



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

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

NEWSLETTER

Dec 2022—Jan 2023

December 2022—January 2023

The 50th Anniversary Celebration Continues HOLIDAY LUNCHEON LOCATION AND DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED WATCH FOR AN EMAIL!

A majority of the Branch members responded positively to the poll on having a holiday luncheon. The date will be in the first half of December, details to be announced by email announcement/invitation. We can continue to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of AAUW Gaithersburg Branch at the Holiday Luncheon. Come and see your old friends and meet new ones. Bring your spouse or a friend. We will provide a ride for anyone who needs one.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 7 p.m.

Zoom

The AAUW Gaithersburg Branch Board of Directors will not meet in December. The next board meeting will be Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 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 <http://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*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE DECEMBER 2022

This year has been notable, marking the 50th anniversary of the branch's founding that we were able to celebrate in person as the Covid 19 threat declined.

We started the celebration with a June 11 pot-luck lunch and ended by hosting the AAUW Maryland fall meeting on October 15. Between these was the September 18 anniversary luncheon, a celebration of friendships and past accomplishments.

This year, Jean Young celebrated her 100th birthday. Jean joined AAUW in 1944 when she graduated from college and joined and became active in the Gaithersburg branch when she and her family moved to Gaithersburg in 1983.

Sadly, we lost two beloved, long-time branch members over the past year, Dorothy Camara and Jean Kosow. Dorothy edited the branch newsletter, working closely with Qing Jiang from 2005 until 2021. I remember her as much more than the person who gently nudged my writing into something readable. Dorothy was a seemingly bottomless reservoir of branch history and branch bylaws, a necessity to keep branch planning and governance on track.

Jean Kosow was a member of AAUW for 60 years. She joined the branch shortly after it was founded and helped lead the branch as president several times in the 1970s and 1980s. Many of us who joined the branch more recently remember Jean as an enthusiastic supporter and worker in the annual used book sale. Jean was also a long time member of AAUW's Capitol Hill Lobby Corps.

It is now time to look forward to the branch's future. In the short term, initial planning for a spring 2023 used book sale has started, informative programs are planned, and Great Decisions and HerStory continue.

Supporting AAUW's longer mission, women's and

girls' gender equity needs our help. We are coming out of the November local, state, and federal elections with more political comity than many of us anticipated before election day. I hope it provides important legislative decisions in support of education, gender equity and environmental justice.



AAUW Maryland and Gaithersburg branch members support the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women, MLAW, an annual effort to advocate for 6 to 8 bills that are expected to go before the state legislature each year. In 2022 four bills supported by MLAW passed, including the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program, which will provide covered employees up to 12 weeks of partially paid leave, with an additional 12 weeks for serious illness or bonding with a new child.

In preparation for the 2023 legislative session, MLAW is inviting members to vote on their highest priority bills for MLAW's support. Proposed bills for support include ones on gun safety; reproductive healthcare; equitable implementation of climate change prevention and mitigation; and allowing individuals to choose their end-of-life care.

By December 10 let me know which bills you want Maryland AAUW to support, and I will send your votes to Roxann King, Maryland Public Policy VP, who will tally the votes for Maryland support. The proposed bills to vote on are described at <https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org>. Click on the MLAW 2022 Conference-Legislative Proposals Packet link on the right side of the page. Or Google MLAW 2022 legislative proposals.

Maryland STATE Senator Susan Lee, Maryland Woman of Distinction for 2023

AAUW Maryland, with the support of the Maryland branches, will continue its long tradition of sponsoring the 2023 Women of Distinction Ceremony at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, NCCWSL, at the University of Maryland in late May. The AAUW Maryland Woman of Distinction for 2023 will be State Senator Susan C. Lee. Lee represents District 16, which is in Montgomery County, and she is the State Senate Majority Whip. She is the first Asian American elected to the Maryland State Senate and was the first Asian American woman and first Chinese American to be elected to the Maryland legislature. She is one of the strongest advocates for women in the Maryland state legislature.

AAUW Maryland members aim to raise \$20,000 to be the Platinum Sponsor of the NCCWSL

Woman of Distinction event, which allows Maryland to present its Woman of Distinction to the attending students. You are encouraged to consider the Woman of Distinction fund in your philanthropy plans – any amount is welcome!

To donate by check:

Make your check out to AAUW

On the check put the fund name and number:

4355-Maryland Women of Distinction (NCCWSL) Fund

Mail to: AAUW

1310 L Street, NW

Suite 1000

Washington, D.C. 20005

Elementary and Middle School Mentors Needed

We all know how important success in early school years leads to success in high school and later in life. If you want to help students catch up after the Covid closures, nearby opportunities are available.

The **Gaithersburg Beloved Community Initiative** (GBCI) at Asbury Methodist Village is looking for volunteers who have a passion to help the next generation grow by learning and having fun together. Three opportunities are available. At **Gaithersburg Elementary School** mentors/tutors are needed on Tuesdays from 3:45 pm – 5 pm to help 3rd – 5th grade students. At **South Lake Elementary School** mentor openings exist to assist 1st and 2nd grade students on

Wednesdays from 4:15 – 5:30 pm. Middle school tutors assisting teachers are needed at **Gaithersburg Middle School** during school hours. Both men and women are welcome to volunteer.

If you would like to volunteer or learn more about these programs, you may contact Sarahi Segura, the GBCI Program Coordinator, at 301-216-4849 or [sarahi\[at\]gaithersburgbelovedcommunity\[dot\]org](mailto:sarahi[at]gaithersburgbelovedcommunity[dot]org) or if you prefer, contact Liz Hessel from AAUW at [liz\[at\]meral\[dot\]com](mailto:liz[at]meral[dot]com) or 301-840-1258.



A mentor playing a board game with the students

GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinataor**



December: Great Decisions interest group will discuss the final topic in the Foreign Policy Association. 2022 Study Guide on Zoom, Friday, December 16, at 2:30 pm, "Biden Foreign Policy in an Age of Strategic Competition" by G. John Ikenberry, Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University. Edie Allison will lead our discussion.

January: Great Decisions interest group will meet via zoom at 2:30, Fri., January. 20. At this meeting, we will decide on who will lead the

various topics for 2023 and discuss the possibility of resuming in-person meetings. I will give an overview of Great Decisions and its parent, the Foreign Policy Association.

It is a great time for new members to join this group. All are welcome to join.

If interested, contact Mary Wykes, Coordinator at 301-717-1040 or Mary[dot]wykes[at]aol[dot]com for the Zoom connection and a study guide.

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 Saturday, JANUARY 14, 2 pm

- **Maria Roberts**

HerStory Interest Group, Saturday, January 14, 2 pm at ParkView Club Room, Asbury Methodist Village.

The "Story" of "Her:" in this case "Her," who will be our subject was kidnapped at age 10 and was married as a teenager. She participated in a "loooong" venture. The boss called her "the Pilot," though she and he did not speak the same lan-

guage. You may or may not have guessed "Her" identity, but please come and participate in our discussion of this very unusual person.



DECEMBER and JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Wish these branch members a Happy Birthday

December

Aurora Sevilla 7

Amra McClanen 7

Mary Smith 11

January

Louise Chatlynne 17

Cathy Brown Date NA

Judy Mayer Date NA

Elizabeth Schwartz Date NA

AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Holiday Luncheon	Date & Location TBA
Great Decisions – Zoom	Friday, December 16 - 2:30 p.m.
Board Meeting – Zoom	Tuesday, January 10, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.
HerStory – In person	Saturday, January 14 - 2:00 p.m.
Great Decisions – Zoom	Friday, January 20 - 2:30 p.m.

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