



Representing all of Anne Arundel County, Maryland
aauwmd-annearundelcountybranch.org

December-January, 2016-17 Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

By Gail Viamonte and Laney Forge

Greetings! We hope you are enjoying the holiday season. We know there are many events to attend, but we encourage you to let yourself relax and enjoy the joy and cheer with your family and good friends. Our December Holiday Luncheon was a great success, with forty of us attending and enjoying each other's' company. The food was delicious, the singing was fun and the holiday mice and moose decorations were great door prizes to get us in the mood of celebrating and being a little silly. It was so special for us to see you all together and sharing your personal news with each other. We followed that event up with a Cocktails and Conversation get together on December 8th at Café Normandie. Even though the weather was cold, we enjoyed our stroll around town during Midnight Madness. We hope to have more events like this where we can be together to laugh and enjoy our wonderful friendships. Many thanks to our program committee, headed up by Mary McGrath and Cathy Crowley. They have some interesting programs planned for 2017, so we hope you'll join us for our meetings this coming New Year.

On December 6th, Mary McGrath, Laney Forge, and Gail Viamonte presented our AAUW donation, collected at our luncheon, to the Annapolis Youth Services Bureau, a program that provides, among other services, counseling and mental health assistance to the youth and their families here in Annapolis. They also provide a holiday celebration for approximately 150 families, with gifts for the children and a delicious meal provided by the

Marriott Hotel. Your amazing generosity allowed us to donate \$745 to assist them in their efforts for the children. Gail and Laney beamed as Mary presented the check to a smiling and teary-eyed Assistant Director, Phyllis Collins. She was so grateful for the love and caring that you, as a member of AAUW, demonstrated by contributing your donation. So, many thanks to all of you!! And Happy New Year... we wish you all the best in 2017!

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

By Mary McGrath and Cathy Crowley

Our Holiday Luncheon was a great success based on the feedback we got from members. It was lots of fun! Many thanks to our Program Committee members: Noel Eller, Robin Hembree, Martha Swift, and Cheryl Menke. Our ad hoc committee member for this event was Laney Forge who decorated the tables and provided our free raffle prizes. Thank you Laney... Also, a big thanks to our musical director, Maggy Cullman, who provided perfect pitch in leading our annual holiday caroling. A job well done by all! [Pictures follow at end of newsletter.]

On December 8th, Cheryl Menke led a Midnight Madness C&C at Cafe Normandie on Main Street, Annapolis.

Our mid-winter and spring C&Cs will be held in January and April. Check your emails often for notice of time and place. Hope we see you all there as you recover from your holiday celebrations and start your spring cleaning.

In February we are planning a trip to the Baltimore Museum of Art with lunch at Gertrude's Restaurant at the museum. More info to come later.

Speakers lined up for the spring members' meetings: **March:** Lucia Robson, Branch member and Historical Author. Topic: her career and more info about some of the historic women she writes about. **April:** Dr. Anne Spence, Aeronautical Engineer and Professor at UMBC. Topic: her career and things she is currently working on including her STEM work. (Thanks to Robin Hembree for this referral.) **May:** Elaine Flynn, Actor, will bring us Alice Roosevelt Longworth and the Washington scandals of her time.

We look forward to seeing you all at our spring meetings.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Niv Roy Ghatak

We are very happy to welcome 6 new members to our AAUW Anne Arundel Branch. They are Katie Barbour, Alexis Viegas, Janice Holmes, Linda King, Marsha Taylor, and Ashley Schaeffer.

A little more about these accomplished ladies: Katie Barbour was introduced to AAUW by new member, Martha Swift. Katie has a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Towson University and a Master of Information Management from University of Maryland. Katie lives in Annapolis and is a Sr. Program Support Specialist at Rockwell Collins ARINC. In her spare time, she helps her Mom's non-profit organization by coaching kids. Katie told us she wanted to get involved with another organization that also helped the community. We are honored you chose us, Katie!

Laney Forge, Judith MacGregor and Roxann King were representing us at the AACC Women's Fair in September. Alexis was one of the students who expressed her interest in AAUW and won a free student membership sponsored by Judith MacGregor. Thanks, Judith! Alexis has a BS in Political Science and History and she is working on a Master of Public Administration and Policy degree from American University in D.C. Alexis also lives in Annapolis and she is a Paralegal and Public

Policy Specialist. Alexis' profile on the Commissioners page of the Commission for Women for AA County mentions that she "...serves as an executive board member of the Annapolis Jaycees and frequently dedicates her time to volunteering and fundraising for many causes." It adds, "Alexis is extremely passionate about the health and well-being of women and families and hopes to spend her time with the Commission making our County a great place for women to live and work!" (Wow, what an amazing fit with our branch mission!)

AAUW member, Cindy Neseth, introduced Janice Holmes to us. Janice lives in Severna Park and has a BS in Agricultural Science from Auburn University, AL, and MA in Multilingual Multicultural Education from Florida State University. I had the pleasure of meeting Janice at the AAUW Used Book Sale in November. Only one pile of selected books was stacked higher than that of my entire family's – and that was Janice's – and she was still going strong! I should have realized – Janice is the co-owner of The Annapolis Bookstore at 53 Maryland Avenue. Everything I have read about The Annapolis Bookstore sounds wonderful – a home away from home for us bibliophiles. Someday, we hope AAUW becomes our home away from home, Janice! Linda King learned about us through the AAUW book club and actually filled out her application at our November book sale. Linda is a retired owner of a software business for construction companies that she ran for 30 years. She started out as a software trainer for the business and then one day management decided to shut the doors and lay everyone off. Linda and 6 other colleagues turned around and bought it – the rest is history! Linda has a BS in Accounting from University of Maryland and an MBA from Loyola, MD. Linda moved to Arnold last year and loves our greater Annapolis community.

Many of us met Dr. Marsha Taylor at the Holiday luncheon. I didn't realize it then but Marsha can correct my grammar at every spot in this article. (Oops!) Marsha has a BA in English from University of Massachusetts in Boston, an MS in Applied Linguistics from Georgia State University, as well as a PhD in HRD / Educational Policy Studies from GSU. Plus, Marsha works as a writer/editor. (By the way, did I mention Marsha's hand-writing is to die for?) Marsha lives in Pasadena and actually learned about AAUW from her aunt. Thanks for joining us

for the Holiday event, Marsha! Hope you had a great time with Stacey Hilder and others at Table #2!

Our newest member is Ashley Schaeffer whom we also met at the Holiday Luncheon – at her first hour as member! Michele Hauf, another of our fearless Book Sale leaders sponsored Ashley and Ashley has volunteered to lead the next STEM event for Anne Arundel elementary girls with Judith MacGregor. In fact, Ashley was already meeting with Judith and Michele and making plans by the end of the Luncheon! Ashley has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She lives in Pasadena and is a Community Planning Manager with Lennar Homes. STEM girls need role-models and leaders like you, Ashley. Thank you.

With Ashley, we are on our way to adding 20 new members to our roster this year. We could not have done it without all of you who invited friends, families and acquaintances to AAUW events; donated bookmarks and new member fees; collected and sold books; distributed flyers and brochures; and just talked about your support for AAUW to everyone you know! Thank you!

We will be posting the new directory shortly with the contact information of all our members. Please introduce our new members to your committees and interest groups.

To conclude, we have some fun news about the Membership Committee's own Jaya Aswani. Jaya and Dusty Johnson were married in a beautiful Indian ceremony on November 12th in Alexandria. Congratulations, Jaya and Dusty, and enjoy the honeymoon!

Thanks, Guys!!!
By Gail Viamonte

Across the many activities of Book Sale preparation and mop up—book collection, carton hauling and storage, book sorting, book selling, sales floor set up and deconstruction, carton crushing, and truck loading—worked a noble band of men. One smilingly referred to himself as, “a member of the AAUW Men's Auxiliary.” Thanks to these gentlemen for contributing to the success of the Book Sale and “going above and beyond the call” of familial responsibility!

The noble band included: Luke Hauf (Michele Brillon Hauf); Dave Hilder, Andy Hilder, and Matt Hilder (Stacey Hilder); Dave Kane (Mary McGrath); Bob King (Roxann King); Todd Rogers (Colleen Kane); and Neil Winner (Gail Viamonte).

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 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, College Park. We annually fund participation by one or more student leaders from our local colleges.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE By Mary McGrath

It's that time of year when we think of next year's new leaders. The nominating committee starts work in early January. Be prepared to volunteer your time and talent in 2017-2018.

Each year we elect one co-president, one co-programs vice president and one co-membership vice president. In addition, anyone who has served for two years and cannot continue will be replaced.

For those of you interested in learning more about the open positions, take a look at the job descriptions at our “members only” page on our website, www.annearundelcounty-md.aauw.net. Also, contact the current person in that position to learn more about details. When you step into these positions you will be working with your partner who has experience and can aid in your transition.

Committee members:

Mary McGrath mary@bugeye.net
Roxann King roxann.king1@gmail.com
Judith McGregor
Polly Wilson
Kay Monk

In addition to the executive positions there are numerous committees in which to volunteer your time. Our Membership Directory (located in the “members only” page of our website) lists all positions on pages 6-8. Take a look at them. There is the Executive Committee, Board Committees, and Community Action Committees.

Public Policy Update By Roxann King

Elections Milestones: In 2017, there will be **21 women** serving in the U.S. Senate — the highest number in history. The chamber will also feature a record number of women of color. Senators-elect Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), and Kamala Harris (D-CA) will be the first Thai American, first Latina, and first biracial woman, respectively, to serve in the U.S. Senate. They will join Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI), the chamber’s first Asian-American member, thereby quadrupling the number of women of color in the Senate.

This link will take you to the AAUW National Action Network: <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/> you can become a two-minute activist. There are twenty AAUW-supported issues currently posted there that could use your immediate support, including Campaign Finance Reform, Banning Salary History requirements for job applicants, support for Title IX... You may not

agree with every issue, but your support counts for those you endorse. AAUW members sent tens of thousands of messages of support to federal and state legislators through the AAUW Action Network in 2016. AAUW is currently taking a stand against the hate crimes that are pervasive following the elections. The Action Network online and the Lobby Corps visits to congressional offices, in addition to occasional testimony in front of congressional committees, are the tools used by AAUW to promote issues.

Issues supported by AAUW are proposed by members (deadline was December 5) and voted on bi-annually online during the **AAUW National Convention**. The convention will be held this year in Washington, D.C., on June 14-17. Registration has already opened with the best value available through January 14. Click here for details: <http://convention.aauw.org/>. Conventions are activism-oriented and great learning experiences. Our branch funds attendance by the presidents.

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women is still in the process of selecting the bills that it will support in the Maryland 2017 legislative session. As soon as these are known and a date set for the MLAW Legislative Reception in Annapolis, we will share this information with you. Several attendees at the Holiday Luncheon (Lee Harper, Maggie Cullman and Karen Roth) indicated that they would like to attend hearings on bills. At the advocacy training session in October, MLAW indicated that this is the most powerful way to encourage the success of bills. If you are interested in attending any hearings, contact Roxann King, 240-472-1408 or roxann.king1@gmail.com. In 2017, the Maryland General Assembly meets between January 11 and April 10.

Appeal to our philanthropists...

Donations to any of our AAUW Award Funds are always appreciated.

Specify:

Women-to-Women Awards, awards to local women with needs for pursuing higher education;
Transfer Scholarship Awards, scholarships to Anne Arundel Community College graduates transferring to a college or university;

AAUW Educational Opportunity Funds (EOF) awards, awards presented by the national AAUW organization for graduate education or research related to women's issues.

NCCWSL: National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, held annually in College Park in late May or early June. Our branch sponsors one or more attendees from colleges in Anne Arundel County each year.

If you do not specify a fund, 50% will go to Women-to-Women Awards, 25% to Transfer Scholarships and 25% to EOF Funds.

Make checks payable to: AAUW Anne Arundel County. Mail to our treasurer: Dianne Dezio, 8607 Wintergreen Ct., #403, Odenton, MD 21113.

Book Sale Bash in the New Year--

Join us in celebrating the end of this year's book sale with our annual Book Sale Bash at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 10, at the River Bay Roadhouse, 1374 Cape St. Claire Road, Annapolis. RSVP to: roxann.king1@gmail.com or stacey861@verizon.net.

We did well: our profit will exceed \$11,000 after all expenses. The exact amount should be available for the February newsletter. Books remaining from the sale were purchased by Wonder Books in Frederick and by Curmudgeon, a new book store in the Marley Station mall. About \$2000 supports branch activities for the next year, but the rest goes entirely to our three educational funds.

We acknowledge the support of members of our families and the community in making the sale successful. Fedder Management Corporation of Owings Mills, Maryland, donated the site again for the seventh year. (They have been very good to us!) The Bank of America on Jumpers Hole Road in Severna Park, the YMCA of Greater Annapolis in Arnold, and St. Philip's Episcopal Church on Bestgate Road in Annapolis allowed our collections at their locations, which turned out to be the biggest ever. Members Lucia Robson, Jeanne Hawn, Michele Hauf and Maggie Cullman allowed use of their garages for book storage. Cindy Neseth maintained the book sale Facebook page and contacted book dealers through BookFinders.com

for the public pre-sale on Thursday morning. Kathy Arias posted our publicity in the local newspapers. Thousands of books were presorted during July through October by members Terry Saylor, Barbara Marder, Stacey Hilder, Sam Hackman, Jeanne Hawn, Pat Block and Cindy Neseth. And the list goes on...parade participants, sorters, sale volunteers and the cleanup crew. Thank you one and all, and your family members and friends, who worked to make this sale a success.

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

Holiday Luncheon donations a great success!!

Each year at our annual holiday luncheon we collect donations for a local charity. This year we chose Annapolis Youth Services Bureau, a program under the umbrella of the Anne Arundel County Community Action Agency. Our members were asked to be generous and that they were. We collected \$745.00 for our youth. A wonderful response! Thank you all very much! Below is a picture of our presidents Gail and Laney presenting our donation to the Youth Services program staff Phyllis Collins, Administrative Assistant and fundraising drive coordinator, and Veronica Castillo, intern/mental health counselor and interpreter. Phyllis sends her thanks to all our members for your much needed contributions. Holiday wishes to you all from Phyllis and Veronica.



Veronica Castillo, Laney Forge, Phyllis Collins, and Gail Viamonte

EVENING BOOK CLUB

By Stacey Hilder

The Wednesday Evening Book club will next meet on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, at 7:30 pm at the home of Carolyn Bolognese. The book to be discussed is "Our Souls at Night" by Kent Haruf. On February 1, 2017, the group will meet at the home of Roxann King to discuss "The Art of Tough" by Barbara Boxer.

If you are interested in the complete list of books that will be read and discussed during 2017, email Stacey Hilder at: stacey861@verizon.net.

MORNING BOOK GROUP

By Mary McGrath

The morning book group will meet Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 10:30 am. Our host and lead is Teresa Gilbert. Our book is "The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommended" by Katarina Bivald. Please contact Teresa to tell her you are coming. Her phone is: [410-335-5870](tel:410-335-5870), her email is: tsunshineg@verizon.net. All branch members are welcome.

GREAT DECISIONS

By Terry Saylor

If you are interested in joining our discussion and watching a video on a topic of national/international interest, please contact Terry Saylor for more information (saylorterry2@gmail.com). Meetings are held in the morning from 9:30-11 at a member's home. Dates have not yet been set for 2017.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, 1/4 – Monday Morning Book Club – 10:30 am. – home of Teresa Gilbert. For further info see article in newsletter.

Wednesday, 1/4 – Wednesday Night Book Club – 7:30 pm. – home of Carolyn Bolognese. For further info see article in newsletter.

Tuesday, 1/10 – Book Sale Bash, 6 p.m. - River Bay Roadhouse, 1374 Cape St. Claire Road, Annapolis. RSVP to: roxann.king1@gmail.com or stacey861@verizon.net.

Thursday, 1/12 – Board meeting, 7 p.m., hostess, Laney Forge, 1564 Ritchie Lane, Annapolis, 21401 (Please note—Laney's new home is across the cul de sac from her previous one.)

January – C&C – TBD. Stay tuned for further information by email.

February – Day Trip – Baltimore Museum of Art and Lunch at Gertrude's Restaurant – Date and time TBD.

AAUW 2016 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
PORTRAITS



Laney Forge and raffle friends



Robin Hembree and Noel Eller



Niv Roy Ghatak and Mom June Roy Ghatak



Dot Gibson and Roxann King



Helen Neville and Mary Lou McCutcheon



Lee Harper and Sherry Little



Martha Swift



Judith MacGregor, Maggie Cullman



Kathy Harris and Polly Wilson



Michele Hauf and new member Ashley Schaeffer