



Empowering Women  
Since 1881

# AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

Dec. & Jan.  
2014—2015

## December & January Events

### Branch Meeting

Holiday Party and Potluck  
December 16 - 6:30 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. December 16 Gaithersburg AAUW carries out its own winter holiday tradition: a potluck dinner in Conley Hall (Trott building basement, Asbury campus). [May there be no snow to ruin our event as happened last year!]

By having a piece of our members' winter holiday traditions, we'll build the evening around the rich variety of our group. To join in, bring a food "pot" that reflects your tradition and participate in a program that extends the theme. Members will share stories about treasured holiday mementos. Share a book, a poem, a song, a photograph, piece of art, a tale of a particularly memorable holiday, or a special gift you found especially meaningful. Should our tradition include group singing? Bring your keyboard skills or a CD and we can sing along.

Quite obviously, we don't expect from each member a "show and tell" to the whole group. But we'll work out ways to share, including a table for display. See you the 16th as we develop our own friendship ritual in this time when, world-wide, the seasons and the sacred are commemorated.

Saturday, January 17 - 10:00 a.m. (Note unusual meeting time.)  
Asbury Campus, Rosborough Community Rooms B & C

### WOMEN IN STEM: ARE WE THERE YET?

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is certainly gaining momentum today as we strive to prepare students to become the future workforce in areas that are experiencing both growth and promising job creation. Having been selected by the National Science Foundation to conduct a study on the underrepresentation of women in STEM, AAUW has been, since its inception in 1881, at the forefront of the effort to get more women and girls involved in STEM. The commitment of empowering girls to be informed, engaged and trained in the STEM fields is improving, but there is still much to be done.

The January Branch meeting will entertain a lively discussion of women in STEM and where we stand now. A panelist of women from various backgrounds, such as engineering and science, have been invited to share their experiences. They will do brief overviews of their careers in the STEM fields followed by questions and answers. Additionally, a representative of the Department of Education will give a brief overview of STEM field education. More details will be forthcoming as the meeting date

### BOARD MEETING

January 13 - 7 P.M.

Conference Room, Heffner Building, Asbury

The next meeting of the AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will be on Tuesday, January 13, at 7 p.m. There will be no Board meeting in December.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- *Mary Wykes*

It's hard to believe that we are now a third way through our 2014-15 year Branch program. The speaker at our November program, Professor Lori M. Kelman from Montgomery College, was excellent. Although there were only 16 members and two guests present, probably because of the extreme cold weather, there were a great deal of audience participation and many comments and questions following Dr. Kelman's presentation on biotechnology with emphasis on the Ebola epidemic and attempts to control its spread. Two of our newest members rode with me to the meeting and afterwards both were very enthusiastic about the quality of the programs at the meetings they had attended since joining this fall. Anita Taylor, Patsy Marks, and Sue Woodruff have put together a program of great variety and quality for this year.

Since this is a combined December-January newsletter, I urge all of you to put the events of the next two months on your calendars. When I spoke to one member about the wonderful program this month, she indicated she had forgotten about the meeting or she would have been there.

The holiday party Tuesday, December 16, at Conley Hall dining room will be fun, as these parties always are. We have time to visit and enjoy the great potluck dinner. This year retiring state senator Jennie Forehand (a member of the Kensington-Rockville Branch of AAUW) and her husband Bill will be our special guests. Since they will be moving to Indiana this coming spring, it will be a great opportunity to visit with them and wish them well in their retirement future. As you perhaps have heard, Jennie is being honored this year at the NCCWSL (to be held again at the University of Maryland, College Park, in June) with the Women of Distinction award. Our Branch will make a contribution, along with other state branches, to make this award possi-

ble. Incidentally, feel free to invite your spouse, significant other, or friend to join us at the holiday party. When my husband Arthur was alive, he always enjoyed coming with me and meeting members of our Branch, as well as having a wonderful holiday meal. In addition to enjoying our food and fellowship, we will be sharing favorite holiday traditions with the group. We will also collect funds for the benefit of the women's shelter in Rockville. Patsy Marks is on the board of the shelter and has indicated how much our past support has meant to the women.



Our STEM chairperson, Dr. Carolyn Fisher, will be moderating a panel of women active in science and engineering fields for our January meeting. Since it is on a Saturday morning, we are hoping there might be some students from the community who are interested in a future in these fields who might come to hear the talks and ask questions. If you have neighbors, children or grandchildren who you think might benefit from this program, please be sure to invite them.

Be sure to go into the excellent website AAUW has and read about our lobbying activities. The weekly AAUW Washington Update is always worth reading.

By the time you read this newsletter, I hope you will have had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends and that you will have a healthy and enjoyable holiday season. If you aren't already a member of one or more of our smaller interest groups--Great Decisions, Her-Story, Literature, and the Dining (formerly Gourmet) group--consider a New Year's resolution to join one. You will be glad you did! Belonging to AAUW and all of the four interest groups has certainly enriched my life.

## MONTGOMERY AVENUE WOMEN'S CENTER

### - Patsy Marks

A few weeks ago, I took a lunch of subs and "make your own sundaes" to the Montgomery Avenue Women's Center from the funds you had given me some time ago for a party at the shelter. This "party" was well received and the women loved the food and want to do it again soon. The shelter has a wish list of ongoing needs to help keep the facility open. We have made the women's center a special project at our annual holiday party. This year, we ask for you to please bring any items you would like to share to the holiday potluck dinner and I will deliver them. Thanks for your generous help.

The wish list includes items such as toiletries, clean and gently worn clothing, canned or packaged food, household items. Do you have a large griddle or a toaster you no longer need? Almost any everyday item you use at home will do, such as lipstick, toilet paper, bottled water, Kleenex, shampoo, tote bags, trash bags, laundry detergent.



### Wish List for Montgomery Avenue Women's Center

#### Toiletries

Body Lotion  
Body Wash  
Comb & Brush  
Deodorant/Antiperspirant  
Lip Stick & Make Up  
Panti-Liners & Sanitary Napkins  
Shampoo & Conditioner  
Shower Caps/Shower Shoes  
Toothbrushes, Toothpaste  
Tote Bags

#### Appliances

Large Griddle  
Toaster

#### Household Items

Air Freshener  
Bleach, Lysol or Pine Sol  
CD W/Head phones  
Dish Washing Liquid  
Drum Liners (55 gallon)  
DVDs  
Food Server Gloves  
Hand Sanitizer (large pump size)  
Kitchen Trash Bags (30 Gal. & 15 Gal.)  
Laundry Detergent (liquid HE only)  
Laundry Detergent (allergy free liquid HE only)  
Lysol or Clorox Wipes  
Paper Napkins  
Paper or Plastic Cups (8 oz.) /Plates, Bowls  
Paper Towels  
Plastic Forks/Spoons/ Knives  
Styrofoam Cups (8 oz.)  
Toilet Tissue  
Towels & Wash Cloths  
Umbrellas

#### Supplies

Copier Paper  
Crochet Hooks  
File Folders  
Pens & Pencils  
Electric Power Strips  
Composition Notebooks  
Yarn

#### Current Season Clothing (clean gently worn)

Jewelry & Pocketbooks  
Professional/Career Wear / Suits  
Robes  
Coats  
Shoes and Boots  
Slippers  
Socks  
Tee Shirts  
Undergarments (Bras & Panties)

#### Food

Bottled Water  
Canned Soup  
Cereal  
Hot Chocolate  
Coffee/Creamer  
Cups of Noodles  
No prep. food items  
Sugar

#### Provide Lunch or Snack

for 35 to 50 people per day

#### Volunteering Your Time

One or more hours any day  
8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon. –Fri.  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sat – Sun.

#### Donations (tax deductible)

Have a fundraiser

Please make checks & money orders  
payable to:  
Montgomery Avenue Women's Center

12250-C Wilkins Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20851  
www.mawctr.info  
(301) 984-7765  
(301) 984-0902 (fax)  
mawctr@verizon.net  
EIN#52-2105816  
501(c)(3)

## 2015 BOOK SALE PUBLICITY

### - Liz Hessel, Book Sales Chair

We need every AAUW member to help with publicity for our book sale next April 30 – May 2. Every year we sell lots of books, but we have so many GOOD books left over. We need to attract more customers! The more books we sell, the more funds we have available for scholarships.

We have books on so many topics. We have especially large collections of books relating to history, cooking, religion, science, math, and nature, just to mention a few topics. We also have a nice selection of books relating to women's issues, African American interests, and Jewish culture. Last year we also had about 50 boxes of books in about 20 foreign languages, and over 100 boxes of children's books. So you can see, we have books to appeal to a wide variety of people.

We need you to help publicize our book sale. You can send Liz Hessel the names and contact information for book clubs, member organizations, friends who might be interested. We will add them to our data base and send them information about the book sale. If you have other ideas on publicity, let us know.



We also need more members to serve on the publicity committee. Please let Liz know if you are willing to join that committee. Contact Liz at 301-840-1258 or Liz@meral.com.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### - Anna Fraker, Chair

The new nominating committee for 2015 has been appointed. The members are Anna Fraker, Patsy Marks and Terry Medlar. This is your chance to make the most of your membership and to become involved with other women in stimulating activities. If you would like to serve

as an officer or make a nomination, contact a member of the committee by December 31, 2014.



## ANOTHER SHOWING OF THE MINA PARSONT FILM

### - Anna Fraker

As announced in last month's newsletter, we have arranged another showing of the film, "Tombees due 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 occupation. 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 Parsont will be available after the showing for discussion of this poignant film.

## GREAT DECISIONS

- Vivian Otto, Coordinator

The Great Decisions Group will not be meeting in December but will be celebrating its annual restaurant meal at the Hilton Hotel on Tuesday, January 27, at 12:30. Following lunch, the group will plan the discussion and hosting assignments.

In the coming year, the group will change its evening meeting time to

afternoons at 2:30 to 4:00 on the fourth Tuesdays. Charlotte Fischer will succeed Vivian Otto as the group coordinator.



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

## LITERATURE GROUP



The Literature Group will meet on Saturday, December 6, at 10 a.m. at Cathy Manning's home. The group will discuss "Victoria's Daughters" by Jerrold Packard, a book about Queen Victoria's five unique daughters.

On January 31 at 10 a.m. the group will meet at Jean Kosow's Avenue,

the . The discussion will be on "Mornings on Horseback," David McCullough's brilliant biography of Theodore Roosevelt which traces the life of a seriously ill boy transforming himself into a vigorous war hero and eventually president.

## HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP

- Anita Taylor, Coordinator

We have changed the December 3 meeting date announced in the November newsletter to December 10 so as not to interfere with the book sorting scheduled for the 3rd. We also will meet on January 28. Both dates are at 2:30 at the Park View Club Room (Building 211) on the Asbury campus.

In December, we break temporarily from our theme of modern history-makers to go back and revisit women who were among the leaders in pushing the US into recognizing that women and slaves had human rights alongside white men. Patsy Marks uses Sue Monk Kidd's "The Invention of Wings" to bring vivid detail to the childhood and young adulthood of

Sarah Grimke, "her slave gift, Handful," and Angelina, the youngest Grimke sister.

In January, we return to our theme of living women history-makers. Maria Roberts, introduces us to many of the things we DON'T know about Sonia Sotomayor. Come and join us as we continue to learn more about this truly path-making Latina.

Haven't heard that we've talked about your favorite history-maker? Join us and introduce her to us. Call Anita Taylor with question about the Her-Story Interest Group.



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

## Sonya Kovalevsky Day 2014

**- Louise Chatlynne, our Interbranch representative, forwards the following report on the recent Sonia Kovalevsky Day. The report is from Andrea Steelman, chair of that event.**

On Saturday November 15, the Math Department of Montgomery College hosted 56 middle school girls for Sonya Kovalevsky Day, a one day conference to introduce middle school girls to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). All activities were held in the Science Center on the Rockville Campus.

The conference opened with an inspiring talk by Ms. Jill Hubbard, a current engineer on the Silver Line Project. Ms. Hubbard discussed her background, her job experience, and the challenges of being a woman in a male dominated field.

After the keynote speaker, the girls rotated through several activities: Robotics by Dr. Jan Plane from University of Maryland, Chemistry Experiments by Dr. Rachel Ndongye & Professor Nevert Tahmazian, and DNA Explorations by Dr. Leah Allen. Each of these presenters did an amazing job engaging the girls in the activities. These women were the true stars of the day!

During lunch, a student from University of Maryland held an engaging and interactive discussion on internet safety. She talked about privacy, security and best practices for password protection. Thank you to Katie from Computer Connect for the lively discussion!

The day ended with each group attending a mathematics related activity followed by cake and prizes. Thank you to Dr. Amy Shell-Gellasch, Ms. Sudha Kunhikrishnan, Professor Lisa Vaughnn and Dr. Jan Plane for facilitating these activities.

Each girl received a t-shirt, a bag, and many STEM related gifts as well as a science project to complete at home.

Andrea Steelman, Chairman SK Day



*Students at Sonia Kovalevsky Day*

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
and our many co-sponsoring organizations invite you to the

**2015** *35th Anniversary*  
**WLB**  
**Women's Legislative Briefing**



**Sunday, January 25, 2015**  
**Build the World You Want**  
*through* **Advocacy & Legislation**

TIME: Doors Open at 11:30 am, Program 12:30–6 pm

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

General Admission Registration begins at 11:30 am 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).

AGAIN THIS YEAR:  
**SPECIAL SEMINARS FOR  
TEEN GIRLS!**

*Register Now!*

<https://wlb2015.eventbrite.com>

**General Admission**  
**\$20 in advance, \$25 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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## **AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events**

Book Presorting	Tuesday-Thursday, December 3-4
Mina Parsont's Film	Friday, December 5 - 1:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, December 6 - 10 a.m.
Her-Story Interest Group	Wednesday, December 10 - 2:30 p.m.
Board Meeting	Tuesday, January 13 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting: Holiday Party	Wednesday, December 16 - 6:30 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Saturday, January 17 - 10 a.m.
Women's Legislative Briefing	Sunday, January 25 - 12:30-6 p.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, January 27 - 2:30 p.m.
Her-Story Interest Group	Wednesday, January 28 - 2:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, January 31 - 10 a.m.

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