



Empowering Women  
Since 1881

# AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

November 2015

## November Events

### BRANCH MEETING

November 17

Hospitality 7 P.M. - Program 7:30 P.M.

Gaithersburg Library - Meeting Room 1

Our speaker for November will be the newly appointed executive director of the Montgomery County Commission for Women, Jodi Finkelstein. Jodi has an impressive background in advocating for women's issues, including working with the Howard County Domestic Violence Taskforce and working as the director of NARAL Prochoice America in Washington, D.C. Now with the commission since April of this year, Jodi brings them a new point of view emanating from her national experience and local roots. Please join us to learn more about how the Commission for Women continues to serve Montgomery County's women and their families.

### BOARD MEETING

Sellers Library, Rosborough Building, Asbury

November 10 - 7 P.M.

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors next meeting is at the Sellers Library in the Rosborough Building of the Asbury campus. Meetings are open to all Branch members.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Heather Reichardt

Greetings, Gaithersburg Branch members and friends! I have just returned from our October Branch meeting at the Gaithersburg Library. We heard an educational, entertaining and enthralling presentation from Suzanne Gould, the AAUW national archivist. Suzanne has a wealth of experience and education in archiving and library science. So, I am confident that AAUW's records, going back to 1881, are in good hands. Our members had some good questions for Suzanne, as well. I'm sure she could give a much longer talk on the association's history. Follow up, if you are interested in AAUW history, by joining her Archives Corps. At the very least, check out the Web site at [www.history.aauw.org](http://www.history.aauw.org). This is important and fascinating work that she and her team are doing.

We had a second, unplanned, speaker at the meeting, Mr. Adisa Muse, the political director of Maryland Working Families' Women's Economic Security Agenda (WESA). He gave us some timely information about the coalitions in Maryland that are working to pass legislation, not only to help all workers, but also, more specifically, women workers. The coalitions have submitted requests for legislation to the Maryland legislature on: 1) fair

scheduling, 2) pay equity, and 3) paid sick days. Muse told me afterwards that they may also push for a fourth bill dealing with paid family medical leave. As you know, the current federal standard is 12 weeks of unpaid family leave. He also informed us of an important event that they are having at the Silver Spring Civic Center on November 8. More information will be forthcoming.



We learned from Suzanne Gould that as far back as 1894 the members of the original Association of Collegiate Alumnae were, even then, surveying working women and their employers about equal pay for women and men in the same or similar jobs. Unfortunately, it is still an issue. However, on the bright side, AAUW fights for us every day in this arena.

It was wonderful to see some newer members at the meeting tonight. Please encourage all members to join our meetings--I still need to put faces with names. And friends are always welcome. Feel free to reach out to me via e-mail at [heather.reichardt@marriott.com](mailto:heather.reichardt@marriott.com). Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

## NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

- Mary Wykes

Congratulations to our Co-Vice President for Program Carolyn Fisher, Ph.D., on her new position with The Scientific Consulting Group (SCG Corp.) located at 656 Quince Orchard Road in Gaithersburg. She is part of the scientific writing group. The firm does contract work in many health- and science-related

areas for agencies such as NIH, NCI, and EPA.



## NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

### - *Jean Hirsch*

In the afternoon of a beautiful Saturday, October 17, my husband, Roland, and I visited Haydee Rolin at her assisted living facility, Brighton Gardens, in West Orange, New Jersey. Haydee has moved to a new efficiency apartment there. She prefers to be called around eight at night since she does not rely on the phone answering machine any more, preferring to speak personally with people. She welcomes and appreciates letters, particularly those written in large print.

Haydee was cheerful and looked gorgeous as always. Her spirits were happy because of personal visits and because some of her medication issues have been resolved recently, making her feel better and perkier. Additionally, while we were visiting, she had a phone call from her son,

Etienne, who lives in France. Haydee is getting around, walking with a cane or walker. But with a limited two-foot eyesight range, she has had to make some adjustments in her activities. Her daughter, son-in-law and their children are nearby and visit and call her.

She is taking good care of herself and enjoyed knowing how everyone is doing as we told her the news of various AAUW members such as Jean Friedmann and Mary Wykes. Haydee Rolin misses you, her AAUW friends, and sends everyone her good wishes and looks forward to hearing from you soon!



*Jean Hirsch (right) visits Haydee Rolin in New Jersey. Haydee has been a Gaithersburg Branch member for 20 years and was an active contributor before moving to New Jersey.*

## HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP

**- Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

As noted in the last newsletter, due to the new meeting dates, this newsletter may arrive too late to notify you of the November 4 meeting. And, almost certainly, that will be the case in December. Therefore, mark your calendar for December NOW: December 2.

On both dates we convene at 2:30 p.m. in the club room at Park View (Building 211) on the Asbury campus. (Contact Anita Taylor for directions if needed.) Please join us if you are interested in stories of women, mostly those from the past--although occasionally we visit special current history makers.

We are spending 2015-16 looking at the lives of those who have held the not-so "honorary" position of First Lady. In September we talked about things we had not previously known about Martha Washington and Abigail Adams. On November 4, we will discuss the Jeffersons, the indomitable Dolley Madison, and try to uncover a wom-

an of whom we have barely heard, Elizabeth Monroe.

For December 2, our discussion also will focus on mostly unknowns, Louisa Adams, Rachel Jackson and those who acted in her place, then, time permitting, Hannah and Angelica Van Buren. These women lived through increasingly difficult times for the new nation as it passed from surviving a second war, intensified its own war against the peoples of the "frontiers," and continued to wrestle with issues that soon would engulf the country in a third, hugely traumatic war.

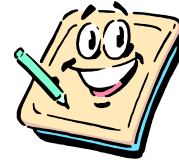


## GREAT DECISIONS

- **Charlotte Fischer, Coordinator**

The Great Decisions group will meet at the home of Terry Medlar, 8904 Edgewood Drive, Gaithersburg, on November 24 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (note the earlier starting time). The topic to be discussed will be "Brazil in Metamorphosis" led by

Mary Wykes. Refreshments will be served before the discussion. Please contact Charlotte Fischer for questions or concerns.



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

## LITERATURE GROUP

- **Mary Wykes**



The Literature Group will not meet in November. The next meeting will be Saturday, December 5, at 10 a.m. at Jane Carroll's home if you need directions. Jane will lead the discussion. Light refreshments will be served and all are welcome.

The selection for this meeting is "Children of the Stone: The Power of Music in a Hard Land" by Sandy Tolan. This is a story about the power of music first, but also about freedom and conflict, determination and vision. It is an unlikely story. Ramzi Hussein Aburedwon, a child from a Palestinian refugee camp, confronts an occupying army, gets an education, masters an instrument, dreams of something much bigger than himself, and then, through his charisma and persistence, inspires others to work with him to make that dream a reality. The dream: a school to

transform the lives of thousands of children--as Ramzi's life was transformed--through music.

The author has been covering Israel and Palestine for 20 years, having made 15 trips there over that time. He says, "Each time I return home, I have to adjust to the reality that Palestinian lives and aspirations are basically off the map in the U.S." Sandy Tolan is a journalist, teacher, and documentary radio producer. He is an associate professor at the Annenberg School for Communications and Journalism at USC and has won over 25 awards for his reporting and writing. This latest book was released in April 2015 and has received strong early praise and reviews.

*President*  
*Heather Reichardt*

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

*Anita Taylor*

*Vice President for  
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*Recording Secretary*  
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*Corresponding Secretary*  
*Jane Carroll*

*Newsletter Editor*  
*Qing Jiang*

## **AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events**

Her-Story Group	Wednesday, November 4 - 2:30 p.m.
Board Meeting	Tuesday, November 10 - 7 p.m.
Sonya Kovalevsky Day	Saturday, November 14
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, November 17 - 7 p.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, November 24 - 2:00 p.m.
Her-Story Group	Wednesday, December 2 - 2:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, December 5 - 10:00 a.m.
Hold This Date:	
Book Sale	May 5-7, 2016

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