



Representing all of Anne Arundel County, Maryland
Annearundelcounty-md.aauw.net

January-February 2018 Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS By Michele Brillon Hauf and Laney Forge

Greetings from your Presidents and Happy 2018! Our holiday season is over and we hope it was a wonderful time with your family and treasured friends. We are looking forward to a great new year of AAUW projects and social gatherings. We want to give a shout out to the program committee for all the programs we've enjoyed this year, and especially the Holiday Luncheon. Robin Mayberry-Hembree, Mary McGrath and their entire committee gave us a lovely day together. The STEM Girls Count Event was successful and we hope to have another one. If you would like to Chair the next STEM Girls Count Event please contact Michele Hauf.

We hope you'll join us in the coming months for all the events we have planned for 2018. We have great speakers planned for our upcoming branch meetings and great C & C events scheduled. No matter the occasion, it's interesting and fun to do it together! Join us!!



Image of Maryland legislative website training session Jan 11th at AACC. From left to right: members Vera Torrence, Gail Viamonte, Barbara Marder and Joyce Moyer, and LaTanya Eggleston (AACC)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE By Robin Mayberry-Hembree, Cathy Crowley, Mary McGrath and Noel Eller

Our Holiday Luncheon on December 9th at Café Mezzanotte was a true “Winter Wonderland” inside and out! Thank you to all our members who braved the elements. We were treated to four jazz/pop selections by two very talented vocalists, SPHS seniors, Alena Carhart & Bianca Radice. Much fun was had raffling off holiday decor & centerpieces which were donated by co-president Laney Forge. Our October Speaker, Miss Kate Yuan, Director of YWCA Residential & Outreach Services of AACO, was our luncheon guest of honor this year. Over 40 Branch members & guests were able to meet and visit with Miss Yuan, as well as donate towards our YWCA charity. We were able to present a check to YWCA for \$705.00. Much appreciation to our Membership and Program Committees for helping make this a “Winter Wonderful” event.

Our February AAUW branch meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12, 2018, 7pm. - 9pm at Woods Memorial Church. Mr. Wesley (Wes) Queen, Director of the Legacy Leadership Institute On Public Policy Programs, and Ms. Erin Prangley, AAUW Maryland Vice President for Public Policy, will discuss the bills being supported by AAUW and the strategies being used during this year's legislative session. Thanks to Roxann King for securing our February speakers. Please join us!

Our next Cocktails and Conversations (C&C) is January 29th, 2018 at Gordon Biersch ([Annapolis Towne Centre BLVD. #155 \(410\) 266-5965](#) off Riva Road) and is hosted by Mary McGrath. Happy Hour is from 4:00pm-7pm. Please contact Mary if you have questions: [\(419\) 570-1279](#) or mary@bugeye.net. Come one, come all, and bring a friend!

February's Cocktails and Conversations will be hosted by Vera Torrence on February 26th, 2018. Details are still being decided and will be emailed closer to the time.

Join us for a tour of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) on Saturday March 10, 2018. SERC is located at [647 Contees Wharf Road, Edgewater, MD 21037](#). We will tour the laboratory and site facilities from 10-11am and listen to a lecture about the science of climate change by SERC scientist Dr. Bert Drake from 11-12:15pm. After the lecture, we will have lunch around 1pm at Glory Days Grill (3 Lee Airport Drive, Edgewater, MD 21037). ** Prior to the tour, we will meet at the Glory Days Grill parking lot @ 9:15am, and carpool from there to SERC. To sign up for this tour contact Mary McGrath – text or call [\(410\)570-1279](#) or email at mary@bugeye.net. Thank you to Christina Simkanin for arranging our tour and speaker at SERC.

***Branch Meeting Snow Policy:** please check on the Branch website if in doubt that a meeting will take place. If Anne Arundel County Public Schools are cancelled, the AAUW Meeting is usually cancelled. Branch Website: <https://annearundelcounty-md.aauw.net/>

NOMINATING COMMITTEE by Mary McGrath

Your branch nominating committee has started its work for 2018. Have you thought about the positions you are interested in, or what committees you may want to join? Be prepared to volunteer your time and talent in 2018-2019!

Each year we elect one co-president, one co-programs 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 Branch website, or contact the current person in that position shown in our directory, 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 you all recently, is also located in the members only page of our website. It 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. The elected positions to be filled this year are:

- Co-President (1)
- Co-Program VP (1)
- Co-Membership VP (2)
- Co-Secretary (1)
- Nominating Committee (3 positions)

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. Working in 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.

The 2018 Nominating Committee members are below, please contact us with your offer to volunteer:

- Mary McGrath - 410-570-1279 mary@bugeye.net
- Judith MacGregor - 410-911-9115
jamacgregor101@gmail.com
- Gail Viamonte - 410-279-3879 gev24@earthlink.net
- Cheryl Menke - 443-221-3338 camenke@hotmail.com
- Caroline Flaherty - 410-451-4123
flahkids@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Diana Larmore

Membership in our AAUW Branch continues to grow. We continue to add women who are so interesting you will want to save a place for them right next to you at upcoming brunches and C&Cs; ask them to join your committees; and even prepare for them to become your new best friend!

Introducing our newest member, Linda Calvert. Linda has been aware of our Branch for some time and decided to join when she sat next to one of our Book Sale leaders at a recent function and learned that we had collected \$18,000 toward scholarships. She was blown away by that achievement and decided that she would like to be a part of such a committed group of women. Linda has been affiliated with AAUW for years and was glad to find us now that her nearby branch is no longer active. Formerly from DC, where she obtained a BA in International Affairs at George Washington University, followed by an MS in Information Sciences. For the last 25 years, she has lived in Lusby, Maryland and is now retired from a career as an IT Program Manager. Linda enjoys sailing and powerboating and travel – one of her two daughters is in the Foreign Service so family visits have taken her to Bangladesh, among other posts. Linda's looking forward to joining Terry Saylor's Great Decisions Discussion Group. Please welcome Linda to our Branch!

A little about me – Diana Larmore – I am glad to be back as your co-Membership Chair after several years of disability! In 2015, trauma caused by neurological surgery forced me out of the financial position I had had for 30 years. The good news – I have recovered nicely and was recruited in July into the largest independent firm in the States (17,000 advisors). I have since shifted my focus to assisting clients in preparing their portfolios for the risks associated with health care needs – among the biggest expenses for current retirees.

I obtained a BA in Fine Arts at the University of Texas, Austin and an MS in Journalism at New York University. My focus has been on business and economics, with positions as Account Manager at The Caviour Organization; Strategic Planning Manager at

Shearson Lehman/American Express; and Director of Strategic Planning at the New York branch of Banca Popolare di Milano before beginning my financial planning work in Manhattan for individuals and small businesses. At AAUW, I will work to raise money for women's scholarships.

TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

By Barbara Marder

Our two scholarship recipients for this year continue to make us proud. Both received honor grades for the fall term and are enrolled for a full schedule this spring. Both are in continual contact with us and repeatedly express their gratitude for our assistance.

Here are brief portions of notes from each:

From Ashlynn Orcurto, second semester junior majoring in Fire Protection at UMCP:

I hope all is well with you and with the AAUW! I am excited to tell you I have received a position of being a Student Ambassador for my department, to work specifically with raising awareness in community colleges for Fire Protection Engineering! I have also been offered an internship for the summer of 2018 with Johnson Controls working on installing integrated fire protection systems. All of this has been possible due to God working in my life and to the generosity of the American Association of University Women!

From Stephanie (Stevie) Fruehling, a single mother of three, full time student and yoga and fitness instructor, in her final semester at UMUC in Counselling:

Here are my updated transcripts and the spring '18 bill. I am thrilled to be moving toward a May graduation!! Thank you again for everything, and I will keep you updated! As an aside, I am now running yoga recovery groups at Samaritan House and Mountain Manor Treatment Center...most of the participants have been incarcerated, and I am gaining valuable experience for the program I hope to create for local correctional facilities!

Applications for our 2018-19 transfer scholarships will be available in mid-February. The completed applications will be due by the end of March.

PUBLIC POLICY

By Vera Torrence and Roxann King

There is a lot happening this time of year - the Maryland legislature meets for only three months and will be in session January 10th to April 9th. Quite a few bills supporting women and families are being considered. Public Policy Co-Chair Vera Torrence recently led sessions at Anne Arundel Community College on January 9th and 11th, demonstrating how to use the Maryland legislative website.

The Women's Legislative Briefing is an annual event in Maryland where nearly a thousand women gather to learn about recent efforts to draft legislation and provide input in breakout sessions. It is always held on a Sunday afternoon and is well attended by both state and national, male and female legislators, and of course women from around the state. This year it will be held on **Sunday, January 28th at the Universities at Shady Grove**. Here is a link to register (\$30). High school students have a special training session during the meeting. (\$10)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-womens-legislative-briefing-registration-37877640041>

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) legislative reception in Annapolis is scheduled for Thursday, February 8th, 4:30-6:30 pm at the Miller Senate Office Building in the President's Conference Center. This event is free but requires registration.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mlaws-2018-legislative-reception-and-briefing-tickets-41846554170>.

AAUW is supporting the eight initiatives promoted by MLAW. The eight (of 19) bills selected this year are described at <https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/>. **To get notified about when to take action for one of these bills, add your name to the MLAW list by emailing mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com.** The first two bills, the Rape Survivor Family Protection Act and the Repeat Sexual Predator Prevention Act, were supported by Governor Hogan last week, in addition to four additional bills related to domestic violence and trafficking.

On Saturday, January 20, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., there will be an event for the first anniversary of the Annapolis Women's March at Lawyer's Hill in Annapolis. Legislative initiatives from groups around the state will be supported there. Here is a link to sign on:

<https://actionnetwork.org/events/annapolismarch2018>

GREAT DECISIONS GROUP

Terry Saylor

Great Decisions will meet at Roxann King's house on Friday, February 9th at 9:45am to discuss Pax Americana. For more information please contact Terry at [410-757- 2446](tel:410-757-2446) or saylorterry2@gmail.com.

MORNING BOOK CLUB

Mary Wittner

The morning book club will meet at 10:30am, Wednesday, February 7th at the home of Lynn Hapchuk, [842 Cottonwood Dr. Severna Park](#). We'll be discussing *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance. Lynn can be contacted by phone at [410-544-5133](tel:410-544-5133) or email at hapchuk@verizon.net. Please let her know whether or not you will attend. Newcomers are always welcome!

EVENING BOOK CLUB

Stacey Hilder

Our next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday, February 7th, at the home of Stacey Hilder at [861 Twin Harbor Drive, Arnold 21012](#). We will be discussing *Women of the Silk* by Gail Tsukiyama. It is the story of a young girl who at age 8 is sent to work in a silk factory, including details on the culture of the women who work there and must commit their lives to the industry or leave.

In March, we will be discussing the book *Strangers in their Own Country* by Arlie Hochschild. A timely discussion about the Tea Party movement of today. Hope you will join us! For more info contact Stacey at [410-647-7041](tel:410-647-7041) or email stacey861@verizon.net.

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.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

January 20 th	Saturday	<i>1st Anniversary Annapolis Women's March</i> , 11-1pm Lawyer's Hill, Annapolis.
January 28 th	Sunday	<i>The Women's Legislative Briefing</i> , details in Public Policy article above
January 29 th	Monday	<i>Cocktails & Convos</i> , 4-7pm, Gordon Biersch in Annapolis
February 7 th	Wednesday	<i>Morning Book Club</i> , 10:30am, Lynn Hanchuk's house (details above)
February 7 th	Wednesday	<i>Evening Book Club</i> , 7:00pm, Stacey Hilder's house (details above)
February 8 th	Thursday	<i>Branch Board Meeting</i> , 7:00pm, Laney Forge's house
February 8 th	Thursday	<i>Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) legislative reception</i>
February 9 th	Friday	<i>Great Decisions Group</i> , 9:45 am, Roxann King's house (details above)
February 12 th	Monday	<i>Monthly Branch Meeting</i> , 7pm, Woods Memorial Church in Severna Park
February 26 th	Monday	<i>Cocktails & Convos</i> , 4-7pm, location TBD.
March 10 th	Saturday	<i>Tour the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center</i> , RSVP to Mary McGrath

Find us on Facebook at [AAUW Anne Arundel County](#) and on the web at annearundelcounty-md.aauw.net.