



# AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

October 2012



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

### October Events

BRANCH MEETING  
40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
October 13 - 11:30-2:30  
Ingleside at King Farm

By now all of you should have received your invitation to our 40th Anniversary Celebration luncheon scheduled for Saturday, October 13, at Ingleside at King Farm from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thanks to Marilyn Leist, we will have an attractive and charming venue and a lovely lunch. The \$23 price of the luncheon includes: valet parking, light appetizers, salad or soup, a choice of one of the three entrees available, dessert, and coffee. We are fortunate to have Anna Fraker, an AAUW Gaithersburg Branch charter member; Maryland state senator Jennie Forehand; former AAUW of Maryland president and national board member Dian Belanger; and AAUW of Maryland president Pat Stocker all speaking at our luncheon. Please remember to register by October 5. Join us at Ingleside on October 13. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with all of you.

BOARD MEETING  
October 8 - 7 P.M.

The AAUW Gaithersburg Branch's next Board meeting will be on Monday, October 8, at 7 p.m. The meeting is, as usual, in the conference room of the Hefner Building at Asbury. All Branch members are welcome to participate and to add your voice.

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## THE CO-PRESIDENT'S BLOG

- Mary Wykes

While my co-president Terry Medlar is enjoying her visit in Spain with her daughter and family, I will again share with you a few of my thoughts and, since it is now 55 minutes before the deadline for submission to Dorothy, I will try not to ramble too much. Our new year is off to a great start thanks to the hard work of Sue Woodruff in putting the program together and Edie Allison for producing the eye-catching hot pink brochure.

Our gourmet Spanish tapas dinner at Jean and Roland Hirsch's home on Saturday evening, September 15, was lots of fun. Roland's paella was fabulous, as were all the tapas; and the flan dessert made by the Hirsch's daughter Betsy was a perfect ending to the meal. Betsy and her three children were staying with Jean and Roland for a while before joining their husband and father in Vienna, Austria, where they will live for four years while he is on assignment at the UN in the Spent Fuel Division. The children were delightful dinner companions and also helped their grandparents with serving and clearing the tables. We hope some of our other members will be tempted by my description of our wonderful meals and want to join the group. We are always looking for new members. The next dinner will be at my home in Montgomery Village.

Despite the inclement weather on Tuesday and the off-schedule date for our first Branch meeting, we had a wonderful turnout. Liz Clark Hessel introduced the students who had been awarded scholarships by our Branch at a very interesting panel discussion. They told our members what our support meant to them. Two of the women had attended the NCCWSL conference at the University of Maryland in June. Four of the women had won academic scholarships. Most of the panel members were in fields of study underrepresented by women, such as bioengineering, simulation and digital entertainment, construction management, civil engineering, and biotechnology. Two of the panel members were immigrants from other countries. There were many questions from the audience and we all felt like the efforts our Branch has made to raise funds for scholarships for women and girls was well worthwhile, and I think it gave us great inspiration to continue. We welcomed Bill Schlossenberg from USG and Kris Borcharding from Montgomery College, Germantown, both of whom work closely with Liz Clark Hessel in helping find worthy students for scholarships.

We had an interesting discussion of our new book of study for the Women's Herstory group, *American*

*Women: 400 Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates, and Heroines*, by Gail Collins, covering the first five chapters and bringing us up to 1800. It was pretty depressing to think of the difficult life of the early women settlers and the short life spans of most. One of the topics of discussion in the early chapters was the Salem witch hunts--a terrible era in our early history.



I am wondering if any of you read the recent e-mail called AAUW Fund Facts - Vol. 6, Issue 2. I highly recommend you take a look at it if you haven't seen it. The website is <http://www.aauw.org/images/DL>. The article is written by Diane B. Ludwig, CFRE, chair, AAUW National Fundraising Committee of the St. Louis, Missouri, branch. One thing that jumped out at me from her e-mail was this:

AAUW was recently recognized as a top charity by the Huffington Post, Charity Navigator, and GreatNonprofits, the latter organization saying AAUW is a top-rated women's empowerment organization! GreatNonprofits catalogs and shares reviews of nonprofit organizations around the world. The website allows the public to post stories about, and rate their experiences with, nonprofits and to find out more about the organizations they are interested in supporting.

Also, if you want to donate to the AAUW by giving \$130 or more to celebrate our 130th anniversary year, you will receive a special limited-edition copy of Lilly Ledbetter's new book while supplies last, *Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay at Goodyear and Beyond*. This unique hardcover copy, designed and printed for AAUW, includes a special note from Ledbetter thanking you, her AAUW friends, as well as including a copy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's bench decision in the Ledbetter case. It is not available for purchase anywhere and is sure to become a collector's item, according to Diane Ludwig. Weren't you all proud of Lilly Ledbetter when she spoke at the recent Democratic convention? I was.

Hope to see you all at the luncheon on October 13 when we celebrate our 40th anniversary! Sue Woodruff and her committee have been doing a great job getting the program together, I hope it will be as beautiful a day as the day my husband and I were married on October 13, 1956, in Evanston, Illinois.

## INTERBRANCH UPDATE

### - Louise Chatlynne, Interbranch Representative

The Montgomery County Interbranch is co-sponsoring the following programs for 2012-13.

1. League of Women Voters School Board Candidates Forum at the Wheaton Library on October 29 at 6 p.m. Please attend and make this a success.
2. Women's Legislative Briefing (WLB), on Sunday, January 27, 2013, at 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Legislation affecting women at the county, state, and national levels will be discussed. Political figures will be in attendance.
3. Sonya Kovalevsky Program (SK) on October 27. Montgomery College received a very large grant for this program, and the program has been expanded to five events throughout the

year that will target a cohort from throughout the county of eighth-grade girls at risk of not taking science and math in high school. IB will be supplying volunteers to help the programs run smoothly.



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch members are urged to participate in all the above events. More information about WLB and SK will be provided as the time for these events draws closer. We will definitely need volunteers at Montgomery College on October 27 from 9 to 12:30 to help with check-in and the smooth running of the first SK program. Contact Louise Chatlynne.

## "AGNES" AND THE BIRTH OF OUR BRANCH

### - Dorothy Camara

Rain was flooding parts of Maryland and in Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York--about 14 inches over the three days from June 20 to 24 in 1972. Over \$3 billion of damage was estimated, more than 100 dwellings were destroyed, roads and bridges and crops heavily damaged. Sixteen people died.

Twenty-eight intrepid women met at Gaithersburg High School, and the storm raged. They worked on the details and founded our Branch.

Then they put their founding documents in a box and labeled it "Agnes." And our Branch was born, with Hurricane Agnes as our muse.

You must come to the Anniversary Celebration on October 13 to share our story and to share our joy in our founding and in our 40 years of achievement.

*[Information on Hurricane Agnes from The Washington Post.]*

## PROGRAMS REPORT

### - Sue Woodruff, Vice President for Programs

Our 2012-13 AAUW Gaithersburg Branch program brochures are now available. Please make sure you get one. The brochure was printed in what I like to call "powerful pink"! Thank you to Edie Allison for getting the brochures printed in such a timely fashion. I was

able to secure speakers for many of the program titles that were suggested to me at our year-end picnic; it looks like we'll have a stimulating year!

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS INSPIRE THE BRANCH MEETING

### - Dorothy Camara, Recording Secretary

A young woman who wants to be a bioengineer. Others who want to be an accountant, to work in simulation and digital entertainment, another in biotechnology, and others in civil engineering, construction engineering, and biological science.

Stephani Nkatchou comes from Cameroon and is a student leader at Montgomery College, Germantown. Mai Dinh comes from Vietnam and attends Montgomery College, Rockville. Mandi Parker attends the University of Baltimore. Lidia Flores attends Montgomery College, Rockville, Stephanie Kabongo comes from the Democratic Republic of Congo and attends Montgomery College. Nathalie Valle also attends Montgomery College. Gaelle Kengne, who goes to the Universities at Shady Grove, is also a recipient but was unable to attend the meeting.

These young women each told their individual

stories, touching on their backgrounds, their aspirations, and the obstacles they faced in reaching for careers in nontraditional roles. They left our Branch members inspired by their spirit and determination to pursue their dreams.



The funds for these scholarships, which are targeted toward fields where women are traditionally underrepresented, come from the year-long hard work of our Branch members in sorting, carting, and selling books. Special thanks go to Liz Hessel for coordinating this project and for coordinating the scholarship awards with the universities. And don't forget those elves who work on the books all year round at the transfer station, sometimes in grueling conditions such as last summer's heat.



2012 scholarship recipients at our Branch meeting

Left to Right:

Stephanie Kabongo, Stephanie Nkatchou, Mai Dinh, Mandi Parker, Lidia Flores and Nathalie Valle.

## SOME NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

**-Mary Wykes**

Marion Plumb has a new address: Edenton Assisted Living, 5905 Edenton Court, apartment 709, Federick MD 21703, phone 240-439-4277. Marion would appreciate visits or calls from her friends. She has moved from Edwards-Fisher at Asbury to Frederick to be closer to her son in Jefferson.

Gail Feingold is a new member in our Branch. She lives at 19920 Bramble Bush Drive, Gaithersburg 20879, phone 301-926-2252. Gail is a realtor at Weichert, Realtors, and a former teacher and florist. She is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island and has done

graduate work at the University of Maryland. She has been a national member for some time and visited our Branch last year for our holiday party. We welcome her to our Branch membership.



Welcome also to Jonice Adams as a new member. Jonice has a B.S. in microbiology from UDC and is a former co-worker at NIST of several of our members.

## Women's Herstory Interest Group

**- Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

The October gathering of the HerStory interest group will be on Wednesday 24th at 2:30 at the home of Anita Taylor..

We will continue discussion of Gail Collins' *American Women: 400 Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates and Heroines* by attending to the years between the struggle for independence through the Civil War. Chapters 5 - 10 of the book cover this period--which includes the establishment of the new nation, beginning of expansion to the west, the abolition movement, and the beginning of the woman suffrage movement. Mary Wykes will lead the discussion, but we hope that all participants will at least scan the pages covered.

In September we covered the colonial period of American history, being reminded of Margaret Brent of St. Mary's County, who is considered America's first woman lawyer--and the first to petition for the vote for a woman. We saw how periods of crisis, especially when survival is doubtful, destabilize gender roles and offer opportunities for many women to

take control over their lives, and how fundamental misunderstandings the Europeans had of the indigenous population cost many lives among both the Indians and the settlers. We saw vividly how difficult were the lives of the colonists.



Montgomery County libraries have three copies of the book, although not housed at Lakeforest or Quince Orchard, so if you are interested in using a library copy you'll want to file in advance a request for it to be picked up at the location nearest you. You can do that electronically. Kindle and other e-book editions are available for \$10.99, and used paperback copies are widely available, beginning at \$2.00 (with \$3.99 shipping).

Call Anita Taylor with questions or for directions.



## Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

### MLAW's Fall Agenda Conference October 20, 2012

#### *Harnessing the Power of Grassroots Organizing: How to use social media and other mobilizing tactics to advance political change*

The MLAW [fall agenda conference](#) will be held on **Saturday, October 20, 2012** from 9:30am to 1:00pm at the [Maryland Women's Heritage Center](#) in Baltimore, MD.

This year's conference will focus on using social media in our grassroots lobbying efforts. To date we are excited to confirm two speakers: **Carrie Evans** from [Equality Maryland](#) and **Martha Baker** from the [New York Paid Leave Coalition](#).

Other conference highlights include the presentation of **legislative proposals** for the upcoming 2013 legislative session, the presentation of our **Legislative Leadership award**. An optional **Advocacy 101 workshop** will be held from 1:30 pm to 3:00pm. The Maryland Women's Heritage Center provides the perfect setting for our conference and attendees will have the opportunity to explore the center and view the exhibits.

Registration fees for the conference are as follows: \$30 - conference only (includes continental breakfast); \$20 student rate, conference only (includes continental breakfast), \$45 - conference, advocacy workshop (includes continental breakfast and lunch). Sponsorship opportunities are available and encouraged.

For more information, call [443-519-1005](tel:443-519-1005) or email [mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com](mailto:mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com) or visit our website at [www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org/2012-fall-conference/](http://www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org/2012-fall-conference/)

*The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women's groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent, voice for Maryland women and families. The group advocates for progressive legislation and policy that promotes and protects the well being of Maryland women and their families and provides them opportunities to develop their full potential.*

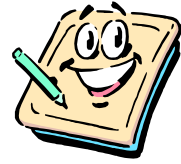
Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women  
c/o 305 W. Chesapeake Avenue #201  
Towson, Maryland 21204

## Gourmet Group

- **Jean Friedmann, Coordinator**

Mary Wykes is planning on providing a gourmet experience in October, on the 20th, at 7 p.m. at her home. Deep thought is going into this plan, and when the final version is formed,

we will all share a sensational delight with Mary!



Co-president  
Mary Wykes

Co-president  
Terry Medlar

Vice President for  
Programs  
Sue Woodruff

Vice President for  
Membership  
Marilyn O'Connell

Treasurer  
Marilyn Leist

Recording Secretary  
Dorothy Camara

Corresponding Secretary  
Louise Chatlyne

Newsletter Editor  
Qing Jiang

## Literature Group

- **Bea Carasso, Coordinator**



The Literature Group will hold its next meeting on Saturday, October 27 at 10:00 a.m.

Since our September meeting is on the 29th, we don't yet know at whose house the October meeting will take place

nor our first book selection. This will be decided at that meeting and the information will be sent on to you as soon as possible. At that time, we will also plan our meeting and reading schedules for the whole year so that the information will be available for future newsletters.

## GREAT DECISIONS

- **Vivian Otto, Coordinator**

The Great Decisions group will meet on Tuesday, October 23, at Dorothy Camara's apartment at 7 p.m. Leading the discussion on "Indonesia" will be Mary Wykes. Indonesia emerged from authoritarianism in the last 15 years and has made remarkable economic,

social and political strides. But it still faces considerable challenges. Our discussion will explore these challenges and also Indonesia's role in the global community. We welcome members and friends.



## **AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events**

Board Meeting	Monday, October 8 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting: Anniversary Celebration	Saturday, October 13 - 11:30-2:30 p.m.
Md. Legislative Agenda for Women	October 20 - 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Newsletter Deadline	Saturday, October 20 - 6 p.m.
Gourmet Group	Saturday, October 20, 7 p.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, October 23 - 7 p.m.
Women's Herstory	Wednesday, October 24 - 2:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, October 27 - 10 a.m.
Sandra Kovalevsky Day	Saturday, October 27
League of Women Voters Forum	Monday, October 29 - 6 p.m.
Hold this date:	
Women's Legislative Briefing	Tuesday, January 27 - 9 a.m.— 4 p.m.

The American Association of University Women  
Gaithersburg Branch  
401 Russell Ave.,  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877