



Empowering Women
Since 1881

AAUW

Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

May 2020

May Events

STILL HUNKERED DOWN!

Here we are still hunkered down, Covid-19 dictating that we not gather with our friends. We will miss seeing each other at the monthly Gaithersburg Branch meeting. The board of directors will not meet this month either. Heather Reichardt continues as our temporary presiding officer in May.

There will be no land-mail newsletters to those with email addresses since we must avoid going out into the community to pick up the newsletter at the printer's and then mail it.

We hope everyone is safe. Stay home. Wash your hands. Wait for Godot.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Though the coronavirus is temporarily interrupting our gathering, AAUW's mission endures--advocating for equity for women and girls through education, philanthropy, and research.

Now is the time to renew your AAUW membership for 2020-21. The convenient way is to click on the link in the email sent you by AAUW National on April 6. You may also renew by sending your check for \$87 (remember \$56 of this is tax deductible as a charitable contribution) to the Gaithersburg Branch treasurer:

Edie Allison
11224 Troy Rd
Rockville MD 20852

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TEMPORARY PRESIDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE

- *Heather Reichardt*

Springtime greetings to everyone. I hope that you continue to stay well and away from Covid-19. Here we are, four weeks after cancelling March and April branch events and now I'm sorry to say we are cancelling May events due to the stay-at-home order from the governor and the county executive.

I am pleased that many members have voted online or paper ballot. The votes are unanimously in favor of both the new officers slate and the budget for 2020-21. Welcome to the board to new branch leaders, Ellen Teague, treasurer, and Averill Farrelly, secretary. Hopefully we will have an officer installation at the usual June meeting.

Regarding AAUW Maryland activities, the June 27 convention is up in the air. We have a conference call to discuss and vote for new state leadership coming up in May. Moreover, the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), which was scheduled for May, is cancelled.

I am still working from home--going into six weeks now as I am writing. I am fortunate that

my husband and two adult children are here. My daughter continues with sewing projects when she's not doing an online class at the University of Maryland. My son has only a week left of online classes for his Duke University graduate program. See the photo of all the fabric masks my daughter has made and donated to neighbors. Just before the crisis hit, we adopted another puppy. The two dogs are having a great time with everyone home every day. They are quite active. Their action in this photo is not unusual!



Let's keep each other in our thoughts throughout this crisis. Keep communication going and let others know how you are doing. Feel free to contact one or another board member by email or phone. I really look forward to seeing everyone as soon as we can get together again!



PATHWAY TO RATIFICATION - May 1920

- *Dorothy Camara*

Our series continues to follow the struggle to ratify the Woman Suffrage Amendment. Here is what happened in May a hundred years ago.

Rocks and rubble block the pathway to ratification of the beleaguered suffrage amendment. One more state is needed to ratify, but no state has done so since March 1920. Suffragists, especially spitfires Carrie Chapman Catt and Alice Paul, are spewing their fireworks throughout the states, spurring on their followers and counter-attacking the fusillade of the liquor and business interests and their supporters. However, Alice Paul, now in debt to the tune of \$10,000, can no

longer afford to travel but manages her National Women's Party members from her Washington office. Catt is in good financial shape, her National American Woman Suffrage Association being funded by multimillionaire socialite Alva Erskine Vanderbilt Belmont.



This is a dark time for the suffragists. The question is, will they succumb to the weeds of defeat, or will they gather the fresh blossoms of success?

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE - MAY 2000

- *Mary Wykes*

Twenty years ago, at our spring luncheon at a private room at the Gaithersburg Hilton the Gaithersburg Branch had our installation of officers. Since it was also my 75th birthday, my daughter Pam surprised me with a decorated birthday cake for all of us to enjoy. I recently found some photos that Anna Fraker took on that occasion, and they remind me of how hap-

py I am to still be enjoying the wonderful friendships AAUW has provided me—and that on May 13, 2020, I will celebrate another milestone—my 95th birthday!



Back in 2000, Mary Wykes (right) shares her birthday cake with her friends of Gaithersburg Branch. Over the years, Mary has held many offices in the branch. Most notably, she holds the record of terms served as president, having served seven, intermittent, terms.

BOOK SALE SCHOLARSHIPS

- *Liz Hessel, Chair of Book Sales*

Although we have postponed our book sale, hopefully until the fall, let us reflect on the good the branch did this year with book sale proceeds.

In 2019-20, AAUW Gaithersburg helped eight female students with academic scholarships, two of these at the Universities at Shady Grove and six at Montgomery College. These women were generally at the top of their class academically and have also shown great leadership. Most represent the first in their families to attend or graduate from college, frequently facing challenges as their families struggled to support them while they attend college. Their leadership potential was evident as they described their broad interests and future plans. We are gratified to help such a great group of students.

Without funds from this year's book sale, we will not be able to sponsor such scholarships for the fall semester even though the need for financial

aid will be even greater. If you would like to make a donation so that we might continue to support female students for the fall semester, please send a check to Edie Allison at 11224 Troy Road, Rockville MD 20852-2438. Make out the check to "AAUW Gaithersburg," and on the memo line please put "Scholarships." Your donation will be sent to the colleges in late June for fall scholarships.



As the pandemic abates, we will determine later this year if we will have the book sale in the fall to provide additional scholarship funds for the spring semester. Meanwhile, we will continue to collect books after the limits on public interaction are lifted.

ELECTION RESULTS

AAUW Gaithersburg members have elected by electronic ballot the following officers for 2020-21:

- Edie Allison, President
- Heather Reichardt, Vice President for Program
- Anna Fraker and Mary Wykes, Co-Vice Presidents for Membership
- Ellen Teague, Treasurer
- Averill Farrelly, Secretary

The officers will assume their duties on July 1, 2020.

In addition, the membership has approved the budget for 2020-21 as submitted by Treasurer Edie Allison and published in the April newsletter.

GREAT DECISIONS

- *Mary Wykes, Coordinator*



Hello, friends in our Great Decisions discussion group.

The topic for our May meeting is the fourth one in our discussion guide—"Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking" by Ronald Weitzer, professor of sociology at George Washington University. It is uncertain that

we will be able to meet by that time. Perhaps I can figure out how we can meet in Zoom and we could have a virtual meeting. I will keep you informed. Meanwhile, stay safe!

LITERATURE GROUP

- *Mary Wykes for Coordinator Jean Young*



It is uncertain whether the Literature Group can meet as planned on May 23 at the home of Mary Eaton at Asbury Village.

It looks as though we will not be able to, but if there is a change, members will be notified.

Meanwhile, I hope you will read the wonderful May book selection recommended by Mary--a New York

Times nonfiction and PEN award winner written by Elizabeth Letts, a lifelong equestrian, titled "The Perfect Horse." One review: "She eloquently brings together the many facets of this unlikely poignant story underscoring the love and respect of man for horses." This is a book said to be enjoyed by animal lovers and World War II buffs alike.

HERSTORY

The HerStory Group will not meet in May.

AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

Website: gaithersburg-md.aauw.net

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

President

Open

Vice President for Program

Heather Reichardt

Hjr1234<at>gmail<dot>com

Co-Vice Presidents for Membership

Anna Fraker

Acfeh2<at>starpower<dot>net

Patsy Marks

Patsy<at>fmadirect<dot>com

Mary Wykes

mary. Wykes<at>aol.<dot>om

Treasurer

Edie Allison

Edieallison<at>comcast<dot>net

Secretary

Open

Appointed Member of the Board

Liz Hessel

Liz<at>meral<dot>com

Newsletter Editor

Qing Jiang

Qjmailbox<at>gmail<dot>com

Newsletter Managing Editor

Dorothy Camara

D5camara<at>comcast<dot>net

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