



Empowering Women
Since 1881

AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

September 2019

September Events

BRANCH MEETING

Tuesday September 17, 2019

Meet & Greet 7 P.M. - Program 7:30 P.M.

Gaithersburg Library Meeting Room I

Speaker: Branch Member Eloho Basikoro, PhD, MSc, BSc

Our own member, Eloho Basikoro, will discuss her forthcoming book, "Pathologies of Patriarchy," where she details the impact of gender gaps in HIV/AIDS interventions in her home country, Nigeria, where women seeking HIV care face many inequalities. She will also discuss the process of book writing and publishing.

Eloho has been studying global health, international development, feminist political ecology, climate change and environmental management in both Nigeria and the United States. She earned her PhD at the University of Washington and is an AAUW International Doctoral Fellow from 2012.

[Please note that the October branch meeting will be on Wednesday, October 16, not Tuesday, October 15. It will be at the Gaithersburg Library.]

BOARD MEETING

September 10 - 7 P.M.

Conference Room, Hefner Center, Asbury

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will meet on September 10 at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Hefner Community Center at Asbury Village. Anna Fraker, the temporary presiding officer for September and October, will preside. All branch members are welcome to participate in board meetings.

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TEMPORARY PRESIDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE

- *Anna Fraker*

Welcome. I hope you had a nice summer and are ready for a new AAUW year. We are looking forward to a year of good programs, good friendships and accomplishments. We hope members will attend the meetings and bring friends.

Women's Suffrage. This year we will be celebrating the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States giving women the right to vote. The amendment was ratified on August 18, 1919, and certified on August 26, 1919. Following this, women who had worked for the single goal of the 19th Amendment joined with women minorities and others in their ongoing efforts to obtain the right to vote. Much was accomplished, and it is interesting history to read. We will celebrate these accomplishments.

Study Groups. The study groups meet monthly and consist of Literature, Great Decisions and HerStory. These groups will be presented in this newsletter. A main activity of the branch is the book sale, led by Liz Hessel, and held every spring. We prepare for the book sale all year. Working with the book sale provides an opportunity for socializing and contributing to the scholarship program. The book sale is covered in this newsletter.

Business. Our past president, Heather Reichardt, served excellently for four years and is not eligible to continue. Heather has become vice president for program. We hope to have a new president in the future and that one of our members will take up the helm and serve. It is

a position of responsibility, but offers satisfaction and has the support of board members and the branch. During the interim, members of the executive board will take turns serving as temporary presiding officer. I am happy to serve for September and October.



Newsletter. The newsletter editor, Dorothy Camara, sets the twentieth of each month as the deadline for submitting articles. Dorothy prepares the content and sends it to Qing Jiang, who produces the newsletter. It has been e-mailed to you for many years by Louise Chatlynne, then lately by Theresa Medlar. Maria Roberts sends the newsletters to you by regular mail.

Regrets. We regret that two of our members, Patsy Marks and Louise Chatlynne, will be leaving this fall for Frederick, Maryland, and California, respectively. They have held many positions in the branch and worked tirelessly in many areas. We will miss their help and friendship. There will be more about them in the October newsletter.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the monthly branch meetings and our other activities. If you cannot make it to the meetings, please know that we appreciate your support by being a member of the Gaithersburg branch.

YOU WANT TO WRITE?

It's fun to write up little pieces of essays. If you want to indulge, the newsletter would welcome your masterpiece for consideration for publication. Just keep it within the interests of our organization. For example, no matter how exciting your article on growing mushrooms in the Brazilian rainforest for home cooking might be, it would be beyond our scope.

Please give it a try and send your contributions to d5camara-at-comcast.net.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND HONOREES ANNOUNCED

A beginning round of scholarship funds was approved and the 2018-19 AAUW Funds Honorees were announced at the June 2019 Celebration and Planning Meeting.

Branch members approved the board-recommended disbursement of scholarship funds of \$8,900 to Montgomery College and \$3,200 to the Universities at Shady Grove. In addition, \$400 was approved for the Asbury Village Benevolent Fund in appreciation of the use of Asbury's facilities for the sale. Sales of books this year resulted in \$20,000 available for scholarships and grants. The distribution of the remaining funds will be made later.

Each year the branch submits to AAUW-national for recognition the names of members who have made significant contributions to the branch. President Heather Reichardt, leading the meeting, announced this year's honorees are Jean Hirsch, Louise Chatlynnne and Dorothy Camara. Jean is particularly noted for her nonpareil presentations of refreshments at branch meetings. Louise is known for her consistent, prompt and reliable transmission of email com-

munications to the branch. Dorothy has spent faithful years in coordinating the branch newsletter, editing copy and writing articles. But these activities are not the limits of Jean's, Louise's and Dorothy's activities. They are honored for many years of other activities as well that have kept the branch vibrant.



A special salute went to Jean Young, who this year celebrates 75 years as an AAUW member, the longest span of any other of our branch members. Jean leads the Literature Group, and she particularly wished to encourage other members to join and profit from the group.

The meeting ended with the well-deserved recognition of Heather Reichardt's fourth, now term-limited, service as president. Mary Wykes, in the name of the board, presented Heather with Melinda Gates's book, "The Moment of Lift," indicating that within this book one could pull out vestiges of Heather's own progression as a woman and as a leader.



Past president Heather Reichardt (center) with AAUW Fund Honorees Dorothy Camara and Louise Chatlynnne. Absent is the third honoree, Jean Hirsch. (Photo by Mary Wykes.)



Jean Young, honored as longest serving member by Heather Reichardt. (Photo by Mary Wykes.)

BOOK SALE

- Liz Hessel, Chair of Book Sales

Our next book sale is on April 23-25, 2020. While that might seem in the distant future, recall that we collect books and DVDs year round. We hope everyone takes part in soliciting donations. There are people cleaning out their book shelves year round, so be sure your friends and neighbors know we welcome their donations at any time. Any type of books (except encyclopedias) that are in good condition are accepted. Let us know if you need business cards showing next year's date and contact information so that you can hand them out. Over the summer we have continued to pick up books and will soon be ready for another sorting day. Please join us then and enjoy the camaraderie as we sort our DVDs and books.

Do you like music? We are looking for someone to sort sheet music by type of music to make it easier for customers to find what they

want. You can do this at your home. We will bring the boxes to you and pick them up when you're done.



Do you like movies and music? We are looking for one or two people to separate DVD and CD movies from music and to sort the music by genre. Again, this can be done at your home.

Do you have an aptitude for marketing or publicity? We need help in marketing the book sale to wider audiences so that we sell more of the great books we collect.

If you can help with any of these tasks, please contact Liz Hessel at liz-at-meral.com or 301-840-1258.

PHENOMENAL WOMAN

[Ed.: As I read this poem, I thought immediately of the phenomenal women of AAUW Gaithersburg. Let this poem inspire you in your work this coming branch year. Here are the first and last stanzas of Maya Angelou's poem.]

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's
size But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.
I say,
It's in the reach of my arms,
The span of my hips,
The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing
It ought to make you proud.
I say,
It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hair,

The palm of my hand,
The need of my care,
'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally,
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

LOBBY CORPS: DOWN BUT NOT OUT

- *Edie Allison*

For over 40 years, the Capitol Hill Lobby Corps, comprised of AAUW members from D.C.-metro area branches, visited members of Congress each week to advocate for issues important to AAUW members. However, AAUW plans for Lobby Corps to be less active in the future.

Members of Lobby Corps have been visiting House or Senate offices on the Thursday mornings when Congress was in session. In groups of two or three, armed with research findings and talking points developed by AAUW's public policy staff, Lobby Corps made over 1,000 visits to congressional offices each year to advocate for issues important to education and equity for women and girls.

However, severe budget constraints, exacerbated by years of deficit spending, now forces AAUW-US to cut its public policy staff from 12 to 6 as part of across-the-board staffing and program cuts. It is this professional public policy staff that Lobby Corps depends on for research and talking points for congressional visits and for identifying congressional offices for volunteer visits.

Although Lobby Corps cannot continue at the same level with a smaller AAUW public policy force, AAUW leadership does intend for it to continue, but on a much reduced schedule. Congressional visits will resume when Congress returns from its summer recess, with Lobby Corps visits maybe once a month instead

of once a week.

There are still other important opportunities to tell Congress what you think about policies that affect women and girls.



- Keep informed on issues important to women's and girls' education and equity, from Title IX to civil rights, at the AAUW website public policy pages, <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/>.
- Learn how to advocate for issues important to you with the Advocacy how-to-guides, <https://www.aauw.org/resource/advocacy-how-to-guides/>.
- Sign up for the two-minute activist (email alerts provide the information you need to formulate and direct your call or letter to your members of Congress or state legislators), <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>.

REPORT ON NCCWSL

- *Edie Allison*

On May 31, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) honored Judy Carbone of the Garrett County AAUW at its 2019 Woman of Distinction Ceremony. Carbone worked at Garrett College from 2004 to 2015 as administrator in career counseling, academic advising, global education and other student services. She has also held various community service roles, including in the past Business and Professional Women. She was appointed by the Garrett County commissioners to the Garrett County Commission for Women in 2010, for which she was chair from 2016 to 2018. Carbone is currently seeking election as county commissioner and hopes to become the first woman commissioner in Garrett County in 25 years.

NCCWSL is an annual three-day conference focused on helping about 800 participating college women develop leadership skills and make connections with peers from around the country. The conference is held at the end of each May at the University of Maryland College Park campus, with the highlight of the conference being the Women of Distinction Ceremony

honoring four women from around the country who have worked to advance women and generate positive societal gains.



Maryland branches and AAUW of Maryland have been the platinum sponsor of the Women of Distinction Ceremony for the past nine years. In addition, the Gaithersburg branch provides grants each year for selected Montgomery College students to attend NCCWSL. This year Gaithersburg branch awarded grants to Isuri Abeysekara, a Montgomery College Rockville student, and Mikal Abraha, a student at the Universities at Shady Grove. If their schedules allow, these students will take part in the Gaithersburg branch program on October 16, along with students receiving scholarships to Montgomery College and the Universities at Shady Grove.

PATHWAY TO RATIFICATION - JUNE-SEPTEMBER 1919

- *Dorothy Camara*

In the newsletters of the 2018-19 branch year, we journeyed with the woman suffrage movement from the bold, provocative utterance for the vote in the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention to the passage of the 19th Amendment by the U.S. Congress in June 1919. Now, 100 years ago in 1919 and 1920 state legislatures and the people they represented were locked in battle over whether women should share equally with men in the right to vote.

Our newsletters for this branch year will follow this journey month by month, following the ratification pathway as it happened 100 years ago. There will be boulders to scramble, brambles to untangle, on this pathway to ratification.

June to September 1919

Finally, on June 4, the U.S. Congress has passed the 19th Amendment and has sent it to the states to be ratified by the necessary three quarters, or 36, of the states. Wisconsin, eager to be the first to ratify, rushed through its vote and on June 10 hand-delivered it to the appropriate federal official. Affirmative votes followed shortly thereafter from Illinois, Michigan, Kansas, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Texas. July brought in Iowa, Missouri and Arkansas. In August, Montana and Nebraska ratified. A month elapsed, then Minnesota and New Hampshire approved.

They say that this initial sweep of 16 states will falter, that getting the necessary 20 more will not be easy. The southern states have formed a solid block against ratification. Georgia, in fact, was the first state to vote against ratification.

The South argues that states' rights would be abridged by the imposition of this amendment, that states have the right to enact their own laws and govern their own internal affairs. Moreover, they argue that the amendment would extend the right to vote to black women and would be anathema to the effective disenfranchisement of black men from the vote by various restrictive state laws.

From both the North and the South, people are shouting that women lack the emotional capacity to have the vote, that it would destroy the sanctity of the American home. But suffragist leaders, organized and inspired by Carrie Chapman Catt and Alice Paul, are spreading out across the states, giving speeches and handing out leaflets, aiming to educate the public and arouse support. They travel miles, often in arduous conditions, with endless fatigue, and exposed to ridicule by those who oppose their sentiments.

Will this initial surge of support for the suffrage amendment continue in October? Or will the pathway be snagged by the brambles of the anti-suffragists' assault? We await our next newsletter issue.

GREAT DECISIONS

- *Mary Wykes, Coordinator*



The next meeting of the Great Decisions Group will be on Wednesday, September 25, at 2:30 p.m.

The group is meeting at the home of Terry Medlar, 8904 Edgewood Drive, Gaithersburg

(telephone 301-963-7456). Terry will be the discussant on the topic of "Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics."

LITERATURE GROUP

- *Jean Young, Coordinator*

The Literature Group is meeting on Saturday, September 28, at 10 a.m. at Jean Young's home, 592 Russell Avenue, which is in the Villas at Asbury Village. Sandra Finerty will be reviewing Melinda Gates's book,

"The Moment of Lift," which deals with empowering women and other issues facing women today.



HERSTORY INTEREST GROUP

- *Anita Taylor, Coordinator*

On August 28 the HerStory Group joined with the membership committee to celebrate the 100th anniversary of congressional approval of the suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution at a tea to which we invited branch members and prospective members from Asbury.

On October 2 at 2:30 at the Club Room in the Park View Building at Asbury, the HerStory Group will continue our study of the final year of movement toward national suffrage. We will then discuss what we will cover in the meetings to finish 2019 into 2020.

To get to the Park View Building, come in

the Odendhal Avenue gate, go to the second stop sign, turn right and follow the road to the top of the hill. The building has "Park View" and "211" on the front portico. Park in front or at the side of the building. Call Anita Taylor at 240-361-3101 or write to caldwelltaylor33-at-gmail.com for further information.



AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

Website: gaithersburg-md.aauw.net

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

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Liz Hessel

Newsletter Editor

Qing Jiang

Newsletter Managing Editor

Dorothy Camara

AAUW Gaithersburg Calendar of Events

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| Board Meeting | Tuesday, September 10 - 7 p.m. |
| Branch Meeting | Tuesday, September 17 - 7 p.m. |
| Great Decisions | Wednesday, September 25 - 2:30 p.m. |
| Literature Group | Saturday, September 28 - 10 a.m. |
| HerStory Interest Group | Wednesday, October 2 - 2:30 p.m. |
| HOLD THIS DATE: Book Sale | April 23-25, 2020 |

The American Association of University Women
Gaithersburg Branch
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