

AWCA Newsletter

October 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear AWCA members,

When I first moved to the DC area from New England for law school (many, many moons ago), I ended up in Arlington just because I found a cheap apartment in a safe neighborhood that was an easy commute to school. I knew nothing about Arlington but assumed it was the kind of place people lived in for a few years while working in DC, and not at all the kind of place where you would set down roots and raise a family. Boy was I wrong! It turns out that Arlington is a wonderful place to live, with beautiful homes, excellent schools, and endless opportunities for interesting things to do. Best of all, I have found that we have a strong sense of community here and I, for one, am never leaving!! For me, being a member of AWCA has been a big factor in feeling part of our strong community. I have made many friends through our group, and I have participated in countless fun activities, both in Arlington and in nearby areas. And I am proud to say that I've been part of a group that has raised almost \$500,000 to help provide essential services right here in Arlington. I hope that all of you have this experience too and that you are able to use our group to make new connections and to strengthen your own ties to Arlington. We are off to a fantastic start this year and I promise lots of fun and community-building ahead of us!

With best wishes to all!

Diane

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Friday, October 14 – 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at Arrowine. Drop in for 15 minutes or stay longer and enjoy tasting a variety of wines with AWCA friends.

Saturday, November 5 - 11:00 a.m. tour of Hillwood--the Princess Grace and Christian Dior exhibits--and stay for lunch at the Hillwood cafe.

The program committee welcomes ideas and suggestions for interesting programs or speakers for the membership. Please feel free to email Ashley or Sally with your input.

rehrfamily@verizon.net

sallyjdurand@gmail.com

Book Group

The AWCA Book Group will meet on Tuesday, October 18 at Kathy Seidel's house to discuss *The Anomaly* by Herve le Tellier. All are welcome! If you plan to come but haven't yet RSVP'd, please email Candy Fowler at mcandacefowler@gmail.com.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Details of the next meeting, our **Holiday Party and Membership Meeting:**

DATE: Thursday, December 8, 2022

PLACE: Home of Erin Tripodi
3818 North Dickerson Street
Arlington, Virginia 22207

TIME: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

We have four meetings a year.

September – Our **Welcome Back Social** and Membership Meeting was hosted by Carrie Branon.

The **February Wine and Cheese Party** and Membership Meeting will be hosted by Tammy Holleman – date to be determined.

The **May Spring Social** and Membership Meeting will be hosted by Stephanie Carpenter – date to be determined.

AWCA BOOK GROUP

We are hoping to meet four more times this year, probably on December 12 (location TBA), late January, early March, and late April. We'll be choosing one or more of our upcoming books at the October 18 meeting and will announce the selections soon.

If you would like to join the Book Group email list, please email Candy Fowler at mcandacefowler@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

COAT DRIVE FOR CASA MARIFLOR

The Volunteer Services Committee is again pairing with Casa Mariflor and asking you to donate new or clean, gently used warm coats. We are looking for coats for all ages: children from birth to 15 years old as well as coats for adult men and women. Please include a hanger with your coat.

Coats can be dropped off at the following locations:

- Between now and October 24: Nancy Pilchen's house: 1412 N. Highland Street (right by the Clarendon Metro in Lyon Village), on her back porch adjacent to the driveway. The driveway is actually on Hancock St. Please call her if you need additional information: 703-867-2908
- Between October 24 and November 8: Ellen Sher's house: 4829 Rock Spring Road, on her front porch.

If you prefer to make a cash contribution, we will bundle the monies and purchase additional coats. You can Venmo Nancy @Nancy-Pilchen (last 4 digits of phone number are 2908. Adorable dog picture will insure you're on the right page). You can also give a check to either Ellen or Nancy.

On Wednesday morning November 9, we will be assisting Mariflor in distributing the coats at 4701 Arlington Blvd (Central United Methodist Church). Approximate time is 9:30-11:30 a.m. If you'd like to help, please contact Nancy or Ellen.

Nancy.pilchen@gmail.com

Esher10554@aol.com.

About Casa Mariflor

For those of you who might not be familiar with the organization, Mariflor Ventura started it in April 2020 during COVID, after she found herself home from work and stunned at the realization that her neighbors were struggling to afford rent and pay bills. Her work began locally with coordinating the Facebook group *Arlington Neighbors Helping Each Other Through Covid-19*. She has since been honored by many organizations, including the Biden-Harris administration, for her outstanding volunteer work and the Arlington Democratic Party Latino Caucus for her service in the Latino community. We partnered with Mariflor last year and provided new bras for women in the community.

BENEFIT COMMITTEE

Volunteers Welcome!

We are looking forward to organizing a very fun and productive benefit this spring! The date, theme, and benefit recipient are yet to

be determined, but we would love to have anyone who enjoys event planning join our committee! Lots of ways to be creative and contribute any time allocation you have available. Please contact Benefit Chairs Angie Wilcox, angielynwilcox@gmail.com, 703-628-8777 or Kim Wackerle, wackshacks@aol.com, 703-975-2349 if interested.

Thank You from the 2022 Benefit Recipient – The Arlington Free Clinic

Dear Diane,

Thank you so much to the Arlington Women's Civic Alliance for the incredibly generous donation of \$25,000 to support our dental clinic. This gift will have a huge impact on our ability to meet the needs of our dental patients. I know there are many amazing and worthwhile organizations in Arlington that have great needs and are deserving of support. It means so much that you chose us. We feel especially grateful as we understand that this year was AWCA's most successful fundraiser ever.

Personally, I am so grateful to live in a community that is so supportive of our neighbors in need.

With deepest gratitude and appreciation.

*Donna Alpi
AFC Board Chair*

AWCA 101

With so many new members, we thought it would be a good time to pull together some of the basics of what makes the Arlington Women's Civic Alliance such a special organization.

- AWCA was founded in 1993 by a group who wanted to foster community here in Arlington.
- We have four social/general membership meetings a year, usually scheduled in September, December, February, and May. All active members are required to attend at least one meeting each year.
- We also have monthly programs, which are planned and announced by the Programs Committee. Recent events have included a Saturday tour of the Alexandria Garden Club's winning gardens (April 2022) and a visit to the Library of Congress (September 2022).
- A member can switch to a Sustainer membership after five years as an Active member.
- Every year, the Community Support committee selects a beneficiary to receive the funds raised at our annual fundraising event. The benefit party is held in May each year at a member's home or a local venue.
- AWCA's Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to women who are residents of Arlington or graduates of high schools in Arlington to attend Northern Virginia Community College. More information about the Scholarship Fund is on page 4.
- The Volunteer Services committee coordinates regular donation drives to collect a variety of items needed by groups in the community. Past drives have included school supplies, dental hygiene items, and gift cards. The committee occasionally organizes in-person volunteer opportunities.

NEWS/OF NOTE

AWCA Goes to the Library of Congress



In September, AWCA members toured the Library of Congress and the copyright exhibit. Much fun was had by all!

Thank You from Arlington Count – For the School Supplies Drive

At our September meeting, members donated a large trove of school supplies for Arlington County students. After dropping off the supplies at the County's Department of Human Services, Ellen Sher received an email and a certificate of appreciation from Erica Serrano of that office, thanking us for the school supplies.

The email reads:

Dear Ellen:

On behalf of Arlington County Foster Parent Services Program, I want to express our deep gratitude for the generous donation of school supplies for our children in foster care. Please find attached a Certificate of Appreciation extended to Arlington Women's Civic Association we hope you can share with your group.

Your donation helped us make sure that children in need in Arlington made their start of the school year ready to learn.

While most of the supplies donated were used for children in the foster care program, please be aware, that some children in need receiving other services from the Child and Family Services Division, also benefited from your donation.

We thank you for your donation and hope to continue counting you as our partner in the future.

Respectfully,

Erica Serrano

*Outreach and Recruitment Specialist
Arlington County Department of Human
Services*

Child and Family Services Division

AWCA Scholarship Fund – More info

Our scholarship fund is administered by the Arlington Community Foundation. Created with AWCA donations of \$46,000 between 2001 and 2008, the fund provides scholarships to women who are residents of Arlington or graduates of high schools in Arlington to attend Northern Virginia Community College, with preference for those who are first generation college students or can show financial need.

Under its current terms (adopted by the AWCA membership last year), our fund supports two new \$2000 scholarships each year, each of which may be renewed up to three times, to attend NOVA or continue at a four-year college. To provide flexibility for students whose financial or family circumstances require them to attend school part time or take some semesters off, recipients have five years to use their four \$2000 grants.

Over its lifetime, the AWCA Scholarship Fund has awarded \$51,000 in scholarships, including three \$2000 grants (two new and one renewal) for the current school year. Thanks to solid investment performance over the years, the fund balance is currently over \$43,000. We are monitoring the fund and will consider whether to make additional donations if the balance falls.

MEMBER NEWS

>> Angie Wilcox and Erin Tripodi are happy to announce the arrival of June Mabel Williams, Angie's granddaughter and Erin's niece. She was born September 23 at 6 lbs. 14 oz--a healthy baby girl! June is happily residing in Arlington and is a future third generation AWCA member.

>> A first grandchild for Dawn Alexander! Her daughter Alexandra Lizarraga and her husband Derek Johnston had a baby boy, Parker, on August 20.

NEW MEMBER BIOS – FALL 2022

Stephanie Albright has lived in Arlington for the 10 years. Her husband, Toby, grew up in the Falls Church area. Their daughter, Ginny, is a sixth grader at Holy Child in Potomac, and son, George, is an eighth grader at Williamsburg Middle School. She formerly practiced law and has been a stay-at-home mother for almost 14 years. She is the Secretary of Dominion Guild in Arlington and formerly served on the Arlington Free Clinic Special Gifts Committee.

Ariel Greenlee Blessed grew up in Arlington and attended local schools and then JMU for her bachelor's degree and Marymount for her master's degree in Education. After teaching first grade at

Arlington Traditional School for 10 years, Ariel is now taking a break to focus on her own kids, Charlie, age 8, and Sarah, age 6. Ariel's husband, Chad, works in affordable housing finance at Walker & Dunlop, a commercial real estate firm. Ariel looks forward to being involved in AWCA and making new connections in our community.

Christy Cole has lived in Arlington for 18 years with her husband Don and three children, Ryan, Andrew, and Caroline. Christy is the Director of Philanthropy at the Arlington Community Foundation. She serves on the Board of Aspire! After School Learning, is the chair of Doorways 'Emeritus Board, and actively volunteers in support of her children's schools and activities.

Crystal Hinnant Ferguson has lived in Arlington for 19 years (Clarendon and now Country Club Hills). She lives with her husband (Jeff), daughter (Elle), and their three dogs. Crystal spent 17 years working as a legal recruiter in DC and now is a stay-at-home mom. In her spare time, she loves to be active (running, cycling, golf, tennis, skiing). She is also a member of the Trust for the National Mall Cornerstone Council.

Nicki Ferramosca attended St. Mary's College of Maryland, earning a B.A. in Biology, playing soccer and rugby along the way. She attended GW, where she earned her Master's in physical therapy. Nicki has been working in outpatient orthopedics in the DMV for 20-plus years, with a specialty in high performance athletes. Nicki loves all things fitness and is especially passionate about tennis, pickleball, and watching her twins explore all the sports! She has lived in Arlington for over 20 years and enjoys

volunteering with local charities and serves on several PTA committees at her kids' school.

Andrea Grassi Franklin has a professional background in strategy, marketing and product development. She currently serves on Children's National's Patient & Family Advisory Council and is also the Co-Chair for The Cornerstone Council at the Trust for the National Mall. She earned her bachelor's degree in marketing from Miami University. Andrea resides in Arlington, Virginia with her husband, two young daughters, and dog.

Maria Ghazal grew up in Andover, Massachusetts and moved to DC to work on Capitol Hill. She graduated from Bates College, has a master's degree in public policy (Georgetown), and a law degree (American University). Maria and her husband Jay moved to Arlington twenty years ago and have two adult children, John and Caroline. Maria is Senior Vice President & Counsel at the Business Roundtable in Washington. She taught religious education at Holy Trinity, serves on the board at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, and serves on the Advisory Board of Georgetown's McCourt School of Public Policy.

Tammy Holleman, her husband Josh and three boys Tyler, Jake and Jordan moved to Arlington from Austin, Tex. four years ago. In her former life (pre-children), she worked as a clinical social worker in private practice and has had many diverse volunteer roles serving underserved communities. Now as her boys have grown out of the toddler stage, the desire to serve and the ability to be a part of a helping community is exciting.

She looks forward to working with a wonderful group of women!

Blair Holmes has spent more than a decade working at the highest levels of American government and advocacy in Washington, D.C., including leading communications efforts for the US Senate Judiciary Committee and the US Chamber of Commerce. In 2019, she left the Chamber after 11 years to focus more of her time on her family and community. She has been active with the Virginia Hospital Center Foundation, serving on the host committee and assisting in communications for their annual gala. Blair is a 9-year resident of Arlington. She lives with her husband, Josh, and their two young boys.

Elizabeth Krill has lived in Arlington for eight years. She has a master's degree in Counseling from the University of Florida and worked as a high school counselor in the Bronx, N.Y. from 2010-2014. After moving to Arlington in 2014, she continued her career as a high school counselor in Fairfax County. She and her husband Nate have three young daughters—Avery (5), Emily (3), and Vivian (1), whom she is currently at home with full time.

Erin Langley, a native of Buffalo, N.Y., has primarily lived in Arlington since graduating from William & Mary over 20 years ago. After stepping away from a career as a Business Operations Executive with a consulting firm in 2020, her focus has been on raising three sporty kids (ages 13, 11, and 8) with her husband Brian. Erin holds a variety of volunteer positions with the PTA as well as her kids' teams/groups. She is thrilled to be part of the AWCA—for the opportunity to positively impact the local

community with such a wonderful group of women.

Kathleen McKenna, originally from Athens, Penn., moved to DC in 2006 to work with Pennsylvania Governor and first Secretary of DHS, Tom Ridge. After several years in communications and press roles, Kathleen joined Bloomberg LP and spent 10 years growing the company's DC arm, Bloomberg Industries. She is a member of the Kennedy Center's National Committee for the Performing Arts and the Trust for the National Mall's Cornerstone Council. She has served on the Arlington Free Clinic Gala Host Committee and has extensively supported charities such as Chance for Life and the Virginia Hospital Center. Kathleen and her husband, Andrew, have three young boys and a fox red lab at home in Arlington.

Sarah McLaren is a full-time real estate professional at Washington Fine Properties. After graduating from the University of North Carolina, she began her professional career in New York working at a fine arts auction house. She later worked for Reuters in London and managed media accounts across Europe. Sarah's maternal grandparents were fifth-generation Washingtonians, and Sarah grew up in McLean, Va. An avid tennis player at Washington Golf and Country Club, Sarah also enjoys theater, travel, yoga, reading and the arts. Sarah resides in Arlington with her husband, two children, and two schnoodle dogs.

Morgan Miller has lived in Arlington since 2007 and met her husband, Preston Miller, here. She enjoys being a stay-at-home mom to their two girls and two boys ages 11, 10, 9 and 7. Morgan keeps busy as an

elected member of the Executive Committee for their children's private school in McLean while serving on several parent committees in chair and member roles. She also enjoys philanthropy, as she sits on the Advisory Board for the National Museum of Women in Arts, is a member of the Trust for the National Mall Cornerstone Council, and is a past member of the host and planning committee for the St. Jude Heart of Fashion and Chance For Life events, for several years.

Basma Paget has lived in Arlington with her husband Brian and their three children Sara, Danny, and Leya since May of 2007. Sara and Danny attend Yorktown High School, and Leya attends Williamsburg Middle School. Basma speaks three languages, and, after 15 years as a stay-at-home mom and volunteering in neighborhood schools, she decided to become an APS substitute teacher, which she loves.

Jyl Pomeroy has lived in Arlington since 1985. She and her husband have two adult children, a son and his family, to include two adorable grandchildren, who will move to Clifton soon, and a daughter who lives with her husband in Brooklyn. Jyl enjoyed a long career as a nurse, working in the Arlington community in a variety of roles for over 40 years. She has recently retired from her best job ever as a nurse at Arlington Free Clinic.

Shelley Stewart and her husband Ed have lived in Arlington, Va. since 1995, having raised their children Maggie (27) and Bill (24) in the Taylor-Williamsburg-Yorktown pyramid. Professionally, Shelley serves the Director, Federal Government Affairs, for Takeda Pharmaceuticals. During her free time, Shelley enjoys singing with The City

Choir of Washington, one of the DC area's professional choruses. She also had a 13-year stint as a Girl Scout leader for a troop she started in her daughter's first grade class and led through the girls' high school graduation.

Tracy Tkac (pronounced Tack) is a mother of two sons and two daughters, and grandmother to two granddaughters. She has always lived in the Washington area and suburbs and is a fourth generation Washingtonian. Tracy is a working Realtor, licensed in Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Delaware. Volunteer opportunities have included chairing galas for both Landon School and The Connelly School of the Holy Child, and The Golf and Tennis tournament for the National Foundation for Cancer Research at Kenwood and Bethesda Country Clubs. Tracy enjoys gardening, cooking and entertaining, playing tennis and golf, and her family. She is excited to be engaged to be married.

Alice Tornquist has lived in Arlington since 1996. She and her husband David have two children: Matthew Tornquist (24), and Caroline Tornquist (22), both of whom attended Arlington County Public Schools and are now college graduates. Alice worked professionally at OMB, on Capitol Hill, and as a lobbyist for Qualcomm, and has volunteered at her church and for the Girl Scouts. Currently, she serves on the Board of Trustees of Camp Dudley and Kiniya.

Erin Tripodi is an Arlington native. After graduating from Yorktown, she attended the University of Virginia for undergrad and law school. She lives near Jamestown Elementary with her husband, Matt, and two

daughters Paige and Emery Burns. She is lucky to have two older "bonus" kids, Olivia, who lives and works on Capitol Hill, and Zach who is starting his senior year at Villanova. After 15 years of practicing law as a litigator, Erin took a risk and started her own interior design business. As an oil painting major, she is absolutely loving the creative outlet and working for herself. When not working, Erin can be found on a tennis court or soccer field.

Sarah Trimmer is an Arlington native and returned to the area with her husband Greg in 2006. She is the mother of four boys ages 15, 14 and 10-year-old twins. Sarah has been an active community volunteer through her children's schools and through leadership roles at St. Mary's Episcopal Church and the Arlington Free Clinic, where she served on the Special Gifts Committee for six years including year years as Benefit Gala Special Gifts Committee Chair.

Kristen Wilson has lived in Arlington since 2006. She and her husband Brian are parents to four children, with two in college and two at Jamestown. She is a program manager in the federal government, currently working at the General Services Administration on a program focused on government-wide data and policy. She also volunteers as a Girl Scout troop leader and cookie mom.

October 12, 2022

AWCA Newsletter

Published four times a year

Editor: Maureen Caughran

Submissions: AWCANewsletter@gmail.com

Please share your news with us, happy or sad, so that we can celebrate with you or provide support. Examples could include: a new baby, grandbaby, job change, graduation, engagement, wedding, award-- whatever you'd like to share.

Please send your news to AWCANewsletter@gmail.com and put NEWS in the subject line.
