



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

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

NEWSLETTER

May 2022

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Gaithersburg AAUW VIRTUAL BRANCH MEETING!

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Log in to Zoom meeting: 7:00pm

Presentation begins: 7:15pm

TOPIC:

Perspectives on Global Public Health

Speaker: Sharon Rudy, PhD.

Dr. Rudy has several decades of experience working overseas to design and implement international health and education activities. She has worked with USAID, the CDC and partner organizations to build professional development systems and opportunities for a global pool of health professionals.

We will hear about Dr. Rudy's career challenges and successes.

*NOTE – New date and time for Zoom branch meeting!

Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 10 - 7 p.m.

The AAUW Gaithersburg Branch Board of Directors will next meet on May 10 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. The Zoom code will be sent by email. These meetings are open to all branch members.

MEETING INFORMATION AND MORE IS ON THE BRANCH WEBSITE

Go to Gaithersburg-md.aauw.net for information about upcoming meetings and other events, and current and past newsletters.

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Presidents Message

- Edie Allison

The daffodils have faded and leaves are popping out on trees as I write this message. Also, this week, the Maryland legislature finished its regular session, which delivered many bills that benefit women and families, several of which passed after failed attempts in prior years.

In recent columns I have described the Family and Medical Leave Insurance, Time to Care Act. Now you get the rest of the story. This bill passed both houses of the legislature, but was vetoed by the Governor. As the legislative session drew to a close, the veto was overridden by wide margins in both the House and Senate. Maryland now joins nine other states, the District of Columbia, and 120 countries in providing paid family and medical leave. AAUW has long advocated for paid family leave, reporting that only 23% of those working for employers with more than 500 employees have access to paid family leave through their employer. Among the lowest-wage workers, only 7% have access to paid family leave.

The Time to Care coalition reports that the bill provides up to 12 weeks of partially paid leave each year for a broad swath of workers — full-time and part-time, public and private-sector, and in small to large companies. Leave is available for individuals to care for themselves or a close family member after a serious health issue, or to welcome a new child regardless of marital status. In addition, new parents who also experience serious health issues are eligible for up to 24 weeks of benefits. The law provides that lower-income workers will be eligible for a larger portion of their income. However, details about the worker and employer contribution rate

and the benefit amount are yet to be defined by the state Department of Labor. Worker and employer contributions will start in 2023 and benefits will start in 2025.



In early March, the Maryland Comptroller said the state expects \$7.5 billion in excess revenue over the current and 2022-2023 fiscal years, primarily due to individual and corporate tax returns and higher sales tax receipts. This surplus is reflected in this year's appropriations legislation. Higher education is a major beneficiary of the surplus, along with the current gasoline tax holiday, and retiree tax cuts. Legislation making college more affordable includes:

- Maryland Student Investment Act, which allows students who were near a degree but withdrew from college due to health or financial reasons related to the Covid-19 pandemic to restore their Maryland Guaranteed Access Grant even if there is a change in family income.
- A new workforce development program at the Universities at Shady Grove received a \$5 million/year appropriation for the establishment or ongoing support of workforce development programs. USG has already launched efforts to address the local demand for biotech professionals with a new facility that aims to grow Maryland's STEM workforce by expanding modern, industry-standard laboratories and industry internships.

MEET THE MARYLAND AAUW OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023

Maryland officers coordinate the activities of 13 branches, representing over 475 members across the state from Garrett County to Harford County and Easton. There is also an online branch. The Maryland organization also presents informative programs quarterly. Officers for next year, starting July 1, that are pictured at the Maryland annual meeting in Annapolis in March include, left to right,

- Retiring Communication co-Vice President, Eileen Manton at the podium
- Maryland President Tracy Lantz, a member of both the Anne Arundel and Kensington-Rockville branches and a recent retiree from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She has long been active in AAUW state and national programs and committees, her church, and social equity organizations.
- Maryland Communications co-Vice President, Susan Wierman, a member of the Baltimore branch. She has served in several state positions including co-President and co-VP of Programs. Her degrees are in urban planning and currently works in air quality management.

- Susan and her co-VP, Erin Prangley, who is pictured at the far right, produce the Marylander, a quarterly newsletter that highlights activities of state branches and upcoming state meetings.



- Erin is an expert in public policy and active in advocacy efforts including the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women, MLAW, and the Women's Legislative Briefing help each January at the Universities at Shady Grove.
- Finally, second from right is Heather Reichardt, the new Maryland Program co-Vice President. Heather is also Gaithersburg branch's current Program VP and 2022-2023 Membership VP. Heather's co-VP is Jacki Gray, who is not pictured.

The Marylander, AAUW-Maryland quarterly newsletter is sent to all members by email -- if your email is listed with AAUW National (see article below). For news on Maryland AAUW activities, visit the website, <https://aauw-md.aauw.net>.



YOU CAN CONTROL WHAT EMAIL AND SNAIL MAIL YOU RECEIVE FROM AAUW

A welcome feature of the new AAUW National website is the option for you to choose what information you will receive from AAUW, and your preference for digital or paper communications. The most popular features may be the options to receive no fundraising appeals, no calls, and to keep your information from being shared with external partners and vendors!

The first time you sign in to the new website you will be asked to reset your password. To do this, scroll down the page and click on "Forgot your password?" You need to enter your email address to receive the link for the reset. If you

have problems contact Edie Allison at 301-231-0109 or edieallison[at]comcast[dot]net.

To change your communication preferences, log in to AAUW.org, which opens your Personal Snapshot, and click on My Preferences on the left.

The Gaithersburg branch maintains a separate digital and paper mailing list. To alter your branch communications preferences, contact Maria Roberts, meroberts27700[at]cs[dot]com or (301) 987-6986.

SAVE THE DATES

GAITHERSBURG BRANCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Saturday, June 11, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm, Asbury ParkView Club Room: Kick-off pot luck lunch. Wear your historic AAUW memorabilia, shirts, scarves, pins, flags etc. You are encouraged to bring a friend or acquaintance who might be interested in joining AAUW.

Sunday, September 18, 2022 1:00 to 4:00 pm, 50th Anniversary Luncheon, Montgomery County Country Club. Featuring a gourmet lunch and distinguished speakers.

Saturday, October 15, 2022, AAUW Maryland Program and State Board Meeting, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, Universities at Shady Grove. As typical in quarterly AAUW-Maryland meetings, the morning program is open to the public and will feature distinguished speakers and inspiring discussion.

GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinataor**



The timely and ever-changing Great Decisions topic for our Friday, May 20, 2:30 p.m. Zoom meeting is "Putin's Russia," led by Ellen Teague.

The author of our Foreign Policy Association's study guide article on the topic is Allen C. Lynch. He is a professor of politics at the University of Virginia and au-

thor of numerous books on the subject of Russian foreign and domestic policy.

New members are always welcome. For a Study Guide or Zoom information for the May meeting, please contact Coordinator, Mary Wykes, at 301-717-1040 or [Mary.Wykes\[at\]aol\[dot\]com](mailto:Mary.Wykes@aol.com).

HERSTORY INTEREST GROUP

- **Maria Roberts**

HerStory meeting in person Saturday, May 14, 2pm in the Club Room of the ParkView Building at Asbury Methodist Village.

Heather Reichardt will present far-sighted conservationist Rachel Carson. Interestingly, Rachel Carson was a resident of our county (Silver Spring) for many of her active

years. E-mail [meroberts27700\[at\]cs\[dot\]com](mailto:meroberts27700[at]cs[dot]com) if you need directions to Asbury and the ParkView building.



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

[Acfjeh2\[at\]starpower\[dot\]net](mailto:Acfjeh2[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

AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Board Meeting - Zoom	Tuesday, May 10 - 7:00 p.m.
HerStory – In person	Saturday, May 14, 2:00 p.m.
Branch Meeting – Zoom	Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 p.m.
Great Decisions – Zoom	Friday, May 20 - 2:30 p.m.
Anniversary Kick-off Potluck	Saturday, June 11, 11:30 a.m.
50 TH Anniversary Luncheon	Sunday, September 18, 1:00 p.m.
AAUW-MD Fall Meeting	Saturday, October 15, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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