



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

April 2017 Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

By Gail Viamonte and Laney Forge

Happy Spring! The daffodils are blooming and pansies are showing up everywhere! What a glorious time of year! We hope the cold is over and mild weather is here to stay.

We had a wonderful branch meeting on March 13th at Woods Memorial Church. About thirty of our members attended and we enjoyed introducing ourselves again to each other. It was encouraging to see some of our newest members there. Thanks to Lucia St. Clair-Robson for her entertaining presentation about her journey writing books about women in history. It was interesting to listen to her personal story about becoming an author and to learn about the fascinating women she discovered who had many amazing accomplishments. Laney gave a short presentation on a fundraising idea and handed out a step-by-step instruction sheet on how to be a part of this effort. The plan is simple in that we each would approach a local business owner to ask if they would be willing to offer a \$100-\$200 gift certificate or donate products from their store. The business would sell raffle tickets to their patrons for a month (3 for \$5/5 for \$10) and then have a drawing on a Saturday for the prize. AAUW would participate by giving the business owner pamphlets about our organization to hand out to customers about AAUW's mission to raise money for college scholarships. We would emphasize that these scholarships would go to women and girls in our community. AAUW would receive the amount collected in the raffle and the business would receive great publicity. It is an outstanding way for the business to be seen as one

that is contributing to women in our community. If you have a relationship with a local business owner that you could approach, please let Gail or Laney know. We can help!

Our next Branch meeting is Monday, April 10th, at 7:00 pm at Woods Memorial Church. Our next Convos and Cocktails meetup is Monday, April 24th, at Middleton's Tavern. We'd love to see you there. Our national AAUW convention is June 14-17th in Washington D.C. It's going to be an awesome gathering of AAUW members from across the nation. Join us!

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

By Mary McGrath and Cathy Crowley

Springtime is a very busy time of year for our Branch: Three Branch meetings, voting for our slate of officers (April), approving our budget for next year (May), scholarships awarded (April), meeting our scholarship recipients, induction of officers and enjoying our annual spring luncheon (May), and, relaxing at our April C&C.

April 10, 2017-- Membership Meeting; Monday, 7 pm; Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church; 611 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd, Severna Park, MD. The meeting agenda: Officer election and presentation of 2017-2018 budget. Our program speaker is Dr. Anne Spence, professor of engineering at UMBC speaking about her career, her work as an aeronautical engineer-professor, and her involvement in UMBC STEM projects. A question and answer session will follow. We ask that all members bring a small food contribution to our snack table. Drinks will be provided.

Policy Update

Cocktails and Convos (C&C) will be at the Severn Inn from 4pm to 7pm. The Inn is located at 1993 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd, Annapolis, MD 21409. It is tucked just under the old Severn River Bridge, has a great view of the Severn River and the Naval Academy and free parking. The Inn also has an outside deck for use in fine spring weather. So come join us and bring a friend. Cathy Crowley is the lead for this event. Send her an email if you are going, so she can plan tables. Cathy's email is: ccrowley6@verizon.net.

Saturday, May 6, 2017--Our Spring Luncheon is at Chartwell Country Club, One Chartwell Drive, Severna Park, MD from 11am-2 pm. Our meeting agenda is approval of the Branch 2017-2018 budget, induction of officers, and introduction of this year's scholarship awardees. Our program will feature Elaine Flynn, of Our Town Topics, "Making History Come Alive". Elaine will act as Alice Roosevelt and talk about the social activities and gossip of her time in Washington DC. A question and answer time will follow.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Niv Roy Ghatak

First of all, congratulations to all our members for being the #1 AAUW Branch in Maryland for addition of new members. According to official AAUW records we have added 25 new members since this time last year while the #2 Maryland branch added 11. This is high honors indeed and is a testament to the hard work of our members and the quality and relevance of our programs, scholarship funds, legislative work and special interest groups. A special "shout out" to our Programs Committee for excellent choice in events as well as to all of our members who have invited their neighbors, friends and families to Branch events – there is no substitute for attending an event in person to find out what we are really about.

With that, it is time to renew our membership for AAUW fiscal year July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Please go to the following link: <http://www.aauw.org/resource/join-a-branch-or-renew-branch-membership/> and look for the caption "Renew your Branch membership".

In order to spread the word amongst prospective members, we have started a Meetup group called "AAUW (American Association of University Women) Anne Arundel Co." Please check it out at: <https://www.meetup.com/AAUW-American-Assoc-of-University-Women-Anne-Arundel-Co/>. More information about our Branch Meetup page will be in our next newsletter. Please stay tuned and please feel free to contact me at: nroyghatak@gmail.com or 319-491-1361 with questions. Happy Spring!

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.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By Mary McGrath

The nominating committee presents the slate of officers below to serve our Branch for 2017-2019. Members will vote on the slate at our April 10, 2017 meeting.

The position of co-secretary is still not filled. We encourage you to come forward and volunteer for

this very important position. Please contact Mary McGrath, email: mary@bugeye.net or Roxann King, email: roxann.king1@verizon.net.

AAUW/AACO BRANCH
2017-2019 SLATE OF OFFICERS

Co-President	Michele Hauf
Co-Programs VP	Robin Hembree
Co-Membership VP	Bettye Brake
Secretary	Caroline Flaherty (1 year)
Co-Secretary	(vacant)
Nominating Committee	Gail Viamonte Cheryl Menke Kay Monk (1 year)

The slate of officers will be voted on by members at our April 10th meeting. This is an election so if anyone wants to run for any of the above positions, you are welcome to submit your nomination to this year's committee chair Mary McGrath by Sunday April 9th. If you are nominating someone other than yourself, you must have their permission beforehand. Additions will be added to the slate of candidates. If no additional nominations are suggested, the slate will be voted on by the members present at the Monday April 10th meeting. Our By-Laws indicate as follows: "b. ELECTION. Election shall be by ballot except that if there is only one nominee for an office it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote shall constitute an election."

We encourage all Branch members to participate and vote for officers to serve in 2017-2019. If you are unable to attend, you may give your proxy to Mary McGrath by Sunday April 9th.

STEM Update
By Judith MacGregor

We are planning another "STEM GIRLS COUNT", our very successful conference for 4th graders in the county. Both the Anne Arundel public school system and the community college have agreed to begin working on the plans. First planning meeting is scheduled for April 3rd. There will be plenty of opportunities for volunteering as most of our Branch will be involved. So stay tuned for more information.

!ANNUAL DUES DUE!

AAUW Annual dues cover July 1st through June 30th. Treasurer, Dianne Dezio, will be accepting dues at our April meeting and May luncheon—and at times in between! If you pay now, your dues will cover you from July 1st, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

Members are encouraged to update their dues as soon as possible. Why? Well, having all members on board facilitates publication of the next Directory. Furthermore, it's been our organizational and personal experience that folks tend to "go elsewhere" physically or mentally in May/June. There are graduations, weddings, travels, visits and visitors, etc. Taking care of your dues now eliminates one distraction from these other activities.

So -- feel safe in the knowledge that you remain a member of this wonderful group and receive all benefits and communications associated with it. "Renew now" (you don't have to "renew often"—just once!).

And while you're at it, hit the "Two Minute Activist" button on the AAUW Website, regarding a policy/legislation of your choice.

EVENING BOOK CLUB

By Stacey Hilder

The Wednesday Evening Book Club will meet on April 5, 2017, to discuss The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabelle Wilkerson. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm at the home of Janice Roper-Graham, 1101 Neptune Place, Atlantis/Cape St Clair. The book chronicles, through the lives of individuals, the great migration of black citizens from the South to the North beginning in 1915 and continuing into the 1970s.

In May, we will be discussing The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah. If you would like to join us or have any questions, contact Stacey Hilder 410-647-7041 or stacey861@verizon.net.

Morning Book Club

By Mary McGrath

Morning Book Club will meet on Wednesday, April 5, 10:30 am. Book: "The Spy's Son" by Brian Denson. Our host and lead is Shirley Clark. Her address is: 1022 Old Bay Ridge Rd, Annapolis. Contact Shirley at email sarbclark@aol.com or phone [443-926-9334](tel:443-926-9334), to let her know you are coming. All members are welcome to join us.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, 4/5 – Morning Book Club – 10:30 a.m. – At Shirley Clark’s home. For further info see article in newsletter.

Wednesday, 4/5 – Wednesday Evening Book Club – 7:30 p.m. –Janice Roper-Graham’s home. For further info see article in newsletter.

Thursday, 4/13 – Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – At Laney Forge’s home – 1564 Ritchie Lane, Annapolis, 21401

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

Monday, 4/24 – C&C – Severn Inn – 4-7 p.m. See location in Program Committee article.

Saturday, 5/6 – Spring Luncheon, Chartwell Country Club, Severna Park – 11-2. Details and a flyer will follow when event becomes closer.

"Find us in Facebook at AAUW Anne Arundel County and on the web at annearundelcounty-md.aauw.net."