing their studies. The speakers were Nadine Ngande, a sophomore biosciences major graduating in December from Montgomery College and who has five children; Annais Zarate, a senior in biosciences with a 4.0 grade point average, at the University of Maryland at USG, who expects to graduate in May; and Genevieve Leary, who has an interest in environmental sciences and received an AA in May in general studies from MC; Nadine and Annais received academic scholarships and Genevieve received a grant to attend NCCWSL. Genevieve was inspired to start a student AAUW group at Montgomery College. She hopes to do that this term. The AAUW members in attendance were impressed and humbled by the challenges these students have faced to obtain their education.

Other scholarship recipients could not attend the meeting because of work or study conflicts. They are:

Sandra Guzman, who is studying web design and development and made the dean's list at MC. She hopes to earn her associate degree this term.



Zinab Jadidi, a freshman majoring in materials science and engineering at MC. She plans to transfer to the University of Maryland and would like to obtain a Ph.D. in nanotechnology and be a researcher.

Gricel Munoz plans to earn an associate degree in construction management at MC and one day work as a project manager for a general contractor.

Trina Ramsingh is in her fourth semester at MC and is majoring in nursing and studying for a certificate as an emergency medical technician (EMT). She received a grant to attend NCCWSL.

Saroja Stone, a sophomore at MC, is studying cybersecurity. After obtaining an associate degree from MC, she hopes to finish at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Other guests at the meeting included: Bill Schlossenberg, director of Development and Community Partnerships at USG, Carol Rognrud and Noah Saposnik from the Montgomery College Foundation. Carol is the new executive director of the foundation. She previously spent six years working at AAUW headquarters. Noah is the Annual Fund manager.

Terry Medlar, Branch treasurer, will bring her laptop to the October meeting. If you have not sent your check for this year's membership, you may give it to her there and she will register you online.

AT THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS PANEL



Photo by Liz Clark Hessel

Left to Right:

Genevieve Leary, Montgomery College; Annias Zarate, University of Maryland at Shady Grove; Nadine Ngande, Montgomery College; Liz Clark Hessel, AAUW Moderator for the session.

2014 BOOK SALE

- Liz Clark Hessel, Chair of Book Sales

Mark your calendars for next year's book sale. The sale will be Thursday through Saturday, May 1 - 3, 2014. We will begin sorting and organizing books on Friday, April 25, and continue through April 30. Please set aside time to help sort over the weekend and help during the sale. Prior to the sale we also need help with publicity.

In preparation for next year's sale, we collect and sort books throughout the year. Thanks to everyone who helped sort books September

4 and 5. We managed to sort about 200 boxes of books, which are now in storage. This puts us in a good position for the sale next year.



If your friends have books or CDs and DVDs they would like to donate for the book sale, we can accept them year round. Let me know and we can arrange a pickup.

Hostesses Needed For the AAUW Gaithersburg Branch Meetings

Do you like to make petite desserts, petite sandwiches or fruit bowls? YES!! Great! Then join with Jean Hirsch, chair of the Hostess Committee for the AAUW Gaithersburg Branch for 2013-2014 and help provide creative and delectable petite sandwiches, desserts or a fresh fruit bowl for the AAUW Gaithersburg monthly meetings by being on the Hostess Committee for 2013-2014.

Please contact Jean at 301-972-6986 (H). All of the recipes for the sandwiches and desserts are easy to prepare and available from Jean. Special petite pans/ramekins, etc., are also available to borrow from her to make the desserts. If your forte is making a fresh fruit bowl, please contact Jean.

Jean will also help provide the drinks and the paper and plastic products for each meeting, so you can focus on what you are creating and bringing. Setting up for each meeting will begin at 6 p.m., with everything ready by 6:30 to 6:45 p.m.

The following are the seven dates when refreshments will be provided by the Hostess Committee at the Branch meetings:

October 15, 2013
November 19, 2013
January 18, 2014
March 18, 2014
April 15, 2014
May 20, 2014

Please contact Jean Hirsch at 301-972-6986 to sign up to be on the Hostess Committee and for further information.



REMINDER TO ATTEND THE MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR WOMEN CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 19, 2013
9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Baltimore, Maryland

The MLAW fall conference will be held at the American Federation of Teachers building in Baltimore at 5800 Metro Drive. There is ample free parking and handicapped accessibility.

This year's conference will focus on advocates finding and using their voices to make a difference for women. Confirmed conference speakers include: Kristin Jones (chief of staff, Office of the Speaker) and Ann Ciekot (partner, Public Policy Partners).

Other conference highlights include the presentation of legislative proposals for the upcoming 2014 legislative session and the presentation of MLAW's Legislative Leadership award. An optional Grassroots Advocacy 101

workshop will be offered from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Continental breakfast is included with registration.

Registration information:

\$30 conference only
\$20 student conference rate
\$45 conference and advocacy workshop (includes lunch)
Advanced registration closes October 11.
Add \$5 if registering October 12 or later.

PLEASE NOTE: AAUW Gaithersburg member Heather Reichardt is planning to go the conference and offers a ride to others. Please reply to her at heather.reichardt@marriott.com.



GREAT DECISIONS

- **Vivian Otto, Coordinator**

The Great Decisions Group will meet on October 22 at 7 p.m. at Mary Wykes's home. Jean Kosow will lead our discussion on "China in Africa: Savior or self-interest?" Come and

visit this group to hear and learn about world issues.



AAUW Gaithersburg
Branch
[http://gaithersburg-
md.aauw.net](http://gaithersburg-md.aauw.net)

Literature Group

- **Bea Carasso, Coordinator**



The next Literature Group will be meeting on Saturday, October 26, at 10 a.m. The place and other details will be decided at

our September meeting, and that information will then be available online.

WOMEN'S HERSTORY

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

The Her-Story Interest Group will meet on October 23, reflecting its decision to hold its gatherings on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Time and location remain the same: 2:30 p.m. Mary Wykes will do the introduction of a woman from the past.

September set a high bar for entertaining learning as we were introduced to Hetty Green, a woman known as the first high stakes trader on Wall Street. Green, interested in financial matters from childhood, became her family's bookkeeper by 13. She followed with a life of investment carefully void of reckless speculation. Subject to stereotyping, she became known as the "Witch of Wall Street," partly due to her dress and partly due to the eccentricity expressing the frugality with which she lived. Notably, her investment ideas led her to survive with fortune largely intact

through periods of economic boom and crash in 1857, 1873, 1893 and 1907. Estimates of the value of her estate at her death in 1916 ranged from 100 to 200 million (reported by her biographer as equivalent to from 1.9 to 3.8 billion in 2006 dollars).

Developing an acquaintance with Green reinforced for us once again the great variety of stories of women from the past that remain to be unearthed and told (or retold). We continue to welcome new members to participate. Call Anita Taylor, for information.



President
Mary Wykes

Co-Vice Presidents for Programs
Patsy Marks
Anita Taylor

Vice President for Membership
Marilyn O'Connell

Treasurer
Terry Medlar

Recording Secretary
Dorothy Camara

Corresponding Secretary
Jane Carroll

Newsletter Editor
Qing Jiang

AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

Board Meeting	Tuesday, October 8, 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, October 15, 7 p.m.
Md. Legislative Agenda for Women, Baltimore	Saturday, October 19, 9:30-1 p.m.
AAUW Md. Fall Board Meeting, Severna Park	Saturday, October 19
Great Decisions	Tuesday, October 22, 7 p.m.
Women's Herstory	Wednesday, October 23, 2:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, October 26, 10 a.m.

The American Association of University Women
Gaithersburg Branch
437 Friendship Circle
Gaithersburg, MD 20877