



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

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

NEWSLETTER

Dec. 2024—Jan. 2025

December 2024-January 2025

Gaithersburg AAUW DECEMBER Meeting!

Saturday, Dec. 7, 11:30-1:30pm

Annual Holiday Gathering:

Carrabba's Italian Grill

19935 Century Blvd, Germantown

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PLEASE JOIN

**AAUW Gaithersburg
For a Holiday Gathering!**

December 7, 2024, 11:30am-1:30pm

Carrabba's Italian Grill

19935 Century Blvd, Germantown, MD 20874

Bring a Friend!

Let Heather know if you need transportation
and RSVP by 12/3:

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

301-466-1246



See you soon!!

PS: We will each pay for our own meal/drinks.

Gaithersburg AAUW JANUARY Meeting!

Tuesday January 21, 2025

7:00 pm Zoom Meeting

PRESENTATION:

Kathryn Hoff

Digging into Science Fiction

Kathryn Hoff is an author and resident of Asbury Methodist Village. She will discuss her fascinating career path from archeology to lawyer to science fiction writer. The website for her books is KathrynHoffBooks.com.

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

OTHER IMPORTANT MEETINGS

AAUW BOARD MEETING JANUARY 14, 2025 AT 7:00 PM

The board will not meet in December, 2024 but will meet in January. Contact Heather Reichardt at [hjr1234\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:hjr1234@gmail.com) or 301-466-1246 if you would like to participate in the board meeting. The board meeting is open to all.

AAUW HERSTORY WILL NOT MEET IN DECEMBER BUT WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 11, 2025 AT 2:00 PM

- Maria Roberts, Coordinator

Herstory Interest Group will take a break in December; its next meeting will be at 2 pm on Saturday, January 11 in the Parkview Club Room of Asbury Methodist Village.

Maria Roberts will discuss a 20th - 21st century woman from our hemisphere, a defender of her people against government sanctioned violence and economic and cultural discrimination. At the meeting, a small prize goes to the person who guesses our subject's identity before the presentation.

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

GREAT DECISIONS WILL NOT MEET IN DECEMBER BUT WILL LAUNCH 2025 FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSIONS AT A FRIDAY, JANUARY 17 LUNCH MEETING

- Mary Wykes, Coordinator

Great Decisions 2025 will be discussing timely topics from "U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy", to "The Future of NATO and European Security", and "AI and American National Security". On January 17, 2025 we will meet at 1:00 pm at The Bistro at Asbury (located on the lower level of the Hefner Building) for lunch, distribution of the 2025 Foreign Policy Association Study Guides and assignment of topics for the year. It is a good time for new members to join. The 2025 meetings will be via zoom.

New members are always welcome. To join the January lunch meeting or for a copy of the Study Guide material contact coordinator Mary Wykes, 301-717-1040.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

- Heather Reichardt

Winter is coming, albeit somewhat late. I really enjoyed all the unusually nice weather we experienced in October and November. I made a point to get outside as much as possible by either walking, hiking, or riding my bike on the C&O Canal Towpath. I hope everyone was able to enjoy the warm days.

Moving On

The election is over and many of us are disappointed. However, the outcome was not all bad. Although the country passed on its second chance in 8 years to elect a woman for President, we in Maryland had a few wins. Angela Alsobrooks was elected to the Senate. She prevailed against a multi-millionaire in the primary and a very popular governor in the general election! And April Delaney was elected to Congress from Maryland's 6th District. Neither of these seats had an incumbent. I am proud that Marylanders elected women to offices previously held by men.

ERA Efforts

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

I hope you have seen the AAUW Maryland messages urging you to take action in our fight to get the Equal Rights Amendment published in the U.S. Constitution. Many think that if we cannot get the already fully ratified amendment into the Constitution prior to January 20, 2025, there will be no further opportunities to do so. This amendment was first introduced in Congress in 1923!

One strategy is to convince President Biden, before he leaves office, to direct the U.S. Archivist to publish the amendment. Some of us are continuing to go to Washington, DC to get folks to sign on to postcards being mailed to President Biden asking him to publish the ERA. Additionally, some are sending their own postcards to the President. We can also call or write on the White House message board asking for action.

A second effort is to get the majority of the House of Representatives to sign onto a discharge petition to remove the (irrelevant) dead-

line imposed earlier. Again, it is highly unlikely that this avenue will prevail in the next Congress. Only two more signatures are needed to force the vote on removing the deadline. You can reach your representative with the 2-minute Activist. If you have friends and family in other states, ask them to do the 2-minute Activist, as well: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/era/>. Every contact with Congress helps them know we want the ERA!



Upcoming Events

Don't miss our holiday luncheon on December 7 at Carrabba's! Our outings there have always been fun. Please bring a friend to add to the festivities! This is a great opportunity to meet up with members in person since we don't have regular in-person meetings. The luncheon replaces our regular branch Zoom meeting for December.

But we will have a January branch Zoom meeting. We will hear from Kathryn Hoff, an author with an interesting career path. I am excited to learn how she became a writer of science fiction novels!

I wish everyone a safe and peaceful holiday season and I thank you for your support of the branch. As always feel free to contact me with suggestions or ideas for activities, speakers or just to chat!

Sincerely,
Heather Reichardt, President

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

- *Dr. Carolyn Fisher, Membership VP*

Membership Corner

Your dedication and membership in AAUW-Gaithersburg are greatly appreciated. Wishing you season's greetings, filled with love, peace, and joy.

SAVE THE DATE:

AAUW-Gaithersburg Membership Program
March 15, 2025, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
(Light refreshments)
Gaithersburg Regional Library,
Room 3
18330 Montgomery Village Ave
Gaithersburg, MD, 20879

We are excited to launch an inaugural Membership Interest Branch Program that will focus on motivating our members and expanding our Gaithersburg membership to new heights. The Save-the-Date shows that the venue is a well-known gathering spot for AAUW-Gaithersburg and holds many memories. The agenda is still being developed and has not yet been finalized. Tentatively, it will include (order of the program and topics subject to change) welcome and acknowledgement of guests; an introduction to AAUW and benefits of membership, including the options; icebreaker and prizes; milestones of AAUW-Gaithersburg and upcoming activities; brunch/music; a keynote speaker; and closing. Be on the lookout for periodic updates.

A Healthy Membership: News to Peruse

In the spirit of wishing all members good health (physical and mental), I would like to share some news about national awareness and recognition.

December is Seasonal Affective Disorder Awareness Month. You can read more about it from the [NIH](#).

Next are [Tips for Dealing with the Winter Blues](#)

January is National Blood Donor Awareness Month. Check for blood drives in your area and assist in promoting or recruiting if possible. [The American Red Cross](#) is a leader on this topic.

Happy Holidays
Wishing you a Happy New Year

Dr. Carolyn J. Fisher, Membership VP

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

Holiday Luncheon – Carrabba’s	Saturday, December 7 – 11:30-1:30
Board Meeting – Zoom	Tuesday, January 14 – 7:00 pm
HerStory - in Person	Saturday, January 11– 2:00 pm
Great Decisions – in person	Friday, January 17 – 1:00 pm
January Branch Meeting - Zoom	Tuesday, January 21 – 7:00 pm

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