



# AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

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

June-August 2021

## June-August 2021

### JUNE VIRTUAL BRANCH MEETING

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Log in to Zoom meeting: 7:00 p.m.\*

Presentation begins: 7:15 p.m.

### LESLEY LOPEZ, DISTRICT 39 DELEGATE

We will have an update on this year's General Assembly proceedings from friend of the branch, Delegate Lesley Lopez. Lesley was elected to the House of Delegates in 2018 and has served through three sessions. This year she is the 1st Vice President of the Women's Caucus. District 39 includes much of Germantown and Montgomery Village. Lesley was a tireless candidate who met with almost everyone in the district during her campaign. She will provide insight into how the General Assembly managed during covid-19 and what key legislation might be most important to Maryland's women and children. Lesley has a bachelor's degree from the University of California, San Diego, and a master's in public administration from George Washington University.

\*New meeting start time

### Virtual Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Log in to Zoom meeting: 6:50 p. m.

Board meetings are open to all members. If you want to attend, please email Heather Reichardt (hjr1234[at]gmail[dot]com) to receive a Zoom meeting invitation and link.

### INSIDE

<i>June-August Events</i>	1
<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Scholarships</i>	3
<i>National Vote Results</i>	3
<i>It's time to reconnect!</i>	3
<i>Great Decisions</i>	4
<i>HerStory Snapshots</i>	4
<i>Renew By July 1</i>	4
<i>Calendar</i>	5

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- *Edie Allison*

Summer is around the corner and most of us have been vaccinated. I hope everyone has a great summer eating out with family and friends at last.

The Gaithersburg Branch will meet on June 15, then be in summer recess until September. For details on the meeting, see the front page of this newsletter or check our website ([gaithersburg-md.aauw.net](http://gaithersburg-md.aauw.net)). Great Decisions will discuss China's involvement with Africa at the June 18 Zoom meeting. Contact Mary Wykes ([mary\[dot\]wykes\[at\]aol\[dot\]com](mailto:mary[dot]wykes[at]aol[dot]com)) if you would like to participate.

Now that many of us are doing more in-person shopping and eating in restaurants, it is a good time to consider the unequal impact of covid-19 on women's employment and income, which is especially pronounced among retail and restaurant staff.

As businesses reopen, the lack of child care access keeps many parents, predominantly women, from returning to the labor force. The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia reports that half of manufacturers said that child care challenges make it difficult to bring back workers or hire new ones. Before the pandemic there were not enough licensed child care and early-education facilities. Now these services are even below pre-pandemic levels because many child care and early-education providers closed their doors in 2020.

The high cost of child care is also a significant constraint on parents' employment. The Economic Policy Institute pre-pandemic analysis reported that when Marylanders found child care, it cost on average more than \$10,000 per year for a four-year-old and more than \$15,000 for an infant. The cost for one child represented over 17% of a median family's income. Compare this with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' estimate that, for child

care to be affordable, it should cost no more than 7% of a family's income.



The economic situation is no better from the perspective of child care workers, who are disproportionately women of color. Maryland child care workers' median hourly wage is only about \$11, and these workers rarely receive health care and other worker benefits.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, aka Covid-19 Stimulus Package, which became law in March, provides financial assistance to small businesses and state, county and city governments. It also expands the child tax credit and the child and dependent care credit for the 2021 tax year for low- and middle-income families. Another benefit for mothers who have left the workforce was announced in April: an additional \$39 billion from this legislation will go to help early childhood educators and family child care providers keep their doors open.

The parental benefits are limited to 2021. However, the President's proposed infrastructure bill seeks to extend the child tax credit for four years. It is unclear whether this benefit will succeed in being extended, since Congressional interest in funding child care, along with improving road and bridge infrastructure, is unclear.

In case you need a reason to join AAUW in advocating for women's job equity, here are a couple of dates to remember. All Women's Equal Pay Day, when women's pay equals that which men received for the prior year, was March 24. But it is still a long wait until Black Women's Equal Pay Day on August 3, Native American Women's Equal Pay Day on September 8, and Latina's Equal Pay Day on October 21. Check the AAUW website for ways to advocate for women's equity.

## SCHOLARSHIPS - CAN YOU HELP?

For years our branch book sales have funded local college scholarships for women students. However, last year and this year we were unable to hold our big annual book sale due to the covid pandemic, adding to the burden of students needing increased scholarship help due to covid and the resulting loss of employment by the students and their parents.

Last year we helped six students--one at the Universities at Shady Grove and five at Montgomery College--with funds donated by branch members to augment the smaller amount we had raised through book sales. When the students participated in our October Zoom meeting, every one of them mentioned that they would not have been able to return to school last fall without our scholarship assistance.

These scholarship recipients are an ethnically diverse group of bright female students preparing for careers in which women have been underrepresented in the past. They are the role models for the younger generation. They have overcome significant obstacles in working toward

their dream of becoming engineers, architects, medical doctors, scientists and business owners. Many of them mentioned specifically their desire to give back to the next generation after they complete their schooling and begin working.



To continue supporting scholarships for such bright young women, we are asking branch members to make a donation to the scholarship fund. These funds will be combined with the modest funds we have raised through book sales and donated to the Universities at Shady Grove and Montgomery College.

To make a donation, send a check to our treasurer, Ellen Teague, at 8621 Plum Creek Drive, Gaithersburg MD 20882. Make the check out to AAUW Gaithersburg. Send the check by June 15 since we need to transfer the scholarship funds to the colleges by July 1 so that they can identify the recipients before the fall semester starts.

## NATIONAL VOTE RESULTS

The AAUW 2021 national election and bylaw vote results were reported on May 19. Two of three questions were approved by the membership.

- Four members of the national board were re-elected, Julia Brown, chair; Malinda Gaul, vice chair; and Elizabeth Haynes and Joseph Bertolino, board members.
- AAUW's public policy priorities were approved by 92% of voters.

- The ballot initiative to remove the college-degree membership requirement did not receive the two-thirds vote required to enact a bylaws change.



## GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinator**



The Great Decisions Interest Group will meet via Zoom at 2:30, Friday, June 18. We will consider the topic "China and Africa," as presented

in our study guide by Conus Van Staden, a senior China-Africa researcher at the South African Institute of International Affairs. Judy Sholes will lead the meeting.

New members are always welcome. Contact Mary Wykes, 301-717-1040, if you need a study guide or wish the Zoom ID. The group will not meet in July and August. It is our hope that when we resume meeting in September, we might be able to have meetings in members' homes again.

## HERSTORY SNAPSHOTS

Here's what we hear from the National Women's History Museum:

A dramatic glass portrait of Kamala Harris was installed at the Lincoln Memorial from February 4 to 6. This was a larger-than-life portrait of Harris made up of shattered glass to depict the historic glass ceilings she has broken.

The U.S. Mint will be issuing a series of quarter-dollar coins over a period of five years commemorating promi-

nent American women. The coins will start being issued in mid to late 2022.



After years of women's lobbying, the House and the Senate have finally passed legislation to create a national women's history museum in Washington, D.C. Construction awaits approval of Congressional appropriations.

## RENEW BY JULY 1

Please renew now your AAUW membership for the coming year July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

Renewing on line is the easiest. Use the renewal form sent you by national. Or send a check, made out to AAUW Gaithersburg, to Treasurer Ellen Teague, 8621 Plum Creek Drive, Gaithersburg MD 20882. Dues are \$90, \$59 of which is tax deductible.

Join other women in supporting our mission: Advancing equality for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. I've already renewed!



### 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

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

#### Vice President for Program

Heather Reichardt

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

#### Co-Vice Presidents for Membership

Anna Fraker

[Acfeh2\[at\]starpower\[dot\]net](mailto:Acfeh2[at]starpower[dot]net)

Mary Wykes

[Mary\[dot\]wykes\[at\]aol\[dot\]com](mailto:Mary[dot]wykes[at]aol[dot]com)

#### Treasurer

Ellen Teague

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

#### Secretary

Averill Farrelly

[Averill\[dot\]farrelly1\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:Averill[dot]farrelly1[at]gmail[dot]com)

#### Appointed Member of the Board

Liz Hessel

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

#### Newsletter Editor

Qing Jiang

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

#### Newsletter Managing Editor

Dorothy Camara

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

# **AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF ZOOM MEETINGS**

Board Meeting	Tuesday, June 8 - 7 p.m.
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, June 15 - 7:15 p.m.
Great Decisions	Friday, June 18 - 2:30 p.m.
Board Meeting	Tuesday, August 10 - 7 p.m.

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