



Empowering Women
Since 1881

AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

November 2018

November Events

BRANCH MEETING

November 13

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

Meeting Room, Gaithersburg Public Library

"Cybersecurity and Identity Theft"

Our November 13 branch meeting will provide you the opportunity to learn the latest on "Cybersecurity and Identity Theft." The Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection will provide an overview and discussion on the current state of data security and what you can do to protect yourself from identify theft. Discussion will touch on how you unwittingly hand over personal information and how you can navigate the world of e-commerce safely in order to defend yourself.

Come early to chat with others and enjoy light refreshments at 7 p.m., then enjoy the program at 7:30.

HOLIDAY PARTY!

Conley Hall, Asbury Village

December 4

6 P.M. to 9 P.M.

Put business aside. Bring a potluck. Enjoy our holiday party at Conley Hall. We hope to have good, good food and enjoyable entertainment!

BOARD MEETING

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will not meet in November because of the burden Election Day and Thanksgiving Day put on the calendar. However, board members should be prepared to be contacted by President Heather Reichardt for an email contact.

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YOU NEED TO VOTE

November 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Heather Reichardt

We did it again! We had a wonderful October branch meeting where our hardworking members met several of our scholarship and NCCWSL tuition awardees. It is always inspiring to hear from these young women. They have such a solid understanding, confidence and planning acumen regarding their career paths, certainly not what I had at their age.

Now we turn our laser-like focus to next year's book sale to raise more scholarship funds for more deserving students. Liz Hessel speaks of being a little short on book collection right now. I hope you accept her challenge to collect at least one box of books each week. If we accept this reasonable goal, the coming book sale will be full of fantastic selections! A huge thank you to Liz for her work throughout the year on the book sale and the corralling of the students to speak with us.

I just attended the fall AAUW of Maryland meeting, which was held in the penthouse social room of the Bethesda condominium where our former state president, Pat Stocker, lives. What a neat view looking out over the other buildings and far up Old Georgetown Road. The morning keynote speaker at the meeting was Ralph Watkins from the League of Women Voters, who had spoken at our own branch meeting in September. He spoke informatively on the history

of, and issues surrounding, gerrymandering and how to break down voting barriers. Fortunately, the state of Maryland has a good record of making it easier to vote, not harder. But there are ways to make it even easier. Check out the League's website www.lwvmocomd.org to research the subject.



I'm looking forward to our November meeting on the importance of personal cybersecurity. I hope you attend. Bring your neighbors and family as well. You will learn some tips for controlling your accounts and electronic files.

Then on December 4 you will not want to miss our annual Holiday Party. Everyone will bring a potluck to savor and we hope to have some entertainment. Good food and good company to start off your holiday season!

Please contact me with comments or suggestions for future branch meetings. I hope you are all actively tempting your family and friends about aspects of our branch happenings. We have a lot of different opportunities for service, learning, leadership and fellowship.

BOOK SALE NEWS

- Liz Clark Hessel, Chair of Book Sales

Do you read a foreign language or do you like science fiction? We need your help.

One niche that makes our book sale stand out is the many foreign language books (last year we had 15 languages) that we handle. We need volunteers who read foreign languages to help sort the books into subcategories, such as fiction, history, or science and to help identify special books. There is a major need for sorting Russian and German books.

We have a large collection of science fiction books that needs sorting and to have their value assessed. This involves looking them up on the Internet--a task you can do at home. The books can be brought to your home and we can give you instructions on how to look them up.

Another thing we need help with is promotion, marketing and social media.



We have fallen behind in collecting books, so we are asking you to:

1. Be aggressive in distributing the yellow business cards that provide information on whom to contact for donations;
2. Collect one box or bag of books or DVDs each week. If you don't want to keep these books in your home, you or the donor may contact me and someone will pick them up. Gathering books now helps ensure we have a good selection at our sale on March 28-30, 2019.

Contact me if you can help in any way at liz@meral.com.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AT BRANCH MEETING

At the October branch meeting we were again inspired by students who have received scholarships or grants from the proceeds of our sales of books. Liz Hessel, who organizes the sale of books and the scholarship process, introduced a few of the students, who told of their background, their achievements and their aspirations. Other students who could not attend sent written testimonials. The students were accompanied by official representatives of their schools.

The students from Montgomery College receiving scholarships or grants this year are: Abena Amfo Koranteng, Alexandra Rose Atlenza, Misun Jung, Shelsea Alustiza, Chloe Myrick, Benedicta Appiah, Kayla Calvin. From the Universities at Shady Grove, they are: Aigiellinn

Mascarina, Jasthselle Pierre-Louis, Juanita Benavides-Alcala.

The career interests of these bright students include bio-engineering, nursing, math, computer science, digital media and web technology, and teaching.

Thanks to all members and friends who took part throughout the past year in gathering, sorting and selling of books for this great enterprise.



At our branch meeting, Liz Hessel introduces some of the students who received our grants and scholarships this year. (Photo courtesy of Maria Roberts.)

GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinator**



The next meeting of the Great Decisions Group will be hosted and led by Eloho Basikoro at her home on Wednesday, November 28, at 2:30 p.m. The timely topic for discussion will be "Global Health: Progress and Challenges." The article on the subject in our Foreign Policy Association study guide is written by Joshua Michaud,

a lecturer at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, where he teaches courses on global health and development.

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

LITERATURE GROUP

- **Mary Wykes for Coordinator Jean Young**



The next meeting of the Literature Group will be on Saturday, December 1, at 10 a.m. at Mary Wykes's home. The book for discussion will be

"Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream" by the noted historian Doris

Kearns Goodwin.

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

HER-STORY INTEREST GROUP

- **Anita Taylor, Coordinator**



We do not have a HerStory meeting in November. Instead we focus on women in our own lives. As we celebrate Halloween and Thanksgiving, let's especially celebrate our friendships and families. Let's tell or promote the telling of our personal stories of women of courage and strength. Let's bring back memories and appreciation of our own foremothers.

As December brings us back to another set of stories--Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and other special days-- we'll continue our study of women and history. At our December 5 meeting at 2:30 p.m. in

the Club Room of the Park View Building at Asbury, Dorothy Camara will lead our study of Fannie Lou Hamer. Many of us remember our good times in the '50s and '60s. But others pay attention to how hard it was for some African Americans to become part of that effort. Hamer spent much of her life wrestling with regaining Black rights that were increasingly taken away after Reconstruction.

Come to our meeting and learn of the many structures Hamer coped with and worked against before her death in 1977. Call Anita Taylor for directions and information about parking.

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

Branch Meeting	Tuesday, November 13 - 7 p.m.
Great Decisions	Wednesday, November 28 - 2:30 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, December 1 - 10 a.m.
HOLIDAY PARTY	Tuesday, December 4 - 6 - 9 p.m.
HerStory Group	Wednesday, December 5 - 2:30 p.m.

The American Association of University Women
Gaithersburg Branch
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