



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

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

September 2023

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Gaithersburg AAUW VIRTUAL BRANCH MEETING!

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Log in to Zoom meeting: 7:00pm

Presentation begins: 7:15pm

Program: Diversity and Inclusion Efforts at Montgomery College
Presented by Sharon Wilder, Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer

Additional information about the program and the Zoom link
will be sent with closer to the meeting date.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 7 p.m.

Zoom

The AAUW Gaithersburg Branch Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, September 12 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. The Zoom code will be sent by email. These meetings are open to all branch members.

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Presidents Message

- **Edie Allison**

Welcome to the start of a new AAUW year. Summer seems to have been too short, but I hope everyone had a pleasant time with family and friends, and perhaps traveling to new places.

The branch leadership is planning a suite of informative monthly programs, several celebratory luncheons, and monthly explorations of women's Herstory and Great Decisions. We will also keep you informed about relevant and informative programs presented by nearby AAUW branches and the Maryland State AAUW.

Last year we celebrated the branch's 50th anniversary. This year there are two anniversaries important to women's educational and economic equality that we can celebrate.

July 21, 2023 was the 100th anniversary of the Equal Rights Amendment unveiling. To celebrate this anniversary as well as the 175th anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention, recognized as the first women's rights convention. Maryland AAUW members led by Tracy Lantz, AAUW Maryland President, and other AAUW members caravanned to Seneca Falls for the July 21-23, 2023 centennial convention that marked the anniversary and worked to amplify the need to get the ERA certified and part of our US Constitution. Last spring you probably noticed announcements of Artists 4 ERA exhibit that was sponsored by Maryland AAUW state organization and several branches. Additional events focused on getting the ERA certified are expected this year.

June 10 was the 60th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act that aimed to abolish wage disparity based on sex. We are still waiting for "Equal Pay" and progress is very slow. One important recent step has been getting women back in the workforce after the pandemic. By the third quarter 2022 women in the labor force had reached 100% of pre-pandemic levels, and by July 2023 women's labor force participation reached an all-time high, over 77% of women of prime working age, mid-20s to mid-50s.

A few statistics suggest several areas for branch members to focus. In 2022 women earned 82 cents for every dollar that men earned, a huge increase from 1982 when women earned 65 cents for every dollar that men earned. Those early improvements are attributed to higher education and a shift to higher-paying occupations by women. However, even as women have continued to outpace men in higher education the pay gap has changed little from 2002 to 2022 when women's pay crept up from 80 cents for every dollar that men earned to 82 cents. I have tossed out a lot of numbers and they are all amplified by the large variations by race and geographic region.



The impacts of parenthood amplifies the gender disparity. In 2022 mothers aged 25 to 34 earned 85% as much as fathers. In contrast, women in the same age cohort without children at home earned 97% as much as fathers. Some changes with potential to move the needle include:

Paycheck Fairness Act has not made it through Congress.

Raising the minimum wage: The Federal minimum wage is still \$7.25, \$2.13 for tipped workers, rates followed by many states. In Maryland minimum wage is \$12.80; in Montgomery County it is \$14.50 to \$16.70. The majority of minimum-wage workers are women, often single-parent heads of household,

Paid family medical leave: Federal family and medical leave of up to 12 weeks is unpaid. Maryland passed the Time to Care Act in 2022. In 2023 modifications to the law delayed when eligible employees can begin to use the program until January 1, 2026.

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Presidents Message

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To take action:

- AAUW advocacy activities are at www.aauwaction.org.
- To participate in the AAUW Maryland Public Policy contact Roxann King, co-VP of Public Policy for Maryland, [Roxann.king1\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:Roxann.king1[at]gmail[dot]com). The public policy team meets

monthly by Zoom and everyone is welcome.

- The AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps has resumed post-pandemic. For more information visit www.aauwaction.org/lobby-corps/ or contact Roxann King.



AAUW MARYLAND FALL CONFERENCE: CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM

- Heather Reichardt, VP Membership/Co-VP Programs-AAUW MD

This year's fall conference is right down the road in Bethesda, MD at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center. The B-CC Branch is hosting and the theme is climate change, how it's impacting health inequities and finding solutions.

Just by watching the evening news, we often see stories about extreme weather events that are injuring and killing people, both in the United States and across the globe. According to the latest scientific reports, climate-fueled tragedies are not only going to get worse, they're going to get worse much faster than previously predicted. The speakers will address the latest science around climate-induced health problems and provide ideas on how we can participate in solutions to ease the repercussions of climate change on our own communities.

Our speaker is Bob Deans, Director of Strategic Engagement for the Natural Resources Defense Council. In this role, he is a spokesman, writer, and advocate for the organization. The mission of NRDC is to safeguard the Earth: its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends. He is the author of many books and appears regularly on television. Previously, he was White House Correspondent for Cox Newspapers and President of the White House Correspondents' Association.

Bob Deans will talk with us about climate challenges and share ways we can be



involved to help improve the current climate and formulate a way to respond to climate change. We are working on a second speaker to address the direct health issues associated with air pollution and poor air quality. This is a timely topic given the many days we have had air quality warnings in our area this year.

Details for the meeting:

Saturday, September 30, 2023

9:00 am – 4:00 pm. The morning program and lunch will end at 1:30 pm, when the business meeting will begin.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center

4805 Edgemoor Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814

Registration is \$35 per person, which includes light breakfast and lunch

Registration for AAUW MD Fall 2023 Conference

September 30, 2023, 9 AM – 4 PM

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center

4805 Edgemoor Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814

Register online at Eventbrite [HERE](#)

OR complete the registration form below and mail it with a check payable to

AAUW Maryland no later than September 23, 2023, to:

Charlene Currie, 5709 Trafton Pl, Bethesda, MD 20817-3477

Name: _____ Branch Affiliation: _____

Phone: _____ Branch Officer: _____

Email: _____ State Officer: _____

_____ Check if you wish to opt out of sharing your contact information in the list of attendees.

Registration fee includes light breakfast, lunch, the day's program and the business meeting.

Please send your payment by check for the following (choose 1):

_____ \$35 if postmarked by September 23, 2023

_____ \$40 after September 23, 2023

_____ \$15 Students

_____ \$10 Zoom BEGINNING AT 9:30 a.m.

- **Only checks will be accepted at the door.**

NOTE ON PARKING: The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services is located at 4805 Edgemoor Lane in downtown Bethesda. The B-CC RS is located in the two-story County office building on the Plaza level of the Metropolitan complex, above a county parking garage. Parking is available in the garage, #49, for \$1.50. Take an elevator from the parking to the Plaza (P) level. The building is conveniently located across the street from the Bethesda Metro Station. From the Bethesda Metro Station, take the escalator from the bus bay to the Plaza level, turn left, walk past the clock tower and across to the Metropolitan Plaza using the pedestrian bridge.

MANY BRANCH MEMBERS HAVE NOT RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIP

I know that many members lose track of renewal reminders that arrive just as summer activities are starting. However, as member-based organization the Gaithersburg branch can't continue its work without your support. National, State and Branch Dues are due in June. This year National dues are going up \$3.00 to \$72, \$69 of which is deductible as a charitable contribution. State and branch dues are unchanged at \$10 and \$18, respectively. Yes, the total is \$100.

AAUW has sent one or more email reminders describing the procedure to renew online. You can also log onto AAUW.org and click on the renewal button.



You can always renew by sending your check to the branch treasurer, Ellen Teague, 8621 Plum Creek Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20882.

BRANCH MEMBERS SUPPORT UNIVERSITY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Thank you to all the branch members who contributed to the 2023 scholarship fund. Due to your generosity the branch was able to contribute a total of \$4,000, divided between the Universities at Shady Grove and Montgomery College, to provide scholarships to deserving women

students working toward degrees in non-traditional fields.

Next year we plan to resume the branch used book sale, which will generate significantly more scholarship funds.



IN MEMORIAM - MARY EATON

Mary Eaton, AAUW Honorary Life Member, died July 9, 2023. The family had a small service in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and Mary was buried at the Naval Military Cemetery at Indianhead Gap in Pennsylvania next to her husband. She is survived by a daughter, son, daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren. She had been a teacher for years during WW II while her husband served in the Navy. While living in Harrisburg, she was active in AAUW serving in several capacities, including Branch President. Upon moving to Asbury, she joined the Gaithersburg Branch and was a member of the Literature interest group. Mary joined AAUW in 1960 and was an Honorary Life Member at the time of her death.

LONGTIME BRANCH MEMBER TERRY MEDLAR IS MOVING TO TEXAS

Terry Medlar and her husband, Art, are moving to Austin Texas, to be closer to family after living and working in Gaithersburg for over 50 years. Terry has been an AAUW member for almost that long, joining the branch in 1991.

Marilyn Leist, a branch member now living in Denver, shared a few memories of her and Terry's long friendship.

" Charlie and I considered Terry and Art our friends. Our friendship started about the time Terry came to work for IBM. I had already been there for a while and at one point she came to work with me. The thing I have always admired most about Terry was the fact that she was a mathematician, in other words, she was smart! It was great to have her on my team! In the early 80's Charlie and I were asked to go to Colorado Springs to support operations for the newly developed Space Operations Center. While I am not sure, I think that might have been when Terry became a manager. Soon after we returned to Maryland, Charlie went to work for Terry! They were great friends. After, we moved to Colorado to help raise our grandson, we would return to Maryland periodically and always stop to see Terry and Art to talk about old times!

Another thing I remember is that I tried to get Terry to join AAUW Gaithersburg.

She was reluctant for some reason but ultimately, she relented and eventually joined. I am sure she has been a great asset to Gaithersburg AAUW."



From left, Terry Medlar, Patsy Marks and Terry's daughter who was visiting from Spain.

GREAT DECISIONS SEPTEMBER 15, 2:30 pm MEETING

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinator**



The great Decisions Foreign Policy Assn. Interest Group will meet via zoom to discuss Topic 6 of our 2023 Study Guide—"Famine: a renewed threat in the 21st century? By Daniel Maxwell, Professor in Food Security, Tufts University, Boston.

We will meet Friday, Sept. 15 at 2:30. New members are always welcome. If interested, please contact Coordinator Mary Wykes for Zoom link and copy of study guide material. 301-717-1040 or Mary [dot]wykes[at]aol[dot]com

AAUW HerStory: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 2:00 pm in Parker Hall, a new date and location

- **Maria Roberts**

Herstory Interest Group will meet on Saturday, September 16, at 2 pm in the Parker Hall, located on the lower level of Apartment Center at Asbury Methodist Village.

Please email meroberts27700[at]cs[dot]com or call (301) 987-6986 if you need directions.

Here is a hint about the subject of our discussion: The man who was to become her second husband wanted to marry her almost as soon as they

met, but at first, she was more interested in discussing his work. That interest continued in a way they could not have imagined; a while after they married, she pulled off one of the 20th Century's great deceptions.

At the start of the meeting there will be a chance to tell us your guess as to her identity. A prize goes to the person with the correct guess!



AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

Website: gaithersburg-md.aauw.net

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

President

Edie Allison

Edieallison[at]comcast[dot]net

Vice President for Membership

Heather Reichardt

hjr1234[at]gmail[dot]com

Treasurer

Ellen Teague

Ellensteague[at]gmail[dot]com

Secretary

Vacant

Appointed Member of the Board

Liz Hessel

Liz[at]meral[dot]com

Newsletter Editor

Qing Jiang

Qjmailbox[at]gmail[dot]com

Newsletter Managing Editor

AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Board Meeting – Zoom	Tuesday, September 12, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.
Great Decisions – Zoom	Friday, September 15 - 2:30 p.m.
HerStory – In person	Saturday, September 16 - 2:00 p.m.
Branch Program—Zoom	Tuesday, September 19 - 7:00 p.m.

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