



Empowering Women  
Since 1881

# AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

November 2020

## November 2020

### VIRTUAL BRANCH MEETING!

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Log in to Zoom meeting: 7:15pm

Presentation begins: 7:30pm

#### SPEAKER & TOPIC:

Dierdre D. Bishop, Chief

Geography Division, U.S. Census Bureau

“Weaving the Use of GIS\* Through the 2020 Census Design”

(\*Geospatial Information Systems)

Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop is chief of the Geography Division at the U.S. Census Bureau, where she leads the development of a national geospatial database. This database of addresses, roads, and boundaries creates the foundation used to support the 2020 Census and ongoing surveys. We will hear about how the Census Bureau is able to track so many places and analyze the data.

NOTE: All members will receive an email with the Zoom registration information. You will need to register for the meeting rather than accept an invitation email. Please forward the registration email to any friends and family who may be interested in this meeting.

### Virtual Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00pm

Log in to Zoom meeting: 6:45pm

Board meetings are open to all members. If you want to attend, please email Heather Reichardt: hjr1234@gmail.com to receive a Zoom meeting invitation.

\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE – TIME CHANGE\*\*\*

POST ELECTION ZOOM SOCIAL HOUR+

Friday, November 6 at 4:30pm

Let’s get together to dissect the election results, whatever they may be, and chat about our voting experiences (and anything else) from this year. Feel free to bring your snacks and drinks! ♦♦

Again, a registration email will be sent to members a few days before this event. “See” you there!

#### INSIDE

<i>November Events</i>	1
<i>President’s Message</i>	2
<i>MLAW FALL CONFERENCE</i>	2
<i>SAYING GOODBYE TO ANITA</i>	3
<i>Book Sale</i>	3
<i>Great Decisions</i>	4
<i>Literature Group</i>	4
<i>Calendar</i>	5

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- *Edie Allison*

Let's all give another celebratory cheer for the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, uniquely realized this year as we are voting in record numbers while staying safe. Please join members and friends for a post-election social hour Friday, November 6, on Zoom, starting at 4:30 pm. There is no set agenda, just a chance to catch up with friends and acquaintances that you have not seen for a while.

Now that most of us have passed the vote milestone, we can look forward to disputes about the census and redistributing the 438 House seats among the states. That makes our November program on the 2020 census especially timely. Our speaker will help us understand the intricacies of the count.

Aside from the political confusion, the coronavirus is probably everyone's main concern, and as the days get shorter and colder, we expect increasing numbers of Covid-19 infections and possible additional safety measures that restrict our interactions with family and friends. If you feel that you or your family members mental health has been negatively impacted by coronavirus you are not alone. Residential communities such as Asbury are offering pandemic-appropriate social and fitness options, and smartphone and computer apps offer meditation and calming music. This is really not enough.

Many of us in the branch want to find ways beyond Zoom meetings to involve our members

and communicate with them while in-person gatherings are restricted. We especially hope that we can establish new interactions with members who are socially isolated and perhaps are feeling anxious and stressed. Several branch officers have joined members of the other 12 branches in a new Maryland AAUW task force called Care to Connect. This effort was initiated by Erin Prangle, the state president. The task force plans to survey state members and branches to identify who is at risk for social isolation and loneliness, and work across branches to develop a plan to create support networks and address the constraints of the digital divide. The first monthly task force meeting is planned for October 26. If you have suggestions or want to participate please contact me.



Last but not least, you may not know that Anita Taylor, long-time branch member and dedicated leader of HerStory, is moving back to her home state of Kansas. As another Kansas native, I can testify that it is a gorgeous place, where the view over the prairies to the horizon is not obstructed by trees, and you won't get lost driving to someone's house. Anita will be finishing her packing for an early flight on November 7 so she will miss our social hour, but you can depend on other forms of communication. See more about Anita in Dorothy Camara's profile in this newsletter.

### MLAW FALL CONFERENCE

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women holds its annual fall conference via Zoom on Saturday, November 14, at 9 a.m.

"At a Crossroad: Gender, Race and Covid-19's Impact on Maryland" will be the focus of a panel discussion. And Maryland women legislators join you and other participants in selecting legislative proposals for the 2021 Maryland General Assembly.

To take part in this stimulating and vital conference, go to the Maryland Legislative Agenda for women's website to register ([mdlegagendaforwomen.org](http://mdlegagendaforwomen.org)).

## SAYING GOODBYE TO ANITA

- *Dorothy Camara*

Kansas! Anita Taylor is going back! Though Kansan politics might have strained her sensibilities, it is to Kansas she now returns--to her family and her land.

Anita joined AAUW twenty years ago. When she came to the Gaithersburg Branch, she became a preeminent leader, characterized by kindness, tolerance, and enlightenment. A scholar of women's studies, she organized and led the Herstory Interest Group. She also served as vice president for program, treasurer, and assistant treasurer of the book sale, as well as taking on those ad hoc duties that are the backbone of our branch. She lived at Asbury Village. There, she was one of the organizers of the Wildlife Council, dedicated to protecting and enhancing the flora and fauna of the Asbury campus, an endeavor which led to the designation of the Asbury campus as a Certified Wildlife Habitat. She frequently appeared on the Asbury

TV station explaining and pointing out the natural aspects of the campus grounds.



Anita is a professor emerita of George Mason University where she ended a 45-year university career, teaching and doing research in communications and women's studies, as well as being involved in university administration. She had earned a Ph.D. in public address and history at the University of Missouri. She went on to become, along with her university duties, a writer, speaker, and workshop leader in communications and women's studies, achieving many awards for her work along the way.

How can we say how much we will miss Anita?  
How much do you miss a woman of gold?



Dr. Anita Taylor helping with registration at a branch event. (Photo by Liz.Hessel.)

## BOOK SALE

### - Liz Hessel, Chair of Book Sales

After spending most of the year collecting and sorting books, at our October branch meeting we met on Zoom four of the students who received AAUW Gaithersburg 2020-21 scholarships. Each of them expressed sincere appreciation for the scholarship, two indicating they would not have been able to return to school this fall without the scholarship. These women are role models for upcoming students and will wonderfully represent our branch

Silvia Elizabeth Arevalo-Caceres, is a sophomore engineering student at Montgomery College. She came to the U.S. at age ten and now lives in Montgomery Village. She expects to complete her associate's degree this summer, then transfer to a four-year university. She hopes to become a civil engineer, working on environmental projects. Part of her scholarship money went to buy expensive books and software required for her engineering courses. Silvia's extracurricular activities include participating in Engineers Without Borders, a group helping design and build community buildings in a remote mountain village in Panama.

Khar "Ami" Aminata lives in Montgomery Village and graduated from Watkins Mill High School. She now majors in computer science and expects to finish her associate's degree at Montgomery College this summer before transferring to the University of Maryland or Johns Hopkins. Ami emigrated from Senegal in West Africa four years ago. Her goal is to become a data scientist or software engineer, although she has also considered joining the Air Force or attending medical school.

Katie Garcia attends the University of Maryland, College Park, at the Shady Grove campus. She is majoring in biological sciences, with a specialty in physiology and neurobiology. Katie expects to graduate in spring 2021, then take some months to prepare for the Medical Admissions Test. She

is hoping to be accepted at Johns Hopkins Medical school to prepare for a career as a neurologist.



Elizabeth Argaw is pursuing a career as a dentist. A senior at the University of Maryland, College Park, she is attending the Shady Grove campus, expecting to graduate in May 2021. She participates in the Student Ambassadors Program, which helps introduce potential students to the benefits of attending the Universities at Shady Grove. Elizabeth's family emigrated from Ethiopia when she was two. On trips to Ethiopia she has noticed the lack of health and dental care there, which has inspired her to return to Ethiopia to serve "her people" as a dentist.

Maissa Kobele Keita graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School last June. After earning an associate's degree, with a major in computer science and business, she plans to transfer to a four-year college, hopefully the University of Maryland. She participates in the Raptor Track and Field Team and enjoys painting, learning about stocks and using her raspberry pi to make fun projects. Maissa would like to work in artificial intelligence and robotics. She is originally from Guinea, West Africa, and speaks French and a Guinean dialect.

Stephania Elizabeth Delcid was unable to attend our meeting. She is a student at Montgomery College.

Congratulations to all these students. We wish them success in their studies.

## GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinator**



Although the Great Decisions interest group has suspended our meetings for the remaining two months of the year because of the pandemic, members who have the 2020 briefing book will see the last topic which would have been discussed in a November meeting--the extremely timely and fascinating topic of AI (artificial intelligence)--focusing on domestic and international data governance issues. The author is Susan Ariel Arronson, research professor of international affairs at GWU. If you do not have the 2020 briefing book, let me know and I will send you a copy of the interesting

article.

I am able to again get the early bird 10% discount by pre-ordering a minimum of 10 copies by October 25 (to be shipped about January 1, 2021). The price, including shipping, is \$27.67 per copy. Please let me know if I should reserve one for you. (Telephone 301-717-1040.)

We welcome new members to this lively foreign policy discussion group and hope we can again resume meeting together in January even if we need to do it via Zoom.

## LITERATURE GROUP

- **Mary Wykes**



The Literature Group will not meet in November. We are still in need of a volunteer to be the group coordinator to replace Jean Young. Jean will continue to be a member and welcome our group to meet at her home in the Villas when covid restrictions are

lifted and we can again meet in person.

Meanwhile, since we have been socially distant for so long, I have been doing a lot more reading!

### 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**

President

Edie Allison

#### **Vice President for Program**

Heather Reichardt

#### **Co-Vice Presidents for Membership**

Anna Fraker

Mary Wykes

#### **Treasurer**

Ellen Teague

#### **Secretary**

Averill Farrelly

#### **Appointed Member of the Board**

Liz Hessel

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Qing Jiang

#### **Newsletter Managing Editor**

Dorothy Camara

# **AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF ZOOM MEETINGS**

Post-Election Social Hour

Friday, November 6 - 4:30 p.m.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 10 - 6:45 p.m.

Md. Legis. Agenda for Women

Saturday, November 14 - 9 a.m.

Branch Meeting

Tuesday, November 17 - 7:15 p.m.

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