

AWCA Newsletter

April 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear AWCA members,

Ladies, I want to thank each of you for all your enthusiasm this year. As we rev up for our 30th annual benefit, I can feel a sense of excitement. I'm thrilled that Katie Reed has offered to host. I'm looking forward to gathering on May 17 for the Luau Benefit.

Please consider donating to the auction, which is a tremendous way to raise additional funds for two very worthy beneficiaries.

The board members keep impressing with the opportunities for volunteering, socializing, contributing, educational outings, and creating lasting friendships.

And thank you to Maureen Caughran for continuing to produce a lovely newsletter that keeps everyone informed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at any time. My cell is 703-628-8777.

Angie



AWCA Annual Benefit

Friday, May 17, 6:30 p.m.

Aloha!



Who's ready to Hula?! We are so excited for this year's benefit and the opportunity to raise money for our worthy beneficiaries, The Clothesline for Arlington Kids and Bridges to Independence. Here are all the details.

Where

- **Katie Reed's house, 3629 N. Vermont Street**
- **RSVP to the Evite [here](#)**

Tickets

- **Buy tickets [here](#)** (Our website password is goawca.)
- You can also donate directly to both beneficiaries [here](#) Thank you!
- Please note that all members are required to buy a ticket. We will track membership ticket purchases via the website. The Evite will track headcount for the benefit. **Important: Only RSVP yes on the Evite if you plan to attend the event**
- The Clothesline has specifically asked for donations so they can purchase Crocs for kids. You can donate \$30/pair [here](#) and choose how many pairs you'd like to donate.

Silent Auction

- **Please let us know if you have donations for the auction by clicking on this [link](#)** If you have any questions, please reach out to Erin Tripodi at erintripodi@gmail.com

- **Nothing is too BIG or too SMALL to donate!** Items can range from a vacation home to a bottle of wine to a gourmet (or attempted gourmet) dinner. Here are some suggestions:
 - Host a gathering at your home
 - Make dinner or a specialty item and deliver it to someone's home
 - Combine contributions with a group
 - Sponsor guest(s) for golf, tennis, or pickleball clinics
 - Offer to dog walk, cat sit, or babysit
 - Offer consultation services such as interior design assistance or landscape design
 - Offer your beautiful vacation home (thank you!)
- You do not need to be present to bid on the silent auction items. We will send a list of all items prior to the benefit, and you can send your bids to Erin Tripodi at erintripodi@gmail.com

Gentle Reminder

Active members are required to buy a ticket to the benefit. Sustaining members are encouraged to buy a ticket and attend if you can. Thank you for your contribution!

Additional Information about Beneficiaries

Please **see additional information** in this newsletter about our two beneficiaries and other ways to volunteer and contribute. **Be sure to read** Ellen Moy's story about how and why she co-founded The Clothesline for Arlington Kids, on page 5.



MAY PROGRAM

Wednesday, May 8, 11:30 a.m.

Lunch at La Tomate

Visit to *Bonnard's Worlds* at the Phillips Collection

Join us on Wednesday May 8 when we visit the Phillips Collection and see their current exhibit on the French impressionist artist, Pierre Bonnard, entitled *Bonnard's Worlds*.

The exhibit reunites some of Bonnard's most celebrated works from museums across Europe and the United States, as well as many less-exhibited works from private collections worldwide. The exhibit is self-guided, but we will also be able to participate in docent discussions of two paintings in the Collection.



Details

11:30 a.m. – Meet at La Tomate, 1701 Connecticut Ave NW. We have been told that if you bring info on your museum ticket, you will receive 10% off lunch. Please bring cash if possible to make the payment go as smoothly as possible. <https://www.latomatebistro.com/>

After lunch, we will walk to the Phillips Collection (about 6 minutes).

Please go online and purchase your ticket as soon as possible. Choose: May 8, 2024, 12:30-1:00 p.m. entry

<https://www.phillipscollection.org/visit>

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors ages 62 and above.

If you don't join us for lunch, meet us at 12:45 p.m. at the Phillips Collection, 1600 21st St. NW.

1:00 p.m. – Spotlight on two paintings from their collection.

How to get there

The restaurant and museum are Metro accessible.

- Silver/Orange/Blue line to Farragut West/18th & Eye St. and then a 23-minute walk to the restaurant.
- Silver/Orange/Blue line to Metro Center. Change to Red Line towards Shady Grove to Dupont Circle, exit via 20th St & Q, 7-minute walk to the restaurant.
- There are also some parking lots near the Phillips Collection: You can reserve and pay ahead through Spothero.com.

RSVP to Ellen Sher by Monday, April 22 so that we can make a reservation at La Tomate. If you're only joining us for the museum portion, please let us know as well so we'll look for you when we arrive there.

Additional information about the exhibit:

<https://www.phillipscollection.org/event/2024-03-02-bonnards-worlds>

Hope you can join us for our final event of the 2023-24 season!



Pierre Bonnard – Self-Portrait (1889)

JUNE MEETING

Wednesday, June 5

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

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

Stephanie Carpenter

4307 35th Street N

Arlington 22207

Mark your calendars!

BOOK GROUP

Calling All Readers!

Wednesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m.



We will meet at the home of

Amy Reif

2745 11th St N

Arlington 22201

We will discuss *The Bee Sting* by Paul Murray.

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 it's fine to attend only one meeting a year.

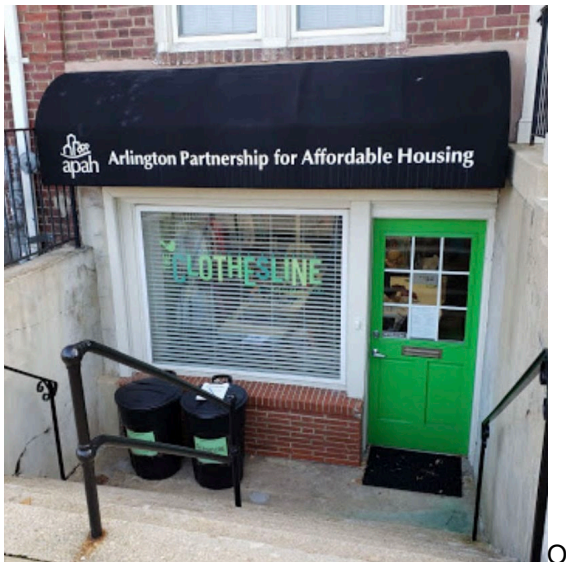
Please RSVP to Amy Reif aekreif@gmail.com so that we can have a head count.

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 & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

New Volunteer Opportunities

The Volunteer Services team has partnered with the Community Support team to maximize our impact in helping our two chosen beneficiaries for the May 17 annual benefit, The Clothesline and Bridges to Independence. At the February membership meeting we collected new and lightly used clothing to donate to The Clothesline. Thank you to all of our members for your generous donations!



Our AWCA members have already started to volunteer at The Clothesline, and we will continue to do so this month. We have organized group volunteer days for our members at The Clothesline on **Tuesday, April 23 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday, April 30 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.** If you would like to join in these volunteer events, please email Carrie Branon, carriebranon@yahoo.com to reserve your slot.

If you would like to volunteer on your own, please see the link below for the opportunities listed on their website.

<https://www.clotheslinearlington.org/volunteer/>



In addition to the clothes that we collected in February, we have organized a "Croc Pot" donation opportunity. The Clothesline founders, told us that Crocs are a huge want for Arlington kids right now. As part of our annual benefit on May 17, you can contribute to the "Croc Pot" by giving a monetary donation (link below) or by bringing Crocs to the benefit. [DUES AND TICKETS | awca](#)





Ellen Moy's story of how and why she co-founded The Clothesline

When my son was in elementary school, I would volunteer to help out at various events in the classroom. One time, having been there a few days in a row, I saw a kid who was wearing the same clothes each day and didn't have a coat to wear, wrapping himself in a blanket. As my son had recently outgrown some of his clothes, I asked the teacher whether I could bring in these items for his fellow student. After a few days, I was happy to see my son's schoolmate wearing those clothes.

At the time, I thought it would be wonderful if Arlington could have a year-round resource where families in need could get clothes with dignity. The idea stuck with me, and a number of years later after my kids had grown, I returned to the idea of a free store for low-income families to find clothes donated by the Arlington community. In 2017, we [my ex-husband Ben Sessions and I] visited with a number of non-profit leaders in Arlington and determined that this was a resource that was greatly needed. Through our research we also identified an organization in St. Petersburg, Florida started by two schoolteachers that was doing exactly what we hoped to accomplish. After visiting their store and learning about how they conducted their business, Ben and I founded The Clothesline and began looking for space in Arlington.

We moved into APAH's old offices on Pershing Drive in 2018 and reimagined the space as a bright and welcoming store. Our first families came through the door in August that year, and we were excited to deliver 350 wardrobes to kids in 2018. Flashforward to 2023, and The Clothesline has grown beyond our imaginations—giving away over 2,000 wardrobes and 52,000 pieces of clothing, effectively outgrowing our little store.

2024 Benefit Recipients

The Clothesline for Arlington Kids

<http://www.clotheslinearlington.org/>

With the generous donation of new and gently used clothing from Arlington residents and businesses, The Clothesline for Arlington Kids provides a welcoming, fun, retail-like environment for qualifying Arlington Public School students to shop for and select a season's worth of quality clothing – twice a year – completely free.

Financial support for The Clothesline will help purchase new socks and underwear for students and contribute to The Clothesline's New Shoe Campaign.

Bridges to Independence

<https://bridges2.org/>

Bridges to Independence provides the largest emergency shelter for families in Arlington Co. The organization also includes a Community Services Center, Rapid Rehousing program, Workforce Development program, Youth Development program and other wraparound support services. These services reach over 500 Arlington residents. Bridges has requested support for an emergency fund to aid with a variety of needs including childcare costs, clothing allowance, food, transportation, legal services, dental/vision/medical needs, car repairs, and unit repairs.

MEMBERSHIP

AWCA has 80 members currently (full house!) and 6 people on the waiting list. Please contact Nicki Ferramosca or Melanie Barton if you would like to sponsor a friend to add to our waitlist. Being invited to join in the fall of 2024 depends on changes in membership. We generally have some changes each year, but anyone who isn't admitted this year will be carried over to the beginning of next year's list.

melaniebarton1@gmail.com

nferramosca@gmail.com

UPDATES

Some of what we've been doing the last few months

Cooking Classes at Lebanese Taverna

It was a fun evening—actually two fun evenings, as two classes had to be scheduled because of all the members who wanted to learn Lebanese cooking. Just take a look at the smiling faces and yummy-looking food on the plates!



February Membership Meeting

So many sweets and so much good will!

At our February meeting, the co-founder of Clothesline for Arlington Kids, Ellen Moy, talked about how she started this organization. Read her story, in her own words, on the next page.



MEMBER NEWS

Jyl Pomeroy is excited to share that her daughter and son-in-law, Marcy and Grant, welcomed their first child, Winston (Winn) Grant on February 3, 2024. The very happy family lives in Brooklyn.

Diane Greenlee's grandson Benjamin Rafael Orvis was born on January 14, 2024. He was welcomed by his parents Emily and Robbie and by his big brother Jack. Benji is the nephew of AWCA member Ariel Blessed.



2023 – 2024 OFFICERS

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

THANKS

Thanks especially to Basma Paget and Carrie Brannon for sending in the many wonderful photos in this newsletter, to Janis Wear for copyediting and proofreading, and to the following board members and members for their contributions to the newsletter:

Amy Reif

Basma Paget and Tammy Holleman

Carrie Branon and Erin Langley

Ellen Sher and Nancy Pilchen

Erin Tripodi and Stephanie Carpenter

Kathleen McKenna and Sarah Trimmer

Mary Panke

Melanie Barton and Nicki Ferramosca

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!

April 12, 2024

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.