



Empowering Women  
Since 1881

# AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

April 2015

## April Events

### Branch Meeting

Tuesday, April 21

7 P.M. Hospitality - 7:30 P.M. Program

8:30 P.M. Business Meeting

Gaithersburg Library - 2nd Floor Conference Room

Speaker: Kanya Sanders, Immigration Attorney

Topic: Women and Families in the Immigration System

Our speaker at the April Branch meeting is an experienced attorney who represents individuals, families, and businesses in complex family-based, employment-based, and other special immigrant and non-immigrant visa matters before the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Services, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Labor and other government agencies.

After Prof. Sanders' presentation, we will have the election of officers for 2015-16. The nominees for office are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

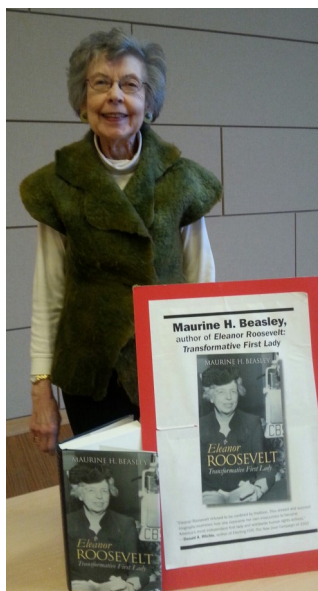
### BOARD MEETING

April 14 - 7 P.M.

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will meet at 7 p.m. on April 14. The meeting will be in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. All members are invited to participate.

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A well-attended audience attended the March 17 Branch meeting at which Prof. Maurine Beasley presented an informative lecture on Eleanor Roosevelt. The lecture, entitled "Eleanor Roosevelt: Journalist, Activist and President's Wife," revealed the many ways Roosevelt influenced policy in the Roosevelt administration.

Photo by Maria Roberts

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Mary Wykes

Dear Friends,

Happy Women's History Month--a time to focus on women's achievements that have made our lives richer!

What a treat it was to hear Maurine Beasley speak of one such woman of achievement at our March meeting--the activist former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. The meeting was well attended, thanks to Maria Roberts' excellent publicity announcements. There were at least four new, or prospectively new, members in attendance. As always, Jean Hirsch and her hospitality committee provided delicious food for our social period, including St. Patrick's Day decorated cookies.

In the absence of Book Sale Chair Liz Clark Hessel at the Branch meeting, I passed out "hot off the press" bright yellow announcements for our upcoming book sale for members to distribute to their centers of influence, as well as sign-up sheets Liz had provided for me to distribute for pre-sorting, various book sale activities, and final week scheduling. It is our hope that as many of our members as are able will find some hours to help with the myriad of tasks needed to make our annual fundraiser for women's scholarships the usual success.

It is with a mixed feeling of nostalgia and relief that I am writing my third to the last message of my tenure as president of the Gaithersburg Branch. There is so much on my mind to share but, again, I take pity on Dorothy Camara, who proofs my writing, and Qing Jiang who prepares it for the publisher (both of whom always do such a great job) and will try not to be too long-winded.

I just read an e-mail from the National Museum for Women in the Arts (NMWA) inviting us to explore their full slate of events, programs and exhibitions in honor of this special month, from concerts and a film festival to a staged reading of new works by women playwrights and gallery talks. It reminds me of the days when we had a cultural arts chairperson (Haydee Rolin) and made trips downtown as a group via Metro to visit this wonderful museum and enjoy docent-led tours. Recently Jean Hirsch told me she took out-of-town visitors to this and other museums and had a most enjoyable day.

No doubt many of you saw with interest the article in the March 17 issue of The Washington Post in the Economy and Business section entitled "Report projects U.S. won't attain gender pay parity until 2058." The first paragraph states: "When it comes to equal pay, the American woman is stuck in the proverbial waiting room. But the number on her ticket--the length of her stay--largely depends on where she lives and to whom she was born." Parity appears closer for East Coast women, with New York

having the narrowest wage gap-- 87.6 cents for every dollar banked by men. Maryland and D.C. trail slightly, with 87.4 and 87, respectively. Louisiana is last, with 66.7; and West Virginia, 67.3. The report states that across all levels of education, men earn significantly more than women with equal schooling. The wage gap is the largest for those with the most educational attainment. Women with graduate degrees make only 69.1 percent of what men with graduate degrees earn. The study shows a great difference in earnings by race and ethnicity also.



I am not quite sure how this author can be sure women will attain gender pay parity in 2058, but I am sure I will not be around to enjoy this attainment and I am also sure AAUW's Lobby Corps will do all they can to speed up this date!

Our April meeting should be very interesting. We will hear from an immigration attorney about her work representing families and individuals to bring them closer to realizing their American dreams. Invite your friends and neighbors--let's continue our membership growth. Our Branch has done very well this year in membership growth, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of so many of our members.

Happy Spring to everyone,

Mary Wykes, President

## GREAT DECISIONS

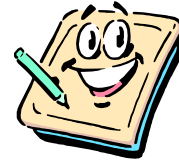
- **Charlotte Fischer, Coordinator**

The Great Decisions Group will meet at the home of Kay Travis, at Asbury Village, on April 28 at 2:30 to 4 p.m. The topic to be discussed will be "Sectarianism in the Middle East" led by Jean Kosow. Refresh-

ments will be served before the discussion.



For a copy of the schedule of meetings for the rest of the



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

## LITERATURE GROUP

- **Mary Wykes**



The Literature Group meets at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 25, at Jane Carroll's home in the Villas at Asbury Village, Gaithersburg. Jean

Kosow will lead the discussion on *Galileo's Daughter: A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith and Love*, by Dava Sobel.

The book was inspired by a long fascination with Galileo, from which, by the remarkable surviving letters of his daughter, Maria Celeste, a cloistered nun, Dava Sobel has crafted a biography that dramatically recolors the personality and accomplishments of a mythic figure whose early 17th century clash with Catholic doctrine continues to define the schism between science and religion--the man Albert Einstein called "the father of

modern physics--indeed of modern science altogether." It is also a stunning portrait of Galileo's daughter, a person hitherto lost to history, described by her father as a "woman of exquisite mind, singular goodness, and most tenderly attached to me."

New members are always welcome. We enjoy light refreshments and fellowship as we discuss the book of the month.

## DINING GROUP

- **Jean Hirsch, Coordinator**

The AAUW Gaithersburg Dining Group will gather on Saturday, April 18, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Mary Wykes, Montgomery Village.

We will enjoy a spring luncheon of great dishes, including quiche and other wonderful things! Please give Mary a call and let her know that you

are coming! We look forward to seeing you!



## HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

Because all of us will be helping with the sorting of books for the book

sale, there will be no meeting of the Her-Story Group in April.

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

### - Liz Hessel, Book Sales Chair

With less than a month until the book sale starts, many tasks remain to be completed. Every member's help is needed. We will sort books April 1st and 2nd at the Villas Community Rooms (Bldg 400) in preparation for the sale. Publicity and advertising is also underway. We hope each member shares information about the sale with their friends, family and book clubs. If you need any postcards with the book sale information, we can provide them to you.

Organizing and sorting the books at Rosborough in the Community Rooms is a large effort. We would like each member to sign up to help as much as possible. This is our major fund raising project of the year. Although we have many student volunteers, we do need our members to help oversee the students as well as sort and be cashiers. If you are not able to stand, we have jobs where you can be seated as you do them. We always need someone to greet people as they arrive and help the students get signed in and oriented and we enjoy the fellowship of the group as we work.

Our book sale has a reputation for having the books well organized and sorted, which helps

the dealers and individual customers find what they are looking for more easily.



We have lots of children's books, as well as History, Cook Books, Religion, Science Fiction, Mysteries, and Foreign Language books (~20 languages). Our "Better Books" section has a nice selection of titles and a variety of subjects. Take some time as you sort to browse in this section so that you can help direct our customers to these books. Sales from this section contribute significantly to the overall bottom line from the sale.

Do come and help sort and sell books so that we can have another successful sale!



Eager shoppers early the first morning looking for good bargains at the book sale.



**The Book Sale Is Coming!**

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

### - Anna Fraker, Patsy Marks and Theresa Medlar

The election of officers for the AAUW Gaithersburg Branch will be held at the April 21, 2015, meeting. The nominating committee and the Branch appreciate the service of the outgoing and incoming officers.

The slate of officers for 2015-2016 is the following:

- President — Heather Reichardt
- Co-Vice Presidents, Programs — Anita Taylor and Carolyn Fisher
- Vice President, Membership — Marilyn O'Connell

- Treasurer — Theresa Medlar
- Recording Secretary — Marybeth Morsink
- Corresponding Secretary — Jane Carroll

Nominations may be made from the floor if the person nominated has been asked and agreed to serve if elected.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### - Marilyn O'Connell, Vice President for Membership

I am pleased to introduce our newest members.

You may have already met Marie Van Wyk at one of our recent meetings. She graduated from Washington University, formerly known as Trinity College. She received a B.A., with a major in English and a minor in speech.

Barbara Garrard joined at our meeting April 17. She graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University

with a B.A. in mathematics.

The AAUW Gaithersburg Branch is proud to introduce also Larry Roberts, our first male member. Besides being Maria's husband, Larry was most proud of his career as a professor of biology.

## NEWS ON THE STATE LEVEL

AAUW Gaithersburg is making an extraordinarily good representation at the AAUW of Maryland elective slate for the two-year term beginning July 1.

Congratulations to Jean Hirsch and Louise Chatlynne. Jean has been nominated for co-secretary and Louise for co-vice president for public policy.

And congratulations to Mary Wykes and Anna Fraker, who have been nominated for the office of co-vice president for membership.

Publication of the Directory Update has been delayed until Summer

## **AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events**

Board Meeting	Tuesday, April 14 - 7 p.m.
Dining Group	Saturday, April 18 - 1 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, April 21 - 7 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, April 25 - 10 a.m.
AAUW of Md. Annual Convention	Saturday, April 25 - 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, April 28 - 2:30 p.m.
BOOK SALE Asbury Day	Wednesday, April 29
BOOK SALE	Thursday to Saturday, April 30-May 2

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