

AWCA Newsletter

January 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear AWCA members,

First and foremost, Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you all had a fun holiday season and that you're getting off to a happy and healthy 2023. We had a wonderful holiday gathering at Erin Tripodi's beautiful home with great attendance, yummy food, and lots of camaraderie. Thanks to all who attended and helped make it a success!

Yes, it's only January, but it is time to start thinking of next year, and by next year I mean September, which is the beginning of the new year for AWCA. The Board will form a nominating committee in March. In the meantime, I want you to think about how you might want to be involved with the Alliance in the fall. Being on the Board really is fun and is the best way to get the most out of being part of our group. The Board meets monthly at the President's house, and the meetings are as much social events as they are business-related. The time commitment varies based on the position, but I'd guesstimate that it's usually between 1-2 hours per month to 1-2 hours per week. We have a document that describes the responsibility of each position, and you will have plenty of guidance from your predecessor.

Here are the Board positions that are likely to be open:

President – Oversees other positions, runs meetings

Vice President/Benefit – Runs the benefit (usually 2 people)

Programs – Arranges 6-8 programs per year (to serve with the current co-chair)

Hospitality – Finds hostesses for 4 general meetings and provides refreshments (usually 2 people)

Website – Keeps website updated

Community Support – Runs a committee that identifies a proposed beneficiary for benefit proceeds (usually 2 people)

Volunteer Services – Organizes volunteer events (to serve with current co-chair)

Membership – Keeps track of membership, collects dues (to serve with current co-chair—new co-chair will prepare directory)

You'll be hearing more from the nominating committee in a few months, but meanwhile let me know if you have any questions or want more information about any position. Also, if you're interested in serving on the nominating committee, let me know that and I will love you forever! dianebgreenlee@gmail.com

Thanks all and looking forward to seeing you on February 23 at our Wine and Cheese Party/general membership meeting.

Diane

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Visit to The National Museum of the American Indian

Thursday, January 19 – 11:00 a.m.

If you haven't been to this museum in recent years, it's definitely time for a visit. AWCA will be touring "Preston Singletary: Raven and the Box of Daylight," which tells about the heritage of Pacific Northwest Indians through transcendent glass sculptures. The exhibit is amazing, and we hope you can join us! We'll

enjoy lunch in the museum restaurant after seeing the exhibit.

Email Ashley (rehrfamily@verizon.net) or Sally (sallyjduran@gmail.com) by January 17 if you would like to join us!

>>Article on the artist: [Seattle artist Preston Singletary gets solo Smithsonian show](#)



AWCA Book Group

Wednesday, January 25 – 7:30 p.m.

We will meet at Candy Fowler's house to discuss *Mercury Pictures Presents* by Anthony Marra. The book is engrossing and a quick read, so it's not too late to plan to join us. All are welcome! If you plan to come but haven't yet RSVP'd, please email Candy Fowler at mcandacefowler@gmail.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Our next meeting is the **February Wine and Cheese Party** and Membership Meeting.

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2023

PLACE: Home of Tammy Holleman
4074 35th Street N
Arlington, Virginia 22207

TIME: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

The **May Spring Social** and Membership Meeting will be hosted by Stephanie Carpenter – date to be announced soon.

BENEFIT

Mark your calendars for our upcoming benefit, Friday May 5, 2023, at Wilcox Casa.

We are excited to announce a festive Cinco de Mayo evening with fun Mexican fare, margaritas, and lively music. The silent auction, a great success last year, will be back, so start thinking now of what you can make, offer, arrange for, or otherwise donate, to be auctioned to our membership.

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. See page 6 for more information on the Vision and Hearing Clinic.

We are looking for volunteers and donations. If you are interested, please email Angie at Angielynwilcox@gmail.com or Kim at wackshacks@aol.com. We're looking forward to a fun evening!

Angie and Kim, Co-chairs

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER SERVICES EVENT

Galentine's Day

Mark your calendars for 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 9!

The Volunteer Services Committee is hosting a "Galentine's Day" event that you won't want to miss.

In addition to wine and chocolate (and some other goodies) we will be collecting items for three very worthy organizations. And if that's not enough, for those who want to try

their hand at crafting, we'll have a fun activity that you can do. And we've invited representatives of two of the organizations to come and talk to us about what they do.

Location: The home of Nancy Pilchen, 1412 N. Highland St., Arlington. 22201.

Please RSVP so we know how many women to expect. We are hoping for a nice crowd for this event.



Here's what we need, below. Between **now and February 9th**, please drop off all items at Nancy Pilchen's house: 1412 N. Highland St. Her driveway is on Hancock St. (you'll see when you Google it), and you can leave your donations on the back porch.

1. For DOORWAYS, which runs a shelter for abused and homeless women and their children, we are collecting paper and related products. The next time you are grocery shopping, please consider purchasing extra **toilet paper, paper towels, Swiffer dry pads (for the Swiffer mops), disinfecting wipes, 13-gallon white trash bags, and aluminum foil.**

2. For GUEST HOUSE, which helps women successfully reenter the community from incarceration, through a residential and non-residential program and a Workforce & Life Development Program, we are collecting all kinds of new/never-used make-up. Please consider donating the free "Gift with

Purchase" items you sometimes receive when you buy makeup. Guest House would also be grateful for new drug store make-up items. **Such things as lipstick, nail polish, mascara, eye shadow, foundation, concealer, application brushes, potions and lotions, and make-up removal pads would be very much appreciated.**

3. For PATHFORWARD, which provides shelter services, we are collecting **miniature toiletries: soap, shampoo, conditioner, and other small or single-use items.** So if you're starting to travel again, please consider picking these up at hotels/motels.

Any questions, please contact Nancy at nancy.pilchen@gmail.com 703-867-2908 or Ellen at esher10554@aol.com 703-244-4356.

BOOK GROUP NEWS

We plan to meet twice more this year, in the second week of March and in late April or early May. If you are interested in hosting one of these meetings or want to join the Book Group, please contact Candy Fowler at mcandacefowler@gmail.com.

We will also be choosing our next book(s) at the January meeting, so if there are books you would like to recommend and you won't be able to come on January 25, send those titles to Candy.

We do indeed have a lot going on! And so it has been for 30 years, since AWCA was founded. On the next page is a bit of AWCA history.

AWCA – HOW WE BEGAN

In our last newsletter, we shared some of our traditions and guiding principles. If you've wondered how our organization got started, here's the story, below, as recounted by our founder, Pat Ragan.

The Arlington Women's Civic Alliance was founded in October 1993 by Pat Ragan, now an AWCA sustaining member. She and her family had lived in Arlington for a few years when her husband Bob got a new job in San Marino, California in early 1993.

In San Marino, Pat joined a local women's organization that was very stimulating. When Bob received a new job opportunity in DC just six months after they had moved to San Marino, the family moved back to Arlington. Pat put together a tea party with Arlington friends and suggested they create the Arlington Women's Civic Alliance (AWCA) to network, socialize, and provide community support.

The organization started out with 46 members and helped provide funding, through annual dues and a spring fundraiser, to the Arlington Free Clinic, The Reading Connection, and The Tom Floyd Aging with Dignity Fund for Culpepper Garden.

In the past 30 years, the AWCA has generously raised close to \$500,000 to support Arlington charities and community projects. AWCA supports local organizations not only through raising money and donating needed items, but also with our members' volunteer time

NEWS/OF NOTE

Volunteer Services

November Coat Drive for Casa Mariflor

Ellen Sher and Nancy Pilchen shared these photos and a few words about the very successful winter coat drive they organized for Casa Mariflor in November.

We want to thank all of you for helping to make our winter coat drive a rousing success. Mariflor and her organization, Casa Mariflor, were gratified by the 110 coats that we donated to the Buckingham community of Arlington. Special thanks to Carrie Branon and Elaine Lomax for coming out that day to help set up and distribute the coats. It truly takes a village, and AWCA members have shown once again that they are clearly part of that village.



Donations pile up on the porch!

About Casa Mariflor – Mariflor Ventura started Casa Mariflor in April 2020 during COVID, after she found herself home from work and stunned at the realization that her neighbors were struggling to afford rent and pay bills. Her work began with coordinating the Facebook group *Arlington Neighbors Helping Each Other Through Covid-19*.



Distributing the coats



Programs

Ashley and Sally have been doing a wonderful job coming up with and organizing fun experiences for us.

In October, several members gathered to taste wine—and buy wine and cheese—at Arrowine. The wine vendor was full of information about the wines and beers, and we all had a fun time. More than a couple of us discovered a new wine to serve to family and friends. And Arrowine's extensive cheese selection provided more new tastes.

Arrowine





A beautiful fall day at Hillwood

In November, several members toured the “Grace of Monaco: Princess in Dior” exhibit at Hillwood and enjoyed lunch afterward. The exhibit consisted entirely of ensembles designed by Christian Dior for Princess Grace, loaned to Hillwood from the Prince’s Palace of Monaco.



Benefit Services

2023 Benefit Recipient

The Community Support Committee proposed the Arlington Free Clinic’s Hearing and Vision Program as this year’s recipient of the Benefit’s proceeds, and the proposal **was passed unanimously at the December** Membership Meeting.

The program, now in its fourth 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.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Status Update. We currently have 79 active members and four prospective members on the waitlist. The maximum number of active members allowed per the Bylaws is 80. Potential new members for the 2023-2024 year must be proposed by June 1, 2023, and will be admitted in September 2023 on a first-come-first-served basis. The waitlist will carry over to future years. If you would like to place a potential new member on the waiting list, please email Emily Kiggen at emily.kiggen@gmail.com and/or Melanie Barton at melaniebarton1@gmail.com.

MEMBER NEWS

>> After 15 glorious years, MaryLynn Hasse is finally retiring from her position in the executive office at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts. Of those years, MaryLynn said, “I have learned so much (those interns are brilliant!) and made so many close friendships. And, I will still attend a ridiculous number of performances each year, but some may be in Children’s Theatre in the Woods with my granddaughter Gracie.”

>> Jan and John Marut have a new grandson. Son Billy and his wife welcomed a baby boy, William Charles Marut, on July 23, 2022. This is the first grandchild for Jan and John!

>> Mary and Dennis Panke have a new grandbaby boy, Banks Finley Mein, born October 18, 2022.

>> Ginger Ackerman is delighted to report that her son, Mike Stephens, recently got engaged to Katie Hunsberger, and a fall wedding is planned.

>> Melanie Barton’s son, Alex Eroee, is getting married on Saturday, January 28 to Katie York from Avon, Connecticut. They live in Denver, and the wedding will be in Cabo San Lucas.

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

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

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

January 8, 2023

AWCA Newsletter

Published three 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.
