



Empowering Women
Since 1881

AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

November 2014

November Events

Branch Meeting

Tuesday, November 18

7 P.M. Hospitality

7:30 P.M. Program

Community Room B, Rosborough Center, Asbury Village

BIOTECHNOLOGY: WHAT HAS IT DONE FOR YOU LATELY?

The world of technology changes so rapidly it often makes our heads spin! It is difficult to stay knowledgeable about the myriad recent advances. So, you will want to join us for this compelling talk by Lori M. Kelman, professor of biotechnology at Montgomery College.

Professor Kelman majored in biochemistry at Mount Holyoke College. She received a master's degree from St. John's University, an MBA from Iona College, and a Ph.D. in molecular biology from Cornell University. You will be delighted to know that, in addition to her academic achievements, she was an active member of AAUW in New York in the 1990s.

Biotechnology has been defined as "the manipulation (through genetic engineering) of living organisms to produce useful products." Professor Kelman's talk will include a more in-depth discussion of what biotechnology includes, how it affects your life and health, what the most recent advances are, what the promises and perils are, and, finally, what the ethical issues are for genetic engineering. She will answer some of our most pressing questions about the latest developments in biotechnology--questions such as: What is the biotechnology industry doing to combat Ebola? What about the FDA and the new and as yet unapproved drug ZMapp made from plants?

BOARD MEETING

November 11 - 7 P.M.

The AAUW Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, November 11, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. All Branch members are welcome and invited to participate.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Mary Wykes

As I sit at my real estate office "opportunity desk" on a beautiful Sunday afternoon while everyone else is enjoying the Redskins-Titans game (and hoping we will finally win one) or while I'm out at the many real estate open houses hopefully to take advantage of the record-setting low interest rates this week, I will try to compose a few thoughts for the November newsletter.

First, I would like to recognize the great Board with whom I have the privilege of working again this year, everyone going above and beyond what one might expect from volunteers in continuing to advance our AAUW mission, and in the process, enjoying wonderful deepening friendships with educated women of varied backgrounds and interests.

Our membership is not quite up to what it was at the end of 2013-14 but I feel sure there are several of you who have just forgotten to send in your dues for this 2014-15 year (\$77). Be sure to check with Marilyn O'Connell if you aren't sure whether or not you have sent in your check since you will be dropped from the national AAUW rolls after November 30 if we haven't received your renewal. (If you wish to continue your membership but have a hardship situation at the moment, please call me and let me know and we will see if we can help in some way.)

I hope you are all keeping up with the interesting news from AAUW's national office via their e-mail notices. One thing that caught my eye from the recent "Washington Up-Date" letter was this: "Former Representative Connie Morrell (MD '08) wrote an op-ed describing the atmosphere and power of the Lindy Boggs Room, the first all-women space in the House of Representatives, where she said discussions led to the creation of important legislation, including the Violence Against Women Act and the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act." (Let's trust more women representatives will use this room after the November elections, which will be over by the time you receive this newsletter.)

Just this week, I had a letter from our CEO Linda Hallman with a plea for us to contribute more funds to continue supporting the AAUW efforts to end violence against women. She says: "We have been confronting for decades

but we know there is much more to be done including strongly supporting the STOP (Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention) Act which will change how sexual assaults are handled in the military." She started her plea with a graphic example of a female member of the Reserves who had been violently assaulted by her commanding officer and who was not charged even though she testified about the attack.



Linda continued: "We were instrumental in passing the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act which includes most of the Campus SAVE Act helping young women on college campuses to be safer. We have developed an 'Ending Campus Sexual Assault Tool Kit' and are trying to get this resource on every campus in the country." All of us have been horrified as we read recently about the disappearance of the University of Virginia sophomore, Hannah Graham from Alexandria, and the news today of the possible finding of her body in a remote area of Virginia, along with the news of the jailing of the man charged with kidnapping her with intent to defile. He is also linked through DNA to the murder of Virginia Tech student Morgan Harrington. As a grandmother of beautiful 16- and 26-year-old granddaughters, I can't imagine anything more horrible than what these families have been enduring. I hope all AAUW's lobbying in the above efforts will help other young women to be safe on their college campuses and in other areas where they might be.

As some of you know, we will be sending certificates received from national to our Branch AAUW Fund honorees for this year. They are Haydee Rolin (now living in East Orange, New Jersey) and Patricia Armstrong (deceased). We will send Pat's certificate to one of her children, along with a letter recognizing all the work Pat contributed to our Branch over the many years of her membership.

I want you all to know what a great job Jean Hirsch has done in selling advertisements for our new directory (which Liz Clark Hessel is working on at this time). This is a job Haydee (continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Continued

Rolin did so admirably for so many years (not an easy one). In addition to selling numerous ads, Jean found an anonymous donor who agreed to contribute matching funds, so she ended up with ample funds for the printing of the new directory. We are eagerly awaiting it. When you get your copy, be sure to support the advertisers.

The program for the November meeting, a speaker from Montgomery College on biotech-

nology, sounds very timely. Hope to see a big turnout. Don't forget to bring a friend or neighbor who might be a prospective member. If they join at a "Save the Future" event, which our meetings are considered, they can join for half-price if they haven't been a member for two years or more.



SOME NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

- Mary Wykes

I know many of you have travelled and done interesting things since I last spoke with you, so please be sure to let the newsletter coordinator know if there are items you would like your friends to hear about. Here are just a few items I have been aware of this month.

Jean Kosow, Cathy Manning, Diane Carvey and I recently met Marion Plumb for a wonderful luncheon in Frederick at Gladchuk's Restaurant. As you know, Marion now lives with her son Dexter and wife Wanda in Jefferson and misses her friends from Asbury and AAUW. She appreciates phone calls and, of course, would enjoy visits from anyone traveling to Jefferson (near Frederick). We were happy to see her in such good health and it was fun to hear about her granddaughter's recent wedding in North Carolina which she had attended.

Diane Carvey, Marie Van Wyk, and I recently enjoyed a trip to the National Gallery of Art on a very rainy Wednesday with the Seniors in Action group from Montgomery Village. It was great to see the Wyeth exhibit along with a docent-guided tour of paintings from various genres--amazing what the trained docents can point out that the average viewer would not ordinarily see.

After much therapy and lots of pain, Sue Woodruff has finally turned the corner after her knee surgery and is driving and not on "pain killers with their associated side effects" any more. We are hoping to see her at our next Branch meeting.

Jean Eden has finally been well enough to move from Wilson Health Care to Kindley Assisted Living at Asbury. We wish her well in her continued recovery from her respiratory illness. She appreciates phone calls from her AAUW friends. We send our sympathy to Jean on the death of her daughter-in-law Jennifer Eden, formerly a member of our Branch.

Liz Clark Hessel is now having physical therapy many weeks after she fell and fractured her patella. We wish her well toward full recovery. It hasn't been easy having to use crutches for such a long time, but somehow Liz is always cheerful and manages to keep contributing so much to our Branch. Even from home, she sells rare books and textbooks on her computer, earning more for our scholarship funds--an amazing person!



Another amazing member is Barbara Brooks, who travels frequently all the way from Dayton (above Clarksville,) to work in the blue storage trailer at the transfer station, sorting books for our spring sale. I finally located the trailer recently (with Anna Fraker's help) and joined Barbara and Anna for a couple hours of sorting. My thanks to all the dedicated members who have put in so much time helping sort books, both at the transfer station and at Asbury and taking boxes to Wonder Book in Frederick in their vans. Cathy Manning has spent many hours sorting in her garage. Jean and Dave Kosow, Vivian Otto, and other Asbury residents have been helpful in collecting books from Asbury apartments when they have been needed. Jean Kosow, Cathy Manning, Anna Fraker, Patsy Marks, Louise Chatlynne, Terry Medlar and Barbara Brooks have driven many times to Frederick with boxes of books for Wonder Book that might not be saleable at our book sale. I am sure there are others who have also contributed whom I do not mean to leave out. It is such a great collaborative effort for a very worthwhile cause.

THE BOOK SALE IS COMING!

Would you like to help with the book sale with a project you could do from home?

Although the book sale is in May, lots of activity is going on now to collect and sort books and materials. You may recall that we sell CDs and DVDs, sorting them into categories, such as music, books, movies, and self-help. The sorting could be done at your home, then the boxes

moved to storage.

If you want to help sort our CDs and DVDs, contact Liz Hessel



MINA PARSONT'S FILM TO BE SHOWN AT ASBURY

AAUW members have another chance to see the film, "Tombees du Ciel (Fallen From the Sky)," created by Mina Parsont's sister. The film tells the remarkable story of their family's survival during the Holocaust in France thanks to their bravery and inventiveness and the amazing risk-taking of many friends and other resisters to the Nazi invasion and rule. Reunited after the liberation of France, the family came to the U.S. in 1949.

The film will be shown on Friday, December 5, at 1:30 p.m. in the Rosborough Center theater at Asbury. Mina will introduce the film and make background comments during the showing. AAUW members are invited to attend, so please save the date.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- Marilyn O'Connell, Vice President for Membership

Welcome to all of our new members. I hope they will be at our meetings so that you can meet these outstanding women.

Bernice Genovese received her degree from Indiana University, Pennsylvania, in elementary education and her doctorate in library science from the University of Maryland. She was a teacher in Montgomery County and later a medical librarian for the FDA. Bernice spends her winters in Arizona. We will think of her this winter enjoying the warmer Arizona climate and look forward to seeing her in April.

Judith Mayer graduated from The Catholic University with a degree in music. She has been active in the Montgomery Players over the years and performed in theaters throughout the Washington area. She has been a realtor for many years. Since she retired from the theater, she has been taking art classes. Because her husband worked for the World Bank, she has traveled extensively throughout the world.

Laurie-Anne Sayles, received her bachelor of science degree in public health and human resources at the University of Maryland, College Park. She received her master's in public admin-

istration in health policy, with honors, at the University of Baltimore. She was a candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates for District 17 in the last primary, and her husband is presently on the Democratic Central Committee. They have a daughter in the 10th grade at Gaithersburg High School.

Mary Smith graduated from Salve Regina University with a bachelor of science in nursing and received her master of science degree in community health from the University of Maryland. She worked as a nurse and in public health in the Montgomery County Department of Health until retiring in 2002.

Marie Van Wyk graduated from Trinity Washington University with a bachelor of arts in English and speech. She worked for the government for 27 years and retired in 1990 as director of administration for the Office of the Inspector General at the Department of Commerce. She established the personnel office for the Office of Inspector General, receiving a \$10,000 award which she shared with five other members of her department.



GREAT DECISIONS

- Vivian Otto, Coordinator

The Great Decisions Group will meet at Terry Medlar's home on November 25 at 7 p.m. Terry will also serve as our discussion leader on "U.S. Trade Policy". Learn about our U.S. leadership and the multilateral trade

system. Questions to be asked include, should we restrict Chinese imports and how would that affect other things? All are welcome.



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

LITERATURE GROUP



The Literature Group will next meet on Saturday, December 6, at 10 a.m. at Cathy Manning's home. The group will discuss "Victoria's Daughters" by Jerrold M. Packard. This book

is about the unique sisterhood of Queen Victoria's five daughters and their remarkable lives.

HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP

- Anita Taylor, Coordinator

The November Her-story Interest Group both follows and departs from its tradition, this time in two ways. First, as the 4th Wednesday of November is Thanksgiving eve, we will meet on December 3 instead. As usual, the gathering will be at 2:30 p.m. in the Park View Club Room at Asbury. Another departure will be to meet two history makers through visiting an historical novel, "Invention of Wings". As do all good historical novelists, Sue Monk Kidd stands the narrative on a solid factual base.

"Invention of Wings" follows Sarah Grimke's life to a critical mid-point, when she published one of the earliest and most well-known publications supporting women's rights, "Letters on the Equality of the Sexes". The

session also returns to the Her-story Group's theme for this year, introducing us to a modern woman writing modern women's history.



Even if you're acquainted with both Grimke and author Sue Monk Kidd, join us for an examination of how Grimke's early life prepared her for the pioneering role she assumed and a discussion of Kidd's journey to the status of best-selling author. For more information contact Anita Taylor.

DINING GROUP

- Jean Hirsch, Coordinator

The AAUW Gaithersburg Dining Group will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 15, at Madeline and Francois Martzloff's at 18 Virginia Drive, Gaithersburg. Please call Madeline and Francois and let them know that you will be coming!

The menu for this gathering is a "Fall Surprise," with dishes that are appro-

priate for the fall weather and upcoming holidays! Come and join the AAUW Gaithersburg Dining Group at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 15!



President
 Mary Wykes

Co-Vice Presidents for Programs
 Patsy Marks

Anita Taylor

Vice President for Membership
 Marilyn O'Connell

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Recording Secretary
 Dorothy Camara

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 Jane Carroll

Newsletter Editor
 Qing Jiang

INTERBRANCH REPORT

- Louise Chatlynne, Interbranch Representative

Louise Chatlynne, our InterBranch representative, attended a planning meeting on September 30 for the next Sonya Kovalevsky Day planned for November 15 at Montgomery College. SK Day is a program to pique the interest of middle school girls in pursuing STEM classes and careers. Overseeing the program will be Andrea Steelman, who chaired the September planning meeting. Andrea is a member of the Montgomery College math department. Also at the planning meeting were several other professors from the college, a representative from Montgomery County Public Schools, a representative of the organization that provided the grant, several Montgomery College administrators, plus Anita Rosen of the AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch.

At this year's November 15 Sonya Kovalevsky Day there are slots for 60 students. In the past, the number was 30 to 40, but because of the time of the invitation, switching the program from Friday to Saturday, and the efforts of Amy Gensemer of the Montgomery County Public Schools, the day is oversubscribed, with a waiting list of 73! There will also be a continuing program for a cohort of 25 girls to attend three other STEM-related programs throughout the

year, including an IT conference on April 25 aimed at middle school girls. Also discussed at the planning meeting was how to recruit the cohort of 25 and how to assure they remain with the program. There was also discussion on how the program could be modified in the future to serve those on the waiting list.



In the past, the major activity of InterBranch in regard to SK Day has been recruitment. But since that is not needed this year, we have been tasked to provide volunteers to help SK Day run smoothly. Look for a link I will be sending to allow people to sign up.

There will be an AAUW of Maryland conference at Montgomery College on April 25, the same day as the IT conference. Andrea Steelman has volunteered to talk to the conference about the SK program.

AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

Board Meeting	Tuesday, November 11 - 7 p.m.
Dining Group	Saturday, November 15 - 1 p.m.
Sonia Kovalevsky Day	Saturday, November 15
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, November 18 - 7 p.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, November 25 - 7 p.m.
Her-Story Interest Group	Wednesday, December 3 - 2:30 p.m.
Mina Parsont Film	Friday, December 5. 1:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, December 6 - 10 a.m.

The American Association of University Women
Gaithersburg Branch
437 Fellowship Circle
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