

Hagerstown Branch

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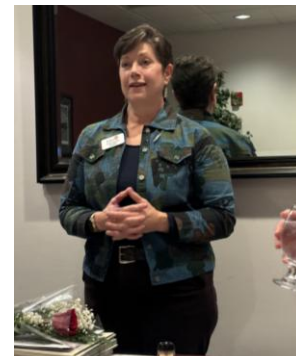
**American
Association of
University
Women**

The President's Message

Well, is anyone else confused by all the inconsistency this month? I was referencing the weather of course. Just a few days ago, it seems, I was working my way through the flower beds clearing out weeds and dead stalks in reasonably warm weather. A little much needed rain and I almost have to start over in all the beds, but this morning's walk was freezing and the next few days are going to be cool. Weeding may have to wait a few days.

As many of you know, my English minor often rears its head as I see metaphors in the garden and other places. Just as my garden needs weeding, clearing, and pruning, so does my house from time to time as I realize that I have too much "stuff." I began the practice a few years ago of cleaning out the freezer and the canned goods cabinet each spring after I had to throw away too many expired items. Periodically, I try to go through my closets and drawers as well as my bookshelves to decide what I no longer need or will use. Of course, I try to pass these items along to an individual or organization that can reuse them. And this retired life has me constantly reassessing which activities I want to remain a part of and which I need to cease.

Enough about me. I thoroughly enjoyed our meal and time together as well as our speakers on Founder's Day. For those of you who were able to attend, I hope you did as well. Our state president, Heather Reichardt (shown on the right) shared that the regional meeting held last fall was successful and that plans are in the works for another regional meeting next fall, tentatively in Lancaster. While we wait for that, there are state meetings available including one at the end of the month. If you have not received an email invite, please let me know and I will forward one to you.



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

President's Message continued

Stacy Crawford, CEO of Community Foundation of Washington County, (shown) talked about that organization, its history, growth, and contribution to our community. She answered questions about scholarships they managed and how we might benefit from using their resources to create a legacy scholarship for Hagerstown AAUW. The scholarship committee and the Board would like to go ahead and establish a scholarship fund there this year, preferably by June, so that funds are available for scholarships next year. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me or talk to one of us at our next event.

Speaking of next events, our Scholarship recognition gathering is scheduled for May 15 at the Funkstown Pavilion. We have some returning scholars and some new applicants. I hope to see you all there.

Finally, with the Branch meeting in May, we close out our 2024-25 year of branch activities. You should find a membership application in this newsletter and I hope you all will rejoin. If you have any ideas for Branch activities for next year, please pass those ideas along to one of the Board members. We will be planning next year's calendar in June.



As always, take care,
Charlotte

Afternoon Literature Schedule 2025

Afternoon Lit meets the third Monday at 1:30 at members' homes. This year the hostess is also the presenter, reviewing a book of her choice. Light refreshments are served. Call Judy Thompson if you have questions.	
April 21	Suzanne Beckwith
May 19	Vivian Michael

Evening Literature Schedule 2025

Evening Lit meets on the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 at members' homes.				
Date	Host	Book	Author	Reviewer
April 28	Andrea Kautz	The Lost Bookshop	Evie Woods	Judy Chaney
May 26	Ann Gwinette	Before We Were Yours	Lisa Wingate	Susan Latimer

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Public Policy Update

Denise Fry, Public Policy VP

The Maryland General Assembly session ended Monday, April 7th. After receiving a bill, the Governor has 30 days to sign the bill. If not signed or vetoed, it becomes law. If vetoed, there is still the possibility of an override vote at the beginning of the next session.

Here is what happened in the last week of the 2025 General Assembly:

- SB 632/HB1198, The Monica Cooper Prerelease Bill, passed both chambers. It is still being reviewed.
- HB424/SB357, the Prescription Drug Affordability Board Act, was sent to the Governor for signing.
- HB933/SB679, the Protecting Nursing Home Care Act, was sent to the Governor for signing.
- SB 511/HB 840, the bill providing support to pregnant and parenting students in higher education institutions, was sent to the Governor for signing.
- SB720/HB905, the Safe Staffing Act of 2025, was withdrawn when amendments made by the Senate Finance committee excluded individuals who provided or received services. Hopefully, we will see it again next year.

Prior to last week four other bills that we were supporting had already been sent to the Governor:

- HB 334-Newborn Nurse Visitation Bill had passed the Maryland General Assembly and was sent to the Governor for signing.
- SB848-Abortion Care Grant Program passed and was sent to the Governor for signing.
- SB005-the bill extending subsidies for young adults using the Maryland Health Exchange passed and was been sent to the Governor.
- SB 674-the bill directing the Maryland Commission for Women to Advance Implementation of Insurance Coverage for Over-the-Counter Birth Control was been sent to the Governor.

To date eight bills have gone to the Governor for signing; one bill is still a possibility; and five saw no action this session. We've had a successful legislative year despite a state budget shortfall and federal firings.



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Second Friday Lunch

The next lunch will be on **Friday**, April 11, Veva's on Potomac (former Bulls & Bears), 38 S. Potomac St., Hagerstown, at 12:30 p.m., hope to see you there. Please let Sharon Chirgott know if you are interested in attending by the end of Wednesday, April 9 so a reservation can be made.



Mark your calendars for future lunch dates:

May 9, The Sycamores at Stonebridge, 1959 Golf Course Road, Martinsburg

June 13, Bistro 11, 13208 Fountain Head Plaza, Hagerstown

July 11, MeeThai, 11353 Robinwood Dr., Hagerstown

Ideas for future lunch sites always NEEDED!



Member Helping Member

The newsletter does not always arrive 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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location / Hostess</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sun. April 20	HAPPY EASTER		
Mon. April 21	Afternoon Lit.	TBD	1:30 p.m.
Tues. April 28	Evening Lit.	Andrea Kautz	7:00 p.m.
Mon. May 5	Board Meeting	Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Fri. May 9	2nd Friday Lunch	Sycamores	12:30 p.m.
Thurs. May 15	Branch Meeting/ Scholarship Reception	Funkstown Park	5:30 p.m.



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Recipe of the Month

Sausage Tortellini Soup

Contributed by Stasa Tapia

1 lb. ground Italian Sausage, hot or mild	½ t mustard powder
1 small yellow onion, diced	¼ t pepper
3 cloves garlic, minced	1 pinch red pepper flakes
3 T flour	1 C heavy cream
1 t dried basil	5 C chicken broth
½ t oregano	2 C kale, chopped
1 pinch cayenne, optional	2 C tortellini, just under 10 oz. (refrigerated or frozen)
1 t hot sauce	
Salt to taste	

1. Remove the casings from the sausage if you purchased links. Cook and crumble the sausage and diced onions over medium-high heat until the onions are softened and the sausage is cooked through, 8-10 minutes. Drain grease. Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute.
2. Add the flour and cook for 102 minutes to remove the raw flour taste.
3. Add basil, oregano, cayenne, hot sauce, mustard powder, pepper, and red pepper flakes. Stir to combine.
4. Add the chicken broth and use a silicone spatula to “clean” the bottom of the pot. Slowly stir in the heavy cream. Bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer.
5. Add the kale and tortellini and simmer for 3-5 minutes. (If your tortellini needs longer cooking time, add the tortellini first, then the kale during the last five minutes.)
6. Taste the soup and add salt if desired. Start with 1/4 t first and add more after that if needed.

	<p>Scholarship Reception</p> <p>Thursday, May 15, 2025 Funkstown Park Pavilion 4 5:30 p.m.</p>	
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