



Empowering Women
Since 1881

AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

March 2014

March Events

BRANCH MEETING March 18 - 7 P.M.

“Message or Myth: Quilts and the Underground Railroad” will highlight the March 18 program brought to us by Susan Soderberg, a Montgomery County area public historian. Soderberg has written extensively about our area and the various ways it was involved in the struggle against slavery in the U. S.

In describing this presentation, Soderberg quotes the author of the recent widely heralded biography of Harriet Tubman who critically examines the theory of how quilts were signals along the Underground Railroad. Soderberg, herself an author who has written about Civil War monuments and the Underground Railroad, discusses the variety of myths surrounding quilting and African American history, including how focusing on quilt images obscures by softening the difficult stories of slavery and resistance. She proposes an interesting alternative interpretation of the role of quilts and the historical narrative of the Underground Railroad.

Susan Soderberg's formal education is as an historian with a master's degree in American studies from George Washington University and a B.A. from William and Mary. She has a hefty resume of published work, and has long worked at interpreting history for the public, indicating that she believes history belongs to everyone and should be easy for the general public to understand and access, not a series of names and dates to memorize, but events and experiences that average people can relate to in their own personal lives.

The meeting will be held in Community Rooms B & C in the Rosborough Center (Building 409) on the Asbury Methodist Village campus. As usual, the monthly gathering begins with a social time at 7:00 p.m., with the speaker scheduled to begin at 7:30. A short business meeting will follow the speaker presentation and audience questions.

Enter the Asbury campus at the gatehouse at the intersection of Lost Knife Road and Odendhal Avenue in Gaithersburg. From that entrance, the road becomes Asbury Drive, and Rosborough is the second building on the right. Parking can be found in front of the building or across Asbury Drive. If you have questions, call Anita Taylor.

BOARD MEETING March 11 - 7 P.M.

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 11, at 1 p.m. Meetings are held in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. Branch members are encouraged to attend.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Mary Wykes

Hello Everyone:

I stayed up until 1 a.m. getting my newsletter message written so I would be early for a change. Then about 3 p.m. today I realized I needed to make a correction. Much to my despair, Dorothy called about 6 and said "I received your correction but I never got the original." I have searched everywhere and even called my tech savvy son for help but to no avail, so Dorothy has given me a few more minutes to write something "short."

As I remember, I mentioned how sorry I was that we had to cancel our February meeting and brunch because of the weather, but I didn't want anyone to slip on "black ice."

We do hope we can reschedule the panel which was planned--there was great interest in what they were going to present.

I also mentioned that I enjoyed a few days of being snowbound to catch up on some reading, including "Jane Austen's England," which we will discuss this Saturday at the Literature Group.

The notice about the 25th anniversary of Rockville Science Day with the noted actress/author and AAUW Rockville-Kensington Branch member Kate Campbell Stevenson has just come from Joyce Graf. Louise Chatlynne sent the notice to all of you

today. The event will be on Friday, April 4, from 7 - 9 at Rockville Montgomery College Performing Arts Center and tickets are now on sale for \$10. Students and Girl Scouts are admitted free. Kate's presentation is entitled "Women: Back to the Future." Some of us heard her last year at a state meeting--she is terrific. Hope many of us can be there for the event.



I am glad that our Board voted to contribute \$1000 to the "Janet Crampton Women of Distinction" fund to help bring it closer to the \$20,000 needed by April 1 for Maryland to sponsor the Women of Distinction at the NCCWSL event at the University of Maryland the first week of June. Our Branch is sponsoring three students, one each from the Rockville and Germantown campuses of Montgomery College and one from the Universities at Shady Grove. Janet is a long-time member of the Kensington-Rockville Branch and has held many state offices and has been a big financial contributor to AAUW over the years.

Well, let's hope this gets to Dorothy--and let's all "Think Spring." Hope to see you at our March meeting at which time we will be welcoming several new members.

IN MEMORIAM

I joined many of her friends in saying goodbye to our Honorary Life Member Patricia Cadigan Armstrong at a beautiful memorial service at the Seneca Valley United Church of Christ on a snowy Monday, February 3, at 11 a.m. Many of her friends were there and I was privileged to attend and speak with her children and their spouses, Margaret Chapman and Michael Faris Armstrong, along with two of her grandsons and their wives, and to see her two darling great-grandchildren, a two-year-old boy and three-month-old girl. Pat died on January 29 at Asbury Village after a lengthy illness. She was 92 years old.

Pat was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and graduated from Boston University where she met her husband George Armstrong. George took a position as a scientist at the National Bureau of Standards and they lived in Silver Spring. George was honored for his scientific achievements by being named to the NBS (now NIST) Portrait Gallery and it was my pleasure to invite Pat to accompany me to several Standards Alumni Association spring luncheons and to view his portrait with her. (Soon after George's retirement, he died of a heart attack.) Pat was a public information officer at the National Academy of Science in Washington, D.C., until her retirement in 1986. During her years at the academy she earned a master's degree from American University. She moved to Asbury in 2000 and became a dual member of the Silver Spring Branch of AAUW as well as of our Gaithersburg Branch. She was our membership vice president for several years and was an AAUW Fund Honoree for her outstanding contribution to our Branch in 2006. Our executive board has voted to honor Pat again this year by designating her an AAUW Fund Honoree for 2014-15. She will be greatly missed by her many friends, both in Silver Spring and Gaithersburg AAUW branches.

Mary Wykes, President

LETTERS FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The work Branch members do all year in earning funds to provide scholarship awards results in inspiring stories from recipients. We know this from the yearly panels when these scholars tell their stories at a Branch meeting. Now, to add to these stories, we'd like to share some of their letters of thanks.

From Montgomery College Rockville, Sandra Guzman writes:

"Firstly I would like to immensely thank you...for choosing me to receive a generous scholarship offer. I am tremendously excited for this opportunity seeing as how I am currently struggling financially, and do not know if I will receive any other financial aid....I was born and raised here in Silver Spring, Maryland. My parents are both from El Salvador My father is a very hardworking and good man. He works day and night whenever he has work to pay the bills and rent for my mother and two brothers....Although they live a poor life, there is nothing better than the blessing of a united family. Currently I am living on my own with my fiance, but due to my father's struggle to keep up with his rent I will soon be moving back in to help out.

"...In the fall of 2008 I went straight to University of Baltimore for accounting. Things were good until I realized I did not want to do accounting because it wasn't challenging enough. Fortunately, and I say this because of the outcome, I ran into some life problems and had to drop out for two years but somehow ended up here in Montgomery College to start a new chapter of my life....I started off with a graphic design class. Now I am here taking web development and design classes and I love it with all the force I have to love. I've come a long way, and hopefully can graduate this semester with a double Associates and move on to furthering my education. I received a couple of academic awards including: Dr. Harry Harden Jr. Academic Award, Montgomery College's Academic Excellence in Web Design & Development Award, and I also made the Dean's List. Also, I just joined Phi Theta Kappa here in the Rockville campus, and I look forward to being involved. On top of excelling in school, I am taking 5 classes this semester, I work full time as a shift leader at Potbelly Sandwich Works in Silver Spring, and I just became an undergraduate learning assistant here at the Rockville campus for web related courses. I have a pret-

ty big load to handle, but I have my mind set to get through it all so that I can have a bright and successful future for myself, and my family.

I cannot wait to tell my father to just stay at home and not worry about money, and to reassure my mother that she doesn't need food stamps to know how she will get food for my brothers.

"No one starts a journey expecting to fail. Yes, there are a lot of bumps in the road, but we just have to take evasive action or take it head on. I sincerely am grateful for the opportunity you have provided me, and I promise I will make the best of it. A million times thank you."

Also from Montgomery College Rockville, Nadine Ngande writes:

"I am writing to express my gratitude to you for your generous...scholarship....

"I am a Biotechnology major, and I have high hope to further at the master level. I am currently working on my associate degree in Biotechnology in Montgomery College and intend to graduate at the end of this semester. The financial assistance you provided was a great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it allowed me to focus more on my studies.

"Your financial generosity has allowed me to be closer to my goal and has inspired me to think about helping others by giving back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help other students here and also in my native country, Cameroon where I was born and raised before moving to America with my husband and five children.

"Thank you again for being part of the support that reminds me that I do have something to fight for. I promise you to keep working hard, to maintain my good grades, and to eventually give something back to others."

Look for more letters next month.



Rockville Science Center

science in everyday life



25th Rockville Science Day

PRESENTS

Kate Campbell Stevenson

Friday, April 4, 2014

7:00 pm- 9:00 pm

Montgomery College Rockville

 Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center
 51 Mannakee Street Rockville, MD

Forging Frontiers
WOMEN LEADERS IN STEM
 (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)
 "History comes alive!
 Great educational theatre for all ages."

BLACK HERITAGE



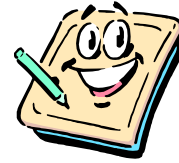
These women challenged the traditional expectations of their time. They possessed strong positive character traits and sought creative solutions to their problems. In *Forging Frontiers*, Kate Campbell Stevenson brings to life excellent examples of how women from the past provide stepping-stones for overcoming today's barriers and developing tomorrow's possibilities.

Admission \$10. To purchase tickets call 301-674-7884.

GREAT DECISIONS

The Great Decisions Group will meet on March 25 at 7 p.m. at the home of Charlotte Fischer, with Dorothy Camara leading the discussion on "Israel and the U.S." There are many questions and issues on Ameri-

ca's relationship with the state of Israel and the lack of movement in peace talks. Come and share your views.



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

LITERATURE GROUP



The Literature Group will meet on Saturday, March 29, at 10 a.m. Jane Carroll will be the host. The group will be discussing

"Those Crazy Dogs" by Lynne Olson.

WOMEN'S HER-STORY - Anita Taylor, Coordinator

The Her-story March meeting will be on the 26th at 2:30 p.m. in the Park View Club Room on the Asbury campus. Maria Roberts will introduce us to the "Monuments Woman," Rose Valland. In the midst of high profile stories about return of stolen art to heirs, and the current hype about "The Monuments Men," whose work helped make such recoveries, the story of the woman whose work made any of it possible is easily buried. All are invited to come learn about Valland, whose surreptitious

record keeping during the Nazi years, provided the materials upon which the "Monuments Men" depended.

Call Anita Taylor if you need directions.



GOURMET GROUP - Madeleine Martzloff

The Gourmet group will meet for a lunch on March 15 at one o'clock at

Madeleine Martzloff's.



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

Board Meeting	Tuesday, March 11 - 7 p.m.
Gourmet Group	Saturday, March 15—1 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, March 18 - 7 pm.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, March 25 - 7 p.m.
Women's Her-story	Wednesday, March 26 - 2:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, March 29 - 10 a.m.
Rockville Science Day, Montgomery College Rockville	Friday, April 4 - 7-9 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