



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

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

NEWSLETTER

October 2024

October 2024

Gaithersburg AAUW VIRTUAL BRANCH MEETING!

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Log in to Zoom meeting: 7:00pm*

Presentation begins: 7:15pm

PRESENTATION:

What was it Like at the DNC?

We will hear from Judy Carbone, President of the Garrett County, Maryland Branch, who attended the 2024 Democratic National Convention in Chicago as a Maryland Delegate. This will be an interesting personal account of Judy's experience including behind-the-scenes stories.

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

OTHER IMPORTANT MEETINGS

AAUW Board Meeting October 8 at 7:00 pm

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

AAUW HerStory OCTOBER 12 at 2:00 PM

- Maria Roberts, Coordinator

AAUW HerStory will be October 12 at 2:00 pm in the Park View Club Room at Asbury Methodist Village.

As requested, from now on the century(ies) when our subject lived will be part of the clue.

Anna Fraker will introduce us to a 20th and 21st century woman; she was one and used one. A small prize goes to the person who guesses the identity of Anna's subject when we gather for the meeting.

For more information or directions to the meeting location contact Maria Roberts, email meroberts27700[at]cs[dot]com.

GREAT DECISIONS FRIDAY, OCTOBER, 18 at 2:30 pm

- Mary Wykes, Coordinator

The Great Decisions interest group will meet on Zoom at 2:30. Friday October 18. The topic for discussion is The High Seas Treaty. The chapter includes 2 sections. The 1st is State of the Oceans/Waves of Change written in 2013 and the 2nd describes the new High Seas Treaty adopted June 19, 2023 by 193 member states of the United Nations.

New members are always welcome. For copy of the Study Guide material and Zoom link contact coordinator Mary Wykes, 301-717-1040.

INSIDE

October Events and Meetings	1
Presidents Message	2,3
Membership Corner	4,5
Calendar	6

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

- Heather Reichardt

Fall is here! My neighbors have four large pumpkins on their front patio already. I guess I am behind the curve on fall/Halloween decorating even though it's still September as I am writing. We have less than two months to go until the November 5 election day. It seems that most of the media space is focused on the presidential election. But, there are important state and local elections that may directly impact women's and children's lives. One of those is Question 1, which will be on the Maryland ballot. We heard about this ballot initiative from Julie Rancel of Montgomery County NOW at our September branch Zoom meeting. Thank you to the members who attended that important meeting. While abortion is currently legal in Maryland, many want to enshrine the right in the state Constitution so that it would be difficult for legislators to remove the right. If Question 1 is approved, Maryland will be a safe place for in-state and out-of-state people who seek abortion care. As it stands now, the law could be repealed if enough legislators wanted to do so.

I mentioned in the Zoom meeting that I had attended a reproductive justice rally at the County Council building in Rockville on September 10th. On that day, led by Council Member Kate Stewart, the Council approved a resolution affirming their support for legal abortion and reproductive health care as a human right in Montgomery County. The rally was supported by a coalition working to get as many counties and cities in Maryland to pass similar resolutions and/or ordinances. Advance Maryland and Reproductive Justice Maryland are two of the coalition members. You will recall that we had Sharon Burgis of Reproductive Justice Maryland speak last year at one of our Zoom meetings.

Another group in the coalition is Ipas (www.ipas.org). This group has been promoting and fighting for access to abortion internationally since 1973. However, since the Dobbs decision in 2022, they have turned their attention to the United States reproductive health care issue. They rely on three international, human rights-related treaties, which the US has ratified. Per an Ipas summary document, the United Nations has expressed concern over the limiting of abortion access and encourages the US government, at all levels, to take swift action to bring the US in line

with its obligations under the IC-CPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights). This is a new strategy to get the country to conform to the human rights treaties it has signed on to.



The day after our Zoom meeting, Julie sent me this graphic which answers the question about shield laws that protect those entering clinics from the Center for Reproductive Rights (reproductiverights.org).



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE, Continued

Here are a few photos from the Rockville Rally: Council Member Kate Stewart at press conference after the resolution passed. Friend of the branch, Lesley Lopez, state delegate, is 2nd from the left.



The rally outside Council Offices. Heather is sitting on the step.



AAUW is fully on board with the fight to maintain abortion health care access. On the AAUW.org website:

AAUW believes everyone has the right to make decisions about their own reproductive lives without government interference. Abortion access is vital to women's ability to control their lives, bodies and futures. Without reproductive freedom, there can be no equity.

TRIVIA QUESTION:

How many countries have recently regressed their reproductive health care and abortion laws?

ANSWER ON LAST PAGE

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

- Dr. Carolyn Fisher, Membership VP

DEI News to Peruse

A Science magazine article, [For men only? Lack of women winners for million-euro science prize draws protests](#), available at the link below provides another example of women co-authors not being fairly recognized but shows a special irony: the new Frontiers Planet prize of €1 million per recipient was awarded to three men. Women co-authors were photographed but only men won the awards. Evidently this NEW award has not made it to the 21st century.

[For men only? Lack of women winners for million-euro science prize draws protests](#)



In Maryland: Land Acknowledgement (by Montgomery College, Office of Equity and Inclusion)

Mr. Rico Newman, a member and Elder of the Piscataway Nation, in 2023 helped recognize Montgomery College acknowledgement of the indigenous residents of the land where the Montgomery College campuses are located, "For non-indigenous communities, land acknowledgment is a powerful way of showing respect and honoring the Indigenous Peoples of the land on which we work and live. Acknowledgment is a simple way of resisting the erasure of Indigenous histories and working towards honoring and inviting the truth. Creating land acknowledgments is an institutional responsibility. Incorporating them in official higher education communications and work creates greater visibility of Native American students and communities, while acknowledging tribal sovereignty and honoring those that came before. Such actions also demonstrate our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion."

[Preview YouTube video Land Acknowledgement - Rico Newman](#)



[Land Acknowledgement - Rico Newman](#)

MEMBERSHIP CORNER, Continued

MINA PARSONT RECOGNIZED AS HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Mina Parson, a charter member of the Gaithersburg branch that formed in 1972, should have been recognized as an honorary life member in 2022 but was overlooked because of minor errors in the AAUW member database.

We offer belated but fervent congratulations.

Mina, a Holocaust survivor, had her first interaction with AAUW in 1954 when she received an AAUW scholarship to attend the University of California at Berkeley. She and her family moved to Gaithersburg in the late 1960s and a mention about the formation of a new AAUW branch caught her attention in 1972. She juggled participation in branch meetings with raising a family and teaching French for many years. Mina now lives at Ingleside King Farm and often participates in branch virtual meetings. Mina loyally visits the used book sale each year. She is shown here with Liz Hessel while visiting the sale this April.



AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

Website: gaithersburg-md.aauw.net

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

President

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

Vice President for Membership

Carolyn Fisher
[Caroljf\[at\]att\[dot\]net](mailto:Caroljf[at]att[dot]net)

Treasurer

Edie Allison
[Edieallison\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:Edieallison[at]gmail[dot]com)

Secretary

Averill Farrelly
[Averill.farrelly1\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:Averill.farrelly1[at]gmail[dot]com)

Newsletter Editor

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

Newsletter Managing Editor

Edie Allison
[Edieallison\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:Edieallison[at]gmail[dot]com)

TRIVIA ANSWER:

4 Countries have recently regressed their reproductive health care and abortion laws: El Salvador, Nicaragua, Poland and the United States

AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HerStory - in Person

Saturday, October 12 – 2:00 pm

Branch Meeting - Zoom

Tuesday, October 15 – 7:00 pm

Great Decisions – Zoom

Friday, October 18 - 2:30 pm

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