



Empowering Women
Since 1881

AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

February 2018

February Events

BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, February 17

Meet & Greet 10 A.M. - Program 10:30 A.M.
Rosborough Community Center, Asbury Village
Community Rooms A & B

Featuring Connie Morella

A Personal and Political Journey through Milestones and Millstones-in Heels

We are happy to welcome Connie Morella, former congresswoman for Maryland's 8th Congressional District as our February speaker. Those of us who were around in 1987-2003 remember Connie Morella especially for her responsiveness to constituent services. She was a Republican in the House of Representatives but promulgated views sympathetic to her heavily Democratic constituency. Highly popular, she was elected to Congress seven times.

Since her time in the House, she has been the Personal Representative to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, has been appointed to the American Battle Monuments Commission, and has received numerous awards and recognitions, as well as several honorary doctorates. She is currently on the American University's faculty as an Ambassador in Residence for the Women & Politics Institute.

(Note: We will not have a potluck at this meeting as announced in our Branch brochure, but we will still have for you our usual delirium of desserts.)

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, February 13 - 7 P.M.

Community Room, Hefner Building, Asbury

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13, in the Community Room of the Hefner Community Center at Asbury Village. Branch members are always welcome to participate in these meetings.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Heather Reichardt

Dear Members and Friends,

It's hard to believe we are one month into the year 2018. We have two important events coming up, so I'm going to get right into that information.

February Branch Meeting

The details are on the front page of this newsletter, but I want to reinforce the point that we are extremely honored to have former congresswoman Connie Morella as our guest at the February Branch meeting. Most of you are familiar with her service to our area and will attend the meeting. Please bring your friends and family for this unique opportunity to hear from a true champion of women. We want to demonstrate our respect and admiration for Ms. Morella.

Book Sale - Book Sale - Book Sale

The book sale is early this year - March 22-24--and again at Asbury. We need all hands on

deck to help out between now and then with all things related to the sale. Please see Liz Hessel's article about the types of tasks needed and when.



While there will be no Branch meeting in March because of the book sale, I encourage everyone to celebrate and recognize Women's History Month in some way during the month of March: volunteer, go to a museum exhibit, go to the library to research women's history--the possibilities are endless.

Please keep our co-VP of Program in your thoughts. Marilyn O'Connell has had a back injury that will keep her on the sidelines for a little while. We hope she gets better very soon!

I look forward to seeing everyone at our book sorting days, the February meeting, and the book sale.

WE HAD A JOYOUS HOLIDAY PARTY

From the doorway, an elegant long white table--clothed table was prominent, the length of it arrayed with Christmas decorations. To the side, another table, also covered with a white table cloth, tempted with a melange of food--chicken legs, chili, macaroni and cheese, ham, scrumptious-looking dishes with no name, and desserts such as brownies, chocolates, cookies of different kinds and, we must mention, Milla Garber's mini cream puffs.

Our noble president, Heather Reichardt, easily urged us to dinner and introduced our guests. There was Jackie McConnell-- slender and tall like her mother, Marilyn--taking advantage to join us while being in town on business. Also there was "Patsy's husband," as Fred Marks likes to refer to himself. And Patsy brought Betty Hobbs, an old and close friend from the days when Gaithersburg was still a farm.

Patsy arranged for a violinist and a pianist to provide music. Mark Deyser played the violin, and Karen Reinhard accompanied him on the

piano. They played a medley of Hanukkah and Christmas songs. "O Holy Night" flowed from the violin--as sweet as an angel's kiss. And did you like the bouncing rhythm of "The Dreidel Song"? Mark and Karen then led us in a sing-along of Christmas and Hanukkah songs. We sounded like the best (especially that group sitting behind me).



But beyond this, at our holiday parties we like to remember others by making a charitable contribution. This year, we gathered contributions to benefit young victims of human trafficking. Thanks to all who opened their hearts to give.

We missed those who couldn't come to the party. But maybe these Ghosts of Christmas Future will be there the next time.

LETTER FROM A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Dear American Association of University Women,

My name is Araceli Carrillo-Garcia. I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue my education and share with you some facts about myself. The scholarship provided to me has not only provided me with some weight off my shoulders financially but it has also allowed me to plan on taking another class during the summer semester in order to further my education. For this I thank you greatly and hope you take the time to read further and learn more about me.

I was born in Altadena, California and moved to the State of Maryland at a very young age. My mother decided that she loved Maryland on a trip to visit some family members who resided in the state. She later moved our family down here while trying to protect her children from gang violence and the increase in gang activity that was occurring in the State of California. I grew up with the company of two older brothers and two younger sisters leaving me as the middle child.

Growing up life was not easy. I come from a low income family in which violence and crime was always present. There are no college graduates in my family and most of my relatives barely make enough income to get through life. Growing up, college was always a dream but never something secure. By this I mean I never really thought that I would be able to go to college due to financial issues. Never the less I worked hard through high school earning some of the highest grades my family had ever seen in order to someday go to college. I made many visits to the college and career center in Northwest high school where I found Mrs. Rochelle Davis. A woman who helped me apply for scholarships and pushed me to believe in myself so I could accomplish my dream of being an Architect.

I decided on Montgomery College due to the closeness to home and the abundant resources

they provided me with. During High School I got the amazing opportunity of being involved in the Dual enrollment program in which I took two classes at MC as a senior in high school. During this time I came to love Montgomery College and the people around me.



Currently I am enrolled in Montgomery College full time while working part time to help my family. I am determined to continue my education and while, like most people I face problems every day I have made a personal commitment to myself to be an architect, someone I have always dreamed to be. I am majoring in Architectural Technology and am more than excited to continue to learn everything that I can....

I hope to continue my education at Montgomery College for the next two years and transfer to a four year college in order to get my masters in Architecture. During my time at MC I hope to meet more people and get involved in clubs such as the LGBT club or the Art club.

Sincerely,
Araceli Carrillo-Garcia

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- Carol Plummer, Vice President for Membership

We currently have 52 members in our Branch, including 6 Life members. Did you know that you can get someone a membership for half price? If someone you know wants to join now—that is, from January 1 through March 14—they pay only half the dues for this fiscal year—that

is, until the end of June 30, 2018. Then after that the price goes back to "normal," covering the fiscal year July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019.



MLAW RECEPTION & BRIEFING

A woman bears a child as the result of rape. In Maryland the rapist has visitation rights with that child. This is wrong. Abominably wrong. Maryland Legal Agenda for Women will push the Maryland General Assembly to correct this.

Patty, six years old, says she has been sexually molested. Can we fully believe her, or is she being highly imaginative? If two or three others tell the same story about the same perpetrator, we have more certainty. But right now, the law says we cannot include these other sex crimes as evidence in Patty's case. This is wrong.

A woman you know wants to take out a protective order against her husband who has beaten her. But his crimes do not fit those listed in the present laws and moreover he hasn't served any jail time, so she can't get a permanent protective order against him. That is wrong.

Unfortunately, Trecia was arrested and jailed for kiting checks. Trecia is pregnant, and there are no guidelines or policies at her facility for prenatal care, counseling, labor and delivery. That is wrong; there should be reliable, written policies.

Trecia's cousin, Alba, is also pregnant. She suffers severe nausea but there is no place at her job where she can lie down for a while. Her boss tells her she has to take unpaid leave if that's the case. That is wrong.

Greta was desperate to take a job when she came to this country from Sweden, so she took a job paying much less than she was worth. Now every time she seeks another job, she is asked what her last pay was. We know the employer will base his job offer on that pay, so Greta is doomed to everlasting lower pay than is comparable to the pay of others. That is wrong.

MLAW will be pushing legislation in the 2018 Maryland General Assembly to correct injustices such as these that affect everyday women. To introduce their eight legislative proposals selected for this year, MLAW will be holding its Annual Legislative Reception and Briefing.



You are invited:

**MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR WOMEN
ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION AND BRIEFING
Thursday, February 8 - 4:30 to 6:30
Annapolis, Md.
Miller Senate Office Building
President's Conference Center**

This is an exciting event attended by scores of vibrant, stimulating women. This is your chance to learn more about MLAW'S legislative initiatives for this year, and you will be able to talk with legislators and to network with others.

THE BOOK SALE IS COMING MARCH 22-24!!

- Liz Hessel, Chair of Book Sales

Many activities are underway to prepare for our quickly approaching book sale. The cold weather may keep us indoors but there is a lot you can do at home. We hope that over the next two months every member will be helping.

- Ask your friends for donations of books, DVDs, sheet music. We can arrange for pick-up. Getting more donations is especially vital this year because the book sale is coming up so much earlier.
- Help advertise and publicize the sale. The more customers lured to the sale, the more we raise for scholarships.
- Contact Home School networks to give them information. Many families in our area home-school their children. These families generally participate in the networks with other families.
- Contact senior citizen organizations and living complexes. Older people are more frequent book sale customers. We can give you a list of senior communities for you to use.
- Contact organizations whose members read foreign language books.
- Seek out organizations with websites or bulletin boards whose members are interested in books. Ask the organization to post our book sale information.
- Ask organizations that sponsor book clubs to distribute our information.
- Post our flyers on community bulletin

boards in your neighborhood. Ask your local library to post the flyers.

- Give us the names of a book club, women's group, professional association, neighborhood group that you belong to that has a newsletter, blog or website so that we can send them information.
- Ask local TV stations for the City of Gaithersburg and Montgomery County to post information on their community bulletin boards.
- Sign up Branch members' work schedule for the March 15-25 period of preparing for and carrying out the sale.



Liz Hessel will help you with any of these jobs, or others you think of. Let her know what you're interested in doing:
liz@meral.com or 301-840-1258

GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinator**



The first topic for discussion in the 2018 Great Decisions study guide is "The Waning of Pax Americana?" written by Carla Norrlof, associate professor at the University of

Toronto, with research interests in international political economy and great-power politics. The discussion leader will be Mary Wykes.

The group will meet on Wednesday, February 28, at 2:30 at the home of Mary Wykes. Light refreshments will be served. New members are always welcome and this is a good time to join as we start the 2018 discussion guide.

LITERATURE GROUP

- **Mary Wykes for Coordinator Jean Young**



The Literature Group will meet on Saturday, 10 a.m., February 24, at the home of Jane Carroll. Jane will lead the discussion on the February selection "The Home That Was Our Country" by Alia Malek, a Syrian-American

journalist who "chronicles her return to her family home in Damascus and the history of the Jabban apartment building (where) generations of Christians, Jews, Muslims and Armenians lived, worked, loved and suffered in close quarters. In telling the story of her family during the course of the last century, Alia brings to

light the triumphs and failures that have led Syria to where it is today. Her book bristles with insights...an eye-opening, highly moving and beautiful read (that) finds the humanity behind the disastrous daily headlines"--quoting from the abstract of the book on the Montgomery County Public Library site.

New members are always welcome.

HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

In the February HerStory meeting, we will continue our look at women in public life. On February 7, Jean Hirsch will lead with the focus on Ruth Gruber. Jean tells us "Ruth Gruber is an award-winning Jewish American journalist, photographer, and humanitarian. Born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1911, she became the youngest person in the world to receive a Ph.D. degree and went on to write nineteen books, including the memoir, 'Haven,' which documents her role in the rescue of one thousand Jewish refugees from Europe and the Hitler massacre and their safe transport to America." Come and hear more.

As you will remember, we meet at 2:30 p.m. at the Park View Club Room at Asbury. Contact Anita Taylor for directions or more information.



AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

Website: gaithersburg-md.aauw.net

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

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AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

HerStory Interest Group	Wednesday, February 7 - 2:30 p.m.
MLAW Legislative Reception & Briefing, Annapolis	Thursday, February 8
Board Meeting	Tuesday, February 13 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Saturday, February 17 - 10 a.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, February 24 - 10 a.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, February 28 - 2:30 p.m.
BOOK SALE, Asbury Day	March 21
BOOK SALE, Open to public	March 22-24

The American Association of University Women
Gaithersburg Branch
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