

AWCA Newsletter

April 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear AWCA Ladies,

I hope everyone is having a nice spring, which seems to be springing all over the place.

We are gearing up for our annual Benefit on May 1, a joint effort of all our members, to help raise money for three worthy nonprofits—see the Benefit announcement for more information about them.

This event not only helps raise money but also is such a fun time for all of us to be together. If you want to bring your spouse or a friend to join the fun, please purchase their ticket now—see link on next page.

I know the Benefit can always use more **Silent Auction** items, so please use the link in the Benefit announcement in the next column to add your donations. Whether it be your time, talent, or treasures, it will all help Erin Tripodi and Nicki Ferramosca, our incredible Benefit Chairs.

I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Best,
Peggy



AWCA Annual Benefit

Nantucket Nights



Friday, May 1, 6:30 p.m.

Home of Shannon Haynes

3301 N. Albemarle Street

We are excited to share details of our upcoming annual benefit and hope you will be part of this special evening.

This year's theme, *Nantucket Nights*, invites you to experience the charm of the coast with delicious food from Millie's, refreshing cocktails, and preppy nautical style—all in support of meaningful causes in our community.

As part of the evening, we will once again host a **Benefit Auction**, and we would be so grateful for your participation. We are seeking donations such as vacation home stays, catered dinners, gift baskets, or other unique experiences and items. Please use this [Benefit Auction Entry Form](#) to record your donation.

Proceeds from this year's benefit will support three incredible organizations:

Culpepper Garden – A nonprofit senior living community providing high-quality, affordable housing and services to older adults on fixed and very low incomes. Donations support resident programming, technology access, and transportation for essential needs.

Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV) – A volunteer-driven organization helping older adults safely age in place by offering transportation, household assistance, technology support, and social connection.

Arlington Thrive – For over 50 years, Arlington Thrive has supported neighbors in need. This year, we will earmark \$2,500 for their diaper bank, which provides essential supplies to local families.

Please RSVP via the evite, which went out on April 13. Also, we would love to have you bring friends and spouses to share in the fun! As members of AWCA, you have already purchased your benefit ticket. For spouses and guests, please use the link below to purchase their ticket for \$125.

[TICKET LINK](#) (AWCA website. PW: goawca > Payment Center)

Join us for an evening of great food, cocktails, and community as we come together to support these impactful organizations. We can't wait to celebrate with you and make a meaningful difference together!

BOOK GROUP

Calling All Readers!

Monday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.



We will meet at the home of

Brenda Freed
2229 Tuckahoe Street
Arlington
Please park on Langston Blvd., between Tuckahoe and Sycamore (not in her neighbor's parking spots)

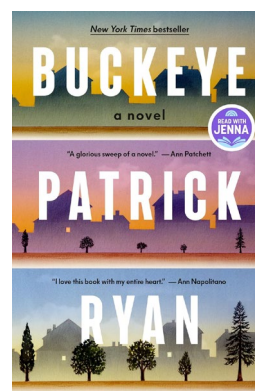
We'll be discussing **Buckeye** by Patrick Ryan. It is a sprawling historical novel, following the lives of two intertwined families from WWII to the present.

As always, all AWCA members are welcome to attend our friendly and lively group. Some people

may love a book, some people may hate it, some may not finish it. Everyone can join in the discussion. We'll be happy to see you. We will also be planning for next fall, so please bring suggestions for our next round of books.

Please RSVP to Amy at aekreif@gmail.com so that we know you are coming.

If you would like to be added to the book group email list for more frequent updates on dates and the books we'll be reading, please email Amy Reif: aekreif@gmail.com And If you are no longer interested in being on the Book Club mailing list, let Amy know that as well.



JUNE MEETING

Wednesday, June 3

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Our **final Membership Meeting** of the year will be at the home of

Kathleen McKenna
4507 33rd Street N
Arlington 22207

See you there!!

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

During this past year, we helped many members of our community from babies (see below) to schoolchildren (school supplies in the fall), to families (the Thanksgiving food collection) and seniors (Valentines Day bingo at Culpepper Gardens). And of course in December we put on

the holiday party for Arlington County foster families.

On March 26, 11 AWCA members put on a Baby Shower and Birthday Celebration for the Arlington County Teen Parenting Program. Ellen Sher, Ariel Blessed, and Pat Silverman coordinated the sweet event, much appreciated by the young moms at the Career Center. Nine babies and their moms had a great time! See photos on pages 5 and 6.

—Ellen Sher, Ariel Blessed, Pat Silverman



We currently have 80 Active members, 22 Sustaining members, and 9 women on our waitlist.

2025 – 2026 OFFICERS

President: Peggy Richardson

Vice President/Benefit: Erin Tripodi & Nicki Ferramosca

Secretary: Katie Reed & Val Smolinski

Treasurer: Emily Kiggen

Membership: Carrie Branon & Erin Langley

Programs: Stephanie Carpenter, Amelia Gay & Angie Wilcox

Community Support: Jen Irvin & Sarah Trimmer

Volunteer Services: Ariel Blessed, Ellen Sher & Pat Silverman

Newsletter: Maureen Caughran

E-Blasts: Janis Wear & Mary Panke

Hospitality: Tammy Holleman, Kathleen McKenna & Basma Paget

Website: Stephanie Carpenter

Parliamentarian: Angie Wilcox

THANKS

Thanks to Janis Wear for copyediting and proofreading, and to the following board members and members for their contributions to the newsletter:

Peggy Richardson

Amy Reif

Carrie Branon and Erin Langley

Ellen Sher, Ariel Blessed, and Pat Silverman

Erin Tripodi and Nicki Ferramosca

Tammy Holleman and Basma Paget

Stephanie Carpenter

AWCA WEBSITE

awcava.org

Questions about the next meeting, group activity, or Benefit information? Wondering how or when to pay your dues or purchase Benefit tickets? Book Group details? How to make a donation? Latest volunteer opportunities?

Check out our newly updated website!
awcava.org Password: goawca

You'll find all relevant and timely information on the landing page—no more searching through past emails. Follow the links for more details.

Please contact Stephanie Carpenter if you have comments or suggestions.

Email Blasts: Important Note

➤ Make sure your email replies count!

A reminder to all members: **Do not reply directly to the periodic AWCA email “blasts”** that announce upcoming programs, volunteer opportunities, Book Group meetings, and the like. If you hit “reply” when the sender is Arlington Women’s Civic Alliance (arlingtonwca@gmail.com), your email will languish in an *unmonitored* AWCA account. No one will see your reply.

We use this account to *send* the email blasts, but members each use their own email addresses to *receive* email.

Instead, **reply by sending a new email to the address(es) provided** in red-highlighted text or accompanying the names of the Committee Chairs who authored the email. We don’t want anyone to misdirect and miss out!

MEMBER NEWS

Kim and Rex Wackerle are thrilled to welcome grandson *Bennett Rex Hardison*, born December 13, 2025, at Georgetown Hospital. Bennett and his mom Lauren, dad Shep, and pooch Bunker reside in Bethesda.



Sad news: Former AWCA member Aileen Whitfill died on March 7, 2026, in South Carolina, where she moved several years ago.

April 10, 2026

AWCA Newsletter

Published four times a year

Editor: Maureen Caughran

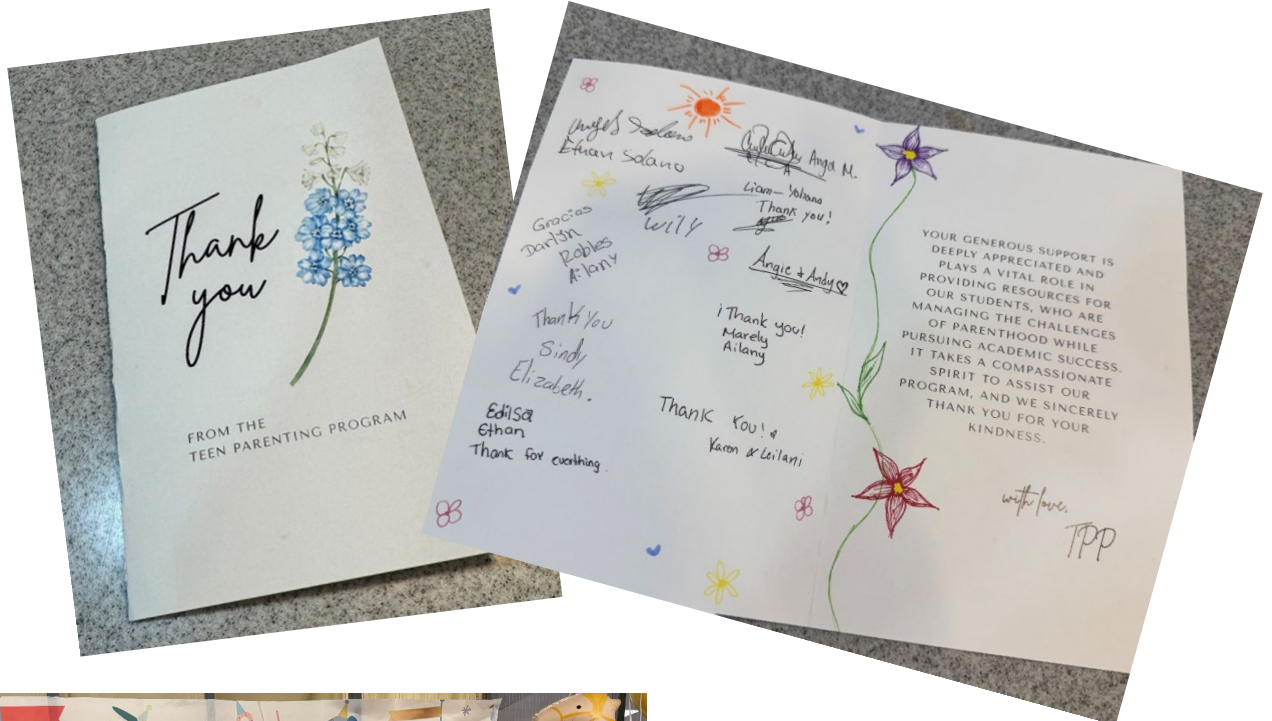
Submissions:

AWCANewsletter@gmail.com

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

Please send your news to

AWCANewsletter@gmail.com and put MEMBER NEWS in the subject line



**Teen Parenting Program
Birthday Party**

Below: Tammy Holleman and
Stephanie Carpenter





Left: Sheila Smith and Janis Wear

Below: Kathy Mimberg, Nancy Pilchen, and Carol McCoskrie

