



Empowering Women
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AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

Dec. 2018/Jan. 2019

December and January Events

HOLIDAY PARTY AND POTLUCK

December 4 - 6 to 9 P.M.
Conley Hall, Asbury Village

We celebrate the holidays at our annual potluck party on Tuesday, December 4, at 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Conley Hall at Asbury Village. Our celebration will include a musical evening featuring saxophonist Mike Dries and soloist and pianist Judy Bouey who will lead us in song. We will have a potluck dinner, so bring your favorite food to share.

It is our tradition to celebrate our holidays by contributing to a charity. This year, we have selected two for you to contribute to as you wish. The first is Generation Hope, which focuses on interrupting the cycle of poverty by helping D.C.-area teen parents graduate from college by providing them with mentoring, tuition assistance and crisis support.

The second is the National Center for Children and Families, whose mission is to create healthy living environments for vulnerable children, youth and families by providing temporary living quarters, counselors, social workers and psychologists.

Conley Hall is in the basement of the Trott Building on the Asbury Village campus. Enter the campus at the guardhouse at 301 Odenhal Avenue. Make an immediate right at the stop sign. Trott's parking lot is on the left. Follow the lobby a few steps to the left to the elevator. Go down one floor Conley Hall is immediately in front of the elevator.

BRANCH MEETING

January 12 - 10 A.M.
Community Room, Rosborough Center, Asbury

Lesley Lopez, newly elected delegate to the Maryland General Assembly, will be our guest speaker at the January 12 branch meeting in the Rosborough Community Room at Asbury. Lopez has been an advocate for immigration reform, affordable health care and diversity. You can look forward to hearing

BOARD MEETING

January 8 - 7 P.M.
Conference Room, Hefner Building, Asbury Village

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will next meet on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Conference Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. There will be no December 2018 meeting. Branch members are invited to attend the board meetings.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- **Heather Reichardt**

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to winter and the end of 2018! I hope you will include our branch activities in your busy year-end activities.

December 4 is the date of our always entertaining and heart-warming Holiday Potluck party. We always have a wonderful assortment of delicious dishes, both savory and sweet. And you can always look forward to lovely musical entertainment organized by co-vice president for membership, Patsy Marks. Invite family and friends who may be interested in AAUW's mission. This is the way to introduce them to our fantastic members and the work of our branch!

Our January meeting will be another interesting topic, this time presented by Lesley Lopez, who has just been elected to the Maryland General Assembly. It will be refreshing to hear from this new voice representing Marylanders' interests.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a notice on the 2019 Women's Legislative Briefing to be held on

January 27 at the Universities at Shady Grove. This is another wonderful program spearheaded by the Montgomery Commission for Women. Everyone should attend this important state-wide event. Again, invite your friends and neighbors. The information provided that will benefit women, girls and families in Maryland is nearly limitless. Also, it's a great place to network with like-minded folks.



Speaking of important events, Judy Sholes, co-vice president for program, and I attended the morning panel session of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW), another informative event. MLAW, in existence for 24 years, continues to increase their influence on Annapolis legislation each year. There's nothing like it in other states. You can find the legislative proposals coming from the conference and that MLAW is presenting to the Maryland legislature this coming year on www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org.

2019 BOOK SALE - MARCH 28-30

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

Book donations increased in October and November as more people in the community learned that we welcome their donations year round.

Also, the students at the Universities at Shady Grove are showing their appreciation of our scholarship sponsorship by conducting a book drive in November and December. Decorated boxes adorn the campus and are beginning to fill up! The students also plan to help sort in the

spring. We appreciate their help!

We urge all branch members to continue to spread the word that we are accepting book and DVD donations now. We accept books on any subject, but not encyclopedias. Keep giving out our yellow business cards that have information on how donors can contact us. If you need more cards or have any question, drop me a note at liz@meral.com.



NEW MEMBER WELCOMED

- **Mary Wykes, Co-Vice President for Membership**

Averill Farrelly joined our branch recently after attending some of our Great Decisions meetings. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Denver and a Master of Arts degree from the American University. She and her husband moved to Asbury from Virginia ear-

lier this year.



A SMALL GROUP OF WOMEN

- Dorothy Camara

We were in the HerStory group when our erudite professor, Anita Taylor, said for the nth time that we should do something to commemorate the upcoming 100th anniversary of the adoption of the Suffrage Amendment to the Constitution, pointing out that, as we enter 2019, we reach the 100th anniversary of the amendment's passage by Congress, leading to its enactment into law on August 26, 1920. Astute student, Anna Fraker, proposed we do a series of stories for the newsletter on the progression of this struggle to get voting rights for women. Anita responded that she had a collection of papers on it that she would share, and then she volunteered quaking myself to write it up.

So, I begin this commemoration of the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution 100 years ago by steering you first to a quotation from Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Susan B. Anthony and a small group of women insisted on voting for president in the 1872 election. For their impudence, they were arrested and convicted of violating the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution which guarantees the right to vote to male inhabitants over 21 and to no others. Anthony, the only one of the 15 women to be tried, refused to pay the \$100 fine. The judge, fearing that otherwise the matter would be appealed to the Supreme Court, dropped the case. For her obdurate stand, Anthony gained national recognition, becoming the inspiration to other women in the struggle to get the vote.

This was a pivotal moment, but not the start of this passion. Though Anthony was the most inspired and indefatigable, and the one we honor enough to make her the only woman whose image was put on a U.S. coin, she stood on the shoulders of stalwart predecessors.

There were stirrings in the 1830s. It was a time when women did not speak in public, for that was unwomanly and scandalous. Nevertheless, Maria Miller Stewart, a servant in Boston, became the first known black to give a public speech on women's rights and antislavery. Margaret Fuller, originally from Boston, was a well-known member of the New England Transcendentalism movement. Among her many writings, she published, in 1845, the book, "Woman in the Nineteenth Century," which exerted great influence on the thinking at the Seneca Falls Convention. In the 1850s Paulina Kellogg Wright Davis of Worcester, Massachusetts, published the first woman's rights periodical, called "The Una."

Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were in London in 1840 to attend the World Anti-Slavery Convention. Mott, a Quaker minister from Nantucket,

Massachusetts, later Philadelphia, was from an early age interested in women's rights, as well as the abolition of slavery. Stanton, originally from Johnstown, New York, had also become involved, due to personal experiences, in women's rights and the abolition of slavery. At the convention in London, Mott and Stanton were denied attendance because they were women. Expressing their protests and aroused in mutual wrath, Mott and Stanton formed a bond cemented by the determination to improve the status of women. They resolved that when they returned home, they would convene a convention on women's rights.



But, for Stanton, travel with her husband for his lecturing and writing, her own studies of the law, and her childbearing (she had seven children in all) dissuaded action on a convention. Then in 1848 Stanton, now living in Seneca Falls, New York, heard that Mott was visiting nearby Waterloo. She visited Mott and learned that Mott was still interested in holding a women's rights convention.

Thus ensued the historic Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, drawing participation from a surprisingly great number of women. From it was issued a Declaration of Sentiments declaring that "men and women are created equal" and enumerating 18 legal grievances suffered by women, such as not having the right to their own wages, their person and their children--but, significantly, Stanton proposed a resolution advocating suffrage for women. This raised some opposition, even from Mott, as going beyond the pale. Nevertheless, the resolution was adopted, becoming the first public demand for woman suffrage.

There was public outcry against the demands of the convention, some of the press predicting a degrading of women and a "monstrous injury to all mankind." Despite this invective, the Seneca Falls Convention unified and impelled the idea of women's rights and of suffrage. The movement now grew quickly. It was the start of the suffrage movement in the United States.

Follow us in the next issue of the newsletter. Will there be obstacles that defeat the ardor of the Seneca Falls Convention? Who will get involved in the struggle, and what's that got to do with my underwear?

HERSTORY INTEREST GROUP

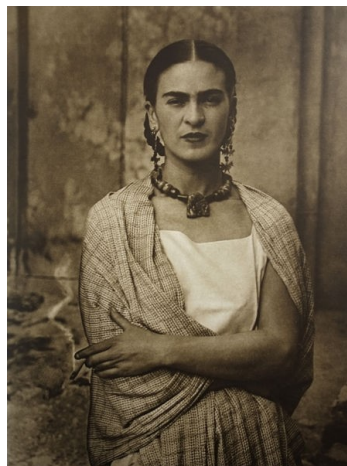
- Anita Taylor, Coordinator

At the HerStory Interest Group for December 5 (2:30 p.m., Park View Club Room at Asbury), we look at the memories of Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and other special days, but also continue our study of women in history. Dorothy Camara will lead our discussion 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 experience. Hamer spent much of her life wrestling with regaining black rights that were increasingly taken away after Reconstruction.

Come to our December 5 meeting and learn of the many structures Hamer struggled against up until her death in 1977.

Then, on January 2 (again, at 2:30 p.m. in Park View's Club Room), Mary Wykes will review the life of another path maker, Frida Kahlo. Kahlo's life is intriguing and her art different from the mainstream. Wikipedia says she employed a naïve folk art style to explore questions of identity, postcolonialism, gender, class and race in Mexican society. Her art reflected her life and loves and her life-long suffering due to a childhood accident. Her husband, artist Diego Rivera, declared her work to be striking and revealing, indeed better than his own. Come and learn. See you soon.

Call Anita Taylor for directions and information about parking.



Frida Kahlo photographed in 1932 by her father, Guillermo



This photo of Fannie Lou Hamer is in Howard University archives.

GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinator**



Our Great Decisions Group will not meet in December. On Wednesday, January 23, at noon we will meet at the private dining room of the Hilton Hotel (arranged by Vivian Otto) for luncheon. The selecting of Great Decisions topics and hosts for the coming year will be made at the luncheon. The 2019 study guides will be available for \$27.50 each, published by the Foreign Policy Association and covering eight of the most thought-provoking foreign policy decisions facing Americans in the coming year.

The topics for 2019 are:

- * Refugees and Global Migration

- * The Middle East Regional Disorder
- * Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?
- * The Rise of Populism in Europe
- * Decoding U.S.-China Trade
- * Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics
- * The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested
- * State of the State Department and Diplomacy

New members are always welcome. The meetings are held monthly on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2:30 p.m. Light refreshments are usually served.

LITERATURE GROUP

- **Mary Wykes for Coordinator Jean Young**

The Literature Group will meet at the home of Jean Young on January 26, 2019, at 10 a.m. Jean will lead the discussion on "Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI" by David Grann—the true-life murder mystery about one of the most monstrous crimes in American history.

New members and visitors are always welcome.



WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING COMING

The annual 2019 Women's Legislative Briefing is a meeting you won't want to miss. The Montgomery County Commission for Women sponsors this event to provide information about legislative proposals coming up before local, state and national legislatures that is of specific concern to women.

This year's meeting will be on January 27 at 10:30 to 6 in Building II at the Universities at Shady Grove, 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville. A plenary session opens the conference, followed

by seminars on upcoming legislature. You will also have the opportunity of meeting and talking to elected officials and with representatives of other women's organizations.



Full information on the conference is on the Montgomery County Commission for Women's website.

AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

Website: gaithersburg-md.aauw.net

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

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Appointed Member of the Board

Liz Hessel
/

Newsletter Editor

Qing Jiang

Newsletter Coordinator

Dorothy Camara

AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

Holiday Party and Potluck	Tuesday, December 4 - 6-9 p.m.
HerStory Group	Wednesday, December 5 - 2:30 p.m.
HerStory Group	Wednesday, January 2 - 2:30 p.m.
Board Meeting	Tuesday, January 8 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Saturday, January 12 - 10 a.m.
Great Decisions	Wednesday, January 23 - 12 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, January 26 - 10 a.m.
Women's Legislative Briefing, Univs. At Shady Grove	Sunday, January 27 - 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

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