



AAUW

Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

April 2013



Celebrating 40 Years of Working Towards Equity for Women and Girls AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

April Events

BRANCH MEETING

Monday, April 15, Hospitality 7 p.m.

Program 7:30 p.m.

I recently received an e-mail from Maria Roberts with a wonderful quote from Hillary Rodham Clinton: "I believe the rights of women and girls to be the unfinished business of the 21st century." I think this ties in well with the mission of AAUW and the topic of our April program, "Current Legislation and AAUW Lobby Corps Activity." I hope you are as eager as I am to hear about what has been happening at the national level that advances equity for women and girls.

Our speaker for April is Anne Hedgepeth, who is the current government relations manager for AAUW. Her undergraduate degree is in economics from Davidson College. She is currently completing a master's in public policy at George Mason University. Anne directs the AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps Program. This program organizes over 30 local AAUW members, as well as D.C. area college and graduate students who volunteer-advocate on Capitol Hill weekly. In addition, Anne manages government relations for AAUW on issues ranging from work/life balance and family-friendly workplaces to higher education, career and technical education, workforce training and welfare. It is through her advocacy work that Anne establishes relationships with key congressional offices, coalition partners, and AAUW grassroots. As part of AAUW's voice on Capitol Hill, she spreads discourse about legislation to key players and over 150,000 of AAUW members and supporters.

Make sure your taxes are paid and then join us on Monday, April 15, from 7 to 9 p.m.. at Arcadia Place, Asbury Village, for a very worthwhile program.

BOARD MEETING APRIL 8 - 7 P.M.

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will hold its next meeting on Monday, April 8, at 7 p.m. The meeting is in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. All members of the Branch are invited

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THE CO-PRESIDENT'S BLOG

- Mary Wykes

I have many things on my mind as I compose a few paragraphs for the April newsletter and 45 minutes to accomplish it before the 6 p.m. deadline--why do I always wait until the last minute? I just spent the afternoon at a real estate continuing education course on foreclosures and short sales--conflicting with

my planned attendance at the Women's Herstory meeting at Maria Roberts' home where I was to report on a couple of depressing chapters from *Half the Sky* about the horrible treatment of girls and women in so much of the world. Fortunately, I was able to pass the job on to Anna Fraker, who agreed to make the report as I selected to attend the equally depressing class on foreclosures and short sales--not quite as horrible as rape but losing one's home is high on the list of horrible events as far as I am concerned.

Things on my mind: If you aren't on the e-mail list to receive the "Washington Update," I would strongly suggest you do so. It is an AAUW internal communication for public policy leaders and members of AAUW. You can request a subscription through AAUW Washington UpDate at Advocacy@aauw.org. It gives you the latest on what is happening, both in Washington, D.C., and in the state legislatures on women's issues.

Just today I had a communication from our executive director, Linda D Hallman, regarding Steubenville--the terrible rape case against two football players in that small Ohio town where the judge handed down a guilty verdict this week for the rape of a 16-year-old girl. Linda says: "Rape is always horrific but the response in this case has troubled me. In the news, on social media and in the Steubenville community, we have seen an outpouring of victim-blaming that has too often crossed the line into bullying and sexual harassment. Just yesterday two girls were arrested for allegedly threatening the life of the victim. While changing attitudes about sexual assault and victim-blaming will take time, one immediate step we can all take is to talk with middle and highschoolers about sexual harassment, sexual assault and consent. You can start these conversations in your community by sending AAUW's report, 'Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School,' to principals and guidance counselors....Schools can make a difference by counseling with students that sexual harassing and non-consensual behavior is never OK nor is blaming the victim or threatening people who report crimes. I hope you will support us in taking action on this important issue. Thank you for all you do to empower women."

This shows one of the important areas our AAUW dues supports- research on issues of importance to advancing equity for women and girls.

Another thought. Be sure to read the spring "Marylander," so ably produced by our Branch member Edie Allison, and consider attending the AAUW Maryland Annual Convention at Harford Community College April 13 at Bel Air. The topic to be covered will be "Standing Up to Human Trafficking" with speakers Nancy Winston, director of Shared Hope International from Baltimore and Detective Dan Dickey, Anne Arundel County Police Department Vice Unit. Terry Medlar and I plan to attend and we would be glad to have a car full of members. Let us know if you would like to go with us. There will also be a speaker on "Forging Frontiers: Women Leaders in STEM." So it should be an interesting day.



I am glad to see the Legal Advocacy Fund continues support of three cases of sexual assault in the military--a serious problem which has received a lot of publicity recently.

It was exciting to see the wonderful turnout we had on a very rainy night for our March Branch meeting, which included many new members and prospective members. Thanks to Sue Woodruff for the great job she has done as program vice president. We are happy to hear she will be glad to work with our new co-chairpersons in developing next year's program. Everyone really enjoyed our enthusiastic speaker at the meeting, who spoke on "Women Who Dared" in 19th and early 20th century Rockville.

I appreciate the confidence of our Branch in electing me to represent you as your president again for the coming year and I hope I can do a better job since I'm finally getting around to reading and studying the very extensive "President's Tool Kit" from the AAUW Leadership Library that I inherited from Lois Liggett and just found. The heading of one page is "Manage the Paper... Don't Let it Manage You!"--when I figure that out, I'll let you know!

See you in APRIL--Happy Spring!

SONYA KOVALEVSKY DAY

- **Louise Chatlynne, Interbranch Representative**

Sonya Kovalesky Day is a program run by Montgomery College to encourage 8th-grade girls to study math and science. This year the program takes place on Friday, April 26, from 8 to 2:30. A series of sessions will be run for 8th-grade girls selected by their teachers from schools in Montgomery County, both public and private. The activities will include an inspiring speaker, science lab projects to pique the girls' interest, and a series of math games. Simultaneous sessions are given for teachers on innovative ways to teach math.

AAUW Interbranch of Montgomery County supports this program and has promised to

provide volunteers to help it run smoothly. AAUW Gaithersburg has been asked to provide two volunteers. Volunteers will be asked to help on a two-hour shift during the time of the program. If you would like to help out, contact Louise Chatlynne



WOMEN AT THE 1777-78 VALLEY FORGE ENCAMPMENT

- **Maria Roberts**

Yes, indeed, there were women at the Revolutionary War Valley Forge encampment, and here's your chance to hear about them from a distinguished AAUW member. Nancy Loane, Ph.D., will speak on this subject at Asbury Methodist Village's Keese School lecture on Monday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m., at Parker Hall* on the Asbury campus. The cost will be \$2 paid at the door.

Coincidentally, Nancy Loane is a friend of both Jean Kosow and Maria Roberts. Jean knew her in the Valley Forge (Pennsylvania) Branch, while Maria knew her from the Miami (Florida) Branch; Maria first met Nancy at Miami-Dade College, where they both worked at the time. When Nancy and her husband moved from Miami to Valley Forge, Nancy became a seasonal park ranger at the National Historical Park.

In the park's archives Nancy discovered a

treasure trove of letters, diaries, and documents written around the time of the encampment. Her book, based on these original sources, is entitled *Following the Drum: Women at the Valley Forge Encampment*. It was published in 2009 by Potomac Books. Nancy is an excellent speaker and has given more than 200 presentations on her subject, including at the Library of Congress and on C-SPAN.

*To reach Parker Hall, enter at the usual door you use when going to Arcadia Place. Once you enter from the parking lot, walk straight ahead through the next double doors and continue straight down the long hall. At the end of it is a small antechamber right in front of Parker Hall.



2013-14 OFFICERS ELECTED

At the March 18 Branch meeting, the membership voted unanimously for officers for the AAUW Gaithersburg Branch for the 2013-14 year. Mary Wykes was voted in to continue her capable presidency, as was Marilyn O'Connell for vice president for membership. Anita Taylor and Patsy Marks will assume the co-vice presidency for program. Jane Carroll will be the new corresponding secretary, and Dorothy Camara will continue as recording secretary.

The Book Sale is Coming !!

Our annual book sale is May 9-11. We will be sorting and setting up between May 3 and May 8. Please note these dates on your calendar and set aside time to help. Hopefully many members will be able to volunteer for 15 to 20 hours during this period. We need lots of help!

In addition to books, we also sell CDs and DVDs. These include books and movies, as well as music. Be sure to let your friends know about the book sale and let them know we accept donations year round.

Some categories are very large and we have many boxes (e.g., history, children's, hobbies, crafts and how-to). Consequently, we sort them into subcategories so that the customers

can more easily find what interests them. We are looking for members to take the lead in sorting these categories. If you have an interest in a specific topic, let Liz Hessel know you would like to help sort that category.

If you or your friends have books, CDs or DVDs to donate, contact Liz Hessel at 301-840-1258 and she will arrange a pickup. Remember, the proceeds from the book sale support our programs and scholarships for women.



A STORY FROM THE BOOK SALE

- *Dorothy Camara*

I like telling you stories from the book sales. This one travels all the way from our book sale last year to Muskegon, Michigan.

It started when Pam and Michael Brown were volunteering to help sort books (and they were good at it, too). They found an old high school memory book entitled "My Commencement." Opening the cover, which was decorated with a bouquet of red roses, Pam and Michael saw the handwritten inscription, "Mabel E. Johnson - June 24, 1909 - Muskegon High and Huckley Manual Training School - Muskegon, Mich." Inside there was a picture of a basketball team, newspaper articles, the program for the high school commencement activities, signatures of the banquet participants, the class prophecy and the class will and testament. In handwriting there was a

remarkably well-written review of the class history.

Pam and Michael sheltered the book, thinking it might be of historical value to Muskegon. With our blessing, they searched for a contact in Muskegon that might be interested and found that the Muskegon Heritage Association would certainly like to add the book to their museum archives. In fact, the director of that association found the name of his great, great aunt in the book!

Thanks to the good hearts of Pam and Michael for returning Mabel Johnson's memories--whoever she was--from Gaithersburg back to Muskegon.



Gourmet Group

- **Jean Friedmann, Coordinator**

The Gourmet Group will welcome spring with a champagne brunch at the home of Jean Friedmann in Frederick on Saturday, April 20, at 11:30. Limit 10.



Co-president
Mary Wykes

Co-president
Terry Medlar

Vice President for
Programs
Sue Woodruff

Vice President for
Membership
Marilyn O'Connell

Acting Treasurer
Terry Medlar

Recording Secretary
Dorothy Camara

Corresponding Secretary
Louise Chatlynne

Newsletter Editor
Qing Jiang

Literature Group

- **Bea Carasso, Coordinator**



In addition to the April 6 meeting, about which information has already been posted, we will meet on Saturday, April 27, at 10:00 a.m. at the home

of Beatrice Carasso. We will be discussing the novel *Secret Daughter* by Shilpi Somaya Gowda, the moving story about an Indian woman left as a baby by her mother at a Mumbai orphanage to avoid her being killed because she is a baby girl. She is

then adopted by a childless American couple from California. The girl, Asha, grows up wondering about her roots and why she was given up for adoption. This is an engrossing story about two cultures and two families and the girl who is the link between them.

You can call Beatrice for directions.

GREAT DECISIONS

- **Vivian Otto, Coordinator**

On April 23 the Great Decisions Group will have a dinner meeting at the Hilton Hotel, repeating the excellent meal we had there last year. We will meet at 5:30 at the Hilton in a private room, have dinner and then Terry Medlar will lead us in our discussion "NATO: Crisis? What cri-

sis?"

Come and give us your input. Let Vivian know if you will join us for dinner so that there will be enough places set up.



WOMEN'S HERSTORY

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

The Women's Herstory Group will not meet in April. Our next meeting will be on May 22 when we will complete our discussion of the book, *Half the Sky*.

At the March meeting, we explored difficult stories of women who survived rape as a weapon of war; women who responded to neglect and misogyny causing widespread maternal deaths or subsequent maiming by founding a hospital, teaching midwifery; the effects on maternal

health and increases in dangerous abortions caused by the U. S. withholding of appropriated funds for women's health programs; and of women in the developed world finding ways to solicit financial support for the work of in-country women working to improve women's health and education.



2013 Budget

Below is the budget for the 2013-14 year prepared by Acting Treasurer Terry Medlar and approved by the Board at the March 11 Board Meeting. The budget will be brought to the membership at the April 15 annual business meeting for final approval by the membership.

AAUW Gaithersburg Membership Account Proposed 2013-14 Budget

Your Membership Dues of \$77	\$	49	National AAUW
	\$	10	Maryland AAUW
	\$	18	Gaithersburg AAUW

Item	2012 Budget	Actual	2013 Budget	
INCOME				
Membership Income	\$800	\$1,025	\$990	Based on 55 members
40th Anniversary Income		\$602		
<u>Member Directory Ads</u>	200		\$220	Advertising for 2013-14 Member Directory
TOTAL INCOME	1020	\$1,627	\$1,210	
EXPENSES				
Newsletter	\$300	\$102	\$300	Printing (\$20) and postage for 9 Newsletters
Meeting Rent	\$180		\$180	Quince Orchard Library at \$30 x 6 meetings
Insurance	\$200	\$160	\$160	Liability for Branch
Interbranch Dues	\$100	\$63	\$105	\$75 + \$0.50/member tp Interbranch
Hospitality	\$70	\$465	\$100	Added money for speaker gifts
Bank Fee	\$40		\$40	Check order
Member Directory	\$100		\$100	Estimated cost for Directory printing (\$84 in 2010)
AAUW Promotional Material	\$30			Goals for Girls not in 2013 budget
<u>Programs</u>			\$275	Includes \$150 for a microphone)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,020	\$790	\$1,210	

AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

Board of Directors	Monday, April 8 - 7 p.m.
AAUW of Maryland Annual Convention, Bel Air	Saturday, April 13
Branch Meeting	Monday, April 15 - 7 p.m.
Gourmet Group	Saturday, April 20 - 11:30 a.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, April 23 - 5:30 p.m.
Sonya Kovalevsky Day	Friday, April 26 - 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, April 27 - 10 a.m.
Keese School Lecture: Women at Valley Forge	Monday, April 29 - 7:30 p.m.
Hold These Dates:	
Book Sale	May 9 -11 (Sorting starts May 3. Asbury Day, May 8)
NCCWSL Nat'l Conference	May 30-June 1
AAUW National Convention, New Orleans	June 9-12

The American Association of University Women
Gaithersburg Branch
401 Russell Ave., Apt. 309
Gaithersburg, MD 20877