



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

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

September 2021

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SEPTEMBER VIRTUAL BRANCH MEETING

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Log in to Zoom meeting: 7:00pm*

Presentation begins: 7:15pm

Caroline Taylor

Executive Director of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance

“Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve-A Place With Purpose”

How did the remarkable 93,000 acre Agricultural Reserve, now celebrating 41 years, come to be and what role will it play in the future resilience of our region?

Caroline Taylor has worked on environmental and agricultural issues for much of her professional career. Her first exposure to environmental litigation came while employed at the law firm, Covington and Burling. She then worked with a talented group of lawyers and advocates at National Wildlife Federation on a wide range of cases and issues including: Spotted Owl, Key Deer, Exxon oil spill, food policy, forest preservation and, water resources. Her passion has always been local issues including protection of the Ag Reserve’s natural resources and working lands. Caroline comes from a long line of farmers and ranchers, from Pennsylvania, Virginia and Idaho. She participates on behalf of MCA on County committees to advance a strategic plan for food composting, agritourism, and a long range zero waste policy and implementation plan.

*New meeting start time

Virtual Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 14, 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.com to receive a Zoom meeting invitation/link.

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Did you forget to pay your dues for 2021-22?

It's easy. Go online by entering aauw.org. Click on Membership. Then click Membership Database. Then click Renew My Membership.

Or send your check for \$90 payable to AAUW Gaithersburg to Treasurer Ellen Teague, 8621 Plum Creek Drive, Gaithersburg MD 20882.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- **Edie Allison**

Welcome back to AAUW Gaithersburg Branch activities! I hope your summer was filled with wonderful in-person visits with family and friends--and perhaps some travel. We are grateful for your, and other Marylanders', commitment to coronavirus vaccination to help mitigate the latest wave of virus risks and shut-downs.

The increasing covid-19 restrictions on indoor gatherings, as well as the changes in the Gaithersburg Library hours for their meeting rooms, mean that we will be using Zoom for our monthly branch meetings at least for the next several months.

Title IX Celebrates 50 Years

The Tokyo Olympics highlighted the progress toward equality for women and girls over the past 50 years since the enactment of Title IX. Title IX amended the Higher Education Act to ban sexual discrimination in federally funded education programs. The law addresses all aspects of equality in education for students, faculty and staff. Now the benefits to women athletes were most noticeable this summer. Back at the 1972 Olympics women could participate in only 14 of the 38 athletic events. Today, women may compete in half the events. Even more notable, women won 66, or 58%, of the 113 medals and 23 (65%) of the 39 gold medals won by U.S. athletes.

Other elements of education equity for women and girls continue to move forward slowly, even

as the pandemic has severely degraded educational opportunities for women and ethnic minorities. Both the Gaithersburg Branch and national AAUW continue supporting college students. Our branch focuses particularly on scholarships for local college women in STEM fields, in which barriers to women's full participation still persist.



- This summer Gaithersburg Branch sent \$4,272 to Montgomery College and \$2,136 to the Universities at Shady Grove. See the item on these scholarships elsewhere in this newsletter.
- National AAUW awarded a record \$5 million in fellowships and grants to 260 recipients. AAUW members' contributions have fully funded many historic AAUW funds that will continue to support women's education for many decades.

There are, however, many Title IX violations hindering women's success. Since 1981, the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, LAF, has supported legal suits in which women seek relief or compensation for Title IX violations, denial of tenure, and pay inequities. LAF continues to commit \$100,000 to ongoing cases each year. You can read about the six cases AAUW is currently supporting at aauw.org/resources/legal/laf.



If you did not receive your copy of the fall Marylander from AAUW Maryland in an August 10 email, contact Edie Allison ([edieallison\[at\]comcast.net](mailto:edieallison[at]comcast.net)) for help.

2021 SCHOLARSHIPS APPROVED

By email vote in June the Gaithersburg Branch approved scholarships to Montgomery College and the Universities at Shady Grove. The scholarships will go to women studying science, technology, engineering or math, or other fields in which women are underrepresented.

Although we did not have as large a fund as usual because we did not have a book sale this year, we did accumulate funds from periodic wholesale

and online sales of donated books and donations from branch members. This allowed an allotment of \$4,272 to Montgomery College students and \$2,136 to the Universities at Shady Grove students. We hope to hear from a panel of these students at an upcoming branch meeting.



AAUW OF MARYLAND ANNUAL MEETING

Members are invited to attend the AAUW of Maryland fall meeting on Saturday, September 18. This is an in-person meeting at the Notre Dame University in Baltimore. Dr Leshall Hatley, STEM coordinator at national AAUW, will speak on AAUW's focus on encouraging women and girls in STEM careers. The meeting will also cover up-

dates on branch, state and national activities. Information on the program, registration and travel directions are in the August issue of The Marylander.



WE FINALLY MET

After 15 months of relative isolation, Gaithersburg Branch members shed their masks and finally met face to face for luncheon at the Dogfish Head Alehouse on June 14. Among the 17 of us were four spouses and two members of the Frederick Branch.

In the porch called the "Bubble" we hugged old friends, chatted, and fed on overflowing dishes called Wood-Grilled Chicken, Bacon and Shrimp Salad, Greek Salad Over the Top, Steak Bomb Sandwich or the Rustic Burger. Some felt an imperative to supplement their meal with a

choice from the house's craft beer menu.

Thanks to Liz Hessel for bringing us all together at last. Liz says other luncheons will be coming up, so look for them!



GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinator**



The Great Decisions interest group will meet via Zoom on Friday, September 17, at 2:30. The discussion topic will be "The Two Koreas" as

presented in our study guide by Scott Snyder, senior fellow for

Korea studies and director of the program on U.S.-Korea policy at the Council on Foreign Relations. Judy Sholes, jsshholes@yahoo.com, will send meeting and password information to those planning to attend. New members are always welcome.

HERSTORY INTEREST GROUP

- **Maria Roberts**

The Women's HerStory interest group will meet on Saturday, September 11, at 2 p.m., in the Club Room of the Park View Building at Asbury Methodist Village. Maria Roberts will discuss Dr. Katalin Kariko whose scientific work led to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines against covid.

Enter the Asbury campus at 301 Odendhal Avenue, Gaithersburg. AMV requires that masks be worn. No refreshments will be served but feel free to bring your own drink. All welcome.



HERSTORY SNAPSHOTS

Rose O'Neal Greenhow was one of the great spies of history. She was notorious in the U.S Civil War for carrying messages to the Southern rebels from information she pieced together from unsuspecting social contacts in the North. But what baffled and infuriated her Northern captors was how she could transmit message after message to the rebels even while imprisoned.

Go up Route 355-- then known by the more romantic name, "The Great Road West"--to the shadow of Sugar Loaf Mountain. That's where our neighbor, the great spy Rose O'Neal Greenhow, grew up.



AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

Website: gaithersburg-md.aauw.net

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

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President

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AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HerStory Interest Group (In Person)	Saturday, September 11 - 2 p.m.
Board Meeting (Zoom)	Tuesday, September 14 - 7 p.m.
Great Decisions (Zoom)	Friday, September 17 - 2:30 p.m.
AAUW of Md. Fall Meeting, Baltimore (In Person)	Saturday, September 18
Branch Meeting (Zoom)	Tuesday, September 21 - 7:15 p.m.

The American Association of University Women
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