



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

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

NEWSLETTER

April 2025

April 2025

Gaithersburg AAUW VIRTUAL BOARD / BRANCH MEETING!

All Hands Meeting

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Log in to Zoom meeting: 7:00pm

Meeting begins: 7:15pm

TOPIC:

Planning for the State Convention on April 26

We will discuss our hosting of the upcoming State Convention and Annual Meeting. Please let Heather know if you cannot attend. Thank you.

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

OTHER IMPORTANT MEETINGS

AAUW HerStory will meet ON SATURDAY April 12 at 2:00 PM

- Maria Roberts, Coordinator

April Herstory will take place on Saturday, April 12, at 2 pm in the Park View Club Room of Asbury Methodist Village. Please email Maria Roberts at meroberts27700(at)cs.com if you need directions.

Heather Reichardt will present a woman whose work had an explosive effect on the 20th Century. A small prize goes to the person who guesses our subject before Heather begins her presentation.

GREAT DECISIONS WILL MEET APRIL 18 AT 2:30 PM VIA ZOOM

- Mary Wykes, Coordinator

The Great Decisions interest group will meet via Zoom on Friday, April 18 at 2:30 to discuss the very timely article 3 in the 2025 FPA Study Guide—“Competition, Cold War, or Conflict? Negotiating US/China Relations in Tense Times” authored by Thomas J Christensen, Professor and Director of the China and the World Program at Columbia University. Cathy Manning will lead the discussion.

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

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

- Heather Reichardt

Dear Members and Friends,

March Membership Event

Many, many thanks to all the members who volunteered and helped with our inaugural membership event for Women's History Month! Although I had to depart early, I could see that the event was going to be a success – we gained two new members from this event! I wish I had been able to stay and enjoy all the good food that was provided. I appreciate all the efforts to make the room welcoming and that everyone was friendly with the guests who attended. We will reach out to those guests and try to keep them interested in our other branch activities!

Here are all the Members who volunteered to supply food, drinks and be there the day of the event: Averill Farrelly, Alice Wong, Carolyn Fisher, Edith Allison, Aurora Sevilla, Sara Harris, Liz Hessel, Barbara Garrard, Mary Wykes, Maria Roberts, and Linda Pickle. Please thank them when you have a moment!

April – AAUW MD State Convention – SAVE THE DATE!

Next on our event agenda is the State meeting on Saturday, April 26. As mentioned last month, we will be meeting at the Pathways Baptist Church on Clopper Road in Gaithersburg.

The registration form is included in this month's newsletter. I am urging all members to attend. We want to have a good showing for the other state members who will be here. And as I said last month, I hope that we can encourage friends of the branch to attend as well. The morning program will be informative as you can see from the attached agenda.

Don't miss our group dinner the night before the convention at Il Porto Italian restaurant on Muddy Branch Road. I did the due diligence for my birthday dinner – the food and service were excellent!

For those of you who have not attended a state meeting, you can expect a light breakfast and social time first thing in the morning, then the program, then lunch and additional opportunities to meet and talk with AAUW members across Maryland. We will also hold the election and installation for the new state officer nominees.

Lobby Corps – In DC

Lobby Corps continues every other Thursday. Edie Allison and I are participating in the AAUW Lobby Corps program. Lobby Corps is one of the ways that we can 'fight back' during this era of uncertainty in Washington, DC. Members can discuss serious issues with officials from across the country and from both sides of the aisle. Please contact Heather or Edie if you would like to understand the process or gather more information. I hope we can get a few more members to participate. Note that you do not have to commit to every other week.



AAUW Fights for Equity in Education

With the current administration working to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education, AAUW has posted a statement condemning this proposed action. You can find the statement under Press Releases on the website. The statement reads:

"The American Association of University Women (AAUW) unequivocally condemns President Trump's executive order 'Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities' dismantling the U.S. Department of Education.

"This reckless and shortsighted action threatens to gut vital protections that ensure equal access to higher education and will have devastating consequences for students — especially women, students of color, and those from low-income backgrounds — who rely on federal oversight for their right to an equitable education," said Gloria L. Blackwell, CEO of AAUW. Eliminating the Department of Education would decimate federal civil rights enforcement, slash protections against gender-based discrimination, and roll back decades of progress toward making higher education accessible and affordable. This decision is not about streamlining government; it is about stripping students of their rights and futures."

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We can act by contacting our Congressional representatives and urging them to speak out against this move to strip students and educators of their rights and support. AAUW National has also established a fund to elevate critical higher education issues impacting women, mobilize advocates and provide resource to students and staff. See the website for more information.

April Branch Zoom Meeting on APRIL 8 at 7PM

Because we're hosting the State Convention, we will not have an April branch zoom meeting. Instead, we will combine the Board and Branch meetings on April 8. We would like to have everyone attend the scheduled Board Zoom meeting

on Tuesday, April 8 to discuss how members can assist with the State Convention. While most of the major details have been finalized, there are still several tasks with which everyone can assist. Branch members who assist with the state convention, for example picking up pre-paid food orders, setting up room and food, and registering attendees will not need to pay the meeting registration unless they stay for lunch. We will send the Zoom link to members prior to April 8.

Thank you again for your support and enjoy the improving weather!

Best regards,

Heather Reichardt

AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

Website: gaithersburg-md.aauw.net

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

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\$2.00 AAUW DUES INCREASE FOR 2025 RENEWALS AND MEMBERS JOINING AFTER APRIL 1, 2025

Starting April 1, 2025, individual member dues in AAUW-US will be \$74. AAUW-Maryland dues will remain \$10, and AAUW Gaithersburg Branch dues will remain \$18. Thus, membership dues will total \$102.

The AAUW National Board provided this explanation for the increase: Member dues are an important funding source for AAUW. While costs for member support increase annually, member dues have not kept pace. The Board's decision to increase dues by \$2 allows AAUW dues to keep up with inflation and continue supporting the important work of AAUW.

Your member dues help fund our work such as:

Education & Advocacy: Member dues help support AAUW's public policy and member advocacy programs, which are now vitally im-

portant to defending higher education and rights for women on campus

Member Trainings: Our regular virtual member gatherings and training programs provide education and engagement on several relevant topics

Member Engagement: We organize member-led groups and committees like Archives Corps, Lobby Corps, and national committees, and coordinate AAUW's member advocacy through 2-Minute Activist

Real-Time Support: Connect Team provides daily assistance to members

And more!

AGENDA
AAUW MARYLAND STATE CONVENTION
Gaithersburg
Saturday, April 26, 2025
Pathways Baptist Church
200 West Diamond Avenue, Gaithersburg MD 20877
WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN:
GLOBAL INFLUENCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

8:30 am Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00 am Welcome – Edie Allison, AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

Welcome – Heather Reichardt, AAUW Maryland President

Welcome from Gaithersburg Mayor Jud Ashman

9:15 am **The Challenges and Joys of Immigrating to the US: Delegate Lily Qi**



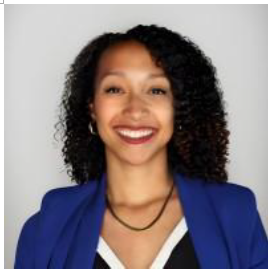
Leggett.

Born in Shanghai, China, Lily Qi grew up in the height of the Chinese Cultural Revolution. She immigrated to the US in 1989 and became a US citizen in 1999. She represents the 15th legislative district in the Maryland House of Delegates and previously worked as a chief administrator for economic development under Montgomery County Executive Ike

10:00 am Break

10:15 am Panel Discussion:

Women Supporting Women Domestically and Globally



Bria Marie Hodge, Director of Small Business Development, Latino Economic Development Center. The LED mission is to serve as a catalyst that drives the economic and social advancement of low-to-moderate income Latinos and other underserved communities.



Robyn Nietert, President, Women's Microfinance Initiative. She will address issues of supporting women in three African countries. WMI promotes women's economic participation through small loans and carries the hope of prosperity to poor, rural areas of Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Moderator: Kate Stevenson, former Co-President, Maryland AAUW

11:15 Women Supporting Women:

Results from the Maryland Legislative Session: Roxann King, AAUW Maryland Vice President for Public Policy

12:00 New Officer Voting and Installation

12:30 Lunch

1:15 Business Meeting (separate agenda to be provided)

4:00 Adjourn

Registration for AAUW MD 2025 Convention

Convention will be held April 26 at Pathways Baptist Church in the Grand Hall at lower level,
200 West Diamond Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877

TownePlace Suites Hotel is available for overnight guests April 25 for \$159 + tax
212 Perry Parkway, Gaithersburg, MD 20877 - 301-590-2300

Register for convention and/or dinner online with Eventbrite by Googling "Eventbrite Women
Supporting Women "

Or complete the registration form below and send it (postmarked no later than April 6, 2025)
with a check payable to: AAUW Maryland to:

Edith Allison, Treasurer, 11224 Troy Rd, North Bethesda, MD 20852. For registration
problems / questions, email Edith Allison (edieallison@gmail.com).


Name: _____ Student ☐ Guest ☐ or Branch _____

Phone: _____ Branch Office: _____

Email _____ MD Office: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

- ☐ Check if you plan to attend the Convention & select choices below.
- ☐ Check if you plan to attend the Friday, April 25th 6:30 pm il Porto Italian restaurant dinner.
- ☐ Check if you wish to opt out of sharing your contact information in the list of conference attendees.

 <p>Friday, April 25 6:30 pm Dinner at il Porto 245 Muddy Branch Rd Gaithersburg, MD 20878</p>	<p><u>Convention Registration Cost</u></p> <p>Convention registration cost includes light breakfast and lunch April 26, the day's program, business meeting, and election of officers. Ample free parking adjacent Grand Hall. Handicap accessible. The cost of the Friday evening dinner is additional.</p>		
<p>Family style entrees: Salmon fillet, Chicken Parmigiana, and Eggplant Parmigiana with Caesar salad and non-alcoholic drinks. \$44, tax & tip included Dessert and alcoholic drinks paid for Individually.</p>	<p>Payments at door must be via check.</p>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$45	Member
	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50	Member Postmarked after April 6
	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$35	Guest
	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20	Student
	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$15	Zoom Link (only)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$44	Friday 6:30 pm dinner at il Porto restaurant
\$		Total for convention + dinner enclosed	

AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Combined Board/Branch Meeting	Tuesday, April 8 – 7:00 pm
HerStory - in Person	Saturday, April 12 – 2:00 pm
Great Decisions – Zoom	Friday, April 18 – 2:30 pm
AAUW Maryland Convention hosted by	Saturday, April 26, starting 8:30 am

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