



Empowering Women
Since 1881

AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

Dec. 20—Jan. 21

December 2020—January 2021

VIRTUAL BRANCH HOLIDAY GATHERING!

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Log in to Zoom meeting: 7:15pm

Presentation begins: 7:30pm

A HOLIDAY MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Wynne Roos - Harp

We will see Ms. Roos perform a selection of seasonal and holiday songs on two different harps via video. Then she will discuss the differences and unique characteristics of the harps and answer any questions members have. Bring your own snacks and beverages! Happy Holidays!

NOTE: All members will receive an email with the Zoom information about a week before the meeting and a reminder email a day before. Please forward the email to any friends and family who may be interested in this meeting. They will need to give me their email to join the celebration.

Virtual Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 8 at 7:00pm AND Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00pm

Log in to Zoom meeting: 6:50pm

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.

JANUARY VIRTUAL BRANCH MEETING

TOPIC – TBD

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021

JOIN ZOOM MEETING AT 7:15pm

PRESENTATION STARTS AT 7:30pm

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- **Edie Allison**

I am writing this as Thanksgiving approaches, and I realize how many things there are to be thankful for. I particularly appreciated how smoothly the general election went in spite of record turnout and the switch from in-person to mail-in voting. For this I thank the thousands of Maryland election workers. I am also grateful for all the essential workers who kept food and medicine safely moving, and the Asbury associates are a special treasure. They continue to rapidly adapt to evolving medical guidelines while having to protect both Asbury residents and their own families.

We will miss the wonderful treats at the holiday dinner, but our virtual holiday social on December 15 will feature traditional and seasonal music performed by Wynne Roos using two different harps, and accompanied by her husband, Dave, on cello and jingle bells (program spoiler?). They will pre-record the music, then join us in person to explain the instruments and answer questions.

On November 14 I joined many AAUW members including Heather Reichardt of our branch, and over 300 other Marylanders at the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) virtual meeting. The group discussed prospective legislation focused on the conference theme "Gender, Race and Covid-19's impact on Maryland." Based on the fact-finding presentations and discussion, MLAW members will select a small group of bills to sponsor before the Maryland General Assembly in 2021. Prospective legislation includes bills that would increase protections for children suffering child abuse or family violence, improve access to free menstrual hygiene products in public schools, and establishing a paid family and medical leave insurance program. Maryland AAUW members will meet with our state's public policy co-vice presidents, Roxann King and Kashay Webb, later in November to identify the bills that we want to sponsor.

If you want to learn more about policy issues important to Maryland women, consider attending the Women's Legislative Briefing, an annual conference providing information on local, state and national legislative proposals important to women, that will be held as a virtual meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2021.



Honoring the Contributions of Branch Members

Each year for decades the Gaithersburg branch has given a "Named Gift" to the AAUW Educational Foundation honoring two or three members that have significantly contributed to branch and book sale activities. The 2019-2020 honorees are Anita Taylor, Mary Wykes and Elizabeth Hessel. This year we were unable to celebrate the honorees at a spring meeting. The coronavirus also cancelled our book sale, source of branch contributions to the AAUW education programs, which provide millions of dollars through competitive fellowship and grant programs for women's post-graduate studies or career development. We will not miss celebrating our honorees when public gatherings are again possible.

If you are making a contribution to AAUW Funds this holiday season, you can name our honorees on the online donation forms.

Wishing you all a healthy, if constrained, holiday season. Edie

NEWS FROM THE DISTANCE: LOUISE CHATLYNNE

Dr. Louise Chatlynne left us a year ago for California after serving as one of those pillars that holds up our branch. She was corresponding secretary for a spell, then initiated the position of email correspondent, relaying email messages from other organizations and emailing our newsletter. She was also our representative to the now disbanded InterBranch, where she led our participation in the Sonya Kovalevsky Day and promoted the Women's Legislative Briefing. She was a vital worker at the annual book sale and also was a mentor in the Goals for Girls project. Here is a letter from her.

November 17, 2020
4282 Lahaina Drive
Huntington Beach, California 92649
LGChatlynne @gmail.com

Dear Old Friends in The Gaithersburg Branch of AAUW-

Considering that Chuck and I have moved all the way across country our move was relatively smooth. We had a manufactured house built to our specifications in an over 55 community of manufactured homes. It is with in about 2.5 miles from where my son Etan, his wife Sarah, and our 2 granddaughters, Cleo (almost 4) and Luisa (1.5) live. Sarah's parents also live nearby. Sarah's mother, Toni, is a member of the local AAUW and I joined her group and went to a couple of meetings before the COVID-19 lock down. Their group has a program that is similar to our old Goals for Girls program in that it encourages middle school girls to enroll in academic courses. Toni and I were looking forward to participating in the program but it is on hold until the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

With the pandemic of course we are very limited in where we can go and who we can visit, but we do visit often with my son's family. They have taken the girls out of day care and they are now both at home. Etan and Sarah are both lawyers and work from home so I am called on very often to take care of

(play) with Cleo so they can get some work done. Luisa often naps during this time. Cleo is very inventive, so I usually just play along with her games, and read her poems and stories. We have a good time. They also come to our house every Friday night for lighting candles and saying the Sabbath evening blessing for wine and bread. Cleo has even learned to sing along with us in Hebrew although she doesn't know what the words mean.



We live near but not on the ocean and have beautiful breezes and lovely weather. There are many hiking trails through the wetlands we can walk on when we get tired of just walking around the neighborhood.

I have been very encouraged about the news of the vaccines that are being developed. The testing has proceeded very quickly and the results of the first two vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna are very encouraging; I understand 2 others are not far behind. From my experience working as a virologist I know that it usually takes at least 3 years from start of development until a vaccine is tested and enough of it is available for widespread distribution. But in these pandemic times, the developers are doing their best to speed things along without sacrificing safety. Some vaccine may be available to health care workers and people most at risk by the beginning of the New Year. Widespread availability may occur if the FDA allows fast track by spring-time. I guess we all have to wait and see.

While I am happy to be in California and near my son's family, I do miss my old friends from Gaithersburg and working on the booksale.

My best to you all,
Louise Chatlynne



Louise Chatlynne helping out as usual in a past branch activity. (Photo by Liz Hessel.)

HERE'S KAMALA

- *Dorothy Camara*

There you see the toddler, Kamala Harris, held by the hand by her activists parents, demonstrating for civil rights in Berkeley, California. Perhaps that's where it started. Perhaps it started when she was not allowed to play with the White neighbors' kids. Or when she was one of the first children to be bused to another school in Berkeley's desegregation program.

She chose to attend Howard University, wanting to immerse herself in its Black culture. There she organized mentor programs for local youth, and she demonstrated against apartheid. Oh, I also demonstrated against apartheid at the South African embassy; let's imagine that I marched right there beside her!

After Howard, she decided to seek a career in law enforcement, believing the world needed more socially aware prosecutors. She became the deputy defense attorney in Alameda County, California, then assistant D.A. in San Francisco, then attorney general for the whole state of California.

Her work in California law involved, among other endeavors, sexual assault cases, including child sexual abuse. She rallied and wrote position papers regarding procedures in trying juvenile defendants. She ran a campaign against negative stereotypes of black women. She was firmly against the death penalty, angering the police department because she adamantly refused to

seek the death penalty for the killer of a police officer. She created a special unit focusing on hate crimes against LGBT children and teens. She made changes in prison conditions and reformed sentencing laws. She brought dozens of indictments in an oil spill case against Chevron, ExxonMobil and others.



Then she came to the U.S. Senate, arousing particular attention in her adept probing of witnesses in confirmation hearings. This was when I first saw her at work--on television, of course. And I said to myself, this is a woman who should run for president!

In her victory speech for the vice presidency, she remarked on how she stood on the shoulders of women who came before her. One hundred years ago this year, suffragists wrested the right to vote from those who proclaimed it would rob women of their femininity and mark the end of the American family. Now we see Kamala Harris, in her victory address, as the first woman to achieve the vice presidency of the United States, beautifully, and commandingly, attired in a white suit to honor the white emblematic dress of those early suffragists.

IN MEMORIAM

We have learned of the recent death of Hubert Morsink, husband of longtime member Marybeth, and offer our sincere sympathy to her and her family. Marybeth and daughter Marlies (here from England) will hope to join us on Zoom for our December holiday meeting.

GREAT DECISIONS

- Mary Wykes, Coordinator



I have placed an Early Bird Order for 10 of the study guides for Great Decisions in order to receive their 10% discount. They should arrive about January 1. I will contact everyone interested and try to set up a Zoom meeting (instead of our usual lunch at the Hilton) for us to

decide on leaders for the eight topics.

This is a good time for new members. Please let me know if you are interested in being a part of this foreign policy discussion group. Contact me at 301-717-1040 or mary.wykes@aol.com.

LITERATURE GROUP

- Mary Wykes



We have temporarily suspended the Literature Group meetings due to covid. At Jean Young's suggestion, I am sharing some books I have been reading (as suggested by my daughter's book club recent list).

"Carnegie's Maid" by Marie Benedict (author of "The Other Einstein" which Cathy Manning found an interesting read.)

"The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History"--a New York Times bestseller--by John M. Barry described by the Chicago Tribune as "Monumental... powerfully intelligent... not just a masterful narrative but also an au-

thoritative and disturbing morality tale."

We are still looking for a member to be the coordinator of the group since Jean Young has resigned after being our coordinator for many years. Jean will continue as a member and welcomes us to meet at her home in the Villas when we are able to again meet in person. Meanwhile, we look forward to hearing from members about good books they are reading during this period when we are all home more and finding more free time to read.

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 ZOOM MEETINGS

Board Meeting	Tuesday, December 8 - 7 p.m.
Branch Holiday Gathering	Tuesday, December 15 - 7:30 p.m.
Board Meeting	Tuesday, January 12 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, January 19 - 7:30 p.m.
Women's Legislative Briefing	Sunday, January 31

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