



Empowering Women
Since 1881

AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

March 2018

March Events

BOOK SALE

March 22-24

Rosborough Center, Asbury Village

If you think it's difficult managing, arranging and disposing of books in your personal library of 50 or 100 or so books, try 20,000!

That's what we handle for our annual colossal book sale. Just think, AAUW hands touch each of 20,000 books, and more than once each, from acquisition, sorting, categorizing, arranging on tables, selling. All for the satisfaction of helping needy women and girls pursue their academic dreams.

That's why we need you. From March 15 through March 26, members and nonmembers are urged to help. There are sit-down jobs and stand-up jobs. Just contact Louise Chatlyne via the contact us under Gaithersburg branch on the AAUW website. Don't let your hands not touch at least one book!

BOOK SALE MEETING

Tuesday, March 6 - 7 P.M.

Conference Room, Hefner Center, Asbury Village

The March 13 AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors meeting will be replaced by a Book Sale Meeting on March 6 at 7 p.m. (a week earlier than the usual Board meetings). We will focus on plans and execution of our annual book sale.

Those involved in any aspect of the book sale are especially urged to attend. It is also a meeting for everyone else interested in how the book sale is run or with ideas to share.

Directions to the Hefner Center Conference Room: As you enter Hefner Center, walk straight to the blue wall. Go left at the blue wall. Follow the corridor, following the exit signs. The Conference Room is at the left at the last exit sign, which is marked with a left arrow.

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BOARD MEETING AND BRANCH MEETING

The March Board meeting is cancelled. Instead we will be having the Book Sale Meeting (a week earlier) as described above. The March Branch meeting is also cancelled so that we may all work on the book sale.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Heather Reichardt

Happy Spring--just kidding. I'm writing this on the day in February when it hit 75 degrees! What a teaser for better weather in the future.

Recap--Meeting Ambassador Morella!

What a great showing for our Branch meeting with special guest, Ambassador Connie Morella. The official attendance was 75. I was pleased to see such a good crowd, with folks coming from many different areas of our community. Ambassador Morella was such a gracious speaker. She talked with many people before and after her presentation. Her career has been even more astonishing and wide-ranging than most people know. I hope hearing her story was as inspiring to others as it was to me.

One cause that she mentioned she is getting involved with now is IssueOne.org (website: <https://www.issueone.org/>). This is a "nonpartisan organization dedicated to political reform and government ethics in order to strengthen our democracy...." (from the Twitter page). I include this in case you want to research further.

Thank you to Maria Roberts, our public policy and publicity chair. She worked hard to get the word out, not just to Asblury, but to outside publications and notices. And Judy Sholes, our co-VP for program, did a wonderful job of arranging the event with Ambassa-

dor Morella. Thank you to everyone who helped by bringing all the goodies. It would be great to have more meetings that appeal to the wider community. If you have ideas for speakers or topics in this vein, please communicate them to the executive board.



Repeat - BOOK SALE - BOOK SALE - BOOK SALE

This is redundant, and repetitive, but it's important.

The book sale is early this year--March 22 to 24--again at Asbury. We need all hands on deck to be out between now and then with all things related to the sale. 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--HELP WITH THE BOOK SALE! The possibilities at endless.

I'm looking forward to a fantastic book sale with many members helping and buying!



President Heather Reichardt took a selfie with Ambassador Connie Morella at the February Branch meeting.



At the February Branch meeting. Carol Plummer, Judy Sholes, Heather Reichardt, Connie Morella, and Edie Allison.

LETTERS FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Dear AAUW Scholarship Donors,

I am grateful once again for the opportunity you have provided me through this scholarship offering. It has been very beneficial to my studies as I am able to worry less about money for small items like books and stationery for my courses. For that I am very grateful. I can now take summer classes to catch up on the required STEM classes I need in order to graduate.

I am originally from Ghana, West Africa and moved to the United States about 5 years ago. My entire nuclear family is also residing in the United States and I do have other family members all over the country. In terms of my family, my oldest sister graduated from Montgomery College this May. She is continuing her studies at Towson University (USG)...My two younger siblings are in high school and middle school. The scholarship money helps take the pressure off my parents in terms of my financial needs....

I am currently in my second year at Montgomery College, a full-time student and I plan on graduation in the spring of 2019. I decided to stay an extra year at MC in order to complete my associates degree, since I am part of the Montgomery Scholars Program, I had to push back a few of my STEM courses to take the required classes for Montgomery Scholars. Staying an extra year will do.

I also decided to double major in Bioengineering and International Studies. I like those two fields combined due to the science and math in the bioengineering track and the world language requirement in the International Studies track. I want to continue taking French throughout college....

Through MC, I hope to gain a wide range of network and opportunities, obtain my Associate of Science degree and transfer to either University of Maryland College Park, Smith College or Mount Holyoke. In the meantime, I hope to apply for internships when they become available for summer 2018. In the future I might go to medical school or continue to pursue my Master's degree in Engineering. Although I am still researching career options and although I am not certain on my future career,

I believe it will have to do with science and humanities. I hope to work with people across different range of fields and spectrum.

Yours sincerely,
Abena Amfo-Koranteng



Dear AAUW Gaithersburg Scholarship Donors,

I am writing to thank you for your generous \$2,000 AAUW Gaithersburg Scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship. I was born in Korea and moved to America to study and experience more activities with student visa. Because of this decision, my brother and I followed to come to America with my mother. After I graduated from high school, I chose to attend Montgomery College to find what I really want to do and be in the future.

Now I am currently majoring in Mathematics in Montgomery College with hopes of becoming a professor of a university. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise you I will work very hard and eventually give something back to others both as a professor and possibly a scholarship to future students like myself.

Sincerely,
Misun Jung

TESTIFYING IN ANNAPOLIS

- Heather Reichardt, Branch President

On February 20, I was part of a group of speakers testifying in support of SB377--Pay Scales and Wage History Information. Other speakers were from MLAW (Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women), the National Women's Law Center, Moms Rising, and the NAACP, along with several other groups.

AAUW is supporting this bill, one of the seven bills endorsed by MLAW. There are many positive reasons to institute this legislation, including closing a part of the gender wage gap that cannot otherwise be explained by factors such as career choices, time away from work, or quality of education. As many of us know, if your next salary is based only on your prior salary, you may not be paid what you are really worth since your experience and skills may not be reflected in the previous salary. This negatively compounds over time for women and people of color and especially impacts retirement benefits.

I had only a little over two minutes to speak. But thankfully Erin Prangley, AAUW of Maryland co-VP of public policy, also wrote up my testimony, which focused on AAUW's Work Smart

KEEPING UP WITH SCIENCE

- Dorothy Camara

My attention was drawn to an experiment studying moral reasoning in Capuchin monkeys reported by Robert Sapolsky in his book "The Biology of Humans at Our Best and Worst." Here it is, paraphrased.

The experimenter gives a pebble to a Capuchin monkey. The experimenter then extends her hand palm up, a Capuchin begging gesture. When the monkey puts the pebble in the experimenter's hand, there is a food reward. In other words, the monkeys learn to buy food. Then the experimenter puts two of the trained monkeys side by side. Each gets a pebble. Each gives it to the experimenter. Each gets a grape, which is very rewarding to Capuchins.

and Start Smart workshops and how we are teaching people to negotiate for better wages and benefits. One woman testified that her Maryland government department actually asked for previous pay stubs as part of the hiring process. She knows that others who were hired for the exact job had higher paying prior jobs. She said she is effectively losing thousands of dollars a year because there is no requirement for even the government to pay men and women equally for the "exact same work."



There were a number of business-interest lobbyists who spoke in opposition to the bill. They said it was complicated and some terms were not specified. One woman, a VP for human resources, said she does need to know prior salary as part of her hiring process.

It appears this bill may have an uphill battle. However, it did pass the House side last year, so there is hope. I would encourage everyone to write to your state senator and ask for their support of SB377!

In the next phase, the reward is changed. One Capuchin gets a grape but the other one gets a less preferred piece of cucumber. The monkey getting the cucumber would more likely fling the cucumber at the experimenter or bash around in frustration. Most consistently, the monkey wouldn't even give the experimenter the pebble the next time.



Conclusion: Monkeys reject unequal pay!

2018 BOOK SALE MARCH 22-24

- Liz Hessel, Chair of Book Sales

We all take pride in the funds we raise for scholarships and other programs through our annual book sale. Now is the time we need everyone to help.

Try to volunteer 12-20 hours between March 15 through 25. This includes final sorting and displaying of books, customer service, and clean up afterwards. There's a lot of fellowship to enjoy as we work together. If you haven't already signed up, one of our members will be contacting you. If you are unable to participate during the sale, consider making a contribution to the scholarship fund.

There are tasks also that you can do at home before the sale. Contact me at liz@meral.com to help with any of the following.

- 1) Distribute our pink postcards to friends and neighbors. Ask your local businesses if you can post one on their community bulletin board or on the glass window or door.
- 2) Collect more books. Contact neighbors, put

a note on your neighborhood blog or internet site asking for books, CDs, and DVDs. You can accept them until Thursday, March 15.



- 3) Help advertise the sale to book clubs, neighborhood websites, church or synagogue, local businesses, senior communities, families with children.
- 4) Reach out to SciFi clubs, home-schooled communities, Russian language community, families with children.
- 5) Collect cloth grocery bags to give to customers on Saturday's bag day.
- 6) Make a poster to display during the sale that shows how we use the proceeds from the book sale for programs such as scholarships, NCCWSL, Legal Advocacy Fund, AAUW Funds.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

- Mary Wykes, Chair

The following Branch officers have agreed to have their names placed in nomination for fiscal year 2018-19.

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

All are currently serving in these offices and are eligible to serve in their positions another year.

Our committee is delighted to present this experienced slate of officers to the Branch. Election will

be at the April 24 Branch meeting. Other nominations can be accepted from members



providing the nominees agree to have their name presented. Please present any such names to Mary Wykes, committee chair, for inclusion on the ballot before April 1, or nominations may be made from the floor at the Branch meeting.

Nominating Committee members are Chair Mary Wykes, Maria Roberts and Anna Fraker.

GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinator**



The Great Decisions interest group will meet at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28, at the home of Vivian Otto Anita Taylor will lead the discussion on the timely topic of "Russia's Foreign Policy." The study guide author is Allen C. Lynch, professor of politics at the University of Virginia.

Light refreshments will be served. New members are always welcome.

LITERATURE GROUP

- **Mary Wykes for Coordinator Jean Young**



The Literature Group will meet at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 17. Sandra Finerty will be the host at her home. She will lead the discussion of the book, "The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu," by Joshua Hammer. This book describes how a group of librarians from Timbuktu enacted a daring plan to smuggle the city's great collection of

rare Islamic manuscripts away from the threat of destruction at the hands of Al Qaeda militants to the safety of southern Mali.

Light refreshments will be served. New members are always welcome.

HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

We will not have a meeting of the HerStory group in March so that we can devote our time to working on the book sale. Give as much time as you can spare, and let Louise Chatlyne know your availability and willingness.

In April, we will meet on the 4th at 2:30 p.m. in the Club Room at Park View (Building 211) on Asbury campus. Jean Hirsch will lead the discussion about Ruth Gruber. Gruber's life and work cover a lot of challenges that women faced during the years previous to the "second wave" feminism and the changes that time of life brought. Her life spanned most of the 20th century and the first 16 years of the 21st century—September 30, 1911, to November 17, 2016.

Come learn about this journalist, photographer, writer, humanitarian, and United States government official.



Please come and bring your friends. We'll be delighted to have you. For outsiders, tell the folks at the gatehouse (at 301 Odendhal) that you are going to Park View. From that gate take the road in front of you till you reach a T intersection; turn right and follow the road to the building at the top of the hill. Parking may be difficult out front. If so, come in the back door (farther up the hill), where parking is sufficient, and use the elevator to come down one floor.

AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

Website: 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

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Vice President for Membership

Carol Plummer

Treasurer

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Appointed Members of the Board

Anna Fraker

Liz Hessel

Maria Roberts

Newsletter Editor

Qing Jiang

Newsletter Coordinator

Dorothy Camara

AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

Book Sale Meeting	Tuesday, March 6 - 7 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, March 17 - 10 a.m.
BOOK SALE, Asbury Day	Wednesday, March 21
BOOK SALE, Open to public	Thursday, March 22-Saturday, March 24
Great Decisions	Wednesday, March 28 - 2:30 p.m.
HerStory Group	Wednesday, April 4 - 2:30 p.m.

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