



# AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

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

NEWSLETTER

May 2025

## May 2025

Gaithersburg AAUW ANNUAL BRANCH MEETING!

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Log in to Zoom meeting: 7:00pm

Meeting begins: 7:15pm

SPEAKER: Rebecca Henson, Springsong Museum, Sandy Spring, MD

*Details will be provided*

Branch members will vote for officers to serve from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 fiscal year and review and approve the FY budget.

*\*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, MAY 10 AT 2:00 PM

*Maria Roberts, Coordinator*

Herstory will meet on Saturday, May 10 at 2 pm in the Parkview Club Room of Asbury Methodist Village.

Carole Long will introduce us to a 20th Century woman who found basic units that were thought to stay in place could be surprisingly mobile.

A small prize goes to the person who guesses the identity of Carole's subject at the meeting prior to the presentation.

For directions to the venue, please contact Maria Roberts [meroberts2770\[at\]cs.\[dot\]com](mailto:meroberts2770[at]cs.[dot]com).

### GREAT DECISIONS WILL MEET FRIDAY, MAY 16 AT 2:30 PM VIA ZOOM

*Mary Wykes, Coordinator*

The Great Decisions interest group will meet via zoom on Friday, May 16 at 2:30 pm. The topic for discussion is topic 4 from our Study Guide, "India: Between China, the West and the Global South" written by Dr. Leslie Vinjamuri, Professor of International Relations at the School of Oriental and Asian Studies at the University of London. Our member Dr. Anna Fraker will lead the discussion.

New members are always welcome. Call Coordinator Mary Wykes, 301-717-1040, for the zoom link and copy of Study Guide material.

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

### - Heather Reichardt

#### Grateful for All the Help

I cannot thank everyone enough for supporting, attending, helping organize and execute the AAUW Maryland 83<sup>rd</sup> State Convention on Saturday at Pathways Baptist Church. I have received a lot of positive feedback about the facility and how well the morning program, the food and the meeting were run.

Specifically, I want to thank the following members who were part of the convention planning team: Edie Allison, Liz Hessel, Carolyn Fisher, Averill Farrelly, Alice Wong, Maria Roberts, Aurora Seville, Sara Harris. And I'm glad several members could attend. Members from other branches in Maryland saw how much work we did to make sure the meeting went as well as possible. Even with our few technical issues, overall, the meeting went extraordinarily well. And we were able to surprise Mary Wykes with everyone singing "Happy Birthday" for Mary's upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! THANK YOU!

#### National Joins Civil Rights Coalition

On another note, AAUW National has taken a strong step in supporting equity and equality by joining the following coalition: The Pact: A Civil Rights Unity Coalition Commitment. This coalition is organized by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. The coalition includes nearly 200 civil society and equity organizations, such as the AFL-CIO, Brennan Center for Justice, Justice for Migrant Women, NAACP, and many more. The beginning of the pact document is as follows: (see the link for the rest of the statement)

- We, the undersigned nonpartisan civil rights organizations representing millions of people of every background in every zip code across America, exist to serve our communities, protect rights, and advance opportunity for all. Today we face a campaign by the government to silence and isolate us, stop us from doing our jobs, and hurt the people we serve.

The administration has made clear it will attack organizations that speak truth to power, defend the vulnerable, petition and sue the government, preserve and share knowledge, and fight for our freedoms. They want us to fight alone, hoping we'll stay silent as others are targeted. Not us.



I think it's important that AAUW stands up for civil and human rights as much as possible. We often work in coalition when lobbying for specific issues, so this is not an unusual move. As the above statement implies, we must work together with other groups to fight for and maintain our rights. Women's rights are human rights! We can't go back.

#### May Zoom Branch Meeting

I'm looking forward to the May meeting where we will hear from Rebecca Henson, Founder and Director of the Springsong Museum. This museum will celebrate Rachel Carson's work and life during her time living in Silver Spring, Maryland. Montgomery Parks owns the land where the community museum will reside. Rebecca and her team are working to get the museum open. I encourage everyone to zoom in for this meeting.

I appreciate everyone's continued support of our branch activities. See you in May, if not sooner.

Best regards,  
Heather

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee, composed of Barbara Garrard, Maria Roberts and Alice Wong, reports the following nominations for continued service in their respective positions:

- Heather Reichardt for President
- Edie Allison for Treasurer

- Carolyn Fisher for Membership Vice President
- Averill Farrelly for Secretary.

### 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

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)

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#### Newsletter Managing Editor

Edie Allison  
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## MEMBER DONATIONS SUPPORT AAUW MISSION

Branch members have generously donated to AAUW National to support AAUW's mission every year. In 2024, branch members contributed \$2,075, primarily to the **Greatest Needs Fund**. This fund has been the major source of unrestricted support that allows AAUW to respond quickly and effectively to emerging challenges and to sustain core operations.

AAUW scholarship funds, which hold millions of dollars, are restricted to funding scholarships at levels that are sustainable over long periods, so unrestricted support is vital for salaries, building rent and other day-to-day expenses.

Generous donations from members around the country may have contributed to AAUW National board decision to limit dues increases to \$2 in 2025 and 2026 rather than \$5 per year increases that had been proposed.

In 2025, AAUW initiated two new funds focused on the special needs arising from the current unprecedented level of attacks on educa-

tional equity and other elements of AAUW's public policy priorities. The new funds that join the Greatest Needs Fund are:

### Defend Higher Education

The Defend Higher Education Fund will enable AAUW to elevate the higher education issues impacting women, mobilize advocates across the country, provide strategic resources to students, staff and faculty on campus, and fuel investments in the infrastructure and technology necessary to move AAUW's mission forward.

### Public Policy Fund

The Public Policy Fund supports the advancement of AAUW's Public Policy Principles and Priorities. AAUW is focused on increasing the impact of the Action Network through growing the number of advocates across the country and providing additional timely, accurate, and actionable information about our key issues.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

- Dr. Carolyn Fisher

### **Thank You:**

Your support for AAUW-Gaithersburg March Membership Interest/Branch Program is greatly appreciated.

### **New Members:**

AAUW-Gaithersburg welcomes ~~two~~ new members. Brief introductions are below:

Carroll Saussy is former Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. She received her BA in Journalism from University of Colorado, MAs from the University of San Francisco and Dubuque Theological Seminary, and her PhD from The Graduate Theological Union. Carroll has published books and articles, and she and her husband, Frank, moved to Asbury in 2012.

Gertrude Sherwood retired from the National Institute of Standards and Technology in 2002 after 33 years of dedicated service to the federal government; and later taught junior high school and is an avid quilter. She received BS and MLS degrees from the University of Maryland, College Park, and is a resident of Laytonsville.

### **Save The Date:**

AAUW-Gaithersburg Fall Membership Meeting and Program

October 4, 2025, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Light refreshments)

Gaithersburg Regional Library, Room 1

### **National Membership News**

Please note that members who joined AAUW Gaithersburg branch during spring 2025 are paid up through July 1, 2026. The following information applies only to members who last paid their dues in spring 2024.

### **Fiscal Year (FY26) Membership Dues**

**Collection Process:** The FY26 National Dues Year opens April 1, 2025, kicking off the (FY26) membership dues collection process for AAUW branches. As of April 1, National dues are \$74, \$18.81 (Students), \$1,480 (Lifetime members) and are fully tax-deductible. Renewal reminder emails will be sent to members during the week of the 20th of each month beginning in April.

The above paragraph refers to AAUW National dues. Branch dues include membership in AAUW-MD (\$10) and AAUW Gaithersburg (\$18) for a total of \$102.

Stay tuned for future updates.

AAUW-Gaithersburg Membership VP  
Dr. Carolyn J. Fisher

## AAUW Gaithersburg 2025-2026 Budget Report

Description		Approved Budget	Actual 4/1/2025	Proposed Budget	
Membership & Operations					NOTES
Revenue					
	Membership Income	684.00	434.00	648	1
	Donations	-			
	Trans fr Sp Proj	305.00	274.00	274	2
	Reserves	236.00		273	3
	Total Revenue	1,225.00	708.00	1,195.00	
Expenses					
	MD AAUW	30.00		15	4
	Newsletter Printing				
	Meeting Room/Zoom	160.00		160	5
	Liability Insurance	220.00	548.00	220	
	D&O Insurance	350.00		350	
	Fidelity Bond	70.00		70	6,7
	Hospitality	60.00		60	
	Bank Fees	15.00		0	
	Office supplies	50.00	21.19	50	
	Promotional Material	50.00		50	
	Program Speakers	120.00		120	
	Travel Expense	100.00		100	
	Total Expenses	1,225.00	569.19	1,195.00	
	Net Revenue/Loss	-			
Notes					
1	Assumes 38 members at \$18 dues, each				
2	Special Projects share of insurance expenses transferred to M&O account				
3	Transfer from reserves to meet budget shortfall, if needed				
4	Branch pays \$5 to state, which does not give 50% dues for Shape the Future				
5	Branch plans two in-person meetings at library				
6	Fidelity bond will be paid in 2025 using 3-year reserve				
7	Insurance is provided by The Baldwin Group, a new provider to AAUW branches.				

## Member Photos from Last Meeting



Liz Hessel talking about Mary Wykes' long history and AAUW membership



Mary Wykes stands as the group sings happy birthday.



Eddie Allison and two other state members are installed as new state officers. Eddie ~~will be~~ the Vice President Programs.

## **AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

HerStory - in Person	Saturday, May 10 – 2:00 pm
Board Meeting - Zoom	Tuesday, May 13 – 7:00 pm
Great Decisions – Zoom	Friday, May 16 – 2:30 pm
Annual Branch Meeting- Zoom	Tuesday, May 20 – 7:00 pm
Save the Date: Fall Membership Meeting and Program, Gaithersburg Library	Saturday, October 4 – 11 am – 1 pm

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