

Hagerstown Branch

February 2024

Volume 78, Issue 5

AAUW Officers:

President:

Charlotte Trout

Membership VP:

Susan Latimer

Public Policy VP:

Denise Fry

Recording Secretary:

Carol Nase

**Corresponding
Secretary:**

Sharon Chirgott

Treasurer:

Kelly Weaver

Newsletter Editor:

Sharon Chirgott



**American
Association of
University
Women**

February Branch Meeting

More Stories by Fannie Crawford

Saturday, February 17

2:00 p.m.

Christ's Reformed Church

130 W. Franklin St., Hagerstown

Fannie Crawford, who has lived and worked in Hagerstown for the past 30 years, spent part of a year interviewing 14 people who also live and work here, documenting their histories, with a focus on the downtown area. She shared with us three of those 14 people and told pieces of their stories, followed by a Q&A session, at a meeting in the past. This year she will portray a few more of those personalities. Be prepared for changes as she becomes those 3 different people! She thanks the City of Hagerstown Arts & Entertainment District & The Maryland State Arts Council for their support.

Guests are welcome.

A basket will be set out for donations toward the speaker's fee.

Access to the church auditorium is through a side door off the east side parking lot of the church. There is plenty of parking. This entrance has a few steps plus there are two more small staircases inside. If you need on-level access, contact Charlotte Trout.

AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

"Advancing equity for women and girls, through advocacy, education and research".

Visit our website: <http://hagerstown-md.aauw.net>

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AauwHagerstownMd>

AAUW Newsletter

The President's Message

So, here we are again. About 6 years ago, Cam Corbin, our branch president at the time, called me to ask if I would consider being branch president for the 2018-2020 term. Nobody was answering the call and she was worried that the branch would have to fold. At the time, working at HCC, chairing a Pastoral Search Committee, and involved in several other leadership activities, I told her I could not take on that office at that time. Denise Fry stepped up to lead us and I slid into the Newsletter Editor position. Two years later, you elected me branch President in the middle of COVID. The leadership team who worked with me for that term stayed on for a second term in 2022. Many of the current Board has been leading this group for at least 6 years and some of them longer than that.

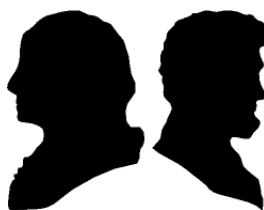
When I joined this Branch in 2002 (I think that is right), it was because the group was looking for a Newsletter Editor and Robbie Matonak invited me to consider the position. At the time, all I really knew was that the Branch had a wonderful book sale every spring and that it was concerned with women getting a fair chance in higher education and the workplace. I had enjoyed the book sale several times prior to this and as a working woman who had faced bias in the workplace as well as higher education, I could support the cause.

Twenty plus years later, women are still fighting for equality, but the battlefield has shifted. Women outnumber men in college attendance these days, but we are still working for pay equity and access to the highest-level positions in government, education, and business. Notably, in Hagerstown, many of the non-profits are led by women, but our County Commissioners seem to all still be male. Nationally, there are other issues affecting women. The National AAUW is broadening the scope of its mission to address some of these issues and I recognize we may not all agree with their proposals. We have an active Public Policy group at the state level and a key focus for the state has been the ERA, something I want to believe we would all like to see become part of the US Constitution.

Locally, members have not always agreed with the focus of our branch. As I was able to be more active in the Book Room and be part of the Board, I perceived a tension in our group. Someone said to me, "It's all about the Book sale." She missed the activism of a past leader and even said to me that things were better under that branch president implying it all went downhill when I became president. As we consider our next steps, we need to recognize this tension. For you, have you remained a member of AAUW Hagerstown Branch because of the Scholarships we offered via the Book Sale or because of the activism represented by the organization?

This is a critical question for our group to think about as we ponder the sustainability of our branch and who will lead us (i.e. serve on the board) for the next two years. What do you want the branch to be about? If it is just about the gatherings and providing scholarships, do we need to be dues-paying members of the larger organization? On the other hand, if we cherish being part of a respected national organization that is working for policy changes, then being dues-paying members is important. I started this conversation with those members who attended the Second Friday Lunch in January. I hope others will reach out to me via email or phone and let me know. Finally, while we should be electing a slate of officers in March, if necessary, we will mirror the Founder's Day Luncheon of 2022 and discuss our options once again.

Charlotte





Afternoon Literature Group

The Afternoon Lit will be meeting on Monday, February 19th at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Carole Myers. The hostess will present the book for discussion. If you have questions, call Carole (her contact information can be found in the yearbook).

The Afternoon Literature Group meets the third Monday of the month.

Evening Literature Group

The February 27th meeting will meet at Susie Latimer's house at 7:30 p.m. where Andrea Kautz will review "*Lessons in Chemistry*".

The Evening Literature group meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

AAUW Newsletter

Second Friday Lunch

The next lunch will be on **Friday, Feb. 9, Rik's Café**, 1065 Maryland Avenue, Hagerstown. Please let Sharon Chirgott know if you are interested in attending by the end of Feb. 6 so a reservation can be made.



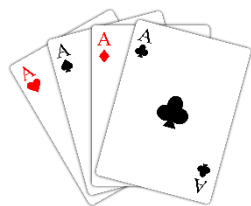
Mark your calendars for future lunch dates:

March 8, Green Turtle, 12818-A Shank Farm Way, Hagerstown

April 12, Chinese, details TBA

May 10, Schmankerl Stube, 58 S. Potomac Street, Hagerstown

Ideas for future lunch sites always welcomed.



Bridge Group

The group has suspended meeting until further notice.

Mark your calendar to save the date for the annual Founder's Day Luncheon, Saturday, March 23, 11:30 a.m. at Bistro 11 in the Fountainhead Plaza.

Looking Ahead

This spring brings the biennial branch election of officers. Yes, it's that time again.

Please consider taking a leadership role in our branch by stepping up as a nominee for the offices listed in the header of the newsletter. The upcoming branch election will be the big topic in February. Think about leadership as a New Year's resolution, one that is rewarding, collegial, and benefitting, in the long run, young women in Washington County.



AAUW Newsletter

Recipe of the Month

Greek Cauliflower Bake—Give boring cauliflower a boost!

Submitted by Marilyn Young

2 C fresh cherry tomatoes	salt & pepper to taste
½ C pitted kalamata olives	6 oz crumbled feta cheese
4 cloves garlic, roughly chopped	1 head cauliflower, cut into florets
1 ½ T olive oil	1 ½ C mozzarella, shredded
½ t red pepper flakes	¼ C parmesan cheese, grated

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Add tomatoes, olives, and garlic to a 9x13-inch baking dish. Toss with olive oil and season with salt, pepper, and red pepper flakes.

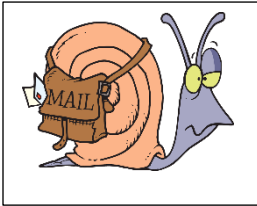
Pour feta into the center of the dish and bake for 18-20 minutes or until tomatoes are tender.

As the tomato dish bakes, steam cauliflower florets for 4-5 minutes or until slightly tender. Drain well.

Remove dish from oven then use a fork or masher to burst tomatoes and mix to create a sauce.

Add cauliflower to the dish and mix. Sprinkle cheeses over the top.

Bake for 20-24 minutes or until cheese begins to brown. Serve hot.



Member Helping Member

Postal service delivery is a reliable process but there remain instances of the newsletter not being delivered in a timely manner to those receiving print copies. If you receive the electronic delivery, please share the information with your friends who you know get the newsletter via the mail, so they don't miss events.

Proposed Calendar of Activities

Date	Event	Location / Hostess	Time
Fri. Feb. 9	2 nd Friday Lunch	Rik's Cafe	12:30 p.m.
Wed. Feb. 14	Happy Valentine's Day		
Sat. Feb. 17	Branch Meeting	Christ's Reformed Ch.	2:00 p.m.
Mon. Feb. 19	Presidents' Day		
	Afternoon Lit	Carol Myers	1:30 p.m.
Tues. Feb. 27	Evening Lit	Susan Latimer	7:30 p.m.
Mon. March 4	Board Meeting	Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Fri. March 8	2 nd Friday Lunch	Green Turtle	12:30 p.m.
Sat. March 23	Founder's Day	Bistro 11	11:30 a.m.