

September Events

BRANCH MEETING

Tuesday, September 20
Hospitality at 7 P.M.. - Program at 7:30 P.M.
Gaithersburg Public Library

Join us at our first program of 2016-17 featuring a panel of this year's scholarship recipients. Five students received academic scholarships to assist them in pursuing their college studies at Montgomery College and at the Universities at Shady Grove. Three additional students from Montgomery College and the Universities at Shady Grove were sponsored to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in June. The students will speak about the personal impact of these scholarships, which were completely funded by our book sales.

Please join us on Tuesday, September 20, at the Gaithersburg Library at 7 p.m. for a social gathering followed by the program at 7:30 p.m. Listen to the inspiring comments of the scholarship recipients and be reminded of the impact of our book sales.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 9 - 7 P. M.

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, September 9, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. All Branch members are invited.

Dear Members: If you receive your newsletter as hard copy through the mail, you have the option of receiving it as an attachment to an e-mail. If you would like to receive your newsletter by e-mail rather than snail mail and save postage, please notify Dorothy Camara at d5camara@comcast.net.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Heather Reichardt

Dear Members and Friends,

It's that time of year again when we say goodbye to summer and get busy with Branch activities. Of course, since I work full time, I've been busy all summer! But, my husband and I did have a few nice visits to Ocean City in between work and business travel. I hope everyone had a nice summer, whether you travelled the country, or the world, or stayed in Maryland.

I went to Baltimore and Annapolis for two separate state-level meetings. The first was a planning session held by Eileen Menton, the new state president. She had the state and branch leaders complete some exercises on how to increase engagement of members in Maryland. And, at the summer leadership training session, we discussed other topics, such as how to use AAUW online resources and ideas for membership recruitment. Stay tuned for more information on these issues.

Our Branch Board of Directors held its first meeting for the program year in August. It was great to see our stalwart members and a new face or two. I truly look forward to working with the Board and other members to provide valuable programs and other opportunities for the Branch this year.

Speaking of opportunities, by the time this is published, I will have attended the Power Con-

ference in Bethesda, on August 26. This is a fantastic one-day conference for women in business. AAUW of Maryland will have an information table there to engage attendees in joining our local branches.



Regarding new members, the best way to get new members is for all of us to reach out to friends, family and neighbors to let them know what a great organization AAUW is. We all know of our mission to "advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research." You can let your acquaintances know about the recent research reports issued by AAUW regarding bias in the workplace and the lack of enough women in STEM careers. I am grateful to AAUW for bringing these issues to the forefront.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our September Branch meeting! Best regards.

IN MEMORIAM

Larocca T. Jones, "Rocky," died on June 4, 2016. Always faithful in attending Board and Branch meetings, she will be remembered especially for her twelve years as hospitality chair. We also remember her costumed portrayals of famous American women, and also as one of the founders of our book sale.

Rocky was a retired personnel management specialist at the Department of the Navy. Having started as a GS-5 stenographer, she took courses while working for the Navy, earning a bachelor's degree in behavioral sciences and a master's degree in general administration at the University of Maryland University College.

She had been a radio ham and she drove a noticeable sporty yellow car. She had been an active member of NARFE and in the United Methodist Church, as well as a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and the Toastmistress Club, and she was proud of having donated 18 gallons of blood to the American Red Cross. Until recently, with her husband, Ken, Rocky traveled the world working on various missionary projects.

AAUW HELPS FEED SCHOOL FORUM

- Janet Crampton, Chair, AAUW of Montgomery County Interbranch Council

The Maryland primaries are behind us. Montgomery County voters have selected two of the five people vying for the at-large seat on the Board of Education-- Jeanne Dixon and Phillip Kauffman.

AAUW of Montgomery County Interbranch Council worked with the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County and the Montgomery County Council of PTAs on February 29, before the primaries, to put on a forum to question the at-large candidates for the Board of Education on problems in school policy and procedures.

With AAUW and PTA supplying the cheese, crackers, fruit, cookies, and water to sustain an audience of about 200, the five candidates spent two hours responding to questions. Topics ranged from "worst problem" to "personal skill sets." Discussions on closing the achievement gap, working with a diverse population, classroom crowding, board-decision transparency, school starting time, challenges for teachers, and paying for it, all brought out the frustrations of

dealing with a large, complex bureaucracy and the eagerness of each candidate to solve the county's education problems.

Each candidate acknowledged that adequate school funding means, among other considerations, staff realignment, state and county negotiations, possible property tax increases, and changes in schedules of sports and other organized activities.

Montgomery County AAUW branches--Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Gaithersburg, Kensington-Rockville, and Silver Spring--urge all AAUW members to vote for school board nominees. The people elected to school boards help direct the future.

AAUW FUNDS HONOREES ANNOUNCED

Jean Kosow, Maria Roberts, Marilyn O'Connell, and Liz Hessel were honored at the June Annual Meeting as our 2015-16 AAUW Funds Honorees.

Jean Kosow was honored for her many activities supportive of the Branch. She has worked with the Lobby Corps for many years. She has faithfully supported the book sale, both at the sale itself and throughout the year by picking up books throughout the Asbury campus. She has been a member of the Great Decisions and the Literature groups. Jean was also president of the Branch in 1985-86.

Marilyn O'Connell was the membership vice president for the past four years, seeing in an increased membership. She did a yeoman's job in getting volunteers for the book sale. Her worth is acknowledged by her present election as co-vice president for program.

Maria Roberts serves faithfully as an appointed member of the Board of Directors, offering sage advice often. She is a supportive member of the Lobby Corps.

She is the publicity chair, having brought vitality to that position. She also is one of the main photographers for the newsletter.

Liz Hessel is without a doubt the heart of the Branch's book sale. Her organizing and managing of the annual book sale are a marvel. She also advises the Board on the disbursement of scholarships. She maintains liaisons with community and academic contacts in carrying out these activities. Liz is an appointed Board member, offering valuable and insightful advice. She is also the editor of the Branch directory and one of our main newsletter photographers. In prior years she served as treasurer of the Branch and also organized and managed the mentoring program, Goals for Girls.

BOOK SALE

- Liz Hessel, Chair of Book Sales

Our 2016 book sale was a wonderful success, allowing us to sponsor scholarships again at Montgomery College and the Universities at Shady Grove, as well as make donations to the national AAUW education funds for graduate level fellowships. Our Branch also sponsored four local college students to join 800 other students at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders at College Park last May. All Branch members should take great pride in the impact we make with funds from our annual book sale.

Looking forward to our 2017 sale, please note on your calendar that the dates will be April 27-29. And be sure to set aside time to help set up for the sale beforehand, between April 20 and 26, as well as on the book sale dates.

We collect and organize books, CDs and DVDs year round and would like members to help with activities between now and April. Specifically, we need help with publicity, as well as with sorting and organizing, over the coming months. Some

members organize just one category between now and the book sale. For instance, Cathy Manning separates children's books, Jane Carroll organizes foreign language donations, and Jean Hirsch helps with cook books. Would you be willing to help organize one category into sub-categories between now and next April? We are looking for members who are interested in history, science/math, social science, religion or literature, or any other subject.



To help with the book sale in these areas or any other of your interest, contact Liz Hessel at liz@meral.com.

IN MEMORIAM

Carol Dodd joined our Branch after attending our book sale in 2015. She lived at Asbury and was a friend of Diane Carvey's from St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Laytonsville. Because of health problems, she was not able to attend many meetings but, since she lived at Asbury, she came whenever she could. I remember her attending a Women's Her-story meeting at Park View. Also, we were glad to see her at the 2016 book sale as she searched for some Bill Bryson books. Since she was on her motorized vehicle and the aisles were crowded, I made the search and found one which she said she hadn't read. Then she discovered she had forgotten her wallet and asked us to hold the book until she could come back later in the day. It wasn't many weeks later that I learned of her death and I hoped she had had some good chuckles as she read the Bryson book we found for her at our book sale.

Carol died on May 30. Although I didn't have a chance to know her very well, I attended a very lovely small memorial service for her, along with Diane Carvey. Rev. Linda had a gathering of her friends from church in the undercroft of St. Bart's and they shared their memories of Carol. She had a full and interesting life.

- Mary Wykes

JOIN AAUW ACTION FUND LOBBY CORPS

An Exciting Opportunity to Represent AAUW on Capitol Hill

--Becky Gaul, Falls Church Area Branch, Lobby Corps

The AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps promotes AAUW's Public Policy Program by serving as volunteer advocates on Capitol Hill. Volunteers represent the views and positions outlined in the AAUW membership Public Policy Program.

Lobby Corps meets every Thursday morning when Congress is in session, at 9:30 a.m., in either the Senate or House office buildings, as determined by AAUW staff each week. (Congress is in session about 30 weeks each year, taking breaks for holidays, summer, and campaigning.) Lobbying visits are usually completed by noon. Lobby Corps volunteers come from Virginia, Maryland, and D.C. branches. Most members use Metro to reach Capitol Hill.

Lobby Corps volunteers must:

1. Be active members of AAUW
2. Commit to AAUW issues and convey AAUW's position on strategic policy issues
3. Commit to regular participation, with consistent weekly attendance
4. Attend an annual Lobby Corps Open House/ Training session at AAUW headquarters. (The next Open House is on Wednesday, September 7, 2016, at the new headquarters at 1310 L Street, N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, D.C.)

Here's how the lobbying process works: By Monday of each lobbying week, the AAUW Government Relations staff liaison notifies members of the weekly topic and provides background information. Members are assigned a lobbying partner by the chair. By Wednesday evening, members receive detailed email information on the issue and its current status. On Thursday morning, Lobby Corps meets in the House or

Senate cafeteria to review information, receive AAUW letters and fact sheets and specific lobbying targets. After the group briefing, lobbying pairs head off to their visits, usually finishing by noon. Members report the results of their visits to the AAUW staff liaison for additional analysis.

You'll be well prepared before every Congressional visit and will always have an experienced partner.

Add your AAUW voice to ongoing national conversations in person. Lobby Corps membership is a rewarding way to get in-depth knowledge of current issues for Washington area members, plus it's a fun activity.

The AAUW Action Fund website is aauwaction.org. Check the site for information about the program, procedures and recent issues.

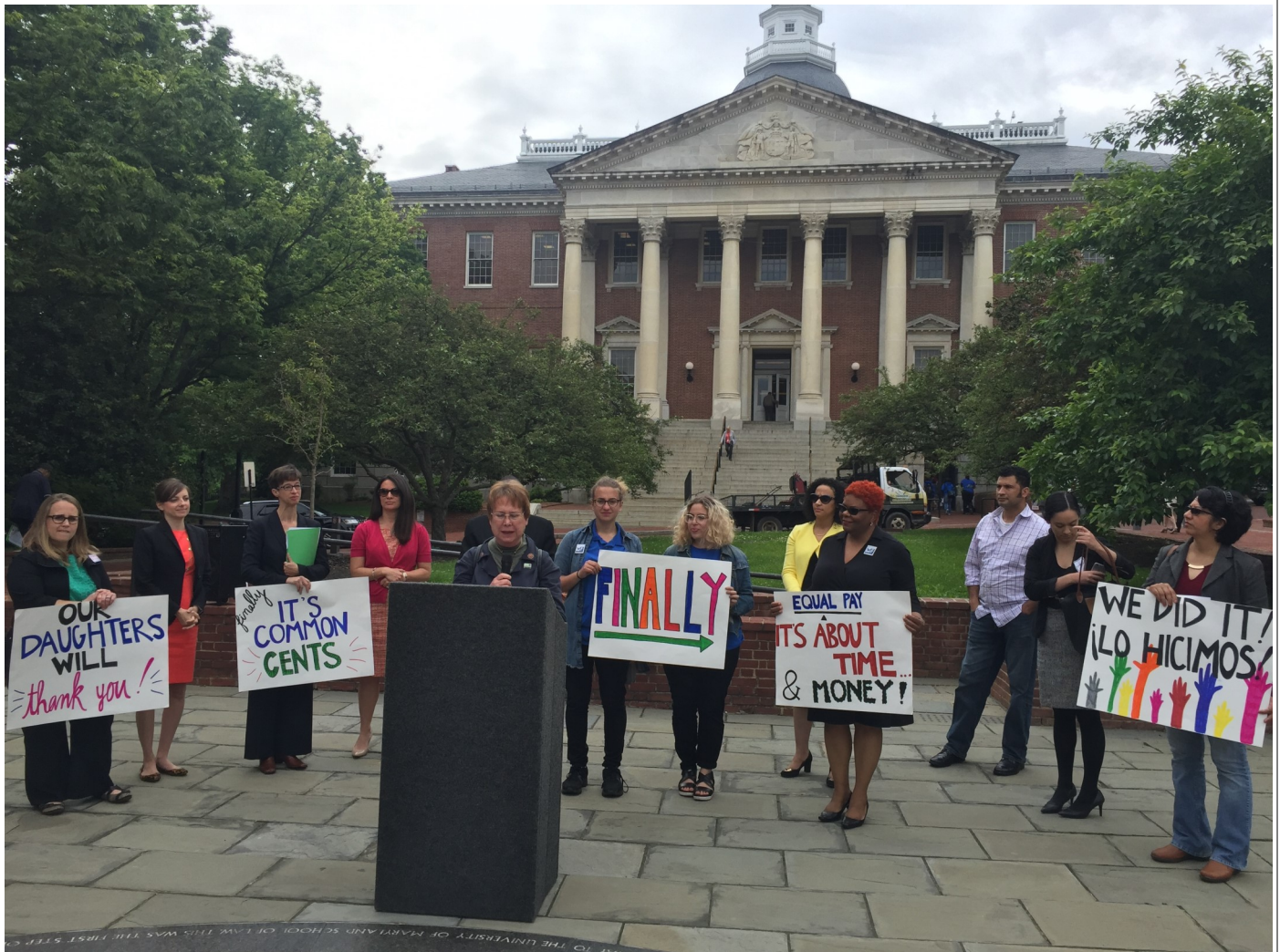
Lobby Corps needs you! Please consider joining us this fall.

Contact **Marcy Leverenz**, mleverenz@comcast.net, **Becky Gaul**, beckygaul@verizon.net, or **Pam Yuen**, yuenp@aauw.org.

EQUAL PAY BILL SIGNED

Gov. Larry Hogan signed into law the Pay Equity Bill this past May, advocates calling it one of the nation's strongest. It strengthens existing laws that prohibit discrimination based on gender or gender identity. The law makes it harder for employers to justify pay disparities between women and men, allows employees to discuss salaries, and makes it easier for workers to sue if unjustly fired.

The passage of the equal pay law is just one part of AAUW's women's legislative agenda on which the Lobby Corps briefs members of Congress. Other initiatives include affordable child care, paid family leave, paid sick days, and flexible scheduling. Read more about the Lobby Corps in another part of this newsletter.



Anita Rosen, AAUW of Maryland public policy co-chair, speaking on the equal pay act in front of the General Assembly building in Annapolis.

GREAT DECISIONS

- Vivian Otto



The Great Decisions Group welcomes its new chair, Mary Wykes, replacing Charlotte Fischer, who has moved to Canada. On September 27 at 2:30 the group will discuss "The U.N.'s Post-2015 Development Agenda and Leadership." Reviewing the U.N.'s past efforts in eradicating poverty, hunger and discrimination, the group will then dis-

cuss how the U.N. will develop and sustain its goals, particularly with the advent of a new secretary-general and a new U.S. president.

Kay Travis will lead the discussion. The group will meet at Jean Kosow's home at Apartment 501, Diamond Building, Asbury.



AAUW Gaithersburg
Branch
<http://gaithersburg-md.aauw.net>

LITERATURE GROUP

- Mary Wykes



The next meeting of the Literature Group will be at the home of Mary Wykes at 18900 Diary Road, Gaithersburg, 301-948-6218,

mary.wykes@aol.com. As usual, it will be on the fourth Saturday of the month, September 24, at 10 a.m.

At our August meeting we will have selected the books to be discussed for this coming year--too late for in-

clusion in this newsletter. However, the selections will be otherwise communicated to members who were not at the August meeting.

Prospective new members may call Jean Young (301-216-5599, jsy592@comcast.net), the group coordinator, for information about the group.

WOMEN'S HER-STORY

- Anita Taylor, Coordinator

This fall the Women's Her-Story Group resumes discussion on the her-story of women. As you remember from our last meeting, we were about 150 years through our program of looking at women who served as first ladies.

We will begin this year on September 7 at 2:30 p.m. in the Club Room of Park View Building (No. 211) at Asbury Village. We will decide either to continue with the first ladies conversations, choosing dates and assignments, or we'll choose alternative topics and make new plans.

Whatever we choose will lead us to meet additionally on October 5 at Park View, November 9 at Arcadia

Place, and December 7 again at Park View--all at 2:30.

As you will remember, you'll find Asbury Village at the intersection of Lost Knife and Odendhal. After passing through the Odendhal gate, go to the second stop sign, turn right, and follow the road to Building 211, Park View, at the top of the hill. Park at the sidewalk. For more parking space, go farther up the hill and around the building to the parking lot at the back of the building. Then take the elevator down one floor. If you need information, call Anita Taylor at 240-361-3101.

President
Heather Reichardt

Co-Vice Presidents for Program
Carolyn Fisher

Vice President for Membership
Barbara Garrard

Treasurer
Terry Medlar

Recording Secretary
Marybeth Morsink

Corresponding Secretary
Jane Carroll

Newsletter Editor
Qing Jiang

AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

Women's Her-Story	Wednesday, September 7 - 2:30 p.m.
Lobby Corps Open House	Wednesday, September 7
Board Meeting	Tuesday, September 9 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, September 20 - 7 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, September 24 - 10 a.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, September 27 - 2:30 p.m.
Women's Her-Story	Wednesday, October 5 - 2:30 p.m.

The American Association of University Women
Gaithersburg Branch
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