



Anne Arundel Women Giving Together

March 2011

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Important Upcoming Dates

March 9

Women & Leadership Program

Connecting to the Global
Community: Lessons from
Abroad

March 23

Special Interest Forum:

Human Trafficking

Think spring for renewals! The birds are chirping, the daffodils are breaking ground and by now you have received your 2011 renewal package, part of which was printed on recycled banana fiber -- really! Regardless of what season it was when you joined, we hope you will 'think spring' for your renewal. Early renewals reflect the importance you place on sustaining our grantmaking mission. Ninety percent of your donation is 'money in the bank' for our 2012 grant cycle. And the other ten percent is needed now to support our current program of events including our Women & Leadership Event on March 9: *Connecting to the Global Community* and our March 23 Special Interest Forum on Human Trafficking.

We included a donation form and return envelope with your renewal package, but you can save time -- and a stamp! -- by completing your renewal online. It's easy! Go to www.cfaac.org and click on **Donate Now**. Make sure you select AAWGT Full or Associate Membership as part of the process and fill out your contact information. Although renewing online with CFAAC is fast and easy, it also means you may incur an extra 3% processing fee.

Whether you choose to renew online or in the mail, please know how much we appreciate your generosity. We hope to see you at our next event!



Bronwyn Belling, President
Laurie Sharp, Vice President
(photo by Dave Roberts)

P.S. We have received one anonymous donation online of \$550 that we think may be a membership renewal, but no name was provided. Contact Treasurer Madelyn Schaefer (at julryl@comcast.net) if you joined or renewed online in December and have not yet received a confirmation letter from the Community Foundation. Thank you.

March 30
Book Group

Please see givingtogether.org
for
Member Activities, Book Group
and other info!

Invite a friend to join!
Go to givingtogether.org
for a renewal/donation form.

Renew Your Membership!
Go to givingtogether.org
for a renewal/donation form.

Welcome New Members!

Susan Thaxton

Kimberly Breton
Mary Milan

[Click here to learn more
about our 2010 Grantees!](#)



→ Upcoming Meetings

**Fourth Annual Women & Leadership Meeting:
Connecting to the Global Community: Lessons from Abroad**
Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
**Anne Arundel Medical Center,
Doordan Institute, Health Sciences Pavilion, 7th floor,
2000 Medical Parkway, Annapolis**

In recognition of the centenary celebration of International Women's Day on March 8, we will focus on the global picture of major challenges and accomplishments for women and children around the world. Our speaker, Renée S. Acosta, President and CEO of Global Impact, will talk with us about successful funding and grantmaking strategies for woman and children. She will include inspiring stories from abroad and discuss some of her personal experiences in this field. The session will be moderated by *The Baltimore Sun* columnist Susan Reimer.

Please register online at givingtogether.org and click on the event name in the UPCOMING EVENTS section on the home page.

Wednesday, March 23, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
**SPECIAL INTEREST FORUM: Emerging Issues in Our
Community -- Human Trafficking, Conte Lubrano Building,
Lower Level, 130 Lubrano Drive, Annapolis**

Human trafficking for sex and labor is a 32 billion dollar business. Although many people think this is a 'third world' tragedy, between 100,000 and 300,000 children have been sold as sex workers or laborers in this country -- not foreign children being imported, but our own citizens. At this forum, we will learn what human trafficking is and the extent to which it exists in our community.

Our panel of experts includes Nancy Winston, Shared Hope International; Julie Janovsky, Polaris Project; Sidney Ford, Victim Services and Public Awareness, Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force; and Dan Dickey, Special Enforcement Unit, Anne Arundel County Police Department.

To learn more, contact moderators True Rowan at truerowan@comcast.net or Lonnie Hinchey at lonhinchey@comcast.net

Please register online at givingtogether.org and click on the event name in the UPCOMING EVENTS section on the front page.

→ Meeting Recap

**February 9 Business Meeting & Educational Session:
Changing the Face of Aging: An Activist Approach**

Following a brief business meeting, at which members approved the 2011 Budget and Bylaw Revisions, Dr. Judah Ronch engaged 63 members and guests in a fascinating examination of what the 'activist aging' concept means for us as individuals and as a society. A key element of successful aging has to do with having a 'future focus' and an active engagement with life. Dr. Ronch related this to using the last part of our life to being 'reactivists' by doing something great; something larger than ourselves...like our engagement with AAWGT!



We send many thanks to our moderator Maureen Cavaiola and to Ellenor Alvarez for organizing this event.

To learn more, visit the RESOURCES section of our website at givingtogether.org to access slides from Dr. Ronch's presentation and links to The Green House Project: A Model for Aging That Promotes Growth. You will also find a link to the article about this session that ran in the Capital on February 10 under "In the News" on our home page.



→ AAWGT Grantee of the Month: The Arc of the Central Chesapeake Region

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and as we can all imagine, life changes when a child receives a developmental disability diagnosis. For families with few financial resources, this kind of news is particularly devastating. That's when many turn to The Arc of the Central Chesapeake Region, which has been providing advocacy and support services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities for 50 years.

In 2010, AAWGT provided a much-needed grant of \$10,000 to The Arc's Family Support Program. This program provides funds to families caring for their disabled children at home by providing reimbursements for adaptive equipment, therapies, medical care, co-pays, and other necessities. These resources make a huge difference to families facing crushing medical bills. As the mother of the children pictured below described:

"In the midst of financial struggles, we started to notice many changes in our son. Sam was regressing developmentally and had practically stopped eating. I applied to The Arc for assistance and my son received therapy at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore. A nutritionist performed special tests and prescribed customized vitamins for my son. I have seen such an improvement in his speech and behavior. My heart is full of hope and gratitude knowing that good people and good organizations like The Arc are around to give us a hand."



This is just one of the 117 families the Family Support Program helped in 2010. AAWGT's grant to The Arc subsidized reimbursements to 47 of those families. The Arc's other programs serve over 2,000 individuals and families in Anne Arundel County each year. The Arc also encourages families to contact support groups such as the Down Syndrome Connection and the Anne Arundel Chapter of the Autism Society. See www.thearcCCR.org for more information.



→ Hold These Dates!

March 30: Book Group -- What We're Reading: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. (See Education & Program Committee report below for details.)

April 13: Membership Open House at Annapolis Maritime Museum in Eastport, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. (See the Membership & Outreach Committee report below for details.)

April 29: Field Trip to 2010 Grantee Arundel Lodge, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. (See the Post-Grants Evaluation Committee report below for details.)

→ Business and Committee Updates

Education & Program:
What We're Reading: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

From a single, abbreviated life grew a seemingly immortal line of cells

that made some of the most crucial innovations in modern science possible. From that same life, and those cells, author Rebecca Skloot has fashioned a fascinating and moving story of medicine and family, of how life is sustained in laboratories and in memory. (Excerpted from Amazon.com Review)

To join the group for this discussion, simply go to UPCOMING EVENTS at givingtogether.org, click on *What We're Reading* and register. You will receive a confirming email with directions to the home of this month's hostess as well as an email reminder three days prior to the meeting. Registration is limited to AAWGT members, but as always, you may bring a guest. Questions? Contact Laurie Sharp at lsharp1000@msn.com

New! Looking for a great read?

Click on RESOURCES at givingtogether.org to find master lists for all the books we have discussed in the AAWGT Book Group as well as recommendations for other 'great reads' from our members. To share your discoveries, send the title and author to Laurie Sharp at lsharp1000@msn.com

Governance: The Third Amended and Restated Bylaws, including all proposed revisions that were approved by the membership on February 9, have been posted to our website.

Grants: Applications and Review Processes have gone green! This year's grant applicants submitted electronic copies of their proposal narratives for the first time, and the Committee reduced the number of paper copies to be submitted from seven a few years ago to only two this year! Reviewers are also doing much of their work from a confidential shared workspace online for the first time this year.

Membership & Outreach: It's not too early to put the Spring Open House on your calendar! This event will be held on April 13 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Maritime Museum in Eastport. It's a great opportunity to connect with each other and introduce your friends to our organization in a fun and informal setting. Contact Missy Attridge Membership Chair Aattridge@verizon.net 410-280-6655 or Marie Brockhurst Assistant Chair vze2nwkh@verizon.net 410-703-8335 for additional information.

Post-Grants Evaluation: Arundel Lodge Field Trip

Plans are underway to visit our 2010 grantee Arundel Lodge. This outing is scheduled on Friday, April 29 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. with an optional group lunch immediately following. Online registration will be available soon; details will be announced at our upcoming events and look for another reminder in our April newsletter.



Website Enhancements

Easy online Event Registration

Members and guests are making life easy by taking advantage of online event registration! We had 60+ attendees at our most recent events! We've refreshed the home page with new photos and a Grantee of the Month spotlight article. And a new AAWGT Facebook page is in development thanks to a volunteer non-member who has offered to help us out - stay tuned for details!

→ Service/Volunteer Opportunities

LightHouse Lunch-making

The next Light House lunch-making sessions are scheduled at 8:30 a.m. on:

- - ❖ Thursday, March 17 at the home of Carol Johnson, 833 Coachway, Annapolis; 410-849-3330 (5-6 volunteers needed)
 - ❖ Thursday, April 14, location TBD (host and 5-6 volunteers needed)

Updated shopping and preparation guidelines for hosts are posted online on our Members-Only page. To learn more, sign up for email notices, or volunteer to host a future session in your kitchen, contact Karen Davis at kluciadavis@hotmail.com.

Volunteer at the 4th Annual Homeless Resource Day, sponsored by Anne Arundel County Dept of Social Services on Saturday, March 26 at Glen Burnie High School from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and/or setup on the evening of Friday, March 25. Registration is required by March 15. A two-hour volunteer training is required for Saturday volunteers. Donations are also needed; details are available online at www.volunteerannearundel.org/AACHRD.html. For AAWGT members wishing to volunteer, please contact Bronwyn Belling at bbelling@aol.com so we can volunteer together.

→ Help Wanted! ISO Assistant Webmaster

As we use our website to more advantage to help administer and grow AAWGT, we need volunteers to help:

- **Assistant Webmaster:** AAWGT uses membership management software for the website. If you have a general understanding of web software, domain name registration, database management, and/or Google apps, we could use your talents! Tasks include uploading and maintaining documents and photos, maintaining links, adding events, etc. No html required.

Contact Eve-Marie Lacroix at evemariel@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer. Thank you!
