



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

March 2017 Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

By Gail Viamonte and Laney Forge

Greetings! We've been enjoying spring weather during most of February and wondering if there will be any winter days ahead of us. Here's hoping this beautiful weather lasts! February has been a month of casual get-togethers for our AAUW Branch.

On February 16th the Board members enjoyed a lovely evening at Mary McGrath's house getting to know approximately ten of our new AAUW members. Niv Roy Ghatak and the membership committee have worked hard at recruiting, and we currently have twenty three new members. It was fun to learn about each other and hear about our educational backgrounds and professional careers. We talked about all the opportunities available in our Branch for everyone to get involved on a committee of their interest. It was an evening of budding friendships and laughter among intelligent and interesting women. Thanks to Niv for taking the lead in planning this event.

On February 18th a group of twenty members met at the Baltimore Museum of Art and participated in guided tours to learn all about the female artists represented at the museum. It was fascinating to experience the paintings, sculptures and pottery that women have created in the past fifty or so years. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch at Gertrude's Café at the museum and made plans to have this kind of outing again soon. Thanks to Mary McGrath, Robin Hembree and their program committee for a fantastic experience.

In March we will have a Branch meeting on Monday the 13th at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, Severna Park, at 7:00 p.m. The program committee has a very interesting program planned for us. We encourage you to attend because it will be a chance to spend time with your friends, get to meet our new members, and enjoy an interesting speaker. Dianne Dezio, our treasurer, reminds us that she will start to collect membership dues for next year (due date: June 30) at this meeting.

Judith MacGregor and her fundraising committee have come up with some new ideas to help our Branch raise money for our scholarships. Laney will also talk about this at our next meeting. We think our plan is one in which we each can all get involved as we share the effort it takes to bring in funds for our scholarships. Hope to see you there!

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

By Mary McGrath and Cathy Crowley

Our Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) tour has come and gone. What a great turnout we had! Eighteen members gathered at BMA on a beautiful sunny Saturday. A good time was had by all. Gertrude's lunch scene was the perfect place to rest, enjoy each other's company and their award winning cuisine.

Our next social event will be April 24th when we meet for cocktails and conversations (C&C) at **Middleton Tavern**. Their happy hour is from 4pm to 7pm. The Tavern is located in downtown

Annapolis at 2 Market Space, Annapolis, MD (across the street from the Market). Middleton is a very old historic building and an interesting site to visit. 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.

March 13, Members Meeting: Time: 7pm-9pm. Place: Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, 611 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd, Severna Park, MD. Our regular business meeting will be held including the presentation of our slate of officers for 2017-2019.

Program speaker: Lucia St. Clair Robson. Lucia is an author of historic novels. She will share her career and talk about the historic women she has researched and written about in her novels. A question and answer session will follow. Some of her books will be available for sale. Lucia has been a longtime member of our Branch. We look forward to our program in March.

We ask that all members bring a small food contribution to our snack table. Coffee and tea will be provided.

April 10, members meeting: Regular business meeting including membership approval of next year's budget and slate of officers. Our speaker will be Dr. Anne Spence, professor/engineering at UMBC.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Niv Roy Ghatak

Spring is almost upon us and I would like to take this opportunity to extend another warm welcome to our 24 new members who have joined us since last March and warm greetings to the entire membership as we enter the last few months of our 51st year as a Branch.

A big thank you to new members Alexis Viegas, Ashley Schaeffer, Christina Simkanin, Claudia Barber, Jaya Aswani, Lee Harper, Lisa Hennessey, Martha Swift and Sally Morris who were able to join the Board for an informal social on February 16th. A special thanks to Programs Chair, Mary McGrath, for opening her home to us for the evening and to

all the Board members for sharing the tasty treats. It was a truly special night. We all met some of our newest members for the first time and got to know others who have already become active members of our committees and interest groups. We spoke of our lives as women, educators, and pioneers; discussed what attracted us to AAUW in the first place and why we continue to make it a part of our lives. The stories were inspiring and there was a palpable feeling that we are all in this together. We are so fortunate to be a part of a truly diverse and accomplished group of members who above all are great human beings.

If you'd like to hang out more with our awesome members and get to know them up-close and personal consider joining one of our many committees – I am sure there is at least one that would interest you. The committees are Anne Arundel Community College Transfer Scholarship; Women to Women Grants; Public Policy; Membership; Programs; STEM; Book Sale; Treasurer; Historian; Ad Hoc Fundraising; Publicity; Book Sale Publicity; Web and Social Media. Please feel free to contact me at nroyghatak@gmail.com or 319-491-1361 and I'd be happy to connect you. Please remember to tell your friends and family about AAUW and invite them to our events so they can learn about us first-hand. Our next event is the member's meeting on Monday, March 13, 7–9pm at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in Severna Park. See you then!

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

On Monday, February 20, President's Day, a Women's Rally was held in Annapolis to demonstrate support for or against the bills under consideration this year that affect women and families. It was attended by approximately 500 women. Cheryl Menke attended from our Branch. Legislators and advocacy groups for specific bills spoke to those assembled.

The Maryland legislature has a relatively short annual session: January 11 - April 10. It considers hundreds of bills during this time, many of which never make it out of committee hearings. Our focus is to convince the committees during hearings that the bills we support deserve a vote. If you want to be informed regularly as hearings are held for bills supported by the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women, send an email to Roxann King: roxann.king1@gmail.com. Notices from MLAW about hearings come often and your support by contacting committee members is needed. For information about the bills being supported this year or to sign on as a supporter of the entire MLAW agenda this year, go to the MLAW web page, <http://mdlegagendaforwomen>.

To support national issues like equal pay, Title IX, campus safety, employment policies, health care, etc., become a Two-Minute Activist, Go to: www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/. When bills are under discussion you will be connected to your own House and

Senate members online to easily send messages of support or concern.

STEM

By Judith MacGregor

Efforts now underway to plan our next STEM GIRLS COUNT! Conference for 4th grade girls in Anne Arundel County. The public school system and Anne Arundel Community College are on board. Fund raising has started with a grant application submitted to Rockwell Collins. It is estimated we need approximately \$5000 to present the conference which will be held on a Saturday. The event will be led by Michele Hauf, Ashley Schaeffer, Gail Viamonte and Judith MacGregor. There will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer. Kick off meeting for the Steering Committee planned for April. Stay tuned for updates.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By Mary McGrath

The Nominating Committee has completed most of our work for the elected offices for 2017-2019. The slate of officers listed below will be presented formally to the Branch membership at our March 13, 2017 meeting. After membership review, the slate will be voted on at our April 10, 2017 Branch meeting.

Co-Programs VP	Robin Hembree
Co-Membership VP	Bettye Brake
Secretary	Caroline Flaherty
Co-Secretary (new position)	vacant
Nominating Committee	Gail Viamonte Cheryl Menke Kay Monk

We still need a co-secretary as you can see. This is a new position we have added to share the workload. The secretary attends all board and member meetings and is responsible for Branch correspondence. Having two people work that position will make it much easier with the meetings split between you and other work shared. Caroline has volunteered to stay on for one more year. She will be there to assist the co-secretary as you learn. We need your help. The secretary position is a

good way to learn about our Branch so we are encouraging new members, as well as older members, to volunteer. If you already have secretarial skills or are interested in learning, please contact the nominating committee to volunteer.

Your Nominating Committee:

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

MORNING BOOK GROUP

By Mary Wittner

We will be discussing the book "The Nightingale" by Kristen Hannah at my home on Wednesday, March 1 at 10:30. The book's focus is on the lives of 2 sisters and their different roles and experiences they played during the Nazi occupation of France during WWII.

Mary Wittner will host and lead the discussion at 1029 Old Bay Ridge Rd. in Annapolis. Please contact me at: 410-263-2982 or mwittner@comcast.net and let me know whether or not you plan to attend. All are welcome.

EVENING BOOK CLUB

By Stacey Hilder

The Evening Book Club will meet at 7:30 on March 1, 2017, at the home of Linda King, 185 Doncaster Rd., Arnold 21012. We will be discussing The Last Child by John Hart. It is an engrossing story about a determined and very capable 10 to 12 year old boy struggling to survive, and to find out what happened, after his twin sister disappears without a trace, his father abandons the family, and his mother turns to drugs and an abusive boyfriend to ease her pain.

On the first Wednesday in April, we will be discussing The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabelle Wilkerson.

Please join us if you can. Questions? Contact Stacey: 410-647-7041 or stacey861@verizon.net.

GREAT DECISIONS

By Terry Saylor

Great Decisions discussion group will meet at 9:45 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15 to watch a video on "Latin America's Political Pendulum" and follow it with a discussion on that topic. Please contact her (saylerterry2@gmail.com) if you would like to attend.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Wednesday, 3/1** – Wednesday Morning Book Club – 10:30 pm. – home of Mary Wittner. For further info see article in newsletter.
- Wednesday, 3/1** – Wednesday Evening Book Club – 7:30 p.m. – Linda King’s home. For further info see article in newsletter.
- Thursday, 3/9** – Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – Roxann King’s home.
- Monday, 3/13** – Regular Branch meeting, Woods Church, Severna Park – 7 p.m. See details in Programs article.
- Wednesday, 3/15** – Great Decisions Group – 9:45 a.m. – Terry Sayler’s home. For further info see article in newsletter.
- Monday, 4/10** – Regular Branch meeting, Woods Church, Severna Park – 7 p.m. See details in Programs 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."