



annearundelcounty-md.aauw.net

## January-February 2016 Newsletter

### THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Mary McGrath and Gail Viamonte

Happy New Year everyone! We do hope the blizzard of 2016 was mostly a fun event for you all. Now that we are dug out, it's time to return to AAUW activities. We have in front of us a C&C or two, three meetings of business to conduct and some wonderful programs to enjoy. Also, there are the MLAW events and the NCCWSL conference. Our Branch's 50th anniversary year is being celebrated throughout the year and at our May meeting.

The Nominating Committee is beginning their work to fill all open board positions for next year. Our new policy of rotating positions means there will be one person needed for each of the following positions: President, Program VP, Membership VP, and Secretary. In addition, the Nominating Committee will need five new people. They will be calling within the next few weeks. So think about where you want to contribute your talents and expertise. Better yet don't wait for their call, contact them. The committee members are: Roxann King, Kay Monk and Dorothy McGuinness.

Our Branch has traditionally operated on a committee basis and we have set ourselves up to return to that format. It makes the work so much easier and our membership so much more meaningful when we are involved. Each member is expected to be on at least one committee over time, if you are not on the Board. The standing committees are: program, membership, scholarships, public policy, and book sale. This anniversary year we need a special committee to join our historian, Terry Sayler, to gather 50 years of

branch activities and present them to our members at the May Luncheon. Terry has a pretty good start and can use help planning the event.

Do you know how the money flows through our branch? Find out by reading Gail's article in this issue, her first in a series, on branch income and expenditures.

There is a lot happening in the public policy arena. See Roxann's write-up on related events.

Lastly, our STEM program was a great success, thanks to the vision and leadership of Judith MacGregor and all the AAUW volunteers that made it happen. Particular thanks to Gail Viamonte for her extensive collaboration with the school district and AACC and her lead on the parents' panel. See the Sunday Capital, January 24th article about our STEM event. It is a great article including pictures of the girls having fun learning about STEM work and careers. Last but not least, thanks also to Kathy Arias for her publicity efforts both before and after the event.

### AAUW Legislative Update

By Roxann King

Sign up to list yourself as a supporter of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women this year by completing [this simple online form](#) before February 5. Our Branch is a member of MLAW. MLAW is a coalition of individuals and groups in Maryland that determine each year which bills they will support that promote the well-being of women and families in Maryland. Last, most bills supported by MLAW became law. Details for the

bills below that are being supported this year can be found at the [MLAW website](#). The Maryland legislative bills being supported this year are:

- \***Equal Pay for Equal Work**
- \***Fair Scheduling Act of 2016**
- \***Maryland Healthy Working Families Act**
- \***Stalking, Harassment, Misuse of Electronic Communication or Interactive Computer Service**
- \***Rape Survivor Family Protection Act**
- \***Expansion of Maryland Vacating Convictions Law for Survivors of Human Trafficking**
- \***Family and Medical Leave Act Insurance Program**

Two annual events mark the beginning of the legislative lobbying efforts for women in Maryland.

- **Maryland Women's Legislative Briefing** will be held on Sunday, January 31, from 12:30 to 6 p.m. at the Universities at Shady Grove. Hundreds of advocates, policy makers and leaders from around the state gather to plan action and discuss issues related to women and girls. Attendance cost \$25. You can [click here](#) for details and to register.
- **MLAW** will hold its annual **Legislative Briefing and Reception** on Tuesday, February 16, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Miller Senate Office Bldg. in Annapolis. It is well attended and tickets are free, but you need to register now. [Click here](#) to register.

Please let me know if you plan to attend either of these events so that we can plan to carpool or meet there at: ([roxann.king1@verizon.net](mailto:roxann.king1@verizon.net)). Both events are well-attended by AAUW members from different branches around the state.

Also, Anita Rosen, our state public policy vice president, wrote this week: "Take a look at current proposed legislation in Maryland for our current session in Annapolis related to education. There are several very good bills to support, including issues around age appropriate education, around sexual assault and abuse legislation (MD H 72) and "around educational loan assistance to orphans and children in foster care."

Currently \$6 of the local dues that you pay to our Branch annually is returned to the national AAUW to support efforts to shape national policy. AAUW does this three ways. It supports research, collects and disseminates data that influences better enforcement of already existing laws (like title IX) and that promotes

new legislation supporting women's issues. AAUW is often called to testify when women's issues are brought before congressional panels because AAUW has the data.

AAUW biannually polls members about which issues it will support. Then on Thursdays, when Congress is in session, AAUW's Lobby Corps (which includes several of our active members) visits congressional offices lobbying specific issues each week.

Finally, AAUW provides legal aid to support plaintiffs in lawsuits that focus on critical women's issues, as in its support for the victims of sexual assault in the military with their lawsuits.

Information about current activities is available in AAUW's Action Network newsletter, which sends out information about legislation and action items fairly often while congress or the Supreme Court is in session. Here are a few items from this week:

- A conference call on February 3 at 7:30 for members willing to deliver the new Department of Education Title IX materials to schools in their area. To register for the free conference call [click here](#).
- AAUW has started a Get Out the Vote (GOTV) campaign for 2016 with a webinar recently. The recording from the session is available [here](#). If you would like to coordinate a GOTV campaign in our branch, you can sign up [here](#). Information of events, deadlines, and materials will be available soon.

That's enough for now. You can sign up to receive the Action Network newsletters or the Two Minute Activist on the AAUW website at:

<http://www.aauw.org/?s=Action+Network>.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

**By Roxann King**

The nominating committee for this year is currently Roxann King, Dorothy McGuiness and Kay Monk. Two members have had to resign recently.

Last year, changes were made to our bylaws to stagger co-positions for each of the major offices. (For this first year the President, when elected, will be serving alone until a co-President is elected next year.) Every year from next year forward, we will be electing a

co-President, a co-Vice President for Programs and a co-Vice President for Membership for two year terms. Mary-Lynne Neil, current co-VP for Programs will continue to serve her second year with the incoming co-VP for programs. Membership VP, Diana Larmore, elected last year, has recently had to resign, and so that VP when elected will be serving alone until a co-VP is elected next year (note there is a supportive committee in place for membership). A secretary for our branch must be elected, with one year remaining in the current term. Five members need to be elected to the nominating committee, three for terms of two years and two for one-year terms. Descriptions of position responsibilities can be found in branch documents page inside the "Members Only" page at our branch website: [annearundelcounty-md.aauw.net](http://annearundelcounty-md.aauw.net). (**The password for this website will be sent in the email where this newsletter was attached.**) The "Members Only" page also includes our members' directory, minutes from branch and board meetings and our branch documents such as by-laws and board and branch policy documents.

Branch board meetings are monthly from August through June currently on the third Wednesday, with no meeting in December and conference-call meetings when inclement weather prohibits gathering. The monthly board meetings are open to the membership and are also attended by committee chairpersons for the educational awards funds, the book sale, public policy, communication, publicity and the STEM activities. There are other committee heads that attend occasionally as needs arise. If you are interested in joining our board of directors or think that perhaps you might be convinced into doing so, speak with one us or talk with one of the current board members. The contact phone numbers for the nominating committee members are:

Roxann King, 240-472-1408  
Dorothy McGuinness, 410-757-7416  
Kay Monk, 410-295-1631.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have considered joining the board or have another member to recommend. We have a big task and need your help this year. Thank you.

## **!!STEM RESULTS!!**

By Judith MacGregor

Editor's note: Many thanks to Judith for her herculean effort! I have previously emailed two different ways to

access this fine January 24 Capital newspaper article including pictures to the membership. I hope all of you were able to open one of them and read it. Dot

## **PHILANTHROPIC**

By Roxann King

### **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: Dianne Dezio, 8607 Wintergreen Ct., #403, 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 how our Branch has determined the distribution of 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.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

By Alice Harrison

Soon we will have our March and April meetings and then spring will be upon us. It's time to think about whom you might invite to our meetings or our spring luncheon in May. We have quite a few new members and we always have room for more. We are a great group of individuals.

Who do you think might enjoy joining our ranks? If you would like to have a membership form, there is one included at the end of this issue. You can print it from

this digital version. Remember, dues are a little more than half price in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year as long as the person comes to an advertised event. That means that dues for a new member are \$45.50 for the rest of the year.

## TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS

By Barbara Marder

Transfer Scholarship recipients for the current year continue to show excellence in their academic work and college participation. Abigail Anderson, studying elementary education at Notre Dame University in Baltimore, received a perfect 4.0 GPA in her first term there. Teisha Miles, pursuing community leadership at the University of Baltimore, received a 3.7 GPA in her course work while excelling in community activities. She has been honored additionally by being invited to MC the Martin Luther King Awards Breakfast at Anne Arundel Community College this year.

Both young women are fully enrolled for the spring term and have received the second half of their scholarship awards.

The applications for the 2016-17 Transfer Scholarships are ready for distribution. We will again be able to offer two scholarships of \$1500 each. While smaller than many years, these grants will aid potential leaders in their final undergraduate years.

Applications are currently available from Barbara Marder: [scubaesc@aol.com](mailto:scubaesc@aol.com) and will be on the website shortly. Members are asked to encourage worthy candidates to apply. Applicants must be entering their junior year at a four year college or university, have attended Anne Arundel Community College, have a GPA of 3.0 or higher, and show evidence of civic responsibility and leadership potential. Please note: pending or recent high school graduates are not eligible for this scholarship. The deadline for completed applications is April 1. Recipients will be announced at the May brunch.

The committee still is seeking new members as this year will be the final term for all current members. All have served for several years.

## OUR AAUW BRANCH BUDGET

By Gail Viamonte

### Title: Do You Know Where Your Money Comes From and Goes To?

*This is the first in a series of brief articles meant to support members' understanding of our Branch's income and expenditures, in anticipation of budget votes. Numbers reflect approximation at the time of this newsletter. Treasurer Dianne Dezio efficiently and accurately manages the Budget. A detailed copy of the Branch budget is reviewed monthly at Board meetings and is audited yearly. For questions or to suggest related topics of interest to yourself and other members, please contact Gail Viamonte [gev24@earthlink.net](mailto:gev24@earthlink.net) or 410 279-3879,*

The robust activities of the Anne Arundel Branch of AAUW act to solicit funds and then apply them to a variety of mission-oriented purposes. Where does our Branch funding come from? Where does it go? Did you know?

- ✓ When an individual joins or renews, of the \$70 paid by a regular member, \$49 goes to the National Office, \$10 to the Maryland State AAUW, and \$11 to the Anne Arundel Branch. While membership numbers evolve during the fiscal year, at the publication date of this newsletter, our Branch has 73 regular members (and 7 Life members). This accounts for \$803 of our Branch's operating budget.
- ✓ Individual donors (thank you!!) also support the Branch—this year, financially, to the amount of \$256. There is no way to calculate the monetary value of in-kind time and energy offered by officers, committee chairs and members, and members-at large (and spouses and friends) who do anything and everything to support Branch activities.
- ✓ Our largest amount of funding is derived from the wonderfully orchestrated, highly successful Annual Book Sale, which this year netted an over-the-top \$14,000. These funds are the primary source for our three scholarship programs.
- ✓ Scholarships also receive designated financial support, both individual and organizational (thank you!!), such as this year's donations from The Cottage (Severna Park) and generous AAUW Branch Members
- ✓ Special Projects solicit and benefit from organizational donors. STEM Girls Count! remains especially grateful to Outreach Process

Partners, LLC and Rockwell Collins—as well as to Anne Arundel Public Schools and Anne Arundel Community College for in-kind contributions. These funds are kept separately for support of the STEM initiative.

- ✓ The Branch Holiday Project, in which the Branch “adopts” an organization to support fulfill previously identified needs, such as clothing, etc., also acts as a self-funded project. Contributions collected from generous participants at the time of the December Holiday Luncheon and spent by our designated, energetic, and canny shoppers and gift-deliverers are warmly welcomed by a charitable organization, identified annually.

In the next newsletter, learn more about how these funds are expended to accomplish Branch and National goals.

## **ANNE ARUNDEL AAUW BRANCH HISTORY**

By Terry Saylor

Fifty years ago, on July 6, 1966, the Severna Park Branch of AAUW was granted recognition by the national association. The road to the charter began on March 28, 1966 when more than 55 women met with the AAUW State President and Vice-President at the Severna Park Methodist Church to learn about forming the Branch. When the charter was granted there were 28 members, including Joyce Letaw and Eva Gustafson, still members today. By the end of the year the branch membership had grown to 88. The first branch president was Mrs. Paul J. (Sheila) Kiefer, Jr. Remember, those were the days when married women were known by their husband's name. Sheila would be our president once again from 1990-1992. (This article is in honor of our Branch's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year!)

## **EVENING BOOK CLUB**

By Sam Hackman

The book for our next meeting is: ***“A Spool of Blue Thread”* by Anne Tyler.**

Roxann King will host and Francie Boyce will moderate the meeting on Wednesday, Feb 3 at 7:30 PM. Our meetings will be held the first Wednesday of each month. Read the review below of the book:

“It’s pretty clear that Anne Tyler is comfortable with the art of storytelling. From the first lines of *“A Spool of Blue Thread”*, there’s an urge to sit back and settle into the cadence of her words. (Amazon review)

We have selected these books for the following months:

*“Boys in the Boat”* by Daniel Brown

*“The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry”* by Rachel Joyce

*“The Aviator’s Wife”* by Melanie Benjamin

*“Between the World and Me”* by Ta-Nekisi Coates

Please feel free to join our group! For further details, contact Stacey Hilder at: [stacey861@verizon.net](mailto:stacey861@verizon.net).

## **DAYTIME BOOK CLUB**

By Alice Harrison

The next meeting of the Daytime Book Club will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> at the home of Alice Harrison, 107 Duval Lane, Edgewater, 410-956-5140. The book we will be discussing is *“Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus”* by Nabeel Qureshi. The discussion will be led by Polly Wilson.

The book for March is *“Under the Starry Sky”* (about Robert Louis Stevenson) by Nancy Horan. In April we will read *“The Art of Hearing Heartbeats”* by Jan-Phillipe Sendker. In May it will be *“My Beloved World”* by Sonya Sotomayer. And in June it will be *“The Wright Brothers”* by David McCullough. The Daytime book group will not meet in July and August.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 3 – Wednesday** – Daytime Book Club – Alice Harrison, hostess – 10:30 a.m.
- February 3 – Wednesday** – Evening Book Club – Roxann King, hostess – 7:30 p.m.
- February 8 – Monday** – Chinese New Year celebration – Court of Shanghai – TBA
- February 17 – Wednesday** – Board Meeting – 7 p.m. - Dot Gibson’s house – 2526 Painter Ct., Annapolis (in Heritage Harbor)
- February 29 – Monday** – Leap Year Cocktails and Convos – South River Golf Course Club House
- March 14 – Monday** – AAUW Regular Branch Meeting – 7 p.m. – Woods Church, Severna Park
- March 16 – Wednesday** – Board Meeting – 7 p.m. – Kathy Arias’ house – 1112 Ridge Pl., Crownsville, MD
- April 11 – Monday** – AAUW Regular Branch Meeting – 7 p.m. – Woods Church, Severna Park
- May 7 – Saturday** – Annual Year End Luncheon – 11 a.m. – Chartwell Country Club, Severna Park

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF RUTH LATIMER, ONE OF OUR LONG STANDING MEMBERS**  
 (TO OUR NEWER MEMBERS: RUTH PASSED AWAY IN DECEMBER, 2015)



**RUTH AT AAUW SP BRANCH 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY. 5/4/91**



**RUTH ON HER WAY TO LUNCH BUNCH JUNE, 2003**



**RUTH AT AAUW BRIDGE LUNCHEON, CHART HOUSE, MARCH, 2015 (RUTH’S 92<sup>ND</sup> BIRTHDAY)**

**AAUW- Anne Arundel County Branch  
2015-16 Membership Form**

Welcome to AAUW/AACo Branch! **NEW MEMBERS**, please fill out this form completely. **RENEWING MEMBERS**, please fill in your name and any changes, including address, cell phone and email address. This form will be the source of information for the branch directory and for contacting volunteers. Mail the form with a check to the branch Treasurer, Dianne Dezio, 8607 Wintergreen Court, Unit 403, Odenton, MD 21113. Make checks payable to AAUW-AACo . If you have any questions, email Alice Harrison at awharrison@yahoo.com

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ New\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Education: Degree, College/University, State (please include **year** degree(s) received \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Dues** (July 1 through June 30)

Branch Member \$70 (National \$49\*, State \$10, Branch \$11)

Life Member \$21

Dual Member if AAC is Primary \$21

Dual Member if AAC is Secondary \$11

Student Member \$21

\* half price (\$24.50) if joining within two weeks of an AAUW public event, plus \$21.00 = \$45.50

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**DONATIONS** In addition to my membership I am including my donation to help increase funds for AAUW scholarships. Use the funds for any or all of the scholarships \_\_\_\_\_ as needed. Use the funds as indicated below.

\_\_\_\_\_ AAUW Educational Opportunities Funds

\_\_\_\_\_ Anne Arundel Community College Transfer Scholarship

\_\_\_\_\_ Women to Women Grants for area women

**(Explanation of each fund is located below)**

**AAUW Educational Opportunities Funds** provides funding for graduate women to further their studies, to work to improve their schools and communities, and to further opportunities for women and girls.

**Anne Arundel Community College Transfer Scholarship** awards for one year to female students who have attended Anne Arundel Community College and who are transferring to or continuing at an accredited four-year institution of higher learning.

**Women to Women Grants for area women** provide funding for Anne Arundel County women to improve their access to careers by empowering them with education. Awards are given to women returning to complete their degrees as well as those starting and continuing their education toward Associate, Bachelor and Master Degrees.