



Empowering Women
Since 1881

AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

March 2017

March Events

BRANCH MEETING & ELECTION

Tuesday, March 21

7 P.M. Meet & Greet - 7:30 P.M. Program

Community Room, Rosborough Center, Asbury

Featuring Dr. Heidi Hartmann, Feminist Economist

Dr. Heidi Hartmann is founder and president of the Washington-based Institute for Women's Policy Research, an organization created to conduct woman-centered public policy research with the goal of strengthening families, communities and societies. IWPR's research data help influence the legislative priorities of numerous advocacy organizations, including AAUW's public policy arm.

Dr. Hartmann also serves as a research professor at George Washington University and is the editor of the Journal of Women, Politics & Policy. She is a graduate of Swarthmore College and earned her Ph.D. degree from Yale University. Before founding IWPR she taught at Yale and the New School for Social Research, later working at the U.S. Commission for Civil Rights, the National Academy of Science and the Census Bureau. She is the author of numerous research papers and books, including the enticingly titled *The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism*. She has been awarded a McArthur Genius Fellowship and honored with several honorary degrees.

The Tuesday, March 21, meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Rosborough Center at Asbury Methodist Village. It will begin with the usual social time, with refreshments, at 7 p.m. followed by Dr. Hartmann's talk at 7:30 p.m.

After Dr. Hartmann's talk we will have the election of officers for the 2017-18 year. You will find the names and brief biographies of the nominees elsewhere

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Community Room, Hefner Building

Tuesday, March 14 - 7 P.M.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of AAUW Gaithersburg will be on Tuesday, March 14, at 7 p.m., in the Community Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury. The meetings are open to all members of the Branch.

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JOIN US. WE ARE SORTING BOOKS ON MARCH 21-23 AT ARCADIA PLACE, ASBURY.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- *Heather Reichardt*

Thanks so much to those who attended our February Branch meeting and brought your goodies. The potluck items were delicious and our hospitality committee, led by Jean Hirsch, managed the spread beautifully.

The speaker for the meeting was our own member Kay Rogers, giving a fascinating detailed perspective on Louisa May Alcott. Kay discussed how Alcott, a feminist, continues to inspire today's feminists with her steadfast ideas on being an independent woman. This was despite that, after *Little Women* became a success, she was forced to write novels and stories that conformed to the cultural norms and standards of behavior for women. As I mentioned at the meeting, I really relate to Jo, the main character in *Little Women*, since she was a tomboy! I like to think I still am.

I am so inspired by our Branch members, and Kay proved inspiring. I did not realize the extent of her body of work until Mary Wykes introduced her. The diversity of her publications include invertebrate creatures, the creator of the Wizard of Oz stories, a history of pork, as well as cats and dogs! All her books are available on Amazon.com.

Tonight I am attending the Women's March on Annapolis. I will represent everyone in the Branch in our efforts to empower women and girls in Maryland and beyond. Many legislative bills have been introduced this year that directly impact the financial and job security of women, especially those who are hourly or pregnant workers. I hope you send emails to the delegates and senators when you receive the national AAUW Action Alerts from Louise Chatlynne.

Here are other upcoming events:

- March 5 - Women's History Month program at the Maryland Women's Heritage Center in Baltimore. Registration website: mdwhc.wildapricot.org/page18096.
- March 8 - International Women's Day. The Women's March on Washington unites with the International Women's Strike on this day. The goal is to recognize where economic justice for women and families is happening and where it is not. Fun fact: March 8 is also my birthday!
- March 16 - Maryland Women's Hall of Fame 2017 Induction. This ceremony includes Dr. Katharine B. Gebbie, a leader at

NIST, whom the Branch nominated for the Hall of Fame. Online registration is required for attend-



ance: 2017mdwomen.eventbrite.com.

- March 21 - Branch meeting with the president of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, Dr. Heidi Hartmann.
- April 7-8 - AAUW of Maryland annual convention and 75th anniversary celebration. See the Marylander newsletter for details and sign-ups.

I look forward to seeing you at these events, as well as at our Branch programs. We are fortunate to have had good ideas for Branch programs this year thanks to the co-vice presidents for program Carolyn Fisher and Marilyn O'Connell. And we've had ideas from other members, too. Keep them coming.



Kay Rogers, right, with President Heather Reichardt at the Branch meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2017-18

Mary Wykes, chair of the Nominating Committee, along with committee members Patsy Marks, Maria Roberts, and Anita Taylor, announce the following slate of nominees for office for 2017-18.

- President - Heather Reichardt
- Co-Vice Presidents for Program - Marilyn O'Connell and Judy Sholes
- Vice President for Membership - Carol Plummer
- Treasurer - Edie Allison
- Secretary - Barbara Garrard

Voting will take place at the March Branch meeting, and installation of officers will be held at the May Branch meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the March meeting (nominees must have been previously contacted and agree to have their names put forward).

Heather Reichardt, now in her second year as President, is again nominated for that position. She is the director for state and local tax and advisory for the Altus Group U.S.. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration concentrating on real estate and economics from American University, and she has a master's degree in institutional real estate investment from Johns Hopkins University. She lives in Darnestown with her husband, Mark, and two children.

Marilyn O'Connell is again nominated for the position of Co-vice President for Program in which she presently serves. Previous to that, she served for four years as vice president for membership, leading to her being named an AAUW Funds Honoree for 2015-16. She graduated from the University of Maryland with a bachelor of science degree in business administration, then worked in the personnel department of American Airlines, became active in the Auxiliary of Good Samaritan Hospital in Long Island, and oversaw the math program at the Diamond Elementary School ISM Program.

Carol Plummer is nominated for the position of Vice President for Membership. Carol has a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Delaware and a master's of business administration from the American University. She is the managing director of Spirituality for Everyday and does professional training and coaching.

Judy Sholes is nominated as a Co-vice President for Program. After graduating from college with a bachelor's degree in English, Judy followed a ca-

reer as a political analyst, manager, and, with the Inspector General's office where, among several other positions, she served as deputy inspector general for investigations. Later she was a member of the Senior Executive Service. After retirement, she held several government contracts, including one requiring the development of an executive development program for senior managers in the federal government. Among numerous volunteer activities, she was on the board of the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Washington area and a teacher of English a second language. After joining AAUW, she became involved in the Lobby Corps, book sale activities, and in the Great Decisions and literature groups.



Edie Allison, a 20-year AAUW member, is nominated as Treasurer. She recently retired from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists when that organization closed its Washington, D.C., geoscience and energy policy office. Edie is now having fun with volunteer activities, including helping with the book sale and participating in Lobby Corps. Over the years she has held a variety of both Branch as well as state positions, including past president of the Branch, state vice president for communications, and state vice president for membership. Edie has a bachelor's degree in geology from West Texas State University and a master's degree, also in geology, from the University of Utah. She worked as a petroleum geologist in Amarillo Texas, and Bartlesville, Oklahoma, before moving east to work for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Barbara Garrard is nominated for Secretary. She joined AAUW in 2015 inspired by a lecture and learning about the book sale and scholarships for women. Since joining, she has been involved in book sale activities and is the present vice president for membership. Barbara grew up in Queens, New York, and moved to the D.C. area a year after graduating from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a bachelor's degree in math. She was employed in the private sector and as a federal contractor before working for 25 years at Montgomery County government where she managed the data center, network and data security teams. She is past president and current board member of the Montgomery County Retired Employees' Association and past board member and database administrator for a Washington area genealogy society.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2017-18



Edie Allison with her daughter Lara at the Women's March on January 21. Edie is nominated for Treasurer.



Barbara Garrard, nominated for Secre-

LETTERS FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Dear Women of AAUW,

Thank you very much for the generous gift you have provided to me. Being a mother of two and deciding to return to school full time had a big financial impact on my family. This scholarship has made one more step in this process a little easier. I grew up in Damascus, MD and graduated high school from Damascus High in 2005. I went to culinary school and worked as a baker for 8 years. I then decided to pursue my original thought of becoming a chemical engineer.

When I returned to Montgomery College I had some credits previously from after graduating high school. Those credits have helped with the progress in my associate's degree. I have almost completed the requirements for the full associate's degree and will be finished in the fall of 2017. I have just been accepted to the MTAP program, which is a program through the University of Maryland College Park where you can take courses at both colleges. I am looking forward to starting classes at UMD and hopefully transferring to the Clark School of Engineering. I am hoping to also participate in an internship next year and in math club. I am also currently participating in a seminar that is discussing new studies in cancer and the immune system.

I really hope I can build a great core foundation of all STEM classes from Montgomery College before moving onto the bachelor's program. Using all resources and getting to know the professors at Montgomery College has really been an experience I have enjoyed. I hope to be able to do chemical safety testing in the future after graduating. I also am interested in pharmaceutical testing. This scholarship is making a step in this process possible and is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Allison Fuster

Dear Members of the American Association of University Women,

I am writing to thank you for your generous AAUW scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

I am a Biology major with an emphasis in physiology and neurobiology. Currently, I am a Senior taking 15 credits this semester, and plan to graduate in the Spring of 2017. After graduation, I will enter Medical School. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal.

By awarding me the AAUW scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. This semester, I have been able to become a Teaching Assistant for Physics and a Study Session Leader for Biochemistry, due to your support. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope to one day help students achieve their goals, just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,

Robin K. Denny



Book Sorting Help Needed March 21-23

- *Liz Hessel, Chair of Book Sales*

We continue to collect books every week and will sort books Tuesday, March 21 – Thursday, March 23 in Arcadia Place on the Asbury campus. When we finish sorting the boxes we have collected since November, we plan to bring the many boxes of History books from storage so that we can get them sorted into the various History subcategories. This will be a big help for the sale. If you can't stand up to sort, please come and we will give you an assignment where you can sit. We always enjoy the good fellowship of everyone as we do this sorting. Please feel free to invite your friends to join us.

We need help:

- Tuesday, March 21
10:00 am – 5 pm
- Wednesday, March 22 –
9:30 am – 5 pm
- Thursday, March 23 –
9:30 am – finish or 4 pm.



Please send Liz Hessel an e-mail (liz@meral.com) with the days and time you plan to come. If you have books that need sorting, please bring them with you.

The Book Sale is Coming!

- *Liz Hessel, Chair of Book Sales*

The Book Sale is quickly approaching on April 27 – 29 and many activities are underway to prepare. Last year we received many compliments for the good quality of the books we had and the organization of the books into categories. Both professional book dealers and just regular customers were very appreciative of our efforts.

Each year we sell about half of the books, so we could make more money for scholarships if we can lure more customers to the sale. To that end, we are looking for members to volunteer for a few hours to help advertise and publicize the sale. You can do these jobs at home and report by phone or e-mail. If you have suggestions on who to contact for any of the tasks below, send the names to Liz Hessel at liz@meral.com or 301 840-1258.

The following tasks need to be accomplished. Can you help with some of them?

- Contact local school PTAs to ask them to share information about the sale with their members.
- Contact home school networks to share book sale information. (Our area has many families that home school their children. Generally the families participate with networks of other families.)
- Contact other women's organizations asking them to share information with their members.
- Contact senior citizen organizations and living complexes asking them to share information

with their members. (Studies show that older people are more frequent book sale customers.)

- Contact organizations whose members read foreign language books (e.g. French, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, German, etc) . (Last year we had books in over 15 different languages and most book stores don't carry foreign language books.)
- Seek out organizations with Websites whose members might be interested in books. Ask the organizations to post our book sale information.
- Contact organizations that sponsor book clubs asking them to distribute our book sale information.
- Post our printed flyers on community bulletin boards in your neighborhood.
- Volunteer to help print signs needed for the tables or walls.
- Take our printed flyers to local libraries and ask to post the flyers on their bulletin boards.
- Place printed advertising in newspapers, e.g. Washington Post, Montgomery Village News, etc.



If you would like to help with these or other tasks, let Liz know about your interests! Many hands make light work.

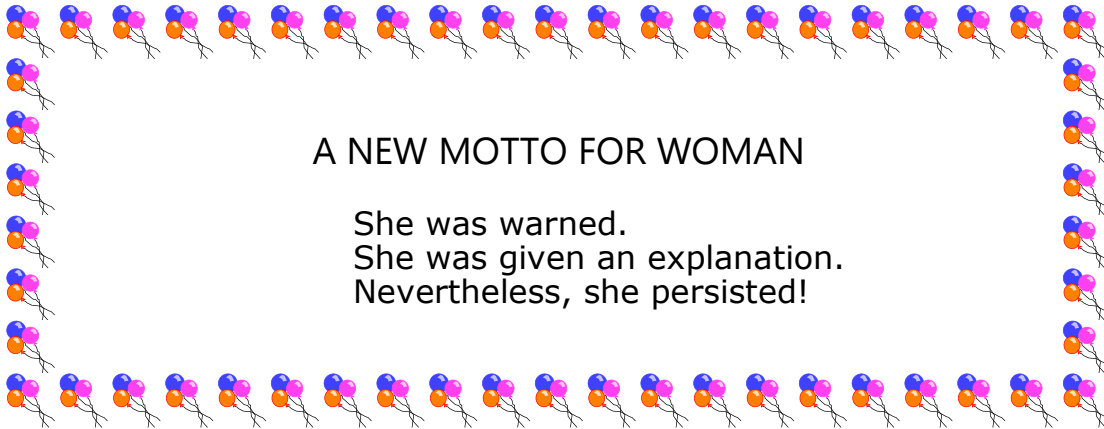
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- *Barbara Garrard, Vice President for Membership*

Welcome to Lesley Lopez as a new member of the Branch. Lesley is a public affairs professional with experience on Capitol Hill, campaigns, c-suites and newsrooms. She currently serves as the head of global communications for the U.S.-China Business Council. Most recently, she served as the director of communications for the National Immigration Forum and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Prior to her political career, Lesley was a journalist for nearly a decade, including appearing with ABC's This Week with George Stephanopoulos, BBC, CNN, America's Most Wanted and Eurovision.

Lesley is also an adjunct professor in George Washington University's Strategic Public Relations Program, where she teaches the core writing cur-

riculum. She serves on the Montgomery County Board of Social Services and on the NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland board. She is also currently a National Volunteer Partner for Girl Scouts USA and, as a domestic violence survivor, she has served on the national board of YWCA USA, one of the oldest and largest women's organizations in the nation.



A NEW MOTTO FOR WOMAN

She was warned.
 She was given an explanation.
 Nevertheless, she persisted!

GREAT DECISIONS

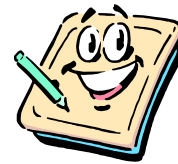
- *Mary Wykes, Coordinator*



The topic for discussion at the Great Decisions Wednesday, March 22, 2:30 p.m., meeting will be the very current and controversial topic, "Trade and Politics." We will meet at the home of Mary Wykes, 18900 Diary Road, Montgomery Village (301-948-6218, mary.wykes@aol.com). In addition to reading our new study guide chapter by Jeremy Haft, entrepreneur and Georgetown University adjunct pro-

fessor and author, on this topic, members should come prepared to discuss pertinent current articles from the newspapers.

Light refreshments will be served. New members are always welcome. If you need a study guide, please contact Mary Wykes.



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

LITERATURE GROUP



The Literature Group will meet at the home of Jane Carroll, 414 Russell Ave. (the Villas at Asbury Village, 301-216-5393, carroll5393@comcast.net)

on Saturday, March 25, at 10 a.m. Jane will lead our discussion on "The Civil Wars of Julia Ward Howe" by Elaine Showalter. This is the first biography to reveal Julia Ward Howe--the author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"--as a feminist pioneer who fought her own battle for creative freedom and inde-

pendence. The Boston Globe describes this book as "a biography with the verve and pace of a delicious novel...a polemic and a pleasure."

New members are always welcome at any of our meetings.

HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP

The March meeting of the HerStory Interest Group is/was on March 1 on the topic of Eleanor Roosevelt. For April, you will probably have forewarning, but just in case not, the women of interest will be Elizabeth (Bess) Wallace Truman and Mamie Doud Eisenhower. These women are not so far from our years that we don't have memories to share. Come and join us in doing so.

As usual, we will meet at 2:30 p.m. on April 5 in the Club Room at Park View (Building 211) at Asbury. Call Anita Taylor (240-361-3101) or write caldwelltaylor33@gmail.com for more details.



President

Heather Reichardt

*Co-Vice Presidents for
Program*

Carolyn Fisher

Marilyn O'Connell

*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

HerStory Interest Group	Wednesday, March 1 - 2:30 p.m.
Board Meeting	Tuesday, March 14 - 7 p.m.
Md. Women's Hall of Fame, Annapolis	Thursday, March 16 - 5:30 p.m.
Branch Meeting & Election	Tuesday, March 21 - 7 p.m.
Book Sorting, Arcadia Place	Tuesday, March 21 - Thursday, March 23
Great Decisions	Wednesday, March 22 - 2:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, March 25 - 10 a.m.
HerStory Interest Group	Wednesday, April 5 - 2:30 p.m.

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