



Empowering Women
Since 1881

AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

May 2015

May Events

BRANCH MEETING AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Tuesday, May 19

Social Time 7 P.M. - Meeting Begins 7:30 P.M.

Gaithersburg Library - Meeting Room I

We're delighted to reschedule for the May meeting the program canceled by weather in February. Jim Johnston, attorney and award-winning writer, will examine perspectives of slavery that emerge from his two books: *The Recollections of Margaret Loughborough* and *From Slave Ship to Harvard*. *Recollections* delves into how the slave owners in Washington saw the institution, while *From Slave Ship to Harvard* follows six generations of an African American family in Maryland, providing a different perspective.

Jim Johnston lectures regularly in the Washington, D.C., area. He has more than 100 newspaper and magazine articles and two books to his credit, as well as work that has appeared in the New York Times, The Washington Post, White House History, Legal Times of Washington, American Lawyer, and the Maryland Historical Society Magazine. Mr. Johnston is on the board of directors of the Historical Society of the District of Columbia and comes to us courtesy of the Speakers Bureau of the Maryland Historical Society.

After the presentation by Mr. Johnston, the ceremony for the installation of AAUW Gaithersburg officers for 2015-16 will take place.

BOARD MEETING

May 12 - 7 P.M.

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, May 12, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. (Renovations in the Hefner Building have not yet interfered with our meeting place.) Board meetings are open to all members of the Branch.

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A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Our Branch extends its sincere sympathy to our Life Member Judy Wymer on the death on April 2 of her husband of 63 years. Bill Wymer was 95 years old and had been ill for some time. A beautiful memorial service was held for him at their church, Emmanuel Lutheran, in Bethesda on April 8. A group from our Branch attended both the service and the reception, at which time we enjoyed meeting their family. Bill had joined Judy at our Branch Gourmet Group for many years. We will also remember several delightful end-of-year picnics for our Branch which they hosted at their home in North Potomac.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Mary Wykes

Dear Friends,
Spring in all its beauty has finally arrived. The cold weather and the pile of snow on my front yard could be a distant memory if it weren't for the damage done by the snowplow to the driveway, as well as the damaged turf on my lawn. These remind me of the winter we just had and why I love this area for the change in seasons.

I have had a wonderful week of varied activities, attending: (1) the Linkages to Learning Recognition Ceremony with Liz Clark Hessel, (2) the Youth Art for Healing program at Montgomery General Hospital to see the art work several schools provided to give a sense of comfort, inspiration, and healing to patients, their loved ones, and healthcare professionals (my 16-year-old granddaughter had a wonderful acrylic painting of a Labrador retriever as her contribution), (3) lunch with some AAUW friends at the newly opened bistro in the lower level of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village, (4) and entertaining eight members of the Dining Group (formerly Gourmet) for a 1 p.m. luncheon at my home on Saturday.

Have you had an opportunity to study the AAUW Issues-2015 on the ballot as detailed in the spring/summer issue of the Outlook Magazine? Online voting is now open or you can request a paper ballot. As you will see, there are 12 proposals to the AAUW Public Policy Program and five proposed amendments to the AAUW Bylaws. May 19 is listed as the last date to join AAUW and be eligible to vote in the 2015 election, so it is important that we all get our checks in for our dues before that date so that our voices can be heard via the ballot.

Proposal 1 to the Bylaws Amendments is one that has been tried before but I think there is a chance that the time is right for it to pass this year. It is: Eliminate the Degree Requirement for Membership. The rationale given is very convincing to me. I hope you will consult your Outlook on page E7 and give serious consideration to voting "yes" for this Bylaw change. I would like to list all the reasons given for this proposed change but, instead, I urge you to either read it in the Outlook or online from the AAUW Web site. I especially like reason #4--Membership recruitment and processing would be greatly simplified, with no more awkward questions of prospective members about whether they are "qualified" for membership; but we would continue to be free to support and celebrate our members' educational accomplishments and aspirations. I have personally experienced this so many times when I have tried to recruit neighbors and friends for our Branch. With the new bylaw, membership will be open to all who support the mission of AAUW. In addition to the above items on the ballot, we are voting for President, Vice President,

and 10 Directors. There are 15 candidates for Director, all of whom sound highly qualified, so I found it difficult to eliminate five, but in studying the backgrounds given, I tried to have a geographical balance as well as a variety of strengths. I have been very impressed by the work Eileen Shelley Menton from Maryland has done during her six-year presidency of VGIF (Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund), as well as her many positions in Maryland AAUW. I highly recommend that you vote for her as one of the 10 directors.



Many of our members have been working hard to get ready for our used-book sale. By the time you are reading this newsletter, the sale will have taken place. I trust all the publicizing, organizing, sorting, taking books not suitable for the sale to Wonder Book in Frederick, and working with students from various schools who are earning SSI credits, and the myriad of other activities necessary to make it the annual success it has become will enable us to achieve even greater results than in past years so that we can provide more assistance to deserving students in their college endeavors. I find there also is great value in the friendships forged or strengthened as we work together on this worthwhile cause.

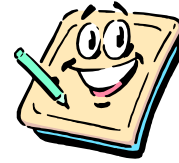
Let's have a good turn-out at our May meeting for the installation of our new slate of officers and to welcome our speaker from the Montgomery County Historical Society, who had been scheduled for one of our earlier meetings which was cancelled because of icy roads.

GREAT DECISIONS

- **Charlotte Fischer, Coordinator**

The Great Decisions Group will meet at the home of Jean Kosow, Apartment 501, Wallace Building, at Asbury, on May 26 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. The topic to be discussed will be "India Changes Course" led by Vivian Otto. Refreshments will be served before the discussion. For a copy of the schedule of meetings for the rest

of the year, contact Charlotte Fischer.



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

LITERATURE GROUP

- **Mary Wykes**



The Literature Group will meet at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 30, to discuss "The Street Sweeper" by Elliot Perlman. The place

of the meeting is not confirmed at this time. Contact Mary Wykes for information.

HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

The May session of the Her-story Interest Group will be as usual on the fourth Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. at the Park View Club Room at Asbury. That will be May 27. The agenda for the session has two items.

We will learn more about that remarkable young woman from Pakistan, Malala Yousafzai, who defied the Taliban's ban on schooling for girls. While we all know the broad outlines of the story--being shot, survival after treatment in Western hospitals, speaking out on behalf of women's education, being the youngest ever to be awarded a Nobel Peace Prize--

most of us know little of her life beyond the headlines.

Our second agenda item will be to plan our schedule for the summer and into the fall.

If you need directions to the meeting, write Anita Taylor.



Lunch/Dining Group

- **Jean Hirsch, Coordinator of Dining Group**



The AAUW Gaithersburg Lunch/Dining Group will meet for the last time on the fourth Saturday in May on May 23 at 1:00 p.m.

be the hosts for the luncheon. Please call Madeline and let her know that you will be coming.

A Spring Luncheon will be served and Madeleine and Francois Martzloff will

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

As you read this, we will be in the middle or end of the book sale, hopefully the most successful yet. We have a higher quality of books this year due to the hours of sorting put in by so many of you. Since the Stone Ridge book sale ended, our book sale is probably the largest in Montgomery County. I hope you have encouraged all of your friends to come and find some great bargains. Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to collect, sort and sell the books.

We are thankful to our partners who have been so cooperative with us so that we can raise scholarship funds. Asbury Methodist Village provides the space for the book sale, Gaithersburg Storehouse on Metropolitan Grove Road provides year-round storage space for the books, JK Movers will be moving the books from storage to Asbury. And the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection provides access to excess books. Thank these partners when you have a chance.

We can be proud of our local scholarship recipients. Stacey Curry received our scholarship at the Universities at Shady Grove. She is a graduating senior in computer security at the University of Maryland, University College, and received an Academic Achievement Award recently at a Universities at Shady Grove breakfast attended by 400. She is the outstanding senior in computer security, selected on the basis of grade-point average, participation in internships, honor societies, and contribution to her program of study. Stacey attended Quince Orchard High School and is the first in her family to graduate from college. This reinforces why we work so hard on the book sale to raise scholarship funds for students

like Stacey. Congratulations to Stacey and all of our other scholarship recipients.

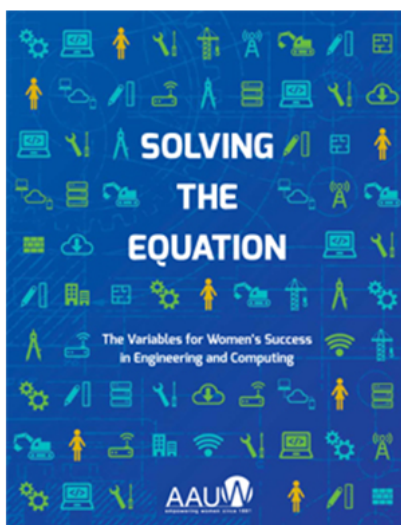


With funds from the book sale, we also support three students in attending the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

This year's three students have been selected by the Universities at Shady Grove and Montgomery College and are registered to attend the conference on May 28-30 at the University of Maryland. Last year over 800 students from across the country attended the event.

Our Branch has been recognized twice in the last month for contributions related to the book sale. The Montgomery College Foundation recognized us on March 30 at a luncheon for scholarship donors, and on April 15 Montgomery County's Linkages to Learning program presented a Certificate of Appreciation to us in recognition of the many books we have given to the needy students at Fox Chapel Elementary School. The books were given to the young students, who otherwise may not have any books, to take home to read.

STEM REPORT



Five years after AAUW asked “Why so few women in STEM?” the report *Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing* takes a closer look at the two STEM fields |

where the jobs are but women aren't. The report, released March 26, 2015, discusses the state of women in engineering and computing, where women make up only 12 percent and 26 percent of the workforce. Stereotypes, biases, and unwelcoming environments still hold women back in these fields, but increasing the representation of women in engineering and computing is good for women and good for business. *Solving the Equation* analyzes the factors underlying these challenging statistics, and looks at what can be done to make these fields more accessible and desirable for all employees. The report (pdf) can be downloaded from AAUW's website. You can also order a

printed report on ShopAAUW. The printed copy is free but shipping charges will apply.

LINKAGES TO LEARNING RECOGNITION CEREMONY

- Mary Wykes

Liz Clark Hessel and Mary Wykes attended the Linkages to Learning Recognition Ceremony on April 15 in Rockville. Our Branch was recognized for the donation of books, following last year's book sale, to the Fox Chapel Elementary School, a Title 1 school. There were many community organizations recognized for their contribution to this important program, a consortium between the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and the Montgomery County Public Schools, along with the participation of many other community partners. The aim of the consortium is to give our children in Title I

schools the best opportunities to be successful by providing many services needed in addition to the usual school activities. County Executive Ike Leggett, along with other dignitaries, participated in the recognition of community partners.



BUDGET REPORT

AAUW Gaithersburg Operational Account
Proposed 2015-16 Budget

	Your Membership Dues of \$77			\$ 49	National AAUW
				\$ 10	Maryland AAUW
				\$ 18	Gaithersburg AAUW
Item	2015 Budget	Actuals	2016 Budget		
INCOME		as of 4/1/15			
Membership Income	\$ 1,026.00	\$1,116	\$1,026	Based on 57 members	
Donations	\$ 70.00	\$33	\$70		
Member Directory Ads	\$ 100.00	0	\$100	Advertising fo 2014 - 2015	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,196.00	\$1,149	\$1,196		
EXPENSES					
Newsletter	\$ 300.00	\$250	\$300	Printing (\$20) and postage for 9 Newsletters	
Meeting Rent	\$ 360.00	\$70	\$360	Montgomery County Library at \$60 x 6 meetings	
Insurance	\$ 236.00	\$370	\$236	Liability for Branch + 1/3 of Dishonesty Ins.	
Interbranch Dues	\$ 33.00	\$33	\$80	Asked for less money this year.	
Hospitality	\$ 100.00	\$54	\$100		
Bank Fee		\$0		Check order	
Member Directory	\$ 100.00	\$0	\$100	Estimated cost for Directory printing (\$84 in 2010)	
AAUW Promotional Material		\$0			
Donations		\$1,600		Women of Distinction Fund	
Programs	\$ 100.00	\$55	\$100		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,196.00		\$1,196		
Membership \$1358					
Special Projects \$8127.43					

MEET THE OFFICERS FOR 2015-16

- Anna Fraker, Chair, Nominating Committee

We are fortunate to have three new officers for the 2015-16 year, joining four returning officers. We express appreciation to the retiring officers, Mary Wykes, Patsy Marks and Dorothy Camara for their service as officers and for their other continuing duties for the Gaithersburg branch of AAUW. Here is some biography on the officers for 2015-2016 to introduce them before their installation at the May meeting.

President

Heather Reichardt has lived in Montgomery County for 25 years since graduating from American University. She has also worked at Marriott International headquarters for 25 years and is a director in the real estate tax department there. She has volunteered at her two children's schools in activities up through high school. She was the Girl Scout cookie mom for her daughter's troop for 11 years. Heather is also active in industry-related activities and AAUW Lobby Corp. She is serving her second full year on the Montgomery County Commission for Women. She looks forward to helping our Branch maintain its programs and increase its outreach and impact.

Co-Vice President for Programs

Anita Taylor was professor of communication and women studies at George Mason University. She previously was an administrator and taught speech at the St. Louis Community College, University of Missouri and Kansas State University. Active in her field's professional organizations, she spent a 50-year career helping open doors for women in the field of communication. Upon moving to Gaithersburg at retirement, she joined the local branch of AAUW, knowing that in this group she would find like-minded people. Previously, Anita joined with Patsy Marks, Sue Woodruff and Mary Wykes to plan and organize programs of interest to a wide range of members, and she looks forward to the fresh ideas to be gained by adding Carolyn Fisher to the planning team.

Co-Vice President for Programs

Carolyn J. Fisher is currently the AAUW Gaithersburg Branch STEM chair and also a member of AAUW's Lobby Corps. She is a research scientist and has supported projects with the Department of Defense and Duke University. Carolyn is interested in informal STEM education and outreach. She is currently a STEM specialist in the classroom volunteers for Montgomery and Prince George's counties and serves as science fair judge in the public school system. Carolyn periodically serves as an abstract reviewer for scientific professional organizations she supports.

Vice President for Membership

Marilyn O'Connell was Mary Wykes's neighbor when she first moved to Montgomery Village in 1969. She said that she went to a few AAUW affairs with Mary but, with five children, there never seemed enough time to join AAUW. Marilyn grew up in Mount Vernon, N.Y. She graduated from the University of

Maryland with a B.S. in business administration, and worked in the personnel department of American Airlines for several years until her first son was born. The family lived in Greenwich Village, N.Y., for five years and then moved to Babylon, Long Island. While in Babylon, she was active in the Auxiliary of Good Samaritan Hospital organizing fundraising events. The family moved to Montgomery Village when her husband joined IBM. With her business education, with finance courses and time and motion studies, she kept busy organizing her children's activities and managing the family's finances. She says that she probably could have used some psychology courses! When all her children were in school, she worked at Diamond Elementary school as a math aide, testing children in the ISM program. Since there was no math specialist at Diamond, she soon enjoyed overseeing their math program. She has served as membership vice president for the past three years. Marilyn said the nicest part of joining AAUW is getting to know so many interesting and pleasant women.



Recording Secretary

Marybeth Morsink joined AAUW, shortly after moving to Gaithersburg from Europe, out of both respect and conviction for AAUW principles and advocacy for women's rights. Born in Japan of missionary parents, she grew up on Long Island, N.Y., and earned an MSW at NYU. She was a professor of social work at the Beirut College for Women in Lebanon, followed by employment by UNICEF in community development, also in Lebanon. Following her marriage to Hubert Morsink, the birth of three children and a move to Geneva, Switzerland, she was a consultant at UNHCR, establishing counseling services in major capitals in Africa. After retirement, she represented Consumers International at the United Nations in Geneva, promoting legislation guaranteeing women's rights. Today, she is happy to be able to continue these interests through AAUW, at Asbury Methodist Village and beyond!

(Continued on page 7)

MEET THE OFFICERS FOR 2015-16 (Continued from page 6)

Corresponding Secretary

Jane Carroll moved to Asbury from Bethesda four years ago, and a year or so later she became a member of the Gaithersburg Branch of AAUW. She was managing editor for the World Bank prior to her retirement. She is involved in volunteering, and the Gaithersburg Branch is fortunate to receive her help. Almost immediately after joining the Branch, she became active with book sorting and collecting books for the book sale. Jane has served as corresponding secretary for two years.

it. She has been Branch treasurer for the last two years. Branch treasurer is a challenging position, and she enjoys it. She has done a lot of work to update the treasurer's record-keeping. Terry is a retired software engineer. She and her husband have three children and five grandchildren. They own a Class B RV and spend most of their spare time traveling around the country.



Treasurer

Terry Medlar has served as co-president of the Gaithersburg Branch of AAUW, and previously was a member of the AAUW Lobby Corps. When the treasurer's post was vacated midterm, she agreed to take

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2015-16

Membership dues for 2015-16 are payable now. You may use this form so that we have complete and up-to-date information.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone (H) _____ (W) _____

(Cell) _____

E-mail _____

Type of Membership:

Member \$77 _____

Life Member \$26 _____

Dual Member \$18 _____

Honorary Member \$0 _____

(\$46 of the national AAUW portion of the dues is tax deductible. Membership extends from July 1 through June 30.)

Do you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail only (i.e., no hard copy)?

Yes _____ No _____

Make your check payable to AAUW Gaithersburg and mail to Marilyn O'Connell, Vice President for Membership, 19001 Threshing Place, Montgomery Village MD 20886-3143.

AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

BOOK SALE	Thursday, April 30 - Saturday, May 2.
Board Meeting	Tuesday, May 12 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, May 19 - 7 p.m.
Dining Group	Saturday, May 23 - 1 p.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, May 26 - 2:30 p.m.
Her-Story	Wednesday, May 27 - 2:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, May 30 - 10 a.m.
AAUW National Convention, San Diego	June 18-21

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