



Empowering Women
Since 1881

AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

September 2015

September Events

Branch Meeting

Tuesday, September 15
Hospitality at 7 P.M. - Program at 7:30 P.M.
Gaithersburg Library - Meeting Room I

The first Gaithersburg Branch program of the 2015-16 year will feature a panel of our scholarship recipients. Five students received academic scholarships that will assist them in pursuing their college studies at Montgomery College (MC) and the Universities at Shady Grove (USG). Three additional students from MC and USG were sponsored to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in June. The students will speak to us about the personal impact of their scholarships.

Please join us to hear the inspiring comments of these scholarship recipients and be reminded of the impact of our book sales. The scholarships were completely funded by our book sales.

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 8 - 7 P.M.
Sellers Library, Rosborough Building, Asbury

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will meet on September 8 to continue discussions on scholarship disbursals and other matters. All members are welcome to participate. Remember our new location at the Sellers Library in the Rosborough Building at Asbury.

CAROLYN IVERSON

We are sorry to say that long-time member Carolyn Iverson passed away on July 9. Joining our Branch in 1970, she became an active contributor, serving as president in 1980-81 and named Education Foundation honoree (now AAUW Funds honoree) in 1982-83. She served as hospitality co-chair and, when that term was over, kept a continual watch on our hospitality supplies. She also served as recording secretary and was the faithful newsletter mailer for a number of years. Even at the last, and in failing health, Carolyn came to help with the book sale.

Carolyn came from Greenfield, Massachusetts. She earned a B.S. in business education at Boston University and an M.Ed. at North Adams State College in North Adams, Massachusetts. She then served as a teacher for 15 years at Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, then as a teacher of business subjects at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, Virginia. She liked to do needlework, and she liked AAUW.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Heather Reichardt

Greetings, Gaithersburg Branch members and friends! I am happy to be writing my first President's Message. I'm honored and proud to serve as your president though I'm a little daunted at the prospect of trying to fill the shoes of my predecessor. I am here to do my best to lead this engaged and productive branch of AAUW.

I estimate that I have met half the membership so far. Everyone has been gracious and supportive, which is most appreciated. I certainly look forward to meeting the rest of you. So, this is a rallying cry to encourage everyone to come out to our meetings so that I can put faces with names. If you have not been to a monthly meeting recently, now is a great chance to see other members and friends. Our program co-vice presidents, Anita Taylor and Carolyn Fisher (another new Board officer), have been working, along with Sue Woodruff, to put together a stimulating program for the coming year.

Everyone is enjoying the snacks and desserts at the monthly meetings. So much of the work in providing refreshments has been done with great energy and generosity by Jean Hirsch and her committee. Jean has now taken on the role of co-secretary with the state AAUW, so her work with hospitality must be eased. If someone can step up to be the hospitality coordinator that would be most helpful. In the chart below you will see that we have at least two people signed up to bring snacks, desserts or drinks to the meetings. We have many serving supplies, so we don't need to provide those. Many hands make light work, so please reach out to those who have volunteered and offer your assistance. All our members benefit from everyone's fine cooking (or purchasing!)

In July, Jean Hirsch, Terry Medlar and I attended the AAUW Maryland Leadership Training Conference held at the Eastern Shore Higher Education Center at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, Maryland. We heard from Erica Stout of the national AAUW office about cultivating teamwork within the branches. We also had breakout sessions on 1) Public Policy, led by Janet Crampton, 2) Websirtes and Communications Techniques, led by Eileen Menton, and 3) Training for Treasurers, led by state treasurer Dr. Judy Flood. I was glad to attend the training; it was a great chance to connect with Maryland branch leaders and collect information. One reminder arising: Give a Grad a Gift! Mary Wykes has always encouraged using this program to introduce graduates to AAUW. You, too, also probably know a young woman who has just graduated who could take advantage of this program. Also, according to Janet, there were no significant changes to the national public policy program. And she reminded us to participate in the Action Alerts and to read the LAF (Legal Advocacy Fund) Express (online), which details court cases AAUW is supporting. She

also showed us the AAUW website where information about this year's convention can be accessed: <http://convention.aauw/org/>. I am excited that the convention will be in Washington, D.C., in 2017!



I look forward to getting to know all our members and helping the Branch thrive long into the future. The best way to contact me is by my work e-mail; so if you have any comments or suggestions, please feel to reach out to me.

September	Jean Kosow
	Vivian Otto
October	Dorothy Camara
	Jean Hirsch
November	Mary Wykes
	Jean Hirsch
December	All members to bring hors d'oeuvres
January	Maria Roberts
	Larry Roberts
February	Marie Van Wyk
	Jean Hirsch
March	Charlotte Fischer
	Marilyn O'Connell
April	Marybeth Morsink
	Terry Medlar
May	Louise Chatlynne
	Anna Fraker
June	All members to bring favorite potluck dish

TWO OF OUR MEMBERS RECEIVE AWARDS

Carolyn Fisher

During her upcoming travels to Sweden, Charlotte Fisher will be granted an honorary doctorate degree from Malmö University in Malmö, Sweden, awarded by its Faculty of Technology and Society.

While Malmö University was only recently established, in 1998, it has had a transformative impact on this industrial port city, creating a center of learning. The Faculty of Technology and Society includes both computer science and physics. Carolyn has had a long and rewarding association with the atomic physics research group at the nearby Lund University, one of the oldest institutes of higher learning in Scandinavia, tracing its roots to 1425. She mentored two of their students as postdoctoral candidates while she taught at Vanderbilt University in the late 1980s. Both these students are now professors, one a professor of physics at Lund University and one a professor of mathematics and physics at Malmö University. Along with some other postdocs who worked directly with Carolyn, these professors established the Computational Atomic Structure (CompAS) group in which Carolyn is still an active participant. In addition, Malmö University has just approved a new PhD program that includes atomic physics, an area in which Dr. Fisher achieved many significant breakthroughs during earlier periods of her ongoing STEM career.

Patsy Marks

On Saturday, August 15, at a 12 noon luncheon and ceremony at Epworth United Methodist Church, the Upper Montgomery County Church Women Unit-

ed honored our member Patsy Marks with this year's Human Rights Award. This award is given annually to a member who has made significant contributions to her community over her lifetime. Among Patsy's community activities, she has been a devoted and exemplary board member at the Montgomery Avenue Women's Center in Rockville. This women's center is the only daytime center that provides services exclusively for homeless women in Montgomery County. Staff and board members from the shelter spoke of Patsy's dedication in helping them in whatever their needs were over the years.

AAUW Gaithersburg Branch members present to see Patsy receive this well-deserved honor were Diane Carvey, Anna Fraker, Margaret Williams (president of Upper Montgomery County Church Women United) and Mary Wykes. Also present were Patsy's proud husband, Fred, and her children and grandchildren.



2016 Book Sale – Help Needed - Elizabeth Hessel

The dates for next year's Book Sale are May 5 – 7, 2016. Please make a note on your calendar to set aside time to help during these sale dates.

A number of our members have worked over the summer to collect over 100 boxes of books for next year's sale. On Wednesday and Thursday, September 2 and 3 from 9:30 am to 5 pm, we will sort these books in the Asbury Villas Community Room at 400 Russell Avenue. Please join us to help sort and enjoy the fellowship of the other members. Invite your friends also. The boxes of sorted books will be moved to our year-round storage lockers in preparation for next year's sale.

Our book sale is enhanced by our collection of high quality books. As you talk with your friends and associates throughout the year, let them know that we can accept book donations at any time, no need to wait until next spring to donate books. We also accept CDs and DVDs and books on tape. Contact Liz Hessel.



SAVE THE DATE: LOBBY CORPS OPEN HOUSE 2015

Thank you to everyone who voted and submitted comments regarding the Lobby Corps Open House. We've tallied your votes and comments and we kindly ask that members save the following date and time in their calendars for the Fall Open House:

What: AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps Open House
 When: Thursday, October 15, 2015 from 10:00am – 1:30pm
 Where: AAUW's offices, 1111 Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC.
 Who: AAUW Lobby Corps Members and their guests interested in learning more and joining Lobby Corps! Lunch will be provided at the event

In order to maintain an accurate head count, we ask that all guests RSVP using the following link: http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50796/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=4163

While coordinating the multiple schedules and availabilities, we recognize that not all will be able to attend, but have taken the group's votes to pick a date. If you are unable to attend, we hope you can contin-

ue to help recruit fresh new faces to continue building a stronger, more vibrant Lobby Corps. If members have suggestions or new ideas on how we can spread the word about the Open House, please feel free to contact me. The details above are available to distribute to your local branches.

We look forward to seeing you at the Open House. Enjoy the rest of your summer and we will be in touch when Lobby Corps resumes in early September. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Best,
 ---Pam

Pam Yuen
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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- Marilyn O'Connell, Vice President for Membership

We are doing well with membership. We now have 55 member paid through 2016. This includes nine new members. I hope you will be at the September meeting to meet these new members: Heather Bre-
 menstuhl, Carol Dodd, Andrea Drimmer, Gail

Feingold, Barbara Garrard, Carol Plummer, Natalie O'Riley, Isabelle Lornied Surtan, and Peg Vert.



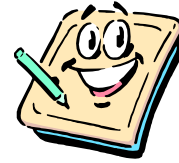
These two women are too often mistaken for each other. To be clear, they are, left to right, Dorothy Camara and Jean Kosow....no, Jean Kosow and Dorothy Camara.....

GREAT DECISIONS

- **Charlotte Fischer, Coordinator**

The Great Decisions Group will meet at the home of Jean Kosow, at Asbury on September 22 from 2:30 to 4. The topic to be discussed is "Syria's Refugee Crisis," led by Kay Travis. Refreshments will be served before the discussion. The meeting

will be chaired by Vivian Otto in the absence of Charlotte Fischer.



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

LITERATURE GROUP

- **Mary Wykes**



The Literature Group met on Saturday, August 29, at Jean Young's home to make selections and decide on hosts for the coming year. Each member brought three selections

of books which she recommends, telling a bit about each. The group voted on which of the three offered by each

member they wish to have as the coming year's selections. Plans for the September meeting are not yet set. Please contact Mary Wykes (for up-to-date information. New members are very welcome.

HER-STORY—August 26, 2015

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator of Her-story Interest Group**

There will be no September gathering of the Her-story Interest Group due to travel schedules. The October session will be described in the next newsletter.

Because, however, of the remarkable coincidence of the date of the regularly scheduled August meeting date (4th Wednesday of each month), the August session is worth some space to report. We gathered exactly 95 years after the date suffrage in the U.S. became a reality for white, and some Black, women, August 26, 1920.

We attempted a partial re-creation of the sense of how women were experiencing that day nearly a century ago. Many details were covered. Among them, in January 1915 the House of Representatives had voted no on the woman suffrage constitutional amendment, but movement leaders considered the fact that the amendment was even voted on as a victory. The proposal had not been put on the floor of either Congressional body since it had been rejected 46 years earlier. So the expected no vote was a victory-- and a good set-up for forthcoming elections. In October, New Jersey was to vote on a proposal for women to vote there, and in November votes for woman

suffrage were set for New York and Massachusetts.

In 1915, women suffrage supporters were also dealing with the anxiety of a bifurcated movement. The activists differed over whether to focus on gaining suffrage state by state or through a national constitutional amendment. They differed about methods-- whether advocacy should be activist and in the streets or sedate and "ladylike." Nor did all agree about whether to withhold support from Wilson or the parties unless they openly and actively endorsed woman suffrage, or on how best to approach the president as U.S. involvement in world war approached.

As we considered our country 95 years before, we were reminded of L. P. Hartley's words from *The Go-Between*, "The past is a foreign country."



President
Heather Reichardt

Co-Vice Presidents for Program
Carolyn Fisher

Anita Taylor

Vice President for Membership
Marilyn O'Connell

Treasurer
Terry Medlar

Recording Secretary
Marybeth Morsink

Corresponding Secretary
Jane Carroll

Newsletter Editor
Qing Jiang

THE JUNE ANNUAL MEETING AND CELEBRATION

- Dorothy Camara, Past Recording Secretary

So many people were celebrated at our annual meeting this past June. First, Vivian Otto and Mary Wykes were presented with a birthday cake and had happy birthday sung to them (melodiously) in honor of their 90th birthdays. Jean Eden is also 90 but she wasn't able to be present.

Needless to say, Mary received more kudos for her longevity and productivity as Branch president. A grand hanging basket of begonias hopefully will remind her of the Branch's appreciation of the devoted contribution she has made to the Branch.

We had three members selected as AAUW Fund Honorees. Jean Hirsch was the coordinator of the dining group, but, beyond that, she has shown great creativity as the hospitality chair. Barbara Brooks is a constant worker at the transfer station and at the book sale, with an extra management of the special books. Anna Fraker is not only a long-time honorary member, she is also a charter member of our Branch. She serves as an appointed member of the Board of Directors. She is the go-to person for special assignments, a leader in the book sale, and chair of the review-of-the-books committee and of the nominating committee.

The members approved the initial disbursement of scholarships and grants, amounting to \$12,500. Montgomery College will get \$7,000 for four scholarships. This money goes to women in the near area who are working toward a degree in math, engineering, physical sciences, computer science, or technology. The Universities at Shady Grove receives \$3,000 for one scholarship for a senior woman in the near area who is working toward a bachelor's degree in a field where women have been traditionally underrepresented. The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders receives \$1,500 for

three students (one each from the Universities at Shady Grove, Montgomery College Rockville, and Montgomery College Germantown) to attend their annual conference.

A contribution of \$1,000 is allocated to the Asbury Benevolent Fund, as an expense, to show our appreciation for the inordinate support given to the book sale by Asbury. We still have approximately \$8,000 to disburse, which will be done imminently. Members are welcome to be part of that discussion by attending the Board meetings.

This annual meeting was held at the Villas Community Room at Asbury in a comfortably arranged setting of white-linen-covered tables (again thanks to Asbury) and an array of delicious potluck offerings.

As the meeting wound down, Mary Wykes, turned over the gavel to incoming president Heather Reichardt, wrapping up a transition in which Mary officiated with Heather's constant aid in carrying out the meeting's activities. I have never seen another transition so beautifully executed.



Outgoing president Mary Wykes (right), assisted by incoming president Heather Reichardt, leads a grand annual celebration.

AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

Board Meeting	Tuesday, September 8 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, September 15 - 7 p.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, September 22 - 2:30 p.m.
Hold These Dates:	
Lobby Corps Open House	Thursday, October 15, 2015 - 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
AAUW Gaithersburg Book Sale	May 5 -7, 2016

The American Association of University Women
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