



Empowering Women
Since 1881

AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

March 2022

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March VIRTUAL BRANCH MEETING

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

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

Presentation begins: 7:15 p.m.

Topic: The Civic Circle

Speaker: Eliza Newlin Carney

Founder and President, The Civic Circle

Ms. Carney will discuss her role in establishing and developing the programs of the Civic Circle, a Silver Spring, Maryland-based nonprofit that brings civics alive for very young children with music and drama shared in assembly and after-school programs. Eliza Newlin Carney is a longtime Washington writer, editor and columnist specializing in democracy issues. She is a columnist and former senior editor for The American Prospect, and previously held senior positions at CQ Roll Call and National Journal. The Civic Circle grows out of Carney's passion for democracy, and for cultural and civic life in Silver Spring, where she has lived for more than two decades. She is the Civic Circle's Founder and President.

Note: Heather Reichardt will send the Zoom link a few days prior to the meeting. Please encourage friends to join the meeting.

Lunch anyone?

Our Holiday luncheon was such fun, we are going to have another in March. Watch you e-mail for details of the date and location, then join us

Virtual Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 8 - 7 p.m.

The AAUW Gaithersburg Branch Board of Directors will next meet on March 8 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. The Zoom code will be sent later by email. These meetings are open to all branch members.

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We have learned with sorrow that Dorothy Camara, longtime branch member and dedicated managing editor of the newsletter, died recently. Branch members will be updated once more information is available.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- *Edie Allison*

AAUW Gaithersburg and Title IX both started in 1972. What interests me is how the two intersect. Title IX is much more than gender equality in sports, although its impact in athletics is obvious and continuing. The law prohibits sex-based discrimination in any school or other education program that receives funding from the federal government. The law also protects against sexual harassment and gender bias in hiring and promotion of faculty and staff.

The important role of women in the Winter Olympics was obvious in recent news and TV coverage. Women made up 45% of contestants. A fun statistic, bobsleigh, with 117 male and only 46 female athletes, had the lowest female participation. Curling was the only sport with more female than male competitors.

In academia, women have made significant inroads in tenured and tenure-track positions in STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Women faculty increased from less than 20 percent in 1972 to about 50 percent in psychology. However, women faculty in engineering only increased from about 1 percent in 1972 to about 18 percent in 2019. The figures for women of color are a disappointingly small fraction of the numbers for all women – in 2019 women of color held only 11 percent of science and engineering jobs. Having female and minority instructors and mentors is important to success for women in non-traditional education and careers.

Throughout its history Gaithersburg branch members have contributed time and money to activities supporting women's participation in STEM studies and careers. Members have generously contributed to AAUW Educational Foundation grant and scholarship programs. But, the branch's most direct impacts have been through local projects. My comments on historic branch activities are informed by a brief history of STEM activities compiled by Dorothy Camara in 2021 and by the branch history from 1972 to 2004 compiled by Marilyn Leist in 2004.

The branch was involved in the AAUW-Maryland sponsored Computer, Math, and Science Fair for several years in the early 1990s. The fair introduced

middle school girls from throughout the state to career opportunities through exhibits, demonstrations, and interactions with role models including branch members. In addition, the Montgomery County branches were involved for over 30 years with Montgomery College events designed to encourage 6th grade and middle-school girls in STEM, including Math and Science Awards during Rockville Science Day and Sonya Kovalevsky Day.



Continuing the early branch history of STEM interactions with girls, in 1994 the branch arranged for Girl Scouts working on the Computer Fun Badge to meet with a group of women working in Computer careers. Today, middle-school Girl Scouts, can earn badges in Cybersecurity, Coding Basics, Programming Robots, Digital Movie Making, STEM Career Exploration, App Development, and Digital Leadership.

In 2015, Carolyn Fisher, branch member and STEM scientist, presented a panel discussing "Women in Stem: Are We There Yet" at a branch meeting. An updated look at this topic is probably overdue.

Last but not least, the branch used-book sale raised \$380 for the AAUW Educational Foundation in 1987. More recently, the branch has devoted the majority of its five-figure proceeds to funding scholarships for women in STEM disciplines, at Montgomery College and the Universities at Shady Grove. While the pandemic has prevented a traditional book sale since spring 2019, scholarships continue to be supported through member contributions and proceeds from alternative sales of books that do not meet the requirements for the next in-person sale.

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



The impetus for the national celebration was a week-long celebration of women's contributions to culture, history, and society, organized by the Sonoma, California school district in 1978. President Jimmy Carter officially proclaimed Women's History

Week, the week of March 8, 1980.

Annual presidential proclamations continued the

recognition until Congress designated the entire month of March as Women's History Month in 1987.

To the left is the National Women's History Alliance 2022 logo.

DR. PATRICIA STOCKER, MARYLAND WOMAN OF DISTINCTION 2022

AAUW Maryland will honor Dr. Patricia D. Stocker as our Maryland Woman of Distinction. She will be recognized and featured at the Women of Distinction Ceremony, the pinnacle event of the 2022 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, NCCWSL 2022, if Maryland AAUW members are able to raise \$20,000 for Platinum Sponsorship of the event. AAUW Maryland has been platinum sponsor for many years, and this year needs additional contributions from branch members to reach the goal.

Pat has served in several leadership roles, including as AAUW Maryland president and president of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Branch. AAUW-Maryland website has more information, <https://aauw-md.aauw.net>.

Contributions are requested before April 1. To donate online go to [AAUW.org](https://aauw.org) and select the donate button, which will allow you to choose Maryland Women of Distinction Fund. Or mail a check, made out to AAUW and indicating fund 4355—Maryland Women of Distinction (NCCWSL) Fund—on the memo line, to AAUW, 1310 L Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005.



BRANCH MEMBER, LOIS LIGGETT'S, BOOK IS PUBLISHED

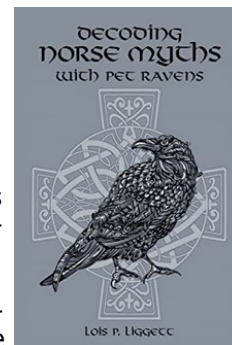
Available through Amazon Kindle. Paperback version will be available soon.

Lois Liggett has been a member of AAUW since 2005. She is a retired physical therapist. She has traveled throughout the world. She worked in Japan in 1990 as a geriatric rehabilitation consultant for several retirement communities. She has an M.A. in gerontology from Hood College and a B.S. in physical therapy from Russell Sage College. She has an avid interest in the interface of language with mythology, religion, and spirituality.

In her book's preface she explains her motive for this book.

"NORSE MYTHOLOGY HAS INTRIGUED MYTHOL-

OGISTS, LINGUISTS, AND RUNOLOGISTS for many decades. I am also intrigued, which is what led me to write this book. This intrigue lies in the mysteries that lurk in these myths. These mysteries include the lack of archeological finds prior to the Viking Age (late 700s to 1100 CE), the absence of authentic celebratory rituals paying homage to the Norse gods and goddesses, and a thorough explanation of the meaning of the names of the Norse gods and goddesses. This book sheds light on these mysterious elements, especially the meaning hiding beneath the names and places in Nordic myth."



LETTERS FROM TWO 2021 BRANCH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Several recipients of 2021 Branch scholarships sent letters thanking us and describing their journey to college and their plans for the future. These have been edited for length. Letters from other scholarship recipients will be published in future newsletters.

Dear AAUW Gaithersburg,

I am writing this letter to convey my sincere gratitude to you for making the AAUW-Gaithersburg scholarship possible. I grew up in White Oak, Maryland. I went to Jackson Road Elementary, moved on to White Oak Middle School, and then received my high school diploma at James H. Blake High School. As a high school freshman, I didn't know what college I wanted to go to, but I knew that I wanted to have a medical career. Navigating the college process was difficult. Seeing how much tuition was for four years did not entice me because it was too much money for my family and me, which is why I'm honored and deeply appreciative of your support. I'm a first-generation college student, so going to college felt impossible mentally, but I am determined to get my diploma. Coming into Montgomery College, MC, I was unsure of what type of student I was, and that tore my confidence. But, to my luck, I've picked the best professors to fortify excellent and unique study techniques and material.

I am now a sophomore studying Biological Science at MC. I challenged myself last year to reach outside my comfort zone, and I did that by applying to the Rockville Student Senate. I'm in the process of learning how to be a leader by advocating for student concerns. Not only am I meeting new people, but I'm also listening to them, hearing their thoughts on several ongoing conversations, such as the transition to on-campus learning, but I'm also learning how to work with faculty — I find this all rewarding to my college experience.

The professors at MC inspire me to go after my dreams of being a Physician Assistant by assuring me that I'm getting the knowledge I need for the real world. I plan to get my associate's degree and then transfer to an out-of-state four-year university with a pre-PA program. My next small-term goal is to apply and secure an

internship within the biological field or volunteer as an Emergency Medical Technician.



Thank you, AAUW Gaithersburg, again for your generosity, and I hope to see you this year!

Sincerely,
Barbara Canales Diaz

Dear AAUW Gaithersburg Branch,

It is an honor to be chosen for the AAUW-Gaithersburg Scholarship. I am currently a freshman, double majoring in Computer Science and Business. I am enjoying my studies, especially my business courses. I look forward to taking some Computer Sciences courses next semester and being more active in the community. Outside of school, I am a marketing intern at Tropicaux, a dried fruit company.

I work every day as a nanny to help pay for my education. Because of this scholarship, I will be able to focus more on my studies and reduce the number of hours I work. I was born in New Jersey, but I am originally from Guinea, West Africa. My family moved here in 2014 when my country was hit with Ebola. My parents wanted us to come here to further our education and have access to more opportunities.

Thank you again for your investment in students like myself and our education. I plan on pursuing my studies in a 4-year institution. I plan on getting a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and go to business school. At Montgomery College I hope to be part of the honor program and take full advantage of the opportunities that will be presented to me.

Sincerely,
Marissa Kobele Keita

GREAT DECISIONS

- Mary Wykes, Coordinator



The next meeting is scheduled via zoom for Friday, March 18 at 2:30.

The discussion topic will be "Outer Space Policy" with Anna Fraker leading the discussion. The author of this article in the Foreign Policy Association Study Guide is Eric Berger, author of the book "Lift Off"

about the rise of Space X.

New members are always welcome. Contact Coordinator Mary Wykes at 301-717-1040

or mary[dot]wykes[at]aol[dot]com for a study guide and the Zoom link if you are interested in joining the group.

AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

Website: gaithersburg-md.aauw.net

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

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HERSTORY INTEREST GROUP

- Maria Roberts

The Women's HerStory interest group will meet on Saturday, March 12, at 2 p.m., in the Club Room of the Park View Building at Asbury Methodist Village.

Maria Roberts will discuss the life of women's rights and civil rights activist, attorney and poet, Pauli Murray. She

was the first African-American woman to become an Episcopal priest and had a significant impact on American society.



NEARBY AAUW Branches' Meetings and Interest Groups

Kensington-Rockville AAUW branch monthly meetings, Second Saturday of the month, 10:30 a.m.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAUW branch monthly meetings, Second Saturday of the month, 11:00 a.m.

Zoom invitations to these meetings are often sent to all branch members, but for more information contact Margery Sullivan, msullivan[at]niaid[dot]nih[dot]gov.

Golden Quill Book Club, a continuing activity of the former Frederick branch, Third Saturday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

For information or a Zoom invitation, contact Mary Anne Williams, treksk8[at]aol[dot].com.

AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF ZOOM MEETINGS

Board Meeting – Zoom	Tuesday, March 8 - 7:00 p.m.
HerStory – In person	Saturday, March 12, 2:00 p.m.
Branch Meeting – Zoom	Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 p.m.
Great Decisions – Zoom	Friday, March 18 - 2:30 p.m.
AAUW Maryland Annual Meeting, Annapolis	Friday-Saturday, March 25-26, 2022

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