

Hagerstown Branch

March 2024

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AAUW Officers:

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Denise Fry

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Sharon Chirgott

Treasurer:

Kelly Weaver

Newsletter Editor:

Sharon Chirgott



**American
Association of
University
Women**

March Branch Meeting Founders' Day Luncheon

Saturday, March 23

11:30 a.m.

Bistro 11

13208 Fountain Head Plaza, Hagerstown

Guest Speaker—Melissa Stolz Noel

A local business woman, Melissa will describe experiences working in a male dominated industry.

No reservations required. Attendees will order from the menu.

As in the past, our tradition is to make contributions to the AAUW Funds.

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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

It's hard to know where to start. Outside, the sun is shining and the air is warm for early March. Crocuses and Dutch Irises are blooming and I am starting to think about changes I want to make in my landscape. Is this the year I let part of the yard turn to meadow both for native bees and birds and so I don't mow as much? Despite the deer raids, should I be planting some vegetables amid the native plants? Is it time to retire the gas mower and buy an electric one?

Meanwhile, I have been car shopping. I've done the research and been to several dealers for test drives. It's down to the hard part – getting the car I want for the price I want without having my “wants” dismissed by a salesMAN.

This computer probably needs replaced as well. It struggles to handle some of the programs/apps I need it to use as I try to complete tasks for various non-profits. Yes, it's going to be an expensive spring. And in the middle of all that shopping and “tasking” for others, I need to gather my paperwork together for the tax preparer.

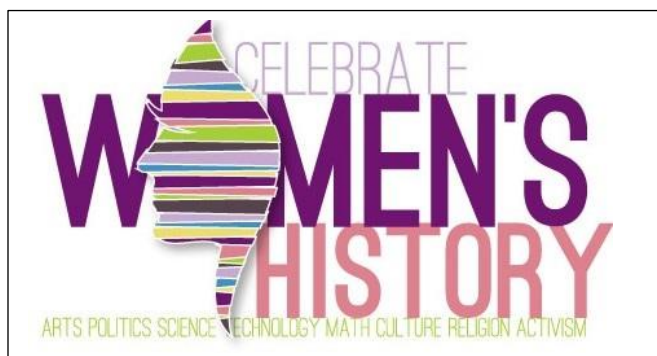
However, as busy, expensive, and stressful as that all sounds, I know I can handle it and that it will get done to some level of satisfaction on my part. What I can't do is keep an organization going if there isn't support for it at the grass roots level. I see it in several non-profits I volunteer with or that I know about. The number of people available for leadership positions is dwindling and those who are available are getting tired because they have been filling in for years now. In some cases, I believe the non-profit may no longer be relevant to the needs of the community. Is that true of us?

I sat in on a meeting the other day for a program in Washington County. Twenty plus people attended and all were enthusiastic about what their program could do for the people it was trying to serve. I suspect at one time that enthusiasm existed in our local branch for our programs and activities. Lately, however, attendance at branch programs has represented one third or less of our membership. We had an engaged crowd present for Fanny Crawford's storytelling session last month but there were less than 10 of us. We seem even less engaged in the public policy and activism that other branches in the state are pursuing. Finally, no one has stepped forward for any of the elected positions that need to be filled on the 2024-2026 board.

For a garden, a car, a lawnmower, or a computer for myself, I can do the research, make a decision, gather the resources and acquire what I need. I am not sure how to do that for our branch. What do you want for Hagerstown AAUW going forward?

Please join us for the Founder's Day luncheon. I am looking forward to Melissa Stoltz Noel sharing her experiences with us. I am also hoping that we can discuss our future and reach some sense of what we want to do going forward.

Charlotte



AAUW Newsletter

Afternoon Literature Group

The Afternoon Lit will be meeting on Monday, March 18th at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Judy Chaney. The hostess will present the book for discussion. If you have questions, call Judy (her contact information can be found in the yearbook).

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

Evening Literature Group

The March 26th meeting will meet at Suzanne Beckwith's house at 7:30 p.m. where she will review "West with Giraffes" by Linda Rutledge.

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

Second Friday Lunch

The next lunch will be on **Friday, March 8, Green Turtle**, 12818-A Shank Farm Way, Hagerstown. Please let Sharon Chirgott know if you are interested in attending by the end of March 6 so a reservation can be made.



Mark your calendars for future lunch dates:

April 12, Chinese, details TBA

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

Ideas for future lunch sites always welcomed.

Taxes 2023

The AAUW website shows that \$69 of the \$72 national membership dues are tax deductible as a charitable contribution. We caution that it is always prudent to check with your tax preparer.



Mark your calendar to save the date for the April branch meeting at TranquiliTEA in Waynesboro on Thursday, April 18 at 1:30 p.m. The Queen's Tea will be served for \$35. Reservations will be due Friday, April 12.

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 March. 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

Peas with Mushrooms—Peas and spring seem to go together!

Submitted by Sharon Chirgott

2 T butter	2 cloves garlic, minced
2½ C fresh or frozen peas	½ t chopped thyme or ¼ t dried thyme
8 oz fresh mushrooms, thinly sliced	½ t salt and 1/8 t black pepper
½ C chopped onion	½ t sugar

Melt butter in skillet over medium heat. Add peas, mushrooms, onion, and garlic; saute until tender, about 7 minutes.

Stir in remaining ingredients. Reduce heat to low and cook until just heated through, about 1 minute..



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. March 8	2 nd Friday Lunch	Green Turtle	12:30 p.m.
Sun. March 17	Happy St. Patrick's Day		
Mon. March 18	Afternoon Lit	Judy Chaney	1:30 p.m.
Sat. March 23	Founder's Day	Bistro 11	11:30 a.m.
Tues. March 26	Evening Lit	Suzanne Beckwith	7:30 p.m.
Sun. March 31	Happy Easter		
Mon. April 1	Board Meeting	Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Fri. April 12	2 nd Friday Lunch	Chinese TBA	12:30 p.m.
Thurs. April 18	Branch Meeting	TranquiliTEA	1:30 p.m.