

THE MARYLANDER AAUW Maryland Newsletter

AAUW's Mission

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

VOLUME 77, No. 3

http://www.aauwmd.org

WINTER 2009

Winter Luncheon and Board Meeting January 23, 2010

Make plans now to join other members from across the state for our Winter Luncheon and Board Meeting on January 23, 2010. We will once again enjoy the delicious food and warm reception at Alfio's Cucina Italiana in Chevy Chase.

Those who have attended before can attest to the wonderful food we always enjoy at this Italian restaurant. Served by the friendly staff, it always arrives hot (or cold, in the case of the ice cream dessert). The atmosphere is a reminder of the classicism of old Rome. Easy to find and offering free valet parking, it has become a tradition for our winter meeting.

Our honored guest will be Dr. Ricky Hirschhorn, a professor at Hood College, in Frederick, MD. Dr. Hirschhorn received Legal Advocacy Funds in her complaint against the University of Kentucky in denying her tenure. Her case has been prominently

featured in *Tenure Denied*, the AAUW publication of 2008. This case has been cited as breaking barriers for women, requiring universities to consider applicants for tenure without reference to past requirements. Currently, Dr. Hirschhorn is researching Huntington's Disease, and follows the AAUW goal of encouraging young women to follow careers in Science, Technology, Engineering or Math. Read what students have to say about her in the following article by Bridgette Harwood.

Because the seating in Alfio's Cucina Italiana is limited, attendance will be limited to 40 people, so make your reservation early!

See page 11 for directions and registration form

Ricky Hirschhorn

By Bridgette Harwood, Hood College Class of 2006



It was after a high school classmate had a leg amputated as a result of bone cancer that associate professor of biology Ricky Hirschhorn developed a stronger interest in science.

"I had always been interested in science, but when that happened I was old enough to realize how amazing the human body is," said Hirschhorn, who has been studying cancer cell biology for the better part of the last three decades. Even though Hirschhorn had always wanted to be a scientist, after earning an undergraduate degree in chemistry at the University of Rochester, a doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Pittsburgh and doing post-doctoral research with one of the world's leading experts on cancer cell biology at Temple University, she eventually found herself teaching the subject with which she had become so fascinated—cell biology. "It's all about the cell," Hirschhorn says,

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(Continued from page 1)

using a mantra well known to her students and her faculty colleagues. "It is the fundamental unit of life; it is fascinating and not completely understood." The opportunity to share her fascination and enthusiasm with students is what excites her about her research and her teaching. "She brings a passion for her area of study and shares that with her students," said Kathy Falkenstein, chair of the biology department and associate professor of biology, who has worked with Hirschhorn for all 13 years Hirschhorn has been at Hood

Prior to her arrival at Hood in 1992, Hirschhorn taught at the much larger University of Kentucky and at Temple University, which has given her a greater appreciation for closer interaction between students and faculty that is harder to find at larger colleges. "At Hood, I get to know my students as people and they get to know me," Hirschhorn said. "I know when they are not in class, when they are behind on their homework and when they are confused." For Hirschhorn, it is especially gratifying to see the look on a student's face when he or she grasps a difficult concept and to experience the satisfaction that goes along with teaching a subject for which she has had a lifelong fascination. "I get to share something that I am in awe of," she said.

"Professor Hirschhorn presents the information in a way that challenges you to learn more," said

Amanda Hagen, a biology major who graduated in May. "Her depth of knowledge allows her to present the information in more than one way while her use of analogies makes the topic interesting." "I really enjoyed her teaching style," said Andrew Noll, another May graduate who was a student of Hirschhorn's and considers her a mentor. "She has an ability to convey the material with a sense of humor that makes it interesting." Hirschhorn doesn't expect every student to be as fascinated with cells as she is.

As an adviser for freshmen and sophomores, she always encourages students to explore different areas when deciding their majors. However, she admits that it is rewarding when they decide to become biology majors; she believes students' exploration processes are essential to find what they truly want to do. While Hirschhorn feels in biology, "it is all about the cell," she emphasizes that in life "it is all about choices." Hirschhorn finds watching the progress students make over four years to be very rewarding. "The best part is helping somebody become who they want to be," she said. "My hope is that when students leave (Hood) they will be independent, responsible adults who contribute to society. Hopefully they won't be just takers but they will be givers."



News from Frostburg

Yvonne Beal,

Frostburg Branch had a special meeting, Saturday, October 24, to inform the community about AAUW and to recruit new members. We had as our guests that day Marcia Posner and Jennifer Ingram from MD State and Anne Hedgepeth, National Government Relations Coordinator. Another speaker was Dr. Dave Arnold, FSU's own storm

chaser. As a result of that meeting, we have two new members: Dr. Martha Dolly (English professor at Frostburg State University) and Dr. Jackie Palaisa (Frostburg Orthodontist). In addition, we have several leads for other new members.

We are quite proud of these two new members.

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EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS PROGRAM SUCCESSFUL

By Karline Tierney, Baltimore Branch



Saturday, October 3, 2009 marked the second Expanding Your Horizons Program which was sponsored by Stevenson University and the Baltimore branch of AAUW. More than 160 middle school girls took part in hands-on workshops in such subjects as

DNA, Water Conservation, Genes, Diseases, Small Cells and many others.

AAUW solicited presenters for some of the workshops and organized the registration as the girls arrived on Saturday morning. A Keynote Address was provided by Christina Hammock, an electrical

engineer and sensor scientist at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics laboratory where she works on space science instruments for NASA and European Space Agency missions. She was the first woman to hold the Cryogenics Technician position at the South Pole Station and the Research Associate position at Palmer Station in Antarctica.

We distributed AAUW literature to attending parents and took names of interested potential members. All in all this was a very successful event.



AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund

(formerly AAUW Educational Foundation)

Christine Schmitz

Educational Opportunities Fund Vice-President,
AAUW MD
410-795-5091 < DIALACPA@aol.com>

Congratulations! Thanks to the efforts of many, many donors, we have completed the funding of The Dian Belanger International Fellowship. Contributions now exceed the \$100,000 mark. Any additional contributions that come in will be added to the Fund.

More news to follow at a later date about the awarding of fellowships. Thanks again for all of your contributions and work toward this milestone!

Just a word about year end contributions to any of the funds of the AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund. Contributions should be received by year end at AAUW to be properly credited as 2009 contributions. In past years, they have allowed an extended grace period for your contributions to reach AAUW after 12/31, this year there will be no extended period beyond December 31st. Please mail early or make your contributions on-line by December 31st to receive a 2009 deduction.

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National Girls Collaborative Project

AAUW is a key partner in the National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP), a nationwide network of individuals and organizations working together to increase gender equity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Through this National Science Foundation-supported network, nearly 1,400 girl-serving programs share resources, learn innovative techniques, and collaborate on new projects to spark girls' interest and encourage them to pursue STEM careers. Programs include camps and workshops engaging girls in hands-on science, after-school engineering clubs, and events honoring girls' academic achievement — all working together to create the tipping point for gender equity in STEM.

The NGCP is a great way for AAUW branches to make connections with girls in their communities and share resources with like-minded organizations. To date, approximately 60 AAUW-led programs have joined the network. AAUW member Ellen Nolan, who is an AAUW NGCP regional liaison, says the greatest reward is "working on behalf of girls." You, too, can help strengthen the capacity of organizations in your community to sustain girl-serving programs. To learn more about how your AAUW branch can share and use the resources of the NGCP, please visit AAUW's website at www.aauw.org/education/ngcp.

Tools You Can Use

The NGCP website offers a wealth of resources to serve a growing nationwide community that supports gender equity in STEM. Visit www.ngcproject.org to

Register in the program directory

Let others know about your program's needs or search for new program ideas.

▶ Join the e-mail list

Receive a monthly NGCP newsletter packed with upcoming events and resources.

Learn about the 14 regional networks

Connect with dedicated people and programs in your area.

Explore funding opportunities

Learn about mini-grant requirements and application deadlines.

Find more resources

The NGCP offers free webcasts, proven strategies, and assessment tools to build the capacity of your community programs to provide high-quality learning environments for girls.

AAUW NGCP Liaisons

AAUW members are part of the leadership team for each NGCP regional network, where they help plan community events and provide advice and assistance to programs regarding NGCP resources. For current contact information, please call 800/326-AAUW.

California: Marie Wolbach

Great Lakes & Midwest: Geraldine Oberman

Kentucky: Ellen Nolan

Maine: Ania Whittington

Mid-Atlantic: Elizabeth Vandenburg

Pennsylvania & Connecticut: Dot McLane

New England: Kimberly Edgar

Florida: Jennifer McDaniel

North Carolina: Susan Metz

Texas: Kristian Trampus

Diversity Outreach Liaison: Letha Granberry

Coming: NGCP Program in a Box

The NGCP Program in a Box will feature handouts, tips, and activities to jumpstart your programming.



AAUW's role in the National Girls Collaborative Project is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, Research on Gender in Science and Engineering, Award HRD-0631766.



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Message from Marcie



Marcie Posner, President AAUW MD 410-772-7977 <marciaposner@hotmail.com>

I'm writing this just a few days before Thanksgiving and the rest of the holiday period is close at hand. Everyone is busy at this time of year, so I will make this a very short message.

One question came up at the Fall Conference about the cost for lifetime members. Some thought that no dues were required and others thought they were required for state and branches. Because of the confusion I contacted AAUW for clarification. The response from Angela Cooper (see below) makes it clear that as far as AAUW is concerned lifetime membership covers only national dues with the waiver of state and branch dues at the discretion of states and branches.

Hopefully, all members will register early for our Winter Conference, to be held on January 23. Please see in this newsletter the information about this exciting meeting. Note, we have to cap the number of attendees, as Alfio's Cucina Italiana has limited seating. Therefore, get your registration in ASAP. You don't want to miss our keynote speaker, who is not only a biology professor at

Hood College, who will talk about encouraging women's interest in STEM, but also is an LAF recipient.

January 31, several of us will be attending the Women's Legislative Briefing at the University of Maryland, Shady Grove Campus. Jean Thompson and Gail Greenberg have offered to "man" an AAUW table with me, along with others of their branch. We will talk to attendees who are interested in AAUW, go to the meeting at which Lilly Ledbetter will be the keynote speaker, and attend various workshops. (And enjoy breakfast breads and beverages.) The workshops include one on economic equity and another on women's health. Last year was very enjoyable, enlightening and successful. Anyone interested in attending may register--until room runs out or the final date of Jan. 1 is reached. The fee is \$10 and well-worth the price. Go to:

<u>www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw</u> to register. Hope to see you there.

Have a very happy holiday season.

Hi Marcie:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding honorary life membership. I've provided below the paragraph with the language that we provide to honorary life recipients in their acknowledgment letter. It is up to the branch and state as to whether they will give honorary members this exemption.

As an Honorary Life member, you are exempt from paying future AAUW national dues. Similar dues exemptions are sometimes granted at the branch and state level; please check with your branch and state finance officers.

I hope this helps. Please let me know if we can be of further assistance. Thank you.

Angela M. Cooper

Angela M. Cooper Member Relations Manager Membership Department AAUW 1111 Sixteenth St. NW Washington, DC 20036 p: 202.785.7782 | f: 202.861.8068 Office Hours: 8:30-5:00, Mon-Fri, EST www.aauw.org

Legal Advocacy Fund

Cleopatra Campbell LAF Vice President

301-695-8462 <FIRSTNILEQUEEN@aol.com>



Program Budget

Fiscal Year Total \$100,000 includes campus

outreach & plaintiff travel grants

Funds Dispersed YTD (case support) \$12,000

Funds Dispersed YTD (campus outreach) \$0 (estimate: \$5,000) Funds to be Dispersed YTD (plaintiff travel) \$0 (estimate \$5,000)

Case Name	Adopt Date	Legal Causes of Action	LAF Board Awards to Date	LAF Last Award (Date)	Rawalt Fund Awards to Date	Rawalt Last Award (Date)	Donor Desig- nated Funds Last Award (Date)	Costs Incurred/ Needed/ Rec- ommended Board Action
Jaureguito v. Feather River Community Col- lege (CA)	03/07	Retaliation for making complaint of Title IX viola- tions		\$3,500 (06/09)		\$3,000	8717.43 \$1,250 (02/09)	Over \$100,000 in pending legal fees; \$125,000 esti- mated upcoming legal fees; \$4,000
Mansourian, et al v. Regents of the University of Cali- fornial	10/03	Sex discrimination in athletics	\$43,000	\$3,500 (06/09)	ŕ	\$3,000 (05/07)	(includes CA litigant fund)	Unspecified costs anticipated for the preparation at the 9th Circuit Court; \$4,000
Potera-Haskins v. Montana State Uni- versity	11/06	Sex discrimination in athletics, pay inequity	\$18,500	\$5,000 (09/08)	\$0	\$0	\$170	Anticipated legal costs of \$47,000 for trial-related ex- penses; \$4,000
Schuster v. Berea College (KY) see page 5	02/06	Sex discrimination in pay equity	\$34,000	\$35,000 (06/09)	\$0	\$0	\$19,951 \$1,451 (10/07)	Outstanding legal fees \$12,483.47. Anticipated legal costs \$143,000; \$4,000
Thein v. Feather River Community College (CA)	05/07	Retaliation for making complaint of Title IX violations	\$24,500	\$3,500 (06/09)	\$0	\$0	\$8,717.43 \$1,250 (02/09)	Over \$350,000 in pending legal fees. \$125,000 esti- mated in upcoming legal fees; \$4,000
Wartluft v. Feather River Community College (CA)	03/07	Sex discrmination in athletics & retaliation in termination	\$27,500	\$3,500 (06/09)	\$3,000		\$8,717.43 \$1,250 (02/09)	Over \$230,000 in pending and up- coming legal fees. \$125,000 esti- mated in upcoming legal fees; \$4,000

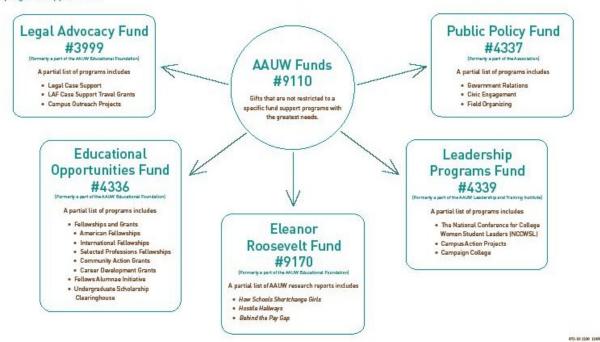
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HOW TO SUPPORT AAUW PROGRAMS

Effective July 1, 2009

Thank you for promoting equity for women and girls by supporting AAUW's crucial work! Contributions to AAUW Funds are fully tax deductible and can be restricted to any specific fund or program by writing the fund or program name or number on your check or on an accompanying document. You can also give online at www.aauw.org/contribute. Some of the most commonly designated funds and programs appear here.



F O N L F E 2 R O E O N 9 C



Jean Cryor 1938-2009

We note with sadness the passing of Jean Cryor who was 70 when she died November 3, 2009. She was a former State Delegate, and member of the Montgomery County Planning Board who served on the board of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center and was a commissioner on the Maryland Commission for Women.

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Membership Update

Jennifer Ingram

Membership Vice President

410-740-4276 <jenniferingram@comcast.net>

The Shape the Future Campaigns are well on the way to recruiting new members for Maryland! The Anne Arundel branch recruited two new members and several prospects at their annual fundraiser, a gigantic book sale. Go, Roxanne and Mary and all others who helped. I know that Cindy S. Neseth coordinated this event, so thanks for all your help.

Marcie Posner and I visited the Frostburg Branch in October for their wonderful meeting, which was a Shape the Future event. They had a professor from Frostburg State discuss tracking tornadoes, which was very interesting. It also attracted some guests, one of whom joined. There were several prospects gained from the publicity about this event, one of whom joined in November at a second Shape the Future branch meeting, according to branch president Yvonne Beal. Congratulations! (see p. 2)

Howard County started its Shape the Future campaigns in August, which means there was a sale on national dues at the event. Howard County has gained 10 new members since then plus one student affiliate through various Shape the Future campaigns. Thanks to all who worked at these events to

recruit!

Remember, also, that we'll be looking at the membership rosters in April to see how many members the branches have and comparing that to the roster on June 30, 2009 to see what level of increase the branches have. The branch with the highest percentage increase will get \$100 donated to their branch from the membership fund.

I've noted that in looking at branch rosters, most branches have some life members. Life members, including the ones who have 50-year honorary memberships, must still pay state and branch dues unless the branch decides to pay for that member. This question came up in the September state conference and I have verified this with national headquarters. Dual members must pay both branches' dues and the state dues.

If you have questions about membership issues, and especially about Shape the Future campaigns, please contact me at 410-740-4276 or jenniferingram@comcast.net.

Shape the Future Membership Campaign Overview

The Shape the Future Membership Campaign is a program used to help branches recruit new members by offering reduced membership rates for new or lapsed members to join on the spot during AAUW-sponsored activities. Branches build their member base and earn up to three free memberships annually to use any way they wish.



YES! AAUW Keys to the Future: A Member-Get-A-Member Campaign — does partner with our Shape The Future Campaign. Read how!

- Monthly Status Report (see last column for number of free memberships available).
- Frequently Asked Questions
- - o Application for Free Branch Memberships
 - o Guest/Referral Form
- Half-Year Dues
- Guide to Shape the Future Membership Campaign brochure* (PDF)
- Program Suggestions for Recruiting New Members
 - o Sister-to-Sister Summits
 - o <u>Transition Conferences</u>
 - o Voter Education Campaign
 - o Woman-to-Woman Community Dialogues
- Sample Letters
 - Recruiting Individuals
 - o Recruiting Higher Education Institutions as AAUW College/University Members
- Workshop
 - o Shaping Our Future

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Save the Date Maryland State Convention 2010

By Susan Wierman, Baltimore Branch Co-President



The 2010 AAUW Maryland Annual Convention will be held Saturday April 10 and Sunday April 11 at the Radisson Inn at Cross Keys in Baltimore.

This will be a special weekend, with an interesting program and opportunities to share information with your counterparts from other branches. Come to learn; come to meet interesting women; come to strengthen your branch and be revitalized.

Please reserve your hotel room by calling 410-532-6900. Ask for reservations and tell them you are with AAUW to receive the special rate of \$109 per night for a single or double. There is a \$15 charge for additional adults, or a \$40 additional charge for a junior suite.

Nestled between Falls Road and the Jones Falls Expressway in Northern Baltimore City, Cross Keys is an upscale, gated, planned community designed by Jim Rouse. Cross Keys today is an oasis of 30 shops, boutiques, and restaurants in a garden setting with plenty of free, covered or uncovered parking.

Retailers include local Baltimore shops as well as Talbots, Chico's, William-Sonoma, and Elizabeth Arden Red Door Spa. Shop for unusual, handmade items at La Terra. Come early for Thursday night live music at the Radisson, or take the courtesy shuttle to the National Aquarium at the Inner Harbor. Sample the great food at Donna's.

See the hotel's web site at www.innatcrosskeys.com. See www.villageofcrosskeys.com for a list of shops and events.

See you there!



The Marylander is published quarterly in Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer editions by AAUW MD, Janet Moses, editor. Send articles to <**marylander@aauwtowson.org**> or mail to Janet Moses, 21 Theo Lane, Towson, MD 21204-2751. All submissions are edited for length and clarity. **Deadline for the Spring issue is February 8, 2010.** Please note: *Early submissions will be retained for publication.*

Please send ALL address changes to

AAUW Records Office, 1111 16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036-4873 Make address changes ONLINE in the AAUW Member Center http://www.aauw.org.



Children's Issues

Jacqulyn Thorpe, AAUW MD Children's Issues Chair <JThorpe933@comcast.net >

Teaching Children One Book At A Time

When we do something well, we should keep doing it, right? Right! Please do not stop collecting books and donating them to the MD Head Start center(s) located nearest to your branch's location. If you would like to visit a center and read to the children who are there, that would be even better. So, please consider doing it and call a center to arrange a visit. Our program increases self-esteem, encourages children to read and generates positive attitudes towards learning.

Children's Annotated Reading List

We have added some excellent annotated books to the reading list for children.

See our website for the list if you want to start an in school reading program.

Fundraising Can Be Fun

- * Select a recipient for your fundraising event and publicize, publicize, publicize.
- * Hold the event, collect your proceeds and give, give, give.
- * Need Suggestions?
- Consider the National Center for the Blind Free Braille Books for Children Program
- View the video "Smile Pinki" and donate to the Smile Train which "Changes The World One Smile At A Time." through surgery. You can borrow the Oscar winning DVD from me to use to promote your event.

A Way To Celebrate Diversity

A good way to break down barriers in local schools would be to sponsor a "Mix It Up Lunch Day" at a school near you. According to Teaching Tolerance, "Students identify the cafeteria as the place where divisions are most clearly drawn." (Fall, 2009) Using their model or one of our own, AAUW MD members could facilitate an event with a goal such as: Creating a safe purposeful opportunity for students to break down social self-segregation by asking questions of a table group that would get them talking to people that they do not usually talk to

(FYI) Reaching Young People In the Classroom In Maryland, the book *Teaching About Religion: Unity in Diversity*, has been approved by the Text-

book Review Committee of Montgomery County for free distribution in our public schools. It is being used in high school to help educators strengthen the teaching about religion. The National Council of Social Studies also recognized this book in their Fall, 09 newsletter.

Ways to Promote Women's History Month in March

- * Suggest to your local schools and school boards that they encourage students to write an essay or draw a picture about the annual theme which is "Writing Women Back Into History", for this year. For previous year's themes, see www.nwhp.org
- * Contribute a Women's History Program Kit (available on the AAUW website) to a local school or local library.
- * Plan a reception or luncheon to honor the women in your community who have been the builders of communities and dreams. Invite their children and grandchildren.
- * Set up a display in the children's section of the library on Women's History Month.

(Adapted from: Writing Women Back Into History Gazette, Vol. I, Fall, 2009)

Branch Children's Issues Chairs, 2009-2010

(new) Anne Arundel County

Sigrid Dorf, myrondorf@comcast.net Baltimore

> Doris Levi, 410-367-0911 Joan Maloney, 410-821-5371

(new) Easton

Laura LeBlanc, 443-225-5633

Hagerstown

Judy Chaney, 301- 739-3468

Harford County

Claire Allen, callen07@gmail.com

Laurel

Pat Behenna, 301-776-4025

Patuxent River

Muriel Nickerson, mcnick116@comcast.net

Please let Jacqulyn Thorpe know if your CI Chair's name is missing from this list or if a new CI Chair has been appointed.

Winter Conference 2010

January 23, 2010 11:30 AM

Alfio's Cucina Italiana, 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD, Phone: 301-657-9133

From Baltimore:

Take I-495 to exit 33, Connecticut Ave., towards Kensington/ Chevy Chase Left at fork, follow signs for Md-185 S/Chevy Chase Left at Connecticut Ave/Md-185 At Chevy Chase Circle, take 3rd exit onto Western Ave. Right onto Wisconsin Pl., Wisconsin Circle Follow Wisconsin Circle to Willard Ave.

From Annapolis:

Take US-50 - W/Washington
Take exit 7B onto I-495/I-95
Take exit 33, Connecticut Ave., towards Kensington/Chevy
Chase
At Chevy Chase Circle, take the 3rd exit for Western Ave.
Turn right onto Wisconsin Pl/Wisconsin Circle
Follow Wisconsin Circle to Willard Ave.

Total cost to be remitted with this registration form

From Frederick:

Take I-270 S Exit on Md-355, Rockville Pike Right onto Willard Ave.

From Southern Maryland:

Take US -301 Continue on US-301, Branch Avenue, MD-5 Merge onto I-495 N/Capital Beltway toward Baltimore/ College Park

Merge onto MD-185 S/Connecticut Ave via Exit 33 At Chevy Chase Circle, take the 3rd exit for Western Ave. Turn right onto Wisconsin Pl/Wisconsin Circle Follow Wisconsin Circle to Willard Ave.

Parking is limited but
Alfio's Cucina Italiana offers free
valet parking
http://alfios.com/

Direct all questions to Jean Thompson at 301- 589-3390 — email: jptjpt@verizon.net OR

Gail Greenberg at 301-598-4142 — email: gailjgreenberg@comcast.net

A	
	g registration must be received by January 19 th . Mail registration form and check payable to "AAUW MD" W c/o Gail Greenberg, 2901 South Leisure World Blvd, #222, Silver Spring, MD 20906-8364
Name	
Address	
Phone	Email
Branch	
	Please enter the number of meals in the block beside your choice(s)
	Veal Piccata
	Eggplant Parmigiana
	Broiled Filet of Flounder
	Total number of meals requested
	X \$18 per meal



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Moving?

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CALENDAR

Winter 2010 Conference

Saturday, January 23. 2010

Deadline for the Spring issue of *The Marylander*

Monday, February 8, 2010

Spring 2010 Convention

April 10 - 11, 2010 Radisson Hotel at Cross Keys Baltimore

Summer 2010 Conference

Saturday, June 12, 2010 Hosted by Silver Spring Branch

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