



# AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

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

NEWSLETTER

March 2023

## March 2023

Gaithersburg AAUW VIRTUAL BRANCH MEETING!

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Log in to Zoom meeting: 7:00pm

Presentation begins: 7:15pm

### PRESENTATION:

\*NOTE – The Zoom link will be sent to members and friends a few days prior to the meeting.

### INSIDE

<i>March 2023 Event</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>President's Message</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>AAUW Maryland State Annual Meeting</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Great Decisions</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>HerStory Interest Group</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Calendar</i>	<i>5</i>

### Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 7 p.m.

Zoom

The AAUW Gaithersburg Branch Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, March 14 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.

## Presidents Message

### - Edie Allison

The first day of Spring is coming and the bulbs are already blooming as I write this in late February. Several people asked for more information about the six women serving on the Montgomery County Council, the first woman-majority council. This is the most ethnically diverse council as well as the first 7-district, 11-member council. The six new council members are women. The county council is term limited; each member can only serve three consecutive terms. Only Sidney Katz is currently serving his third term. The other men were elected in 2018.

The dominant issue facing the council is improving economic competitiveness of the county by revising the planning process after all the county planning board resigned in October 2022 at the request of the county council. The resignations seemed to reflect concerns about inappropriate behavior, but the planning commission is part of concerns about the slow and cumbersome planning process and long-term climate mitigation goals. (That will need a separate column.)

All council members serve on one or two of the seven standing committees where much of the council's fact finding and involvement with citizens and county staff occurs. Because most of the county council is relatively new I cannot describe significant actions they are each involved in, but I have listed their standing committee assignments so you can track committee actions on the committee web pages, <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/about/committees.html> or in the local news.

Marilyn Balcombe was President/CEO of the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce before being elected in 2022 to represent District 2, which includes Germantown the north and west up-county. Dr. Balcombe holds a degree in Organizational Psychology and worked for the US Energy Department in that role. She serves on the Economic Development and Transportation and Environment Standing Committees.

Kate Stewart, a long-time resident of Tacoma Park, won election to the newly formed District 4 that includes Tacoma Park, Silver Spring, Kensington, Garrett Park and parts of North Bethesda in November 2022. During her 7-year tenure in Takoma Park city

government, she focused on racial equality, housing affordability, and local climate change mitigation. On the council she is chair of the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Standing Committee and member of the Transportation and Environment Standing Committee.



Kristin Mink, a first generation Chinese American, is a former Montgomery County Public Schools graduate and teacher. She has worked with non-profits on social, racial, economic and climate justice. She represents District 5 and is a member of the Education and Culture and the Public Safety Standing Committees.

Natali Fani-Gonzales was elected in 2022 to the new District 6. She arrived in the US as a teenage and graduated from Goucher College. Her professional career includes serving for seven years on the Montgomery County Planning Board and working for the immigrant group, CASA, supporting the Maryland DREAM act and other state and local policies for low-income communities. Ms. Fani-Gonzales chairs the Economic Development Standing Committee and is a member of the Planning, Housing and Parks Standing Committee.

Dawn Luedtke was elected in 2022 to represent the newly created District 7, which includes Montgomery Village and other parts of northwest Montgomery County. Ms. Luedtke's background includes working as a community advocate, Assistant Maryland Attorney General. She received her Law degree from the University of Maryland and currently serves on the Health and Human Services and Public Safety Standing Committees.

Laurie-Ann Sayles was elected to one of four at-large council positions in 2022. Before this she served on the Gaithersburg City Council from 2017 to 2021. She has long worked to expand access to early childhood education and health equity. She is a consultant to the US Food and Drug Administration, which works to assure safe and effective drugs and treatments. She has degrees in Public Health and Public Administration. Ms Sayles is a member of the Economic Development and Health and Human Services Standing Committees.

## AAUW MARYLAND STATE ANNUAL MEETING

**Saturday, April 15, 2023, 9 AM – 4 PM, Virtual and in Columbia, MD**

**The morning program topic is: Inequalities in Health Care Affecting Women and Girls -What is the "Fourth Trimester?"** Health officials consider this a crucial period after the birth of a child. Unfortunately, the United States has a growing problem with providing adequate healthcare to women who have recently given birth. The rate of maternal death in the U.S. is nearly 3 times that of other developed countries. We will hear from two experts in this field to understand the reasons behind this startling statistic and what can be done to improve healthcare and monitoring for new mothers. Often the baby gets all the attention. The signals that the mother is struggling are missed or dismissed.

Speakers include **Dr. Jameta Barlow, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Writing at George Washington University.** Dr. Barlow is a community health psychologist who utilizes decolonizing methodologies to disrupt intergenerational trauma, chronic health diseases and structural policies adversely affecting Black girls' and women's health. Dr. Barlow holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in English from Spelman College, a Master of Public Health (MPH) in Maternal and Child Health from The George Washington University and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Psychology from North Carolina State University.

**Ms. Lee Taylor-Penn, MPA, MPH, Policy Director, Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance (MMHLA).** Lee Taylor-Penn is a public health advocate passionate about promoting health equity through evidence-based policy making, research, and community engagement. Before joining MMHLA, Ms. Taylor-Penn was a Senior Policy Analyst at Families USA, where she provided policy analysis and strategy support with a focus on maternal health, health equity, and Medicaid. Ms. Taylor-Penn has an M.P.A. and M.P.H. from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and a B.A. in liberal arts from the University of Mississippi

Registration to attend on Zoom (\$15 charge) or attend in person (\$50-\$55) is available at the AAUW Maryland website, <https://aauw-md.aauw.net/>.

**Support our 2023 Maryland Woman of Distinction, MD Secretary of State Susan Clair Lee**

Last fall, AAUW Maryland chose then State Senator Susan C Lee as Maryland's 2023 Woman of Distinction. Susan now is the Maryland Secretary of State, having been appointed on January 18, 2023, by Governor Wes Moore. She will be honored at the 2023 NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) on June 2nd at UM College Park.

She was a member of the Senate from January 2015 through January 2023 and served as the Majority Whip from 2019-2022. Susan previously served in the Maryland House of Delegates from 2002-2015. 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. Throughout her long legislative career, Susan Lee has been a champion for the rights of women and youth. Lee was elected to serve two terms as president of the Women Legislators of Maryland (Women's Legislative Caucus).

Lee has a BA in Political Science from Univ of Maryland, College Park and a J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law. **She is a member of two Maryland AAUW branches - Bethesda-Chevy Chase and Kensington-Rockville.**

**Our goal is to raise \$20,000 to be a Platinum Sponsor for the event – any amount is appreciated! Please show your support for our new Maryland Secretary of State!!**

### **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**

## GREAT DECISIONS

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinataor**



Judy Sholes will lead our discussion on the very timely topic of "War Crimes: what are they?

How can they be prosecuted?" via zoom Friday, March 17 at 2:30 pm. The author of this topic in our FPA Study Guide is Francine Hirsch, professor of History at the University of Wisconsin. Her most recent book "Soviet Judgment at Nuremberg; a new history of the International Military Tribunal after World War II" (2020) has received several

book awards.

New members are always welcome. Contact coordinator Mary Wykes for the Zoom link or information about this interesting study group on foreign affairs, Mary[dot]Wykes[at]aol[dot]com; 301-717-1040

## HERSTORY INTEREST GROUP Saturday, MARCH 11, 2 pm

- **Maria Roberts**

HerStory interest group will meet on Saturday, March 11, 2023, in the Parkview Club Room, (building 211) of Asbury Methodist Village. For directions, please call 301-987-6986.

We will hear about a mystery woman and here are some hints: She hated the nickname some of her male coworkers gave her. She liked living and working in France much better than in her home country. There are two reasons why she did

not win the Nobel Prize.

A prize for you if you guess her identity correctly. But please save your guess until the meeting.



### AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

**Website:** gaithersburg-md.aauw.net

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

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## **AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

HerStory – In person	Saturday, March 11- 2:00 p.m.
Board Meeting – Zoom	Tuesday, March 14, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.
Great Decisions – Zoom	Friday, March 17 - 2:30 p.m.
Branch Program – Zoom	Tuesday, March 21, 2023 – 7:00 pm

The American Association of University Women  
Gaithersburg Branch  
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Gaithersburg, MD 20877