



Empowering Women  
Since 1881

# AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

September 2017

## September Events

### BRANCH MEETING

Tuesday, September 19

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

Gaithersburg Public Library Meeting Room

Join us at our first program of the year when we will feature a panel of this year's scholarship recipients. Six students received academic scholarships from our Branch to assist them in pursuing their college studies at Montgomery College and 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 held in June. These scholarships were completely funded by our book sales. The students will share with us the personal impact of the scholarships, as well as sharing some personal background and their academic aspirations. Listen to their inspiring comments and be reminded of the impact of our book sales.

Please join us on Tuesday, September 19, at 7 p.m. for a social gathering followed by the program at 7:30 at the Gaithersburg Library.

### BOARD MEETING

September 12 - 7 P.M.

The next meeting of the AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors is on Tuesday, September 12, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. Meetings are open to all members.

45th Anniversary Celebration of the Founding of AAUW Gaithersburg  
AAUW Gaithersburg in combination with AAUW of Maryland  
At the October 21 State Conference  
To be held at the Park View Club Room, Asbury Village

#### The local Logistics Committee:

- Liz Hessel
- Terry Medlar
- Carol Plummer
- Heather Reichardt
- Maria Roberts
- Judy Sholes

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**- Heather Reichardt**

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope everyone had a good summer, whether travelling or just relaxing, or doing lots of both. Fortunately, I was able to take some great trips, including to Oxford, England, a long road trip all over North Carolina visiting family, several long beach weekends, and a great trip to Scotland and Ireland over the Labor Day weekend. Now it's back to work with AAUW, and I'm looking forward to that.

That's not to say that AAUW activities stopped in the summer for some of us. In June, I attended the AAUW National Convention in Washington, D.C. This was my first AAUW convention, and I enjoyed it. Look for an article about it in the next Marylander. And several members of our new Board of Directors, as well as myself, attended the summer training session in Frederick, Maryland, at the end of July. This excellent gathering included a frank talk from the new AAUW CEO, Kimberly Churches. Her focus on the important aspects of AAUW's mission was impressive. She hopes to make some drastic changes at the national level while still keeping members' concerns in mind. Keep an eye on the AAUW website for new agenda items she institutes.

I look forward to seeing everyone again at the next Branch meeting in September. The usual September topic features the local college stu-

dents who have benefitted directly from our scholarship funds raised with your help at the book sale. It is always inspirational to learn about the students' present journeys and how our Branch is contributing to their goals. Incidentally, we learned at the state summer training session that our book sale is one of the biggest of those held by Maryland branches. You should be very proud of your accomplishment. Female students need all the help they can get to avoid the student debt trap AAUW has so well documented.



Although a month early, I encourage all members to attend our October meeting. Not only are we hosting the Maryland AAUW fall state meeting at Asbury Village, but we will also be celebrating our Branch's 45th anniversary. If you have any stories or mementos to share at our celebration, please contact the local logistics committee. Their emails and event details are listed on page 1 of this newsletter.

All the best to everyone, and I'll see you on September 19!

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**- Carol Plummer, Vice President for Membership**

Did you know that \$46 of your national AAUW dues is tax deductible as a charitable contribution, reflecting that part of AAUW'S organization that is nonpolitical and nonprofit.

There are 18 of AAUW Gaithersburg's current 57 members who have not yet renewed for the 2017-18 year, which began July 1, 2017. Those of you who have NOT renewed were emailed an invitation to renew. If you can't find the email you may go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org), log in, click on Member-

ship (at top) and then on the left-hand side click on Join or Renew. It is important to renew so the organization (national, state, branch) has the funds needed to operate. Let me know if you have any questions.

Carol

## AND THE LOBBY CORPS GOLD STAR GOES TO...

The following email, with the above subject line, was sent out to a wide list by Pam Yuen, government relations coordinator at national AAUW:

"...Edie Allison and Mary Zane! AAUW staff just received an email from the chief of staff representing the office of Rep. Robert Brady (D-PA-01) confirming that the Member is signing on as a cosponsor of the Pay Equity for All Act. Their office has already reached out to Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton's office to indicate their support and will continue filing the necessary paperwork to ensure that they're on the bill. They (literally) emailed AAUW staff to say (Edie and Mary's) mission has been accomplished.

"These are the little but important wins we'd like to personally acknowledge. We commend Edie and Mary for a successful week but

acknowledge everyone for your continued dedication and hard work--it eventually pays off! Congratulations Edie and Mary on a job well done!"

Edie Allison is a member of the Gaithersburg Branch and Mary Zane is a member of the Reston-Herndon Branch. As is the pattern for the Lobby Corps, they partnered in targeting Rep. Brady's office, on June 29, following their briefing by AAUW. As Edie says, "Half the fun is that I get to visit congressional offices with a different Lobby Corps participant each week." If you are interested in joining Lobby Corps in this consequential work, Maria Roberts can guide you.



### OUTLOOK IS GOING DIGITAL!

Starting with the summer 2017 issue, AAUW national's Outlook magazine will be going digital. You'll still get the same insight about the issues that affect women and girls the most, but with more content. Make sure AAUW national has your preferred email address on file, and look out for



### EVENTS AT OTHER BRANCHES

You might be interested in attending the Kensington-Rockville Branch meeting on Saturday, September 16. Dr. Catherine Hill will speak on "Why College is More Expensive for Women."

Dr. Hill is a former vice president of national AAUW and the author of many AAUW reports on women's pay inequities. The event will take place at the Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## BOOK SALE

### - *Liz Hessel, Book Sales Chair*

Looking forward to our 2018 Book Sale, the sale dates are March 22 – 24th. Please note these dates on your calendar, and be sure to set aside time to help set up and complete the sorting for the sale between March 16 – 20th.

We collect and organize books, CDs and DVDs year round and are looking for members to volunteer to help with activities between now and March. Specifically, we are looking for help with publicity, as well as sorting and organizing over the coming months. Some members work to organize just one category between now and the book sale. For instance, Cathy Manning sepa-

rates Children's books, Jane Carroll organizes Foreign Language donations. Would you be willing to help organize one category into subcategories between now and next March? We are looking for members who have an interest in History, Science/Math, Social Science, Religion, or Literature or another subject of your interest. To volunteer to help with the book sale in these areas or any other of your interest, contact Liz Hessel at [liz@meral.com](mailto:liz@meral.com).



One of these characters is our president Heather Reichardt visiting Oxford, England. Please don't send back the wrong one to lead our Branch.

## AGNES

### Commemorating the 45th Anniversary of Our Founding

There it was, this old box, sitting there and, curiously, someone had scrawled "Agnes" on it. So, it was opened. Inside were old records--the founding papers of our Gaithersburg Branch! But why "Agnes?" Here is the story.

The Gaithersburg Gazette carried this notice: "Local AAUW to be formed....Women college graduates are invited to attend an organizational and get-acquainted meeting of the Gaithersburg Branch of AAUW on Wednesday, June 21, 1972, at 8 p.m. at the Gaithersburg High School."

Then Hurricane Agnes came, the costliest hurricane to hit the U.S. up to that time in recorded history. Perhaps the Gaithersburg women continued their work for a while despite the storm. Perhaps they then frantically stashed their papers in the box, hurriedly scrawled "Agnes" on it in homage, and scampered home to seek shelter.

In any case, after the turmoil, on July 12, a second meeting was held at the high school. Then on Septem-

ber 27, 1972, at 8 p.m. at Governors Square Community Room on Muddy Branch Road, AAUW Gaithersburg Branch was officially chartered. Mary Schlager, who had initiated the founding meetings, was elected the first president. Among the founding members who are still members of the Branch were Anna Fraker, Susan Schlager Geiger and Mina Parsont.



We were born in the indignant rage of a hurricane but (to paraphrase) "nevertheless we persisted" in fighting for equity.

We are the daughters of Agnes.



Secretary Barbara Garrard, Vice President for Membership Carol Plummer, Treasurer Edie Allison, and President Heather Reichardt at the AAUW of Maryland Summer Leadership Conference in Frederick on July 29





Sorting (and Pretty) N Pink. Edie Allison, Elizabeth Schwartz and Barbara Brooks in their new pink-accented gear for sorting books at the transfer station. In addition to the hard hats, safety glasses, and vests, they even have pink safety shoes, which

## GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinator**



The next meeting of the Great Decisions Group will be at the home of Anita Taylor, Apartment T1 of the Park View Building at Asbury Village at 2:30 p.m., September 27.

The topic for discussion is "Latin Ameri-

ca's Political Pendulum." Jean Kosow will be the discussion leader.

New members are always welcome. For information call Mary Wykes.

## LITERATURE GROUP



The next meeting of the Literature Group will be on Saturday, September 23, at 10 a.m. Selections for the year will have been made at the August 26 meeting and, therefore, not

available for this newsletter printing.

New members are always welcome. Please call Jean Young, coordinator, if you are interested in joining the group this coming year.

## HERSTORY INTEREST GROUP

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

The HerStory Interest Group decided to now focus on remarkable modern women. Each of us will introduce a person of significance and influence.

On September 6, we'll continue with study of modern women in power as Dorothy Camara tells the remarkable story of Aung San Sun Kyi, who for a long time led to opening doors to government participation for Burmese citizens.

The October 4 meeting at which Maria Roberts was to discuss Janet Yellen may be changed, but that will not be known until the group meets on September 6. Please be sure to check the newsletter for that month.

And on November 1, Mary Wykes will bring us more information about Angela Merkel. We'll not meet in December, but will start the new year on January 3.

For anyone wanting to join us, consider bringing background on Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Oprah Winfrey, Christine Madeleine Odette Lagarde, Melinda Ann Gates, Teresa May, Elizabeth Warren, Maria Corazon Sumulong Cojuangco-Aquino--or others as you choose.

As you will remember, we meet on the first Monday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at the Asbury Park View Club Room. Call Anita Taylor for more information. On GPS, use 301 Odenhal Avenue for the address or you will be directed to a not workable address.

### AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

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

*Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.*

#### **President**

*Heather Reichardt*

#### **Co-Vice Presidents for Program**

*Marilyn O'Connell*

*Judy Sholes*

#### **Vice President for Membership**

*Carol Plummer*

#### **Treasurer**

*Edie Allison*

#### **Secretary**

*Barbara Garrard*

#### **Appointed Members of the Board**

*Anna Fraker*

*Liz Hessel*

*Maria Roberts*

#### **Newsletter Editor**

*Qing Jiang*

#### **Newsletter Coordinator**

*Dorothy Camara*

## **AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events**

HerStory Interest Group	Wednesday, September 6 - 2:30 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting	Tuesday, September 12 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, September 19 - 7 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, September 23 - 10 a.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, September 27 - 2:30 p.m.
HerStory Interest Group	Wednesday, October 4 - 2:30 p.m.
HOLD THIS DATE: Md. State Conference & 45th Anniversary Celebration	Saturday, October 21

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