



AAUW

Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

Dec., 15—Jan., 16

December Events

BRANCH MEETING
December 15 - 5 P.M.
Park View Club Room, Asbury

December brings our annual holiday, primarily social, gathering on December 15, 5 to 7 p.m., in the Club Room at the Park View Building on the Asbury campus.

At last year's December meeting, we explored our varied winter holiday traditions. This year we're trying something different, with a new time, pattern, and location. This event, which we've labeled Wine, Women's Issues and Conversation, will celebrate AAUW, the friendship, fellowship and good works that it creates.

The winter holidays of cultures world wide celebrate, in a variety of ways, the sense of renewal that always comes with the winter solstice. So, we will try joining the spirit of all the various festivals and traditions: celebrations of the accomplishments of the past year and anticipations of renewal and growth in the next.

Renewal of any organization comes from sharing ideas, innovation, and "giving it forward" to the future. And, at its best, it involves each of us in bringing the organization to new people. So, our goal for December is for each member to bring a nonmember to learn about our fellowship and our goals—and we invite each member to contribute some favorite snack food to the hors d'oeuvres. We'll share a glass of wine with our hors d'oeuvres; do some organized circulating to enhance conversation and new friendships; and introduce AAUW and its work. We'll have a table with a display of the programs of national AAUW; a quick review of our own major project, the annual used book sale; and a brief intro by leaders of each interest group. We'll close with what every celebration ought to have, some group singing, with songs chosen to represent the work of AAUW, the various winter holidays and the coming renewal of light in a new year.

The Club Room of Park View (211 Building) is on the lobby floor. Enter the Asbury campus at 301 Odendhal Drive (intersection of Lost Knife and Odendhal), go to the second stop sign and turn right; follow the road in a slight left curve to the 211 building at the top of the hill. If there is no parking in the front (quite likely), there is always ample parking in back of the building where you enter at the chapel door and take the elevator down one floor to the lobby.

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January Events

BRANCH MEETING

January 16 - Hospitality 10 A.M.

Program 10:30 A.M.

Rosborough Center, Room B, Asbury

Making Sense of the Current Recommendations for Dietary Sugar Intake

Feeling sugarcoated and want to know more about dietary sugar intake? Attend the AAUW Gaithersburg meeting January 16, 2016. This meeting promises to be an ideal opening for a new year. Camella Rising, MS, RDN, will speak about dietary sugar. She will present a balanced approach that seeks to dispel myths and will give several evidenced-based perspectives. She will also explore the media's role in shaping views about sugar in food and beverages.

Ms. Rising is a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) credentialed by the U.S. Commission on Dietetic Registration and has a master's in nutritional sciences. She is currently at work on a doctorate in health communication at George Mason University, where she is also an adjunct faculty member in nutrition and food studies, teaching nutrition across the life span. Before coming to George Mason, she worked for eight and a half years as a nutrition consultant to the state of North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Nutrition Services Branch.

In a nod to winter, our January meeting is a daytime one, with social time to begin at 10:00 a.m. and the meeting at 10:30. The location is Meeting Room B, in the Rosborough Center (Bldg. 409) on the Asbury campus. Rosborough is the second building on the right after you enter the campus at 301 Odendhal Drive (intersection of Lost Knife and Odendhal).

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 8, and Tuesday, January 12
7 P.M.

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will meet at 7 p.m. on December 8 and on January 12. These are open meetings in which members who wish may participate or observe. The meetings take place in the Sellers Library in the Rosborough Building of Asbury Village.

MARYLAND LEGAL AGENDA FOR WOMEN (MLAW) FALL CONFERENCE

- **Maria Roberts**

AAUW Gaithersburg president Heather Reichardt, AAUW of Maryland co-public policy chair Louise Chatlynne, Gaithersburg recording secretary Marybeth Morsink, Maria Roberts, and Marybeth's supportive husband, Hubert, represented our Branch at the Maryland Legal Agenda for Women Fall Conference on November 14 at the International Cultural Center in Gaithersburg.

The MLAW conference was an opportunity to learn about important women and family issues that are being submitted to the next session of the Maryland legislature. These bills range over a wide variety of economic, judicial and education issues.

The Fair Scheduling Act would provide more predictable work schedules and income for hourly workers "on demand" at the employer's whim. The Healthy Working Families Act would enable workers to earn a limited number of annual paid sick days for the care of themselves or family. The Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program would create a state-run insurance fund providing up to 12 weeks of partial wage replacements while on medical leave. Expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit would lower the age of eligibility, while increasing the income eligibility and the size of the benefit.

A bill on stalking, harassment, misuse of electronic communication or interactive computer service and revenge pornography would change definitions in existing law to enable prosecution of these crimes. The Rape Survivor Family Protection Act would give rape survivors a process for terminating parental rights of the rapist when a child is conceived as a result of rape. The Universal Voter Registration Act would automatically register eligible Maryland residents by accessing several state agency databases.

The Post-secondary Education Child Support Act would mandate that child support, which now terminates at age 18, be continued until 21 so that it will include college costs. Other bills offer to limit sugar in school lunch food and to provide information to parents about food provided at school.

Voting by MLAW to establish priorities on this legislative agenda will be by an upcoming vote and the result will then comprise the 2016 MLAW legislative agenda. MLAW and its coalition of partner women's organizations, which includes AAUW of Maryland, made presentations at the conference urging those attending to give active support to the agenda.

PARTY

Jean and Roland Hirsch invite the Gaithersburg Branch to a "Holiday Celebration and Lunch" at their home on Saturday, December 19, at one o'clock.

The menu will center around holiday dishes, such as sweet potatoes, turkey, and beans. If you plan to come, please give Jean and Roland Hirsch a call to let them know you are coming and if you are bringing a favorite holiday dish.

With holiday music and possibly singing holiday songs around the piano, we will have a wonderful time!

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

and our many co-sponsoring organizations invite you to the

*Save
the
Date!*

WLB 2016

Women's Legislative Briefing

**Pioneering Justice for Women and Girls
through Advocacy, Policy, and Legislation**

Sunday, January 31, 2016

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 begins with an **opening ceremony** and **greetings**. **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 240-777-8333 or email a request to Jodi.Finkelstein@montgomerycountymd.gov.

AGAIN THIS YEAR:

*Special Seminars
for Emerging Leaders in
Grades 7-12!*

*Registration Opens
November 1!*

**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

HEARING FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Dear American Association of University Women,

I am grateful to be one of the recipient of 2015-2016 AAUW-Gaithersburg scholarship. The funds awarded by your organization will help me to continue with my education dream, which is graduate as a woman architect. I will like to tell you more about myself. My family is from Honduras, located in Central America. My sister and I moved to the United States when I was 12 years old and she was 11 years old. I have two sisters and one brother. My little sister (2 years old) and brother (7 years old) were born here. I am the first one to be able to go to college in my entire family, part of my family was able to complete high school. My parents were not able to afford studies due to their financial situation back home. My mother was able to completed 6th grade, whereas my father dedicated his childhood to work in order to support his 8 siblings, mother and father. Both of my parents moved here before my sister Michelle and I moved. After a few years they brought us to the United States to have a better education and be safe from gangs and crime. Right after we got to the United States, my parents enroll us in school so we could not waste any time with our studies. My mother will always tell us that education is the key to success, once we have the key no one could ever take it from us. The key for her meant a degree. This is the reason I could continue with my education even if it means years and years of study in order to accomplish my education dream. I want to make my parents proud of me as well as show them that their sacrifices made a difference.

I am currently in my third academic year at Montgomery College. I am planning to graduate from MC in Spring 2017 and then enroll at the University of Maryland College Park to earn my bachelor's degree in architecture. My future plan is to continue with my studies since I am also interested in interior design. I am also planning on owning my own construction company with my sister and provide construction counseling, design and build-outs in Montgomery County as well as other counties. My sister, Michelle is in her second year at Montgomery College and she wants to pursue engineering, which make a perfect match for business. All of my future plans depend on my degree. It's hard to accomplish higher education when it's hard to afford the degree and with your help you are making my education less hard to afford. I am truly grateful to be one of your recipients and I promise to not give up on my dream.

Sincerely,

Wendy J Amaya

Editor's NOTE: Wendy attended Gaithersburg Middle and High Schools.

HEARING FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Dear AAUW-Gaithersburg,

I am writing to thank you for your generous \$1000 Scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

I am currently majoring in Cybersecurity with hopes of becoming an Ethical hacker and much more in the future. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me I paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying. I was so anxious to meet some of the donors on Tuesday, the 16th, but I had an emergency. I will be very happy if I get invited to one of your meetings in the future.

Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,

Parida Amadou

Editor's NOTE: Parida attended high school in Somalia.

CONGRATULATIONS, GAITHERSBURG BRANCH!

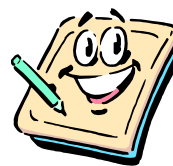
The 2015 Annual Report from national AAUW shows the Gaithersburg Branch among the top 50 branches in the country in per capita contributions to AAUW programs in 2014.

GREAT DECISIONS

- **Charlotte Fischer, Coordinator**

The Great Decisions Group will meet at the Hilton Hotel, Gaithersburg, on January 24 at 12:30 p.m. for a luncheon meeting. The schedule for meetings and topics will be determined for the rest of the year. The topics are those of the "Great Decisions" book. New members

who wish to join the discussion should contact Charlotte Fischer about the availability of the book.



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

LITERATURE GROUP

- **Mary Wykes**



As detailed in the November newsletter, the Literature Group will meet on December 5 at 10 a.m. at Jane Carroll's home. We will discuss "Children of the Stone"

by Sandy Tolan.

social history from 1901, one remarkable White House dinner becomes a lens through which to examine race, politics, and the lives and legacies of two of America's most iconic figures.

Light refreshments will be served and new members are always welcome.

The January meeting will be at 10 a.m., January 30, at Natalie O'Reilly's home. The book selection is "Guest of Honor: Booker T. Washington, Theodore Roosevelt, and the White House Dinner That Shocked a Nation." In this revealing

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Carolyn Fisher

Anita Taylor

Vice President for Membership
Marilyn O'Connell

Treasurer
Terry Medlar

Recording Secretary
Marybeth Morsink

Corresponding Secretary
Jane Carroll

Newsletter Editor
Qing Jiang

HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

In the Her-Story Group, we are spending 2015-16 looking at the lives of women who have held the not-so-"honorary" position of First Lady. In December, on the 2nd, our discussion also will focus on mostly unknowns--Louisa Adams, then Rachel Jackson and the niece and daughter-in-law who served as hostess following Rachel's death, and Hannah and Angelica Van Buren. Time permitting, we will examine the short term of Anna Harrison. 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.

In January and February, we will review the women in Washington during the difficult years of the run-up to the Civil War. That will be the Tyler's: Letitia, Priscilla, and Julia; and then Hannah and Angelica Van Buren; Sarah Polk; Margaret Taylor; Abigail Fillmore; Jane Pierce; and Harriet Lane, niece of James Buchanan. This will bring us into the

1850s, leaving March to explore the women who experienced the approach and explosion of war, Mary Lincoln and Eliza Johnson. Amazing, so many women most of us know so little about!

We convene at 2:30 p.m. in the club room at Park View (Building 211) on the Asbury campus on the 1st Wednesday of each month. Use the above address if you would like to be put on a list for e-reminders of the Her-Story Interest Group meetings. This newsletter will arrive too late to notify you of the December 2 meeting, but mark your calendar now for January 6 and February 3 at 2:30 p.m. Please join us if you are interested in stories of women, mostly those from the past--although occasionally we visit special current history makers. Use the above address if you would like to be put on a list for e-reminders of the HerStory Interest Group meetings.

AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

Her-Story Group	Wednesday, December 2 - 2:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, December 5 - 10 a.m.
Board Meeting	Tuesday, December 8 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, December 15 - 5 p.m.
Hirsch's Party	Saturday, December 19 - 1 p.m.
Her-Story Group	Wednesday, January 6 - 2:30 p.m.
Board Meeting	Tuesday, January 12 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Saturday, January 16 - 10 a.m.
Great Decisions	Saturday, January 24 -12:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, January 30 - 10 a.m.
Women's Legislative Briefing, Univs. at Shady Grove	Sunday, January 31 - 12:30-6 p.m.
Her-Story Group	Wednesday, February 3 - 2:30 p.m.
HOLD THIS DATE - Book Sale	May 5-7

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