This is truly a season for women leadership. As part of the first education session of this year, women experts shared their knowledge on changing demographics in our community. In our March Women & Leadership Event, Molly Barker inspired us with her personal story of successful leadership by helping young girls find their true healthy happy selves. Our April Open House program will showcase some of our own members who lead and change lives every day in Anne Arundel County.

Upcoming Events:

April 9 : Spring Open House
April 23 : Your Dollars at Work - Grantee Field Trip
May 14 : Grants Voting Meeting (members only)

In Their Own Words!

First Education Session an Eye-Opener

AAWGT's first 2014 Educational Session,

JOIN or RENEW TODAY!!

In Memoriam - AAWGT Member and Past President Laurie Sharp

"Laurie was inspiring in her organizing, fearless in her artwork, courageous in all aspects of her life, and passionate about everything she tackled. Above all, Laurie was hilariously fun, for everyone, all the time. Even in serious illness, Laurie was full of life."

Jennifer Smith – Laurie’s daughter

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

Dr. Seuss

Spring Open House

Are you tired of the cold and snow? Think ahead to warmer weather, flowers, and gardens! Plan to join us for a Members Open House in the beautiful Paca House Gardens on April 9! This event is open to all.
APRIL
9  6:00PM-8:00PM  General Meeting – Spring Open House (Membership)
23 Grantee Field Trip
29 Lighthouse Lunches

MAY
14  8:30AM – 10:30AM  Grants Voting -- Members Only
21 Book Group
22 Lighthouse Lunches

JUNE
11  6:00PM–8:00PM  General Meeting (Education)
24 Lighthouse Lunches

JULY
No General Meeting

AUGUST
No General Meeting

SEPTEMBER
10 Book Group (Movie)
17  6:00PM - 8:00PM  General Meeting - Grant Showcase

OCTOBER
8  6:00PM – 8:00PM  General Meeting (Education)

NOVEMBER
12  6:00PM - 8:00PM  Business Meeting and Members' Forum -- Members Only

"Changing Demographics: Opportunities and Untapped Resources," was held at Kneseth Israel on February 12. More than 80 people attended and heard from five panelists who spoke on the County’s changing population, with a specific focus on the 60+ and the Hispanic/Latino community.

"It is fitting that we start off 2014 with the first in a series of education sessions designed to make us informed decision makers", remarked AAWGT President Karen Smith as she kicked off the meeting.

Full details on the February education session can be found here.

7th Annual Women & Leadership Event

Over 200 women (and some brave men!) attended the seventh annual AAWGT Women and Leadership event on Wednesday March 19 at Broadneck High School. Co-hosted for the first time with the Community Foundation (CFAAC), the event featured Molly Barker, founder of Girls on the Run (GOTR). This organization inspires girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident using a fun, experience based curriculum which creatively integrates running. The programs now run in 47 states and have served over 700,000 girls.

We learned what makes Molly Barker a wonderful woman leader and there were a few surprises! According to Molly, there is an “ebb and flow” in leadership. Sometimes the light shines on you and sometimes there is “self-doubt.” The self-doubt is there to allow for growth and introspection. It is important to choose the part of “female” that empowers us. And when the challenge

Grants Process Update

The 2014 AAWGT grants review process got underway in February when 23 organizations submitted applications for funding. The proposed projects reflect a wide range of needs in the county from mental health and job counseling to nutrition and mentoring.

Thirty AAWGT members, working in four teams, have reviewed the applications for adherence to the AAWGT mission and guidelines and the readiness of the organizations to carry out their proposals. Site visits are now taking place to gather additional information which will inform our final decision-making discussions in April. All of those involved in the review process look forward to presenting the membership with an excellent selection of projects for consideration in May. Register today to attend the grants voting meeting May 14, 2014!

Your Dollars at Work
came to Molly, she couldn’t NOT do it, she HAD to do it! The challenge aligned with her purpose.

Leadership is about being “fearless in getting to know each person and their story.” It is a “willingness to be vulnerable.” It is the ability to use your “elevator pitch” often to sell others on your idea – to be persistent. It is also important to know when to let go and move on.

Molly believes that the world is “very hungry for what the “feminine” brings to the world processes. There is a yearning for compassion, love, strength, and vulnerability. Love and compassion are not weak.”

When asked if there was any risk in leadership, Molly was adamant. She sees no risk and says “go for it!” Be prepared for “dark spaces” in the process but “fake it until you make it.” And you will find the happy space again. She has faced her dark spaces with being a single parenthood and with overcoming alcoholism but does not let that define her. She uses these challenges to help move forward in her life.

When asked what she might do with a “magic wand” and all the power in the world, Molly said she would like all women to witness their own greatness and see their strengths as power.

With wisdom, wit, and authenticity, Molly inspired all attendees to find the leader in themselves.

AAWGT members are invited to gather at the Community Library, 1 East 11th Ave., Brooklyn Park for our annual Field Trip. After visiting the Learning Center, we’ll treat ourselves to lunch at Brian Boru Restaurant and Pub at 489 Ritchie Highway, Suite 103, in Severna Park. Please register by Friday, April 18 to secure your place for both the library visit and lunch. Space is limited.

Bylaws Review
This year the Governance Committee’s focus is a comprehensive review of the AAWGT Bylaws. In preparation, members are being asked to review the Bylaws and provide comments, suggestions, and questions before the end of May. Just send an email with your thoughts to governance@givingtogether.org. Members can access the Bylaws on the members only page of the website by clicking here (member sign-in required). We look forward to hearing from you.

Donna Stackhouse, Chair
Susan Nolte, Asst. Chair

In Their Own Words! Members were asked…

Why are AAWGT education sessions important?
Can you share an "aha" moment from our February Session?
"Education opportunities are one of the ways that not only keeps me engaged in AAWGT but also helps me keep track of what is happening in the community in ways that I might not otherwise have known. "I learned that the Latino/Hispanic population is increasing in our county and that the schools are doing a good job of assimilating the children into our community." – Helene Betnun

"Education programs help keep me mindful of the needs in the area. The most recent session reinforced the diversity of cultures and the economic disparity in the county and that we need to keep helping one another. One standout statement was ‘Call us Latino not Hispanic’. ” - Helen Krone

"Education sessions helped me understand what the social problems are, and what solutions are effective. I learned how close these problems are to my comfortable neighborhood and that the children and families we help are our neighbors. Hearing experts speak about issues makes us informed citizens outside of AAWGT as well as educated voters and focused volunteers." - Phyllis Saroff

What do YOU say? Email us at giving@givingtogether.org. We look forward to hearing from you!