



Empowering Women
Since 1881

AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

April 2014

April Events

BRANCH MEETING AND ELECTION

Tuesday, April 15
7 p.m. Hospitality - 7:30 p.m. Program
Gaithersburg Library, 2nd Floor Meeting Room

Our April Branch meeting features Katharina Vester, an innovative thinker and writer on American culture. She will speak on "A Taste of Power: Food and American Identities," maintaining that representations of food in our culture significantly shape our ideas of nationalism, gender, and sexuality.

Prof. Vester will argue as follows: In American history, food advice played a role in establishing, legitimizing, and limiting privileged access to economic, cultural, and educational resources. It did this by promoting disciplinary regimens that suggested that only those who comply are entitled to health, social mobility, and political and cultural representation. Discourses on food thus reflect the organization of American power relations because food imagery can also contest dominant notions of what is considered the ideal. Cookbooks, as a low-prestige literary form, became vehicles for women, immigrants, and other disenfranchised groups to gain access to publishing and thereby gave them the ability to spread their ideas about politics, national belonging, and proper behavior. With their stylistic conventions of delivering instructions and directives through the recipe's imperative language, cookbooks gave their authors a rare measure of authority. Women used the genre in the 19th century to define their role as American citizens; African American authors deployed food instructions against the white hegemony; lesbian authors wrote cookbooks to challenge heterosexual expectations of gendered family structure.

Katharina Vester is assistant professor of history and is the director of American Studies at American University. She was an AAUW fellow in 2012-13. She specializes in cultural theory, transnational studies, and the dynamics of power in everyday practices. She is completing a book on the construction of identity narratives and resistance to hegemonic norms of gender, race and sexuality in culinary discourses. Her article "Regime Change: Gender, Class, and the Invention of Dieting in Post-Bellum America" published in the Journal of Social History won the Belasco Prize for Scholarly Excellence.

By revealing larger meanings hidden in culinary practices and writings, Prof. Vester's presentation on "A Taste of Power: Food and American Identities" promises to give us new insights into the making of American identities and the social order.

After the speaker's presentation we will elect Branch officers for the 2014-15 year. Check the names of the nominees in the Nominating Committee report in this newsletter.

BOARD MEETING April 8 at 7 p.m.

The AAUW Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, April 8 at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. All Branch members are invited to participate.

INSIDE

<i>April Events</i>	1
<i>President's Message</i>	2
MEMBERSHIP NEWS	3
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT	3
SONYA KOVALEVSKY PROGRAM	3
<i>LETTERS FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS</i>	4
<i>25th Rockville Science Day</i>	5
<i>Book Sale</i>	6
IN MEMORIAM	6
<i>Great Decisions</i>	7
<i>Literature Group</i>	7
<i>Women's Herstory</i>	7
<i>Gourmet Group</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	8

BOOK SALE

Your help is needed
for the Book Sale.
Sign up now. Call
Anna Fraker

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- *Mary Wykes*

Welcome Spring--goodbye Winter!

It was wonderful to be able to have our March meeting as planned. It was very successful--well attended, with over 30 in the audience, including a number of guests resulting from Maria Roberts' excellent publicity, as well as 24 of our members. The speaker, Susan Soderberg from the Montgomery County Historical Society, was extremely knowledgeable about her interesting topic, "Message or Myth: Quilts and the Underground Railroad." Her visuals of various quilt patterns added greatly to the enjoyment of the evening. Hospitality Chairperson Jean Hirsch, assisted by Sue Woodruff, had a beautiful St. Patrick's Day table with delicious refreshments.

During the business meeting, I recognized Haydee Rolin for her many years as our cultural arts chairperson and told the membership that she had just sold her home and would be moving next month to a retirement community in New Jersey to be closer to her daughter and family. Haydee will be greatly missed by our members and we wish her well in her new home.

Our April and May meetings will be at the recently completed beautiful Gaithersburg Library in a meeting room on the second floor. There is an elevator just inside the front door so it is easily accessible. Peeking through the window last week, I saw that it looked like a pleasant space.

Preparation for our biggest fundraiser of the year, our annual book sale, is well underway with sorting again this week at the Villas community room. We are proud of our Branch's history in sponsoring a successful used-book sale since the late 1970s when we raised about \$300 in the first sale, organized by Cathy Manning and Eleanor Jones, held on the steps of the current Asbury Administration Building. The book sale has grown immensely since that time. As a result, we provide financial support for numerous scholarships, fellowships, and student leadership development conference scholarships, as well as support for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, Asbury Benevolent Fund, and we give donations of books to many nonprofit organizations in Gaithersburg. Moreover, the book sale is a great fellowship opportunity for our members to work together on a worthwhile project. It is also an opportunity for many students to help with the sale and earn Student Service Learning Hours (SSL).

Our Branch is pleased to be invited again this year to participate in the Asbury Methodist Village Green Day on Thursday, May 8, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. We will have a table showing how AAUW promotes a green environment by annually recycling over 30,000 books (over 1,500 cu.ft.) which might otherwise enter the solid waste stream. This is considered an AAUW "Shape the Future Event" at which time we hope visitors might be interested in becoming Branch members, with the membership offered at half-price for those joining within a week of the event.



The annual state meeting will be hosted by the Frederick Branch on Saturday, April 26, at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 1565 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, from 8:30 to 4. The theme of the convention is "Making a Difference." We will hear from members of our national staff about successes in public policy at the national level. "The Power of the Individual Member at the National Level" will be discussed by a panel of Lobby Corps members. Anita Rosen, our Maryland public policy co-vice president, will discuss "Setting Priorities for Maryland," followed by breakout groups of members discussing "Making a Difference in Maryland." There will be a business meeting after lunch followed by election of state officers for the coming year.

All members are welcome. Terry Medlar and I plan to go and we hope others will join us. It is always inspiring to meet members of other branches throughout Maryland and find out what they are doing.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are happy to welcome two new members to our Branch, making a membership of 65.

Susan Emery received her bachelor of science degree from Michigan State University and her master of science degree from the University of Maryland. She is presently executive director of the Circle of Rights.

Marcie Fenster has also joined our branch.

Please remember to add these two new mem-

bers to your directory.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2014-15

--Anna Fraker, Chair

The present officers have served the Branch well, and their work is recognized and appreciated by the Gaithersburg Branch, the state AAUW and national AAUW. These officers are eligible to remain in office, and they have agreed to do so. The offices and nominees for 2014-15 are as follow:

President, Mary Wykes. Vice President for Program, Patsy Marks and Anita Taylor. Vice President for Membership, Marilyn O'Connell.

Treasurer, Terry Medlar. Recording Secretary, Dorothy Camara. Corresponding Secretary, Jane Carroll.

The election will be held at the April Branch meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor at that time provided the person nominated has agreed to serve.

Serving on the Nominating Committee along with Chair Anna Fraker were Jean Hirsch and Maria Roberts.

SONYA KOVALEVSKY PROGRAM

--Louise Chatlynne, Interbranch Representative

The Sonya Kovalevsky Program at Montgomery College is designed to excite middle school girls about STEM--science, technology, engineering and math. Girls from both public and private schools participate in the program, and AAUW Montgomery Interbranch is one of the sponsors. A call went out to all our branches for chaperones for the girls for a trip to the U.S. Science & Engineering Festival to be held on April 24. None of the other branches responded, but so many members from the Gaithersburg Branch responded that they can't all be used. Virginia Berges, Barbara Brooks, and Ja'Bette Jozopone responded the quickest and so will be chaperones for the day. I want

to give a shout-out to Betty Valdes, who also volunteered but is turned away because there is not enough room on the bus.

I will let you know when other opportunities to volunteer for the Sonya Kovalevsky Program arise. Meanwhile, be sure to attend the presentation "Forging Frontiers: Women Leaders in STEM" by Kate Campbell Stevenson. It will be held on Friday, April 4, at 7 p.m. at the Robert F. Parilla Performing Arts Center on the Montgomery Rockville campus at 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville. Admission is \$10.

LETTERS FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

We continue letting you see some of the letters of appreciation from our scholarship recipients. Here is one from Grisel Munoz, who attends Montgomery College and writes as follows.

Dear AAUW of Gaithersburg Scholarship Donors,

I've live in the US for about 14 years now; I am originally from Mar Del Plata, Argentina. My family and I came to the United States so that we could save money and continue building our house back home. Unfortunately life takes its turns, my mom got sick in 2007 and passed away and my father was an alcoholic that couldn't recuperate after the loss of my mother, so my siblings and I were taken away from my father and put under permanent guardianship. The last two years of high school were the most challenging, at this time I left my guardians home because I felt verbally abused. I was offered a basement to live in; therefore I stayed there for about 6 months until I was asked to start paying rent, but I couldn't come up with the money so I found myself being homeless.

At this point in my life I thought I was left with nothing, so I turned to my schools for help, and was given a hand. From then on I devoted all my efforts in school... I was a student in the 2 year Interior Design program at my tech school. I did not let my living circumstances stop me from reaching my goals. I was elected student President at Thomas Edison and fulfilled my duties giving back to my school. The same year I was selected as a Construction Trades Foundation Scholarship recipient as a senior, where I was offered two semesters of construction management courses at Montgomery College.

This same year my father left to Argentina, he had completed 2 years of sobriety, but still couldn't afford to take care of me. I was upset, still to this day that he gave up, that he was

going to be more than 4,000 miles away from me, and that he couldn't see all the great things I was going to accomplish. Again, I did not let this define me; I didn't let the sense of abandonment fulfill all those empty holes, because I was going to fulfill them with my dreams. Now I stand here today, at the age of 18, entering into my third year here at Montgomery College for my major in construction management. I have received the Steve Wolford Memorial Scholarship for the second year in a row; I have received the top 5,000 dollar scholarship award from the Associated Builders and Contractors of Metropolitan DC this past semester; and I am now the acting president of the Student Construction Association here at Montgomery College. I plan on receiving my Associates degree in Construction Management, and will one day work for a General Contractor.

I couldn't thank you enough for your generous scholarship award; it has allowed me to continue my education, as I am a young independent woman living on my own and attending school as a full-time student. My life is now full of happiness because I am able to dedicate my time and effort to build my future. I am motivated by my continuous accomplishments, my past, and making my mother and father proud. I do not cry about what has been taken from me anymore, but, yes, love what I have been given, because what is really mine is never gone forever.

Yours truly,
Grisel J Munoz



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.

THE BOOK SALE IS COMING!!

- *Liz Hessel, Chair for the Book Sale*

Our annual book sale is on May 1 to 3! Our sale has a good reputation for having the books well sorted, making it easier for customers to find what they want. We will be sorting and setting up between April 24 and April 29, with the sale open to only Asbury residents on April 30. Please note these dates on your calendar and set aside time to help. Hopefully, many members will volunteer for 15 to 20 hours during this period. We need lots of help organizing our 30,000 books. We also welcome your friends who are interested in sorting books.

One way each member may help is in publicizing the sale. We have large collections of books on: African American interests, art and photography, astrology and occult, children and youth, cookbooks, mystery, science fiction and fantasy fiction, over 20 foreign language books, history, crafts, Jewish interests, performing arts, religion, science, engineering, math, transportation, women's studies. In addition to books, we also sell CDs and DVDs. These include books and movies, as well as music recordings. Be sure to let your friends know about the book sale and let them know we accept donations year round. If you or your friends have books, CDs or DVDs to donate, contact Liz Hessel and she will arrange pick-up.

We are collecting the names of clubs, groups, organizations and individuals who are interested in the topics we carry so that we can send them information. Can you provide the name and contact information for African American groups, astrology clubs, book clubs, PTA newsletter editors, science fiction clubs, organizations representing foreign-born residents, history buffs, Jewish organizations, contacts at churches or seminars, science or math groups, car/plane/train clubs? Please send contact information to Terry Medlar .



Remember, the proceeds from the book sale support our programs and scholarships for women. We contribute to the national AAUW graduate-level fellowships and to the Legal Advocacy Fund. In addition, last year we funded scholarships at Montgomery College and at the Universities at Shady Grove, as well as supporting three students in attending the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. We were inspired by these scholarship recipients when they appeared at the September Branch meeting.

IN MEMORIAM

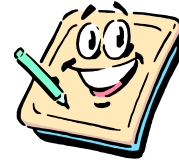
We extend our sincere sympathy to our Branch member Aurora Sevilla on the death of her husband Eduardo on March 8. A memorial service was held at the Asbury Village Guild Memorial Chapel on March 29 at 11 a.m., with a reception following the service in the Park View Club Room.

GREAT DECISIONS

- **Vivian Otto, Coordinator**

The Great Decisions Group will meet on April 22 at 7 p.m. at the home of Anita Taylor, in the Park View Building at Asbury Villlage. Jean Kosow will lead the discussion on "Turkey's Challenge." Turkey has sought to join

the European community toward becoming a European power. Learn all the steps needed to accomplish this.



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

LITERATURE GROUP

- **Bea Carasso Coordinator**



The Literature Group's next book for discussion is "Behind the Scenes, or, Thirty Years a Slave" by Ellizabeth Keckley. The

meeting will be on Saturday, April 26, at 10 a.m. at Bea Carasso's home.

WOMEN'S HER-STORY

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

Mary Wykes leads the April 23, 2:30 p.m.. session of the Her-Story group. She will start by introducing us to Jessie Field Shambaugh, Mother of 4-H Clubs. Mary notes that being in 4-H was a great part of her life as a farm girl growing up during the Depression in Illinois. She recalls that as a result of years of club work she was able to live at the wonderful cooperative 4-H House at the University of Illinois, the house still in existence and now a member of PanHellenic. The memories of most farm children would evoke similar kinds of stories.

Mary will also bring us information about Mary Church Terrell, teacher, author, and civil rights activist, who led the successful fight to integrate eating places in Washington, D.C. Her home, given to Howard University, was recently featured in The Washington Post. Sad that it is decaying instead of being a historic home and tourist attraction as it should be, Mary will explore with us the many facets of the life of this important leader.

The location of the meeting is in the Park View Club Room. Park View is Building 211 on the Asbury Methodist Village campus. It can be found via the Odendhal entrance by driving ahead after passing the gatehouse to the second stop sign, where you turn right onto Fellowship Circle. Follow Fellowship Circle a short way where it curves left to the top of an incline. Park along the street in front of or at the side of the building. From here you enter the lobby where the Club Room is on the right. In the unlikely event that all parking places are filled, drive around to the back where open parking is on top of the parking garage and you may come through the back door at the chapel entrance. You will need to buzz the receptionist, then take the elevator down to the lobby level.



GOURMET GROUP

- **Jean Friedmann, Coordinator**

The Gourmet Group will have an outing at Dutch's Daughter in Frederick for their April get-together. Jean Friedmann is planning it for

Saturday lunch, 1 p.m. on April 19. If you have any interest in attending, please call Jean.



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

Rockville Science Day. Montgomery College Rockville.	Friday, April 4 - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Board Meeting	Tuesday, April 8 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting and Election	Tuesday, April 15 - 7 p.m.
Gourmet Group	Saturday, April 19 - 1 p.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, April 22 - 7 p.m.
Women's Her-Story	Wednesday, April 23 - 2:30 p.m.
Book Sale Sorting	Thursday, April 24 to Tuesday, April 29
Literature Group	Saturday, April 26 - 10 a.m.
AAUW of Maryland 2014 Annual Convention, Frederick	Saturday, April 26
Book Sale Asbury Day	Wednesday, April 30 - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
BOOK SALE	THURSDAY, May 1 to Saturday, May 3

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