



Empowering Women
Since 1881

AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

March 2015

March Events

Branch Meeting

Tuesday, March 17

7 P.M. Social Time - 7:30 P.M. Program
Gaithersburg Library, Meeting Room I

"Eleanor Roosevelt: Journalist, Activist and President's Wife"

All of us know Eleanor Roosevelt's role as First Lady, and most know her pivotal role as chair of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights leading to its 1948 adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Most of us also know her as an activist First Lady.

Fewer realize the extent to which Roosevelt's work as a journalist informed and served her goals, helped promote policy initiatives that were implemented by the Roosevelt administration and contributed to a modern public role for wives of presidents. Eleanor was far more than White House hostess, setting a precedent for most wives (and someday a husband) who followed her in the role.

Maurine Beasley, professor emerita at the University of Maryland, former education editor at the Kansas City Star and staff writer for The Washington Post, has published extensively in the area of women in journalism. Among those publications is the 2010 *Eleanor Roosevelt: Transformative First Lady* that was a History Book Club selection. At the March 17 AAUW Gaithersburg meeting, Beasley discusses the many aspects of Roosevelt's life as a journalist, activist, and First Lady.

BOARD MEETING

March 10- 7 P.M.

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, March 10, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. All members are invited to participate.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Mary Wykes

As I send this message, I have so much to be thankful for. First, since my computer isn't working at the moment, I feel thankful to have a nice office where there are always working computers. I also feel grateful that I don't live in Boston and that we have only a few inches of snow in Gaithersburg keeping me housebound for only one day--and that was really being a "wimp," as I could well have gotten out yesterday even though the federal government and Montgomery County schools were closed. Secondly, I just had a wonderful lunch with my son Paul, who was doing an appraisal near my office. We enjoyed lunching at King Farm's Fontina Grill, which was featured just last week on Channel 5's Will Thomas's "Will You Eat There." It was fun to talk with the staff about their great publicity. And besides those two reasons to be thankful, I have another--I just ratified a contract for my first-time home buyer clients for a very nice home in Frederick. Amazing the difference in home prices between Frederick County and Montgomery County! And now to the reason for my writing a few lines--what is going on in AAUW!

It was great news to learn from our nominating committee chairperson, Anna Fraker, that the committee has come up with a slate of officers to present to the Branch for the coming fiscal year, 2015-16. I look forward to working with Heather Reichardt as she takes over the position of President. Her background is impressive and I am sure she will do a wonderful job. I hope she finds it as enjoyable as I have during my past years as both Co-President and President, for a total of four years, with one year intervening when Lois Liggett was our President. There will be a lot of stability on the Board as other officers have agreed to continue in office or are moving to another position. My sincere appreciation to Anna Fraker, chair, and members Terry Medlar and Patsy Marks for working diligently to come

up with members willing to serve. Since I am now serving on the nominating committee for the state officers, I realize what a difficult job it is to convince busy people that they have time for one more volunteer job. For the state offices, we have only to fill Membership Vice President, Secretary, and Public Policy Chair. Fortunately our current treasurer, Judith Flood, has agreed to serve another two-year term. We are doing our work via conference call, with last year's president, extremely well-organized and efficient Pat Stocker as the chairperson.



I can't say enough good things about the hard work everyone on our current Gaithersburg Board is doing. I want to especially thank Louise Chatlyne for keeping us posted about the items on Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women that we should support by contacting our Maryland state government representatives to urge them to vote for these bills. I trust all of us are taking time to participate in the democratic process by watching legislation of interest to women, both in state and federal government, and expressing our desires to our legislators.

It was great to see the photo in the Montgomery Village News of the panel from our January meeting, along with an invitation to our February brunch, in observance of Black History Month featuring a speaker from the Montgomery County Historical Society. Maria Roberts continues to do a wonderful job as our publicity chair.

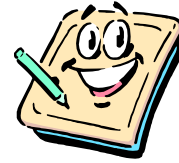
Don't forget to invite friends and neighbors to the interesting March program at the Library.

GREAT DECISIONS

- **Charlotte Fischer, Coordinator**

The Great Decisions Group will meet at the home of Mary Wykes , on March 24 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. The topic to be discussed will be "Privacy in the Digital Age" led by Terry Medlar. Refreshments will be served.

For a copy of the schedule of meetings for the rest of the year, contact Charlotte Fischer either



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

LITERATURE GROUP

- **Mary Wykes**



The Literature Group will meet at Sandra Finerty's home on Saturday, March 28, at 10 a.m. Sandra will lead the discussion on

Sheryl Sandburg's book, "Lean In."

HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

The March 25 meeting of the Her-Story Interest Group will continue our theme of contemporary history makers. Mary Wykes will give us information beyond the headlines about Elizabeth Warren, the new (relatively, 2013) senator from Massachusetts, Harvard professor, and strong advocate of the consumer protection legislation that Barney Frank proudly saw to completion and that created the

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

As previously, the group meets at 2:30 p.m. in the Club Room at Park View (Building 211) on the Asbury campus. Address questions to Anita Taylor.



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

2015 BOOK SALE APRIL 30 TO MAY 2

- Liz Hessel, Book Sales Chair

It won't be long before Moyer's moving vans pull up to Asbury to drop off over 1,000 boxes of books for our annual book sale. Lots of activity is taking place now to collect and sort books in preparation and we'll be doing more before the sale.

We'll have about 30,000 books available – sorted into over 65 categories. Our sale has a reputation for being well organized and buyers appreciate having the books divided into categories. In addition to our usual categories, remember that we'll have a large selection of children's books, huge collections of history, religion and cook books, foreign language books (over 15 languages), and also many CDs and DVDs containing music and books.

We always have books left over – what we need are more customers! That's where you can help now. Each member can help with publicity: Invite your friends and neighbors to our sale. If they want to donate books for the sale, we would like to receive them by April 15th. Provide contact information for friends, book clubs, or individuals who would be interested. Identify organizations that might help publicize our sale by describing it in their newsletters, web sites and other media publications. Send the contact information to Liz Hessel. Over the web use Contact US for Gaithersberg AAUW on the AAAUW website <http://gaithersburg-md.aauw.net> . E-mail addresses of potential cus-

tomers and organizations would be welcome, but we also mail postcards to our most loyal customers.



From now until the sale is over, we need volunteers to help with publicity, advertising, organization, etc. Contact Liz to offer your help.

We ask each member to help on-site with sorting and sales, if possible. The dates we need help go from Thursday, April 23 to Sunday, May 3. Please note these dates on your calendar and set aside time to help. If you are unable to help, consider making a donation to help offset book sale expenses (e.g. newspaper advertising, moving the books).

The funds raised by the book sale support college scholarships for female students both at the graduate and undergraduate level, scholarships for local women to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) held in College Park, and the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. Last year we raised over \$15,000 for these activities. At our September meeting we enjoyed meeting this year's seven local scholarship recipients and hearing their stories. What an impressive group of women they are! We hope to help more deserving students in 2015.



Two vans of books being delivered

WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

- Louise Chatlynne

The Women's Legislative Briefing was held Sunday, January 25, at the Universities of Shady Grove. Attending from our Gaithersburg Branch were: Virginia Berges, Louise Chatlynne, Liz Hessel, Jean Kosow, Ja'Bette Lozopone, Heather Reichardt, Maria Roberts, and Amra McLannen. Heather serves on the Montgomery County Commission for Women, and she and the other members of the commission did a fantastic job of organizing such an exciting, well-organized and well-attended event.

Among the sponsors for the meeting were AAUW of Maryland, Montgomery County Interbranch, AAUW Kensington-Rockville and AAUW Silver Spring; all worked together on the AAUW table. The Interbranch representatives helped work the registration table.

The program began with a rundown of legislation of interest to women from County Executive Ike Leggett, Sen. Ben Cardin, representatives Chris Van Hollen, John Sarbanes and Donna Edwards. Then followed the keynote talk by Ann F. Lewis,

former White House staffer and campaign manager for Barbara Mikulski and Hillary Clinton. Lewis is currently chair of the Finance Committee of the Center for U.S. Global Leadership.



After the keynote talk there were two breakout sessions dealing with topics such as how to pitch your legislators, long-term care, immigrant women, health and safety for women and empowerment for women. There was also a separate track for teenage girls.

One point that was made clear by most speakers was that it is easy to make your voice heard in Annapolis, and your legislators in the Maryland House and Senate want to hear from you. Your letters, phone calls, and e-mails are listened to. The state representatives who spoke at this meeting kept saying, "Contact me, please."



Liz Hessel, Jean Kosow, Louise Chatlynne and Maria Roberts in front of the AAUW table at the Women's Legislative Briefing. Mary Wykes, Carolyn Fisher and Heather Reichardt were also present.

Photo by Maria Roberts

AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

Board Meeting	Tuesday, March 10 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, March 17 - 7 p.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, March 24 - 2:30 p.m.
Her-Story Interest Group	Wednesday, March 25 - 2:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, March 28 - 10 a.m.
BOOK SALE	April 30-May 2

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