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AAUW

Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

September 2018

September Events

BRANCH MEETING

Tuesday, September 18
7 P.M. Hospitality - 7:30 P.M. Program
Meeting Room, Gaithersburg Library

"Gerrymandering: How It Works, How To Tame It"

The speaker at our September 18 branch meeting will be Ralph Watkins, vice president of Voters Service of the League of Women Voters of Maryland. Speaking on "Gerrymandering: How It Works, How To Tame It," Mr. Watkins will expound on this process of uncontrolled partition of Maryland Congressional districts that has brought our state to the attention of the nation. We will meet in the Gaithersburg Library at 7 for socializing and refreshments, and the program will begin at 7:30.

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 11 - 7 P.M.
Conference Room, Hefner Center, Asbury

The next meeting of the AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will be on September 11 at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Hefner Center at Asbury Village. Members of the board are encouraged to attend as regularly as possible, not merely to share your wisdom, but more mundanely, to make a quorum. Board meetings are open to all members of the branch, and their participation is welcomed.

NEW MEMBER INFORMATIONAL TEA

The three membership vice presidents, Anna Fraker, Patsy Marks, and Mary Wykes, along with a committee of Aurora Sevilla, Anita Taylor and Maria Roberts, are planning a tea at the Club Room of the Park View Building, 211 Russell Avenue, Asbury Village, on Wednesday, September 12, from 2:30 to 4:30. All current members are welcome and urged to bring prospective members. It is our hope that many new residents at Asbury who are unfamiliar with our Branch will come to learn about our activities, interest groups, mission, and goals.

Please call any of the three vice presidents for further information about the purpose of the tea and how you might help us add to our membership this year so that we can help more women and girls in our community achieve their full potential.

INSIDE

Sept. Events	1
President's Message	2
Results From Book Sales and Disbursals to Scholarships and Grants	3
The AAUW 2018 Book Sale	3
Remembering Marion Plumb	3
Hearing From One of Our Grant Recipients	4
AAUW Lobby Corps	4
AAUW Funds Honorees Announced	5
Officers Are Installed for 2018-19	5
Membership News	6
Her-Story Interest Group	6
Great Decisions	7
Literature Group	7
Calendar	8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Heather Reichardt

Welcome back to the September beginning of our new branch program year! I hope you had an enjoyable summertime, whether travelling or hanging around the house. I was quite busy with continuing to climb up the learning curve at my new job, as well as attending AAUW state meetings. In June I attended the informal meeting of new board leadership. And in July Edie Allison and I went to the state summer training session at Harford County Community College, a long but nice drive north.

I also attended the Maryland Commission for Women's wrap-up session of their two-year endeavor to visit nearly every jurisdiction in the state to hear directly from local women and girls about their most pressing issues. This was held at the all-women college of Notre Dame University of Maryland. The five most prevalent issues, both from the in-person meetings and a state-wide survey, were:

- Domestic violence and sexual assault
- Paid time off for extended medical or parental leave
- Women and drug abuse and addiction problems
- Lack of women in leadership positions
- Access to affordable, quality childcare

At that meeting we participated in roundtable discussions and heard many different opinions on these issues. The experts, in summarizing, gave, not only compelling and startling statistics about the lack of progress on the issues, but also provided some solid solutions. I encourage you to go to the commission's website to see the summaries of the local meetings. The summary of the wrap-up meeting will be posted in a month or so: <http://dhr.maryland.gov/maryland-commission-women/>. This group is doing ex-

cellent work toward the goal of improving the lives of Maryland women, girls and families.



Back in Gaithersburg, our local executive board met in August, ready to start the new year with a change in the scheduling of our scholarship awardees at our September program. But don't worry. We will see our local scholarship and grant award-ees in our October meeting.

And, another state AAUW announcement. The state fall meeting will be held here in our backyard, at Montgomery College Rockville, on Saturday, October 20. I hope our branch will have a strong attendance in support of this meeting since we had such good attendance from other branches when we hosted the fall meeting last year.

Finally, I direct everyone to the AAUW.org website to view the summary of the updated Strategic Plan for 2018-19. The main areas of focus of AAUW's resources will be

- Education and training for women
- Economic security for women
- Leadership--improving opportunities for women
- Governance and sustainability of the organization

Obviously, these topics dovetail with the Maryland Commission for Women's survey results. I think our branch is in a position to continue to assist our national organization in meeting the objectives they have set out. Let's have a great program year!

RESULTS FROM BOOK SALES AND DISBURSALS TO SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Your hard work on the March 2018 book sale brought in a gross income on the sale of books of \$15,955.75. There were also some generous donations and the sale of books outside of the book sale itself. This brought our gross income to \$24,475.19. We have had some heavy increases in expenses, particularly for the movers, for storage, and for tables at the book sale. The end result is that we ended up, after holding back a buffer sum for future expenses, with \$18,900 available for scholarships, grants and contributions.

At the June 9 planning meeting, the membership approved the disbursement of:

- \$8,200 to Montgomery College for five scholarships for women preparing for a career where women have been underrepresented
- \$3,000 to the Universities at Shady Grove for one scholarship for a woman preparing for a career where women have been underrepresented
- \$2,200 to AAUW Selected Fellowships for women pursuing study in a field where women have been underrepresented
- \$2,200 to AAUW American Fellowships for

women completing dissertations or planning research

- \$1,000 to AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund for work challenging sex discrimination in higher education or the workplace
- \$400 to Court Watch for work on changing court practices disadvantageous to women
- \$500 to the Asbury Benevolent Fund in appreciation of the use of Asbury facilities for the book sale
- \$1,400 to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders to aid students in attending their annual national leadership conference



We are planning again, in October, to bring scholarship and grant recipients to an upcoming branch meeting. Their personal stories and their aspirations have always been inspiring and hopefully left you gratified about the work you have done in carrying out this project. Thanks to the branch members and other volunteers who pitched in, and thanks to Liz Hessel for the gargantuan job of organizing.

REMEMBERING MARION PLUMB

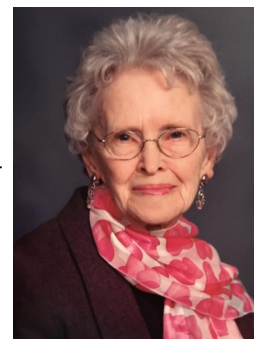
Our friend Marion Dexter Plumb died this past July, close to her 95th year. She had been a faithful AAUW Gaithersburg member for 36 years.

Marion was born in Oswego, New York, and grew up in Mexico, New York. She studied at Wooster College, where she played the flute in the marching band, and later she earned a bachelor's degree in education at Oberlin College.

Married to a physicist who spent many years at the Bureau of Standards, now NIST, Marion became a busy homemaker, the mother of four children, and worked as a teaching assistant at the Whetstone Elementary School in Montgomery Village. At that time she was also actively involved with AAUW. Building on an early history of playing the piano, harp, flute and piccolo in both concert and marching bands, Marion now began singing in choruses and choirs. Bell ringing became a favorite activity.

She and her husband traveled extensively, spending time in Australia, Alaska and Africa. After her husband's death in 1985, Marion split her time every year between Gaithersburg and Mexico, also spending a short residency at Asbury Village. Two years ago she moved permanently to her Mexico home.

(Excerpted from the Syracuse Post Standard and Village Life (Asbury Village).



Long-time AAUW Gaithersburg member Marion Plumb. (Photo courtesy of Sharon Bowen.)

HEARING FROM ONE OF OUR GRANT RECIPIENTS

Each year our branch awards grants to aspiring women students to attend the annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. This conference reaches hundreds of young women, aiming to encourage and teach them to be successful leaders. Here is a letter we recently received from one of our grantees.

Good Afternoon!

I hope all is well. I just wanted to formally thank you for the opportunity to attend NCCWSL this year. I had a phenomenal experience at the conference. Everyone was so welcoming and brilliant! I absolutely loved the workshops and panel sessions because they

both provided a great opportunity to network among my peers and speakers. This would have not been possible without you and I just wanted to show my appreciation.



Thank you once again :)

Best regards,
Benedicta Appiah

AAUW LOBBY CORPS

- Edie Allison and Judy Sholes

All AAUW members are invited to participate in Lobby Corps to advocate for AAUW's national legislative priorities. You could join with members from Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia on Capitol Hill on the Thursday mornings when both houses of Congress are in session. You visit the offices of U.S. senators and representatives to discuss an issue important to women and families. These personal visits are effective in making our legislators aware of the importance and impact of pending legislation. From the mind-boggling 10,000 or more bills introduced in each two-year Congress, our visits highlight those that otherwise could get lost in the fog of popular or controversial issues.

As a Lobby Corps member, you are guided by AAUW professional staff. First, on Wednesday they send you an email with background information of the legislative issue to be discussed with congressional staff on the Thursday visit. In addition, AAUW staff provide additional information and answer questions at the Thursday morning gathering. Lobby Corps participants then pair off to visit about six offices important to the particular issue, armed with fact sheets and formal letters stating AAUW's position. In many offices you will have a short conversation with a legislative assistant. Otherwise, if staff is not available, you leave a handwritten note and the formal AAUW letter. Thursdays begin with early carpooling to Shady Grove or other convenient metro station for the ride to Capitol. Then a 10-minute walk takes you to the Lobby Corps 9:30 gathering,

either at the Longworth House Office Building cafeteria or the Dirksen Senate Office Building, depending on which branch of Congress you are lobbying that day.



You usually finish between 11:30 and 12:30, arriving back in Gaithersburg between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. One member of each of the lobbying pairs who has noted the result of each conversation provides feedback to AAUW staff from home by an online system.

This year AAUW has postponed its usual early September training session for new Lobby Corps members. Instead, we jump into action on September 6 to inform senators of AAUW's opposition to the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court.

You may join Lobby Corps prior to the formal training. Just contact Judy Sholes or Edie Allison. You will be paired with an experienced Lobby Corps member for the visits to legislators' offices. You just need to confirm your intention to participate by the Monday before any Thursday lobbying you want to go to. Of course, you are encouraged to participate as often as possible, but there is no requirement to participate every week.

AAUW FUNDS HONOREES ANNOUNCED

At the AAUW Gaithersburg annual planning meeting on June 9 the AAUW Funds Honorees for 2017-18 were announced and commended for their contribution to the Branch.

Edie Allison has done outstanding work as the branch treasurer, improving the financial system and admirably administering other financial necessities. She is also a member of the Lobby Corps and works year-round on book collection and sorting.

Heather Reichardt will be entering her fourth year as branch president, serving with a collegial style that promotes goodwill and encourages cooperation and initiative from her board members. She faithfully interfaces with other organizations as the representative of our branch. She presently serves as the co-secretary of AAUW of Maryland. She also is involved with the Lobby Corps and has testified in Annapolis on legislation supported by AAUW.

Maria Roberts is an appointed member of our branch's Board of Directors, always available with valuable insights. As publicity chair she has expanded the reach of advertising of our branch meetings. She has been a leader in stimulating interest in the Lobby Corps. Her photographs often embellish the writeups in the newsletter.



AAUW Funds Honorees are selected annually by the previous year's honorees. This year the selection was made by Jean Kosow and Cathy Manning. The names of the honorees are presented to the AAUW Funds by our treasurer when she sends in our contribution from the proceeds of the book sale that will be allocated to the scholarship funds we select. The honorees then receive a recognition certificate or letter attesting to their merit.

OFFICERS ARE INSTALLED FOR 2018-19

At the May 22, 2018, branch meeting the officers of the Board of Directors for 2018-19 were installed. Officiating was Anita Rosen, past vice president of public policy for AAUW of Maryland and member of the Rockville-Kensington Branch.

First acknowledging the services of outgoing vice president for membership, Carol Plummer, Anita introduced the incoming officers and their duties. Designating it as a "membership team," she presented Anna Fraker, Patsy Marks and Mary Wykes as the new co-vice presidents of membership, designating them as the major cheerleaders of the branch, who nurture membership and inspire growth by reaching out to the community.

Barbara Garrard was presented as continuing as secretary, with the special trust of recording the branch's history.

Edie Allison, who was not able to attend the installation, was acknowledged as the returning treasurer, keeping track of the fiscal records and maintaining,

the fiscal integrity of the branch.

Continuing as co-vice presidents for program are Marilyn O'Connell and Judy Sholes, whom Anita described as, not only responsible for arranging the branch's program of speakers, but also being advisory in keeping the branch's focus on AAUW's mission in furthering social and economic justice for women and promoting advocacy.



Anita then acknowledged Heather Reichardt as the continuing president, who has the role of cheerleader and who has done a marvelous job in representing the face of the branch.

The officer-electees were asked if they accepted their respective duties of office and, upon doing so, were each presented a carnation as the symbol of their official installation.



Anita Rosen, center, installs officers for 2018-19. With her are Patsy Marks, Barbara Garrard, Heather Reichardt, Marilyn O'Connell, Judy Sholes and Mary Wykes. (Photo courtesy of Maria Roberts.)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to new member, Ellen Sim Teague. Ellen, a native Floridian, lived in Atlanta and the Dallas-Fort Worth area before coming to Maryland in 1972. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland University College, with graduate studies both there and at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Her professional career began in commercial real estate but moved quickly to the nonprofit sector. After 20 years with the Baptist World Alliance as director of finance and administration, she retired in 2009. She then served as director of finance for the John Leland Center for Theological Studies and as executive director for the District of Columbia Baptist Convention Foun-

ation, retiring finally in 2016.

Ellen currently serves as organizer for Pathways Baptist Church and is active in Baptist denominational life. Her hobbies include reading, Sudoku, gardening and music.



HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP

- Anita Taylor, Coordinator



We open the fall season of the Her-Story Group with Anna Fraker telling us about Carrie Chapman Catt, one of the two women who engineered the move toward

wide-spread voting in the U.S. by most white women in 1920. She will do that at the September 5 meeting, 2:30 p.m., in the Club Room of the Park View Building at Asbury. Should we have time, we will also talk about Alice Paul, the other activist in the 1900s who developed and promoted "in the streets" activity toward the U.S. constitutional permission for women to vote.

These two women actually put together the final "story" of how U. S. women finally almost earned woman suffrage. It happened in 1920, though we have to remember that vote ignored other limitations against voting by African American, most Chinese and Japanese and American Indian women.

The September meeting will be followed by the October 3 meeting in the same place and at the same time. At that time and for the rest of the year we will continue with Jean Hirsch talking about Elizabeth Blackwell and Mary Edwards Walker; Maria Roberts will discuss Zora Neale Hurston; Dorothy Camara will do Fannie

Lou Hamer; Mary Wykes will bring us info about Frida Kahlo; and Jean Hirsch will lead us in re-exploring Harriet Tubman. For others, we are hoping someone will re-introduce us to similar but important women such as Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Lisa Meitner.

The location of the meetings is at the Asbury Park View Club Room. Be sure to ask for directions to 301 Odendhal Avenue and ask the gate agent to direct you to the Park View Building. You may park along the street in front of the building, the parking spaces at the side, or in the parking lot in the back. If you come in the back way, remember you need to find the elevator and come down one floor.

GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinator**



The next meeting of the Great Decisions Group will be on Wednesday, September 26, at 2:30 p.m. at the home of Patsy Marks in Gaithersburg. The timely discussion topic, "U.S. Global Engagement and the Military," will be led by Patsy and Fred Marks. The study guide in the 2018 edition of Great Decisions is written by Gordon Adams, a distinguished fellow at the Stimson Center in Washington, D.C., and a professor emeritus of interna-

tional relations at the School of International Relations at American University, Washington, D.C.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

Website: gaithersburg-md.aauw.net

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

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LITERATURE GROUP

- **Mary Wykes for Coordinator Jean Young**



The Literature Group will meet at the home of Cathy Manning at 10 a.m. on September 22. The September selection is the *Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah and our discussion will be led by Cathy Manning. The book was named Goodreads best historical fiction novel for 2015 and won the coveted People's Choice award for fiction that same year.

Hannah's book is described as telling the stories of "two sisters separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion, and circumstances, each embarking on dangerous paths towards survival in German-occupied, war-torn France." One reviewer describes it as "a heart-breakingly beautiful novel that cele-

brates the resilience of the human spirit."

New members are always welcome to the group.

AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

HerStory Interest Group	Wednesday, September 5 - 2:30 p.m.
Book Sorting, Villas	September 10-12
Board of Directors Meeting	Tuesday, September 11 - 7 p.m.
New Member Tea	Wednesday, September 12 - 2:30
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, September 18 - 7 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, September 22 - 10 a.m.
Great Decisions	Wednesday, September 26 - 2:30 p.m.
Her-Story Interest Group	Wednesday, October 3 - 2:30 p.m.

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