



# AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

NEWSLETTER

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

September 2024

## September 2024

Gaithersburg AAUW VIRTUAL BRANCH MEETING!

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Log in to Zoom meeting: 7:00pm

Presentation begins: 7:15pm

### PRESENTATION:

UPDATE: Maryland's Reproductive Freedom Ballot Initiative

We will hear from Julie Wiater Ransel, Executive Vice President for Montgomery County NOW, and member of the Reproductive Justice Task Force, regarding the status of the Maryland Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment, which is on the ballot for the November 5, 2024 election

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

AAUW GAITHERSBURG Board Meeting

September 10 at 7:00 pm

The Zoom link will be sent to branch members, all of whom are welcome to attend all board meetings.

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

### - Heather Reichardt

As I'm writing on August 20, the weather is fantastic! It certainly feels like an early fall day. Fall is coming and that means we are starting our monthly branch meetings in September. I hope everyone is enjoying the last of the summer days and is eager to get back in the swing of things, especially with this being a presidential election year.

At our September branch meeting, we will be discussing an election issue: The Maryland Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment. We will hear all the details about the effort to enshrine reproductive healthcare protections in the state Constitution from a representative of the Montgomery County NOW Reproductive Justice Task Force. This is a very important topic. Please encourage friends and family to attend the zoom meeting to learn more.

### Regional Conference

Later in September, many Maryland members will be attending the inaugural AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference in Glen Allen, VA. This will be the first major conference on the east coast for multiple states in many years. I will be speaking on another election-related topic – Ranked Choice Voting. There will be many speakers on topics ranging from AI to the ERA! As you will have seen in the Marylander, the conference runs from Friday, September 27 to Sunday, September 29. The link for registration and hotel information is [here](#). Early bird registration ends September 6.

### November Election

AAUW has several ways to help with Get Out the Vote and voter education efforts. The "It's My Vote" [Campaign](#) page on the AAUW.org website mentions these activities:

- Register to vote. Then vote!
- Help friends and family register to vote.
- Review and share the AAUW voter guide which provides overviews on many gender-related issues. The guide includes relevant

questions to ask of our candidates. The [guide](#) can be downloaded and printed.

- Recorded and upcoming webinars about voter education and fair elections and other related topics.



As of September 1, there will be only 66 days until the election. Let's all do what we can to make sure the candidates know what is important to AAUW members in Maryland, as well as locally and nationally. If anyone needs help with any aspects of voting, please reach out to the board members.

I'm excited to be representing and serving the branch this year! Thank you in advance for your support. Please contact me with any questions or ideas for programs or projects.

Best regards,

Heather Reichardt, President



Join Us!

for the

AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference

Connecting Voices from the Everglades to the Northern Border

September 27th – 29th, 2024

Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference Center

1000 Virginia Center Pkwy, Glen Allen, VA 23059

**REGISTER NOW!**

Detailed information is at the Conference Link

<https://aauwatlanticregionalconference.com/>

AAUW-VA is hosting this three-day conference of AAUW members along the Atlantic coast at a resort/conference center just north of Richmond. Members of other organizations, and your friends and family are invited to this powerhouse conference. AAUW branches are urged to send at least one person to the Conference, who can report back to the branch on the event, and also to allocate a partial expense reimbursement for that person.

Included in the sessions are presentations by Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO, and Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy. Other knowledgeable speakers will discuss the challenges of our public schools, artificial intelligence, poverty, voting rights, inclusion, Title IX and the compelling history of AAUW. Share with and learn from members from other states about successful AAUW projects and ideas for your branch. You may wish to make the event a vacation given all the historical, arts, and outside activities in the area of the Conference, the beauty of the resort location, the quality of our speakers, and the opportunity to network with members from other states.

Members should look at the special AAUW logo items we created that are for sale to support the Conference.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN SEPTEMBER!**

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### - Dr. Carolyn Fisher, Membership VP

Thank you for your dedication and membership in the Gaithersburg, Maryland, and National AAUW. During this fiscal year, we will be exploring ways to invigorate our current members and grow our Gaithersburg base to new heights. Ideas are welcome.

#### Join AAUW's Upcoming Membership Gathering

Join us on September 10, at 4 p.m. ET for a special Member Gathering. AAUW National will recognize our outstanding supporters and branches and share updates on our work in Policy, Programs, Membership, and more.

[Register now](#)

At your convenience, you can revisit the AAUW Membership webinar "Membership: Securing Our Future" at your convenience:

<https://youtu.be/1MCcZrAFwbA>

This special webinar was organized by National's Advancement Committee to share best practices from fellow AAUW Branches about their member retention and recruitment programs and the resources to help improve membership.

#### RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

National, State and Branch Dues are due in June or one year after you joined. This year National dues are \$72, 100% of which is deductible as a charitable contribution. State and branch dues are unchanged at \$10 and \$18, respectively. Yes, the total is \$100.

Do not renew your dues until you receive an email reminder. The first batch of renewal notices should have arrived in late April. Your renewal reminder describes the procedure to renew online. You can always renew by sending your check to the branch treasurer, Edie Allison, 11224 Troy Road, Rockville, MD 20852.

Special note! Dual members, i.e., members of two branches, are strongly encouraged to renew online.



#### Did You Know: Discounts and Perks for Members

Many companies support AAUW's mission and goals, and also offer discounts to members. Your use of these perks saves you money and provides a small royalty to AAUW. Among the many companies that offer discounts to AAUW members are:



Holiday gift shipping is just around the corner and UPS offers numerous discounts on shipping, ranging from 50% on Domestic Next Day Deferred to 75% discount on freight shipments over 150 pounds, and free

UPS Smart Pickup. To use the benefits, open a new account, or if you are already taking advantage of UPS savings program, re-enroll and apply the new discounts to your existing account by [visiting here](#).



Thinking of escaping a cold winter or visiting new places? Travel discounts include: Avis and Budget car rentals and multiple companies offering savings on cruises, and hotel bookings. The AAPG travel center is a click away at [right at your fingertips](#). (<https://savings.travel/aauw/>)

A long-time favorite of branch members is the free discount card from Office Depot/Office Max. Discounts on computer supplies and printing are always welcome. Ask how to use the benefit at your local Office Depot/Office Max store.

Details about how to quickly access these benefits visit the AAUW website and click Membership, then [Discounts and Perks](#).

## GREAT DECISIONS FRIDAY, September 20, 2:30 pm ZOOM meeting

- **Mary Wykes, Coordinator**



The Great Decisions interest group will meet via Zoom on Friday, September 20 at 2:30. Anna Fraker will lead the discussion of the topic "Invisible Indonesia," authored by Charles Sullivan, a former University of Michigan instructor and

author of numerous studies on Southeast Asian culture. New members are always welcome. Contact Coordinator Mary Wykes for the zoom link and a copy of Study Guide at [Mary.Wykes\[at\]aol\[dot\]com](mailto:Mary.Wykes@aol.com).

### 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

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#### Vice President for Membership

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#### Treasurer

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

- **Maria Roberts, Coordinator**

AAUW HerStory will resume September 14 at 2:00 pm in the Park View Club Room at Asbury Methodist Village. Here is the hint about the identity of our subject that day: She cared deeply and pursued a number of initiatives but is remembered for only one of them. We'll hear your guesses at the meeting; a

small prize will go to the correct guesser.



For more information or directions to the meeting location contact Maria Roberts, email [meroberts27700\[at\]cs\[dot\]com](mailto:meroberts27700@cs.com).

### IN MEMORIAM – MARGARET FOREMAN WILLIAMS

Margaret Williams, a former branch member and long-time Montgomery County teacher and education advocate, who taught in segregated and integrated County schools, died August 5 at 90 years of age.

## **AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

HerStory - in Person	Saturday, September 14 – 2:00 pm
Branch Meeting	Tuesday, September 17 – 7:00 pm
Great Decisions – Zoom	Friday, September 20 - 2:30 pm
AAUW Regional Meeting, Glen Allen, VA	September 27-29

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