



Diversity & Inclusion Report

Jacqueline Gray, Diversity Chair - AAUW Maryland

July 20, 2019 - AAUW MD's Summer Conference held in Frederick, MD.

- Served as a co-organizer of AAUW MD's Summer Conference held in Frederick, MD on July 20, 2019. The main theme of the conference focused on Diversity and Inclusion.
- Developed and presented a power point presentation titled, "Diversity. What Does It Mean for AAUW MD?"
- Scouted, secured and arranged for nationally recognized expert on diversity and inclusion, Dr. Bruce J. Stewart to present as a guest speaker during the morning session of the conference.
- Served as an "Observer" during the afternoon session of the conference, recording comments, recommendations and take-aways discussed and put forth from the break-out groups.
- Developed and issued a "post conference" survey, with the goal of assessing follow-up activities from the conference to foster and achieve a more diverse membership within AAUW MD branches. One of the ideas suggested during the conference to achieve a more diverse membership, is to hold a LUNAFEST (see more on LUNAFEST below).

8/30/2019 – AAUW MD, Woman of the Year Selection

- Served as a member of the nominating committee for purposes of selecting AAUW MD's Woman of the Year.

12/29/2019 – Luncheon Honoring Dr. Yvette Myrick, AAUW MD's Woman of the Year for 2020

- Hosted a celebratory "meet and greet" luncheon in honor of Dr. Yvette Myrick's selection as AAUW MD's Woman of the Year. Dr. Myrick is a Maryland resident who is currently the Dean of the School of Transitional Education at Colorado Mountain College, located in Glen Springs, CO. Dr. Myrick has been a member of the AAUW Baltimore Branch since 2006, and has held a variety of leadership positions in that branch. Dr. Myrick is the first African-American woman to be selected by AAUW MD for this prestigious recognition. Nine AAUW members from various branches attended the luncheon to meet and greet Dr. Myrick, and to wish her well on the upcoming Women of Distinction awards ceremony scheduled to be held in May, 2020 during the National Conference for College Women and Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland, College Park, where she will be honored along with a group of other

outstanding women selected nationally (as of the date of this report, the NCCWSL has been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. Dr. Myrick will still be honored as a Woman of Distinction at the next annual NCCWSL event).

02/02/2020 – Meeting to Discuss “LUNAFEST” as a Diversity Program for Year 2021.

- A teleconference meeting took place on 02/02/2020 to discuss the feasibility of AAUW MD hosting a LUNAFEST in the fall of 2021. Participants in the telecon were Kate Campbell Stevenson, Co-President of AAUW MD; Program VPs, Tracy Lantz and Pat Stocker; and Jacki Gray, Diversity Chair.

What is a LUNAFEST? A LUNAFEST is a travelling film festival consisting of several short films created by women film-makers for purposes of providing a platform for woman to share their untold stories with the world. The films offer up fresh ideas and perspectives that impact the present and future. Ticket sales from a LUNAFEST help to raise funds for women’s causes and at the same time provide a global stage for female film-makers. LUNAFEST is sponsored by Clif Bar & Company, the company that makes Luna Bars and Clif Bars, a health and nutrition food supplement. The LUNAFEST film lineup for the year 2020 consists of seven (7) short films containing a total running time of 96 minutes for all 7 films.

Several AAUW MD officers agreed to do research regarding the location, date, and time of year to host a LUNAFEST, and to reach out to other AAUW branches that have held a LUNAFEST in the past. As an action item, a few members on the call planned to attend a LUNAFEST hosted by the AAUW Redding, PA branch in March 2020.

03/05/2020 – Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Woman's Suffrage Movement

- Attended a lecture on the African Americans & Women’s Suffrage Movement held on March 5, 2020 at the Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis, MD. The lecture explored the important and often overlooked presence of African American women during the women’s suffrage movement. The lecturer for this event was Dr. Sharon Harley, an Associate Professor at the University of Maryland, College Park.

03/08/2020 – Field Trip to AAUW Branch in Reading, PA to Attend LUNAFEST.

- On Sunday, March 8, 2020, several AAUW members from Maryland travelled to Reading, PA to network and attend a LUNAFEST event hosted by the AAUW Branch located in Reading, PA. Denise Gray, Jacki Gray and Tracy Lantz travelled to Reading to meet and network with the Reading branch to attend the LUNAFEST, which consisted of seven short films. The Reading Branch was most gracious, offering a lovely assortment of hors d’oeuvres, desserts and beverages throughout the afternoon. The event was very well attended and gave the AAUW MD members first-hand knowledge of the value of hosting a LUNAFEST for educational and recruiting purposes at the State and Branch levels.