



Empowering Women  
Since 1881

# AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

October 2015

## October Events

### BRANCH MEETING

October 20

Hospitality 7:00 P.M. - Program 7:30 P.M.  
Gaithersburg Library - Meeting Room 3

### 134 Years of Records

The second Gaithersburg Branch program of the 2015-16 year will feature AAUW's archivist, Suzanne Gould. Suzanne has 20 years of professional experience as an archivist, librarian, historian and interpreter and has worked with diverse collections at various states of completion. She will be discussing the rich history of AAUW, going in depth about some of the women who were instrumental in creating AAUW and making it into the institution it is today. Join us to learn more about AAUW's national history and its many women leaders.

### BOARD MEETING

Sellers Library, Rosborough Building, Asbury  
October 13 - 7 P.M.

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will meet on October 13 at 7 p.m. at its new location in the Sellers Library at Asbury. All members are invited to participate.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- **Heather Reichardt**

Greetings, Gaithersburg Branch members and friends! I hope everyone is enjoying the slightly more comfortable weather we've been having in the middle of September when we don't have to turn on the air conditioning or the heat.

I want to thank everyone who attended our September program when we heard from three of this year's scholarship recipients. All three young women were honored and grateful to have received assistance from our Branch. They are working hard to get through their studies and on to the next chapter of their lives. I hope everyone feels as happy as I do knowing that we were able to help these young women in their career journeys.

Many thanks to those who provided the snacks for the meeting: Jean Kosow, Vivian Otto, and Sue Woodruff. I know everyone appreciates having something to snack on at our meetings. I am still looking for someone to take over as hospitality coordinator. If you are interested, please e-mail me to discuss this rewarding position.

Our next program, in October, should be equally interesting. We will hear from AAUW's chief archivist. Suzanne Gould is responsible for cataloguing, describing and maintaining all of AAUW's 134-year history of records and achievements. I am very much looking forward to hearing from her. I hope that many of you will attend. The meeting is again at the Gaithersburg Library on the second floor. As always, we are happy to welcome your friends, neighbors and relatives who may also want to hear the presentation.

I continue to try to meet as many members as I can at our meetings. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to me via e-mail at [heather.reichardt@marriott.com](mailto:heather.reichardt@marriott.com). I am eager to put faces to names and hope to get to know everyone soon.



## NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

- **Mary Wykes**

Four of our Gaithersburg Branch members attended the Rockville-Kensington Branch luncheon meeting Saturday, September 19, at the Ingleside retirement community. Anna Fraker, Mina Parsant, Diane Carvey and Mary Wykes were delighted to hear famed astronomer

Nancy Roman speak about her career and her part in creating and heading NASA's committee to design the very successful Hubble space telescope in the 1960s.



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- **Marilyn O'Connell, Vice President for Membership**

We are doing well with membership, now at 61 paid members for 2015-16. If you are unsure whether you have paid your dues for this year, please contact Marilyn O'Connell, or Terry Medlar. Please come to our October

meeting to meet our interesting new members.

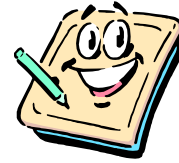


## GREAT DECISIONS

- **Charlotte Fischer, Coordinator**

The Great Decisions Group will meet at the home of Joan Read on October 27 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. The topic is "Human Trafficking: A Serious Challenge to Humanity," led by Patsy Marks. Refreshments will be served before the discussion. Please contact

Vivian Otto for questions or concerns.



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

## LITERATURE GROUP

- **Mary Wykes**



The Literature Group will meet at Sandra Finerty's home on Saturday, October 31, at 10 a.m.

Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

New members are always welcome.

The book selection for October is the fascinating biography, "My Beloved World," by Supreme

## HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP - Oct & Nov

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

The HerStory Interest Group for fall 2015 will meet on the first Wednesday of each month, which makes our schedule October 7, November 4, and December 2. We gather at 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the Park View Club Room, Asbury campus.

Our goal for this year is to gain more in-depth knowledge of women who have held the post "First Lady." With one or two notable exceptions, we know them as "wife of." We do not know, really, who they were, how they lived, nor how they came to occupy that position.

Thus, we embark on a study of women whose mark in history came, not through doing "men's work" well, but through performing underappreciated

and underrated "women's work." We expect to learn, as well, that many of these women did a goodly amount of things for which they got little credit.



We'll move through the subjects chronologically. The October session is devoted to Martha Washington, Abigail Adams, and the two Martha Jeffersons. For November, we focus on Dolley Madison, Elizabeth Monroe, and Louisa Adams.

*President*  
*Heather Reichardt*

*Co-Vice Presidents for Program*  
*Carolyn Fisher*  
*Anita Taylor*

*Vice President for Membership*  
*Marilyn O'Connell*

*Treasurer*  
*Terry Medlar*

*Recording Secretary*  
*Marybeth Morsink*

*Corresponding Secretary*  
*Jane Carroll*

*Newsletter Editor*  
*Qing Jiang*

## Book Sale Update

### - Liz Hessel, Chair of Book Sales

Thanks to everyone who helped move and sort books on September 2 and 3. Special thanks to Barbara Brooks and Anna Fraker, who oversaw so much of the box moving. Many others came to help sort and enjoy the fellowship. A big thanks to all! We moved 208 boxes of sorted books into storage! And we did it in record time—finishing before 2 p.m. on the second day. Proof that many hands make light work.

As we look forward to next year's sale on May 5 to 7, one obvious goal is to increase the number of customers. As you may know, the Gaithersburg Gazette went out of business recently. Many of our customers saw our printed ad in the Gazette, so we have to find more ways to publicize.

I'm looking now to form a publicity committee made up of members who would help with publicity and advertising. This includes creating a plan, identifying other organizations willing to cooperate and share our information with their members, finding online sites where we can post our information, designing printed advertising and marketing, identifying newsletters and local papers where we can advertise, placing print ads, finding locations where we can post printed flyers. If you are willing to help with any of these tasks or have publicity ideas, please send me an e-mail ([liz@meral.com](mailto:liz@meral.com)) or give me a call (301-840-1258).



Walt Preysnar, Barbara Brooks, Jane Carroll and Anita Taylor clean up at the end of our recent book sorting September 2 and 3. Thanks to all who helped over the two hot days!

## **WORKING WITH AAUW LOBBY CORPS**

**- Maria Roberts meroberts2700@cs.com**

**- Jean Kosow 3346@comcast.net**

AAUW members who advocate for AAUW's national legislative priorities comprise the group known as Lobby Corps. Meeting every Thursday while Congress is in session, Lobby Corps members visit the offices of members of the U.S. Senate or the House of Representatives to discuss the issue of the day with the senators' or representatives' staffs.

On Wednesday evenings Lobby Corps members receive an e-mail with a written briefing about the bill on which lobbying will focus the next day. Thursday mornings begin early as we carpool to Shady Grove or other convenient Metro station for the ride to downtown D.C. There is about a 10-minute walk from the Metro station to the Lobby Corps gathering, which starts at 9:30 a.m. in the cafeteria of the Longworth House Office Building or the Dirksen Senate Office Building, depending on which branch of Congress we lobby that day.

At the 9:30 meetings a member of AAUW's professional staff amplifies the written briefing, answers questions, and provides handouts on the issue with a list of offices for each pair of Lobby Corps members to visit. Usually each pair visits five or six offices. In each office we ask for the staff member familiar with the issue, and we

have a short, usually five minutes or less, meeting with him or her. Sometimes the staff member may indicate agreement with AAUW's stand on the issue, sometimes the opposite is the case, and sometimes our visit is the first he or she has heard about it. In addition to the verbal discussion, we provide the written materials. If the staff member is not available to meet with us, we leave the materials and a handwritten note.

We finish between 11:30 and 12:30 and arrive back in Gaithersburg between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. One member of each pair who has noted the result of each conversation provides feedback to AAUW staff from home by means of a computerized system.

On Thursday, October 15, there will be an Open House Lobby Corps information session at AAUW D.C. offices, 1111 Sixteenth Street, N.W., from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with lunch provided. The offices are on a three-block walk from the Farragut North Metro station. That event will provide a good orientation about the Lobby Corps process. Also, Jean and Maria welcome your questions. Our contact information is above.

## Charlotte Fischer

### CORRECTION

In the September issue of the newsletter, in the article "Two Of Our Members Receive Awards," the name of the honoree was in error. In attempting to write an article about Charlotte Fischer's being honored in Sweden for her scientific work, we were caught in a lurking cognitive trap and switched her name with Carolyn Fisher's. Here is the way the article should have read.

### Charlotte Fischer

During her upcoming travels to Sweden, Charlotte Fischer will be granted an honorary doctorate degree from Malmö University in Malmö, Sweden, awarded by its Faculty of Technology and Society.

While Malmö University was only recently established, in 1998, it has had a transformative impact on this industrial port city, creating a center

of learning. The Faculty of Technology and Society includes both computer science and physics. Charlotte has had a long and rewarding association with the atomic physics research group at the nearby Lund University, one of the oldest institutes of higher learning in Scandinavia, tracing its roots to 1425. She mentored two of their students as postdoctoral candidates while she taught at Vanderbilt University in the late 1980s. Both these students are now professors, one a professor of physics at Lund University and one a professor of mathematics and physics at Malmö University. Along with some other postdocs who worked directly with Charlotte, these professors established the Computational Atomic Structure (CompAS) group in which Charlotte is still an active participant. In addition, Malmö University has just approved a new PhD program that includes atomic physics, an area in which Dr. Fischer achieved many significant breakthroughs during earlier periods of her ongoing STEM career.



*Dr. Charlotte Fischer has worked and produced honored research contributions in the area of computational atomic theory.*

## Scholarship Recipients

Three of the nine Montgomery County women awarded scholarships from proceeds of the AAUW Gaithersburg used-book sale spoke to AAUW's September meeting about their studies and future career goals. Pictured left to right are Elizabeth Clark Hessel, book sale chairperson; Universities at Shady Grove student Boshra Peyrovi, who majors in biological sciences and plans to attend dental school; Montgomery College math major Qin Yang, who plans a career as a statistician; and Montgomery College Germantown Student Senate President Farrah Alhashem, who looks forward to a marketing career. AAUW also sponsored Alhashem's attendance at the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders last summer.



*Photo by Maria Roberts*

## **AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events**

Her-Story Group	Wednesday, October 7 - 2:30 p.m.
Board Meeting	Tuesday, October 13 - 7 p.m.
Lobby Corps Open House, Nat'l AAUW Office	Thursday, October 15 - 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, October 20 - 7 p.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, October 27 - 2:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, October 31 - 10 a.m.
Her-Story Group	Wednesday, November 4 - 2:30 p.m.
Hold This Date:	
Book Sale	May 5-7, 2016

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