



Representing all of Anne Arundel County, Maryland  
[aauwmd-annearundelcountybranch.org](http://aauwmd-annearundelcountybranch.org)

## May 2017 Newsletter

### LETTER FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

By Gail Viamonte and Laney Forge

Here we are at the end of another productive and enjoyable year in AAUW! We've enjoyed serving as your Anne Arundel Branch presidents for the 2016-17 year. As we look back on our year together with you, we are encouraged that our Branch is accomplishing things we value and pursue as our mission in AAUW.

Our Branch started the year hosting the State AAUW training for leaders in July. Several new members of our Board attended. All summer, members collected books on Saturday mornings for the annual Fall book sale. In September, the Branch hosted the membership luncheon for new and current members. At that time, we set out our goals and plans for the year. In November, Book Sale committee leads and a vast array of members spent a long week of delivering, setting up and selling books to finance Branch scholarships. We made enough money to sponsor several current and future college students in their quest to earn a degree as well as to support the Women-to-Women awards.

The Branch December Holiday Luncheon was a great success, and it provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with each other during the holiday season. In January several members met to walk in the historic Washington D.C. and Annapolis Women's March for equal rights. What an exciting day it was to walk with so many other women who were demonstrating that the time for equal rights in wages, hiring, health care and family planning has

arrived! In February members enjoyed a trip to the Baltimore Art Museum to experience the beautiful creations of women in the art world. It was fascinating to discover these works as presented by docents and as housed in this magnificent museum. March saw a lively get-together for the Board to meet all of our new members. Participants enjoyed a potluck at Mary McGrath's and heard from each of the twenty members who attended. More recently, Niv reported that we had twenty five new members sign up this year! Well done, Membership Committee! In April several members attended the AAUW State convention to meet the current leaders and participate in workshops on current legislation pending for women in Maryland, which is regularly monitored and supported through our Public Policy group. Thanks to the work of our Historian and others, the Anne Arundel Branch was well-represented and highly visible as a force within the State, in the past as well as the present and future. Such visibility also derives from Branch presence through an engaging Branch website and Facebook page—as well as media publicity. Internal publicity and communications are kept lively, current, and dynamic thanks to the Branch newsletter. Each of these is the result of leadership, talent, and energy contributed by Chairs and members. Book Clubs, Bridge Clubs--all are thriving!

Speaking of the future: the second "STEM Girls Count!" event is shaping up for delivery next year, once again collaboration between our Branch, Anne Arundel Community College, and Anne Arundel County Public Schools. At the April meeting, the Branch also elected our new board for 2017-18.

Throughout our year at our membership meetings we have had very enjoyable presentations from women who shared the multiple and varied ways in which women have shaped our country. Thank you Program Committee for such interesting and pertinent programs! In May the Branch will conclude our 2016-2017 year with a luncheon to vote on the Budget, introduce the new Board, and to present the scholarship and award winners. Our selection committees had so many qualified, amazing women to interview, and selection could be heart-wrenching! But we found women who are successfully pursuing their education and changing our world as they proceed. Thanks, scholarships committees for your work in this endeavor! We hope you've enjoyed our AAUW year as much as we have, and we encourage you to participate again—or even more-- next year!

### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

**By Mary McGrath and Cathy Crowley**

As we enter the home stretch of our Branch's yearly activities, we still have some fun events to look forward to.

Our April Branch Meeting was very productive on the business end and very entertaining on the Speaker's end. Dr. Spence was an excellent choice for our evening entertainment. Her work history and current activities were fascinating. It was enjoyed by everyone. We thank her very much.

**May 6, 2017- 11-2pm - Annual Spring Luncheon at Chartwell Country Club**, One Chartwell Drive, Severna Park, MD. Meeting agenda: approval of 2017-2018 budget, induction of officers and introduction of this year's scholarship awardees. Program: Elaine Flynn, actress, of Our Town Topics, "Speaking That Makes History Come Alive". Elaine will present Alice Roosevelt and the social activities and gossip of her time in Washington DC. A question and answer session will follow. So bring a guest and come join us.

Reservations are due by May 4th to Mary McGrath. See the Luncheon Flyer attached to this newsletter for all details needed to attend this event. We look forward to seeing you all at Chartwell on Saturday, May 6th.

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**By Niv Roy Ghatak**

Happy May! Three new members have joined us this Spring: Laura Davis, Emily Dreszner and Marilyn Weeks. A few words to introduce each of our fantastic new members:

Laura Davis joined AAUW after the most recent election to support our worthy organization as well as becoming more actively involved in politics. Laura has a Bachelor of Music degree in Sacred Music from Westminster Choir College, Rider University, as well as a Master of Music degree in Voice Pedagogy from the Catholic University of America. Laura has recently relocated to Crownsville, MD, and is newly setting up her own business as a private voice teacher & yoga instructor.

Emily Dreszner attended NCCWSL (the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) last year. She must have made an impression because she was asked to speak at AAUW Maryland State's Diamond Jubilee celebration in April where she met our very own Roxann King! Emily is studying to be a paralegal at Anne Arundel Community College and also works as a legal secretary. She plans to transfer to University of MD, College Park, next year to study government and politics. Emily lives in Severna Park.

Our newest member is Marilyn Weeks. Marilyn is known to some of you because she has been going to our Monday Bridge Group with Alicia Newman and Dianne Dezio and now has decided to join AAUW. Marilyn Weeks has a Bachelor of Science in business and journalism from the University of Nebraska. She is a retired communications manager at one of NIH federal health institutes. She joins us from Odenton.

A warm AAUW welcome to Laura, Emily and Marilyn! Please continue to join us at our other events and let us know if you have any questions. A quick reminder to renew your membership for the next AAUW fiscal year - July 2017 through June 2018, if you haven't already done so. 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." Alternatively, you can also send your renewal check to branch Treasurer: Dianne Dezio, 8607 Wintergreen Ct,

Unit 403, Odenton, MD 21113. The renewal amount is \$70 for all except undergrad students at \$33. Please make checks payable to: AAUW-AACo Branch. (New members who have joined since March 2017 do not have to renew).

As mentioned last month, we have started a Meetup group called "AAUW (American Assoc of University Women) Anne Arundel Co." Please check it out at <https://www.meetup.com/AAUW-American-Assoc-of-University-Women-Anne-Arundel-Co/> and join it for automatic reminders about our events – many of our members have found that feature useful. We already have close to 40 members on it. Do add yourself to our list of members please to show externally what a vibrant community we are! That will make it a great recruiting tool for women, especially those new to the local area. And finally, we are looking to add 2-3 new members to our membership committee. We have now added 27+ new Branch members the past year and I think we can do even better next year with everyone's help! Joining our committee is one great way to engage with the our Branch community and easy work as we split our key duties like updating the member directory, engaging with prospective members, on-boarding new members, managing meetups and sending out this section of the monthly newsletter. Please email me at: [nroyghatak@gmail.com](mailto:nroyghatak@gmail.com) or call me at 319-491-1361 if you are interested in joining and thanks!

### **TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS** By Barbara Marder

The Transfer Scholarship Committee has completed their application and selection process for the year. Applications were received from twelve outstanding women who have studied at Anne Arundel Community College and are currently or by next fall continuing to work toward a four-year degree. The committee interviewed the five women they deemed most deserving of the awards, selecting two as recipients and one more as an alternate. All three expressed interest in becoming student members and in helping with next fall's book sale. The recipients will be introduced at the luncheon on May 6.

Thanks to members: Maggie Cullman, Terry Sayler, Vera Torrence, and Kristin Zurkowski.

### **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.

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES** By Dianne Dezio

The AAUW Annual membership dues are due now for the year from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. The dues for most people are \$70. Dues breakdown: AAUW National - \$59, Maryland State - \$10, and branch - \$11. Life members pay State and Branch dues.

You can go online and pay by credit card at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) by clicking on the 'Membership' button at the top of the page. Then click on the 'Renew' button. You can create an account by entering your membership ID (found on the label of AAUW correspondence) and a password. You will be able to update your address, phone, and email address as well as pay your dues. If you don't know your membership ID, email Dianne Dezio ([dcdezio@gmail.com](mailto:dcdezio@gmail.com)) and she will send it to you.

Also the May luncheon is an ideal time to pay your dues if you pay by check.

## PUBLIC POLICY

By Roxann King

### Vote! Every vote counts!

Voting has already begun for the AAUW national public policy program issues for the next two years. On the back of your spring 2017 issue of Outlook magazine (which arrived last week) you can find your member ID and voter PIN. Read the issues, found in the special election supplement at the back of the Outlook magazine, and then go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and VOTE! Voting is online. (You can also use the personal link sent to you through email.) Exceptions are expected: if you do not have internet access, contact the national office at 800-326-2289. Two years ago, only 1 out of every eight members voted and they determined the policies that AAUW supported actively during the two years that followed. Every vote counts! National public policy is decided every two years with the voting ending during the national convention (June 14-17, Washington D.C. this year). During the preceding fall, members had the opportunity, through our presidents, to recommend policy changes.

### National Public Policy:

This month, April, is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. AAUW is the only organization policing college policies continuously relative to Title IX. AAUW has found that sexual assault occurs more frequently when schools fail to have a Title IX coordinator, or a Title IX coordinator with proper training. AAUW Action Network has materials available for you to deliver to local college and university Title IX coordinators. Get details at [www.aauw.org/resource/titleixdelivery/](http://www.aauw.org/resource/titleixdelivery/)

### Results of MD legislative actions for 2017:

Two of MLAW's (Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women) priority bills passed the general assembly during this legislative session. Both bills have taken several years of advocacy and revision to achieve success. HB 001, Maryland Healthy Working Families Act, will require employers with 15 or more employees to provide earned paid sick and safe leave; with 14 or fewer employees, to provide unpaid sick and safe leave; and with tipped employees, to provide paid minimum wage for sick and safe leave.

HB 429, Criminal Law, Sexual Offenses, Physical Resistance, establishes that evidence of physical

resistance is no longer required in Maryland as proof that a sexual offense has occurred.

Supporters of MLAW will be gathering at Union Jacks in Annapolis on Tuesday, May 2, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. to celebrate the successful legislative session. To register for this free event, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/join-mlaw-to-celebrate-2017-legislative-wrap-up-and-happy-hour-tickets-33553594705>.

Anita Rosen is retiring after four years as Maryland AAUW state vice president for public policy. Erin Prangley, an attorney, and formerly a member of the national AAUW public policy shop, will assume Anita's position on July 1. Thank you, Anita, for all your work in keeping us up to date on legislative actions in Maryland and the nation.

The U.S. Congress has a much longer session than does Maryland. To become active in advocacy for national issues, get Action Alerts and become a two-minute activist at <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>.

To join MLAW as an individual and/or to receive regular updates on Maryland general assembly bills that effect women and families (January through April), go to <https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/>.

### AAUW Maryland's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AAUW Maryland was celebrated during the annual state convention in Easton and St. Michaels, April 7-8. On April 7 a celebratory dinner was held at the Miles River Yacht Club in St. Michael's. The program featured interviews with all prior state presidents who were able to attend. Our own member, Lynn Hapchuk, who was state president from 1997-1999, spoke about the most important goals and issues during her presidency.

On Saturday, the featured speakers included national board chair of AAUW, Patricia Fae Ho, and Maryland's first woman and first African-American Adjutant General of the Maryland National Guard, Major General Linda L. Singh. Patricia Ho focused on activism and emphasized that AAUW's new CEO comes to us from the Brookings Institute with experience in promotion of public policy. Major Singh spoke of how she became who she is and urged us: "Think about what you are on this earth to do. You are in this group (AAUW) for a reason." Several of our members actively helped plan the events: member Markonette Richardson, as co-vice

president for Programs, and member, Terry Saylor, as co-historian, who put together a video commemorating the 75 years. Pictures for the video were supplied by former State President Dian Belanger.

### **EVENING BOOK CLUB**

**By Stacey Hilder**

The Wednesday Evening Book Club will meet at 7:30 pm on May 3, 2017 at the home of Francie Boyce, 215 Mill Harbor Dr. in Arnold, to discuss The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah. It takes place in France during WWII and tells the story of 2 sisters who follow very different paths as they react to and struggle to survive the Nazi occupation and destruction of their world.

In June, we will be discussing The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion

Please join us. Questions? Contact Stacey Hilder, 410-647-7041 or [stacey861@verizon.net](mailto:stacey861@verizon.net).



**Judith Flood (outgoing finance officer), Angela Mickalaide (MD membership co-chair, who recently moved to AA county), Roxann King, Markonette Richardson**



**Lynn Hapchuk (AAUW MD president 1997-99) with MD co-Program VP Kate Campbell Stevenson (left) and national board chair Patricia Fae Ho (right)**



**Terry Sayler, AAUW Maryland President Eileen Menton, Lynn Hapchuk, Roxann King, Markonette Richardson**



**MD President Eileen Menton with Major General Linda L. Singh**

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Wednesday, 5/3** – Morning Book Club – Cancelled.

**Wednesday, 5/3** – Wednesday Evening Book Club – 7:30 p.m. – Francie Boyce's home. For further info see article in newsletter.

**Saturday, 5/6** – Spring Luncheon, Chartwell Country Club, Severna Park – 11-2. See flyer below.

**Thursday, 6/8** – Branch Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. – Location: Gail Viamonte's home

**AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION**-Washington, DC – June 17-19

"Find us in Facebook at AAUW Anne Arundel County and on the web at [annearundelcounty-md.aauw.net](http://annearundelcounty-md.aauw.net)."



## *AAUW's 2017 Spring Luncheon*

*SATURDAY, MAY 6th, 11 A.M. -- 2 P.M.*

*CHARTWELL COUNTRY CLUB*

*St. Ives Rd., Severna Park, MD*

*Brunch Buffet at \$35 PER PERSON.*

*Join us for...*

♦ Scholarship Awards ♦ Officer Installations ♦ Entertaining Program ♦ 50/50 chances ♦ warmth and camaraderie

Cash bar available from 11 to 2

!!Special reminder to pay your AAUW dues at the luncheon!!

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RSVP AND SEND YOUR \$35 per person Check to:  
Mary McGrath, 1783 Forest Dr., #293, Annapolis, MD 21401

I WILL ATTEND (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

I am bringing # \_\_\_\_\_ Guests

Enclosed check made payable to AAUW/AACo Branch for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP: checks due by Thursday, May 4, 2017