



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

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

NEWSLETTER

June-Aug 2022

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JUNE POTLUCK LUNCH CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Starting at 11:30

Club Room, ParkView Building, Asbury Methodist Village

Heather Reichardt, branch vice president for programs, has sent an email invitation to our annual YEAR-END CELEBRATION that previews several Fall celebrations recognizing the Branch's 50th Anniversary!!! Yes! 1972-2022.

This is a great opportunity to get together IN PERSON, share a meal and reminisce about the long and wonderful history of our branch. Anniversaries are also a great time to look toward the future. If you bring a friend, we will all get to broaden our circle of friends and meet potential new members. Guests do not need to bring a dish!

If your invitation got lost, just send a note to Heather (hjr1234[at]gmail[dot]com) letting her know your expected plans and she will send a map and directions to the event.

Board Meeting

Friday, Aug. 9 - 7 p.m.

The AAUW Gaithersburg Branch Board of Directors will not meet in June. The next meeting will be on August 9 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

Summer weather is on the way and the Gaithersburg branch will end its year with a potluck lunch on June 11. In late May, you received an email invitation that requested your reply; if you did not receive this, contact Heather Reichardt at [hjr1234\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:hjr1234[at]gmail[dot]com). I hope to see you and your friends or family.

Branch activities will resume in September starting with the celebration of the branch's 50th anniversary – remember to mark your calendar for the celebratory luncheon on Sunday, September 18, and look forward to an invitation in late August or early September.

Before you race off to your summer getaway, please consider making a generous contribution to support scholarships for deserving young women at Montgomery College and The Universities at Shady Grove. Information on the scholarships and how to send your contribution is later in this newsletter. Please send your contribution by June 20.

June is also the time to renew your membership. Details on how to renew are in this newsletter and also provided in an end-of May email from AAUW (or Angela Cooper[at]aauw[dot]org).

As you have inevitably noticed, 2022 is not going to be a typical election. Your vote will be more important than ever as we elect a new governor and lieutenant governor. In addition, only about half of the Montgomery County council races will include an incumbent as the county council increases from 9 to 11 members, 4 at-large positions and 7 districts, up from 5 districts in prior years. In addition, new boundaries for Maryland legislative and congressional districts mean you will probably be seeing new or unfamiliar candidates and new voting locations. Even the normally low-key county Board of Education will have multiple candidates facing off in the primary. Delays in finalizing district maps, extended candidate filing deadlines have pushed the date of the primary election from June 28 to July 19.

Even if the changes may be confusing, all Marylanders can celebrate the fact that our state no longer holds the record for most-contorted, gerrymandered, congressional district.

The election board should send new voter identification cards before the Primary Election. In addition, you can get a listing of your precinct, congressional, legislative, and council districts starting in June at Maryland State Board of Elections, <https://www.elections.maryland.gov/> by clicking on "Lookup Your Voter Information."



Gaithersburg AAUW will not endorse any candidates. However, I strongly encourage you to become an informed voter. Below are a few tools that should help.

- If you have not requested a vote-by-mail ballot or are not on the permanent vote-by-mail list, you can still request a vote-by-mail ballot for the primary by submitting a request at the election website, 777vote.org.
- Early voting is July 7 to July 14, 7am to 8pm. More information at the county election website.
- The list of Montgomery County local candidates is at the Maryland State Board of Elections, candidate lists by county.
- The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County Primary Election Voter's Guide is at www.lwvmocomd.org or Vote411 website.
- Virtual forums for candidates for state, county and school board positions continue to be hosted by the Montgomery County League of Women Voters, Bethesda Magazine-Bethesda Beat, Montgomery College and other non-partisan organizations. Most of these are available on YouTube; just use the search feature.

Student Scholarships – Can you help?

For years our Branch has funded scholarships for women students through the annual book sale. The book sale was cancelled again this year, but the student scholarship needs are greater than ever. Last year we were able to help six students (one at the Universities at Shady Grove and five at Montgomery College) with donations from members that augmented the small amount of funds we raised through direct book sales. The students, who participated in our October virtual branch meeting, mentioned that the branch's scholarship assistance was critical to their college attendance. These are bright female students from diverse backgrounds, are preparing for careers where women are under-represented. They are the **role models of the future** for the younger generation — many of them stated their desire to give back to the next generation after they complete their schooling.

To continue to support scholarships for these financially deserving and committed young women, we are asking members to **donate to this**

year's scholarship fund. The donations will be combined with the modest funds we have raised through informal book sales and donated to The Universities at Shady Grove and Montgomery College scholarship funds. If you have any questions, call Liz Hessel 301-840-1258 or write her a note at [liz\[at\]meral\[dot\]com](mailto:liz[at]meral[dot]com).



To make a donation, send a check to branch treasurer, Ellen Teague, at 8621 Plum Creek Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20882. Make out the check to **AAUW Gaithersburg** and send it by June 20th. Please put scholarship in the memo line so that it is not confused with dues checks. We need to transfer the scholarship funds to the colleges by July first so that they can identify the students before the Fall semester starts.

IN MEMORIAM

Jean Kosow, a member of AAUW for over 60 years, died May 1. Jean was an active member of the Gaithersburg branch for many years, serving as branch president in 1975-76, shortly after the branch was founded, and again in 1985-86. She was also active in Lobby Corps for many years.

Mary Wykes recalled the delicious cookies Jean served several times when meeting at her apartment for Great Decisions. (Jean called them "Forget 'em" cookies. They live on as "Forget Me" cookies on the internet.) Mary noted that Jean was a gracious hostess, often serving foods from the country we were discussing. She could also give interesting reports of life in the countries of our study, gathered as she traveled to many countries with her husband David, when he participated in International Senior Fencing matches. Mary also remembers working as a cashier at several of our

book sales when Jean brought her young grandchildren to pick out books. Jean was a Life Branch member and will be sorely missed!



Pictured at a book sale cashier's desk, left to right, Jean Kosow, Maria Roberts and Anita Taylor.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP: ONLINE, BY MAIL OR IN PERSON

It is time to renew your membership for the coming Fiscal Year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023.

You can renew by credit card online at the newly designed AAUW site, AAUW.org, using instructions provided in an AAUW email sent to all members close to the end of May. Alternately, you can send a check to our Branch Treasurer, Ellen Teague, 8621 Plum Creek Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20882. Dues are \$95, including branch (\$18), Maryland State (\$10), and Na-

tional (\$67), of which \$64 is tax deductible as a charitable contribution. If you renew on line by credit card, be sure you are listed as a member of Gaithersburg, Maryland Branch.

You can also bring your renewal check to give Ellen when you come to our end of the year potluck luncheon at ParkView at Asbury Methodist Village on Saturday, June 11.

ANOTHER 50th ANNIVERSARY TO NOTICE, IF NOT CELEBRATE

The Equal Rights Amendment was passed by Congress in 1972. It states: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on the account of sex. Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

A strong and diverse opposition to the amendment developed soon after passage. A leading opponent of the amendment was Phyllis Schlafly, who argued for protection for traditional female social roles. There was also strong support for the amendment, led by feminist leaders including Gloria Steinem and Betty Friedan. Strong support led to 35 states ratifying the amendment by the 1979 deadline set by Congress. Three-quarters of states, or 38 had to ratify for the amendment to be added to the Constitution, but no additional states voted to ratify before the extended deadline, 1982.

But the amendment has not died. States continued to vote on ratification long after the deadline had expired, and by 2020 three additional states had ratified the amendment. Virginia was the 38th state to ratify. Without the time limit imposed by Congress, the ERA would become law 2 years after Virginia's January 2020 ratification. ERA supporters and congressional scholars argue that the constitution does not require any time limits for ratification. However, the U.S. Archivist has refused to publish or certify the amendment, the last step for it to become part of the Constitution. Illinois, Nevada and Virginia, the last three states to ratify, have sued the archivist to require him to act.

LETTERS FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ATTENDING MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

In addition to six student scholarships funded by the branch contribution to Montgomery College, additional scholarships were granted for the spring semester. Below are letters of thanks that we have received from Maryam Abbas and Atiya Shamaia Dean Graham. Letters are lightly edited for length.

Dear AAUW Gaithersburg,

I would like to thank you for this wonderful, acknowledging scholarship that you nominated me for. Receiving this information was exhilarating!

This scholarship takes a large weight off my shoulders as there are many expenses that college students have to take on and handle.

There are many places I consider my hometown as I have traveled and lived in different states. I will never stop claiming my birthplace, Brooklyn, New York. Living in Gaithersburg, Maryland, for the bulk of my life, I have seen a different level of peace and quietness. Moving between a loud, energetic, and fast city and a calm, suburban city, I've experienced the way people live in both areas. My mother and father are both from Brooklyn, and I go there often to spend time with family. My father is African American and West Indian. My mother is African American as well as, Native American (Apache Tribe), and Panamanian.

Being an ambivalent student in high school, I focused mainly on my studies and spending my time outdoors with friends. After two years of high school, I decided that I wanted to complete high school early to pursue my dream career. With the encouragement of my mother, father, and close friends, I worked with my counselors to plan to graduate early. During the summer of 2020, I took a remote English class at Montgomery College to complete all my required credits to graduate the following year. After a year, during my vacation in Tanzania, Africa, I was officially a senior (during my junior year), and I worked furiously on applying to colleges, getting recommendation letters, and doing what I needed to succeed.

Graduating in the year of 2021, I never really realized how big of an accomplishment I had achieved. Obtaining my high school diploma at 17 years old brought me to tears. I initially had it in mind to go to a different 4-year

institution. However, as things did not work out for me, I changed my mind to attend Montgomery College, Rockville.



I am currently a freshman at Montgomery College, pursuing a biology major, but there are many other things at the College. I am an active participant in the STEM Education club; I am currently secretary. I admire the fun activities we do. Last October for National Chemistry Week, the club set up stations with chemistry experiments for small children. The event was successful and filled with joy, and many adults popped in with their children to learn about basic chemical reactions.

One of the many things I love about Montgomery College is that there are caring and helpful professors that constantly assist students in understanding their courses and getting their work done. At the College, I hope to continue to network and make connections with others to expand my knowledge of what is going to be in my favor. I also hope to help, teach, and learn from others so I can leave Montgomery College on a positive note.

After spending two years at Montgomery College, then completing another two at a four-year institution, I plan to attend medical school, preferably at Johns Hopkins, to pursue my dream career of being an OB/GYN. Considering that I am great at taking care of children, and enjoy volunteering to help others. I know that being an OB/GYN is going to be in my future.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you once again for this scholarship because it has opened many opportunities for me. You are part of the reason why I am growing and will succeed!

Very Truly Yours,

Atiya Shamaia Dean Graham

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GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinataor**



The Great Decisions interest group will meet via Zoom on Friday, June 17 at 2:30 pm. The discussion topic is "Myanmar's Neverending Crisis" based on the Foreign Policy Association's study guide article by Hunter Marston of the Australian National University in the Carol Bell School of Asia-Pacific Affairs.

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

HERSTORY INTEREST GROUP

- **Maria Roberts**

Herstory starts its summer break early, rather than competing with the branch potluck lunch in June. Join us for the September 10 program about Eleanor Holmes Norton,

which will be presented by Edie Allison.



LETTERS FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ATTENDING MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Dear AAUW Gaithersburg,

My name is Maryam Abbas, and I am truly honored to receive the AAUW Gaithersburg Scholarship. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for funding this scholarship. Thanks to your donation, I am able to continue my education at Montgomery College.

I am currently pursuing a degree in Architectural Technology and hope to pair it with a minor in either Construction Management or Sustainability. While I plan to obtain my Associates degree and graduate from Montgomery College this spring semester, I aim to ultimately graduate from the University of Maryland with a Master's degree. My dedication for architecture has driven me to maintain a respectable GPA of 3.61 and I aim to maintain this in the future.

Outside of school I am active in a handful of clubs such as the Animal Outreach group and the Muslim Student Association. Ultimately, after graduation I plan to pursue a career as an architect and further the efforts of creating sustainable buildings for future generations. I also hope to give back to the community and one day encourage students to pursue their goals as you have done for me. Thank you for enabling me to reach my fullest personal and professional potential

Sincerely,

Maryam Abbas



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

Board Meeting - Zoom	Tuesday, August 9 - 7:00 p.m.
HerStory – In person	Resumes September 10
Branch Meeting – In person	Saturday, June 11, 11:30 a.m.
Great Decisions – Zoom	Friday, June 17 - 2:30 p.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
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