

AWCA Newsletter

January 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE,

Ladies,

I want to thank the AWCA for all your support following my bilateral mastectomy. I'm thrilled that the committee has decided to focus on breast cancer care for the upcoming benefit.

It has been a life reaffirming journey for me. "If it's doesn't bring you joy let it go." I have a few more hurdles to cross, so keep me in your prayers. Thank you Peggy for stepping up and helping at the December meeting.

The AWCA is the sum of all its parts, and we are blessed to have an amazing group of women that will help this year be a total success.

Heartfelt gratitude,

Angie



Editors Note:

Please see page 4 for information about the benefit and for important information on purchasing benefit tickets, plus a new deadline.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Thursday, February 6

6:45 – 9:00 p.m.

Our **next Membership Meeting** will be at the home of

Tammy Holleman
4074 35th Street N
Arlington 22207

Mark your calendars!

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Mansion on O Street

Thursday, February 13

Join AWCA for a special Galentine's Day at the Mansion on O Street and lunch at Pizza Paradiso.

If you've never been to the Mansion on O St, you're in for a treat. It's a non-profit museum where everything is for sale and has rooms of everything you can imagine. It was the home away from home at one point for Rosa Parks. Here are some reviews to peruse in case you're still wondering: <https://mansionreviews.com/review>

But don't take our word for it: The Smithsonian rates the Museum on O St as one of the top 5 places to visit...*in the world*.

Here are the details: Please go online asap and purchase your ticket for general entry for Thursday, February 13, 10:00 a.m.

<https://www.omansion.com/>

Let us know if you can join us for lunch at 12:45 p.m. at Pizza Paradiso, a short 3-minute walk from the Mansion. Here's the menu

<https://www.eatyourpizza.com/lunch-dinner>

In order to get a reservation for lunch, please let us know by Wednesday, January 29 if you're planning to join us.

RSVP to Nancy.pilchen@gmail.com

--Nancy Pilchen & Ellen Sher

Upcoming Programs

Nancy and Ellen will announce additional fun programs for coming months via our email blast communication channel.

BOOK GROUP

Calling All Readers!



Monday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m.

The AWCA Book Group will meet on Monday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the popular bestseller *The God Of The Woods* by Liz Moore. Our meeting will take place at Lucy Dailey's house, located at 4046 Vacation Lane.

We are a very congenial, laid-back group. We'd love to have you join us!

For planning purposes, please RSVP to Lucy at usatravel@aol.com.

All are welcome to join our group. We are always happy to see you, even if you have not finished or read the book! And you don't need to commit to coming regularly. It's fine to attend only one meeting a year.

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.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Coat Drive and More!

Thanks to the support of so many AWCA members, we had a busy fall! We donated much-needed supplies and time to five different Arlington organizations.

We're looking forward to an equally productive spring, starting at our February meeting. If inclined, please bring Giant gift cards in \$25 increments to support the Women's Health Program at the Arlington Free Clinic (our chosen gala beneficiary).

Volunteer Services successes... so far! We have given:

- September: A Chevy Suburban packed full of school supplies to support **Arlington Foster Families**
- October: 60 pairs of much-needed sweatpants, 30 coats & accessories, and volunteer hours to **The Clothesline for Arlington Kids**



- November: 40 new winter coats to **Casa Mariflor**





- December: 326 pounds of food to **AFAC** (above)
- December: Attention and donations to the Holiday Gift Nook hosted by **Arlington Public Libraries**
- December: Volunteer hours, festive supplies, and gift cards to help create an amazing holiday party for **Arlington Foster Families**

--Carrie Brannon and Erin Langley

Foster Family Party

In December we enjoyed our second year supporting Arlington County's annual holiday party for foster families. Over a dozen AWCA members helped source supplies and/or came out in person to help at the holiday party. More than twenty foster families attended the event and enjoyed sharing community spirit, eating delicious food and baked goods, posing at photo stations, making holiday-related arts and crafts, and singing carols with members of the Yorktown High School choir. Each child went home with at least two toys provided through donations from many groups around the county, including ours. AWCA provided drinks and paper products, arts and crafts, decorations, gift cards, and several hours of hands-on volunteer help before, during, and after the event. It was such a great way to get in the holiday spirit, enjoy time with other AWCA members, and meet new people!

Special thanks to Basma Paget, Kathleen McKenna, Bit Krill, Crystal Ferguson, Amelia Gay, Erin Langley, Carrie Brannon, Kate O'Neill, Kathy Mimberg, Natalie Roy, Emily Kiggen, Carol McCoskrie, Mary Panke, Nancy Prowitt, and Nicki Ferramosca for their help at the event. (If we forgot to thank you by name, you know who you are, and we are grateful for your support!) Finally, thanks to everyone who couldn't be there in person and donated to the event instead.

We're already looking forward to next year's party!

--Jen Irvin



Jen Irvin, Bit Krill, Basma Paget,
Erica Serrano, Crystal Ferguson

MEMBERSHIP

Nicki Ferramosca reports that we currently have 12 women on the waiting list.

AWCA Annual Benefit

A Midsummer Night's Dream

As our minds drift to thoughts of warmer weather, mark your calendars!

Date: May 17, 2025

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Jen Irvin's House
4404 36th St N
Arlington, VA 22207



What to wear!

Benefit Tickets

**New Benefit Ticket Purchase Timeline—
Please purchase your 2025 benefit ticket by
February 28, 2025.**

At our December 10, 2024, general meeting, it was announced that starting with the 2025-2026 season, annual dues and the required benefit ticket for active members will be combined into a single payment, due in June of each year

This means that over the next few months, you will be asked to make two payments:

1. **By February 28, 2025:** Purchase your required ticket (\$125) for the 2025 benefit. You can buy additional tickets and make donations at this time or at a later date.

To purchase tickets and make optional donations, please use this link

<https://www.awcava.org/shop>

To pay by check, please send your check to: Emily Kiggen, 4401 35th St N, Arlington, VA 22207. Please note on your check that it is for the 2025 benefit.

2. **By June 15, 2025:** Make one payment of \$175 for your 2025-26 membership dues (\$50) and your 2026 benefit ticket (\$125). **Note:** A link for this payment will be provided closer to the date.

You can also pay by check. Please note on your check that it is for 2025-2026 dues and the 2026 benefit.

While we realize that during this transition year purchasing two benefit tickets within a few months may present a challenge, going forward this change will provide us with several advantages.

- Members can make one payment (dues + benefit ticket) each year.
- Members can make any additional donations they would like to make.
- Bookkeeping, budgeting, and the benefit RSVP process will be much easier for those who are handling those activities.

Donations: AWCA members have been very generous in donating to our beneficiaries in past years, and we continue to welcome donations. You can donate additional funds at any time, via the link above or by sending a check.

We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during this transition as we work to streamline our payment collection process. Thank you!

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

AWCA Annual Benefit

2025 Benefit Recipient Selected

For our 2025 donation, we were moved by our President, Angie Wilcox, and her brave battle with breast cancer. We wanted to direct our AWCA donation to support other women in Arlington who are facing breast cancer but who lack the financial stability to provide for their whole care.

Our donation will specifically support Breast Cancer patients in the Arlington Free Clinic's Women's Health Program. This donation is timely, as their previous breast cancer programmatic grants will sunset in February of 2025.

Our funds will:

- Provide essential care, breast and cervical cancer screenings, breast cancer survivorship services, and education to approximately 1,000 women who would otherwise lack access to these important services. In 2023, 656 patients were referred by AFC for a screening mammogram. By offering women the opportunity to receive early diagnosis and treatment for cancer, these services can mean the difference between life and death.
- Fund up to four women's health clinics each month during which a team of volunteer physicians, nurse practitioners, and other professionals provide Pap tests and clinical breast exams as well as individual and small group education. AFC educates women and encourages healthy behaviors that will improve overall health.
- Support AFC in serving 20 active breast cancer patients who are either undergoing treatment or in remission and on hormone therapy. AFC is also supporting one BRCA1+ patient with ongoing tracking.
- Help AFC provide comprehensive survivorship services that include screening for recurrence of cancer, managing lasting physical and emotional side-effects, and improving health behaviors to enhance overall health and quality of life. AFC ensures patients are taking proper medications, reminds them of appointments, provides transportation to more advanced treatments and surgeries, and offers navigation care and appointment scheduling for oncology, radiology, GYN, and other appointments

We want to mention that while AWCA has supported the Arlington Free Clinic in the recent past, our funds were directed to other AFC programs: the Hearing and Vision Program (2022-2023) and the Dental Program (2021-2022).

--Kathleen McKenna and Sarah Trimmer

AWCA WEBSITE

awca.org

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

Check out our newly updated website!

awca.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. .

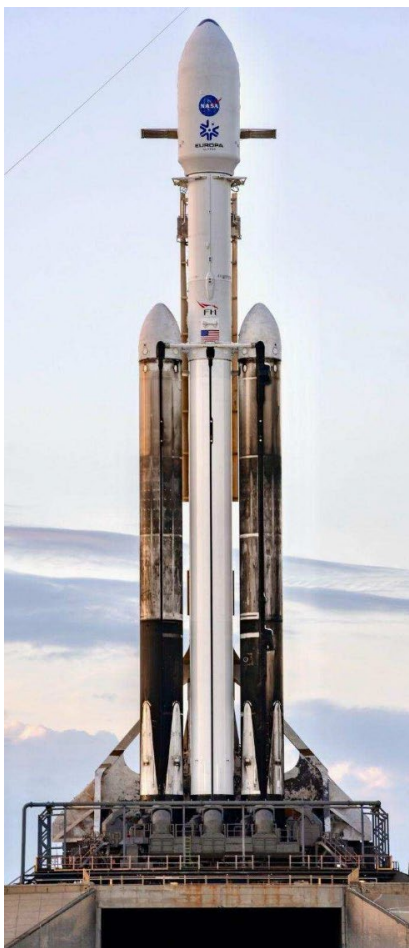
Please contact MaryLynn Haase or Kathy Mimberg if you have comments or suggestions.

MaryLynn Haase marylynn.haase@gmail.com

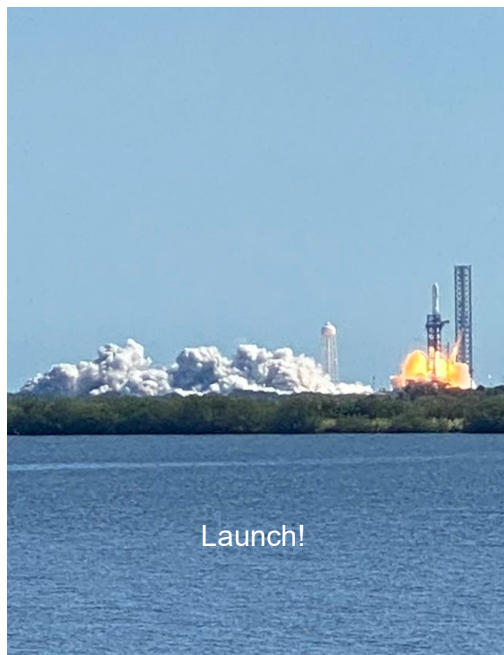
Kathy Mimberg mimbergk@yahoo.com

MEMBER NEWS

On October 14, 2024, Maureen and Phil Caughran attended the launch of NASA's Europa Clipper spacecraft from Cape Canaveral, Florida. Their son Dan Caughran leads the team that built the radio on the spacecraft. Dan is an electrical engineer at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, Maryland and a graduate of Yorktown High School and Virginia Tech. The Europa Clipper is on its way to Jupiter, where, when it arrives in April 2030, it will orbit Jupiter and gather information on the subsurface oceans on Jupiter's moon Europa. Over the next four years until the end of the mission, the radio will send the data collected back to earth for scientists to analyze.



Europa Clipper, top (in its fairing) on the launchpad, loaded on top of the Falcon Heavy rocket



Video of launch: <https://tinyurl.com/EClauN>

Fun kid's activity – Build a Europa Clipper paper model

<https://europa.nasa.gov/resources/298/europa-clipper-paper-model/>

2024 - 2025 OFFICERS

President: Angie Wilcox

Vice Presidents/Benefit: Stephanie Carpenter
and Erin Tripodi

Secretary: Katie Reed and Valerie Smolinski

Treasurer: Emily Kiggen

Membership: Nicki Ferramosca and
Amelia Gay

Programs: Nancy Pilchen and Ellen Sher

Community Support: Kathleen McKenna and
Sarah Trimmer

Volunteer Services: Carrie Branon and
Erin Langley

Communications

Newsletter: Maureen Caughran

News Blasts: Mary Panke, Janis Wear

Hospitality: Tammy Holleman and
Basma Paget

Website: MaryLynn Haase and
Kathy Mimberg

Parliamentarian: Peggy Richardson



Flowers always make people better, happier,
and more helpful; they are sunshine, food
and medicine to the mind.

— Luther Burbank

THANKS

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

Amy Reif

Carrie Branon and Erin Langley

Ellen Sher and Nancy Pilchen

Emily Kiggen

Erin Tripodi and Stephanie Carpenter

Janis Wear

Kathleen McKenna and Sarah Trimmer

MaryLynn Haase and Kathy Mimberg

Jen Irvin

Mary Panke

Nicki Ferramosca and Amelia Gay

Tammy Holleman and Basma Paget

January 22, 2025

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, accomplishment, award--whatever you'd
like to share.

Please send your news to

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

And finally – Here are a few photos from the fantastic **Wolf Trap backstage tour** organized by MaryLynn Haase in early December.

The tour was led by Ken Lewis, who worked for the NPS/Wolf Trap for over 25 years. During the tour, he talked about the history of Wolf Trap and shared numerous stories about the stars he's met over the years and how the backstage crews fulfill the requests of each and every performer, from Riverdance, to Sting, to Renée Fleming.

