



Empowering Women
Since 1881

AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

October 2017

October Events

BRANCH MEETING & MARYLAND STATE MEETING

Saturday, October 21

Park View Building, Asbury Village

The Gaithersburg Branch hosts the AAUW of Maryland State Meeting in the Club Room of the Park View Building at Asbury Village. The main speaker will be Erin Prangley who will speak on advocacy. Prangley is the former associate director of government relations at AAUW. She also worked for senior members of Congress and the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues.

As part of this event, the Gaithersburg Branch will be celebrating its 45th anniversary with a program of historical interest. A continental breakfast and a lunch will be available.

Look for further information from AAUW of Maryland in The Marylander newsletter on the time, the cost, and registration information.

Celebrate the 45th anniversary of the founding of AAUW Gaithersburg!

8:30 a.m. Registration and gathering

9 a.m. Morning program begins

11:30 a.m. AAUW Gaithersburg 45th Anniversary luncheon program

1 p.m. AAUW of Maryland State Board business meeting

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 10 - 7 P.M.

The AAUW Gaithersburg Branch Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, October 10, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. All members are welcome.

INSIDE

<i>October Events</i>	1
<i>President's Mes-</i>	2
<i>SCHOLAR-</i>	2
<i>SHIPS AND</i>	
<i>SCHOLARSHIP RE-</i>	3
<i>SCHOLARSHIP RE-</i>	4
<i>Come Speak Out on</i>	5
<i>MEMBERSHIP</i>	5
<i>Great Decisions</i>	6
<i>Literature Group</i>	6
<i>HerStory Interest</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Heather Reichardt

Those of you who attended the September Branch meeting experienced another inspiring session listening to the stories of our outstanding scholarship recipients. Everyone loves hearing from these young women, who have such great aspirations. We have invited them to future meetings and hope to see them helping with future book sales. Thank you to the members who participated in the panel by reading the notes from the students who could not attend. And a big thank you to Liz Hessel for coordinating all the students, whether in person or via text.

We are hosting the AAUW of Maryland Fall State Meeting at Asbury on Saturday, October 21, in conjunction with our Branch's 45th anniversary celebration. We expect a strong turnout of state board members and attendees from other branches. I hope many of you at-

tend. This is a great opportunity to get the word out about our book sale and its inspiring results.



Please contact me (hjr1234@gmail.com or 301-840-5443) with ideas or comments regarding the Branch. I hope you are actively reaching out to family and friends who may be interested in our activities. We have a lot of different opportunities for service, learning, and fellowship.

All the best to everyone and I'll see you on October 21.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS APPROVED

At the September 20 AAUW Gaithersburg Branch meeting, the membership approved further allocations of scholarships and grants derived from book sales in the 2016-17 year.

AAUW's American Fellowships will receive \$2,500. These fellowships support women scholars who are completing dissertations, planning research or preparing publication of research.

AAUW's Selected Fellowships will receive \$2,500 for women who are pursuing study in fields without proportional representation by women, with attention to women of color.

AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund will receive \$1,000 for challenging sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders will receive \$1,500 to sponsor three local students to attend their national leadership conference at the University of Maryland.

Court Watch, an organization monitoring court and judicial systems for more responsiveness to crimes of violence against women and chil-

dren, will receive \$400.

And the Asbury Benevolent Fund, which financially assists the elderly who have run out of funds, will receive \$500 in appreciation of the use of Asbury Village facilities and personnel in carrying out the book sale.



These scholarships and grants supplement those approved by the membership in June 2017. At that time, three scholarships were approved for Montgomery College at \$1,500 each and two at \$2,000 each, for a total of \$8,500. One scholarship of \$3,000 was approved for the Universities at Shady Grove. These scholarships focus on fostering careers in fields underrepresented by women.

The process of allocating these funds is headed by Liz Hessel. Our book sales, the source of the funds, is led and organized by Liz and helped by Branch members year round, as well as by some nonmembers who are inspired by the cause.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS - PART I

AN INSPIRATIONAL EVENING WITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS --Maria Roberts

When you listen to the young women who won scholarships or grants funded by proceeds from the Gaithersburg Branch's book sale, it sure makes you want to work harder and sell even more books next year!

At the September Branch meeting we were privileged to hear in person or in writing from most of our winners.

Those awarded academic scholarships:

Misun Jung, a graduate of Wooten High School and a second-year student at Montgomery College. Born in Korea, she has been here since the 7th grade and is the first in her family to attend college. She is double-majoring in math and engineering, with the goal of becoming a college or university professor. She wants to inspire other young women to go into scientific fields and to aim high.

Harveer Kaur, a graduate of Seneca Valley High School, is a second-year Montgomery College computer science major. She wants to attend the University of Maryland; her goal is to work for the FBI. She is from India and came to the U.S. when she was nine years old. She is part of a college group who speak to elementary and middle school students, encouraging them to major in STEM.

Abena Amfo Koranteng, a graduate of Quince Orchard High and a second-year Montgomery

College student, double-majoring in bioengineering and international studies. She is a "Montgomery Scholar," which required taking extra courses and participating in a number of outside activities. She is applying for internships and hopes to get a scholarship to attend Smith College.



Aigielinn Mascarina, a graduate of Magruder High School and a sophomore at Montgomery College. She is majoring in general studies and STEM and hopes to attend the Universities at Shady Grove. Eventually she hopes to attend the University of Maryland School of Nursing, as her goal is to become a nurse practitioner.

Thanda Win, a graduate of Seneca Valley High School, is from Burma and is a senior at the University of Maryland at the Universities at Shady Grove. She majors in biological sciences, and her goal is getting a medical degree and becoming an anesthesiologist. She is an officer of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Universities at Shady Grove.

Araceli Carrillo Garcia is a student at Montgomery College. She is majoring in architectural technology.



At the panel of scholarship recipients. Francine Walker, director, Transformational Giving, Montgomery College; Harveer Kaur, Montgomery College; Sara Ruiz, Universities at Shady Grove; Misun Jung, Montgomery College; Heather Reichardt, president; Liz Hessel, book sales chair. (Photo by Maria Roberts.)

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS - PART II

Those awarded grants to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders:

Sara Ruiz is a senior at the Universities at Shady Grove and a graduate of Watkins Mill High School. She is from El Salvador. She majors in accounting, is taking 19 credits and is a leader in the school's business and accounting club, and is a teaching assistant as well. She says that attending NCCWSL gave her an extra spark to encourage others. Not only has she won an internship with a leading accounting firm but also has landed a job with them.

Chenoa Orr, graduate of Seneca Valley High School, is a student at Montgomery College. She is president of the Black Student Union and a First Year Experience Student Ambassador, and she also works on campus. She hopes to go on to the University of Maryland at College Park to major in accounting or finance with a minor in French. Her goal is to become a certified public accountant, work at

a large accounting firm, start her own business, and teach financial literacy to lower- or middle-income women of color. She says she felt very much empowered by the speakers at NCCWSL.

Elizabeth Zabala, a graduate of Montgomery College, now studying at the University of Maryland, College Park.

These scholarships and grants and their recipients are a tribute to Liz Hessel, intrepid leader of our book sale, and the army of volunteers she inspires and persuades to work with her. Many thanks to them. We also express our thanks to AAUW member Francine Walker, director of Transformational Giving at Montgomery College Foundation, whose responsibilities include allocating scholarship funds.



Maria Roberts, Edie Allison, Judy Sholes and Anita Taylor attend Lobby Corps training in September. (Photo courtesy of Maria Roberts.)

Photo Lobby Corps

Come Speak Out on Redistricting Reform!

- The following article was provided by the League of Women Voters

In 2015, shortly after the Governor appointed an 11-member Commission to study redistricting and make recommendations for improving the way it's done in Maryland, the Commissioners traveled around the state to hear from stakeholders. Listening sessions took place in Towson, Hagerstown, Waldorf, Easton and Laurel. Bills introduced in 2016 and 2017 haven't made it into law. During legislative hearings, the Commission was criticized for not seeking input from more politically and ethnically diverse population centers. Therefore, the Commission scheduled two more hearings for the fall.

The first was in Baltimore City on September 25th and the second will be in the evening in Montgomery County on October 10, at a location TBD.

Should Politicians draw the election district lines? Should an independent Commission do it?

Who should be on such a Commission?

What standards do fair districts need to meet?

Should Congressional and Legislative Districts be treated equally?

The 2020 Census is drawing near and the lines are going to be drawn again – with or without a new plan for redistricting reform. We need to tell our representatives what we think NOW – before

we have to wait another DECADE for reform. Come out and tell the Commission what you think they should do now about gerrymandering in Maryland.

Please mark your calendars so you can come to support the idea or to share your views on the need for redistricting reform. As more details about times and location become available, they will be posted on the calendar on the League of Women Voters website at <http://www.lwvmd.org/> or in the local papers.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- Carol Plummer, Vice President for Membership, and Barbara Garrard, Past Vice President for Membership

Please welcome Ann Lindley to our Branch. She is a resident of Asbury Village and a friend of Maria Roberts, who invited her to join. She has a B.A. from East Carolina University and the equivalent of a master's degree from the University of Virginia and Howard University. She was a high school English teacher for 31 years. She and her husband are National Tournament level bridge players, like to travel, and have five children (including a set of triplets). Ann loves going to the plays, sports events and functions of her 14 grandchildren. She is really excited about joining AAUW and getting involved with the Lobby Corps.

Please also welcome Eloho Ese Basikoro to our Branch. Eloho is a social science researcher, educator and global development professional with over ten years of experience in teaching, research and strategic development planning within academia and the international development

sector. She holds a doctorate degree in geography from the University of Washington, Seattle, where as an adjunct lecturer she has taught classes that span geography, gender, development, and global health. She is also an independent consultant and has consulted for organizations such as UNICEF.

Eloho recently relocated from Seattle, Washington, to Maryland where she worked temporarily at World Vision USA. As a former recipient of an AAUW International Fellowship, she is passionate about giving back and committed to advancing the empowerment of women and girls in the USA and globally through her membership in AAUW and Lobby Corps. Music is her passion and a big part of her life. She also loves to go shopping, try out new cooking recipes, and read fiction and inspirational books.



GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinator**

The topic for the next Great Decisions meeting is "Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan," with Patsy Marks leading the discussion. The meeting is at 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 25, at Patsy's home at 727 Regent Court,

Gaithersburg (301-869-1314). New members are always welcome.



AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

Website: gaithersburg-md.aauw.net

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

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LITERATURE GROUP



The October meeting of the Literature Group will be at 10 a.m., on October 28, at the home of Cathy Manning, 366 Russell Avenue, Gaithersburg (the Villas at Asbury Village). Her phone number is 301-216-5626. Cathy will lead the discussion of the book "The Brothers" by Stephen Kinzer--a story of two brothers, John Foster Dulles and Allen Dulles, who achieved remarkable influ-

ence as Secretary of State and Director of the CIA in the Eisenhower administration. One reviewer calls it "a bracing and disturbing study of the exercise of American global power." The author is a former foreign correspondent for the New York Times and he takes us deep inside the first decade of the Cold War.

New members are always welcome.

HERSTORY INTEREST GROUP

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

The AAUW HerStory group (a few of us) met on September 6. We agreed to the following schedule. We will have no meeting in October. We will next meet at November 1 at 2:30, with Dorothy Camara reporting on Aung San Suu Kyi; then on December 6 at 2:30 with Maria Roberts reporting on Janet Yellen. In the 2018 year, Mary Wykes, on January 3, reports on Angela Merkel; then on February 7 Jean Hirsch discusses Ruth Gruber (journalist/photographer/writer).

Anyone with interest in reporting about powerful women may volunteer for March, April, May or June. Possibilities? For example: Ruth Bader Ginsburg (Supreme Court), Sheryl Sandberg (Facebook COO), Beyonce, Phebe Novakovic (CEO, Gen-

eral Dynamics), Cher, Jean Oelwang, (CEO of Virgin United), Oprah Winfrey, Madeleine Albright, Condoleezza Rice, Kathryn Bigelow — and the list could be extended far from these as well.



Unless you get subsequent changes of location or time, meetings will be on the first Wednesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. in the Club Room of Park View (Asbury Building 211). Call Anita Taylor at 240-361-3101 for more information.

AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

Board Meeting	Tuesday, October 10 - 7 p.m.
Branch Anniversary Celebration & Maryland State Meeting	Saturday, October 21
Great Decisions	Wednesday, October 25 - 2:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, October 28 - 10 a.m.
HerStory Interest Group	Wednesday, November 1 - 2:30 p.m.

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