

Hagerstown Branch

March 2021

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**American
Association of
University
Women**

The President's Message

Welcome to Women's History Month! Last month I mentioned that I have been using some of my "extra" home time to read books that I might not have read in the past. For me, when time is limited, I prefer a good mystery or suspense novel. When I venture into non-fiction, it is usually for a science book. This year, I have tried to use this time to expand my reading in history and the social sciences.

One book that caught my eye when it came through the book room was Mr. President, How Long Must We Wait by Alice Paul. This book opened my eyes to the trials and abuses that the women of the Suffrage movement endured. Until I read it, my sense of that movement was largely colored by images of Mrs. Banks in Mary Poppins marching around a befuddled Mr. Banks. Now I see how rose-colored that image was. The women who won the vote for us suffered prison, illness, physical beatings, belittlement and estrangement from friends and family.

I believe I have mentioned in the past that I am a family historian. As I reflect on history and these "new" understandings, I try to imagine my ancestors as they weathered these changes. Both of my grandmothers were born before women had the vote. While I don't remember my one grandmother, I do remember my mother's mother and how important voting was to her. And I remember accompanying my mother when she went to vote at the Armory in Frederick. I had to sit outside the curtained booth while she pulled levers (do you remember?). Of my 4 great grandmothers, 3 were alive in 1920. I even have 3 great-great grandmothers who were alive in 1920!

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AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

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

Visit our website: <http://hagerstown-md.aauw.net>

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AauwHagerstownMd>

AAUW Newsletter

President's Message continued: Thinking about these women has helped me through the last year. One great grandmother had 14 children, only 7 of whom made it to adulthood. Another great grandmother had 8 sons, 4 of whom she nursed through typhoid fever only to succumb after her sons recovered. These were tough and strong women and I hope I carry some of their strength in me.

On the DNA front, I am delighted by the knowledge that our mitochondrial DNA comes directly from our mothers. While all the other DNA in your cells is a combination of DNA from your father and mother, your mitochondrial DNA comes only from your mother, who got it unaltered from her mother, who got it unaltered from her mother, etc. Mitochondria are responsible for generating the chemical energy that powers your cells. Matrilineal lines are tough to follow, but to date I know that my mitochondrial DNA is the mitochondrial DNA of Sarah Jane Waskey, my great- great-grandmother, born in 1845 (before the Civil War!) and died in 1921.

Of course, winning the vote was just part of the struggle. We still do not have pay equity in this country. March 24 represents Pay Equity Day this year. One way to think about that is that women have been working for free for almost the first quarter of the year. Among many other issues, this one needs to be fixed. News reports are also beginning to address that the pandemic will have affected working women more than men and they will have steeper paths to recovery.

We owe a lot to the women who have gone before and I believe we need to pay it forward. We need to do all we can to make this country and world a safe place for women to live, work, learn and play. I am pleased to be part of a respected organization that strives to do just that. Thank you to all of you for your past efforts and for your commitment to continue to fight for equal rights for women in all areas of our lives.

Charlotte

AAUW MD Bylaws Committee Invites Your Ideas

by March 22, 2021

Do you have a suggested change to one of our bylaws? This year, the Bylaws Committee has reviewed and proposed revisions to the AAUW Maryland bylaws. The Committee's proposal will be submitted to the membership for a vote at the Annual Convention May 22-23, 2021.

Members also have the opportunity to propose a new bylaw or amendment to an existing one. Links to the current bylaws and to the proposed revised bylaws are here:

- [Current bylaws](#): AAUW_MD_ByLaws_01-2017.pdf
- [Proposed bylaws](https://aauw-md.aauw.net/files/2021/02/AAUW_MD_Bylaws_02-2021-With-MarkUp-For-Membership.doc): https://aauw-md.aauw.net/files/2021/02/AAUW_MD_Bylaws_02-2021-With-MarkUp-For-Membership.doc

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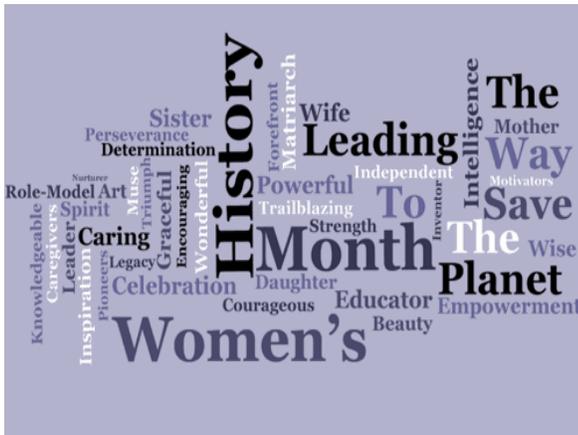
MD ByLaws continued: Be aware that Part I of the bylaws is mandatory language from AAUW. Check the proposed version to see whether your suggested bylaw change has already been addressed by the committee. Send your proposal to Bylaws Chair, Diane Roca at dbroca@comcast.net no later than Monday, March 22. All proposals will be considered by the committee and presented with a recommendation to the Board of Directors, then voted on at the convention.

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW Maryland is seeking individuals in each branch who are willing to contact legislators supporting (or opposing) bills during the Maryland General Assembly session. If you are interested and able to send brief emails or phone calls to our elected state representatives please send your name and email address to Denise Fry.

Equal Pay Day – March 24: The day that represents when women’s pay from 2020 catches up to what men earned in 2020. (It is based on 2019 data and does not take into account the pandemic for sure. It will probably be significantly later in 2022.) Women working full time and year round are paid 82 cents for every dollar paid to a man working full time and year round.

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH



In honor of **Women’s History Month**, on Sunday, March 7, 2:00 p.m., local historian Anna Cueto will be discussing the women that made Washington County via Zoom.

From the frontier-hardened women of days past to the female riveters that worked Fairchild’s assembly lines during World War II, women have had a profound impact on the history of Washington County. Anna’s talk will focus on Washington County women throughout the Colonial Period, Civil War, and Progressive Era. Afterwards, Curator Brett Peters will

touch on the role of Washington County’s women in World War I and World War II. To register for this free event, go to

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-women-that-made-washington-county-tickets-144053083651>

AAUW Newsletter



Afternoon Literature Group

Afternoon Literature will meet on Monday, March 15, at 1:30 PM via Zoom. Judy Thompson will be presenting the book talk. If you are not a regular attendee but would like to join, call or email Barbara Irvine to be added to the invitation list.

Second Friday Lunch Group

There will be no Second Friday Lunch in March.

Evening Literature Group

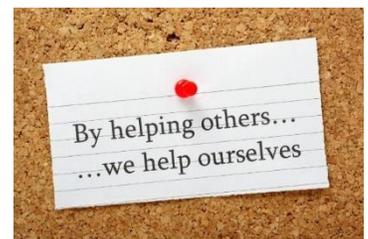
The Evening Lit. group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. This month's meeting will be March 23.

Meetings will continue to be held via Zoom. **An invitation will be sent out about a week ahead of the meeting.** If you have questions, contact Jo Ellen Allenberg for help.

The March book, *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan, will be an all read/all review.

FOUNDERS' DAY

Once again, the pandemic restrictions have forced creativity in recognition of the founding of the Hagerstown Branch in 1945. Members are being asked to make a food donation to be given to a local food bank or a monetary donation to the AAUW Educational Foundation in a drive-up "event" curbside at the book room on Saturday, March 20, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Participating members will receive a small thank you token.



MEMBERSHIP

It is the time of the year when the Branch begins thinking of renewing membership. The renewal form will be included again the April and May newsletter but please do not wait until the last minute.

AAUW Newsletter

Something you might like to try for the grandkids:

Strawberry Cake Mix Cookies

- 1 box strawberry cake mix
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 C melted butter
- 1 ½ C white chocolate chips/chocolate candies, such as M&Ms



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Combine cake mix and eggs in a medium mixing bowl. Add melted butter. Mix well. Add in white chocolate chips and chocolate candies and stir to combine. Stirring candies in by hand doesn't crush the candy. Use a medium 1.5 T cookie scoop to measure out dough and place on the cookie sheet. Bake for 8-10 minutes. Once they're done, remove from oven and let them rest for another 3-5 minutes on the hot cookie sheet. Transfer to baking racks to cool completely. Makes 3 dozen cookies

Proposed Calendar of Activities

Date	Event	Location / Hostess	Time
Mon. March 15	Afternoon Lit.	Zoom	1:30 p.m.
Sat., March 20	Founders' Day	Book Room curb	10:00 a.m.
Tues. March 23	Evening Lit.	Zoom	7:30 p.m.
Mon. April 5	Board Meeting	Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Wed. April 21	Branch Meeting	Cultural Trail	10:30 a.m. (Details in April newsletter)