

AWCA Newsletter

March 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear AWCA friends,

Did you know that 31 of our current active members have joined in the last two years? That is 40% of our total active membership! Our membership now includes a full range of women in different stages of their lives, from moms of young kids to grandmas like me. We have stay-at-home moms, working members, retirees, and lots of members busy with a variety of volunteer activities. I know I speak for all of us longer term members when I say that we love having an influx of new members with the enthusiasm and ideas that they bring to our group. I think we all benefit from being among women at different stages in their lives and sharing our experiences.

As I look around at the members enjoying our general membership meetings, it is wonderful to see the interaction among our new and longer term members, and I know many new relationships are being formed. Also, for the first time ever, we have two generations represented, including yours truly and my daughter, Ariel Blessed, and Angie Wilcox and her daughter, Erin Tripodi. As we approach our 30th anniversary (!!), I feel very optimistic for the future of our small but mighty organization.

Speaking of general membership meetings, please keep in mind that all active members are required to attend at least one meeting. If you haven't had a chance to attend one, please be sure to make it to the last meeting of the year, which will be held at Stephanie Carpenter's house, May 17 at 7:00 pm.

If you have any questions about this requirement, please let me know.

Thanks all and happy spring!

Diane

UPCOMING PROGRAM

Self-guided Tour of the Kreeger Museum

Friday, April 21, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: Foxhall Road, Washington DC*



We will tour the museum from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., with lunch at 12:15 p.m. at Bistro Aracosia on MacArthur Blvd., for those who are interested. The Kreeger suggests a \$10 pp donation for groups of five or more.

The Kreeger Museum houses a wonderful collection of impressionist to modernist period art and sculpture, including works by Cezanne and Picasso. Also included in the permanent collection are works by prominent Washington artists, including William Christenberry, Gene Davis, Sam Gilliam, Simmie Knox, and Paul Reed. Outstanding examples of African and Asian art are displayed in gallery spaces on both levels.

*Because parking can be an issue, [carpool information](#) will be sent out to those who sign up for the tour. Be sure to look for an email the week of April 17 with details.

Please rsvp to Ashley
rehrfamily@verizon.net or Sally
sallyjduran@gmail.com by April 17 if you
would like to join us!

BOOK GROUP NEWS

AWCA Book Group

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Home of Lindsey Hooper, 1625
North Harrison Street, 22205

Please join us at our last meeting of the
year on Tuesday, April 25, as we talk
about *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara
Kingsolver. This one has gotten great
reviews from critics and readers alike,
including many of our members, so it's
definitely worth reading.

If you plan to come in April, please let
Candy Fowler know at
mcandacefowler@gmail.com.

Our book group is open to all AWCA
members, whether you can commit to
come regularly or not. It's fine to attend only
one meeting a year or all.

In January, the AWCA book group
enjoyed a lively discussion of Bonnie
Garmus's *Lessons in Chemistry*. Thanks to
Donnetta Duncan for hosting.

UPCOMING MEETING

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Our **Spring Social and Membership**
Meeting will be at the home of

Stephanie Carpenter
4307 35th Street N
Arlington, Virginia 22207

See you there!

BENEFIT

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED



Our benefit will be here soon—Friday May 5, 2023, at Wilcox Casa, and we are looking for **Auction Items** to help generate additional funds for our worthy cause. All proceeds from the benefit and the silent auction will go to our beneficiary, the new Vision and Hearing Clinic of the Arlington Free Clinic. You can find more information on the Vision and Hearing Clinic on page 5.

Nothing is too BIG or too SMALL! If you have something to donate, please send an email to AWCAauction@gmail.com

Items can range from a stay at a
beach/mountain/river/island home to a
bottle of nice wine or spirits or gourmet
goods.

Here are some other suggestions:

- Host a gathering at your home.
- Make dinner or a specialty item and deliver it to someone's home.
- Combine contributions of any of the above for purchase by an individual or a group of like-minded friends.
- Sponsor guest(s) for golf, tennis, or pickleball clinics.
- Offer to dog walk, cat sit, or babysit.
- Offer consultation such as interior design assistance or landscape design.

- Provide a docent or behind the scenes specialty tour.
- Teach or host a class/demonstration in a particular type of cooking, candle making, flower arranging, card/game instruction, guest lecture, etc. for a designated number of members to "buy a spot" per person in the class. These become an enjoyable opportunity for members to get together too.

Finally, you may want to donate

- a craft or talent
- a themed basket
- restaurant gift certificates
- event tickets of all kinds

Any donation is truly appreciated! Everyone enjoys the mini-auction during the event and loves winning something fun to take home. Collectively, these make quite an impact on what AWCA can donate to our beneficiary.

We're looking forward to a fun evening!

Angie and Kim, Co-chairs

NEWS

Programs

Ashley and Sally planned three terrific programs over the past few months, starting with a **January** visit to the National Museum of the American Indian to see the transcendent exhibit of glass sculptures, Raven and the Box of Daylight, by native artist Preston Singletary.

National Museum of the American Indian





Steep Canyon Rangers

In March several members went to the Wolf Trap Barns to see the sold-out show, the Steep Canyon Rangers, thanks to MaryLynn Haase having the foresight to get a group of tickets for us well in advance! Members dined together at Pazzo Pomodoro before the show.



Pazza Pomodoro

Also in March, Sally and Ashley invited Joanne Swain, a local expert flower arranger, to teach a small group of members surprisingly easy ways to create a stunning flower arrangement. You can see the results in the photos, right and on the next page!





Volunteer Services

Ellen Sher and Nancy Pilchen's Galentine's Day event at Nancy's house was a big success. About twenty AWCA members heard from representatives from Doorways and Guest House about their work and their appreciation for the donations of makeup and paper goods that AWCA members provided. At the event, we also did a very fun felting craft—making felted heart pins, below.



MEMBERSHIP

Membership Reminders! We've had great attendance at our meetings so far this year. **A reminder** that active members are required to attend at least one general membership meeting each year. The last opportunity to satisfy this requirement is the general membership meeting on May 17.

The deadline to propose potential new members for the 2023-2024 year is June 1, 2023. If you would like to add a potential new member to the waitlist, or if you would like to switch to sustaining status, please contact Emily Kiggen, emily.kiggen@gmail.com, and/or Melanie Barton, melaniebarton1@gmail.com

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

2023 Benefit Recipient

The Arlington Free Clinic's Hearing and Vision Program, now in its seventh month, started with a generous donation from a retired Arlington school teacher, combined with a partnership with the University of Maryland's Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences.

The Hearing and Vision Program will be able to care for over 1500 patients annually, approximately 30% of whom are new to the clinic. Most patients have never enjoyed access to any hearing or vision services. Vision and hearing impairments are life-altering. They may seriously constrain an individual's ability to secure employment or to reside safely and independently in the community. Hearing loss can contribute to the onset of cognitive impairment and dementia. Diabetes, affecting 25% of the patients, introduces the risk of severe vision loss,

including blindness. This result can be prevented with regular screening.

For individuals living in poverty, it is nearly impossible to access affordable vision and hearing assessments, prescription eyeglasses, and hearing aids. Regular screenings and timely treatments are unavailable to these patients.

Our donation will be used for specific services, such as vision exam – \$140, hearing exam – \$168, pair of prescription hearing aids – \$600, pair of prescription eyeglasses – \$400, language interpreter – \$25, medications for glaucoma – \$115, and other services. A donation from AWCA will ensure the sustainability of this important program supporting prevention and treatment of vision and hearing loss through screening and subsequent treatment, along with free or very low-cost prescription eyeglasses and hearing aids for years to come.

MEMBER NEWS

>> **Kim and Rex Wackerle** loved celebrating their son's recent wedding to Kelly Ryan Murphy with family and friends. After meeting during their first year at Duke, Doug and Kelly reunited years later during their medical residencies and were married at the Duke University Chapel on March 18, 2023.



>> **Barbara Carney-Coston** is happy to share that she and Bill have a new grandson. Conrad William McCluskey was born on January 17 and is a happy little guy with beautiful red hair!

>> **Jyl Pomeroy** has a new grandson.

Robert (Robbie) Tanner Pomeroy was born on February 17. Jyl's son, Don Robert and his wife, Kristie, along with big brother Tommy (6) and big sister Virginia (3), are very excited to welcome little Robbie to the family.

>> **Cyndi Simmons'** renovation of her home in Lyon Village is completed. With the work now done, she plans to split her time between Arlington and St. Michaels and is looking forward to getting involved again with AWCA meetings and other events.

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

And thanks to the members who submitted their news for the Member News section.

March 26, 2023

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.
