

# AWCA Newsletter

## June 2023

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear AWCA members,

We've had a great year of interesting programs and volunteer events, lively Board and general membership meetings, and an amazing benefit. Thanks to everyone who contributed to our success this year, but especially to our hard-working and enthusiastic Board members. It has truly been an honor to serve as your President for the past two years. As I reflect on what AWCA has meant to me, I've decided it boils down to the "Three Fs" - and here they are!

**FUN** – From museum visits to flower arranging to Board meetings with lots of wine consumed and many tangents from AWCA matters discussed, I've had so much fun being a part of AWCA. I've had many experiences I wouldn't have otherwise had, and that won't change now that I'll be stepping down.

**FRIENDSHIP** – I have many wonderful friends I wouldn't even know but for AWCA. Some are women I saw occasionally when my kids were younger, and others are women I met through this group. My AWCA friends have enriched my life in many ways, and I know that will continue as well.

**FUNDRAISING** – Last but not least, our group has been incredibly successful at raising money for our community. I am so proud to say that we have now contributed over \$525,000 to local organizations. This year's benefit was our most successful ever, with a huge donation going to the Arlington Free Clinic—see more below. Our small group has made a big difference in the lives of many of our fellow Arlingtonians.

Thanks again to all of you who help make our group a fun organization where we can all make new friends and support our community!

Love to all – Diane

### BENEFIT REPORT

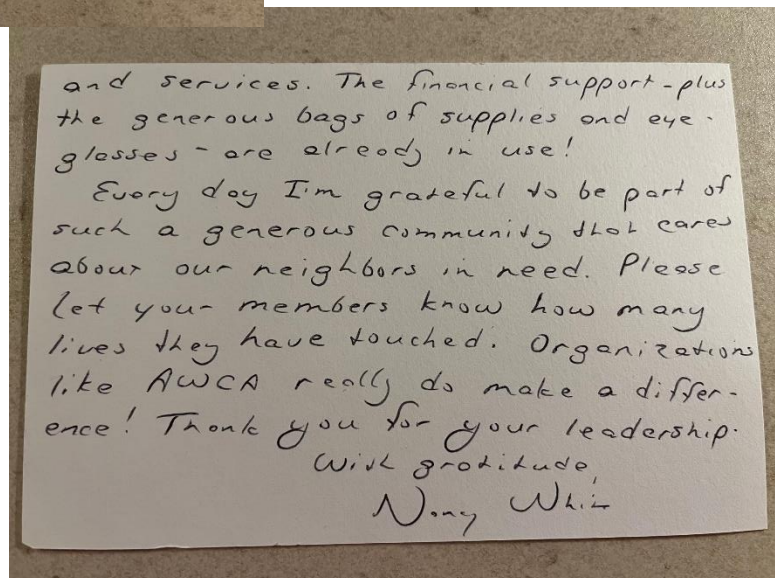
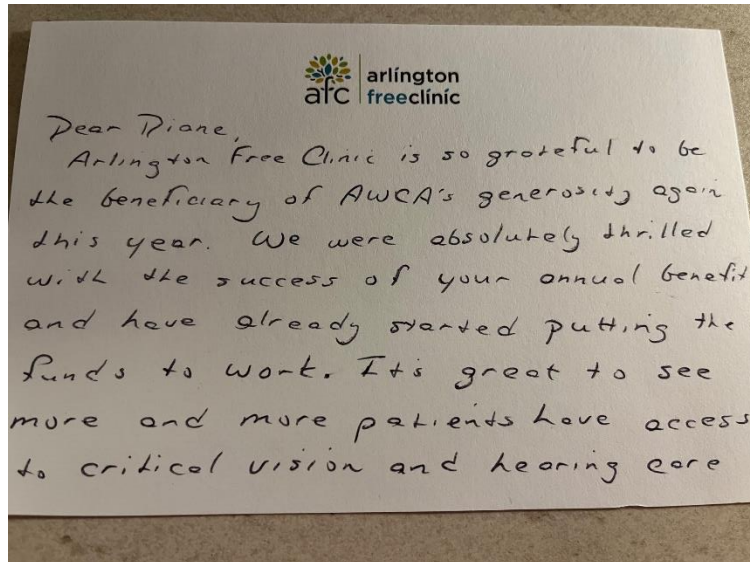
**The benefit was a huge success! Here's what benefit co-chair Angie Wilcox had to say:**

"Kim and I are thrilled with the results of the spring benefit. The opportunity to contribute \$30,000 to our worthy beneficiary, the Arlington Free Clinic Hearing and Vision Program, is incredible. We want to thank everyone who attended, donated, or contributed an auction item! It was so fun to see everybody so actively involved in the auction this year, which raised \$13,000. Kim and I both loved all the positive energy that we were feeling the night of the Cinco de Mayo party. The AWCA is such a wonderful group of women."



On the next pages, see the thank you note we received from Nancy White of the Arlington Free Clinic and some photos of the Cinco de Mayo event: scenes from the pool venue and of co-chair Angie Wilcox with husband Gary and daughter Erin Tripodi.

Thank you note from Nancy White,  
Arlington Free Clinic



Also, see the article in the May 24 – 30, 2023, Arlington Connection about AWCA's continuing support for the Arlington Community over the past 30 years.

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2023/052423/Arlington.pdf>



## AWCA TRADITIONS

In May, Diane was presented with a handmade platter to thank her for her many hours of dedicated service over the past two years as our president. You can see the lovely platter, made by local artist and former AWCA member Linn Woloshin, below. (Note Linn's signature polka-dot edge.)



**Diane's platter**



## A LOOK BACK AT OUR YEAR

### MAY MEETING

Wrapping up a year of fun meetings, our May meeting at Stephanie Carpenter's house featured the presentation of the benefit donation to Donna Alpi (third from left in the middle photo on the right), the president of the Arlington Free Clinic Board of Directors. Others pictured (left to right) are Surekha Cohen, R.N., Director of Clinical Services for AFC; Candy Fowler; and Diana Namugenyi, Director of Finance for AFC.





## PROGRAMS

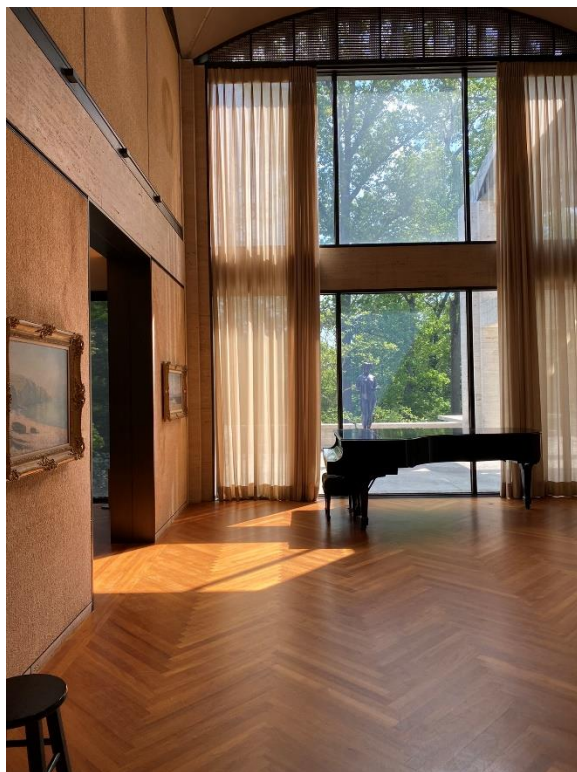
*Sally Duran and Ashley Rehr*

We have had a great time planning and leading monthly programs for the membership! Highlights from this past year include a private tour of the Library of Congress, wine tasting at Arrowvine, the Grace Kelly/Dior exhibit at Hillwood, the Preston Singletary Glass exhibit at the National Museum of the American Indian, the Steep Canyon Rangers Grammy-winning singers at Wolf Trap, flower arranging with Joanne Swain, and a tour of the Kreeger Museum followed by lunch at Bistro Aracosa.

Thanks to everyone who offered suggestions and advice on event planning: Diane Greenlee, Kathy Mimberg, Christine Van Kirk, Kim Wackerle, Nancy Todd, Jyl Pomeroy, MaryLynn Haase, Pat Silverman, Christen Farmer, and Ellen Sher.

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The May tour of the Kreeger Museum allowed those who went to experience award-winning architecture (the Philip Johnson-designed home) and amazing artworks (Bonnard, Cezanne, Chagall, Braque, Picasso, and Albers, to name a few).





## BOOK GROUP

*Candy Fowler*

The book group had a terrific year, with lively discussions of five interesting books. We are looking forward to reading more next year.

**Join us next year – all are welcome!  
Attend any or all meetings.**

All AWCA members are welcome to attend any and all book discussions—you don't have to commit to coming every time. While meetings are announced to the whole membership, we also maintain a book group email list for planning purposes—book suggestions, date and host scheduling, etc. If you are not on the book group interest list and would like to be, please email Candy Fowler at [mcandacefowler@gmail.com](mailto:mcandacefowler@gmail.com) to be added.

## HOSPITALITY

*Rita Kobylenski and Peggy Richardson.*

We want to thank all of our hostesses for the last two years. In order they are Ellen Sher (twice), Diane Greenlee, Nancy Prowitt, Carrie Branon, Erin Tripodi, Tammy Holleman, and Stephanie Carpenter. They went to great lengths to graciously open their doors for business and merriment of the AWCA.

So much appreciated! Our successors will be Basma Paget and Tammy Holleman. If anyone is inclined to volunteer their home for the upcoming year, especially September, please contact them both. And remember, “we do the work, you get the credit!”

## TREASURER'S REPORT

*Candy Fowler*

The 2022-23 program year was a very successful one for AWCA's finances, thanks to both the generosity of our members and the care with which Board members managed their expenditures. After the award of our \$30,000 grant to the Arlington Free Clinic and payment of our expenses, we have a \$9,300 cushion to carry over to next year. This is not counting the funds received for next year's dues, which total \$4,550 so far. So, our current balance is almost \$14,000.

A review of our expenditures for the year shows most budget categories on target, although there have been increases in some expenses—notably the cost of our liability insurance and our PayPal fees, as more members take advantage of the option to pay online. I will share these figures with new Treasurer Emily Kiggen so she can plan for them in next year's budget.

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*Candy Fowler*

Did you know that AWCA has a scholarship fund administered by the Arlington Community Foundation? Our latest recipients, Mayerle Flores from Arlington Community High School and Heidy Sandoval from Washington-Liberty High School, were announced at the ACF scholarship reception June 1. Each will receive \$2000 to attend Northern Virginia Community College.

Launched in 2003, our fund has given out \$52,000 in scholarships through 2022. Applicants must be women who live in Arlington or graduate from an Arlington high school with a 3.0 GPA and plan to attend NOVA, with a preference for first-generation

college students or students who can demonstrate financial need. The scholarships are renewable up to three times to continue at NOVA or attend a four-year college. The ACF selects two new applicants each year for our scholarship as well as approving renewals for previous recipients who remain in good academic standing.

Although we last added money to the fund in 2008, the fund balance has remained healthy thanks to favorable market conditions. At the same time, tuitions have increased. So last year we increased our base scholarship amount from \$1000 to \$2000 and made the terms for renewal more flexible, allowing five years to use four years' worth of scholarship money. This year we will be supporting four continuing students--Lamiaa Bejjoui and Maha Bouchareb at NOVA, Sierra Saunders at George Mason University, and Nurcan Cetinbas at Marymount University. So our total outlay may reach \$12,000 for the year.

Our current fund balance (before this year's grants are paid out) is \$44,501.77. With the greater amounts we are giving away, AWCA may need to consider whether to make additional donations to support our fund in the next few years.



**Melanie Barton, AWCA scholarship recipient Heidy Sandoval, and Diane Greenlee at the ACF reception**

## VOLUNTEER SERVICES

*Ellen Sher and Nancy Pilcher*

On May 22, AWCA members participated in a Reading to Kids event with students in the Aspire! Afterschool Learning program at the Arlington Mill Community Center. In thanking Ellen for providing AWCA volunteers, Paula Fynboh of Aspire! wrote:

"Individual one-on-one reading and homework help provides a valuable tool for students to learn, and to be seen. Thank you again for your support to Aspire!"

## MEMBERSHIP

*Melanie Barton and Emily Kiggen*

We're happy to report that there are six new members joining AWCA in the fall. They are:

1. Brenda Freed (sponsored by Amy Reif)
2. Nicole Harding (sponsored by Emily Kiggen)
3. Katie Reed (sponsored by Maureen Caughran)
4. Amelia Gay (sponsored by Erin Tripodi)
5. Tori Rittinger (sponsored by Diane Greenlee)
6. Danielle Pfifferling (sponsored by Stephanie Carpenter)

We still have a few open spots for the fall if any member wants to add someone before June 30. Please contact Melanie Barton ([melaniebarton@verizon.net](mailto:melaniebarton@verizon.net)) or Emily Kiggen ([emily.kiggen@gmail.com](mailto:emily.kiggen@gmail.com)) to submit a new member request or put someone on the waiting list.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### New Officers for 2023-2024

President: Angie Wilcox

VPs/Benefit Chairs: Stephanie Carpenter and Erin Tripodi

Treasurer: Emily Kiggen

Secretary: Ginger Ackerman and Janis Wear

Membership: Melanie Barton and Nicki Ferramosca

Programs: Nancy Pilchen and Ellen Sher

Community Support: Kathleen McKenna and Sarah Trimmer

Volunteer Services: Carrie Branon and Erin Langley

Communications: Maureen Caughran and Mary Panke

Hospitality: Tammy Holleman and Basma Paget

Website: MaryLynn Haase

Parliamentarian: Diane Greenlee

## MEMBER NEWS

>> Rita Kobylenski was in for a surprise after her hospitality duties ended with our May 17 meeting. She shared this happy news: "On May 17 at our last meeting of the year at Stephanie Carpenter's, I was blissfully unaware that my daughter had gone into labor two weeks early. It wasn't until after the event I found out she had gone to the hospital and voila! the next morning I awoke to a text that Isabel Frances Shipley had been born in the early hours of May 18, all 7 lbs. 6 oz of her. She joins her mother Katherine and father Ryan Shipley and big sister Allison. All are doing well."

>> Susan Duke would like to make fellow members aware of the Arlington Youth Philanthropy Initiative (AYPI), a student-directed youth board of grant makers. The Youth Board is now accepting applications for membership from area high schoolers interested in making a difference in our community. The Youth Board makes grants of up to \$1,000 for youth-initiated, sustainable ventures from a Fund for Youth Philanthropy, which is managed by the Arlington Community Foundation. The founder/fund advisor is former AWCA Chair, Susan Duke, and the group is mentored by an AWCA member's daughter, Kirby Clark. For more information, students can email [AYPI@arlcfc.org](mailto:AYPI@arlcfc.org)

## THANKS

Thanks to the following board members for their contributions to the newsletter:

Sally Duran and Ashley Rehr  
Candy Fowler  
Melanie Barton and Emily Kiggen  
Rita Kobylenski and Peggy Richardson  
Nancy Pilchen and Ellen Sher  
Janis Wear  
Angie Wilcox and Kim Wackerle

## FINAL NOTE

A note from the editor—

I would like to thank our president, Diane Greenlee, for her invaluable help in providing guidance on numerous aspects of putting together the newsletter this past year and for her expert proofreading and editing skills.

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June 20, 2023

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## AWCA Newsletter

Published four times a year

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Submissions: [AWCANewsletter@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:AWCANewsletter@gmail.com) and put MEMBER NEWS in the subject line.

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