



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

January-February 2015 Newsletter

THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Gail Viamonte and Mary McGrath

Happy New Year Everyone! Well, it's time to get back to work and fun. We are looking forward to our 2015 schedule of events.

For starters I'd like to tell you about a Christmas present we all received. Terry Saylor has volunteered to be our new branch historian. She has been involved with our historical records in the past and has lots of knowledge regarding our branch history. We are looking forward to working with you, Terry. Thank you ever so much!

Our first event is a fun trip to DC on Saturday, February 28th. We will visit the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington DC. Contact Cheryl Menke to tell her you are joining the group. Then on March 9th we all gather at Woods Church in Severna Park to enjoy a panel of women speaking on the topic of "Women Who Have Inspired Me."

On February 12th the MLAW Legislative Reception and Briefing will be held. These briefings are very informative as they lay out the legislation that will make up the 2015 Legislative Agenda. The event is free. However, it is necessary to register. See MLAW notice below.

We trust many of you have tapped into our branch website and browsed the national website for resources available. Have you checked out your account to make sure all info is current? What did you find missing on our branch website that you would like to see? New members, our website will

inform you about AAUW's mission and inspire ideas of how you can participate in the work ahead of us including within our local branch. We would be very interested in hearing about all your experiences using the websites. Just contact Gail or Mary, or any member of the Board to provide feedback.

We are still in need of a chair for the EOF/LAF committee, currently chaired by Sigrid Dorf. Contact your Co-Presidents or Sigrid to volunteer. Thanks!

See you on Saturday, February 28, at the National Museum of Women in the Arts!

Join Us!

MLAW's Legislative Reception & Briefing Thursday, February 12, 2015

Please join us for MLAW's Annual Legislative Reception and Briefing. This is your opportunity to meet us in Annapolis to learn about the legislation that will make up the 2015 Legislative Agenda and to meet with legislators to discuss issues important to women.

There is no charge to attend the event, but please register early as registration is limited. Also, please only register if you are sure you can attend. Last year's event "sold out" and we had to cut off registration. We'll do our best not to turn anyone away!

To register go to: <http://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/>.

The briefing and reception will be held on February 12, 2015 from 4:30 - 6:30 pm in the President's Conference Center West in the Miller Senate Office Building located at 11 Bladen Street in Annapolis. Please be sure to bring photo identification in order to enter the Senate building. There are several parking garages located near the Senate building, as well as metered parking throughout Annapolis. You also may park at Navy Stadium and take the shuttle to the Miller Senate Building.

For more information, email us at: mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com or call 443-519-1005.

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women's groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent, voice for Maryland women and families. The group advocates for progressive legislation and policy that promotes and protects the well-being of Maryland women and their families and provides them opportunities to develop their full potential.

ON PUBLIC POLICY (January 2015) By Pat Strott-Wheatley

This month, we will first discuss the issues and bills of interest to the goals of AAUW on the National level. As we all know there was a bit of a turnover in the elections and now both the House and the Senate are controlled by the Republicans. That may make it harder to find compromises, but some of our representatives and Senators have pledged to try to work together more effectively. The second section will discuss what is going on in the State of Maryland mostly as tracked by MLAW, the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

NATIONAL

This information is managed and communicated to the Public Policy Chairs by Anita Rosen anitarosen123@gmail.com and Deborah Swerdlow (The Grassroots Agency Coordinator) for AAUW National. Together they keep everything before our eyes to pass on to the membership so that we can act on what we each feel concerned about.

Each month Deborah Swerdlow sets up a nationwide policy conference call. This past month more than 80 Public Policy Chairs took part in it. The main topic was about how and when to set up meetings with our elected officials if we want. Many resources are available to help us at: www.aauw.org. (How to structure the meeting, voters guides, etc.) Deborah stressed the best times of the year to attempt such meetings: Jan. 29 (the anniversary of the Lilly Ledbetter Act); Feb. 16-20 (Presidents' Day Recess); Feb. 23-27 (Week stressing Higher Education); April 14 (Equal Pay Day). For assistance from National Office, fill out the AAUW upcoming policy events form <http://bit.ly/UpcomingPolicyEvents>. On this form we can request free material and staff support. And then we can let National know how the meeting went! <http://bit.ly/AAUWEventForm>. This gives our branch an opportunity to "toot our own horn" a little! Also of National concern; keep an eye on the proposed EDUCATION BILL and use the "2 minute activist" to register any concerns.

STATE OF MARYLAND

"The MLAW (Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women) Board of Directors reviewed the results of the December balloting and identified the issues that will comprise the **MLAW Legislative Agenda 2015**. Our branch is a member of MLAW. (See the description of MLAW on P. 1-2 in the Presidents' column. The issues selected are listed below and described in more detail on pages 2 and 3 of our December branch newsletter. Also these issues are described in detail on the MLAW website.

- **Midwife Licensure**
- **Protective Orders – Relief for Victims of Dating and Sexual Violence**
 - **Akins Law**
- **Domestic Violence –Protective Orders – Additional Relief**
- **Maryland Earned Sick and Safe Leave Act**
- **State Personnel – Limits of Use for Leave for Birth, Adoption, Foster Placement, or Care of Child**
 - **Paid Family and Medical Leave – Feasibility Study**

The most powerful advocacy tool for the Agenda is Your signature as a supporter.

Organizations and individuals are invited to sign on as a supporter of the 2015 **MLAW Agenda**. We also encourage you to invite your friends and colleagues to sign on. A list of supporters will be attached to the document before it is distributed to legislators and the public, as well as included on our website. Then the document will be released at our Legislative Reception and Briefing and will be distributed to all legislators.

Cooperative action is the basis upon which MLAW operates. One voice is important but the collective voices of many impacts public policy and enables advocates and legislators to demonstrate concern and support for issues of importance to women.

To add your name, download a Sign-on form, or simply email your name exactly as it should appear to mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com Please send that signature of support by 1/9/2015.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Alice Harrison

Please think about who you would like to invite to one of our many activities. Our visit to Washington, D.C. to the Women's Museum of the Arts is coming up at the end of February. In March we'll have a meeting that will include local women discussing "Women Who Have Inspired You". The STEM program spearheaded by Judith MacGregor, jamacgregor101@gmail.com is already in planning stages for this event in the fall at Anne Arundel Community College. The scholarship committees are busy getting ready to determine this year's awardees. Planning for the 2015 book sale starts very soon, too.

In short, there are many upcoming times when we'll be together. These are opportunities to bring a friend or a colleague to introduce them to our branch. We also have our regular activities such as the Lunch Bunch, our Book Club groups and our Great Decisions Discussion group. So, who is that lucky friend of yours that we have not yet met? The next Cocktails and Conversation get-together will be

announced soon and that's just one more chance to invite someone along.

Daytime Book Club
By Pat Eggleston

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 4, at 10:30 a.m. The book we will discuss is *The Sandcastle Girls*, by Chris Bohjalian. Teresa Gilbert will host the meeting and lead the book discussion. As always, any branch member is welcome. Please contact Teresa at tsunshineg@verizon.net if you plan to attend.

AAUW Evening Book Club
By Sam Hackman

The book for our next meeting is: *The Scarlet Sisters* by Myra Macpherson. Sam Hackman will moderate and Barbara Marder will host on Wednesday, February 18th at 7:30 PM.

Read the Amazon description below of our February book selection: "*A fresh look at the life and times of Victoria Woodhull and Tennie Claflin, two sisters whose radical views on sex, love, politics, and business threatened the white male power structure of the nineteenth century and shocked the world. Here award-winning author Myra MacPherson deconstructs and lays bare the manners and mores of Victorian America, remarkably illuminating the struggle for equality that women are still fighting today.*"

Please feel free to join our group for the following meeting also: March 18th *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd.

Contact samhackman@hotmail.com for further details.

Leadership, Service—and a Lot of Fun!
By Gail Viamonte

When I was offered the opportunity and privilege of working with others in a leadership capacity of our branch, I was both honored and apprehensive! I was encouraged by very convincing leaders. They spoke warmly of the strong collaborative spirit of committee participants and other branch members, who regularly committed to branch success. My

encouragers gave examples of the many talented hands and minds that contributed a skill, an expertise, a portion of time (or, in some cases, a garage, SUV, or truck!) towards the achievement of one or more Branch projects and goals.

What about you?

Think about seeking office. Positions will be announced shortly. You'll find yourself extremely fortunate in getting to know folks who are accomplished and accomplishing--witty, creative, knowledgeable, and welcoming.

Offer a skill, specific activity, or portion of time. You'll find yourself engaged in worthwhile and significant projects that are stimulating to you and significant to others, at the local, state, and national levels.

Contact a Member of the Nominating Committee, Board, or any Board Committee member. Names and contact information for Board and Committee members can be found on the first few pages of the 2014-2015 Membership Directory.

Eighth Annual "Lift Every Voice" a Rousing Tribute By Gail Viamonte

Thanks to Cheryl Menke's keen eye and encouragement regarding programs of potential interest to branch members, a number of us braved the cold-but-clear weather and were warmly rewarded. "Lift Every voice" at St. John's College, Annapolis, was, in fact, the eighth annual such event in honor of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. Introduced by slides evocative of Dr. King's accomplishments, the concert included lively music from Gospel to Folk. If you were like us, you found yourself clapping along to the beat, giving loud applause, and particularly marveling at several groups that began within families and now perform as professionals, regionally and beyond. What talent, energy, and wonderful music!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1/26 – Monday – Post Book Sale Celebration – River Bay Roadhouse, 6 p.m.

2/4 - Wednesday – Daytime Book Club – Teresa Gilbert, hostess – tsunshineg@verizon.net – 10:30 a.m.

2/11 – Wednesday - AAUW Board Meeting – Pat Strott-Wheatley, hostess – pbsw@comcast.net – 7:30 p.m.

2/18 – Wednesday – Evening Book Club – Barb Marder, hostess – scubaesc@aol.com – 7:30 p.m.

2/28 – Saturday – trip to National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C. - led by Cheryl Menke – camenke2@hotmail.com – details to follow.

3/9 – Monday – AAUW Regular Meeting at Woods Church in Severna Park – Topic: "Women Who Have Inspired Me" in honor of Women's' month.