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AAUW

Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

March 2020

March Events

Branch Meeting and Election

Saturday, March 21, 2020

10:00 Gather and Socialize - 10:30 Presentation

Community Rooms B & C, Rosborough Center, Asbury Village

Speaker: Alvah T. Beander, MRICS, ISA, MBA, is a personal property appraiser specializing in African, African American, and African Diaspora art and is president of Melanin Art Appraisals, LLC.

Presentation: Join us as we hear interesting stories of Sherman Tanks, T & T's, a \$100,000 Bethesda yard sale and artists whose work increases from \$10,000 to \$750,000 in two years. Growing up in the 1950s in what was a small town called Orlando, Florida (BD = Before Disney), Alvah was asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" At the time the choices for a girl seemed limited to teacher or nurse. She answered that her interests were libraries, business, law, education, travel, anthropology, and interior design. Adults were startled by such a long list and kindly advised her to pick one direction. How did the space program, Disney World and a book help her find the answer: "I want to be an appraiser"?

Election: Following the presentation we will have our annual election of officers for the year 2020-21. Brief biographies of the nominees' branch experience appear further in this newsletter.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 10 - 7 P.M.

Conference Room, Hefner Community Center, Asbury

The AAUW Gaithersburg Branch will hold its monthly meeting at its usual time and place. Heather Reichardt, temporary presiding officer for March and April, will chair. The meeting is open to all branch members.

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TEMPORARY PRESIDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE

- *Edie Allison*

I have enjoyed two months as the branch's Temporary Presiding Officer. Heather Reichardt, our program vice president, will take over as TPO in March and April.

I hope you are attending our monthly meetings. The February speaker, Tazeen Ahmad, spoke about her and her daughter's work as one of several organizations providing weekend backpacks of healthy food to local students who might not otherwise have a meal until school resumes. She made clear that we need additional efforts to counteract children's hunger in our relatively wealthy county.

Heather has organized an informative March meeting that she describes elsewhere in this newsletter. I will miss that meeting because I am obligated to represent our branch and record the minutes at the Maryland AAUW meeting in Annapolis.

Speaking of the state meeting brings me to remind you of the operation of our state AAUW organization. Maryland AAUW coordinates activities for its 12 branches and the online community, stimulating communication among state branches and providing resources to branch leaders. In addition, AAUW Maryland is a wealthy source of information on General Assembly activities in education and pay equity.

- The Marylander, a quarterly newsletter, is emailed to Maryland AAUW members. Let me know if you are not receiving it.
- The 2020 Spring Conference is on Saturday, March 21, in Annapolis, and is preceded on Friday by a State House tour and a group dinner. The focus of the program is on the 100th anniversary of women winning the vote and on gender equality. Go to aauw-md.net for information about the agenda and registration.

For information about state policy issues and how you can be involved, contact the state policy vice presidents who are listed under the "Tools for Leaders/AAUW Maryland Officers"

buttons at the Maryland AAUW website. (Did you know that branch and state officers are listed in the Members Services Database (MSD) of AAUW.org--the web page where you also can renew your membership?)



Education is a major AAUW concern. Its equitable funding is a major issue that deserves more attention, especially during the General Assembly session from January 8 to April 6. I encourage you to look at the legislature's website.

A major policy issue is how to implement the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission, which was formed in 2016 to evaluate the needs and priorities for Maryland public education. The commission's report, "Blueprint for Maryland's Future," released in 2019, recommends increased funding for full-day prekindergarten and grants for teachers, special education, poverty, and mental health. Voter and legislative initiatives are beginning to fund the recommendations:

- In 2018 voters amended the Maryland Constitution to increase educational funding by more than \$500 million from casino revenues.
- \$500 million in support of the Kirwan report objectives was approved in the 2019 legislative session, as well as an increase in state education funding for fiscal years 2021-22, bringing the three-year increase to \$1.1 billion.

Progress and costs associated with the Kirwan Commission recommendations can be found in an internet search for "Blueprint for Maryland's Future Funding Formula Work Group."

PATHWAY TO RATIFICATION - MARCH 1920

- *Dorothy Camara*

Here is what was happening a hundred years ago this month in the tortuous path to ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution which would enfranchise women.

West Virginia state senator Jesse Bloch has made a desperate journey back to his state, interrupting his California vacation. A special express train was hastily provided for him so that he could vote for the 19th Amendment which was deadlocked in the West Virginia Senate after being ratified in the state House of Delegates. Arriving just in time, Bloch broke the tie on a vote that had previously been successively combatted by liquor and business interests and the conservative social beliefs surrounding the status of women.

In the State of Washington, a unanimous vote supporting women's right to vote overcame strong state liquor lobby opposition. Memory was strong of the dramatic escapade of suffragist Lucy Stone in 1916 when she scattered leaflets over Seattle, sitting behind the pilot of a hydroplane, an 80-mile-an-hour wind ripping at the suffragist banner she held aloft.



Ratification by one more state is required to pass the 19th Amendment. We are awaiting word from brawling Delaware as to whether they will be the historic 36th needed.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nomination Committee offers the nominees below for office for the 2020-21 year, including any nominated on the floor at the election to be held at the March 21 branch meeting. Members of the committee are Edith Allison (chair), Carolyn Fisher and Anita Taylor.

Edie Allison -President

Edie is currently the treasurer of the branch, holding that position for the past three terms. In 2000-02 she was the branch president. She is the branch webmaster, does significant work with the book sale, and participates in the AAUW Lobby Corps. She also has served at the Maryland state level as president, membership co-vice president and newsletter editor, and she is presently the state secretary.

Heather Reichardt - Vice President for Program

Heather is the current vice president for program. Initially, she held the position of AAUW Funds chair. After several years, she was elected president of the branch for four years starting July 2015 through June 2019. Additionally, Heather spent two years as the Maryland AAUW co-secretary from July 2017 to July 2019.

Anna Fraker and Mary Wykes - Co-Vice Presidents for Membership

Anna and Mary are currently co-vice presidents for membership (along with Patsy Marks). Anna

is a Honorary Life Member of AAUW. She and Mary shared two separate terms as co-presidents of the branch. Anna has also been chair of AAUW Funds and the Legal Advocacy Fund, the recording secretary, and on the nominating committee and the financial records review committee.



In addition to being co-vice president for program, Mary holds a record of seven years, intermittently, as president. She is now the coordinator of the Great Decisions Group and the correspondent of the Literature Group. In the past she served as vice president for program, recording secretary, membership vice president, AAUW Funds chair, and nominating committee chair.

Ellen Teague - Treasurer

Before retiring from work, Ellen had a long career as a director of finance. She joined AAUW in April 2018 and has helped out at the book sale.

Averill Farrelly - Secretary

Averill filled in a couple of times as temporary secretary at board meetings this past year. She joined AAUW in November 2018 and has been active in our branch's Great Decisions Group.

LETTERS FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Dear AAUW Gaithersburg

I would like to humbly express my sincerest gratitude for this great opportunity.

I was born in Kenya, in a town called Nakuru. I come from a family of 5, my mother, my father, and my 2 siblings. My mum passed away when I was 10.... I became the head of the family and I had to be the parent to my 6 year old sister and my 3 year old brother. To this day, my siblings still view me as the parent even at thousands of miles away. And I am happy it stayed that way, I am able to look at the world at a different angle--which helps me focus on what is important.

...After I finished my primary school education, my dad didn't have any money to send me to high school so I stayed home for the whole academic year. My aunt who was the closest family member to mum knew that my mum's dream was to have her kids well educated--she submitted an application to the school and the principal at this school saw a talented and bright girl who was missing an opportunity to becoming whatever she wanted....

I am in my sophomore year at MC and I am a Science Major (Associate of Science--Mathematics)....I am a member of Good Deeds--an organization that helps kids with cancer put a smile on their faces.

By the time I leave MC I hope to leave a mark--positivity and turning every negative into a positive. Seeing the cup as half full, not half empty. I also want to graduate with my associates in Mathematics and then join a four-year college to pursue Bachelors in Actuarial Science with a minor in Data Science. I hope to work at Amazon Corporate one day as a Data Scientist with Actuarial Science background.

This scholarship will help me reach my dreams. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Very Truly Yours,
Leah Karanja

Dear AAUW - Gaithersburg,



...I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for this scholarship opportunity. My dad moved to Washington, D.C. in his young age to attend high school. When it was time for him to wed, he returned to Bangladesh to marry my mother. Soon after I was born, my mother and I moved to Maryland to be with my father. My father did not have a stable job when we arrived but had saved enough money to move into a house in Montgomery County....My dad would work normal office hours while my mom stayed home. After my dad returned, my mom would go to work while my father would take care of us. Some days when my aunt was busy, my sister and I would go to the university with my father because he attended night school. Since then, my father has been doing much better, however, both my mom and dad have education loans to pay. That's when my Montgomery College life starts. During my senior year at Paint Branch High School, I realized the high price of seeking higher education. After doing my cost calculations MC was my best option. I wanted to save the most money on my education so my parents can pay back their student loans. I also had to consider the high cost of medical school my sister wants to attend.

Starting this fall, I am a first year student at Montgomery College pursuing a degree in Computer Science. During the summer I attended the STEM summer bridge program to get more familiar with the school....I wish to get involved with clubs through Student Life. Throughout high school, I was involved with the Environmental Club, Psychology Club, and multiple honors society. I want to continue my participation in similar clubs through my MC career.

I want to work hard towards my associate's degree in Computer Science and then transfer to a university to pursue my bachelor's. I am looking into transferring to UMBC or MD. After that, I want to receive my Masters in Computer Science. I want to be like my father and have multiple degrees as well. I don't know what the future holds for me but I wish to continue higher education for as long as I can.

Thank You,
Maisha Jahan

IN MEMORIAM: Beatrice (Kozak) Carasso

This is a beautiful obituary of our former member and long-time Literature Group coordinator, Beatrice Carasso. Her husband gave it to me recently, along with the poignant essay she had written based on her study of Proust and his famous book "Time Regained." I would like to share it with you, especially since this is the 75th anniversary of the Holocaust, of which Bea's family was a victim. - Mary Wykes

Passed away peacefully on October 19, 2017, one month shy of her 80th birthday, as a result of a previously undetected aggressive form of cancer. She is survived by her husband Alfred, her son Adam, and her daughter and son-in-law, Rachel and Bret Van Nortwick.

Beatrice was born on November 16, 1937 in Czernowitz, Romania. She was the only child of Marie and Marcel Kellner, who sprang from the vibrant German-speaking Jewish community that was formerly part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In 1941, as World War II engulfed Europe, Beatrice, her parents, and grandparents, were deported to a concentration camp in the Ukraine. While almost all of the family managed to survive that ordeal, Beatrice's father Marcel succumbed to typhus in the camp.

After their liberation by the Russian Red Army, the family became refugees in Italy, where Beatrice's mother remarried. Beatrice always spoke glowingly of her childhood in Italy, and of the kindness and generosity of the Italian people. The family then emigrated from Italy to the USA, arriving in New York on Thanksgiving Day in 1949.

Despite the tragedies of her early childhood, Beatrice retained an optimistic outlook on life. She had beautiful red hair and was affectionately known as Bea. She attended the prestigious Hunter College High School in New York City, graduated from Brooklyn College with a major in Romance Languages, and won a Full-bright Scholarship for study in France at the University of Bordeaux. Returning from France, Beatrice was accepted for graduate study in French at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

In the fall of 1963, Beatrice met Alfred Carasso, a student from Australia, who was studying Meteorology and Mathematics at Wisconsin. Alfred originated from a French-speaking Jewish community in Alexandria, Egypt, and his family had relocated to Australia in the early 1950s. Alfred was enthralled by Beatrice, and they were married in June 1964. There followed several idyllic years of graduate study, with long afternoons discussions on the famed Memorial Union Terrace, overlooking Lake Mendota. There, Beatrice enchanted Alfred with her discourses on Proust, Anouilh, Flaubert, Montaigne, Carlos Fuentes, and several other favorite authors. Beatrice loved France and Italy, and was fluent in English, French, German, and Spanish.

Following graduate school, Alfred accepted a teaching job at the University of New Mexico, in Albuquerque, while Beatrice employed her linguistic talents at the

University's library, translating the archaic Spanish text used in some of the original New Mexico land grant documents, dating back to the early 1600s. Beatrice appreciated the warm and welcoming Southwestern culture, the stunning vistas, the Indian Pueblos, each with its own distinctive dances and pottery, the Navajo rugs and turquoise jewelry, and the magical Santa Fe Opera. Both children were born in Albuquerque, and raising them in that environment was the prime joy in her life. These were truly wonderful years.

In 1982, the Carasso family moved to Gaithersburg, Maryland, where Alfred took a position at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and Beatrice, most recently, worked as librarian at Montgomery College in Rockville. Beatrice was also active in a Gaithersburg reading group for many years, and, as a volunteer, conducted very successful English Conversation classes at the Quince Orchard Library. She particularly appreciated the inexhaustible cultural treasures in the DC area. A visit to the National Gallery, or the Freer Gallery, following Sunday Brunch at the Cosmos Club, was one of her favorite activities.

Beatrice and Alfred have lived in the same house in Darnestown, Maryland, for 35 years. In the early evening, they would often share a drink on their deck overlooking the trees in their yard, especially in the fall, which was Beatrice's favorite season. Holding hands in their little corner of paradise, they would reflect on the great happiness they had brought each other, the great joy their children had brought them, and they would give thanks to the Lord for the wonderful life with which He had graced them. Her family will always remember Beatrice as the kindest, gentlest woman with an inner strength and toughness born out of surviving the Holocaust.

Her lifetime love of learning filled the shelves of her house with a definitive library of French and Spanish literature, with her notes scribbled in the margins. She never took any good fortune for granted. She liked to quip that life is uncertain, so one should start with dessert.

Beatrice enriched our lives beyond measure, and was dearly loved by all who knew her. She will live on in our hearts and minds, and we will cherish her memory till the end of time.

Our Sale is April 23 – 25, 2020

- Liz Hessel, Chair of Book Sales

Our book sale is coming in less two months and we welcome every member's help. We have many tasks that can be done at home. We draw on your talents and experience to help. Please consider how you can contribute to our efforts and let Liz Hessel know of your interests.

- **Do you have an aptitude with computers?**
 - ◇ We have a need for someone who can handle spreadsheets and a data base.
 - ◇ We also need people to look up books on the internet to determine if they have special value (We can give you guidance).
 - ◇ We need help to find organizations with Websites or bulletin boards whose members are interested in books. Ask the organizations to post our book sale information.
- **Do you have an aptitude for marketing or publicity?** We need help to market the book sale to wider audiences so that we sell more of the great books we collect.
 - * Can you **help Post our fliers in your neighborhood stores**, e.g. Dry cleaners, hair or nail shops, stores with community bulletin boards?
 - * Are you willing to **take our flyers to local libraries** and ask to post the flyers on their bulletin boards.
 - * Are you willing to **contact PTAs at local schools** to help advertise the sale?
 - * Are you willing to **contact Home School networks** to share book sale information? (Our area has many families that Home School their children. Generally, the families participate with networks of other families.)
 - * Are you willing to **contact senior citizen** organizations and living complexes and provide information to share with their members? (Studies show that older people are more frequent book sale customers.) We have

a list of senior communities.



- * **Contact organizations that sponsor book clubs** asking them to distribute our sale information.
- * Are you willing to **contact local cable TV stations** for the City of Gaithersburg and Montgomery County to post information on their Community Bulletin Boards.
- * Are you willing to help find **people or organizations** whose members are interested in Art Books? We have a special collection of Art Books donated this year.
- * Do you know of organizations whose members are **interested in foreign language books**? We have books in many languages.
- Are you willing to **help sign up members to work between April 16 – 26** to help prepare for the sale and provide service to the customers? We hope every member can participate for 12 – 20 hours during these 10 days.
- **Can you help sort books March 22 – 24?** We will sort books collected since November in the 400 building at Asbury. Join us and enjoy the camaraderie of other members.
 - ◇ March 22 – Sunday – we will move books in and sort in the afternoon.
 - ◇ March 23– 24, Mon/Tue – 9:30 am – 5 pm. We will sort, box and move the boxes out.
- Are you just willing to help with the book sale wherever we need assistance?

If you can help with these or other tasks, let Liz know about your interests! 301-840-1258 or liz[at]meral.com.

GREAT DECISIONS

- *Mary Wykes, Coordinator*



The Great Decisions March meeting date, location and topic are uncertain at the time of

newsletter publication. Members will be notified as soon as plans are definite.

LITERATURE GROUP

- *Mary Wykes for Coordinator Jean Young*



The Literature Group will meet at 10 a.m. on March 28 at the home of Jane Carroll, 414 Russell Avenue, the Villas at Asbury

Village. Her telephone number is 301-216-4752.

Jane will lead us in discussing the book "The Last Palace: Europe's Turbulent Century in Five Lives and

One Legendary House" by Norman Eisen, an American politician who served as a counsel on the House Judiciary Committee during the impeachment of Donald Trump and as U.S. ambassador to the Czech Republic during the Obama administration.

New members are always welcome.

HERSTORY INTEREST GROUP

- *Anita Taylor, Coordinator*

Now is the time! Is now the time to choose the Democratic presidential candidate? We will have had the March 3 primaries by the time of the March 4 HerStory meeting. Where will any of the current candidates be by then? Are we now ready to choose? How much time separates March 5 from November 3?

Come to the Club Room Park View (Building 211 at Asbury). Let's hear more to bring us up to date on Elizabeth Warren. Maria Roberts will be there helping us. Please come and learn. The time is 2:30.

From then we might have a busy seven months plus a few days to tell us what we will have to live through after that date. Please bring any friend you think might be interested. Not lots of men will "get" why this date is so critical to us.

See you then? And again at our April 1 meeting.



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, March 4 - 2:30 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting	Tuesday, March 10 - 7:00 p.m.
Branch Meeting & Election	Saturday, March 21 - 10 a.m.
AAUW Md. Annual Convention, Annapolis	Saturday, March 21
Literature Group	Saturday, March 28 - 10 a.m.
HerStory Interest Group	Wednesday, April 1 - 2:30 p.m.
BOOK SALE	April 23-25

The American Association of University Women
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