

Hagerstown Branch

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**American
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The President's Message

Spring at last! For a gardener this is always a mixed emotion time of year. I delight in the flowers coming up but I realize that weeding will be part of my activities for the next 6 months. I am excited to see what has survived and sad that some plants did not. And then there is the curiosity about some plants that I don't recognize. Could that be the plant I thought died last year come back for an encore?

This has been a wonderful spring for the bulbs. My crocuses were up and full of blooms for nearly two weeks. I have more daffodils blooming this year than for the past several years. My tulips would appear to be doing the same. Was it all the extra care I put into the garden last year because my schedule was so open? Or was it the weather patterns of February and March? Or a combination? There really is no way of knowing, so I will sit back and enjoy the flowers.

Of course, spring also means warmer weather and a chance to participate in outdoor activities. Still aware of the vagaries of COVID transmission and the new strains, our branch meeting this month allows us to "meet" outside and walk the downtown cultural trail. It will offer you a chance to reconnect in person safely. Let's hope the weather at the end of the month is as nice as the weather has been in early April. **Continued on page 2**



AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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AAUW Newsletter

President's Message continued: It is an uncertain time. Having read it several years ago, I am skimming though The Great Influenza by John M. Barry. The similarities are eerie in many places. The big difference is how far medical science has advanced in 100 years. Two articles that Barbara Irvine forwarded to me make for interesting reading. They can be found at:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2021/03/covid-19-variants-covid-21/618427/> and <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2021/04/post-vaccination-risk/618500/> .

So why bring up this depressing pandemic again? In two months, your Board will be meeting to develop a schedule for next year. We could use your ideas. I presume that, as we did last year, we will plan parallel schedules – in person activities if conditions allow and alternative outside or virtual activities if they don't. It is my sincerest hope that the rate of infection of COVID-19 will have dropped to a level that allows us to celebrate together for our Holiday tea and our Founder's Day luncheon. I really missed those two opportunities to talk with so many of you. So please, send us ideas for branch meetings that could happen in person and ideas for remote meetings.

That's all I have for now. My spring garden is inviting me to come and see what has returned from the long cold winter. A metaphor I hope will apply to so many activities suspended this past year.

Take care and enjoy,

Charlotte

Branch Activity for April

Join in a leisurely stroll along the Hagerstown Cultural Trail on Wednesday, April 21. The group will meet near the former Convention & Visitors Bureau on the Square at 10:30 a.m. If rain is imminent or it's raining the activity will occur the following week on the 28th. Discussion about having lunch will occur during the walk.



Afternoon Literature Group

Afternoon Literature will meet on Monday, April 19, at 1:30 PM via Zoom. Suzanne Beckwith 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.

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 April 26.**

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 April book, *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride, will be reviewed by Barbara Irvine.

AAUW Newsletter

MEMBERSHIP

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

YEARBOOK PREFERENCE



In an effort to reduce cost the yearbook the Board is discussing offering an electronic file version this fall. If you'd be interested in the electronic version, please contact Sharon Chirgott via email or phone.

Proposed Calendar of Activities

Date	Event	Location / Hostess	Time
Mon. April 19	Afternoon Lit.	Zoom	1:30 p.m.
Wed., April 21	Branch Meeting	Cultural Trail	10:30 a.m.
Tues. April 26	Evening Lit.	Zoom	7:30 p.m.
Mon. May 3	Board Meeting	Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Thurs., May 13	Scholarship Tea	Funkstown Park	Pending COVID trend