



Representing all of Anne Arundel County, Maryland
annearundelcounty-md.aauw.net

December 2014 Newsletter

THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Mary McGrath and Gail Viamonte

Well, that was quite a book sale! So many activities at one time and so many members swarming the site to organize and sell all the books. It was quite a scene. Every one of you should be very proud of yourselves for a job very well done. Thank you Roxann King, Stacy Hilder, and Rita Strom for putting it all together to make it happen. Thanks to MaryLynne Neil for the book sale publicity. We had lots of good coverage in the local papers. And thanks to all the members who gave your time to cover the shift you signed up for, and in addition, continued to just stop by and give us extra help. Many of you also brought your family and friends who gladly helped. Lastly, thanks to all the extra people, members and family, who showed up at the Sunday cleanup. By Monday morning when the tables were picked up you would never have known we were there at all. All for scholarships for deserving women who will someday be our next generation of leaders.

This year when we developed our goals we saw a need for all our members to jump on the technology bandwagon to run our organization. At the national level they have done pretty well in that regards. Here at our branch level, we have a little more work to do. As you know we have developed a new website, which taps into the national site. No sense in duplicating our work when we can pool our resources. The new site is in its infancy and will be developed further by our new web manager, Roxann King. We encourage all of you to review the site: annearundelcounty-md.aauw.net and help

develop it by suggestions of what you need and want for our site. Send your suggestions to Roxann. All of the old information was transferred to the new site. Our new site has the national links for legislation, fund raising, public policy and more to tap into and to keep abreast of our AAUW mission. The branch site is easy to access and is open to the public. Roxann will develop the member page at which time you will have to register to access. The member page will have important information only our members need to know.

In addition to our branch website, the national website: aauw.org, has set up accounts for all AAUW members. All of us are responsible for keeping our personal data in our accounts up to date. Once you are in the national home page, click on Login. If you haven't registered yet, it will prompt you to do so. Then just follow directions. Once registered you will have access to the Members Service Data (MSD) base. Individual members can use the MSD to update their member record and contact information (except name changes contact connect@aauw.org), make a contribution, and track their membership and giving history for tax purposes. Additionally, branch members can view their branch member roster and leader contacts. If you have registered at national already, you know what to expect. Use the site regularly to familiarize yourselves with all topics and how to access the information and resources. If you haven't registered at national, do so soon.

Our goal is to have all branch members registered and familiar with using both websites by the end of this year. If you need help, just contact Mary

McGrath or Gail Viamonte. We can walk you through it.

Our holiday luncheon is rapidly approaching. See you all there.

Book Sale Afterthoughts...and a Date for Celebrating! Roxann King

Our November Book Sale has a way of bringing our members, their families and their friends together. Between fifty and sixty of our members participated in collections, sorting, setting up, and breaking down the book sale. On the last day, about 30 branch members and their family members turned out to box and load the unsold books, which earned an additional \$900 from a used book seller in Frederick. After taxes and expenses we will show a profit of about \$10,500 to fund our operations and educational grants next year.

We collected as many books as ever this year and the books were in good condition. Sales were behind by about 30% on the first day, due to fewer new titles being available to the dealers, a likely result of more people using electronic books. Raising bag prices on the last day helped to offset the first day losses. We still have a sure thing with our sale.

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Fedder Management Corporation of Owings Mill, Maryland, for allowing us the use of the Festival at Pasadena property for the fourth year in a row. It has been a great site for the book sale with lots of visibility and foot traffic in the area.

We also thank Arnold Pet Station, and Bank of America, at locations on Davidsonville Road in Crofton and on Jumpers Hole Road in Severna Park, for the use of parking spaces on collection day.

Finally, we thank Lucia St. Clair Robson, our branch member, for the use of her small garage from July through October for storing boxes of books; our publicity chairperson, Mary-Lynne Neil, for doing an incredible job of spreading the word; and committee member, Rita Strom, for her leadership. We had at least a dozen other coordinators of all the different chores and we are grateful to you for stepping up again and again to make this book sale happen.

We have set a date for members and guests to celebrate the conclusion to a successful book sale over dinner or snacks: **Monday, January 26, at 6 p.m. at the River Bay Roadhouse, 1374 Cape St. Claire Road, Annapolis.** RSVP to Roxann (roxann.king1@verizon.net, 410-431-7166) or Stacey (stacey861@verizon.net, 410-647-7041). We will send a reminder in mid-January. Thank you very much for all of your support and ideas.

Stacey Hilder and Roxann King, Book Sale Co-Chairs.

2014 Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

The conference was held late this year, on Saturday, November 15, anticipating attendance by new House and Senate members following the election: at least 10 members of the Maryland House of Delegates and Senate attended. The first part of the meeting was led by Senator Catherine Pugh, Baltimore District 40, and Delegate Kathleen Dumais, District 15, Montgomery County. They emphasized face-to-face contact with the proper legislators as the best tool for promoting bills. For Senate bills, you need to contact your senator. But for House Bills, the persons to contact are the committee members considering the bills.

Organizations and Individuals can Sign-On to support the MLAW legislative agenda by going the MLAW website, <http://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/>. Our branch is a member of MLAW and we get 1 vote towards deciding which issues MLAW will support this year. We can also join as individuals and get a vote (\$35, available on website). Finally, we should LIKE the MLAW Facebook page, so that our friends and family become aware of the issues. MLAW members vote in early December to decide which of the bills under consideration will be supported this year. Only bills with a likelihood of passing are considered for support. In the twenty years that MLAW has existed, it has supported 73 successful legislative bills. Four bills supported by MLAW were passed last year.

Here are short summaries of the bills being considered this year:

- Akin's Law: This bill would permit termination of the parental rights of a rapist when a child is conceived as a result of rape. Victims would be required to meet a

clear and convincing standard of evidence, the same standard used for other termination of parental rights cases.

- **State Personnel – Limits on Use of Leave for Birth, Adoption, Foster Placement, or Care of Child:** This bill would allow State employees full benefits of the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) when both spouses are employed by the State, as experienced by other employees no both employed by the State. Instead of sharing one benefit, both would have the benefit.
- **Paid Family and Medical Leave in Maryland:** This bill requires Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation to conduct a feasibility study and apply for any related federal funding. Currently employees in Maryland may take up to 12 months of FMLA leave without pay. This study would analyze best practices and the economic impact of paid FMLA leave.
- **Domestic Violence – Protective Order – Additional Relief:** This bill expands the ability of the judge to order additional relief for a petitioner, such as insurance continuing to be paid, or other as the judge deems appropriate.
- **Protective Orders – Relief from Victims of Dating and Sexual Violence.** Currently protective orders are limited to persons who have lived together for 90 days in the past year. The bill expands protective orders so that police can protect other victims of dating violence or sexual violence who are not living together, who currently can only be protected by peace orders (mild restrictions).
- **Maryland Earned Sick and Safe Leave Act:** This bill has a severe impact on women. Half of working mothers miss work when their child gets sick. Food service and personal care workers in particular risk losing their jobs if absent. This bill would require Maryland employers to allow workers to earn a certain number of annual paid sick and safe days. (Safe days allow workers to go to court to file or apply for restraining orders.)
- **Midwife License Bill:** This bill creates a way to license and regulate Certified Professional Midwives and increase access

to safe home birth for Maryland women who desire it.

To be endorsed by MLAW, a bill must address a women's issue through the legislative process, have a sponsor in the legislature and an identifiable lead group that will shepherd the legislation, and have a reasonable expectation of success.

Appeal to our Philanthropists...

Part of our national mission is philanthropy in support of equity in the workplace and in education for women and girls. If you wish to contribute personally to any of our branch award funds, send a check payable to AAUW Anne Arundel County Branch to our treasurer, Sharon Halligan, 2707 Summers Ridge Road, Odenton, MD, 21113. The three funds are listed below. If you do not specify a fund, then your donation will be distributed 50%, 25%, 25%, respectively, which is the rule our branch has determined for distributing branch award fund monies.

- **Women-to-Women** awards to local women with needs for pursuing higher education;
- **Transfer Scholarship** awards to Anne Arundel Community College graduates transferring to a college or university;
- **AAUW Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)** awards, presented by the national AAUW organization to women for graduate education or research related to women's issues.

You can also specify your donation towards scholarships to the annual **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)**, held annually at University of Maryland in College Park. We annually fund participation by one or more student leaders from our local colleges.

ON PUBLIC POLICY

By Pat Strott-Wheatley

As the year draws to a close and we prepare for Holidays, don't forget the many, many other things we must continue to think about and concentrate some of our efforts on if we want to continue to stand for sensible changes in Public Policies, both on the federal level and the state level.

On the national level, AAUW puts out a newsletter called "Washington Update". It is an internal communication for members of the public policy leadership and members of AAUW. If you have not seen it come into your email, please request your own subscription at AAUW, 1111 16th. St, NW; Washington, DC 20036, or go online to the main website to request it. The advantage of it is that it keeps you up-to-date on what bills are being discussed and voted on (or not) in both the House and the Senate. And don't forget to express your opinions by way of the Two Minute Activist on the main web page.

Of course, many of the bills and ideas advance at a glacial pace, (as members of the Lobby Core can attest to) so that year after year things like The Equal Pay Bill, also the bill that would allow some paid leave time for women who must take off work to care for a sick family member; making college loans more affordable etc, etc. reappear to be considered.

Now, this is really important! We each can register what we would like the AAUW Public Policy agenda for the year to address. Each year some changes are made in it and this is what drives all of our efforts at the national, state, and local levels. So, from right now through Dec. 5, you can go online and comment on the proposed changes in our platform. The Public Policy Program is voted on before the National Convention in June. (You can find these proposed changes at aauw.org under Public Policy Program).

On the Maryland state level, our branch is registered as a member of MLAW (Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women). There are two meetings per year when we members (any of us) can attend, meet many of the legislators, and hear the laws proposed by members of the Maryland State House and Senate. To support any of these bills, face to face contact is best for members of the House and those on the committee considering the bill. For bills being considered in the Senate, you must directly contact your state Senator. For the Fall Meeting on October 14, Roxann King attended as our representative. She reported that it was well attended and included at least 10 legislators who support Women's Issues. In her report, Roxann also posted the links and the substance of each of the

laws being proposed for women and families. We will explore most. However, since this article has gone on for so long, I think I will break these seven proposed laws into the next two newsletters so you can have a little more time to "cogitate" on each and decide what you want to contact your legislators about as the political year goes on.

I, personally, wish each of you – old members and new – a warming Holiday Season!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Alice Harrison

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Holiday Luncheon on Saturday, Dec. 6 at the Mezzanotte restaurant on Ritchie Highway in Severna Park. Please do respond to Dot Gibson as soon as you can to let her know that you are coming and maybe bringing a guest. Please include your check for payment too. Deadline is Monday, 12/1.

If you have been a sponsor of one of our new members, please invite them to the luncheon. Or, if you would like to be a friend to one of our new members and you see them at one of our functions (Holiday Luncheon perhaps), please introduce yourself and offer to help them get acclimated to our AAUW camaraderie.

If you would like to join the membership committee, please get in touch with Markonette Richardson, markonette.richardson@gmail.com or Alice Harrison, awharrison@yahoo.com (Co-Chairs). We have an excellent group of people (Helen Neville, Polly Wilson, Judy MacGregor, Alice and Markonette), but, we could use your help. The more the merrier!

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND

Sigrid Dorf

It will soon be time for us to make our contribution to EOF for 2014. With our 2013 contribution we increased the amount in our Sheila Kiefer/Severna Park Research and Projects Grant and with this we honored three of our members who contributed a great deal to the branch during the 2013-14 year. Those recognized at the May brunch were Claire Motley, Pat Eggleston, and Bea Atkinson. Thank

you to all of them, and many others, for all of the work they do.

Each year our grant helps sponsor a student or group to further their work for women and Girls. The recipient for 2014-15 is Shanee Frazier who is attending the University of Maryland in College Park. Pursuing a master's degree in the chemical sciences has always been one of Shanee' Frazier's goals, and now it is a reality. Though she has never left the educational field, she is currently working to return to teaching so she can touch as many lives as possible. Frazier has also started a program and business management company with a group of friends called The Blazing Project.

The application process for the 2014-15 recipients is now closed and the selection process is beginning. This is a rigorous project with many applicants and limited fellowships and grants. Fellowships and grants will be awarded for American Fellowships, Career Development Grants, Community Action Grants, International Fellowships, International Project Grants and Selected Professions Fellowships.



Shanee Frazier

YOUR BRANCH NEEDS YOU!

Mary McGrath and Gail Viamonte

Following are two job descriptions for your information to help you determine your

volunteering. They are for the EOF/LAF position and the Historian position. My (Mary McGrath) phone number is 410-280-9768, email is mary@bugeye.net. Sigrid Dorf, the current chair of EOF/LAF, can be reached at 410-255-8330, email is myrondorf@comcast.net.

Feel free to call either of us to answer any questions you may have regarding the EOF/LAF position. Sigrid indicated that the EOF/LAF position can be worked from anywhere in this world that you can access an internet browser. So, if you travel for your work, or are a snow bird to warmer climates you can still do the work.

I was the web manager for several years, one of which I cruised on my boat circumnavigating the eastern part of the US and Canada. During that time I worked the site as if I was back home. I think you can do this with both positions. However, historian will need some time at home. Maybe you can form a committee with a friend.

Please give these positions some serious thought. We need your talent and innovation. Thank you!

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUNDS (EOF) CHAIR

The Educational Opportunities Funds Chair is responsible for publicizing the Association programs of the American, International, and Selected Professional Fellowships, Research and Projects awards and community grants, and the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund. Her duties are stated in the Branch Handbook and the Association Leadership Handbook.

As Chair of the EOF Committee, she should choose a committee by September and include the Branch Treasurer on the committee.

1. Keep the membership aware of, and interested in, all the EOF Programs through:
 - a. Newsletter articles and other publicity
 - b. Branch meeting announcements
 - c. Special programs and events

2. Encourage the channeling of funds to the EOF in preference to other areas to ensure the success of the Branch Research and Endowment.
3. Be prepared to assist applicants for EOF Project grants and maintain rapport with EOF award recipients in the area.
4. Keep a running list of Named Gift honorees and distribute to Historian and Board.
5. In November call a specific meeting of the EOF Committee to determine to which Fellowship/Endowment Branch monies should be designated, and submit these recommendations to the Board at the December Board meeting.
6. In January, call a meeting of the Committee on Named Gift Awards, the committee consisting of the Educational Opportunities Fund Chair, three past presidents, and the current president.
7. Reply to State communications and submit monies and a report to the State EOF Chair by the designated date.
8. Make presentation of Named Gift certificate(s) at the May meeting.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND (LAF) CHAIR

The first chair was appointed in 1992. The Chair will:

1. Focus on educating the members and community through Newsletter articles and verbal reports on how LAF provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.
2. Encourage financial support to this non-profit corporation of AAUW.

HISTORIAN

The Historian is responsible to the Branch and to the Board for maintaining a proper record of Branch activities for the delight and education of the current

and future membership. She should work closely with the Publicity Chair, the Board, and the membership to ensure that all items of activities, interest, and recognition relating to Branch members are permanently filed. Other responsibilities of the Historian are below.

The Historian is responsible for writing a brief history of the Branch each biennium which is submitted for approval at the August Board meeting. The history is based on the biennial reports of chairs.

The Historian shall:

1. collate and maintain the scrapbooks in acid-free materials;
2. each biennium, add to the Branch historical records at the AA Co. Historic Center according to preservation principles;
3. set up a means for members to use the records at the AA Co. Historic Center.

MORNING BOOK GROUP

The morning book group will meet on December 3, 2014, at 10:30am. Host and discussion lead is Teresa Gilbert. The book is *Eighty Days* by Matthew Goodman.

EVENING BOOK CLUB

By Sam Hackman

The book for our next meeting is: *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton. Stacey Hilder will moderate and Sam Hackman will host on Wed., Jan 21st at 7:30 PM.

Read the Amazon description below of our January book selection: A spellbinding tale of mystery and self-discovery, *The Forgotten Garden* will take hold of your imagination and never let it go. Please feel free to join our group for any of the following meetings also:

Feb 18th: *The Scarlet Sisters* by Myra Macpherson
 March 18th *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd

Contact samhackman@hotmail.com for further details.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Cheryl Menke

Greetings Everyone!

A huge THANK YOU to Kay for organizing the luncheon and to Dot for creating the flyer, collecting the money and always advertising our events!! Hope everyone is attending the holiday luncheon on Dec 6. Delicious food, drinks, and friends!! I am still in desperate need of entertainers, singers, dancers, AAUW. How about AAUW's GOT TALENT?? I will be in Denver from Nov 25-Dec 1 with sporadic email access but please call 443-221-3338 if you can help!! This is not my area of expertise--believe me -I cannot sing so I need leaders!

As you read on the luncheon flyer we will be collecting clothes and gifts for 8-12 year olds. I appreciate all your efforts, generosity, and contributions for them. However, I thought I would make one more quick request...Would you would like to make two 5 year old boys Christmas extra special? I would love some toys and clothes for two of my students at Edgewater if you have some extra time (and money!)...

Mario just arrived in Edgewater this summer after an 8 day long bus ride from El Salvador. His mother made the trip alone with him because Mario has a speech impediment and she was having no success with the doctors there. He is the most personable young man and wants so desperately to

communicate and we are working on having him evaluated. Funds are tight for them and Mom is busily cleaning houses and marinas. I would love to make his first Christmas here special.

Robert is Chinese. His Dad is here for a year working at SERC (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.) Mom is here, too, and is trying to learn to drive. They do not have a car yet. Robert has learned so much English and is a high achiever with a great sense of humor. They are from Nanjing. I would love to make Robert's only Christmas here special.

I know we all have special people in our lives...just wanted to share two of mine.

More thoughts:

The ALS Boutique is Dec 7 in Annapolis-- always a beautiful gift show for a great cause.

I am thinking of South River Colony Golf Clubhouse for next happy hour in January. Very warm and cozy in the winter. Is it too far???

Thanks to everyone who turned out at the Chop House. There were about 15-16 of us, plus a few guests. Great to see everyone enjoying interesting conversations, snacks and libations!

Have a peaceful and warm Thanksgiving.
Cheryl 443-221-3338.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 12/6 – Saturday – Holiday Party, Café Mezzanotte, 11-2 p.m.
- 12/3 – Wednesday – Morning Book Club – Teresa Gilbert will host, 10:30 a.m.
- 1/14 – Wednesday – AAUW Board Meeting, Pat Strott-Wheatley's, 7:30 p.m.
- 1/21 – Wednesday - Evening Book Club – Sam Hackman will host, 7:30 p.m.
- 1/26 – Monday – Post Book Sale Celebration – River Bay Roadhouse, 6 p.m.



AAUW Annual Holiday Luncheon

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

CAFÉ MEZZANOTTE RESTAURANT

760 RITCHIE HIGHWAY, SEVERNA PARK (410-647-1100)

Holiday greetings to all our members!

It's the time of year when we join together for a holiday celebration at our annual holiday luncheon. It is also the time when our thoughts turn to others and their needs.

This year "Good Neighbors" has suggested clothing gifts for 8-12* year olds. If you wish to participate, either purchase gifts and bring them unwrapped to the luncheon or donate money for gifts at the luncheon to be purchased and delivered by us to "Good Neighbors".

***Please note change in age group of previous flyer.**

Looking forward to seeing you!

A Special Holiday Luncheon buffet will be served featuring: chicken parmigiana, salmon imperial and penne marinara accompanied by mixed green salad, vegetables julienne and mini cannoli with your choice of soft drinks, coffee or tea. A cash bar will be available throughout the lunch.

RSVP due to Dot Gibson by Monday, December 1**

2002 Peggy Stewart Way #203, Annapolis, MD 21401

dotjgibson@comcast.net, 410-266-8930

****Please let Dot know you're coming. An accurate count is important!**

Y N I will attend (Name) _____
Y N I am bringing # _____ guests.
Y N My check for \$ _____ made to AAUW is enclosed at
 \$30/person.