



Empowering Women  
Since 1881

# AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

February 2020

## February Events

### BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, February 15

10:00 AM - Meet & Greet

10:30 AM - Program

Rosborough Community Rooms, Asbury Methodist Village

**Speaker: Tazeen Ahmad, Commissioner  
Montgomery County Commission for Women**

Please join us to hear from Ms. Ahmad. She will speak about her dedicated service to women and families in need in Montgomery County while also serving in a high-powered finance position. She is co-chair of this year's Women's Legislative Briefing, and has started her own nonprofit children's anti-hunger program with her daughter.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 11 - 7 P.M.

Conference Room, Hefner Community Center, Asbury

The AAUW Gaithersburg Board of Directors will meet at its usual time, Tuesday, February 11, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Hefner Community Center at Asbury Village. Edie Allison, temporary presiding officer, will chair. All branch members are welcome to participate.

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## TEMPORARY PRESIDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE

- *Edie Allison*

As you know, we canceled the January 11 branch meeting. Our program vice president didn't have enough time to find a replacement when our planned speaker could not attend.

I believe our February 15 speaker, Tazeen Ahmad, will make up for the January disappointment. She is a member of the Montgomery County Commission for Women and the chair of the Women's Legislative Briefing, as well as starting a nonprofit benefiting children in our area.

AAUW national continues to focus on ongoing public policy activities in support of women and girls. This is so even as budget constraints have forced cuts in staff and reduction of activities such as Lobby Corps. Here are some highlights.

- Lobby Corps continues monthly or bimonthly, rather than weekly, Hill visits. On January 30 AAUW members lobbied the Senate to advocate for the Paycheck Fairness Act, specifically targeting all senators who are not current cosponsors (all Republicans). AAUW professional staff provided facts, talking points and letters from AAUW and our coalition members to the senators. Members of the Gaithersburg Branch are active in Lobby Corps. We invite other members to join us.
- AAUW achieved its goal of training more than 102,000 women in salary negotiation skills in 2019 through our Work Smart and Start Smart programs. This accomplishment was stimulated by a \$500,000 grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation, the largest corporate gift in AAUW history. The grant also

supported Empower, AAUW's new leadership development and networking event hosted in Atlanta, Chicago, Charlotte, Boston, San Francisco and Washington, D.C., in 2019. Additional leadership development efforts are planned for 2020.



- For the 2019-20 academic year, AAUW has awarded more than \$4.3 million in fellowships and grants to 270 recipients to advance educational and professional opportunities for women around the globe. AAUW members have been so generous over the years that the organization now has sufficient funds to support fellows and grantees for the next 50 years!
- AAUW president Kim Churches hosted a webinar on January 28 to explain the organization's 2020 plans. The webinar will be available in the AAUW website after the live event. A second webinar is scheduled for April 14.

Last but not least, our branch needs volunteers to assist in planning and coordinating branch meetings and other activities. Please contact any officer listed in this newsletter. We have opportunities that can be structured to fit your schedule and interest.

## HOLIDAY PARTY

It was December 10 at Conley Hall at Asbury Village and we celebrated our branch's annual holiday party. The food was tummy-tickling good. Music on the piano by Hannah Boorman led us into heroically singing Christmas carols. Liz Hessel jingled in, wearing her beyond-flamboyant Christmas sweater; she wore it last year, so I guess it's a tradition now.

Mary Wykes, our temporary presiding officer for the month, acknowledged the presence among our guests of Paul Baumgarten and Jim Pearson for a special proclamation of their devoted help with gathering books for our book sale. We clapped joyfully, for we knew they had done well.

If you measure the good time by the food we ate, we ate a ton; if measured by the music, we heard gold and silver notes; if measured by the company, we felt the warmth of friends.



I tumbled out into the misty night, for it was now time to go home. Across the sky, Santa Claus dashed by with his sleigh and his reindeer. He laughed and waved his hand and shouted out, "Happy Holidays, Everyone!"

## PATHWAY TO RATIFICATION - FEBRUARY 1920

- *Dorothy Camara*

*Continuing our series on the ratification of the 19th Amendment, we find the sun shining on the pathway to ratification one hundred years ago this month. If you were reading the Washington Post back then, you might have seen an article such as the following.*

The sweep in December and January that saw states ratifying the 19th Amendment continued this month with ratification by Nevada, New Jersey, Idaho, Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

Idaho and Arizona had previously given women the vote, so ratification there was straightforward and without incident. Alice Paul and her followers in the National Women's Party organized an enthusiastic vote among women for ratification there.

Carrie Chapman Catt and her National American Woman Suffrage Association campaigned in Oklahoma, as they did in other states back in 1918. It was then that the influenza epidemic hit and interfered with campaigning. Meetings larger than 12 were not permitted, so much of the campaign was promulgated through the newspapers. Voter fraud was rampant; suffra-

gists took watch over the polls, guarding the counts. Ms. Aloysius Larch-Miller, seriously ill with the flu, insisted upon speaking at a ratification rally despite doctor's orders. She died two days later. Such was her rousing call to action that when Oklahoma now ratified the 19th Amendment these two years later, they ratified it as her memorial.



Meanwhile, back in our area, both Maryland and Virginia voted against ratification. Maryland, so aroused, passed a resolution rebuking the federal government for having passed the Amendment in the first place. Now, Maryland has sent delegates to other states to convince them to vote against ratification. Though only three more states are now needed toward the 36 needed for ratification, such incursions as Maryland's, particularly into the obdurate southern states, will make the pathway to ratification more unpredictable.

## LETTERS FROM OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Dear AAUW - Gaithersburg,

I wanted to take the time to formally thank you for awarding me the honor of this scholarship. Ever since I was a little girl, I dreamed of doing something that wouldn't be expected of me. That is why I've taken such a liking to STEM and history, neither of these fields have many women in them, especially women of color....

I am currently in my third and final year at MC. I am majoring in mathematics at the moment, but once I transfer to Temple University in Philadelphia, PA, I will be majoring in actuarial sciences.

While at MC, I hope to find the career path that's right for me, as well as finding myself as a person. Since starting college, I have had some ups and downs in my personal life, but the one thing that has helped me to get through them is what the future holds for me.

Although, I love Maryland, I don't see myself going to school here or living here. I want to explore the world and its different cultures. That's why with this scholarship I am one step closer to achieving my dreams of doing so.

In closing, I would again like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for gifting me with such a generous scholarship, and I will do all in my power to do right with it.

Respectfully,  
Hailey Denise Nichols

Dear AAUW - Gaithersburg  
Scholarship Committee,

I attended Penn State University from Fall 2018 - Spring 2019. I was in the Architecture program there, and I loved every second of it. Due to unfortunate financial circumstances, I was not able to return to the university. I always knew I wanted to pursue architecture, so why not do it locally at Montgomery College. This scholarship will help me greatly to continue my education.



I am beginning as a "freshman" at Montgomery College with a major in Architectural Technology. I enjoy meeting new people and forming bonds and friendships for a lifetime. I look forward to working with more people as I continue the program....

I aspire to become a fully licensed architect. I will continue my education at a four-year university, and I will move on to earn my Master's degree. My goals for my career are to travel nationally and internationally to help design and build homes and residences for those who do not have one. I want to serve communities around the world, because everywhere needs a little help.

Thank you so much for this award. I fully appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Laurielle Mischelle Johnson

## GREAT DECISIONS

- *Mary Wykes, Coordinator*



At our meeting on Wednesday, February 26, at 2:30 p.m., we will consider the first topic in the 2020 Foreign Policy Association briefing book: "Climate Change and the Global Order." The author is Ronald J. Bee, former co-director of the Program on Climate Science and Policy at the University of California.

The meeting place and discussion leader will be determined at our January planning meeting

(too late for newsletter publication). Members will be notified later of the meeting location and discussion leader.

New members are always welcome. Please call me with questions regarding this interest group (301-717-1040). If any member wishes to purchase a briefing book, the price is \$27.60 while my supply lasts.

## LITERATURE GROUP

### - *Mary Wykes for Coordinator Jean Young*



The selection for the February meeting of the Literature Group is "We Were the Lucky Ones," a New York Times Bestseller by Georgia Hunter. This is a novel based on a well-researched true story of the author's family of Holocaust survivors--a tribute to the triumph of hope and love against all odds. We will meet at 10 a.m., Sat-

urday, February 22, at Jean Young's home in the Villas of Asbury Village, 592 Russell Avenue, Gaithersburg, 301-216-5599, jsy592@comcast.net. Jean will also lead the discussion.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

## HERSTORY INTEREST GROUP

### - *Anita Taylor, Coordinator*

Here's to continuing our development of a fact-driven 2020. In the HerStory Group, we continue our look at women in the "political world." On February 5 Anita Taylor will present Amy Klobuchar, extending a good look at ways women do politics. Our conversation will develop some of the reasons that the New York Times chose her as well as Elizabeth Warren. We will explore Klobuchar's ways of using the political process to lead our work toward making politics be more than just saying how "nice" it is for the currently privileged.

The date is February 5, the time 2:30; the place the Park View Club Room. I'll bring tea. If you need more information, ask by return e-mail or call Anita Taylor 240-361-3101. Come on campus through the entrance at 301 Odendhal. Remember, you now may come into the lobby floor, and you'll find the Club Room on the right

Bring anyone who might be interested in this topic, whether they are an AAUW member or not. We need persons to lead our conversations on the subjects of Tulsi Gabbard, Kirsten Gillibrand, Marianne Williamson and Elizabeth Warren. Otherwise, we will just share our ignorance on the issues.



At our meeting, we will also note where we are in the movement toward final satisfaction of the work that came in the August suffrage vote in Tennessee.

Then we will choose a topic for our March 4 meeting. So please come with ideas.

## 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

HerStory Interest Group	Wednesday, February 5 - 2:30 p.m.
Board of Directors	Tuesday, February 11 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Saturday, February 15 - 10 a.m.
Literature Group	Saturday, February 22 - 10 a.m.
Great Decisions	Wednesday, February 26 - 2:30 p.m.
HerStory Interest Group	Wednesday, March 4 - 2:30 p.m.
BOOK SALE	April 23-25

The American Association of University Women  
Gaithersburg Branch  
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