



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

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

September 2022

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*You and a Guest are cordially invited to
Celebrate the
50th Anniversary
Of the Gaithersburg Branch of the
American Association of University Women
Keynote Speaker:
The Honorable Cheryl Kagan
State Senator, District 17*

*Sunday, September 18, 2022 at 1:00 pm
Montgomery County Country Club
20908 Golf View Drive, Gaithersburg, MD
Luncheon will be served*

Tickets: \$48 per person
RSVP by September 14 to: Liz Hessel 301-840-1258
Make check payable to: AAUW Gaithersburg
Mail to: Ellen Teague, Treasurer
8621 Plum Creek Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Board Meeting

The AAUW Gaithersburg Branch Board of Directors will meet on September 13 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

Celebrating 50 years and looking toward the next 50 years

I hope you will be able to join other branch members and friends for the September 18 luncheon celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Gaithersburg branch. You can expect good company, great food, and an excellent keynote speaker. To help us look back at where the branch has been, Maria Roberts will present a compilation of the significant accomplishments of the branch since 1972. The keynote speaker, Maryland State Senator Cheryl Kagan, will be talking about women's issues and voting rights, areas where we can celebrate many victories over the past 50 years, while we consider potential future challenges. Senator Kagan has represented District 17 since 1995, first as Delegate, then as Senator since 2015.

As Fall arrives, branch activities resume and it is the perfect time to start new AAUW activities. New social gatherings, virtual or in person, will help all of us overcome the sense of isolation we have felt over the past two years. I recognize that we are not done with Covid-19 in its many iterations, but vaccines, improved understanding of the value of outdoors and socially distanced gatherings, plus new drugs to moderate the disease encourage more in-person gatherings. I encourage you to join one of the existing branch interest groups or help revive a dormant one. The HerStory discussion group continues to meet in person on the second Saturday of each month. At the September 10 meeting the group will discuss Elanor Holmes Norton. The Great Decisions group has been meeting virtually, and will resume its meetings on September 16. Look for announcements of these events later in this newsletter. In addition, this would be an excellent time to revive two groups that were popular for many years, the Literature group and the Gourmet group. These could be reincarnated in traditional or more casual formats, which could ease the burdens on organizers. If you are interested in reviving a branch activity, branch officers can provide help. Group lunches that Liz Hessel has organized this year have been very popular and Liz is willing to organize future such gatherings.

Other activities to consider are AAUW campaigns supporting public policy positions important to women and girls.



- One event for which a volunteer is needed is the October 12, Montgomery County Board of Education Forum. The League of Women Voters has invited AAUW branches in the county to be co-sponsors as we have in past election cycles. Volunteers from the county branches will get together to develop questions to ask panelists and will help advertise the event.
- Many branch members have participated in AAUW letter-writing campaigns to advocate for legislation including that supported by the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women, MLAW.
- Before the pandemic members of the Gaithersburg branch regularly joined members of other regional branches to visit congressional offices as part of Lobby Corps. Lobby Corps stopped because of pandemic restrictions on visiting Congressional offices and reductions in AAUW's National public policy staff, who provided policy analyses. I will share the news when Lobby Corps restarts.
- The Maryland state AAUW organization has a vigorous public policy program led by Roxann King and Debby Chessin. They welcome all Maryland branch members to monthly virtual meetings, filled with information and suggestions for action.

If you are interested in reviving a traditional branch activity or starting a new one, branch officers can provide help. To get additional information contact me; my email is listed on the officer-contacts sidebar in this newsletter.

GAITHERSBURG BRANCH 50th ANNIVERSARY TIDBIT

- *Maria Roberts*

Born in a Storm: On June 21, 1972, remnants of Hurricane Agnes grew into a wild storm that hit the DC area, causing the worst flooding in decades. According to the Washington Post, local rivers carried refrigerators from destroyed homes and caskets from flooded cemeteries in Pennsylvania. Motorists stranded in cars were swept off our area highways. But a group of Gaithersburg women gathered calmly that evening to discuss establishing a Gaithersburg Branch of the national AAUW of the United States. As a result of their initiative, the charter for Gaithersburg Branch was presented on September 21, 1972

OTHER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS – OCTOBER 15

In addition to the 50th anniversary luncheon. The Gaithersburg branch will be hosting the AAUW-Maryland Fall Conference on Saturday, October 15 at the Casey Community Center. Quarterly state meetings are hosted by branches throughout the state on an informal rotation. Gaithersburg has not hosted a state meeting for several years, but we volunteered for this one so that members from across Maryland could join us in celebrating our anniversary and we could host a star-studded program for Gaithersburg members and friends. The program theme is tentatively titled, "Improving Voter Participation for

Younger Citizens." Guest speakers, to be announced, will explore the theme and discuss how AAUW members can help with the issue. The morning program will start around 10:00 and be free to branch members, but there will be a \$15 charge to stay for lunch and socializing, which is followed by an afternoon business meeting. This event will replace our regular monthly meeting.



GAITHERSBURG BRANCH 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION REMEMBERED

On October 13, 2012, AAUW Gaithersburg members and friends gathered at Ingleside at King Farm for a celebratory luncheon. The featured speakers were charter member Anna Fraker, who gave some reminiscences of our founding, Maryland state senator Jennie Forehand, Dian Belanger, who was past president of AAUW Maryland, and Pat Stocker, then current president of AAUW Maryland. Special recognition was given to charter members Anna Fraker and Mina Parsont, and to Sue Schlager Geiger, who represented her mother, Susan Schlager, the branch's Founding Mother.



Mina Parsont, Anna Fraker and Sue Schlager Geiger (left to right) receiving roses and recognition.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO JEAN YOUNG

Congratulations to Jean Young who celebrated her 100th birthday on June 8th. Her family held a party in the Villa's Community Room where many friends joined festivities. Jean joined AAUW in 1944 upon graduation from college and when her family moved to Gaithersburg in 1983 Jean promptly joined our AAUW Branch. Over the years she served our branch in many ways, including a stint as newsletter editor. In recent years she has enjoyed participating in Great Decisions and the Literature Group. Overall, Jean has been an AAUW member for seventy-eight years! What an inspiration!!



Branch members Jane Carroll (left) and Sandra Finerty wish Jean a Happy Birthday at her 100th Birthday Party!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Wish your fellow members a Happy Day!

Marilyn O'Connell September 14th

Anita Taylor September 24th

BRANCH RECEIVES MONTGOMERY COLLEGE FOUNDATION THANKS

Craig Eozzo, Acting Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations, and Executive Director of the Montgomery College Foundation sent the following letter to Liz Hessel, branch book-sale chair, thanking the branch for its support.

August 1, 2022

Dr. Elizabeth J. Clark Hessel

AAUW - Gaithersburg

8113 Whirlwind Court

Laytonsville, MD 20882-4469

Dear Dr. Clark Hessel,

Thank you for investing in the lives and futures of our students through AAUW - Gaithersburg's very generous gift supporting your scholarship. For many years, our students have been the very fortunate beneficiar-

ies of yours and your members generosity. Please know how appreciative we are.

It's quieter on our campuses at this time of year, providing time to plan for the arrival of thousands of students in the fall. For many of our students, the opportunity to pursue their education at Montgomery College is due to donors like you, who recognize that education has the power to transform lives.

The AAUW - Gaithersburg Scholarship not only alleviates the financial worries many of our students face, but it also sends a powerful reminder that you and your members believe in their potential.

As requested, your gift has been designated to:

AAUW - Gaithersburg Scholarship—\$6,187.50

Sincerely,

Craig Eozzo

GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinator**



The Great Decisions interest group will meet via Zoom on Friday, September 16 at 2:30 pm. The discussion topic is "No end in sight: A century of drug wars," based on the Foreign Policy Association's study guide article by Monica Serrano, a

professor of international relations at El Colegio de Mexico.

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

HERSTORY INTEREST GROUP

- **Maria Roberts**

HerStory: Saturday, Sept 10, 2 pm in Park View Club Room: Edie Allison will introduce us to brave feminist and fighter for DC voting rights, Eleanor Holmes Nor-

ton. This is bound to be a fascinating discussion. Please don't miss it.



Salute to Long Time AAUW Members

- **Liz Hessel**

While we celebrate Gaithersburg Branch's 50th anniversary this month, we also want to recognize branch members who have been long time AAUW members. Some joined AAUW before our branch started or were members in other states. These women have contributed significantly to our branch's success through their many hours of work. and we thank them for their longtime service and work toward equity for women and girls.

Jean Young has belonged to AAUW for 78 years!! She got an early start joining just after college graduation as did **Cathy Manning** (67 years) and **Anna Fraker** (63 years) and

Mary Eaton joined 62 years ago. **Mary Wykes** (49 years) was an early member of our branch and has probably served in every officer position. **Marilyn Leist** (48 years) served as both branch president and Maryland president prior to her relocation to Colorado. Other long-term members include **Diane Carvey** (44 years), **Aurora Sevilla** (42 years), **Judy Wymer** (41 years) and **Patsy Marks** (36 years). We salute all of these wonderful members for their support of our Branch and AAUW's mission.



AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

Website: gaithersburg-md.aauw.net

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

President

President

Edie Allison

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Newsletter Managing Editor

AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Board Meeting - Zoom	Tuesday, August 9 - 7:00 p.m.
HerStory – In person	Resumes September 10 – 2:00 p.m.
Great Decisions – Zoom	Friday, June 17 - 2:30 p.m.
50th 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