



AAUW-GARRETT BRANCH
Annual Report to the 2019 AAUW-Maryland Convention
Garrett County, MD ♦ April 13, 2019

**AAUW-GARRETT
BRANCH MOTTO**

**Only she who
attempts the absurd
can achieve the
impossible.**

FOUNDED 1946

AAUW-Garrett Branch has been an active part of the Garrett County community since 1946, making it the oldest women's equity organization locally. Our primary purpose is to promote equity, education, and development of opportunities for Garrett County women and girls that enable them to realize their full potential. During the 2018-2019 year, our primary activities have been (1) awarding scholarships for women to continue their college and other post-secondary education; (2) providing mentoring for middle school girls through the GEMS Program, where women members and non-members are the mentors; and (3) supporting the AAUW-Garrett College and AAUW-Frostburg State University Student Chapters. One of our primary fund-raising activities is the End-of-the-Line Bookstore, in the boxcar at the Oakland Train Station. AAUW-Garrett Branch provides the administration of the bookstore which has raised \$50, 000 for local women's organizations

since opening in 2004. This year, we are also working to bring Girls Who Code to Garrett County in conjunction with other local organizations, including the Garrett County Public Schools, Garrett College, and the Garrett County Library. We are also the proud hosts to the 2019 AAUW-Maryland State Convention.

A look at our accomplishments so far this year...

Scholarships for College Women:

Branch members gave much of their time and energy to fund raising this year. Our largest fund raiser is managing the End-of-the-Line Bookstore. Open May through October, this bookstore takes gently used books from the community and sells them for \$1 or less on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11am-3pm. While we partner with the Oakland Girl Scouts Troop #55004 to staff the bookstore, the majority of volunteers are AAUW members, friends and/or mentors for the GEMS Mentoring Program. The money raised through the bookstore helps to fund nearly \$4,000 per year in scholarships to college women who are first time students (both traditional and non-traditional aged) at Garrett College, transferring from Garrett College to Allegany College to complete an Allied Health major, or transferring after graduating from Garrett College to a 4-year institution. The Scholarship Committee is chaired by Garrett Branch member Rhonda Schwinabart.



This year, we also started the Linda May Women's Leadership Scholarship, named

after our long-time branch Treasurer who unexpectedly passed away in November 2017. This scholarship will be available to students from the Student Branches who may wish to attend NCCWSL or other women who need financial support in order to attend another women's leadership program.

Student Chapters at Garrett College and Frostburg State University:

We are proud to support the AAUW-Garrett College Students Chapter, now in its second year. In May 2018, we were instrumental in sending four student chapter members to NCCWSL, the first students from Garrett College to attend. This has been a challenging year for this fledgling organization, made even more challenging by virtue of it being at a community college and a change in the personal situation of the active and amazing faculty advisor. While membership in the Garrett College chapter floundered this year, we hope to help send 4 additional students to NCCWSL in May 2019.

With connections that started with the Garrett College Student Chapter, we are pleased to have supported the creation of a Student Chapter at Frostburg State University, the 4-year institution that is the most transferred-to institution from Garrett College. Once the chapter was officially recognized by the university and then by AAUW National, our support has been primarily moral support. We are incredibly proud of the young woman for all they have accomplished this year.

GEMS (Girls Empowerment in Middle School) Mentoring Project:

The Garrett County GEMS Project is a volunteer program that pairs adult mentors with 7th grade girls.

Why 7th Grade? 7th Grade is one of the most difficult years for children, particularly girls. They are making the transition from childhood to young women; bodies and brains are changing and hormones run rampant. There may be increased stressors from family about educational decisions and peer pressure around sex and drugs. Paired by the guidance counselors at Northern Middle School and Southern Middle Schools, there are currently 17 pairs of mentors and mentees who meet regularly (most weekly) during the school year for time to talk and connect. The agenda for these conversations is set by the pair, who may also connect via phone and/or text in between meetings. Social activities are also coordinated for the entire group at least once in the fall and spring. In December 2018, the pairs attended a performance of "White Christmas" at the Cumberland Theatre in



Cumberland, MD. This spring, there will be a Paint Night activity and later a Bowling Night for any of the pairs who can attend. All fees for these activities are paid for by AAUW-Garrett Branch from monies earned by the branch members and mentors. This project is coordinated by Linda Carr, AAUW-Garrett Branch Vice President.

Girls Who Code in Garrett County:

Members of the AAUW-Garrett Branch convened an exploratory committee to evaluate the possibility of bringing Girls Who Code, a national organization aimed at increasing the interest in and skill in computer coding and programming in elementary school and middle school girls – and ultimately women college students and young professional women. Led by AAUW-Garrett Branch members, the exploratory committee included representatives from Garrett College, the Garrett County Public Schools, Garrett County Public Library, and women engaged in technical careers. Branch members always saw their efforts as being a catalyst for bringing this organization to Garrett County. While we are still in exploratory conversations, there is at least one Girls Who Code Club that has started at Northern Middle School and hopefully another to start soon at Southern Middle

School. Our goal is to possibly have workshop and summer camp opportunities in the 2019-2020 school year. Stay tuned! This exploratory committee is chaired by AAUW-Garrett Branch member, Maxine Shindel.

Revival of the Women’s Monologues:

The AAUW-Garrett Branch offered a Women’s Monologues program during the 1990’s, where branch members portrayed women of history by reading a monologue about them in the first person. The mantle for coordinating and organizing the Women’s Monologues program was taken up by Dr. Terry Kasecamp at Garrett College, who included the program as part of her Psychology of Women class for many years. Dr. Kasecamp would later become the faculty advisor for the AAUW Student Chapter at Garrett College. The Women’s Monologues were last given at Garrett College in 2015, and when it looked like they would not be offered again this year, Judy Carbone, AAUW-Garrett Branch President, took responsibility for the program and partnered with our local community theatre, Our Town Theatre, Oakland, MD, to offer the Women’s Monologues. Fourteen women, approximately half of whom are AAUW-Garrett Branch members and affiliates, portrayed women from the four waves of the Women’s Rights Movement from the mid-1800’s until today. On March 28, 2019, the performance was attended by about 90 people and by all accounts was a resounding success! There is already talk about ideas for the Women’s Monologues next year.



From top left, then in rows, left to right:

- Elizabeth Cady Stanton (Sadie Liller)
- Sojourner Truth (Kate Brodie)
- Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell (Sue Lisanti)
- Susan B. Anthony (Rose Gordy)
- Alice Paul (Maxine Shindel)
- Eleanor Roosevelt (Betty Pritt)
- Betty Friedan (Patty Wells)
- Dolores Huerta (Gloria Salazar)
- Gloria Steinem (Liz Williams)
- Ruth Bader Ginsberg (Kam Gillespie)
- Nancy Pelosi (Linda Herdering)
- Emma Watson (Lillia Rose)
- Tarana Burke (Kate Brodie)
- Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (Kim Alexander)

and opening and closing statements given by “Rosie the Riveter” (Judy Carbone).

Other AAUW-Garrett Branch Activities and Accomplishments in 2019:

- Sponsorship and installation of a Little Free Library in Spring 2018 at the Oakland Train Station, near the End-of-the-Line Bookstore, April 2018.

- Given by the Garrett County Wedding Planners, the Belle Soiree event raised funds and attention for the GEMS Mentoring Project. GEMS mentees were invited to a pre-soiree make-up and hair session and then attended the soiree with their mentors, May 2018.
- Annual AAUW-Garrett Branch summer picnic was held, providing an opportunity for scholarship winners and their families to attend and meet branch members, June 2018.
- Presentation of plaque for Marilyn M. Moors, past branch president and founder of the bookstore, installed at the End-of-the-Line Bookstore on the side of the boxcar. The presentation was well attended; her family was there and expressed appreciation, July 2018.
- Offered several Cocktails & Convos events, at which new members could join AAUW. One was held in July 2018 at Mountain State Brewery and another was held in February 2019 at Moonshadow Café.
- AAUW-Garrett Branch was represented at the Maryland Commission for Women Listening Tour & Survey Report session in Baltimore, MD, by branch president, Judy Carbone, August 2018.
- Sponsored a bookmark making activity at the End-of-the-Line Bookstore as part of the first annual Garrett Reads Festival. At least 5 groups of approximately 30 elementary-school children participated. September 2018.
- Students from AAUW-Frostburg State Student Chapter and an AAUW-Garrett Branch member attended the Maryland AAUW Fall Conference in Bethesda. It was the first fall conference in many, many years at which Garrett County was represented, October 2018.
- Judy A. Carbone, AAUW-Garrett Branch president, was selected as the 2019 AAUW Maryland Woman of Distinction, October 2018.
- AAUW-Garrett Branch president and vice-president were featured on a local radio show, “A Closer Look”, which aired on WKHJ and its affiliate stations locally on two weekends in March 2019.
- AAUW-Garrett Branch hosted the 2019 AAUW-Maryland State Convention, held at Wisp Report at Deep Creek Lake, MD, on April 13, 2019.
- On April 12, 2019, the evening before the state convention, held at Ace’s Run Restaurant, a 70(+3) anniversary celebration was held for AAUW-Garrett Branch, which was founded in 1946.



AAUW-Garrett College Student Chapter president, 2017-18, Angela Lowry (left) and vice president, 2017-18, Kalynn Eyley (right) with Judy Carbone, AAUW-Garrett Branch president. Angela (now at Frostburg State) and Kalynn (now at West Virginia University) received 2018 Mary Blair Whytsell Transfer Scholarships.