



Representing all of Anne Arundel County, Maryland

[annearundelcounty-md.aauw.net](http://annearundelcounty-md.aauw.net)

## November 2014 Newsletter

### LETTER FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

#### THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Gail Viamonte and Mary McGrath

Lots of activity this month.... Our October political forum was a very interesting evening. We want to thank all of the volunteers that helped make the evening so successful. Our branch was well represented including all the volunteers that handed out question cards and collected the questions later, the members who set up and staffed our AAUW table, and those that attended specifically to learn more about the candidates running for county supervisor.

We received a note today from Carolyn Ciepiela and her Committee at the League of Women Voters. Carolyn's note says, "A special thanks to AAUW for your many volunteers who not only helped at the Candidates' Forum but gave us some valuable publicity. It was great working with you. I hope we can keep up that tradition."

Now, it's time to turn all our efforts towards our book sale. By now I'm sure many of you have signed up for specific shifts starting on the 31<sup>st</sup> to set up the books at the site, and for the days of the sale. If you haven't yet, please take the time to do so. Stacy and committee have been very busy collecting books from the area libraries to add to our collection. See you all at the site. Don't forget membership night where you have the benefit of starting early on your book shopping. We will have refreshments as usual.

December 6<sup>th</sup> is our holiday luncheon at Mezzanotte. Come join us and start your holiday celebration with some fun and food. Don't forget to bring a friend.

Your branch still has two positions to fill. They are LAF/EOF and Branch Historian. To give you an idea of what is involved in these positions, we have attached the job description for both. The LAF/EOF position must be filled before Sigrid leaves us giving her enough time to train the new chair. It is a very interesting position and will provide you with a wonderful opportunity to join in the work of your branch. Our historian position is also interesting and will give you an opportunity to learn more about AACo Branch.

#### AAUW of Maryland State Meeting

Gail Viamonte

Our state AAUW provides many benefits for the local branches throughout the course of the year. They provide ongoing leadership training, support to the branch counterparts for each position, such as the LAF/EOF and public policy chairs, and provide information on the legislation they are supporting at the state level. The branches in turn have a responsibility to the state to send representatives to their board meetings and conventions, as well as participate in the trainings provided.

Several of us attended the State Board meeting on the October 18<sup>th</sup>: Markonette Richardson, Judy Flood, Gail Viamonte and Mary McGrath. Judy is state treasurer, Markonette is state VP for Programs, and Roxann King is state membership

chair. AACo Branch is well represented this year. However, we came back with some homework to do which will involve other members of our branch.

The AAUW 2015 State Convention will be held on April 25, 2015 at Montgomery College in Rockville. Each branch is asked to select their members as delegates to the convention. Our branch membership allows us several delegates. Please consider becoming a delegate representing our county.

A second activity is to provide a person from our branch to serve on the state nominating committee for the state board of director's spring elections. We will have more information soon regarding this position. It will be a great opportunity for you to meet and work with AAUW women at the state level.

A third responsibility we have as a branch is to support the leadership training sessions put on by the state by attending each training. Our branch has funds to help pay for members to attend these sessions. It would be wonderful if we could send at least two (or more) representatives to the sessions held each year. This training will add to your leadership skills, which in turn can be a great benefit to our branch.

Contact your co-presidents, Gail Viamonte at [gev24@earthlink.net](mailto:gev24@earthlink.net), or Mary McGrath at [mary@bugeye.net](mailto:mary@bugeye.net).

## **ON PUBLIC POLICY**

By Pat Strott-Wheatley

As usual there is a lot (almost too much) to say on these topics! America is a busy place, with lots of differing opinions, and AAUW want to be sure our opinions are noted.

As our stickers say "It's my vote, and I will be heard." First of all, let's mention some of the events which help us to decide and to show forcefully that we support the issues that are listed as AAUW priorities.

## **On the State Level**

As you know we have interim elections coming up in less than a week. Early voting begins on Oct. 23, and voting on the regular date is Tuesday Nov.4. It is a priority of ours to influence the number of people who vote! It's called "Get out the Vote" and the importance of that phrase to our democracy cannot be stated strongly.

To that end, we just recently co-sponsored a "Political Forum" on the topic of the two (men in this case) who are seeking the office of County Executive of Anne Arundel County. Our co-sponsors were The League of Women Voters and the Jewish Women's organization of Anne Arundel County. The idea of such a political forum or debate is to help to influence the election by letting the candidates hear what you think; by asking them questions that cause them to share their visions so that the voter does not go into that voting booth "blind". Our candidates (Steve Schuh-R) and (George Johnson-D) certainly were well questioned, and those who were able to attend said it was a very enlightening evening! We had a turnout of about 70 to 80 people. Thanks to all who helped to make it possible.

The only other race in Maryland at this time (beside local ones) is the big one for Governor of the State. And in that race we have Anthony Brown -D (who presently holds office of lieutenant governor under Martin O'Malley) and Larry Hogan-R. Also on the State level, I want to make you all aware of the upcoming MLAW (Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women) fall meeting. It will be held on Sat., Nov.15 in Ellicott City and costs \$35 (includes breakfast) or \$45 (that includes lunch). Our branch of AAUW is a formal member of this important organization that addresses laws that affect women in our State, so any of our members is eligible to attend. To register contact: [mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com](mailto:mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com) or [anitarosen@comcast.net](mailto:anitarosen@comcast.net)

## **On the National Level**

- 1) The Violence Against Women Act was expanded to address campus sexual assault!

- 2) The Senate voted on the Paycheck Fairness Act, and the numbers advanced that somewhat.
- 3) The Senate rejected an (AAUW approved) campaign finance law.
- 4) A great deal of work needs to be done on changing some of the laws allowing a reduction or a stabilization of the interest of students. As we all know if the interest on them keeps rising with the market, it becomes almost impossible for a new graduate to ever get ahead.

Just so you will all have something to think about until next month!

### **PLANNING CONTINUES FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GIRLS STEM WORKSHOP**

Judith MacGregor

**Funding sponsor being sought.** We are currently focusing on several important parts of the workshop. A sponsor is being sought to fund the workshop, estimated to cost approximately \$5000. A potential funding company been identified and a grant has been submitted. Funding is a critical and essential step in the process. If anyone has any suggested sources to fund the workshop, contact Pat Eggleston [pat.eggleston@gmail.com](mailto:pat.eggleston@gmail.com) or Judith MacGregor [jamacgregor101@gmail.com](mailto:jamacgregor101@gmail.com).

**Branch member volunteers needed.** The ½ day STEM workshop will require approximately 25 branch volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering we will need guides, introducers, and hostesses. Email [jamacgregor101@gmail.com](mailto:jamacgregor101@gmail.com) or phone 410-991-9115.

### **HISTORIAN NEEDED**

Mary McGrath

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.

### **PROGRAMS**

Cheryl Menke

#### **Happy Halloween!!!**

THANKS SO MUCH TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE POLITICAL FORUM!!!!!! We had about 20 members there and 100 folks in the audience. A special thanks to Mary for bringing a basket of cards, Stacy for lugging in the water, and Roxann for bringing me a delicious sandwich! Both candidates appreciated the opportunity to speak and I thought the questions were thought provoking. PLEASE VOTE!!

**November 18---** Next C&C (Convos and Conversation) will be at the Chop House at Annapolis Towne Center above Bonefish from 5-7Pm. They have a terrific Happy Hour menu with small plates from \$7.00-9.00 and great drink specials. The management does not reserve tables for HH but if we have at least 8 people there at 5PM they will accommodate a larger group and seat us in one area of the bar. Please let me know who can make it by 5PM as the date approaches. I thought perhaps some folks who can't make Mondays could maybe make Tuesdays! It is the week before Thanksgiving and after the book sale so we can give thanks for another successful sale, visit with friends, and celebrate the Thanksgiving season (which gets lost between Halloween and Christmas!!) Maybe catch a movie afterwards...it is \$6.00 night!

**December 6--** Holiday Luncheon at Café Mezzanotte. Please read the flyers as they are sent out and respond to Kay Monk for reservations. Kay is handling the details for the luncheon itself and I am in charge of entertainment and choosing what we will be donating this year and to what organization. That is where you come in! Any ideas for entertainment or do you just want to continue the caroling tradition?? Any interest in an AAUW Who's Got Talent?? Any comedy acts, singers, musicians among us?? Would you like to collect and contribute to a family's holiday celebration this year?? There are just too many needy families. Please share your thoughts and ideas. 443-221-3338 my cell

**February 28—**Daytrip to Washington, DC and Women's Museum of Art-more details to follow in January.

Looking ahead to the March 9 meeting... Perhaps you saw CBS Sunday Morning last week and the charming story on the painted screens of Baltimore. Elaine Eff was featured. She started the Painted Screen Society of Baltimore and just published a beautiful cocktail table sized book about this folk art. I grew up in the middle of marble steps and painted screens in Baltimore and have been following the renaissance of this art. I was so excited to see the story on TV as I saw Elaine at the Baltimore Book Show in September and had already scheduled her for our March meeting and now she is a TV star!!

Be sure to save the date—March 9!

About 20 guests and members attended the C&C at the Chart House last month! We had great conversations, libations, and views of the harbor. Let's see if we can beat that number!

One last thought... there is a new art exhibit at the Mitchell Gallery at St John's College ...woodblock prints by Hiroshige. They are amazing! Be sure to check it out. There is a family program from 3:30-5:00 Oct 26 –I hope to stop by. Give a jingle if you want to join me. 443-221-3338.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Markonette Richardson and Alice Harrison

We'd like to introduce you to five new members. They are: Diana Larmore, Kathy Harris, Teresa Todd, Marla Read Capper, and Carolyn Bolling Hayes. Some of us met them at the Fall Luncheon.

Diana Larmore lives in Crofton. She is a graduate of the University of Texas with a BA in Fine Arts, in the journalism track. She also attended New York University.

Kathy Harris lives in Severna Park and is a close friend of member Polly Wilson. She graduated from Penn State University, attended Johns Hopkins and University of Maryland earning an MS.

Teresa Todd lives in Annapolis in the Cape St. Claire area. She is an architect who received a BA in architecture from the University of Arizona. She was recruited by Judith MacGregor.

Marla Read Capper lives in Severna Park. She holds a doctorate in education from the University of Virginia, which she earned in 2014! She was a member of AAUW in Charlottesville.

Carolyn Bolling Hayes is from Pasadena. She graduated with a BA (liberal arts) from the University of Massachusetts.

We welcome all of these fine new members. Please introduce yourselves when you have the chance.

## DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

Pat Eggleston

The next daytime book club meeting will be on Wednesday, December 3, at 10:30 a.m. at Teresa Gilbert's house. We will be discussing the book *Eighty Days: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History-Making Race Around the World*, by Matthew Goodman.

The list below details the books, hosts, and dates we have chosen for 2015:

**Date:** January 7, 2015

**Book:** *Sweet Water*, by Christina Baker Kline

**Hostess & Book Discussion Lead:** Mary McGrath

**Date:** February 4, 2015

**Book:** The Sandcastle Girls, by Chris Bohjalian

**Hostess and Book Discussion Lead:** Teresa Gilbert

**Date:** March 4, 2015

**Book:** Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital, by Sheri Fink\*

**Hostess and Book Discussion Lead:** Dorothy McGuinness

**Date:** April 1, 2015

**Book:** Me Before You, by JoJo Moyes

**Hostess and Book Discussion Lead:** Shirley Clark

**Date:** May 6, 2015

**Book:** A Crack in the Edge of the World: America and the Great California Earthquake of 1906, by Simon Winchester

**Hostess and Book Discussion Lead:** Pat Eggleston

**Date:** June 3, 2015

**Book:** Gilead, by Marilynne Robinson

**Hostess and Book Discussion Lead:** Maggy Cullman

**Date:** September 2, 2015

**Book:** The Presidents Club: Inside the Worlds Most Exclusive Fraternity, by Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy

**Hostess and Book Discussion Lead:** Mary Wittner

**Date:** October 7, 2015

**Book:** Members discuss recommendations for book selections for the following year

**Hostess:** TBD

**Book Discussion Lead:** Everybody

**Date:** December 2, 2015

**Book:** The Hummingbird's Daughter, by Louis Alberto Urrea

**Hostess and Book Discussion Lead:** Lynn Hapchuk

\* We will read I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban, by Malala Yousafzai for the March selection if members have trouble obtaining Five Days at Memorial from the library.

## Evening Book Club

By Sam Hackman

Read the Amazon description below of our November selection:

"*The New York Times* bestselling author John Hart raved that "If you like stories of good people struggling to do right in the world's forgotten places, there is no one better suited than **Corban Addison** to take you on the ride of your life." In ***The Garden of Burning Sand***, Addison, the bestselling author of *A Walk Across the Sun*, creates a powerful and poignant novel that takes the reader from the red light areas of Lusaka, Zambia, to the gilded chambers of the Washington, D.C. elite, to the splendor of Victoria Falls and Cape Town."

Please feel free to join our group for any of the following meetings:

Nov 19<sup>th</sup>: *Garden of Burning Sands* by Corban Addison

Jan 21<sup>st</sup>: *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton

Feb 18<sup>th</sup>: *The Scarlet Sisters* by Myra Macpherson

March 18<sup>th</sup> *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd

Contact [samhackman@hotmail.com](mailto:samhackman@hotmail.com) for further details.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday	05-Nov	Pre-Book Sale meeting at Book Sale site, 7-9 p.m.
<b>Wednesday Nov. 5 through Sunday Nov. 9 Annual Book Sale</b>		
Wednesday	12-Nov.	Board Meeting at Dot Gibson's, 7:30 p.m.
Monday	17-Nov.	Deadline for Newsletter articles
Tuesday	18-Nov.	C&C at Chop House in the Parole Center, 5-7 p.m.
Saturday	06-Dec	Annual Holiday Party – Mezzanotte – 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Mary McGrath has given us our new website address. It's in the heading of this newsletter. Take a look at it. There's lots of good information on our website!  
Also, please print out the following flyer about our Book Sale and distribute it to places for posting. Thanks!

# It's that time of year again!

Time for the



# FALL BOOK SALE

**Sponsored by the  
American Association of University Women  
Anne Arundel County Branch**

Join this annual partnership with the community on ...

**Thursday, November 6th**

**8:00 AM – 10:00 AM Public Pre-Sale \$10.00 entrance fee**

**Thursday, November 6th**

**10:00 AM to 8:00 PM**

**Friday, November 7th**

**9:00 AM to 8:00 PM**

**Saturday, November 8th**

**9:00 AM to 6:00 PM**

**Sunday, November 9th**

**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**(Bargain Day-Buy Books by the Bag!)**



**Festival at Pasadena  
8151-D Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, MD  
(in the BJ's Shopping Center next to East West Bistro)**

Further information is available:

Roxann King 410-431-7166 roxann.king1@verizon.net

Stacey Hilder 410-647-7041 stacey861@verizon.net

Thank you to Fedder Management Corp, Owings Mills, MD for the site location.