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AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

April 21

April 2021

April VIRTUAL BRANCH MEETING

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Log in to Zoom meeting: 7:00pm*

Presentation begins: 7:15pm

"Why We Believe: The Science Behind Why We Accept Conspiracy Theories"

Please join our own Dr. Patricia Maclay as she discusses the latest scientific research regarding the reasons why otherwise sensible people sometimes become hostage to the latest, typically illogical, conspiracy theories. Why do people hold on to such beliefs when the facts and evidence clearly show that the conspiracy is untrue? Is there a reasonable explanation for these behaviors? How can conspiracy theories be overcome?

Branch Business Meeting after the presentation:

Vote for 2021-2022 Officer Slate

NOTE: All members will receive an email with the Zoom information about a week before the meeting and a reminder email a day before. You can forward the email to any friends and family who may be interested in this meeting. Ideally, please provide their email so I can send the reminder.

*New meeting start time

Virtual Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 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\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:hjr1234@gmail.com) to receive a Zoom meeting invitation/link.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- **Edie Allison**

Although we may prefer to be outside enjoying spring, for me this is the time to take a few minutes to talk about some important decisions regarding our branch and the national organization.

AAUW has instituted a dues increase and is asking us to vote on bylaws changes that include a change in membership requirements. National dues will increase by \$3 to \$62 for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2021, state dues stay at \$10 and branch dues stay at \$18. This makes total dues \$90, of which \$59 is tax deductible. AAUW national will send you an email reminding you to renew. You are encouraged to pay online. You may also mail a check to the branch treasurer, Ellen Teague, 8621 Plum Creek Drive, Gaithersburg MD 20882.

I encourage you to vote on the proposed AAUW bylaws changes. You will receive an email allowing online voting on two bylaws changes. If AAUW does not have an email address for you, they will send you a ballot in the mail. The first, and most noteworthy proposed change in the bylaws is to remove all educational requirements for membership. The second change would update AAUW's Public Policy Priorities, a biennial revision.

As to the membership proposal, currently membership is open to an individual holding an associate degree (or equivalent, such as an R.N.), a bachelor's degree or a higher degree from an accredited higher education institution or other qualified educational institution located in the U.S. The revision would remove all education requirements, stating that membership is open to "an individual who supports the AAUW mission and pays annual dues."

The Public Policy Priorities revision strengthens AAUW's commitment to addressing systemic racism and supporting equitable access to higher education for all. The priorities also emphasize the importance of data collection as the

foundation for recognition and remediation of inequities.



You can find more information about these two issues at the AAUW website by clicking Membership, then Governance & Tools, then selecting AAUW National Election.

The branches in our region, Kensington-Rockville, Gaithersburg and Frederick, are inviting all members to participate in virtual meetings, presentations and interest groups. For example:

- Kensington-Rockville Branch invites us to their monthly Zoom meeting at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. The Gaithersburg website will repeat the information about the event on our home page. Google Kensington-Rockville AAUW or Gaithersburg AAUW to find each branch's website.
- The Frederick Branch invites us to attend their popular book club. The group has a flexible approach to book selection--you may read and discuss any book on the topic of the month, such as last month's topic about suffrage.
- Gaithersburg Branch is inviting members of both these branches to our monthly meetings--a great chance to meet new and remembered friends. If you joined the March 16 meeting featuring our branch member in Vermont, Lois Liggett, talking about Norse myths, you would have met or renewed connections with over a dozen out-of-town participants.

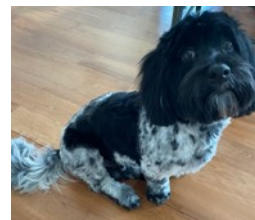
NEWS FROM THE DISTANCE - MARILYN LEIST

Many of us remember how much Marilyn Leist meant to our branch. She served as president for several years and as treasurer for a short time, and she is a Life Member of AAUW. She is now in Colorado, which means she battled the three-foot snow storm there in March that we heard about, which made an extra challenge in taking care of her new puppy's biological imperatives. Mary Wykes received the following letter from Marilyn. We are happy to share her letter with you.

Hello Gaithersburg AAUW Members,

My name is Marilyn Thomas Leist, I have been a member of the Gaithersburg Branch since 1974. That was the year that Cathy Manning walked to my home in Montgomery Village and asked me to join the branch. Best educational opportunity I've ever had. You see the first thing I was asked to do was to be a Membership Chair! That was the beginning of a long and productive learning opportunity for me. I am also a member of the Boulder Branch of AAUW because in 2004 Charlie and I moved to Lafayette in Boulder County to be near our only grandchild, Jan Charles Leist Rybczynski! I retired in 2015 at the

age of 73. During the first 5 years I was active in the Boulder Branch, served on the neighborhood Homeowner's Association, and was on the management board of my church. While I enjoyed all those activities, I felt it was time to slow down as my husband Charlie's health was declining. I started what my chaplain daughter, Lorraine, calls the ministry of last things. I redressed the dolls in our collection and am now developing the archive for 48 years of AAUW Boulder information. When I finish, those records will join the ones already at the University of Colorado. There are many other things I would like to tackle but I have been slowed down a bit because I acquired a Havanese puppy in September. Never having had a dog, it has been a delightful, albeit challenging learning experience. His name is Billy Boy and he is the apple of my eye. One of these days I will join the Zoom call so I can see all of you again. With affection, Marilyn



NOMINATIONS FOR 2021-22 OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee presents the following nominees for Gaithersburg Branch officers for the next year beginning July 1, 2021:

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

All nominees are incumbents. Members will vote on the nominations at the April branch meeting, with nominations accepted from the floor.



Thank you to the Nominating Committee: Mary Wykes (chair), Liz Hessel and Maria Roberts.

2021 BOOK SALE

- Liz Hessel, Chair of Book Sales

We continue to hope to have a book sale this year. In the meantime, our collection of books in storage is growing.

We need help from members. Please consider volunteering to help with the following tasks. You can do these at home.

1) Look up book prices on the Internet. We can give you directions on how to do it. This is how we identify and price books for the Special Books section where the higher priced books are located.

2) Help develop a marketing approach for sales on social media.

3) Help develop marketing materials. We mail a postal card annually which needs updating, and we also send emails.

4) Help develop a marketing approach for children's books to be sent to other organizations, such as PTAs and home school groups.



5) Help develop marketing materials for audiences interested in Art, Photography, Cooking, History, and Foreign Language books, as well as CDs and DVDs.

We welcome your help and new ideas you may have. You may send Liz Hessel an email at [liz\[at\]meral\[dot\]com](mailto:liz[at]meral[dot]com) or give her a call at 301-840-1258.



A sample of happy shoppers at a past book sale. Proceeds of our book sales go to scholarships for women.

2021-22 BUDGET FOR APPROVAL

Treasurer Ellen Teague presents the following budget for 2021-22 for branch approval. The budget was approved by the Board of Directors, and members are now asked for approval at the April branch meeting.

AAUW Gaithersburg Proposed 2021-22 Budget

<u>Description</u>	<u>2021-22 Proposed Budget</u>	<u>2020-21 Annual Budget</u>	<u>2020-21 Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Membership & Operations				
Revenue				
Membership Income	738.00	738.00	180.00	Based on current budget
Donations	-	-	28.00	
Reserves	470.00	282.00	-	Transf fr reserves to meet budget requirements
Total Revenue	1,208.00	1,020.00	208.00	
Expenses				
MD AAUW	30.00	30.00	-	Based on current budget
Newsletter Printing	200.00	200.00	-	
Meeting Room/Zoom	160.00	160.00	-	
Liability Insurance	169.00	385.00	196.00	One year premium
D&O Insurance	337.00	-	-	One year premium
Crime Insurance	67.00	-	-	\$200 for 3 yr; budget is for 2021-2022
Hospitality	60.00	60.00	-	
Bank Fees	15.00	15.00	-	
Promotional Material	50.00	50.00	-	
Program Speakers	120.00	120.00	-	
Total Expenses	1,208.00	1,020.00	196.00	
Net Revenue/Loss	-	-	12.00	Net income be transferred to reserves

GREAT DECISIONS

- Mary Wykes, Coordinator



The Great Decisions group will meet via Zoom on Friday, April 16, at 2:30 p.m. Judy Sholes will set up the meeting. The discussion topic will be: "Brexit: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead." The article in

our study guide was written by Harris LaTeef of the London School of Economics. New members are welcome.

LITERATURE GROUP

- Mary Wykes



I hope now that most of us have gotten the vaccine we will be able to resume in-person Literature Group meetings soon. Jean Young has volunteered to let us meet at her home in the Villas at Asbury Village when we start again.

In the meantime, Alfred Carasso, husband of our former longtime Literature Group chair, Beatrice Carasso, has recommended some interesting books for our group:

1. The Dry by Jane Harper. A highly reviewed murder mystery set in Australia.
2. Les Parisiennes by Anne Sebba. A good account of French women and their struggles during the German occupation in World War II.
3. Make Your Own Sunshine by Janice Dean. Dean is the weather person who lost her in-laws in the infamous New York nursing home scandal.

AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

Website: gaithersburg-md.aauw.net

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

President

President

Edie Allison

[Edieallison\[at\]comcast.net](mailto:Edieallison[at]comcast.net)

Vice President for Program

Heather Reichardt

[hjr1234\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:hjr1234[at]gmail.com)

Co-Vice Presidents for Membership

Anna Fraker

[Acfjeh2\[at\]starpower.net](mailto:Acfjeh2[at]starpower.net)

Mary Wykes

[mary.wykes\[at\]aol.com](mailto:mary.wykes[at]aol.com)

Treasurer

Ellen Teague

[Ellensteague\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:Ellensteague[at]gmail.com)

Secretary

Averill Farrelly

[averill.farrelly1\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:averill.farrelly1[at]gmail.com)

Appointed Member of the Board

Liz Hessel

[Liz\[at\]meral.com](mailto:Liz[at]meral.com)

Newsletter Editor

Qing Jiang

[Qjmailbox\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:Qjmailbox[at]gmail.com)

Newsletter Managing Editor

Dorothy Camara

[D5camara\[at\]comcast.net](mailto:D5camara[at]comcast.net)

AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF ZOOM MEETINGS

Board Meeting	Tuesday, April 13 - 7 p.m.
Great Decisions	Tuesday, April 16 - 2:30 p.m.
Branch Meeting & Election	Tuesday, April 20 - 7:15 p.m.

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