



Anne Arundel Women Giving Together

February 2011

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Important Upcoming Dates

February 9

General Meeting & Program

Activist Aging

March 9

General Meeting

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, we ♥ AAWGT -- all 165 remarkable, compassionate and caring members, as we celebrate five years of making a difference in the lives of women and families. Alas, Mother Nature did not ♥ us on January 12, when inclement weather forced us to cancel our first general meeting including a blockbuster session on Transportation. The irony of our topic and the outcome did not go unnoticed. Stay tuned, though, as we are working now to reschedule this session later this year.

Undaunted, we experimented anew by hosting our very first Special Interest Forum on January 18 to delve a bit deeper into the topic of Services and Support for Individuals with Disabilities. Read more on our buzz-worthy evening below and join us for our second forum on Human Trafficking on March 23.

For readers who are not now members, please consider joining (or rejoining) AAWGT so we can grow the power of our collective philanthropy. And for members, February will also bring a renewal letter in the mail. Please show us your ♥ by mailing in your contribution. Or you are welcome to renew online by clicking on Donate Now at www.cfaac.org to save you some time and us some postage!

We're certain that you will get back much more than you give!



Bronwyn Belling, President
Laurie Sharp, Vice President/President-Elect
(photo by Dave Roberts)

Women & Leadership
Global Issues

February 23
Book Group

March 23
Special Interest Forum
Human Trafficking

Please see
www.givingtogether.org
for
Member Activities, Book Group
and other info!

Renew Your Membership!
Go to www.givingtogether.org
for a renewal/donation form.

Welcome New Members!

Elaine Ralph
Violette Cousineau

[Click here to learn more
about our 2010 Grantees!](#)



→ Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, February 9, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.
General Meeting: Approve Bylaw Revisions & 2011 Budget
Program: Changing the Face of Aging: An Activist Approach
Location: Severna Park Community Center, 623 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd., Severna Park

At this interactive session, we will learn about the larger social, cultural and economic issues that are forcing all of us to rethink 'aging' in our society. We will discuss what it means to take an activist approach. And we will explore ways that we - as grantmakers and as leaders in our community - can engage on issues related to aging and the quality of life for older women.

We are honored to have Judah L. Ronch, Ph.D., Dean of the Erickson School for Management of Aging at UMBC leading this discussion. He is an expert in the fields of geriatric mental health and reform in the long term care industry. His current passion as Dean of the Erickson School is to prepare students for the "aging revolution". His forward looking programs recognize that the "graying of America" - led by 80 million Baby Boomers - will touch every aspect of society, creating unprecedented challenges and opportunities.

To RSVP online, visit givingtogether.org and click on Upcoming Events and Register!

Wednesday, March 9, 2011, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
General Meeting: Women & Leadership; Global Issues
Location: AAMC Health Sciences Pavilion, 7th Floor, 2000 Medical Parkway, Annapolis [Register](#)

The world is awakening to a powerful truth: women and girls aren't the problem; they're the solution. During International Women's Month, we will take the opportunity to "think globally" as we explore the work of other organizations who share our mission to help women and families, but "act locally" in communities around the world.

For more information, contact Sharon Stewart at stews@mindspring.com

→ 2011 Budget Highlights

Our 2011 administrative budget will be presented for review and approval at our February 9 general meeting. A copy of the budget will be attached to our upcoming meeting reminder email. In summary, the total administrative budget for 2011 is \$13,900. Projected expenses by function are 36% for marketing and communications, 34% for membership and grantee events, 11% for other member outreach and leadership development, 10% for grants and post-grants expenses, and 9% for the administrative fee paid to the Community Foundation.

And of course, no discussion of the budget would be complete without recognizing the thousands of volunteer hours and in-kind contributions we receive from our very generous members. This year is no different and we welcome all contributions so we can continue to responsibly manage our administrative costs and run a vibrant, growing giving circle.

→ Proposed By-Law Revisions

We will also be voting on revisions to the AAWGT Bylaws at the February 9 general meeting, because the January 12 meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. You can view new colorized versions of the Bylaws and a summary of the proposed changes at givingtogether.org in the Members-Only section. If you have trouble logging in, contact Bronwyn Belling at bbelling@aol.com. For any comments or suggestions, please contact Susan Nolte at csnolte@verizon.net or Beverly Nash at beverlynash@verizon.net.

→ Inclement Weather Policy - NEW!

In the event of inclement weather on the day of an AAWGT event (morning or evening), all members -- and all guests who have registered for the event online -- will receive an email notification of a delayed start or cancellation. If possible, an "AAWGT Event Cancelled" notice will be posted at the event site.

We will be guided by the inclement weather decisions posted by Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) at aacc.edu. However, any AAWGT meeting that has to be delayed for more than one hour will be cancelled. And of course, road conditions can be different throughout the county so, if it's at all dangerous to be driving, we appreciate your erring on the side of caution!

→ Meeting Recaps

**January 12: General Meeting and Program --
*Transportation: Because Getting There is Half the
Battle* -- cancelled because of early morning icy roads!**

January 18: AAWGT's First Special Interest Forum a Ringing Success

AAWGT's first Special Interest Forum on Individuals with Disabilities was held at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in Severna Park. Over 50 AAWGT members and guests heard from a panel of experts including Vicki Callahan of Opportunity Builders, Inc., Laura Carr of the Arc of the Central Chesapeake Region, and Michael Drummond of Arundel Lodge.



The discussion was brought to life by Annapolis architect and AAWGT member Cathy Purple Cherry, the mother of an autistic son, who described her own journey negotiating care and education for her son. AAWGT member Joanna Clarke of the Anne Arundel County Commission on Disability Issues, served as the moderator. And Pam Jordan, Liaison to County Executive Leopold for Disability Issues, was on hand with literature and advice during the networking session.

Laurie Sharp, AAWGT Vice President, described the forum as "...an opportunity to understand how difficult it is to navigate the fragmented and seemingly opaque system of support services while underscoring the critical importance of AAWGT's grantmaking mission."

AAWGT wishes to extend a special thank you to members Tara Clifford, Cathy Purple Cherry and Joanna Clarke for transforming the idea for a new learning opportunity into a ringing success!



Photo credits: Dave Roberts

→ Hold These Dates!

Wednesday, February 23, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will reconvene in February (due to our most recent weather cancellation in January) to discuss two selections: *Waiting for Superman: How we can save America's Failing Pubic Schools* and *Whatever it Takes: Geoffrey Canada's Quest to Change Harlem and America* by Paul Tough. The book group is open to all interested members and guests. To join the group for this discussion, contact Laurie Sharp at lsharp1000@msn.com

Wednesday, March 23, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. SPECIAL INTEREST FORUM: Emerging Issues in Our Community -- Human Trafficking, Conte Lubrano Building, Lower Level, 130 Lubrano Dr., Annapolis

→ Business and Committee Updates

Grants Committee: Impressive Turnout for Applicant Info Workshop

Representatives from 38 nonprofit organizations attended the Grants Committee's applicant workshops on January 8th and 13th. This is an increase from last year, and the Committee expects to receive a large number of applications for the 2011 grants cycle. Special thanks to all the Committee members who made presentations, donated food, and facilitated the workshops.



Membership & Outreach Committee: Renewal reminder and join our Committee

As stated above, look for a renewal letter soon in the mail, or if you prefer to "go green" you can renew online at www.cfaac.org and click on Donate Now!

Please let us know if you would be interested in joining the Membership and Outreach Committee. We recruit prospective members and welcome new members, and facilitate their participation in activities and committees. The committee plans several events for members and prospective members. We are new to the job and would welcome your participation! Chair: Missy Attridge, 410-280-6655 or aatridge@verizon.net; Asst. Chair: Marie Brockhurst, 410-2800713 or vze2nwkx@verizon.net.

Website Enhancements

Members and guests can now register for events online. Simply click on the "register" button in any email reminder, or find the event online, then members should enter the email address you use for AAWGT, and the website software will do the rest. Registering online is making it much easier for the event coordinators to know who is coming and to send announcements and reminders. Guests can register as well, and they automatically become contacts in the AAWGT database.

Selected photos from recent events are now posted for the general public in a new feature called **Photo Gallery** on the left bar of the website.

Service Opportunity: Light House Lunches

The next Light House lunch-making sessions are scheduled at 8:30 a.m. on:

- Monday, February 14 at the home of Eleanor Huggins, 1738 Roydon Trail, Annapolis; 410-849-2798 (no additional volunteers needed);
- Thursday, March 17 at the home of Carol Johnson, 833 Coachway, Annapolis; 410-849-3330 (5-6 volunteers needed)
- Thursday, April 14, location TBD (host and 5-6 volunteers needed)

New shopping and preparation guidelines for hosts are posted online on our Members-Only page. To learn more, sign up for email notices, or volunteer to host a future session in your kitchen, contact Karen Davis at kluciadavis@hotmail.com.



→ Help Wanted! ISO Assistant Webmaster and Facebook Help

As we use our website to more advantage to help administer and grow AAWGT, we need volunteers to help:

- **Assistant Webmaster:** AAWGT uses membership management software for the website. If you have a general understanding of web software, domain name registration, database management, and/or Google apps, we could use your talents! Tasks include uploading and maintaining documents and photos, maintaining links, adding events, etc. No html required.
- **Facebook Coordinator:** Love social networking? AAWGT needs a volunteer to create and maintain a Facebook page for our organization.

Contact Eve-Marie Lacroix at evemariel@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer. Thank you!