



AAUW Gaithersburg Branch

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

NEWSLETTER

November 2025

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

AAUW Gaithersburg November 18 PROGRAM

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Log in to Zoom meeting: 7:00pm

Presentation begins: 7:15pm

PRESENTATION:

How the City of Gaithersburg Helps Families with Financial Issues

We will hear from Emily Linn, Manager of the city's Financial Empowerment Center (FEC). The FEC helps families with free coaching and advice regarding debt, building credit, mortgage lending, and other money issues. The services are free to all City residents and help to assist many families to improve their financial picture. We should be aware of this service so we can provide information to others in the community.

<https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/services/community-services/financial-empowerment-center>

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

Branch Board Meeting

Monday, November 10 at 7:30 pm. A New Time

Branch board meetings are switching from the Second Tuesday to the Second Monday of each month through January 2026. The board meetings are open to all. Contact Heather Reichardt for the Zoom link.

OTHER IMPORTANT MEETINGS

AAUW HerStory will MEET SATURDAY, November 8 AT 2:00 pm IN PARKVIEW CLUB ROOM, ASBURY METHODIST VILLAGE

- Maria Roberts, Coordinator

November's Herstory meeting will take place on Saturday, November 8, at 2 pm in the Parkview Club Room of Asbury Methodist Village.

We will become acquainted with a woman who struggled with dyslexia, hearing loss, and misogyny. But in two life-altering ways she made all the difference for the youngest among us.

At the meeting, a small prize will go to the person guessing her identity before the presentation.

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

- Heather Reichardt

It is hard to believe that the year 2025 is nearly over! The final two months will fly by with lots of holiday events and things to do at home and in the community.

Thank you so much to the members who contributed to and attended our October Open House at the library. State Delegate Lesley Lopez (District 39) did come by and speak with everyone, both individually and with the group. That was a nice opportunity to get to know her and see what she is focused on for the upcoming General Assembly Session. We do plan another open house event in March to recognize Women's History Month. I hope we will have a lot of participation there and can meet some potential new members.

According to AAUW National, the latest attack on higher education is the Trump Administration's invitation to all colleges and universities to join their "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education." Gloria Blackwell's response is as follows:

This compact is a political litmus test — dismantle diversity, equity, and inclusion, muzzle campuses, and cap international enrollment. AAUW says no. Conditioning federal funds on abandoning these values, restricting campus speech, overriding institutional governance, and even limiting how many international students a campus may enroll is coercive, discriminatory, and inconsistent with the core purposes of higher education.

America's colleges should never be forced to choose between their values and their viability. We urge every institution to refuse this political litmus test and stand with students — especially women, students of color, student-parents, international scholars, and LGBTQ+ students, — whose success depends on campuses that are inclusive, evidence-driven, and free to teach and learn.

The full statement was posted on the AAUW website on October 16th. Perhaps you want to contact your schools to encourage them not to get involved in this 'compact.'

The AAUW Maryland Fall State meeting on October 18th was a great success in both attendance and programming. Our own Edie Allison, VP for Programs for the State, put together a wonderful program that focused on several issues impact-

ing Native American women. This included the abuse and murder of Indigenous women presented by Caroline LaPorte, Esquire, and the status of higher education for Native American students. We learned that several reservations, mostly in the Midwest and Western parts of the US, have their own colleges that provide degrees as well as prepare students for higher levels of education in 4-year institutions. Dr. Donna Brown presented this information. She is the VP of Sponsored Programs at the American Indian Higher Education Association (AIHEA). We also received a high-level briefing about the archeology of the Indigenous Maryland peoples going back approximately 13,000 years from Dr. Katherine Sterner, a professor at Towson University. She participates in field work in Baltimore City and County Parks. We just touched the surface of the facts and issues about the diverse Indigenous populations who reside locally and nationally. However, it was a respectable initial discussion. This group is often not mentioned when diversity and inclusion are mentioned. I am proud that we heard from these expert women on these topics. We may be able to share the video recording of the program in the future. Stay tuned!

Please join us at the November zoom branch meeting to learn about how the City of Gaithersburg is working to advance the economic security of local families. The topic of economic security is one of the primary missions of AAUW. Our learning about our own community will allow us to understand these local issues and hopefully see how we could assist women and families in Gaithersburg. Watch out for the email including the zoom link for November 18!

I hope everyone stays warm and safe as we go into the winter months.

Best regards,

Heather



OTHER IMPORTANT MEETINGS (Continued)

GREAT DECISIONS WILL MEET FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, AT 2:30 PM VIA ZOOM

- Mary Wykes, Coordinator

The Great Decisions Foreign Policy discussion group will meet November 21 to discuss "AI and American National Security," led by Edie Allison.

New members are always welcome. For zoom link and a copy of the Foreign Policy News article by Dr. Julie George, a Fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University, contact coordinator Mary Wykes at 301-717-1040.



SAVE THE DATE: ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 2026

Access The Hotel Room Block [Here](#)



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

- Dr. Carolyn Fisher

Members, your support for AAUW-Gaithersburg is highly valued.

Thank you for renewing your membership!

AAUW National Network

A reminder that AAUW has a nationwide network of members, donors, and advocates throughout the United States, along with 700 local branches and more than 450 college and university partners. AAUW has examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day, including educational, social, economic, and political, since its founding more than 140 years ago. AAUW is dedicated to educational equity through its research, policy work, national partnerships, and programming.

2025 Alumnae Recognition Award Celebration (November 20, 2025)

You should have received an invitation from AAUW Fellowships and Grants to attend the 2025 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Award Celebration. AAUW has announced this special evening dedicated to honoring women leaders and advancing gender equity. AAUW supported this year's recipient, Yie-Hsin, as a Selected Professions Fellow. She is an executive-level global finance and business leader and has been recognized as one of Forbes' 100 Most Powerful Women in the World.

Seat availability is limited! [RSVP here](#)

Not able to make it in person? Join the live stream! [Register here](#).

Date: Thursday, November 20, 2025;
Time: 4:30–7:00 PM (4:30–5:30 PM: Cocktail Hour; 5:30–7:00 PM: Catered Dinner and Award Presentation)

Location: Claudio Grossman Hall,
Washington College of Law, American

University, 4300 Nebraska Avenue
NW, Washington, DC 20016

Complimentary parking will be available for all event guests, and the venue is conveniently located just five minutes from the Tenleytown-AU Metro Station on the Red Line. Shuttle service from the station will be available. As an added bonus, [the first ten RSVPs](#) will receive rideshare vouchers to make transportation to the event even easier.

Discounts and Perks:

[Ms.](#)

Sign up [here](#) for your free one year Ms. membership—which includes four print issues of Ms. magazine, special sales offers for the Ms. book, a best-of collection from 50 Years of Ms.: The Best of the Pathfinding Magazine That Ignited a Revolution, e-newsletters and action alerts to keep you updated and empowered, and members-only invitations to Ms. Studios live and virtual events and podcasts.

[ShopAAUW](#)

Check out AAUW's [online store](#) for all things AAUW! At [ShopAAUW](#), you can purchase supplies for branch events, thank you gifts for speakers, or accessories and apparel to show off your AAUW pride!

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.

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BOOK SALE AND MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS TO AAUW SCHOLARSHIPS AND CAUSES: EACH MAY BE SMALL BUT THE TOTAL IS HUGE

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AAUW scholarships and causes MAY EACH
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HUGE

Thank you

In addition to managing the used book sale over many years, Liz Hessel has maintained records of the branch support for scholarships and other AAUW missions. Here are a few highlights from her records:

From 2003 through 2024, AAUW book sales provided almost \$150,000 in scholarship funding for 105 students at the Universities at Shady Grove and Montgomery College.

The branch supported 37 students' participation in the annual National Council of College Women Student Leaders.

Branch members' contributions to AAUW Educational Foundation funds total \$94,000. These funds provide graduate level scholarships and support community action grants.



More recently, AAUW has requested contributions to its Greatest Needs, Public Policy, and Defend Higher Education Funds. In the first 9 months of this year, branch members contributed almost \$2,000 to these funds.

Visit our website: <https://gaithersburg-md.aauw.net/>

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/GaithersburgAAUW>

AAUW GAITHERSBURG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HerStory - in Person	Saturday, November 8 – 2:00 pm
November Board Meeting - Zoom	Monday, November 10 - 7:30 – 8:40 pm
November Branch Meeting - Zoom	Tuesday, November 18 – 7:00 pm
Great Decisions – Zoom	Friday, November 21 – 2:30 pm

The American Association of University Women
Gaithersburg Branch
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