



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

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

NEWSLETTER

November 2021

November 2021

BRANCH MEETING

Information for the November branch meeting is delayed. Please watch your email for developments.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 9 - 7 P.M.

Game Room, Hefner Building, Asbury Village

The AAUW Gaithersburg Branch Board of Directors will meet on November 9 at 7 p.m. in the Game Room of the Hefner Building at Asbury Village. This is a change in our meeting room. The Game Room is immediately before the Conference Room where we formerly met. All members are invited. Masks are mandatory and you should be fully vaccinated.

MLAW, MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR WOMEN FALL MEETING

Please consider participating in the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women Fall Conference virtual meeting on November 13 when legislation that the association plans to support will be discussed. The theme for this year's meeting is "Turning Crisis Into Opportunity: Building a Stronger Care Infrastructure." You can get additional information at mdlegagendaforwomen.org.

HERSTORY INTEREST GROUP

- Maria Roberts

The HerStory Interest Group will meet on Saturday, November 13, at 2 p.m., in the Club Room of the Park View Building at Asbury Methodist Village.

Aurora Sevilla will discuss Indra Nooyi, former CEO and board chair of Pepsico, one of

the very few women to head a Fortune 500 company.

All are welcome. Masks are mandatory and you should be fully vaccinated.



INSIDE

<i>November Events</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>President's Message</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Welcome to New Member</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Hearing From Our Scholarship Recipients</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Great Decisions</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>HerStory Snapshots</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Calendar</i>	<i>5</i>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- **Edie Allison**

Fall is officially here and the leaves are turning colors, though a little late. We can also celebrate the availability of covid-19 vaccine for children as young as five years, making schools safer.

The branch hasn't met in person for over a year, restricting our personal conversations. And the book sale remains on hold until covid-19 guidelines again allow crowded rooms of people and books. Board members would love to hear your ideas for branch programs and alternative ways to handle the book sale. Please call or send a note to me or other board members listed in the monthly newsletter and on the website.

AAUW STEM Program Is Growing

AAUW programs supporting women and girls in STEM, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, are growing with the recent selection of Dr. Leshell Hatley as its (first) director of STEM programs. Dr. Hatley has degrees in computer science and learning technologies, and has worked for many years developing and using technology and animation to help young people learn.

Jobs in STEM fields are some of the fastest growing and highest paying of the future. Yet girls and women are still not on a par with boys and men in these fields. Women make up only 28% of today's STEM workforce.

Past AAUW studies documented the difficult path for women and girls in STEM. These included "Solving the Equation, The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing" (2015); "Why So Few Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics" (2010); and "How Schools Shortchange Girls" (1995). AAUW recognizes that new data and analysis are needed to attack this persistent issue. In her talk at the AAUW of Maryland fall meeting, Dr. Hatley pointed out that AAUW is conducting research for new reports.

In addition, AAUW plans to survey branches about what they have done and are doing to en-

courage women and girls to pursue and continue STEM careers. Scour your memories and dig through your files for past STEM projects. A modest effort that I

remember is the Montgomery County Inter-branch awards ceremony for "Outstanding Promise and Achievements in Mathematics, Science, or Computer Science for Eighth-Grade Girls" conducted for several years in the mid-2000s in conjunction with Rockville Science Day at Montgomery College. I am sure that you remember other programs. While we wait for national AAUW to organize their effort, please share your recollections with me (edieallison[at]comcast[dot]net) and we will highlight some of them in future newsletters.



Legislation I Have Been Watching

Both Maryland and the federal government are considering legislation that impacts women's economic security. President Biden's legislative initiation, Build Back Better, is now being debated, and the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women, which will meet virtually on November 13, will discuss planned bills that it will support for the 2022 Maryland legislative session. Expanded funding for home health care providers is being considered in both programs. In 2022 the Maryland legislature is likely to reintroduce the bill that failed in 2021 that would expand funding for home health care providers. Possible federal legislation would create a tax credit for caring for disabled persons of any age; family members, primarily women, who are the major care givers, would be eligible for this benefit.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

- *Mary Wykes, Co-Vice President for Membership*

We are happy to have Judy Mayer re-join our branch after an absence of a number of years. Judy was born in Des Moines, Iowa, but has lived in the D.C. area since third grade. She has a B.A. from Catholic University, with a major in music, and has done graduate work at Catholic University in speech and drama.

Judy has been on the stage in New York with the Herbert Berghof studio and has worked in local theater in Maryland for over 40 years. She was artistic director as well as a member of the board of directors of the Montgomery Playhouse. It was always fun for my husband and me to attend the productions in which Judy had a part, often in a singing and dancing role. She also worked as a realtor for a number of years. Her current hobbies are watercolor painting, yoga and reading. She and her husband, Frank, live in Montgomery Village.



Welcome back to branch membership to Judy Mayer.

HEARING FROM OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- *Liz Hessel, Chair of Book Sales*

Seven of the students who are receiving AAUW Gaithersburg Branch scholarships this year spoke at our October branch meeting. They told us about what the scholarships mean to them and how much they appreciate our work in raising funds for them.

Six of the students go to Montgomery College and one goes to the Universities at Shady Grove. Their majors include engineering, math, computer science, biology, biochemistry and neurobiology. Their career goals include being an electrical engineer, physician's assistant, environmental engineer, and in cyber security. Most of them participate in extracurricular activities such as Engineers Without Borders, the Rockville Campus Student Senate, Toastmasters Club, the student newspaper and Autistic Learning Partners. All of them seem to have part-time jobs, sometimes working 30 hours or more each week.

The covid epidemic brought them added challenges. Some family members contracted covid, while most had family members whose income was reduced due to job loss. This made their scholarships even more important this year, allowing them to persevere with

their studies and to hold on to their dreams of a better future.

These scholarship recipients showed us what a committed group of young women they are. All AAUW Gaithersburg Branch members should be proud to support them in their journey toward non-traditional careers. They will be wonderful role models for students who follow them. We were inspired by their stories, and we salute them. A representative of the Montgomery College Foundation was at the meeting and especially thanked us for our continued scholarship donations these past two years when many other organizations eliminated theirs.

Although our branch has been unable to hold a book sale for the past two years, we have sold some special books, and branch members responded generously when asked for scholarship donations. We hope to resume the book sale next spring. We continue to collect books, CDs and DVDs.

GREAT DECISIONS

- Mary Wykes, Coordinator



The November Great Decisions foreign policy interest group will meet via Zoom on Friday, November 19, at 2:30 p.m. to discuss the final topic in this year's briefing book--"The End of Globalization?" by Anne Krueger, senior research professor of international economics at the School for Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University.

Ellen Teague will lead the discussion. Judy Sholes will send us the Zoom ID and password a few days before the 19th.

The new briefing book topics have just been announced for 2022 and they are:

1. Changing Demographics
2. Outer Space
3. Climate Change
4. Russia and the U.S.

5. Myanmar and ASEAN
6. Quad Alliance
7. Drug Policy
8. Industrial Policy
9. Biden's Agenda

New members are always welcome. January is an ideal time to join as the new briefing books will be available then. There will be no meeting in December. If you have an interest in, or any questions about, this interest group, please call the coordinator, Mary Wykes at 301-717-1040.

HERSTORY SNAPSHOTS

Amelia Earhart Was a Feminist!

We all know Amelia Earhart as the pioneering aviator who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, the first person to fly solo across the Pacific (from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland), and who died trying to be the first woman to fly around the globe. She was idolized as an American hero, but little publicity was made of her life-long interest in empowering women.

At first, as a girl, she kept a scrapbook on successful women in predominantly male-oriented fields. Later, she had a job as aviation editor for Cosmopolitan magazine, using that job to encourage women to enter aviation and to advocate for parity for women in aviation. She was also a founding member of the Ninety-Nines, an international organization of women pilots whose mission was to advance the cause of women in aviation. She played a leading role in this organization and served a term as its president. She was a member of the National Woman's Party and an early supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment.

She viewed her marriage with publisher G. P. Putnam as a partnership with

equal responsibilities for wife and husband, and pointedly kept her own name. Upon her marriage, she wrote to her husband, "I may have to keep some place where I can go to be by myself, now and then, for I cannot guarantee to endure at all times the confinement of even an attractive cage."

Responding to the laurels heaped on her after her trans-Atlantic flight, she commented, "I shall be happy if my small exploit has drawn attention to the fact that women, too, are flying."

Amelia Earhart: Holding up half the sky in more ways than one.

After Word

There was another woman you should now about who was a pioneer aviator. Beryl Markham was an Englishwoman who lived most of her life in Kenya. She took off from London on a flight that was hazardous because it was against prevailing winds. Off course due to a storm, and running out of fuel, she landed in a bog in Nova Scotia. She was the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic from west to east.



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

Treasurer

Ellen Teague

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

Secretary

Averill Farrelly

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

Branch Meeting	TBA
Board Meeting - In Person	Tuesday, November 9 - 7 p.m.
MLAW Fall Conference - Zoom	Saturday, November 13
HerStory - In Person	Saturday, November 13 - 2 p.m.
Great Decisions - Zoom	Friday, November 19 - 2:30 p.m.

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