



Empowering Women  
Since 1881

# AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

October 2018

## October Events

### BRANCH MEETING

Tuesday, October 16

Hospitality at 7 P.M. - Program at 7:30 P.M.

Meeting Room, Gaithersburg Public Library

### Meeting Our Scholarship Recipients

The proceeds from our book sale help to shape the next generation of young women students in our area. This year we are supporting five young women at Montgomery College and one at the Universities at Shady Grove. In May, three others attended a national leadership conference at the University of Maryland College Park with our financial help. These impressive students will attend our branch meeting on October 16 at the Gaithersburg Library to share their stories. Also, one of our prior scholarship recipients, who has now graduated, will be there to tell us about launching her career.

Hearing these student speak of their lives, their career plans and the impact our scholarships are making on their academic development, you will find this one of your favorite branch meetings of the year.

Come at 7 p.m. to talk to the students personally and have refreshments with them, then at 7:30 to hear their inspiring stories.

### BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 9 - 7 P.M.

Conference Room, Hefner Building, Asbury

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will hold its monthly meeting on October 9 at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. Branch members are invited to participate.

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## "LADY" OR "WOMAN?" A Feminist Parable

- Dorothy Camara

Estrella was confused. She left her ESL class still not sure about the difference between "lady" and "woman." She had asked Henry, the teacher, but she thought he had made a little joke of it.

At home, she sank into a chair at the kitchen table and opened the English dictionary. She was going to figure this out. She saw that "woman" was defined as "adult female person." Well, that fit her all right. But she wrinkled her nose in perplexity at the definition of "lady."

"Lady: a woman of superior social position; a woman of refinement and gentle manners," and what is this?: "a woman receiving the homage or devotion of a knight or lover." Well, that certainly didn't fit her--no knight paid her homage when she worked at the shop all day, washed the muck off her kids' faces before supper or struggled with English classes at night. As for "gentle manners," that didn't mean herself when she yelled like a constipated hippopotamus at Pedrocito after she told him a hundred times not to feed the chili peppers to the puppy.

She had to think about this.

She knew that when she asserted herself at the grocery store the other night, the clerk looked down at her and said, "Now, lady...." Why did she feel so demeaned when he said, "Now, lady"? And how many times when she

was acting silly or when she was angry at someone who was trying to put her in her place, she was told, "Act like a lady." And she watched TV closely for hints on this problem. She saw that in prisons, the guards referred to the female inmates as "ladies": "Now, ladies, march to dinner." And women in mental hospitals were told, "Now, ladies, line up for your medication." And what about those "ladies of the night?" Maybe it's an insult. That's how she felt sometimes.

She thought she grasped the difference. "Lady" was more than a word used to indicate someone who used a parasol when she went out in the sun or had to borrow a gentleman's handkerchief when she cried. It was a word used to suppress a woman, a woman who was not to make waves, a person who did not suffer birth pains, who did not struggle to make a living, who was not an individual with hopes, aspirations, strivings of her own. She figured that a "woman" is a person who roars, who sweats, who demands her place, who achieves.

She understood now. Ladies do not hold up half the sky. Women do.



## NEW MEMBER WELCOMED

- Mary Wykes, Co-Vice President for Membership

We are delighted to welcome Barbara Kilby as a new member. Barbara is a graduate of Georgetown University, with a bachelor of science in foreign service degree in international affairs. She is a CPA. Currently she is the president of the Friendship Star Quilters, who are now planning a quilt show at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds on April 25-28. Barbara lives at the Villas at Asbury.



## BOOK SALE

### - Liz Clark Hessel, Chair of Book Sales

The date of the 2019 book sale was changed after we began distributing the white business cards that you may have seen. Please note that the correct dates are March 28-30, 2019. Discard any white business cards with the May date. We have plenty of the yellow cards and we need your help to distribute them widely to those who received a card with the wrong date, and also to distribute them to our friends and neighbors who have books to donate. If you do not have any of the yellow cards, I'll get them to you.

Efforts for the 2019 book sale are underway. We are now collecting books, CDs, DVDs and video games. But we have fallen behind in collecting books. I am asking everyone to do more now with preparations for the sale. As my mother used to say, "Many hands make light work."

First, be proactive in distributing the yellow cards with the March date and that has information on how to donate books year round. I ask every member to distribute at least three cards per week.

Second, I challenge every member to collect one box or bag of books or DVDs each week. If you don't want to keep the collection in your home, you or the donor may contact me and someone will pick it up. Gathering books now helps ensure we have a good selection at next year's

sale.

Third, help identify other organizations or groups who have books to donate. Does your employer, employee retirement association, book club, or community association have a newsletter that might publish a request for donations or information about the sale?



Fourth, do you read a foreign language? We have books in many foreign languages. Particularly we already have five boxes of Russian books. It would be helpful to sort these foreign language books by subject matter. Let me know any foreign language you read.

Fifth, serve on a book sale subcommittee. We need help in many areas, such as marketing, publicity, pricing. Do you have talent for designing marketing materials? You could do these activities at home in your own time.

You should take great pride in the success of our book sale and the impact we make on the lives of so many students. Your ideas are welcome in making it a continued success. Contact me at [liz@meral.com](mailto:liz@meral.com) or 301-840-1258.

We express our sincere sympathy to our member Freida Reitman on the death of her husband, Julian, on June 20, 2018. A number of our branch members joined with his family and friends from all over the country on Saturday, September 15, for a "Celebration of Life" at the Rosborough Center meeting rooms.

## GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinator**



Anita Taylor will host the Wednesday, October 24, 2:30 p.m. Great Decisions meeting at the Park View Club Room on the first

floor at 211 Russell Avenue, Asbury Village. The discussion will be on "South Africa's Fragile Democracy." The Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions 2018 study guide article is written by Sean Jacobs, a

native of Cape Town and currently an associate professor of international affairs at The New School of New York City.

New members are always welcome. Light refreshments will be served. Please let Anita know via email (caldwelltaylor33@gmail.com) if you will be coming.

## LITERATURE GROUP

- **Mary Wykes for Coordinator Jean Young**



The Literature Group will meet on Saturday, October 27, at 10 a.m. at the home of Jane Carroll in the Villas at Asbury New members are always

welcome.

The selection for October is the recent best seller, "A Gentleman in Moscow," by Amor Towles. Published in 2016, this is Towles's second novel. It has been on the New

York Times best seller list and has been ranked as one of the best books of 2016 by The Chicago Tribune and other newspapers and by NPR. It has been translated into 15 different languages. Jane will lead the discussion on this absorbing and witty novel.

## HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**



Please note the changed date for the October meeting of the HerStory Group. We will meet on Wednesday, October 10, instead of our usual first Wednesday, in the Club Room of the Park View Building at Asbury. Maria Roberts will present the remarkable career of Zora Neale Hurston, anthropologist, writer, and author of the recently published book, "Barracoon," the story of the last Black importee to become a slave.

The center of the story of "Barracoon" is Oluale Kossola, also known as Cudjo Lewis. Lewis was one of the last survivors of the Clo-

tilda, the last vessel to carry kidnapped Africans into a life of bondage in the United States — 50 years after the slave trade was officially abolished. In 1927, Hurston made the first of several journeys to Africatown, near Mobile, Alabama, to interview Kossola. Come and join us to hear more about this story and about Zora Neale Hurston.

If you need directions, please contact Anita Taylor

## 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.*

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Liz Hessel

Maria Roberts

### **Newsletter Editor**

Qing Jiang

### **Newsletter Coordinator**

Dorothy Camara

## **AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events**

HerStory Interest Group (Date Change)	Wednesday, October 10 - 2:30 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting	Tuesday, October 9 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, October 16 - 7 p.m.
State Meeting, The Metropolitan, Bethesda	Saturday, October 20
Great Decisions	Wednesday, October 24 - 2:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, October 27 - 10 a.m.

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