



AAUW

Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

June 2013



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

June Events

**JUNE CELEBRATION!
POTLUCK PICNIC - PLANNING OUR FUTURE
SATURDAY, JUNE 22, AT 12:30**

The June Branch meeting will be at Louise Chatlynne's home. Thank you, Louise!
Be prepared for a grand potluck picnic. After that repast, we will share ideas on our activities for our next year.

Please contact Sue Woodruff by Thursday, June 20, to RSVP and to indicate what you are bringing for the potluck. All paper goods, ice water, ice tea, seltzer and decaf will be provided.

BOARD MEETING June 10 - 7 P.M.

The Board of Directors will meet on June 10 at 7 p.m. in the Hefner Conference Room at Asbury. There will be no meeting in July.

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THE CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Mary Wykes

May is always one of my favorite months. As usual, it has been filled with happy celebrations--Mother's Day with my children and grandchildren and then the next day my birthday, which I enjoyed celebrating along with Sue Woodruff (whose birthday was Sunday, Mother's Day) at our May AAUW Board meeting--always fun to be with friends on my birthday!

We are so honored that our state president, Pat Stocker, a member of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Branch, agreed to come to our May meeting and install our officers for the coming year. Since she is a candidate for the national board of directors this year, it will be nice for our members who were not at the 40th anniversary luncheon, where she spoke, to have an opportunity to meet her.

One of the highlights of our Branch activities in May is our annual fundraiser, our used book sale. Again this year it was an amazing experience of cooperation and well-organized participation from our Branch members and many volunteers from the area schools and elsewhere. Liz Clark Hessel does such a wonderful job of planning and executing the sale from beginning to end, each year learning from past experience and making it even more organized and successful. Thanks go to all our members who helped and especially to Anita Taylor, assistant treasurer, who deposited the funds each day at our new bank, Sandy Spring; Anna Fraker, who was there every day as Liz's back-up; Barbara Brooks, who was helpful with pricing of special books; Maria Roberts, who handled publicity; Louise Chatlynnne, who helped direct traffic, along with other activities; and countless others who spent many hours sorting, selling, pricing, directing student volunteers, and generally making the public feel welcome. A report will be presented later on the number of participants and volunteer hours--truly an impressive total for a great cause.

Since one of the main aspects of our mission is to advance equity for women and girls through philanthropy, I feel that our book sale definitely goes a long way toward fulfilling this mission. The number of community organizations who benefit from receiving some of our leftover books was expanded this year and is detailed in another area of the newsletter. It is truly a benefit to our area in so many ways, giving our Branch the ability to help fund fellowships and scholarships to local colleges and universities, as well as to the National Educational Opportunities Fund. The cooperation of Asbury Village in allowing us to use the space at Rosborough Center for the sale is greatly appreciated. In turn, we have a special day for Asbury residents to shop, which seemed to be very well attended and enjoyed by the residents. I think all of our members who worked will agree that the fun and fellowship we share in this worthwhile activity is a highlight of our year. Even though I was trying to give some of my collection of books to the sale this year, I could not resist the temptation to buy some more on Saturday when they were half price. I found several authors I had not read and was interested in sampling. All the books I bought were like new. Even though there are dire predictions of the demise of the print media, I believe the turnout at our sale indicates it will be a while before that happens.

The May letter, "AAUW Fund Facts," from Diane Ludwig, chair of the AAUW National Fundraising Committee, reminded us that there will be two fundraising workshops sponsored by the national's Fundraising Committee at the national convention in New Orleans on June 9 to 12 on

sharing tips, tools and successes. If any of you plan to go, we will look forward to hearing from you about any ideas gleaned from these workshops. If not, I am sure we will get a report in our "Outlook" later.



Diane mentioned that the 2013 AAUW Art Contest judges selected three winning card designs and have sent them to all members, hoping we will want to make a donation for them. I have received mine and find them very beautiful and I will be proud to use them.

For FY 2013, more than \$4.3 million in fellowships and grants has been awarded to 278 outstanding women in America and abroad, according to Diane's report. She says there were hundreds of worthy applicants who did not receive awards due to fund constraints. She goes on to say that the Educational Opportunity Fund is something all branches and states can proudly support to help women advance their education and in turn help all of society. As always, there is so much to do in AAUW, and she thanks each of us for making philanthropy a part of our work to advance our mission.

I hope everyone joins us for our windup meeting of the season--our June picnic and planning meeting. It is a good time to relax and get better acquainted with other members. Come prepared to have some delicious food and to share a bit about yourselves and your suggestions for making our Branch more relevant to your interests and needs. We thank Louise Chatlynnne for letting us meet at her home in Montgomery Village for the event.

Have a great summer!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- Marilyn O'Connell, Vice President for Membership

Welcome to all new members. All of our members look forward to meeting you and getting acquainted while enjoying AAUW activities.

Jean K. DeMuzio

Temple University and University of Wisconsin
- BA and MA

Charlotte Fischer

U.B.C., Cambridge University - BA, MA, PhD
Faculty member - Pennsylvania State University and Vanderbilt University

Donna Gentry

University of Texas at Arlington - BA General Studies
Sarah Lawrence - MA Health Advocacy
Interested in learning more about AAUW and our activities

Jessica Hagan

Northern Arizona University - MS Biology
Farmers Insurance agent

Nancy Moore

Lamoyne College, Syracuse NY, University of MD, University College
BA English Central Michigan, Masters in Health Care Administration
Most of career as medical technologist at large research hospital and physician's office
Retired from FOA 1998 as scientific reviewer

Heather Reichardt

American University, BS Business Administration
John Hopkins, MS Real Estate Investments
Worked at Marriott International headquarters since 1990

Barbara Stellar

Virginia Commonwealth University, Masters in Social Work

Kay Travis

Austin College, Sherman, Texas, BA English
University of Texas, Austin, MA English
Taught in Texas before moving to Maryland; working for 38 years as realtor at Weichert.



2013 BOOK SALE

- *Liz Clark Hessel*

We concluded another great book sale recently with the help of many. We are fortunate to raise significant funds for scholarships and be able to make so many books available to the community. The benefits of the book sale go far beyond the funds raised.

We clearly met the goals of the sale: to encourage education and reading by providing the community with books at modest prices and to raise funds for scholarships for women and mentoring and advocacy programs for women and girls. AAUW Gaithersburg also promotes a clean environment by annually recycling over 30,000 books (over 1,500 cu ft) which might otherwise enter the solid waste stream.

Over the years the book sale has grown from a fundraiser into a real community event in so many ways. To begin with, we have several key partners who provide services at little or no cost. Asbury provides space for the sale, Gaithersburg Storehouse furnishes us with year-round storage space for the books, Moyer's Moving and Storage moves two truckloads of books from storage to Asbury for the sale. When you see representatives from our partners, thank them for their help and cooperation.

We also received significant help in sorting and organizing the books. In addition to 38 Branch members who helped on site, over 100 students from middle schools to high schools earned Student Service Learning Hours (SSL) through their participation in the book sale. Most of them came several times to sort and organize, and help customers. The students not only earn SSL hours, but also benefit by learning how to organize books and where to look in a book to find what topic it is about. Several college students and twenty-two additional adult volunteers (not members) also helped. In total, over 1,500 hours of volunteer time was logged. Thanks to all who participated.

In addition, we provided free bags of books to about 25 Gaithersburg families who cannot afford to buy books. Also, 15 students from Gaithersburg Elementary School, who are mentored by the Beloved Community at Asbury, took books for their families.

When the sale was over, nonprofits and schools were invited to take the leftover books to distribute to the local

community. Fourteen organizations came late Saturday afternoon to choose books for their clients and organizations. Over 3,000 books (over 100 boxes) went to these schools and social service agencies. These organizations included: Gaithersburg Elementary School, Gaithersburg Middle School, Fox Chapel Linkages to Learning, Friends of the Germantown Library, Gaithersburg Book Festival, Identity, the Literacy Council, Manna Foods (who gives children books when their families come to get free food), Korean Community Service Center, Montgomery College Health and Human Services, "On Our Own," St. Raphael's Knights of Columbus, a representative who sends books to Indian colleges in the West; and Branch member Betty Valdes took about 90 books to the library where she works at the Ana G. Mendez University System, a bilingual (Spanish-English) university that recently established a branch in Wheaton. Overall about 200 people put in over 1,500 hours of effort on a successful book sale where we both raised funds for our projects and improved our community by distributing thousands of books to individuals and organizations who otherwise could not afford them. What a success!



Students and volunteers who helped pack up books after the book sale was over.

SONYA KOVALESKY DAY 2013

- *Louise Chatlynne, Interbranch Representative*

Montgomery County AAUW Interbranch supports the Sonya Kovalevsky program at Montgomery College. This program encourages eighth-grade girls to pursue STEM courses (science, technology, engineering and math). This year's program culminated on April 26 with a day of workshops and games for 60 eighth-grade girls and 30 teachers from public and private schools in Montgomery County.

The day opened with a round-robin of math games and puzzles for the girls and separate games and puzzles for their teachers. The girls worked in school teams and, together, most of them solved most of the puzzles. At lunch they listened to an inspirational speaker who had graduated from Montgomery College and went on to a successful career as a computer programmer. In the afternoon the girls had three workshops: chemistry, where they learned about acids, bases, and dry ice and made silly putty; engineering, where they tried their hands at building bridges from paper and masking tape; and architecture, where they worked with a computer program designed for architecture students. Meanwhile, the teachers had workshops

on motion video, using the computer games Angry Birds and Fun Ball as examples; they also attended a lecture on STEM education in Maryland given by Tiara Brooker-Dwyer, STEM specialist for the Maryland State Department of Education.



Louise Chatlynne and Anna Fraker were the representatives from AAUW Gaithersburg who volunteered to help make the day run smoothly. Ingrid Scott, of the mathematics department at Montgomery College, was the organizer of the event.

ASKING FOR YOUR HELP

- *Maria Roberts, Lobby Corps*

I ask that you reinforce our recent AAUW lobbying efforts on the Hill by contacting your senators and representatives. There's nothing like hearing directly from folks in the district. **Also please ask your friends in your own or other states to do likewise.**

(1) In favor of the Safe Schools Improvement Act (Senate bill 403). **We ask you to contact your senator asking that he/she co-sponsor and support this bill.** This bill would strengthen K-12 schools' ability and responsibility to combat sexual harassment and bullying. Bullying used to be mild fisticuffs in school yards but today's bullying is much more serious, definitely interfering with learning and even causing teen suicides, and now including sexual harassment of girls, bullying girls or boys because of sexual orientation, and cyber-bullying. The bill would require that schools have anti-bullying, anti-harassment policies in place and establish reporting procedures facilitating timely response, and permit funds for teacher/staff training in effective intervention methods.

(2) Opposed to the so-called Smarter Solutions for Students Act (H.R. 1911). **Please ask your representative in the House to oppose this bill.** While for this year the bill would lower student loan interest rates that are scheduled to rise on July 1, it would also cause the rates to vary unpredictably

year to year thereafter based on a market value calculation likely to more than double in a few years. Variable rates subject students to financial instability; for students from low income families who qualify for Stafford loans they can be financially catastrophic. At graduation they would start careers with insurmountable debt subject to interest rates that would continue to vary. Already a year out of college, women earn less than men do, but of course they pay the same college loan interest rates, meaning variable loan rates would affect women even more adversely.



As always, thanks a million for your help. You and the friends you engage in this effort can make all the difference.

HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

Her-story, a relatively new interest group, finds and tells the lives of women of the past, people generally not included in standard historical narratives. Over the few years of our group, we have made field trips to places where notable women walked; we have found and shared with each other information about women in Maryland; we have explored women who did science when society frowned on them and erected many barriers to their work; we have explored lives of survivors of sexual violence; we have read and discussed Gail Collins' wonderful, *American Women: Four Hun-*

dred Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmeets and Heroines.

Our next meeting will be on June 18, 2:30 p.m. If you would like to receive e-mail updates about summer topics and activities or join our sessions, please send an e-mail to Anita Taylor, We'd love to have you with us.



Membership Renewal Membership Dues for FY 2013-14

We are happy to report that the membership dues will not be increased for the next fiscal year. They will remain \$77 (\$49 National, \$10 State, and \$18 Branch). \$46 of the National portion of the dues is tax deductible. Membership renewals are due now and should be received no later than July 1, 2013. For your convenience, use the following form to make sure we have up-to-date information for the new Directory.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ (H) _____ (W) _____ (Cell)

E-mail: _____

College/University attended & degrees earned: _____

Please make payable to AAUW Gaithersburg and mail to Membership Vice President Marilyn O'Connell,

Type of membership:

- Member \$77
- Life Member \$26
- Dual Member \$18
- Honorary Member \$0

NOTICE: Do you wish to receive the Newsletter by e-mail only (i.e., no hard copy)? Yes____ No____

GREAT DECISIONS

- **Vivian Otto, Coordinator**

On June 25 the Great Decisions Group will meet at 7 p.m. at Joan Read's home, . Joan will lead the discussion on "Humanitarian Intervention and U.S. Policy." We will be exploring the question of what our country's responsibility is in protecting people in other lands who are caught in humanitarian disasters caused by war and violence. This question is particularly pertinent today in deciding our responsibility to

the people of Syria who are being ravished by war.



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 Chatlyne

Newsletter Editor
Qing Jiang

Literature Group

- **Bea Carasso, Coordinator**



There will be no Literature Group meetings during the months of June, July, and August.

NOTE FROM PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

Anita Taylor and Patsy Marks, co-vice presidents for program, are looking for ideas for programs for next year. They already have many good suggestions and will be working on the line-up this summer. It would be most helpful to get input from the membership and to reflect your interests. Please contact Anita or Patsy . Thanks for any suggestions because your ideas are valuable.

GOURMET GROUP

- **Jean Friedmann, Coordinator**



The Gourmet Group is taking the next few months off from cooking and entertaining while they research and plan for the next year of fun dining. Enjoy the summer!

AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

Board Meeting	Monday, June 10 - 7 p.m.
AAUW Nat'l Convention, New Orleans	June 9-12
Women's Herstory	Tuesday, June 18 - 2:30 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Saturday, June 22 - 12:30 p.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, June 25 - 7 p.m.

The American Association of University Women
Gaithersburg Branch
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