



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

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

NEWSLETTER

February 2025

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Gaithersburg AAUW VIRTUAL BRANCH MEETING!

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Log in to Zoom meeting: 7:00pm

Presentation begins: 7:15pm

TOPIC:

All Member Meeting!

Let's get all members together to discuss our exciting spring projects. We will hold a membership event in March and host the state Annual Convention in late April. The President's Message on the next page has more information about these events. Please attend so we can map out who can assist with these special events!

Thank you - Heather

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

OTHER IMPORTANT MEETINGS

AAUW Board Meeting FEBRUARY 11, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Contact Heather Reichardt at hjr1234-at-gmail.com if you would like to participate in the board meeting. The board meeting is open to all.

AAUW HerStory will meet ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8 at 2:00 PM

- Maria Roberts, Coordinator

February Herstory will take place on Saturday, Feb. 8th at 2 pm in the Parkview Club Room of Asbury Methodist Village.

Hermione Ftenakis will tell us about a 19th century British woman who achieved a rather extraordinary first, though her pioneering efforts were not appreciated or truly recognized for 100 years. She and Queen Victoria commiserated about the difficulties of accomplishing one's work when one had a family. She was the (only legitimate) daughter of a famous man.

For more information or directions to the meeting location contact Maria Roberts, meroberts27700-at-cs.com.

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

- Heather Reichardt

Brrrrr! The snow is beautiful, but... the cold is brutal. Hopefully it gets better soon. Bundle up and please read all the information below!

February 18 Branch Meeting

We have a lot planned for the branch this spring. I would like everyone to think about how they can contribute to our efforts. To this end, our February branch meeting will be an "all-hands" Zoom so everyone will hear about our upcoming events and how they can help. See below for some details.

March 15 In-person Membership Event

As Carolyn Fisher has described in the last few newsletters, we will be having an in-person membership event on Saturday, March 15 at the Gaithersburg Library. We want this to operate as an open-house type event where anyone can come in, chat with members, learn about the benefits of membership and how to become a member. We have a new flyer for potential members. We will have snacks and drinks available, as well. We will need volunteers to set up, bring snacks and drinks, and be available to welcome attendees. Since this will be during Women's History Month, we can highlight that also.

Other branches have had success with these types of membership drives. I encourage everyone to let your friends and family know about this event and to plan to attend. We have the room from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm.

AAUW MD State Convention April 26

Our branch has not hosted the state AAUW Annual Convention in 15 years, so it's our turn! Going forward we will be hosting at least every 10 years given that there are now only 10 active branches in the state.

The convention is scheduled for Saturday, April 26. We are still working on a convenient location. The Bethesda Chevy Chase branch is helping with the morning program, so we can focus on hospitality, registration and fees management, and audio-visual aspects of the meeting. As is typical for state meetings, we will need to provide a morning continental breakfast and coffee as well as lunch and snacks. Let's establish a committee that can focus on these details as

soon as possible so we are not scrambling right before the event.

Lobby Corps

AAUW National has beefed up the Lobby Corps program for this year. They are scheduling lobby days two times per month, rather than once a month. According to the Public Policy VP, Meghan Kissel, there will be many issues for AAUW to lobby on for the next few years! They need as many volunteers as possible. Currently there are only 3 or 4 Maryland members who are participating on a regular basis. Please consider volunteering for Lobby Corps. Several Gaithersburg members have experience with this program including Maria Roberts, Edie Allison, Liz Hessel, and I. It is a fun and interesting experience to walk the halls of Congress, and potentially meet current representatives and senators. Please contact Heather or others for more information.



MLAW Supported-Bills Presentations February 5

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women chose ten bills to support during the current legislative session, which ends on April 7. The bills will be described in detail by their sponsors in a 5 pm to 6:30 pm February 5 Zoom meeting- for a free ticket register [here](#). To add your name to the list of supporters for this year's MLAW agenda, [simply complete this online form](#). Supporters will receive emails asking for help contacting delegates and senators to support the bills prior to the scheduled hearings. This is an easy way to make an impact on positive legislation.

Advocacy Day February 11 in Annapolis

Volunteers are needed for AAUW Maryland Advocacy Day in Annapolis, an opportunity to meet in pairs with legislators. Advocacy Day will be February 11 from 10 am to 12 p.m. Click here to register for Advocacy Day. (That same day, AAUW Anne Arundel is hosting a tea at Reynold's Tavern from 3-5 pm. Click here for a link for that event if any of your members wish to attend.)

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Equal Rights Amendment

AAUW's online statement regarding President Biden's declaration that the ERA is the law of the land. This is a positive step:

Three Cheers for the ERA

AAUW applauds President Joe Biden's historic affirmation of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. While there will be challenges ahead, AAUW remains steadfast in our fight to ensure full recognition of equality that cannot be undermined on account of sex.

I attended the rally portion of the People's March on Saturday, March 18. Here are a few photos. I saw only one other AAUW member, Judy Carbone, branch president for Garrett County and new member of the Maryland Commission for Women.

Thank you for reading this longer-than-usual President's Message. I look forward to seeing everyone on the February Zoom meeting! In the meantime, please contact me with questions and comments. Thank you for your support! Stay warm!

Heather



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GREAT DECISIONS WILL MEET FEBRUARY 21 AT 2:30 PM VIA ZOOM

- Mary Wykes, Coordinator

The Great Decisions February meeting will discuss the first topic of the Foreign Policy Association 2025 study guide, "American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads," written by G. John Ikenberry, a professor at Princeton University and author of six books including *Crises of Global Order*.

New members are always welcome. To join the meeting or for a copy of the study guide material contact coordinator Mary Wykes.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

- Dr. Carolyn Fisher, Membership VP

Your support for AAUW-Gaithersburg is greatly appreciated. We're excited about launching an inaugural Membership Interest Branch Program that will aim to motivate our members and expand our Gaithersburg membership to new heights. The location is as follows:

AAUW-Gaithersburg Membership Program
 March 15, 2025, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (Light refreshments)
 Gaithersburg Regional Library, Room 3
 18330 Montgomery Village Ave
 Gaithersburg, MD, 20879

Join us for our planning session on February 18, 2025, at 7 p.m. The agenda is still being finalized. Tentatively, it will include (order of the program and topics subject to change) welcome and acknowledgment of guests; an introduction to AAUW and benefits of membership; milestones of AAUW-Gaithersburg and upcoming activities; possibly a keynote speaker; break/prizes; and closing.

Membership Discounts and Perks

A reminder of the many advantages of being a member of AAUW. This month we are featuring travel:

[Avis Car Rental](#)

You can save up to 35% off your next car rental while experiencing the comfort and reliability that come with renting from Avis. With 4,800 locations in over 140 countries, there's always an Avis nearby to help you with your car rental needs. To rent a car, visit our [website here](#) or call toll free at 1-800-331-1212. You can use your AAUW Avis Discount Number shown on the AAUW website to enjoy these special savings.

[Budget Car Rental](#)

Make your budget go further by getting a great deal on a great car from Budget. As a AAUW member, you'll get an amazing deal every time you rent – up to 35% off Budget's great rates. To book your car, visit [Budget here](#) or call toll free 1-800-527-0700 and mention the AAUW Budget Discount Number shown on the AAUW website to receive your discount.

[Travel Saving Center](#)

AAUW members have access to exclusive travel savings from car rentals, hotels, and ticketing discounts to condos, villas, cruises, guided tours, and group travel packages at [savings online](#), including from member-exclusive hotel discount aggregators brands like Hotel Engine, Collette, TripPlanet. Check back often for new providers and promotions. Whether you simply want to get from here to there or make your dream vacation a reality, AAUW members have all the tools [right at your fingertips](#).

Stay tuned for future updates.
 AAUW-Gaithersburg
 Membership VP
 Dr. Carolyn J. Fisher

AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

Website: gaithersburg-md.aauw.net

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

President

Heather Reichardt

Vice President for Membership

Carolyn Fisher

Treasurer

Edie Allison

Secretary

Averill Farrelly

Newsletter Editor

Qing Jiang

Newsletter Managing Editor

Edie Allison

AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HerStory - in Person	Saturday, February 8- 2:00 pm
Board Meeting - Zoom	Tuesday, February 11 - 7:00 pm
February Branch Meeting - Zoom	Tuesday, February 18 - 7:00 pm
Great Decisions - Zoom	Friday, February 21 - 2:30 pm

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