

### December 2013—January 2014 Events

#### BRANCH MEETINGS

December 11 (Wednesday) 6:00 p.m.

Asbury campus, Conley Hall, basement of Trott Building.

Sacred events or ceremonies in almost all cultures mark the onset of the winter season, creating a kaleidoscope of traditions across the world. This year AAUW Gaithersburg carries out its own winter holiday tradition: a potluck dinner in Conley Hall (Trott building basement, the Asbury campus) at 6:00 p.m. on December 11.

We'll build the evening around enjoying the rich variety of our group through learning about members' winter holiday traditions. To join in, bring a food "pot" that reflects your own winter holiday tradition and take part in a program that extends the theme. We hope each member will bring and share a treasured winter holiday celebration memento. During the evening, we'll ask you to share a poem, a song, a photograph, piece of art, a story from a particularly memorable holiday, or a special gift you find especially meaningful.

Perhaps obviously, since we may have 30 or more people at this event, we'll each have to ration our time. See you on the 11th as we develop our own celebration in this time when, world-wide, the seasons and the sacred are commemorated.

January - Saturday 18th, 10:00 a.m.

Asbury campus, Rosborough Community Rooms B and C

Edie Allison, AAUW Gaithersburg member and AAUW of Maryland officer, will talk about "The Joys and Pitfalls of a Geology Career." For Edie, life as a geologist has taken her around a good part of North America studying the earth and its underground treasures. She will discuss women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) careers. Edie notes that, in spite of excelling in both high school and college, when women land a STEM job, companies lose them at a faster rate than male employees. In response, companies have implemented family-friendly work policies. She will talk about what is working and what is not helping the retention of women workers.

#### BOARD MEETING

January 14, 7 p.m.

The next meeting of the AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14. There will be no December meeting. Meetings are held in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. All members are invited to participate.

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#### CORRECTION OF PHONE NUMBER

Please make a note of Marion Plumb's new phone number in your directory.

The one recently given in the last newsletter was incorrect.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Mary Wykes

By the time you receive this message, I trust you will have had a very "Happy Thanksgiving" with family and friends. Having just been hostess a few days ago to our Branch Gourmet Group with the theme, "Practicing for Thanksgiving," I find my refrigerator stuffed with delicious leftovers. Tomorrow our Long & Foster office is having their annual "Thankful Thursday" dinner, and then next week my extended family will gather at my daughter's for the official feast. How will I ever fit in my clothes after all that feasting? I would feel guilty about all this eating if I hadn't just purchased the fascinating book "Cooked" by Michael Pollan after seeing him interviewed on the Charlie Rose show. I highly recommend this book--each section tracks the author's effort to master a single classic recipe using one of the four classical elements--fire, water, air, and earth. We learn alongside Pollan "...but the lessons move beyond the practical to become an investigation of how cooking involves us in a web of social and ecological relationships.....cooking, above all, connects us." I think reading this book helps justify why I am spending more time in the kitchen and enjoying the Gourmet Group more each year. I hope other members of our Branch will join our group; it needs additional members since current members move or are unable to attend because of health reasons. Spouses are welcome. I think the friendships we have developed over the years through our eating together monthly have been priceless.

I am looking forward to our holiday party December 11 at Conley Hall. We will share not only delicious dishes provided by members but some holiday memories and traditions. This should give us another opportunity to know each other on a more personal level and deepen our friendships.

Today as I checked my e-mail I was saddened to see an "In Memoriam" from Anita Taylor, with the precious picture of her dear Angel who always gave us such a warm welcome when we attended the Women's HerStory Group at Anita's apartment. Our deepest sympathy to Anita on the loss of her beautiful dog.

The November Branch meeting was well attended. I think we were all impressed with the enthusiasm and knowledge of Leticia Mederos, the young congressional staff member, from California representative George Miller's office, who spoke on "Beyond the Earnings Plateau: How Paycheck Fairness Can Help." Her talk made us realize what a long process it is to get anything through Congress and gave more insight into the patience and dedication it takes to continue battling for equity for women. Her acknowledgment of the AAUW Lobby Corps and its positive effect on members of Congress encourages us to continue making the trip downtown to be a part of the effort.

Our speaker made reference to the Equal Rights Amendment offered during President Kennedy's administration. The topic brought to mind something I had to share with our members as we ended our evening. Since we are now observing the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy, I found it amazing that I would be cleaning my garage and would find a box of papers I was about to throw away, only to investigate a bit and find a precious envelope of photos given my husband (who worked at the School of Aerospace Medicine in San Antonio) including one of President Kennedy, a couple photos of the gathered audience of employees and their families to hear President Kennedy speak, one taken the night before of President and Mrs. Kennedy and Vice President and Mrs. Johnson in Houston listening to a Mexican mariachi band at an event, and one of them in their open-car motorcade before the shooting. Along with these pictures, was a memorandum to all the employees of the laboratory where my husband worked, giving the itinerary of the day and how they were to be dressed in case the dignitaries toured the labs. We had taken our seven-year-old daughter out of school to attend the exciting event with us and we were seated in folding chairs on the lawn in front of the main administration building of the school. We weren't terribly far from the portable podium and could see and hear the president very clearly as he spoke. My husband took a lot of pictures--have no idea where they are at this moment. And today in the Washington Post there was the picture of Caroline Kennedy "Stepping into a New Chapter" as U.S. ambassador to Japan, stepping out of the horse-drawn carriage as she arrived at the Imperial Palace. Time marches on!

Since we will not have another newsletter until February, I will end with wishing you the happiest of holidays and hope all of you have a healthy 2014! As life goes on, it seems the most important thing for all of us is to continue in good health.

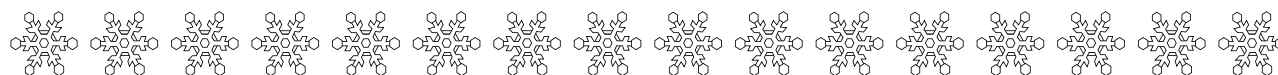


## NEWS FROM NATIONAL

- *Mary Wykes*

AAUW president, Patricia Fae Ho, has informed AAUW state and branch presidents that AAUW by-laws require selection of members of the Nominating Committee by January 1, 2014. The Nominating Committee is charged with actively recruiting, evaluating, and recommending highly qualified candidates for election or appointment to each office and position of the Board of Directors. Applications for ap-

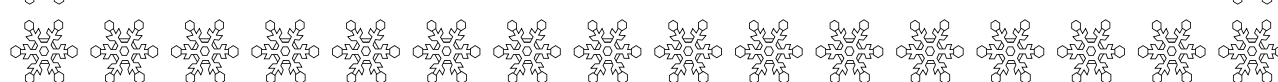
pointment to the committee are now available at the national office; the deadline for submission is December 13. Any of our members interested, please contact the national office for an application.



### SNOW POLICY



In case of snow or other inclement weather occurring at the time of one of our meetings, we will follow the Montgomery Public School advisories.



Please note that this newsletter is a combined December/January issue. There will be no separate issue in January.

Heather Reichardt, Jean Kosow, and Maria Roberts at the AAUW Lobby Corps Open House on November 7.

The Open House was held at AAUW headquarters, with the purpose of attracting volunteers to lobby Congress on issues important to gender equity. The corps has had a significant impact on legislation, concerning education, civil rights, reproductive rights, and economic security. If you are interested in following up on this important activity, you may get information at [VoterEd@aauw.org](mailto:VoterEd@aauw.org) or contact Jean Kosow or Maria Roberts.



## Women's Legislative Briefing

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

and our many co-sponsoring organizations invite you to the



# Women's Legislative Briefing 2014

**Sunday, January 26, 2014**

TIME: 12:00 - 6:00 pm

LOCATION: The Universities at Shady Grove, Bldg II,  
9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville, Maryland



OPENING CEREMONY WITH KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY

**JOANNE BAMBERGER**

Author of the Amazon bestselling book  
*Mothers of Intention: How Women &  
Social Media are Revolutionizing Politics in America*

**Registration** begins at noon with light refreshments. The conference will **open with the keynote address**. **Compelling seminars** on legislation in the Maryland General Assembly will fill out the afternoon. A **reception** will conclude the event providing an opportunity to meet with county and state elected officials, advocates and representatives of the most prominent county, state and national women's organizations.

Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible, but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If these or other services or aids are needed to participate in this activity, please call 240-777-8207 or email a request to [richard.bingham@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:richard.bingham@montgomerycountymd.gov).

**Register Online Now!**

or [Download a Mail-In Registration Form](#)

**General Admission**

**\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door**  
co-sponsorship and exhibit table  
opportunities

For more information, please contact the  
Montgomery County Commission for Women  
at 240-777-8333.

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw)

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## GREAT DECISIONS

- **Vivian Otto, Coordinator**

The Great Decisions Group, having completed its discussion of the eight great decisions of 2013 foreign policy, will not meet in December. Our January 28 meeting, at 6 p.m., will be a dinner at the Hilton Hotel, followed by planning for the 2014

year. Other interested Branch members who would like to attend, please call Vivian



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

## LITERATURE GROUP

- **Bea Carasso, Coordinator**



The Literature Group will not be meeting in December.

The group will be meeting on Saturday, January 25, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., at the home of Jean Kosow. We will be discussing the true story, Mistress of the Vati-

can, by Eleanor Herman. The tale deals with the life of a 17th century Roman woman, Olimpia Maidalchini, who wielded much influence in religious and political circles as counselor to her brother-in-law who became the pope. She was called "the secret Female Pope."

## Her-Story Interest Group

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

The Her-Story interest group will not meet in December. The January meeting will be January 22, 2:30 p.m., at the Park View Club Room (Building 211) on the Asbury campus.

During 2014, meetings will be planned for the fourth Wednesday of each month, at 2:30 p.m. In January, taking note of our surviving the year of the unlucky 13 (2013), we will share some smiles. We will pay homage to the lives and achieve-

ments of selected women whose birth year included the supposedly unlucky 13. (i.e., 1913, 1813, 1713, 1613, etc.). Legend has it 13 became unlucky due to its association with ancient goddess worshipping cultures that honored the 13 menstrual cycles in a year. What else might we learn about the 13th year of each century?



## GOURMET GROUP

- **Jean Friedmann, Coordinator**

There will be no Gourmet Group plans made for December as we are all then being creative cooks solely for our families and ourselves. But the January meeting should be enjoyable as we get together at the home of Madeleine Martzloff for a 1 p.m. luncheon on January 18. There

are no details as yet for the theme, but your interest can be satisfied by calling Madeleine at



**President**  
*Mary Wykes*

**Co-Vice Presidents for Programs**  
*Patsy Marks*

*Anita Taylor*

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

**Treasurer**  
*Terry Medlar*

**Recording Secretary**  
*Dorothy Camara*

**Corresponding Secretary**  
*Jane Carroll*

**Newsletter Editor**  
*Qing Jiang*

## **AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events**

Branch Meeting	Wednesday, December 11, 6 p.m.
Board Meeting	Tuesday, January 14, 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Saturday, January 18, 10 a.m.
Women's Legislative Briefing	Sunday, January 26, 12 p.m.-6 p.m.
Gourmet Group	Saturday, January 18, 1 p.m.
Women's Herstory	Wednesday, January 22, 2:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, January 25, 10 a.m.
Women's Legislative Briefing	Sunday, January 26, 12 p.m.-6 p.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, January 28, 6 p.m.

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