



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

February 2017 Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

By Gail Viamonte and Laney Forge

Greetings to you all! As you return to your normal routines and commitments after a busy but fun holiday season, we wish you a healthy and productive 2017. And here it is almost Valentine's Day! Enjoy celebrating this time of love with the important people in your life.

The month of January has been a time when our Board has finalized our events for the spring of 2017 and has started to look at plans for 2018. Our Nominating Committee is working on a slate of candidates for the positions on the Board that will begin next July. Working with other officers of our Branch is a stimulating and fulfilling experience, and we encourage you to think about joining us for the 2017-18 year. Roxann at roxann.king@gmail.com is available to answer your questions and talk with you about particular positions. Our Branch has various other venues for developing your interests and contributing to our Branch. We hope you'll get involved. Remember, there are various ways and activities, large and small that allow you to express yourself AND enjoy the benefits of membership. Ask us—we'll help you find a good fit!

Here are a few of the events that have gone on so far this year and a few of the events that are coming up. On January 21st, several of us, including Laney, Roxann and Cheryl Menke, joined the Women's March in Washington D.C. to represent the Anne Arundel Branch of AAUW in demonstrating for equal rights for the women of the world. It was exciting to be there! On January 23rd, a more casual occasion, we met for Cocktails and

Conversation at Blackwall Hitch's happy hour. It was an enjoyable time of catching up with each other and enjoying delicious hors d'oeuvres. On February 16th, the Board will host a potluck for new members so that we can meet and get to know each other. We hope that all of our 23 new members will attend so that you can get to know our Board and one another. On February 18th, we will be taking a day trip to the Baltimore Museum of Art, an opportunity for sharing cultural enjoyment. Mary will talk about that in her column. The AAUW Maryland State Convention is coming up in April, and Markonette Richardson, from our Branch, is on the State committee to plan that event. The AAUW National Convention is June 14-17 in Washington D.C. Several of us will be attending these events and we would welcome anyone else who would like to join us. News from our AAUW National Board is that a Maryland On-line Community has been approved and they will soon be accepting on-line memberships for women who cannot attend Branch meetings.

Finally, we will be having evening meetings for our Branch at Woods Memorial Church in Severna Park in March and April. Mary McGrath and Cathy Crowley have planned speakers who will be interesting and informative. Please join us!

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

By Mary McGrath and Cathy Crowley

We are definitely off to a good start in 2017. At our first event of the year, our C&C on January 23rd, we had at least fourteen members in attendance, including five new members. There was much

enthusiastic conversation along with good food and drinks all evening. It was a good time and a perfect way to stay out of the wind and cold that night. Our next C&C will be in April, so keep an eye out for details later.

February is our cultural event month. We are planning a trip to the **Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA), on Saturday, February 18, 2017.** We will have a tour at 11:00am of their Special Exhibit by "Louise B. Wheatley-Timeless Weft". Group Tours are free for BMA Members and \$10 per person for non-Members. We will have lunch at Gertrude's after our tour. AAUW members are encouraged to bring a friend so that we have a minimum of 12 for our tour on that day. The Baltimore Museum of Art is located at 10 Art Museum Drive, Baltimore, MD. There is parking at the Museum. However, we recommend car pools for the trip, and we are happy to organize the pools. If you prefer to organize your own pool please indicate as such when you sign up. **TO SIGN UP FOR THE EVENT AND CAR POOLS** contact Mary McGrath at email: mary@bugeye.net, or cell/text at: 410-570-1279. To view upcoming BMA exhibits, go online to ARTBMA.ORG. Many thanks to Program Committee member, Robin Hembree, for organizing this trip.

Monday, March 13, is a regular Branch meeting. It will feature the presentation of next year's budget and slate of officers, and a talk by Branch member and author, Lucia St. Clair Robson.

Monday, April 10, is this year's last regular Branch meeting. After the membership approves next year's budget and slate of officers, the program will feature a presentation by professor of engineering at UMBC, Dr. Anne Spence.

April C&C: date and place TBD.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Niv Roy Ghatak

First of all, my heartfelt apologies to new members Lee Harper and Carolyn Bolognese for not introducing them to the rest of the membership earlier. Lee and Carolyn are active in our committees and interest groups, so I know that some of you know them already. Short bios follow.

Lee Harper became a member last summer, and in her own words, she had "delayed joining (AAUW) for 43 inexplicable years." Lee retired after a 26-year career in higher education which included serving in leadership roles at the schools of public affairs and also engineering in the University of Maryland. She has a BA from Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine and an MA, from the University of Maryland. Lee has authored many scholarly articles and papers related to topics such as higher education, diversity, equity and engineering. Lee continues to research in her areas of interest as an independent scholar. She lives in Annapolis.

It was great to see Carolyn Bolgnese again recently at the January Cocktails and Conversations in Annapolis. Carolyn was Judith MacGregor's guest at the September Membership Luncheon. (Thanks again, Judith, for relaying the AAUW message to your friends). Carolyn has a degree in nursing from St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing in Bethlehem, PA. She is a registered nurse and a retired owner and director of Bethesda Health Research. Carolyn is a member of one of our branch book clubs. She lives in Annapolis.

In addition, we are excited to welcome our 4 newest members – Lisa Hennessey, Amelia Ozemoya, Christina Simkanin and Briayna Cuffie. Please allow me to introduce them as well. Lisa Hennessey lives in Odenton and was a long time graphic artist for the military. Lisa has a BA in Secondary Education, History and Geography from Kansas State University. Lisa has studied Project Management from Stanford University and has a Business Certification from AACCC. She is currently working on a BA in Communications from UMUC to further expand her vast knowledge and experience in the areas of management and communications. Lisa has known about AAUW for a while (I believe she said her aunt was a member), and has joined us as a Life Member.

Amelia Ozemoya sought out our very own Judith MacGregor for her leadership of the 2015 STEM Girls Count program. Amelia wants to mentor her daughter, Daniella, who attends Broadneck Elementary. She says this about Daniella: "My daughter has this wonderful and almost infectious desire to learn more about math and science." In fact, some of us met Amelia and Daniella at our

book sale in November and you could see Daniella's zest for life and learning in the pictures Alice Harrison sent us. Amelia has a BA from Le Moyne College in Syracuse, NY. She currently works for US Naval Medical Research at their Clinical Trial Center and is also working towards an MS in Health Science from Towson University. Amelia and her family live in Arnold.

Dr. Christina Simkanin is also passionate about women's rights and increasing the diversity of STEM students and graduates. Christina found us online. She is motivated to get more involved in the community and has already joined our STEM committee. Christina has a very international educational background: BSc, Applied Ecology, National University of Ireland, University College, Cork; MSc, Marine Ecology, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Ireland; and PhD. Biology University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Christina is currently an ecologist at Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Edgewater. She is also lives in Edgewater and is married with two kids, aged 4 and 2.

Many of us met Briayna Cuffie at the January Cocktails and Conversations in Annapolis. Briayna has a BA in International Relations from High Point University and is working on an MA in Global Affairs & Human Security, University of Baltimore. Briayna is currently a legislative aide at the Maryland State House. She is about to add international travel to her list of experiences – Middle East and Asia. Briayna found our branch listed on the AAUW Meetups page and reached us through that. She grew up and lives in Annapolis.

Please join me in extending a warm AAUW welcome to Lee, Carolyn, Lisa, Amelia, Christina and Briayna. We are thrilled that you have decided to join our branch! We look forward to continuing to get to know you better.

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.

Public Policy Update

By Roxann King

January is/was surely a big month for activities in public policy. On Saturday, January 21, several of our members, including our co-president Laney Forge, Cheryl Menke, Mary-Lynne Neil and I, with friends and family, were able to attend the Women's March in D.C. Even if you followed this unprecedented gathering on television, you may be interested in a series of follow-up activities to the event: <https://www.womensmarch.com/100/>. Comments about the march questioned whether it could have any lasting impact, since so many separate issues were represented there. The link gives ten actions to take, one for each ten days of the first 100 days following the march. (Thank you, Cheryl, for the link.)

Maryland is unique in having a coalition of women's organizations from around the state that meet annually to discuss and determine legislation for women and families to support in the legislative session. On Sunday afternoon, January 29, the Women's Legislative Briefing will be attended by hundreds at the Universities of Shady Grove in

Gaithersburg. This event has grown exponentially over the last ten years and includes many Maryland state and national lawmakers. Details can be found at:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw/wlb.html>

Tuesday, January 31, the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women will hold its annual MLAW Legislative Reception in Room 180 of the Senate Office Building at 6 Bladen Street in Annapolis from 4:30 to 6 p.m. The bills which are being supported by MLAW this session (voted on by members including our branch and described on the MLAW website:

<https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/2016/12/16/mlaw-agenda-for-2017-set/>) will be introduced and briefly discussed by the legislators sponsoring the bills.

This year MLAW is promoting eight bills:

- Rape Survivor Family Protection Act (sets standards for terminating parental rights of rapists)
- Rape and Physical Resistance (eliminates requirement that victims physically resist in order to have a crime)
- Claim Requirement for Sexual Assault in the Workplace (eliminates the one year limit for state employees to report a sexual assault)
- "Women on Board" Bill (will set quotas for board composition of companies with state contracts)
- Salary History and Salary Range (will prevent employers from requesting salary history and require employers to provide salary range to prospective employees)
- Maryland Healthy Working Families Act (requires employers to allow workers to accrue paid sick and safe days)
- Fair Scheduling Act (requires employers to provide advance notice of work schedules and compensation for shifting)
- Accommodations for Pregnant Workers (strengthens the existing law to require employers to provide medical accommodations for normal pregnancies and for provide for lactation needs)

Some of these bills have been presented in previous sessions and have been revised for additional attempts. It often takes several sessions for a bill to pass. If you wish to attend the hearings

for the bills or to help with the lobbying efforts, contact me at: roxann.king1@gmail.com.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By Mary McGrath

Have you thought of the positions you are interested in or, what committees you want to join? The nominating committee has started its work. Be prepared to volunteer your time and talent in 2017-2018.

Each year we elect one co-president, one co-program V.P. and one co-membership V.P. 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.aaaw.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.

In addition to the executive positions there are numerous committees in which to volunteer your time. Our Membership Directory, sent to all members recently and 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, the Board Committees, and the Community Action Committees. Positions to be filled are:

Co-Program VP
Co-Membership VP
Secretary
Nominating Committee (3 positions)
Newsletter Editor
Publicity Chair
Treasurer's Staff (membership data entry)
Women to Women Scholarships Chair

A note to our new members: even though you are new and are just learning about our Branch, there is still work that you can contribute. We are thinking particularly of those of you who are very familiar with new technology. (1) The Treasurer's staff position will work with the Treasurer and the

membership committee to enter all member data sent to National. (2) As newsletter editor your work involves collecting articles sent to you by the Branch Board members and any member of our Branch who has information to share. The editor does not write articles, just edits/reviews them for appropriateness and accuracy. (3) Publicity chair sends Branch news of upcoming and past events to various news medias. If you have experience with publicity we could use your experience and talent. If you want to learn about working publicity this is a good place to do it. Working any of these positions is a good way to learn about the organization and to meet many like-minded members. If volunteering as a chair is not possible at this time, think of joining a committee that supports the Chairs.

Nominating Committee members:

Mary McGrath	mary@bugeye.net
Roxann King	roxann.king1@gmail.com
Judith MacGregor	jamacgregor101@gmail.com
Polly Wilson	pollyinmd@yahoo.com
Kay Monk	kaymonkmsw@yahoo.com

Contact us with your offer to volunteer.

TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP 2017-18

By Barbara Marder

The Transfer Scholarship application for next year is now available on our Branch website. Deadline for submission is March 24, 2017. While the amount being awarded is slightly lower than in past years, it is still can help a woman entering her final and more expensive junior or senior year of undergraduate study. Members are asked to encourage any above average students and potential woman leaders who are or have attended Anne Arundel Community College to apply. Questions should be directed to Barbara Marder at bhmarder@aacc.edu.

As an update, about our current Transfer Scholarship recipients, Abigail Anderson is in her senior year at Notre Dame, Baltimore, and Renee Rupert is in the nursing program at AACC. Both received all A's for the fall term and are enrolled in spring term courses at their respective schools.

MORNING BOOK GROUP

By Mary Wittner

We will be discussing the book "Sisters in Law" by Linda Hirschman at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, February 1st. The book traces the lives and careers of Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to become a member of the Supreme Court, and Ruth Bader Ginsberg, the second.

Mary McGrath will host and lead the discussion at her home, 1275 Bugeye Ct., Annapolis 21403. Please contact Mary at: 410-280-9768 or mary@bugeye.com to her know whether or not you plan to attend.

EVENING BOOK CLUB

By Stacey Hilder

The Wednesday Evening Book Club will meet on February 1, 2017 at 7:30 pm at the home of Roxann King, 209 Doncaster Rd, 21012, to discuss The Art of Tough by Barbara Boxer. It not only puts forward her rules for tough but also gives an insider's view of the people, events and procedures of our Congress.

On March 1, 2017, we will be discussing The Last Child by John Hart at the home of Linda King, 185 Doncaster Rd, 21012 beginning at 7:30 pm. Please join us if you can. Questions? Call Stacey 410-647-7041 or email Stacey at: stacey861@verizon.net.

GREAT DECISIONS

By Terry Saylor

Great Decisions discussion group will meet at Terry Saylor's at 9:45 a.m. on Wednesday, February 15 to watch a video on Conflict in the South China Sea and follow it with a discussion on that topic. Please contact her at: saylorterry2@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

Sad News

By Mary McGrath

I'm sorry to announce that one of our long time Branch members, Virginia Pritchett, died on January 3, 2017. Virginia was an active member of our Branch and will be missed. She attended many of our Branch meetings and events, and was a

member of the book group.

Virginia graduated from Western Illinois University with a BA in English and from the University of Maryland School of Social Work with a Masters in Social Work. After working for the State of MD in both foster care and adoption, she was in private practice as a psychotherapist in Arnold, MD for many years. In addition to her therapeutic work, she was also an accomplished poet, her work appearing in literary magazines, in her book "A Fine, Thin Thread," and in her memoir, "Beautiful Land Across the Waters." Virginia also founded and facilitated "Poets' Night Out" at Barnes and Noble bookstore.

Some of you may have heard Virginia reading her Poetry at Poet's Night Out and at the Universal Church's Coffee Hours. Virginia had a good sense of humor and it came out in many of her poems. If you have a chance to pick up one or both of her books, I know you will enjoy them.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, 2/1 – Wednesday Morning Book Club – 10:30 pm. – home of Mary McGrath. For further info see article in newsletter.

Wednesday, 2/1 – Wednesday Evening Book Club – 7:30 p.m. – Roxann King's home. For further info see article in newsletter.

Thursday, 2/9 – Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – Dianne Dezio's home.

Wednesday, 2/15 – Great Decisions Group – 9:45 a.m. – Terry Sayler's home. For further info see article in newsletter.

Thursday, 2/16 – Potluck dinner by Board members for all new members, 6:30 p.m. at Mary McGrath's home. Niv, membership chair, will provide details to those involved.

Saturday, 2/18 – Day Trip – Baltimore Museum of Art and Lunch at Gertrude's Restaurant – See details in Programs article.

Monday, 3/13 – Regular Branch meeting, Woods Church, Severna Park – 7 p.m. See details in Programs article.

Monday, 4/10 – Regular Branch meeting, Woods Church, Severna Park – 7 p.m. See details in Programs article.