



Empowering Women
Since 1881

AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

October 2014

October Events

Branch Meeting

October 21 - 7 P.M.

Gaithersburg Library, Meeting Room 1

The October meeting of the Gaithersburg Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will meet on Tuesday, October 21, at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments followed by the program at 7:30 at the Gaithersburg Library in Meeting Room 1. You will not want to miss this program! A panel of four retired Montgomery County public school teachers will enlighten us on some of their many and varied experiences during the late '50s and early '60s when the county schools were being integrated. All of these women are current residents of Montgomery County and are also natives of the county. The panel will include Nina Clark, Katie Harper, Annie Rhodes and our own member Margaret Williams. This promises to be a highly informative and eye-opening evening. Please attend and invite friends and neighbors. This is a subject which we are all familiar with and from which we will benefit.

BOARD MEETING

October 14 - 7 P.M.

The next meeting of the AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will be on Tuesday, October 14, at 7 p.m. The Board will meet in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. Meetings are open to all members of the Branch.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- *Mary Wykes*

Hello, Members and Friends, on a beautiful sunny September Saturday as I try to concentrate on writing a few lines for the October newsletter between watching football games, shopping at the Montgomery Village farmers' market, and reading the bad news in the Washington Post--oh, yes, and also working on implementing ideas from a fabulous book, "Kick the Clutter," that I picked up while helping at a pre-sort for our spring book sale. As you know, clearing clutter is a challenging and painful process when one has lived in their home for 45 years. The author of the book is realistic and gentle, saying, "Clear out excess stuff without losing what you love."

So where do I begin? First of all, our September Branch meeting was the beginning of what I envision as a great final year of my presidency. As usual, Liz Clark Hessel moderated a panel of six very impressive scholarship recipients from Montgomery College and the Universities at Shady Grove. These articulate young women spoke of their accomplishments and goals for the future, all showing appreciation for the help they have been given by our Branch through scholarship assistance. Two are majoring in cybersecurity, one in management of construction, one in computer science, one in math, and one in aerospace engineering. As you know, our goal has been to support women students majoring in under-represented fields. We were glad to have Francine Walker, Montgomery College's director of gifts and planned giving, in attendance. Following the meeting, I presented a red rose to panel members, as well as to Francine. In addition, I made sure she had a copy of the AAUW up-to-date publication, "Women in Community Colleges—Access to Success," along with our publication about becoming a college and university partner. If any of you have not seen this publication, I have extra copies and highly recommend you read it. It was made possible by contributions from The Mooneen Lecce Giving Circle and The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, which supported the research initiative behind the report. We had 22 members and guests in attendance in addition to the the panel members, and all of us enjoyed the delicious refreshments provided by Jean Hirsch and her hospitality committee. Two of the guests de-

ecided to join the Branch after attending the September meeting.



During our business meeting, I was happy to have our 2014-15 budget, as presented by Treasurer Terry Medlar, adopted, and also to have adopted the further allocation of scholarship funds. I pointed out the new program brochures (apple green this year) as produced again by our member Edie Allison and urged members to show them to friends who might be prospective members.

As you have heard, Congress again failed to vote on some of the legislation we have been lobbying on for so long that would benefit women but instead have gone on a two-month vacation to campaign to retain their jobs. Considering the turmoil in which we find many parts of the world, I guess we need to be grateful we have relatively peaceful lives with no bombs bursting around us and to be able to speak our minds and worship as we wish.

As some of you may know, long-time member Jean Eden is now recuperating at Wilson Health Care after being hospitalized for respiratory problems. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers so that she will soon return to good health.

Enjoy the gorgeous fall weather and be sure to attend our long awaited October Branch program--the panel of African American Montgomery County teachers and the changes they saw in the schools after the desegregation of Montgomery County public schools. This panel will include our own member, Margaret Williams, and will be moderated by Co-Program Vice President Patsy Marks.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS TELL THEIR STORIES

- *Dorothy Camara, with Maria Roberts*

I wanted to hand out kleenex. The young women's gratitude brimmed their eyes with tears. From poverty, from homelessness, from parental rejection, from sexual discrimination they told their stories. Way back, they came from Tanzania, Lebanon, Argentina, of course from the U.S. too, and now they will nourish our communities.

At the September Branch meeting, Liz Hessel, chair of book sales and the coordinator of the scholarship distributions that come from book sales, introduced the six Montgomery College and Universities of Shady Grove students who received scholarships from our Branch book sales.

Maryam Mwinyi received a grant to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders held at the University of Maryland in June. She said she learned some helpful leadership skills at the conference. Already on her way as a leader, she is the president of the International Club and treasurer of the Student Center at Montgomery College. She is majoring in cybersecurity and later hopes to transfer to information technology. She hopes one day to pay back some benefit of her education to her original country of Tanzania.

Stacy Curry, on the other hand, is a life-long Montgomery County resident. She is a senior at the Universities of Shady Grove, also majoring in cybersecurity. She currently has an internship at NIST in the cybersecurity branch. Someday she would like to start an online program to help people learn coding skills.

Gricel Munoz is originally from Argentina. She is working toward an associate degree in construction management and has a job with a construction company. She

received a Construction Trades Foundation Scholarship when she was at Thomas Edison High School of Technology. She hopes eventually to return to Argentina, start a nonprofit organization for international students and begin a trade program to design and build a home.

Megan Nugent is majoring in computer science. She hopes eventually to get degrees in computer science and linguistics.

Nirja Kwtan Dave is of eastern Indian descent. A math major, she is interested in eventually getting into international relations and starting a nonprofit organization focused on education and literacy.

Anissa Dib is studying aerospace engineering. Her goal is to work in the petroleum engineering field and, also, to start a nonprofit organization to promote education. She is originally from Lebanon.

For AAUW members who hauled heavy boxes, sorted mountains of books and toiled long hours at the book sale, hearing from these students showcased the fruit of their labors.



Scholarship Recipients Inspire the Branch Meeting

Photo by Maria Roberts

*Front row: Booksale Chair Liz Clark Hessel and Maryam Mwinyi
Back, left to right: Stacy Curry, Gricel Munoz, Nirja Kwtan Dave, Megan Nugent, Anissa Dib*

JOIN THE BOOK ELVES

They drive their husbands mad with boxes of books clotting the garage or maybe being late for lunch again. They make a pile of books for "Asbury," "Fred" (who's Fred?) "Special," "Children." They skedaddle loads of books to the catacombs of the Wonder Book warehouse or pack them in a magical way so that the boxes don't crush and stack them in the storage locker. They spatter their e-mail inboxes with constant messages to each other: "Nice temperature for sorting. The drop-off shed is in pretty good shape. I took 15 boxes of sorted/categorized books to the storage lockers today"; "I saw drivers from Lucky Dog who were waiting around for their trailers to be loaded"; "A man dropped by with the label 'Safety Dave' on his hat. He asked if we would like a shed like the one..."; "There are 2 boxes full of special books. We came across a lot of mathematics books"; "I'll be sorting books tomorrow morning if any-

one wants to join me"; "On Monday we had a good group sorting. We even had a new helper, Elizabeth, who found her way to the blue trailer and helped for several hours."



If you were at the September Branch meeting, you saw how the work of this dedicated crew, as well as the work of others at the book sale, pays off in helping young women achieve their educational dreams. (See the item in this newsletter about this inspiring meeting.)

We need more elves to help out at the transfer station. To join the bonhomie (bonfemmie?) of this group, contact Liz Hessel (301-840-1258 or lizejc@comcast.net). You may suit yourself as to your time, mood, and proclivities. You don't even have to dress nice!

AAUW FUNDS UPDATE

- Heather Reichardt, Funds Chair

At the September 16 Branch meeting the membership approved the Board of Directors' recommendation to make a total contribution of \$8,000 to national's AAUW Funds for scholarships and legal support. These funds resulted from sales of books by our membership and follow the \$11,500 previously allocated to scholarship recipients at the Universities at Shady Grove and Montgomery College. The following is a description of what the AAUW Funds cover.

We are giving \$1,000 to American Fellowships. This fund supports women scholars who are completing dissertations, planning research leave from accredited institutions, or who are preparing research for publication.

We are giving \$2,500 to Selected Professions Fellowships. These fellowships are awarded to women who intend to pursue a full-time course of study at accredited U.S. institutions in an area where women's participation traditionally has been low. They are awarded for these master's programs: architecture, engineering, computer and information sciences, and mathemat-

ics and statistics.

We are giving \$2,000 to the Legal Advocacy Fund. This fund works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and in the workplace.

We are giving \$2,500 to Career Development Grants. These grants provide funds to women who have a bachelor's degree and who are preparing to advance or change careers or re-enter the workforce. Primary consideration is given to women of color and women pursuing their first advanced degree or credentials in nontraditional fields.





GREAT DECISIONS

- Vivian Otto, Coordinator

The Great Decisions Group will meet on October 28 at 7 p.m. at Vivian Otto's apartment at Asbury Village. Patsy Marks will lead the discussion on "China's Foreign Policy." We will discuss how China's foreign policy has changed and how the U.S. is more involved. All are welcome. Call Vivian if you have questions.

To avoid passage difficulties caused by the construction in the Hefner Building, do not enter at 417/Hefner. Go around the building to the 415/Diamond Building entrance.



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch
<http://gaithersburg-md.aauw.net>

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LITERATURE GROUP



The Literature Group will be meeting on its usual fourth Saturday of the month, October 25, at 10 a.m. at the home of Jane Carroll. Jane will be discussing John Berendt's "City of Falling Angels." You will remember that Berendt wrote about Savannah in

"Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil." Now "City of Falling Angels" will be about Venice.

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HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP

- Anita Taylor, Coordinator

The October meeting of the Her-story Interest Group will be at 2:30 p.m., October 22, on the Asbury campus. In keeping with the 2014-15 theme of living women history-makers, Anita Taylor will share both facts and fun from the 35 years that Jennie Forehand spent representing Rockville, Gaithersburg and surrounding areas in the Maryland General Assembly. First elected as a del-

egate in 1978, she became a senator in 1994 and retires at the end of 2014.



DINING GROUP

- Jean Hirsch, Coordinator

The AAUW Gaithersburg Dining Group will meet again at Jean and Roland Hirsch's home on October 18 at 1:00 p.m. for an exciting Spanish "Paella" lunch. The September 20 Dining Group's luncheon was cancelled due to Roland Hirsch being ill. Therefore, another opportunity

awaits you to join the Dining Group and enjoy a delicious lunch!



AAUW Gaithersburg Operational Account
Proposed 2014-15 Budget

Your Membership Dues of \$77	\$	49	National AAUW
	\$	10	Maryland AAUW
	\$	18	Gaithersburg AAUW

Item	2013 Budget	Actuals	2014 Budget	
INCOME				
Membership Income	\$ 990.00	\$1,116	\$1,026	Based on 57 members
Donations		\$33	\$70	
Donations for Annais		\$725		
<u>Member Directory Ads</u>	\$ 220.00	0	\$100	Advertising for 2014 - 2015
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,210.00	\$1,874	\$1,196	
EXPENSES				
Newsletter	\$ 300.00	\$160	\$300	Printing (\$20) and postage for 9 Newsletters
Meeting Rent	\$ 180.00	\$70	\$360	Montgomery County Library at \$60 x 6 meetings
Insurance	\$ 160.00	\$370	\$236	Liability for Branch + 1/3 of Dishonesty Ins.
Interbranch Dues	\$ 105.00	\$86	\$33	Asked for less money this year.
Hospitality	\$ 100.00	\$117	\$100	
Bank Fee	\$ 40.00	\$0		Check order
Member Directory	\$ 100.00	\$0	\$100	Estimated cost for Directory printing (\$84 in 2010)
AAUW Promotional Material		\$0		
Donations		\$1,725		To Annais and Janet Compton Fund
<u>Programs</u>	\$ 275.00	\$204	\$100	Actual included \$134 for mic. and \$70 to Historical Soc.
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,260.00	\$2,732	\$1,196	

AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

Board Meeting	Tuesday, October 14 - 7 p.m.
Dining Group	Saturday, October 18 - 1 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, October 21 - 7 p.m.
Her-Story Interest Group	Wednesday, October 22 - 2:30 p.m.
Literature	Saturday, October 25 - 10 a.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, October 28 - 7 p.m.

The American Association of University Women
Gaithersburg Branch
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