



Empowering Women  
Since 1881

# AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

April 2018

## April Events

**BRANCH MEETING AND ELECTION**  
Tuesday, April 24 (Note change in date)  
7 P.M. Hospitality - 7:30 P.M. Program  
Gaithersburg Library - Meeting Room 3

For our April 24 Branch meeting we welcome Lobna "Luby" Ismail, who will talk of "Longing to Belong." Luby is founder and president of Connecting Cultures, LLC. An inspirational speaker and powerful trainer, she is an expert in cultural competence, religious diversity and inclusion, and Islamophobia. In her talks she offers tangible and applicable strategies to overcome barriers and communication challenges encountered in diverse and international settings. She weaves her own life experiences into her presentations, and her award-winning "Longing to Belong" talk will address her struggles and ideas of America. She is dedicated to creating understanding between Americans and Arabs.

Luby has published many works on Arab cultures and cultural competence. She was selected as a peace fellow for Seeds of Peace, and she was a Malone fellow in Middle East and Islamic Studies. She acquired a master's degree in intercultural relations from Lesley College and a bachelor's degree in international service from The American University in Washington, D.C. Her clients include Microsoft, Walt Disney Works, the U.S. Department of Justice, Campbell Soups, CVS, and the Foreign Service Institute.

Following the presentation, the Branch's annual election will take place. Heather Reichardt is running for president, Marilyn O'Connell and Judy Sholes for co-vice president for program, Edie Allison for treasurer, and Barbara Garrard for secretary. All are incumbents. The candidate for vice president for membership is still to be determined. Other nominations may be made from the floor.

**BOARD MEETING**  
Tuesday, April 10 - 7 P.M.  
Community Room, Hefner Center, Asbury

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors invites members to attend their meeting on April 10 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of the Hefner Center at Asbury Village. Preliminary results of the book sale will be among the topics discussed.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Heather Reichardt

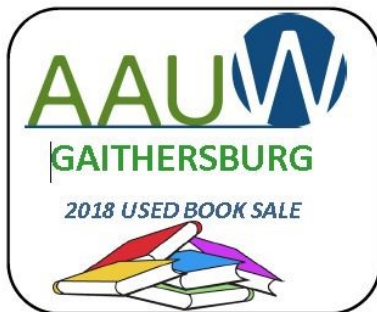
As we go to press with this April issue of the newsletter, the book sale is in full swing. We will have results for you in the May newsletter. As of this writing, almost all the membership have worked on the sale. I want to thank all members and friends who have helped. Even with our earlier than usual date and the not perfect weather, we will be successful in getting thousands of good books back into the community with our low prices and our donations to nonprofits.

The April Branch meeting is one to look forward to. We'll hear from Lobna Ismail, a training specialist with over 20 years of cross-cultural community training particularly focused on Arab and Islamic cultures. I'm sure this will be an extraordinary talk to which you

will want to invite your friends. Also, at the April meeting we will have our election of Board of Directors members. All incumbents are running, and you may check out their names in the Branch meeting announcement on page 1.



The AAUW of Maryland state convention will be on April 14 near BWI airport. I encourage you to attend this meeting. We will hear from the new public policy VP and learn more about the proposed bylaws amendments. All the relevant information is in the latest Marylander that was mailed or emailed to you in March.



Thank you for your help!



AND ALL OUR WONDERFUL  
VOLUNTEERS!!



**The Partners Recognition Poster.** This poster, displayed each year at our book sale, seeks to publicize our appreciation of the organizations that contribute to the book sale in some way. Originally designed by Heather Reichardt, it was updated this year by Barbara Garrard.

## LETTERS FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Dear Donors of AAUW Gaithersburg Scholarship,

My name is Aigielinn Mascarina and I am 19 years old. I was born and raised in Gaithersburg Maryland with my parents, two older sisters, and grandmother. My parents were both born and raised in Olongapo, Philippines and have raised me around Filipino culture. Although I have two older sisters, I am the first to go to college which has made my parents very proud. The scholarship has helped my family and I immensely and I cannot thank you enough for your generosity. This scholarship has helped my parents pay for my tuition, my books, and resources I need for the current and next semester....

Currently, I am on my second year at Montgomery College and I am a general-STEM major. In addition to being a full-time student, I am also a part-time employee to help my parents pay for my other expenses beside tuition such as my books, school supplies, and transportation....

While at Montgomery College, I hope to get my Associate of the Arts degree and transfer to the Universities at Shady Grove. I strive to be the best version of myself and make my family proud of me. Overall, my goal is to become a Nurse Practitioner and eventually be able to take care of my family someday. I know my future is bright and I thank you donors for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to continue my success at Montgomery College. Not only did this scholarship help my family financially, it has also helped me realize that going to Montgomery College was a great decision.

Sincerely,  
Aigielinn Mascarina

Dear Trustees of  
the AAUW-Gaithersburg  
Scholarship:



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the AAUW-Gaithersburg Scholarship for Academic Excellence. As one of this year's recipients, I am grateful for the opportunities this award will provide me. I rely on financial aid, grants and student loans to help finance my education. Receiving this scholarship will help reduce my financial burdens and provide assistance for me as I continue pursuing my education.

Earning my bachelor's in computer science is not only my goal, but a dream. My mother and father have worked their entire lives to support the lifestyles of my siblings and me. It is my dream to be able to support my parents. Upon earning my associates degree in computer science from Montgomery College, I plan on transferring to UMBC. It is my promise to you that your support will not go to waste, as it will play a major role in my success.

Once again, thank you for supporting the students of Montgomery college. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

Sincerely,  
Harween Kaur

## GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinator**



On Wednesday, April 25, at 2:30, we will meet at the home of Jean Kosow. Jean will lead the discussion on the timely topic "China and America--the New Geopolitical Equation." The article in the Foreign Policy Assn. 2018 study guide on the topic is written by Prof. David Lampton,

director of China studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Light refreshments will be served, and new members are always welcome.

## LITERATURE GROUP

- **Mary Wykes for Coordinator Jean Young**



The Literature Group will meet at the home of Judy Sholes at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 28. She will lead the discussion on the April selection, "One Hundred Years of Solitude" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. A review says: "This book tells the story of the rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendia family. It is inventive,

amusing, magnetic, sad and alive with unforgettable men and women brimming with truth, compassion and lyrical magic, the novel is a masterpiece of the art of fiction."

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

## HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**

On April 4 the topic of the HerStory Interest Group will be on Ruth Gruber. Jean Hirsch will lead the discussion and give us information about Gruber's work as a journalist, photographer, humanitarian, and U. S. government official. Gruber's life and work cover a lot of challenges that faced women during the years previous to the "second wave" feminism and the changes the rest of her life illustrated. Her life spanned most of the 20th century and the first 16 years of the 21st (September 30, 1911, to November 17, 2016).

On May 2, Patsy Marks will lead us in a discussion of Elizabeth Warren. A champion of the beleaguered middle class, Warren is not afraid to face down any opponent. We will hear of her background and her vast

achievements and maybe speculate on a run for the presidency!

For both sessions, we'll meet at the usual time and date (first Wednesdays each month, with 2:30 the gathering time in the Club Room of the Park View Building at Asbury. If you need directions, please contact Anita Taylor.

She will be in Kansas until April 3, so if you don't get a timely response, please contact Dorothy Camara or Maria Roberts.

See you soon.



## AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

**Website:** [gaithersburg-md.aauw.net](http://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

Judy Sholes

**Vice President for Membership**  
Carol Plummer

**Treasurer**  
Edie Allison

**Secretary**  
Barbara Garrard

**Appointed Members of the Board**  
Anna Fraker

Liz Hessel

Maria Roberts

**Newsletter Editor**  
Qing Jiang

**Newsletter Coordinator**  
Dorothy Camara

## **AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events**

HerStory Interest Group	Wednesday, April 4 - 2:30 p.m.
Board of Directors	Tuesday, April 10 - 7 p.m.
AAUW of Md. Annual Convention, Catonsville	Saturday, April 14 - 8:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
Branch Meeting and Election	Tuesday, April 24 - 7 p.m.
Great Decisions	Wednesday, April 25 - 2:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, April 28 - 10 a.m.
HerStory Interest Group	Wednesday, May 2 - 2:30 p.m.

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