



## Anne Arundel Women Giving Together

**AAWGT Newsletter**

**October 2009**

In case you missed it, the *New York Times Magazine* recently did a fabulous series, "Saving the World's Women." The five articles in this special issue (August 23, 2009) focused on the positive change that results when women are empowered, particularly those in developing countries. (See full text of articles at [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/23/magazine/23Women-t.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/23/magazine/23Women-t.html?_r=1) .)

Since the 1970s, microfinance programs such as the one started by Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Foundation, show that when women do well financially, everyone in that society benefits. More recently, Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea*, the book about the schools that he has built for girls in Afghanistan, has shown the progress that is made in societies when girls are provided an education.

By raising women's educational and economic status, we are discovering that we can begin to undermine the extremism and terrorism that we see around the world.

As a member of a women's giving circle that supports programs for women and families, we are part of a global effort that ultimately can bring about more peace and harmony and higher standards of living.

Our upcoming event on **Wednesday, October 14th**, will be a great opportunity to hear firsthand from some of our grantees and to learn how AAWGT grants have made a difference for so many women and families here in Anne Arundel County.

Please come and bring a friend!

Sharon L. Stewart, President, [stews@mindspring.com](mailto:stews@mindspring.com) , and

Lynne Davidson, Vice President/President-Elect, [lynnedav@aol.com](mailto:lynnedav@aol.com)

**Help Anne Arundel Women Giving Together grow and share our good work: please feel free to share this newsletter with your friends.**

### **October Member Meeting**

**October 14**  
**AAWGT October Membership Event**  
**6:00 -8:00 PM**  
Chartwell Country Club, Severna Park

Join us for food, refreshment and presentations from our 2008 grantee as we celebrate AAWGT's contributions to the community. Please come and bring a friend!  
RSVP to Karen Davis [kluciadavis@hotmail.com](mailto:kluciadavis@hotmail.com) by Friday Oct. 9.

Directions: From Rt. 50, take I-97 north 9.3 miles to exit 10 (Benfield Boulevard/Veterans Highway). At the end of the exit ramp, turn left on Veterans Highway. Go ¼ of a mile and turn right on Benfield Boulevard. Go one mile and turn left on St. Ives Drive. Proceed almost a mile and turn right on Chartwell Drive. There is ample parking in the lot at the club.

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## A special thank you to the following people:

Marketing Asst. Chair *Amy Steindler* for designing our beautiful Sept. 9 program and the Oct. 14 invitation and program.

*Education and Program Committee* for the fantastic Sept. 9th program, with a special thank you to *Laurie Sharp* for serving as a program coordinator and a great moderator.

*Lynda Salamon*, our newsletter editor par excellence.

*Kate Pynn*, who has been expertly handling the newsletter set-up with Constant Contact and to *Kristen Lasker*, who did this month's newsletter set-up.

*Jennifer Leslie* of AARP and *Bronwyn Belling* for their work in setting up the Steering Committee's online workspace.

*Ki Baldwin* for serving as AAWGT's photographer and taking wonderful photos at grantee Centro de Ayuda's Mama Sana evening program.



### September Meeting Re-cap

The many members and guests who attended the September meeting were treated to a fascinating and inspiring program detailing the impact of the arts on the lives of at-risk youth. Kirsten Elstner, Director of VisionWorkshops, illustrated how afterschool programs in photography and writing helped young people find their own voices to tell their stories. Ms. Elstner accompanied her talk with a compelling video of the children's work. Rob Levit, founder of Creating Communities, described how the arts improve the lives of elementary school children, hospital patients, and adults with mental illness. The presentations led to a lively exchange of questions and answers. Cheers to the Education and Program Committee and to moderator Laurie Sharp for an exceptional program.



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### Welcome New Members!

Rosalind Calvin  
Kathleen Carroll  
Kristen Lasker

Please make a special effort to welcome our new members if you meet them at one of our meetings.

Members view video from VisionWorkshops



Rob Levit and Kirsten Elstner

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## Our Committees at Work

**The Grants Committee** is hard at work revising forms and developing a timeline for the 2010 grants cycle. The Committee has several new members and will soon be asking for volunteers to read and evaluate grant applications. Orientation meetings for reviewers are scheduled for Saturday, January 9 and Friday, January 22; new reviewers are required to attend one of the sessions. The review process takes place in March and April, and the finalists are presented to the membership for a vote at the May general meeting. Please contact Kathy Potter at [pottercako@comcast.net](mailto:pottercako@comcast.net) for more information.

**The Policies and Procedures Committee** is working on some changes to the by-laws. Proposed changes will be submitted to the membership in November; a vote will take place in January.

**The Leadership Development and Nominating Committee** will present its slate of candidates for 2010 at the November meeting, and the membership will vote in December.

### Call for Volunteers

1. Join the Events Team and help arrange meeting venues, refreshments and set up. Contact Prue Clendenning at [Prue1244@yahoo.com](mailto:Prue1244@yahoo.com)
2. Help the Marketing Committee with publication design. Contact Julie Crudele [Julie.crudele@comcast.net](mailto:Julie.crudele@comcast.net) or Amy Steindler [amy.steindler@verizon.net](mailto:amy.steindler@verizon.net)
3. Help the Education & Program Committee arrange upcoming programs. Contact Prue Clendenning [Prue1244@yahoo.com](mailto:Prue1244@yahoo.com) or Laurie Sharp [lsharp1000@gmail.com](mailto:lsharp1000@gmail.com)

Other talents or ideas to share?

Contact Membership Chair Martha Hoyer [Sycamore34@aol.com](mailto:Sycamore34@aol.com)  
or Asst. Chair Diane Miller [bubbe7x@comcast.net](mailto:bubbe7x@comcast.net)

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## Upcoming AAWGT Events - Mark your Calendars!

**November 11**

**AAWGT General Meeting: "Women as Leaders: Tools for Success"  
7:00 - 8:30 PM**

Conte Lubrano Building #2, Community Room  
130 Lubrano Drive, Annapolis

Featuring Jane Snider, Executive Director of the Summit School; Lynn McReynolds, founder and director of McReynolds Elek Communications; and Danielle Mosley, associate judge on the Anne Arundel County District Court and Moderator Stacey Heckel, President of the Anne Arundel Community College Foundation.

Join us for a stimulating and informative discussion about women and leadership led by representatives from education/nonprofits, business, and government. Please join us and bring your friends.

**December 9:**

**AAWGT Holiday Celebration**

Hosted by AAWGT Member Susan Nolte, Severna Park  
Please look for details in the November newsletter.

**November 13: Annual Celebration of Philanthropy Luncheon**, Doubletree Hotel, Annapolis, 11:30 to 2:00. To purchase tickets or become a sponsor, contact the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County at (410) 280-1102 (410) 280-1102 or [www.cfaac.org](http://www.cfaac.org).

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## **Grantees in the News!**

**Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)** will hold its annual gala, CASAblanca, on Saturday, Oct. 10, at the Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport Hotel. For additional info/tickets contact [Stephanie@aacasa.org](mailto:Stephanie@aacasa.org) or (410) 267-7877 (410) 267-7877 ext 1.

**Maryland Therapeutic Riding** will hold its annual benefit concert, "LIVE on the Farm," on October 17 at 6:00 PM at the MTR farm in Crownsville. The concert features local favorites, The Hard Travelers, and stars The Limelinters. For additional info/tickets, call (410) 923-6816 (410) 923-6816 or visit [www.horsethatheal.org](http://www.horsethatheal.org).

**Friends of Light House Shelter's Bountiful Harvest** event will be held on Sunday, October 25 at 5:00 PM at the Loews Hotel. For additional info/tickets, contact Melanie Quinn at [events@AnnapolisLightHouse.org](mailto:events@AnnapolisLightHouse.org) or (410) 268-4251 (410) 268-4251 .

**The YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County** will hold its annual gala on Friday, Nov. 6, at the Sheraton Annapolis Hotel. For additional info/tickets, call (410) 626-7800 (410) 626-7800 x115.

**RENEW YOUR AAWGT MEMBERSHIP!**

## **Reminder: Please renew your membership!**

If you have not already renewed, please send your contribution as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please call AAWGT Treasurer Barb Novak

at (410) 224-2528 (410) 224-2528 . By pooling our resources, your annual contribution is multiplied more than 100 times.

### Contact Information

Anne Arundel Women Giving Together  
914 Bay Ridge Avenue, Suite 220  
Annapolis, MD 21403  
(410) 280-1102 (410) 280-1102

*AAWGT is a non-denominational, non-partisan group that welcomes all interested women.*

Website: [www.givingtogether.org](http://www.givingtogether.org)

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