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# AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

February 2015

## February Events

### Branch Meeting

BRANCH MEETING AND POTLUCK  
Conley Hall, Trott Building, Asbury Village  
February 21 at 10 A.M.

Join the potluck at Conley Hall on February 21. Bring a dish and enjoy the surprise dishes of others. Afterwards we will be challenged by a presentation by James H. Johnson on "Differing Historical Perspectives on Slavery in Maryland and the District of Columbia."

The word "slavery" brings up a mental image of "the peculiar institution" as it existed in the Deep South right before the Civil War. Slavery in the Washington area was different. Jim Johnston will examine the differing perspectives on slavery that emerge from his two books. *The Recollections of Margaret Loughborough* delves into how the slave owners in Washington saw the institution. From Slave Ship to Harvard follows six generations of an African American family in Maryland, providing a different perspective.

Jim Johnston is an attorney and award-winning writer who lectures regularly in the Washington area. He has more than one hundred newspaper and magazine articles and two books to his credit, work that has appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *White House History*, *Legal Times of Washington*, *American Lawyer* and the *Maryland Historical Society Magazine*. Mr. Johnston is on the board of directors of the Historical Society of the District of Columbia and comes to us courtesy of the Speakers Bureau of the Maryland Historical Society.

### BOARD MEETING

February 10 - 7 P.M.  
Conference Room, Heffner Building, Asbury

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will next meet on Tuesday, February 10, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. Meetings are open to all members.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Mary Wykes

I have just returned from a spur of the moment opportunity to meet my daughter and family for dinner at Ruby Tuesday's following the 16-year-old twin's co-ed basketball game at Clarksburg High School. It was fun to tell them about this morning's wonderful Branch meeting planned by our STEM chair, Carolyn Fisher. We had a 45-minute wait to be seated so I talked with my 16-year-old and 27-year-old granddaughters about their interests. It was exciting to learn that 16-year old Lindsey really likes her chemistry course, and I told her about the three young women who spoke at our Branch meeting about their interesting work in three different STEM fields.

Twenty-seven-year-old Megan has recently started work for a small start-up company in the health field. She told us of her up-coming trip to visit three California colleges, UCLA, Berkeley, and University of California, to recruit summer interns. She is in human resources and recruits engineers and computer scientists. Sixteen-year-old Lindsey told me that a question on her recent AP language course was: Is college worth the cost? Her answer was that she was worried that it might not be, as she hears of the tremendous debt students have at the end and then also have trouble finding work in their fields. Her mother said, "But of course Lindsey is going to college." I said AAUW emphasizes that community colleges for the first two years are a good way to keep the cost down, followed by a transfer to a four-year college. I told them about the impressive program we had with a bioethics professor from Montgomery College. As I said to our members following the STEM panel at the Branch meeting, it makes the time and effort our members spend raising money for scholarships and fellowships through our used-book sale worthwhile when we hear inspiring stories of young women who have labored the long years it takes to get their Ph.D. and of the contributions they make to our world.

Our January Branch meeting on STEM was well attended, with a total of 30, including several guests. Our hospitality chair, Jean Hirsch, and her committee served a delicious variety of refreshments.

I received an e-mail from Anna Fraker (she is

at her home in Florida for six weeks), reporting that she is busy working with the nominating committee on next year's slate of officers. I realize it is a challenge to find members who have the time and energy to hold an office but, based on my experience in various offices, it adds a lot of meaning to one's membership to hold an office. I have enjoyed every minute as president even though I now am definitely ready to let someone else have the "fun" next year. Of course, I'll be glad to assist in any way to help the new president, and that will continue the fun.



I am on the state nominating committee this year. The first meeting will be at the end of the month via conference call. Pat Stocker, last year's state president, is the chairperson, and she is definitely efficient. I look forward to helping find members to fill the open positions of membership V.P., secretary, treasurer, and public policy chair. It is my hope that we have a member from our Branch nominated for one of the positions. Please contact me if you are interested in working at the state level for a two-year term.

I hope you read the AAUW Washington Update to find out what the Lobby Corps is working on now that the new Congress is in session. We are looking forward to the Women's Legislative Briefing January 25 at the Universities at Shady Grove. We are proud of our member Heather Reichardt, who is a member of the Montgomery County Commission for Women, a 15-member volunteer advisory board to the Montgomery County government. One of the dominant responsibilities of this commission is to hold the annual legislative briefing in partnership with other women's organizations, of which AAUW is one.

Don't forget to invite your friends, family, and neighbors to our February meeting at Conley Hall. This will be a brunch meeting, with everyone contributing a favorite dish. You will read about the interesting program planned in another part of this newsletter.

## GREAT DECISIONS

- **Charlotte Fischer, Coordinator**

The Great Decisions Group met at the Hilton Hotel, Gaithersburg, on January 27 for their annual luncheon meeting at which time a schedule was determined for the rest of the year. The future discussion topics are those of the Great Decisions book published by the Foreign Policy Association. New members who wish to join should contact Vivian Ot- to about the availability of the book.

The first 2005 discussion meeting will be on February 24, at 2:30 to 4 p.m., and the topic will be "Russia and the Near Abroad." For a copy of the year's schedule of meetings and topics, contact Charlotte Fischer .



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

## LITERATURE GROUP

- **Mary Wykes**



There is a change in the February meeting of the Literature Group. The group will meet at the home of Mary Wykes on February 28 at 10

a.m. We will discuss *Margaret Fuller* by Megan Marshall, and Mary will lead the discussion.

**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

## HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

The Her-Story Interest Group will gather as usual on the fourth Wednesday, February 25, at 2:30 p.m., in the Park View Club Room, Asbury campus. As February is Black History month, the focus of discussion will be on the role of women in the 20th century civil rights movement, with special attention on founders of the NAACP through to '60s activists,

such as the way too often forgotten Ella Baker, Mamie Till, and D.C.'s own Dorothy Height.

If you need information or directions, contact Anita Taylor.



## DINING GROUP

- **Jean Hirsch, Coordinator**

The Dining Group will meet at Madeleine and Francois Martzloff's home on Saturday, February 28, at 1 p.m., for another wonderful luncheon.

We always have a delicious meal at Madeleine and Francois', usually an expertly prepared French main dish they prepared and other side dishes and appetizers prepared by the other AAUW members attending. This month the focus will be on the Mardi Gras, with Madeleine serving a

scrumptious seafood gumbo as the main dish. Other members may bring dishes that would be a part of a Mardi Gras celebration.

Please contact Madeleine and Francois to let them know you are coming.



## Branch Meeting On STEM

At the January Branch meeting, Dr. Carolyn Fisher (at the extreme right) presented a panel on "Women in Stem: Are We There Yet?" Dr. Fisher has been appointed our Branch's first coordinator of STEM. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa, focusing on free radical and radiation biology. Her panel (from left to right) were Amanda Pertzborn, Ph.D, NIST; Connie Jung, Ph.D., Public Health Service; and Julie Anbarchian, Ph.D., FDA, who spoke on environmental

strategies in commercial buildings, security and integrity of drugs, and hydrographic dye studies to assess pollution.



*Photo by Maria Roberts*

## **AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events**

Board Meeting	Tuesday, February 10 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting and Potluck	Saturday, February 21 - 10 a.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, February 24 - 2:30 p.m.
Her-Story Interest Group	Wednesday, February 25 - 2:30 p.m.
Dining Group	Saturday, February 28 - 1 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, February 28 - 10 a.m.

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