



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

April 2016

April Events

BRANCH MEETING AND ELECTION

April 19

(Please note: The date printed in the Branch Brochure is incorrect.)

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

Gaithersburg Library - Room 1

"Creating Your Clear and Bright Path to a Career in STEM: The Key Elements"

Join the Conversation with Women in Science

The April 19 Branch meeting at 7 p.m. at the Gaithersburg Library will highlight the careers of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and in science education.

Since 1881, through scholarships and grants, research, programming, and advocacy, AAUW has encouraged women to study and work in STEM fields. From local science camps and conferences, through groundbreaking research reports, AAUW has a long history of breaking through barriers for women and girls. This year, the Gaithersburg Branch of AAUW will host a panel to share their thoughts and ideas on creating clear and bright paths to a career in STEM fields. We will broadly discuss the opportunities and challenges for women in STEM fields and the pathways to achieving goals. It promises to be an enlightening, engaging, and energizing event.

The panelists will be Sharon Altman, Ph.D., staff scientist and virologist at MRIGlobal; Jillian Wendt, Ed.D., assistant professor of science education at the University of the District of Columbia; and Amy Belton, Ph.D., biomedical life scientist at Leidos Health. The moderator will be Amanda Pertzborn, Ph.D., mechanical engineer at NIST.

Following the program there will be a short business meeting at which time the membership will vote for officers for the 2016-17 year. The nominees for office are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

BOARD MEETING

April 12 - 7 P.M.

Hefner Conference Room

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will meet on April 12 at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. All members are invited to participate.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Heather Reichardt

We had a stimulating presentation at our March Branch meeting by the representative from the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County and the official from the county Board of Elections. Although the voting machine that was to demonstrate the latest voting process was not available, we did get a lot of information about how elections are managed in Maryland, as well as about the upcoming changes in the process, not only from the speakers but from our own Liz Hessel, who will be a judge at her polling place on election day.

One comment from the meeting that stuck with me was the suggestion to take a child with you when you vote; that is the best way to encourage a voting habit later in life. Both my children are now registered voters, so I'm looking forward to having them participate with me on election day! I don't need to remind anyone how important it is to vote.

As I mentioned at the meeting, please continue to keep Anita Taylor and Louise Chatlynne in your thoughts and prayers as they both continue to work toward recovery from their serious medical issues and injuries. We hope to see them at a future meeting sooner rather

than later.

It's hard to believe it will soon be a year since I was installed as the Gaithersburg Branch president. It has been a busy time for me, meeting members and learning how the Branch does such great work. One of the secrets to our success is the dedication and knowledge that the executive board and many members have regarding the processes needed to keep everything going. I am so grateful for everyone's support over the past year, especially when I learned about my job changes; and when I've had to travel for work everything keeps chugging along regardless of where I am! As members, you should be very proud of your hard work and accomplishments.

That said, I commend to you the slate of officers nominated for next year. Please check the names proposed elsewhere in the newsletter and make your voice heard at the April meeting.



You will be interested in attending the SENIOR FORUM at Asbury Village in the community rooms in the Rosborough Community Center on Friday, April 8.

Initiating the event will be a resource fair from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., focusing on a wide range of service providers available to seniors. The main program follows from 10:30 to 12 and will focus on protecting seniors from scams, addressing signs of elder abuse and neglect, and promoting ways that seniors can contribute to the community through volunteering.

The speakers will be John McCarthy, state's attorney, Montgomery County; Eric Friedman, director, Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection; and Kathleen Meaney Stobie, director, RSVP Program, Montgomery County Volunteer Center.

This is a free event.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Anna Fraker (chair), Patsy Marks and Terry Medlar

The nominating committee reports that the following have agreed to run for office for 2016-17.

President: Heather Reichardt

Co-Vice President for Program: Carolyn Fisher and Marilyn O'Connell

Vice President for Membership: Barbara Garrard

Treasurer: Terry Medlar

Recording Secretary: Marybeth Morsink

Corresponding Secretary: Jane Carroll

The election will be held at the April Branch meeting. Other nominations may be made from the floor at that time providing the persons nominated have agreed to serve.

We appreciate the willingness of the nominees to serve the Branch in these positions. Thanks to those who will not be returning to their former positions: Marilyn O'Connell, who served as vice president for membership for four years, and Anita Taylor for serving as co-vice president for program for three years, as well as in many other duties.

HEARING FROM OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Dear Generous Donor,

My name is Renee A. Mbye nee Blaine, I am originally from Gambia, West Africa and I came to the United States 27 years ago to obtain my higher education. I was enrolled in MC until my father had his first heart attack and I had to go back to The Gambia to help with his day to day schedule, as well as my monitor his health and medication. When he was stable and I returned to the United States, I got married and moved to Missouri shortly after. At this point I decided it was more important to take care of my new hybrid family in this new environment than completing my credits towards my college degree. I have three daughters, ages 25, 15, and 14 years, my oldest daughter is a double major graduate with honors from Duke University and now she's working full-time and also preparing to take the GRE in November; my middle one currently goes to Seneca Valley High in the learning disability program and she also suffers seizure disorder, my last daughter graduated from Robert Clemente Middle School with Honors last school year and she's a freshman in Northwest High School.

While it took me a while to return back to school, my growth and maturity throughout the years have helped me develop in ways that could not be taught in a classroom. Furthermore, I know that the skills that I learned in my earlier college pursuits were not forgotten and it helped with my growth outside of college, especially in raising my daughters. Now that my daughters are growing and learning to take care of themselves, I feel it is important to 'practice what I preach'. I have always preached the importance of Education to my daughters, and af-

ter being a stay at home mother for the past 16 years, and recently divorced from my husband, I know this the perfect time for me to focus on myself again, as well as, the opportunities that can be afforded to me with completing my college education. I have always valued the power of education, but these past two years I have experienced the difficulty of obtaining a job without a college degree. Furthermore, I have realized that it is important for me to not only find a job but a career that I can continue to grow and prosper in. I know that this venture in my life is in the door I walked away from when I happily started my family.

While it has been quite a hurdle transitioning back into academia, myself as my biggest critic, my hope from the beginning of this journey is to prove not only to myself that I am capable, at my age, of completing my degree, but also to the many that have doubted me. My goal is to surpass the expectations presented to me in my coursework. This ambition and drive is something that I have instilled in my daughters for so long that they remain the strength I need to get through this. It is with this ambition that I hope to persevere in not only applying my acquired skills to succeed the certification exams; but also, eventually transfer to University of Maryland to further my education in the Cybersecurity and Computer Networking program.

Sincerely,
Renee Mbye

BOOK SALE HELP NEEDED APRIL 28 TO MAY 8

- Liz Hessel, Book Sales Chair

The book sale is approaching quickly, marketing is underway and we are lining up volunteers to help with the preparations as well as the on-site book sorting and organizing. The on-site book sale activities span from Thursday, April 28, to Monday, May 9. We hope each member can participate for at least 12 or more hours. Last year our members volunteered about 500 hours on site. We also had the assistance of about 100 high school, middle school and college students who performed over 1,000 hours of volunteer time.

Please set aside time on your calendar to volunteer as many hours as possible between April 28 and May 8. If you are unable to help on-site during the sale, consider making a cash donation to help offset expenses. Marilyn O'Connell and Barbara Garrard will be contacting members soon to sign up. We also welcome your friends to volunteer.

The on-site work at Asbury begins in Arcadia Place on Thursday, April 28, when we will sort the books most recently collected. If you have more books to donate, be sure to bring them in by April 28. On the next day we plan to sort about 60 boxes of history books into subcategories so that they are ready to be displayed. Our book sale has the reputation for being well organized and comprehensive.

On Friday morning, April 29, the Asbury staff will set up over 50 tables in the Community Rooms for us to display the books. AAUW members will put signs on the tables to mark the category locations. In the meantime, a moving company will bring in about 900 boxes of books.

Around 3 p.m. high school, middle school and college volunteers begin to arrive. The middle and high school students earn Student Service Learning hours for their service. AAUW members

help the students learn how to sort, organize and display the books. Many students enjoy the activity so much that they return many days. The sorting will continue until Tuesday, May 3. Categories are sorted into subcategories to make it easier for customers to find books. The student volunteer hours must be carefully recorded, so we need one or two AAUW members to help students sign in and be sure their time is properly documented. For members who have difficulty walking and standing this is a perfect activity.



On Wednesday, May 4, we have a private sale open to Asbury residents and associates. We open to the public at 9 a.m. on Thursday, May 5, when we expect over 50 book dealers to be lined up to rush in. We expect several hundred customers before the day ends at 8 p.m. Because we have so many customers, we need a lot of help from members and volunteers, both as cashiers and to help straighten out books. On Friday we are again open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Books are sold by set prices (\$3 for hardbacks, \$2 for paperbacks) on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, then on Saturday we have the popular "Bag Day," allowing customers to fill a paper grocery bag with books for only \$10. Then the sale ends at 4 p.m.

Over these twelve days, we put in many hours to assure we have a successful sale. A side benefit is providing an opportunity for good fellowship with other members and with volunteers. But, in the fall, when we meet the students who have received scholarships from our book sale receipts, we know that the hard work was well worth it. Please join us.

APRIL 12 IS EQUAL PAY DAY

Women, on average you had to work up to April 12 to earn what the average man had earned by last December 31.

Is this your favorite holiday?

GREAT DECISIONS

- *Charlotte Fischer, Coordinator*



The Great Decisions Group will meet at the home of Mary Wykes, 18900 Diary Road, Montgomery Village, on Tuesday, April 26, from 2:30 to 4. The topic to be dis-

cussed is "The Future of Kurdistan," and it will be led by Joan Read. Refreshments will be served before the discussion. The schedule for the rest of the year will be determined at the meeting.



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

LITERATURE GROUP

- *Mary Wykes*



There will be two meetings of the Literature Group in April. On Saturday, April 2, at 10 a.m., we will meet at Jean Kosow's home at Apartment 501, 419 Russell Avenue, Asbury Village, 301-216-5475, to discuss "Orphan Train" by Christina Baker Kline--"A lovely novel about the search for family that also happens to illuminate a fascinating and forgotten chapter of American history. Beautiful." (Ann Packer.)

On Saturday, at 10 a.m., April 30, we will meet at Jean Young's home in the Villas at 592 Russell Avenue, Asbury Village, 301-216-5599, to discuss "The Heart of Everything That Is: The Untold Story of Red Cloud, An American Legend" by Bob Drury and Tom Clavin. In this book, the New York Times bestselling authors restore Red Cloud to his rightful place in American history in a sweeping

and dramatic narrative based on years of primary research. It is a stirring chronicle of the expanding white civilization and the Plains Indians who stood in its way. This book finally gives Red Cloud the modern-day recognition he deserves

To enable members to get the book selection early, the title of the May selection is "Mr. and Mrs. Madison's War" by Hugh Howard. We will meet then at the home of Mary Eaton at 28 Maryland Avenue, Gaithersburg, on Saturday, May 28, at 10 a.m.

Light refreshments are served before our discussion - all members are welcome even if they haven't had a chance to read the book being discussed. Come and enjoy shared fellowship with other Branch members.

HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP

- *Anita Taylor, Coordinator*

The April meeting of the HerStory Group has been cancelled and will be re-scheduled in the fall of 2016. En-

joy your summer and see you in the fall.



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

AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

Literature Group	Saturday, April 2 - 10 a.m.
Board Meeting	Tuesday, April 12 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, April 19 - 7 p.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, April 26 - 2:30 p.m.
AAUW of Md. State Convention	Saturday, April 30
Literature Group	Saturday, April 30 - 10 a.m.
Hold This Date:	
Book Sale	May 5-7, 2016

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