



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

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

NEWSLETTER

June 2025

June 2025

Gaithersburg JUNE BRANCH MEETING!

Birthday Luncheon!!

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Outta the Way Café

17503 Redland Road, Derwood, MD 20855

11:30 AM

TOPIC:

Celebrating the 90th Birthdays of Anna Fraker,
Mina Parsont, Maria Roberts, and Aurora Seville



Contact HEATHER to RSVP and request a ride if needed:

[hjr1234\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:hjr1234@gmail.com) or 301-466-1246

OTHER IMPORTANT MEETINGS

AAUW HERSTORY WILL NOT MEET IN JUNE - THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 13 AT 2:00 PM IN PARKVIEW CLUB ROOM, ASBURY

Maria Roberts, Coordinator

After a summer recess, Herstory will meet on Saturday, September 13 at 2 pm in the Parkview Club Room of Asbury Methodist Village

Information about future meetings, please contact Maria Roberts at [meroberts2770\[at\]cs\[dot\]com](mailto:meroberts2770@cs.com).

GREAT DECISIONS WILL NOT MEET IN JUNE - THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AT 2:30 PM VIA ZOOM

Mary Wykes, Coordinator

The Great Decisions Foreign Policy discussion group will take a summer recess - not meeting in June, July and August—resuming again September 19 to discuss "The Future of NATO and European Security" led by Judy Sholes.

New members are always welcome. Contact Coordinator Mary Wykes, 301-717-1040 if you are interested.

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

- Heather Reichardt

Dear Gaithersburg Members and Friends,

It has been a memorable program year for our branch. I am honored to have led the branch during this past "year." Let us recall some of the highlights:

Recap of Our Year

In the fall, we were focused on election topics such as Question 1, which passed with a positive vote of over 75%. This vote enshrined in the state constitution reproductive freedom for everyone in the state. We heard from Garrett County branch President, Judy Carbone, about her experience at the Democratic National Convention. We heard from several scholarship recipients in November and had a small but fun holiday luncheon in December at Carraba's. And in January, we had a discussion with local author, Kathryn Hoff, about her path to becoming a science fiction novelist.

Starting in February, we switched gears and started planning for two major in-person events hosted by our branch. Both the membership recruiting event and the state meeting exceeded expectations from my perspective. Thank you again to everyone who assisted with those functions!

These meetings remind us how important it is for our branch and friends to get together in person on a more regular basis. In May, some of the members attended the wonderful birthday party for Mary Wykes' 100th birthday! Her family organized an outstanding celebration. So, for our June meeting, we will meet for lunch and celebrate several other members' milestone birthdays!

Next Year's Programming

So that the branch can enjoy more in person activities, we need to work on specific programs for our monthly meetings. Because we do not have a Program Vice President, we can all be Program VPs! I would like to convene a committee to meet once or twice over the summer to plan out next year's programs in advance. One of those events will be another membership celebration and recruitment event on October 4, 2025! So, save the date, please! If you are interested in helping with programs, please email me as soon

as possible so we can coordinate the best time to meet. This will be a virtual meeting. And it is not a heavy lift if we can spread the work across several members. Note, everyone is free to send me their ideas for programs or speakers at any time.



AAUW National Strategy Revisions

National has revised their strategy to put even more focus on the issues impacting higher education due to the federal government's reduction in funding, especially for the Department of Education. The National staff has held several webinars regarding strategy changes which also include efforts to increase membership, donations, and mission-oriented activities. The webinars are recorded and available on YouTube. If you type in "AAUW" into the search bar of YouTube, you will come to the new videos of these webinars. I strongly encourage members to watch the webinars to become familiar with the new strategy. You can also follow the link to the new strategic plan at the bottom of our website.

AAUW National Election Results

National announced the results of the national election that was held up through May 12. There are four new board members: Hope Bennett, Aallyah El-Amin, Dr. Monique Taylor, and Dr. Mayida Zaal. Also, Dr. Hope Ricciotti was appointed to the board. Additionally, the proposed changes to the AAUW bylaws and the Public Policy Principles and Priorities were also approved "by an overwhelming majority of our voting members" as mentioned in the email from Shannon Wolfe on May 16.

It has been a busy spring for our branch, and I am looking forward to the summer break. I hope everyone will enjoy a safe and fun summer! See you on June 7!

Thank you once again for your support.

Heather Reichardt

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

- Dr. Carolyn Fisher

Your support for AAUW-Gaithersburg is greatly appreciated.

We are excited about hosting a Fall Membership Branch Program. The aim remains to motivate our members and expand our Gaithersburg membership to new heights. The location is as follows:

AAUW-Gaithersburg Fall Membership Meeting and Program

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

Gaithersburg Regional Library, Room 1,
18330 Montgomery Village Ave

Gaithersburg, MD, 20879

Stay tuned for a planning session in August or early September. The agenda is being developed. 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; milestones of AAUW-Gaithersburg and upcoming activities; possibly a keynote speaker; break/prizes; and closing.

National Membership News

Fiscal Year (FY26) Membership Dues Collection Process Year is Open

The FY26 National Dues Year opened April 1, kicking off the (FY26) membership dues collection process for AAUW branches. National dues are \$74 (National), \$18.81 (Students), \$1,480 (Lifetime) and are fully tax-deductible. Renewal reminder emails are being sent to members during the week of the 20th of each month.

Honorary Lifetime Upgrades

National has completed this year's honorary upgrades for members with 50 years of membership. Acknowledgements are being emailed to Branch leaders. AAUW says "Congratulations honorary members and thanks for your dedication!"

AAUW-Gaithersburg

Membership VP

Dr. Carolyn J. Fisher

Stay tuned for future updates.

Inclusion & Equity News

AAUW on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (March 2025)

In response to a question from Diversity Officers on the use of the words, diversity, equity, and inclusion (or DEI), AAUW leadership conveyed that AAUW supports free speech and believes in the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. Branches need not eliminate the use of these words. AAUW has no plans to stop its work for equity at the national level, nor ask branches to do so. AAUW was founded on the belief of equity in higher education, and we (AAUW) will continue to defend and promote our values.

Inclusion & Equity Committee Town Hall | Wednesday, May 28, 2025 | 7:00 p.m. ET

Please join the Inclusion & Equity Committee's upcoming town hall on Wednesday, May 28th, at 7:00 pm ET, designed to foster meaningful dialogue around diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Through guided discussions and shared experiences, we will explore the challenges and opportunities that shape inclusive environments, including inclusive branch practices. This event aims to create a safe and welcoming space for all voices, encourage critical reflection, and strengthen our collective commitment to equity and belonging within our community.

You will take part in:

Honest dialogue around DEI challenges

Inclusive branch practice insights

A shared vision for equity and belonging

[Register Now](#)

AAUW-Maryland Diversity Officer

Dr. Carolyn J. Fisher

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

Branch Birthdays Celebration, Outta the Way	Saturday, June 7 – 11:30 am
June Board Meeting - Zoom	Tuesday, June 10 – 7:00 pm
HerStory - in Person	Saturday, September 13 – 2:00 pm
Great Decisions – Zoom	Friday, September 19 – 2:30 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