

February Events

BRANCH MEETING AND POTLUCK
FEBRUARY 15 - 10 A.M. to 12 P.M.

Asbury campus, Conley Hall, basement of Trott Building.

AAUW Gaithersburg continues its own winter tradition, the February Saturday morning potluck brunch. The date is February 15; time is 10:00 a.m; location is Conley Hall, on the ground floor of the Trott Building (#401) at Asbury Methodist Village. (Note, the ground floor is one below the lobby level where you enter the building.)

We brighten a cold February morning with the warmth of fellowship among our members and guests. Adding to the good feelings are the smells of comfort food brought for a brunch by members who contribute one of their favorite potluck dishes. We may now select our preferred hot beverage from the new coffee/tea maker chosen for us by Hospitality Chair Jean Hirsch.

After a satisfying meal and table conversation demonstrating that we university women cook both food and ideas well, we'll have an additional treat of a fitting February commemoration of Black History Month. Four African American women, including lifelong natives of Montgomery County and Maryland, will share some of their experiences in their lifetime careers within our K-12 school system. Today we think of our county as a forward looking and diverse place, too easily forgetting that we have been a microcosm of the entire country's momentous changes following Brown v. Board of Education and the 1964 federal Civil Rights Act.

We very much welcome and look forward to having with us Nina Clark, Katie Harper, Annie Rhodes and our member and long-time participant, Margaret Williams. This session promises to be one of our highlights of the year. Don't miss it.

BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 11 - 7 P.M.

Please join us at the next Board Meeting. We will meet as usual in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village.

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CORRECT YOUR DIRECTORY
Mary Wykes's new e-mail address is mary.wykes@aol.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Mary Wykes

I am sorry to say my computer is not behaving this morning. I just typed a couple of fabulous paragraphs and they disappeared into cyberspace. Since I am not as clear-headed as I would like, having suffered from a head cold for about ten days, I am not sure I can replicate what I just typed. But I will make a quick attempt at probably condensing it greatly, maybe to everyone's relief!!

It is Martin Luther King's birthday holiday today. My mind is filled with memories of my personal history and that of our country on the subject of race relations and the progress made in my lifetime. All of us remember where we were when we heard Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech from the front of the Lincoln Memorial and our personal emotion at the time. AAUW's value statement is: "In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class."

We look forward to our February program when we will hear from one of our own members, Margaret Williams, along with three other Montgomery County African American teachers, about what it was like to move from segregated to integrated schools in our county.

We are fortunate to have members willing to present interesting programs for our Branch. The January program presented by our long-time member, Edie Allison, on "The Joys and Pitfalls of a Geology Career," was very well received by our 20 members and 3 guests in attendance. Edie's explanation of the politically charged subject of "fracking" made the process more understandable. Jean Hirsch, hospitality chair, assisted by Patsy Marks, provided delicious refreshments. The new Kuerig coffee maker Jean purchased for our Branch made a great brew. Maria Roberts' publicity brought one visitor and an e-mail inquiry as to whether Edie would help with a mentoring program for young 4-H members learning about careers in science. It was great to see Grace Reichardt in attendance with her mom, Heather, and to hear about her first semester at the University of Montana.

It is good news to learn that the Gaithersburg Library is now open and that we have reservations to have our April and May meetings there. I am looking forward to visiting tomorrow to see the space. Meanwhile, we feel so very fortunate to have had the hospitality offered by Asbury Village in the use of their meeting facilities during the library remodeling.

At our January Board meeting, Liz Clark Hessel told us of her success in selling donated textbooks on the Internet for good prices. It sounded a bit like

"day trading" on the Stock Exchange, as some days the price would be much higher than others and she had to "sell" at just the right time. The site Liz uses is bookscouter.com, which lists selling prices for books on about 45 different sites. (Incidentally, I went into the site with about a half dozen titles of my husband's old textbooks and the most I was quoted for any was \$1.75 and most were for "0" so they are very selective about the types for which there is a market.



We appreciate the patience and time Liz is taking to earn money for scholarships through both the book sale coming up the first week of May and all the pre-sorting involved, as well as the Internet sales and sales to Frederick's Wonder Book. These have netted a steady stream of income for the scholarship fund.

Did you see the interesting article in this week's "Outlook" section of The Washington Post titled "One law isn't enough to ensure fair pay" by Lilly Ledbetter, urging the president and Congress to stop resting on their laurels on passing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act but urging the president to sign an executive order banning federal contractors from retaliating against workers who ask about wage practices or share salary information and urging Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. AAUW's study on the subject, as well as our executive director Linda Hallman, was quoted in the article. I am sure that when the Lobby Corps gets back to work this will be a high priority.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Women's Legislative Briefing next Sunday. It is a "Shape the Future" event where anyone may join AAUW at half the price of the National dues. So I hope we will interest some prospective members.

Well, I had better send this on before it disappears again. Keep healthy and safe and hope the winter will soon be over.

GOURMET GROUP

- Jean Hirsch

On Saturday, February 22, at 1:00 p.m., the AAUW Gaithersburg Gourmet Group will meet for a lunch/dinner at Jean and Roland Hirsch's home, 20458 Waters Point Lane, in Germantown. The focus of this gourmet dinner will be on a cuisine chosen from the book by Alice Waters, "The Art of Simple Food." The main course will be fish, the type or selection (such as salmon or sole or any other) will be determined closer to February 22. Different side dishes, appetizers, sal-

ads, and desserts are available for you to select, to make, and to bring to the lunch/dinner.



Please call Jean and Roland Hirsch at 301-972-6986 to tell them you are coming, and they will be glad to help you select a dish to make.



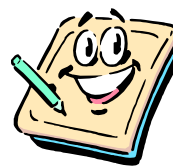
Some of our book-sorting elves at the transfer station. Helping others get scholarships keeps them busy but v-e-e-r-ry happy! From left to right: Jane Carroll, Cathy Manning, Barbara Brooks, and Liz Hessel. Not shown is Louise Chatlynne, who was taking the picture--and, no doubt, just as happy!

GREAT DECISIONS

The February meeting of the Great Decisions Group will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25. We will be discussing the recent advances in U.S. defense technology and how these represent a fundamental transition in defense and ensuing problems. The Great Decision members will have met for dinner at the Hilton by the time this newsletter comes out, and it is there that they will assign the discussant and location for this February meeting and ensuing ones.

In addition to defense technology, other topics this year will be on Israel

and the U.S., Turkey's challenges, the Islamic awakening, energy independence, food and climate, China's foreign policy, and U.S. trade policy. To follow these issues with the Great Decisions Group keeps one informed on the most important foreign policy issues facing the country. To join the group, you may call Vivian Otto for further information, or just show up.



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

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LITERATURE GROUP



The Literature Group will meet on Saturday, February 22, at 10 a.m., to discuss "Jane Austin's England" by Roy A. Ad-

kins. We will meet at Jean Young's home at the Villas at Asbury Village, Jean will also be the discussant.

Her-Story Interest Group - Anita Taylor, Coordinator

On Wednesday, February 26, at 2:30 p.m., the AAUW Gaithersburg Women's Herstory Group will meet in the Club Room on the lobby level of the Park View Building at Asbury Village.

The session will be led by Jean Hirsch. Jean will discuss a woman who affected the course of life in the United States in the 19th century, Mary Lyon, who was the founder of Mount Holyoke College. An obscure young teacher without money, wealthy patrons, or influential friends, she managed, virtually single

-handedly, in 1837, to create from nothing a major new educational institution, the Mount Holyoke Female Seminary, thus opening the way for the rapid spread of higher education for women.

Come, bring a friend, and partake in the hospitality and the discussion about Mary Lyon at this February meeting of the herstory group. Looking forward to seeing you!



AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

Board Meeting	Tuesday, February 11, 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting and Potluck	Saturday, February 15, 10 a.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, February 22, 10 a.m.
Gourmet Group	Saturday, February 22, 7 p.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, February 25, 7 p.m.
Women's Herstory	Wednesday, February 26, 2:30 p.m.
HOLD THIS DATE: Annual Book Sale	May 1-3

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