



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

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

NEWSLETTER

September 2025

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Gaithersburg SEPTEMBER BRANCH MEETING

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Log in to Zoom meeting: 7:00 pm

Meeting begins: 7:15pm

PRESENTER TO BE ANNOUNCED

Please plan to stay after the presentation to discuss preparations for the October branch event.

**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 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 AT 2:00 PM IN PARKVIEW CLUB ROOM, ASBURY

Maria Roberts, Coordinator

AAUW Gaithersburg Herstory will meet on Saturday, September 13 at 2 pm in the Parkview Club Room of Asbury Methodist Village. Please contact Maria Roberts at meroberts2770[at]cs.com if you need directions to the venue.

Our subject sees heavenly bodies overhead that are different from those we see. This 20th-21st century woman's resolve was tested on three tragic occasions during an important six-year period.

A small prize goes to the person who guesses her identity at the meeting before the presentation.

GREAT DECISIONS WILL MEET FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AT 2:30 PM VIA ZOOM

Mary Wykes, Coordinator

The Great Decisions Foreign Policy discussion group will meet 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

Fall is coming and that means we are starting our monthly branch meetings in September. I hope everyone has had a fun and safe summer break from the day-to-day routine. I am eager to start back up with our branch programs!

September Branch Meeting

At our September branch meeting, we will hear from a **practicing immigration attorney**. Immigration is a current topic that concerns many people in our local communities and across the state. See the program announcement. We will also have a short branch meeting after our speaker's presentation. Please plan to stay after the presentation to discuss preparations for the October branch event.

October Events

Our October branch meeting will be another **in-person event at the Gaithersburg library** on Saturday, October 4th. We will again be reaching out to the community to attract potential new members and to get the word out about our wonderful branch! Additionally, we will be inviting attendees to donate items to support struggling families in the county such as toilet paper, snacks, baby wipes, or diapers. We also need volunteers to contribute some great tasting snacks and drinks, similar to our March outreach event, and to help greet new folks who attend. See the notice later in the newsletter.

The **AAUW Maryland Fall meeting** will be held in Severna Park, Maryland and hosted by the Anne Arundel Branch on Saturday, October 18.

See the announcement. Our own Edie Allison is the new Vice President for Programs for the state and has developed a comprehensive morning program focusing on education and social issues of the Native Americans in Maryland. This is an important program! I hope some of you will attend.



Branch Program Committee

Remember, since we do not have a Vice President for Programs, we are all Program VPs! Earlier during the summer, Mary Wykes hosted a committee including: Carolyn Fisher, Diane Carvey, Anna Fraker, Edie Allison, and me. We had a good conversation about meeting topics and speakers and sketched out potential programs for the full year. We will have this list available at the in-person event in October.

I am happy to continue serving our branch members and representing the branch again this year. Thank you for your support. Please contact me with any questions or ideas for programs or projects.

Best regards,

Heather Reichardt, President

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

- Dr. Carolyn Fisher

AAUW Membership welcomes you to this new year. The support you provide for AAUW-Gaithersburg is much appreciated.

Save the Date: Fall Open House

On October 4, 2025, starting at 11 a.m., we will be hosting our second membership interest/community outreach event, the Fall Open House, and we are looking forward to it. Join us for a time of reflection and sharing about the milestones and accomplishments of AAUW-Gaithersburg in serving our community. In addition, we are sponsoring a community service activity that involves collecting and donating items to a local shelter.

The agenda is being finalized. The tentative plan is to include welcoming and acknowledging guests; introducing AAUW and its benefits; member sharing; updates on future directions; and closing remarks. We will be sending more information about the event and the community service activity in the near future, including instructions on how to RSVP and confirm your attendance. We will start planning for the event after the branch meeting presentation by Kanya Sanders on September 16. In case you have any questions, feel free to contact us at AAUWGaithersburg@gmail.com.

The location is as follows:

AAUW-Gaithersburg Fall Open House

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

Gaithersburg Regional Library, Room 1

18330 Montgomery Village Ave

Gaithersburg, MD, 20879

Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Membership Dues Collection Process Year is Open

The FY26 National Dues Year began on April 1, launching the process of collecting membership dues for AAUW branches. The national dues are fully tax-deductible, ranging from \$74, \$18.81 (Students) to \$1,480 (Lifetime). Branch and State dues continue unchanged: \$18 for Gaithersburg branch and \$10 for Maryland state dues. That totals \$102 for renewing branch members. Members receive renewal reminder emails on the week of the 20th of each month.

Gaithersburg Membership News

Our membership includes 27 active members, 5 honorary members, and 2 lifetime members. Thank you to the members who have already renewed their FY2026 membership.

The AAUW Maryland Membership Survey is in process and is due to be completed by September 27, 2025. Updates on recruitment efforts, fundraisers, collaborating with community partners/organizations, AAUW sponsored events, and retaining members are being collected. The compiled responses will be shared with the branches.

Membership Discounts and Perks

A reminder of the many advantages of being a member of AAUW. A few are featured here.

AAUW GAITHERSBURG BRANCH

Website: gaithersburg-md.aauw.net

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

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MEMBERSHIP CORNER

- Dr. Carolyn Fisher

Insurance

LTC Global

With its more than 35 years of experience in long-term care insurance, LTC Global can save AAUW members time and money on their long-term care insurance quotes. They offer multiple carriers to help people best meet their individual needs and budget. As an AAUW member, you may be eligible for a premium discount. Call 888-305-4582 or [click here](#) to learn more.

Other Services

UPS

Flat shipping discounts are available. Members are now able to save up to 50% each time they ship. Lower your shipping expenses, not your expectations.

Stay tuned for future updates.

AAUW-Gaithersburg Membership VP

Dr. Carolyn J. Fisher

TIPS TO AVOID SCAMS

These suggestions are excerpted in part from Congressman Janie Raskin's recent newsletter. We hope this helps protect your money and personal data.

Tips to avoid scams:

1. Take your time and talk with someone you trust before acting. Scammers may claim that you need to act fast to protect your money or help a loved one that is in danger.

The emphasis on speed is indicative of a scam.

2. Never click on links or reply to unexpected texts. Government agencies, or banks and businesses you know will never demand immediate payment.
3. Interact with your bank or business only on their official phone numbers.
4. Never give out personal information or send money via a payment app.
5. Use strong passwords or a password management system that is highly rated.
6. If you receive a weird request, especially asking for money, transfers, or gift cards, from someone who looks like they are from AAUW, assume it is a scam. Because AAUW Branch officers' emails are listed on the web they may appear in SCAM requests.
7. Safe Zoom links for branch meetings will be clearly identified with the event information previously provided in the branch newsletter.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JUNE LUNCHEON MEETING

- Thanks to Liz Hessel

The Branch June meeting was a luncheon at "Otta the Way Café" in Derwood where we celebrated another successful year and the 90th birthdays of Maria Roberts, Anna Fraker and Aurora Sevilla. It was a great time to catch up with friends. This picture captures the happy attendees. Seated (l-r): Alice Wong, Kasey Dildine, Maria Roberts, Diane Carvey; standing: Liz Hessel, Barbara Garrard, Carolyn Fisher, Edie

Allison), seated Anna Fraker, Aurora Sevilla, Heather Reichardt, and Mary Wykes, who had celebrated her 100th birthday in May. Elizabeth Schwartz had to leave early before the picture. We all agreed we need to get together more frequently.



AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September Board Meeting - Zoom	Tuesday, September 9 – 7:00 pm
HerStory - in Person	Saturday, September 13 – 2:00 pm
September Branch Meeting – Zoom	Tuesday, September 16 – 7:00 pm
Great Decisions – Zoom	Friday, September 19 – 2:30 pm
Save the Date:	
Fall Open House-Gaithersburg Library	Saturday, October 4 – 11 am – 1 pm
AAUW MD Fall Program/Meeting	Saturday, October 18, 9:00 am - 2:30 pm
	In person or via Zoom

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