



# AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

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

NEWSLETTER

June—August 2024

## June-August 2024

Gaithersburg AAUW Celebratory Lunch

Join us to celebrate Mary Wykes' recent 99th birthday  
Saturday, June 1, 2024

With potluck lunch at Asbury Parkview Club Room

11:30 to 1:30

AAUW GAITHERSBURG Board Meeting  
August 14 at 7:00 pm

After a summer break the AAUW Gaithersburg Branch Board of Directors is expected to meet in early August. This schedule and Zoom link will be sent to branch members, all of whom are welcome to attend all board meetings.

### INSIDE

June-August Events	1
Incoming Presidents Mes- sage	2
Outgoing Presidents Mes- sage	3
AAUW National Election	3
AAUW Regional confer- ences	3
Great Decisions	4
HerStory Interest Group	4
In Memoriam Vivian Otto	4
Calendar	8

## INCOMING PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

### - Heather Reichardt

I am honored and proud to again be serving as your president for the upcoming year. I'm looking forward to serving all the members as we continue our efforts supporting the AAUW mission to gain more equity and equality for women, girls, and their families. Even during the pandemic, our branch was able to provide some financial support to women students at Montgomery College and The Universities at Shady Grove. I am happy to report that this year's book sale results allow the branch to continue to help local women students pay for their college studies. We may be granting a scholarship to a young woman who will make a difference not just in our local community, but in places across the globe! The students we have helped have great aspirations, and we all should be proud to have contributed to their future careers.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the book sale, before, during and after! I know it was A LOT of work for everyone involved. I'm sorry I was not able to be there for the sale itself. The other officers and I really appreciate the commitment of all the members to make the sale a success. Of course, we couldn't do it without Liz Hessel's vision and dedication!

Guess what? We have more work to do! To keep our branch as productive and strong as possible, we need to increase our member numbers. I urge everyone to reach out to your friends and family and invite them to attend a zoom meeting or our June 1 potluck. The more members we have, the less work each of us will have for our major projects, including the book sale. Our new

Vice President for Membership, Dr. Carolyn Fisher, can provide information on membership if you have questions. Thank you, Carolyn, for taking over the Membership office.



More "thank yous" go to Edie Allison for having served as President for the last four years and agreeing to move over to the Treasurer position. Ellen Teague has done a great job at Treasurer – we appreciate her efforts as well. And we are welcoming Averill Farrelly back as branch Secretary. Thank you, Averill!

I'm grateful for our special interest group leaders – Mary Wykes for Great Decisions and Maria Roberts for the Herstory group and email communications guru! Thank you for your continued leadership.

We are still looking for one or more Program Vice Presidents. Please reach out to discuss if you are interested.

I'm looking forward to working with everyone in the branch and I appreciate everyone's support!

Have a great summer and we will reconnect in the fall.

## OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- **Edie Allison**

June is the end of formal branch activities. I wish everyone a pleasant summer and look forward to seeing you at branch and interest group meetings starting in September. I am ending four memorable years as branch president. Through the efforts and support of branch members, we made it through the Covid pandemic, celebrated the branch's 50-year anniversary and completed a successful book sale after a five-year absence. Thank you all for making these things possible.

Special thanks also go to Ellen Teague, outgoing Treasurer, for overseeing branch finances and Heather Reichardt for doing multiple jobs including organizing exciting and informative monthly programs and managing membership. A large thank you to Mary Wykes for guiding the Great Decisions study group, Maria Roberts

for enlivening and growing HerStory, and Liz Hessel for organizing the hugely successful book sale.



Active support for women's issues will be on our minds through the summer and on toward the November election. The branch will be there to continue this effort.

### AAUW National Election Completed May 15

AAUW National Election Completed May 15

- Melissa LaDuke, Dianne Owens, Sona Panchoy and Christine Schmitz have been elected to serve on the AAUW National Board of Directors.
- The open membership initiative did not pass. Changes to AAUW's bylaws require 2/3 majority (66.6%) to pass. AAUW members voted 65.1% to approve the measure, just shy of passing.

### AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference

AAUW Regional conferences were held regularly through




**SAVE the DATE**

AAUW  
Atlantic Regional Conference  
**September 27th-29th, 2024**  
Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference Center  
1000 Virginia Center Pkwy, Glen Allen, VA 23059



**Hotel Amenities**  
The Tavern Bar & Grill  
The Glen Restaurant  
Fitness Center  
Free Wifi  
Room Service  
Free parking

**Nearby Attractions**



Lewis Center Botanical Garden  
James River Cellars Winery  
Richmond National Battlefield Park  
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts  
Cavaliers' Museum of Richmond  
Crossings Golf Course

**"Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women."**  
- Maya Angelou

## GREAT DECISIONS JUNE 21, 2:30 pm ZOOM Meeting

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinator**



The Great Decisions interest group will meet via Zoom on Friday, June 21 at 2:30. Judy Sholes will lead on topic 5 from our Study Guide, "NATO's Future," authored by Sarwar Kashmiri, a Fellow of the

Foreign Policy Association. New members are always welcome. Contact Coordinator for the zoom link and copy of Study Guide article at: Mary[dot]Wykes[at]aol[dot]com.

## AAUW HerStory WILL MEET IN PERSON SEPTEMBER 14 at 2:00 PM

- **Maria Roberts, Coordinator**

AAUW HerStory is on summer recess but will resume September 14.



### IN MEMORIAM – VIVIAN OTTO

Vivian Otto, an active member of the branch for many years died May 25 at Asbury Methodist Village. We have not seen a formal obituary, but Mary Wykes shared a few memories of Vivian: Vivian was a long-time coordinator of Great Decisions where she shared firsthand information based on her world travels. Her interest in travel extended to her planning and leading many trips and cruises which gave great pleasure to participants for many years.

Mary further reports that branch members always enjoyed the January planning luncheon at the private dining room at the Hilton Hotel in Gaithersburg. Vivian explained why we were honored guests in this venue. It was because her son/in-law was an executive of the hotel chain and needed a Montgomery County resident to sign for the hotel's liquor license, so he gave his non-drinking MIL Vivian Otto, as the local contact since he lived in another state!

Vivian's work as Book Sale Co-Chair for many years helped the fundraising effort flourish and grow.

### AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

**Website:** [gaithersburg-md.aauw.net](http://gaithersburg-md.aauw.net)

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

#### **President**

Edie Allison

[Edieallison\[at\]comcast\[dot\]net](mailto:Edieallison[at]comcast[dot]net)

#### **Vice President for Membership**

Heather Reichardt

[hjr1234\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:hjr1234[at]gmail[dot]com)

#### **Treasurer**

Ellen Teague

[Ellensteague\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:Ellensteague[at]gmail[dot]com)

#### **Secretary**

Vacant

#### **Appointed Member of the Board**

Liz Hessel

[Liz\[at\]meral\[dot\]com](mailto:Liz[at]meral[dot]com)

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Qing Jiang

[Qjmailbox\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:Qjmailbox[at]gmail[dot]com)

#### **Newsletter Managing Editor**

# **AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Branch Luncheon	Saturday, June 1 – 11:30 am
Great Decisions – Zoom	Friday, June 21 - 2:30 pm
HerStory - in Person	Saturday, September 14 – 2:00 pm
AAUW Regional Meeting, Glen Allen, VA	September 27-29

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