



Empowering Women  
Since 1881

# AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

June-August 2019

## CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE

June 4, 1919 Woman Suffrage Passed in Congress

August 18, 1920 Woman Suffrage Ratified by the States



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The vote is the emblem of your equality, women of America, the guarantee of your liberty. That vote of ours has cost millions of dollars and the lives of thousands of women.....Women have suffered agony of soul which you can never comprehend, that you and your daughters might inherit political freedom. That vote has been costly. Prize it! - Carrie Chapman Catt, August 26, 1920.

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## **June - August Events**

### **ANNUAL CELEBRATION AND POTLUCK**

Saturday, June 15 - 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Community Room, The Villas, Asbury Village

Come one, come all! Our next branch meeting will take place on Saturday, June 15, in the Community Room of the Villas at Asbury Village from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is our annual potluck and planning event and the time to celebrate the past year's achievements and enjoy each other's company. So, please bring a tasty dish to share. After we enjoy a wonderful repast, we will put our heads together to make plans for our activities during the next fiscal year. And to top it off, we will announce the surprise AAUW Funds Honorees for the past year, honoring their significant contribution to the branch's success.

Please try to come, and encourage your fellow members to come with you. This is everyone's chance to be heard. We want your ideas, so be thinking of ideas on such things as potential speakers, ways to increase membership, and developing members for leadership roles. The more people to generate thoughts, the richer the planning. Hope to see you there for good ideas, good food and good fellowship.

### **BOARD MEETING**

June 4 - 7 P.M. (Change in date)

August 13 - 7 P.M.

Conference Room, Hefner Community Center, Asbury

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will meet a week early in June--on the 4th--and then again on August 13. Both meetings will be at 7 p.m. and held in the Conference Room of the Hefner Community Center at Asbury Village. Participation by branch members is welcomed.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- **Heather Reichardt**

Dear Members and Friends,

I reviewed last year's President's Message for May and saw that I had issued a huge "Thank You" to everyone in the branch for supporting me and the branch throughout the year.

Well, I don't know how, but I want to say an even bigger thank you this year! As my 4th and final year as president ends, it is difficult to fully express my gratitude and appreciation for everyone in the branch who has helped me be a successful leader (I hope) of the group.

There's nothing like 'on-the-job' training when learning a new position! And, it always helps to have a caring and considerate boss when starting that new job. I would not have made it to Year Two without the incredible support of my "boss," the Board, and the rest of the membership. It has been wonderful to work with and get to know so many of the members over these past four years.

Since we will be starting the next fiscal year with a vacancy in the president's position, I would like to emphasize that all of our members are currently qualified to be the president. And if you have any interest at all, please let me or someone else on the board know. As I state above, the board is the glue that keeps the

branch together, not just one person. We all work together to maintain such a successful AAUW branch.



As I'm not leaving, just jumping to a new position as VP of Programs, this is not a 'goodbye' message at all! I am grateful to continue to work with the branch in this capacity. And, I look forward to planning next year's branch meetings – with everyone's input -- at the June meeting.

I do have to nag, I mean remind, everyone to try to take the online salary negotiation course. And get all the women you know to take it. Our friend, Dian Belanger, from the Rockville branch said she really enjoyed going through the course and did learn a few things. It didn't take that long, but you can pause if you need to. The website is [www.salary.aauw.org](http://www.salary.aauw.org).

I can't say it enough – thank you! For the last four years and the years to come.

Have a great summer and see you in September!

## 2020 BOOK SALE

Be ready for next year's book sale on April 23-25, 2020. Although most members take a break from branch activities over the summer, please know that we continue to collect books all summer. This year's book sale was so successful because we had collected many books in great condition all year round. Summer is particularly a good time for this because many people clean out their houses and dispose of books. Let your friends and neighbors know that AAUW will take their books and, in this way, they would be helping local students go to college by supporting our sale which provides scholarships at

Montgomery College and the Universities at Shady Grove.

You can help further by distributing our white business cards with the 2020 book sale date. If you need more cards, let me know. Donors can contact me to arrange transfer of their books to AAUW. My contact information is on the card: 301-840-1258 or [booksale-at-meral.com](mailto:booksale-at-meral.com).



## ELEANOR ROOSEVELT WANTS YOU TO RENEW YOUR

Eleanor Roosevelt held much in common with AAUW principles of equity for women. It's no surprise that she found herself drawn to AAUW, so we find her joining in 1929. Though she had not attended college, she was eligible for membership under the ruling that membership was open to women who had received honorary degrees from approved colleges. Moreover, one of her friends, Marion Dickerman, who was one of the two working with her at Val-Kill, their furniture-making and handicrafts industry, was president of AAUW New York City Branch.

In 1929, Eleanor was at the New York City Branch giving her first speech to an AAUW audience to mark Armistice Day. Then she was the guest of honor at the branch dinner that followed. You find her at other branch meetings throughout the country; many of these mentioned in her "My Day" newspaper column. Particularly noteworthy was her visit, in 1936, to AAUW headquarters, along with historian Mary Ritter Beard, who was also an AAUW member. They met with AAUW leaders, expressing dismay that major U.S. history books did not at that time mention a single woman, and they discussed a plan to gather historical material relating to women. Then in 1959, there she is at the AAUW National Convention, speaking on the U.S. as a democratic leader in the world.

Throughout this time, she and AAUW were unified in principles. Both sought a safe haven for refugee scholars during World War II. Both urged political leaders to appoint women to public office (and rejoiced over the appointment of AAUW member Frances Perkins as secretary of labor in President Roosevelt's Cabinet). Both Eleanor and AAUW were involved with the establishment of the U.N. and with John F. Kennedy's President's Commission on the Status of Women.



As a member of AAUW, you stand with women such as Eleanor Roosevelt. Be proud as you renew your membership!

(Data on Eleanor Roosevelt taken from AAUW circular of 10/31/14 via Google.)

## IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2019-20

Your AAUW membership expires on June 30. Here is how you may renew for 2019-20:

Respond to AAUW National's personalized email sent to you in April ([memberinfo@aauw.org](mailto:memberinfo@aauw.org)) which allows an easy way to renew by credit card.

Send your check, made payable to AAUW Gaithersburg, to Edie Allison, Treasurer, 11224 Troy Rd., Rockville MD 20852.

Dues for membership types are:

- Member \$87 (\$56 tax deductible as a charitable contribution)
- Life member \$28
- Dual member \$18



## GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinator**



The next meeting of the Great Decisions Group will be at the home of Vivian Otto at 415 Russell Avenue, Apartment 404 (Asbury Village) on Wednesday, June 26, at 2:30 p.m. Please call Vivian at 301-216-5299 to let her know if you plan to come.

The timely topic for discussion will be "Decoding US-China Trade" and will be led by Averill Farrelly.

Light refreshments will be served. And new members are always welcome.

## LITERATURE GROUP

The Literature Group will meet at the home of Jean Young on Saturday, June 22, at 10 a.m. (592 Russell Avenue in the Villas at Asbury Village, 301-216-5599).

The book for discussion is the New York Times bestseller "A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail" by the humor writer Bill Bryson. As one reviewer said: "Bryson's style, humor, and

narrative gifts elevate it well above the mere travelogue...He takes history, observation, and traveler's angst and weaves them altogether seamlessly." (Lexington Herald-Leader.)

Mary Eaton will lead the discussion. New members are always welcome.



## HERSTORY INTEREST GROUP

In May the HerStory Interest Group reviewed the steps in achieving woman suffrage, from Congressional approval to ratification by the required number of states. We noted those that came "late," which included our own state of Maryland—which finally approved the 19th amendment on March 29, 1941.

On June 5, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Congressional approval of the suffrage amendment, which happened on June 4, 1919, followed by ratification on August 26, 1920, by the needed states. We will talk about U.S. laws today and the prevailing efforts to reduce the number of women voting, as well as restricting birth control rights of women.

In our June meeting we'll also discuss our summer schedule, how to open the fall season, and whether the fall meeting will be on August 7 or September 4. We will decide what to cover in the coming year. We might consider breaking our rule of covering women from the past to cover some of the women now running for president. Or . . . What should we pay attention to? Help us decide.

See you then? We meet as usual at 2:30 p.m. in the Club Room at the Park View Building at Asbury. Call Anita Taylor at \_\_\_\_\_ or write [caldwelltaylor33-at-gmail.com](mailto:caldwelltaylor33-at-gmail.com) for information.

## 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*

### Co-Vice President for Membership

*Anna Fraker*

*Patsy Marks*

*Mary Wykes*

### Treasurer

*Edie Allison*

### Secretary

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### Appointed Member of the Board

*Liz Hessel*

### Newsletter Editor

*Qing Jiang*

### Newsletter Coordinator

*Dorothy Camara*

## **AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events**

Board of Directors Meeting	Tuesday, June 4 - 7 p.m. (Change in date)
HerStory Interest Group	Wednesday, June 5 - 2:30 p.m
Annual Celebration & Potluck	Saturday, June 15 - 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, June 22 - 10 a.m.
Great Decisions	Wednesday, June 26 - 2:30 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting	Tuesday, August 13 - 7 p.m.
Women's Equality Day	Monday, August 26
HOLD THIS DATE: Book Sale	April 23-25, 2020

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