



Volume 8 No. 2 Winter 2025

Dear LWAAAC Family,

I hope this message finds you all in great spirits. I continue to stand firmly in our mission to share literacy within our programming and the goals of Women's History Month, even though March has ended. Therefore, we encourage our membership to continue sharing resources and initiatives aimed at empowering woman and creating meaningful change within our communities.

Last month, I also launched the LWAAAC Sister Spotlight and focused it on Sherry Weaver, for her remarkable achievements of the written word through this newsletter, member profiles, and other written contributions about our growing organization. I was also thrilled to participate in a Virtual Book Read and Discussion, featuring acclaimed author Victoria Christopher Murray, who discussed her *New York Times* bestseller, *Harlem Rhapsody*. If you haven't done so, you should take the time to read it.



Next, the resources curated by the program committee, such as December's Kwanzaa program and the upcoming Fun Night, are designed not only to further our mission but also to provide you, our membership, with moments of **reflection, renewal, and joy**. Together, we will continue to stand firm, support one another, and uplift our communities.

Finally, as you all know, we are navigating challenging times, and many of us feel weary as we continue to stand strong against adversity. Remember that our beloved LWAAAC – founded over 30 years ago – was created for moments like these: **To Inspire, Uplift, and Empower**. Let us hold fast to our mission and vision, drawing strength from our shared purpose and the resilience that binds us together.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and dedication to making a lasting impact.

Let the LWAAAC circle be unbroken.

Maxine

Maxine Hooker, President



Board of Directors Page

Remembering Laura

On the morning of Friday, to rest after a beautiful Grace Church, adjacent to the the service, Fritz, her years, and their three and Alicia – spoke lovingly grandchildren, friends, and the sendoff of this well-loved “phenomenal” woman.



April 4, Laura S. Wiltz was laid funeral mass at Our Lady of Leisure World campus. During husband, her “rock” for 63 daughters – Melanie, Lorilyn, of their mainstay. Sons-in-law, neighbors were there as well for and highly accomplished,

Born in Fort Valley, Georgia, Laura grew up in Washington, DC. After attending Banneker Junior High and Dunbar High School, Laura went on to take the following degrees: Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Oberlin College; master’s degree in social work, Columbia University; and a Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior and Human Resources Management from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). She worked and taught in her field, including a period during which she taught at the UCLA Graduate School of Social Work, throughout an illustrious career.

Laura’s obituary says she “never met an organization she didn’t want to lead.” And, indeed, there were many in which she played a pivotal role, including, to name but a few, the Los Angeles Museum, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Coalition of 100 Black Women, Jack and Jill, the Links, the United Negro College Fund, the Dining Divas, and, of course, our own Leisure World Association for African American Culture (LWAAAC).

Laura and Fritz moved to Leisure World in 2014, and Laura soon became active in LWAAAC. Not just “active,” Laura had served as treasurer, chair of the by-laws and membership committees, parliamentarian, and major contributor to and member of the *Celebrations II* committee. Illness had curtailed Laura’s active participation for the last few years, and her good humor, intelligence, and commonsense were missed. And so, on a pleasant spring Friday morning, many of her LWAAAC friends and colleagues came out to celebrate the life of Laura Wiltz and to bid her a final fond, heartfelt farewell.

LWAAAC 2025-2027 Nominations and Election



The slate of candidates for the 2025-2027 LWAAAC board of directors will be provided to LWAAAC members in mid-April. The slate will contain the name of the candidate for president, vice president, recording secretary, correspondence secretary, financial secretary, and treasurer. Candidate statements and photographs will accompany the slate to inform the membership about each candidate.

At the LWAAAC general membership meeting on May 7, the candidates on the slate will be introduced and there will be a call for nominations from the floor. Accordingly, any LWAAAC member accepting a nomination from the floor will be added to the slate. All candidates will have the opportunity to address the membership and answer any questions.

If you are interested in any of the positions or need additional information, contact Sharman Dupree, chair of Nominations and Election Committee, at sedupree252@gmail.com.



PERSPECTIVES ON YEAR ONE OF lwaaac.com

It is so exciting to celebrate the LWAAAC website's first anniversary! When Patricia Means, Sharon Boone, Sharon Ricks, and I first discussed having a website back in 2021, we thought it would be done in a few months. Under Sharon Ricks's suggestion, we met with the IT staff at Blake H.S. They recommended the teacher and the student who would work with us. Sharon Ricks and I set up the GoDaddy account, and Patricia and Sharon Boone consistently sent info to our Blake student. They conferred with him on a regular basis, but his supervising teacher ghosted him and us. So, we had to cut our losses at the end of the school year. And then in 2024, under the presidency of the late Janet Overton, Luis Alomar and committee took on the task. And now we have such a wonderful website that we can all look at with pride and enjoyment. We can join, register, and discover so much about LWAAAC and our culture! Thanks Luis, Mazel, and Sherry!

JUANITA SEALY-WILLIAMS

The LWAAAC website celebrates its first year online successfully supporting the informational needs of the community. Throughout this first year, the technology committee has expanded the amount of informational content to keep the community informed of all things LWAAAC. The website saw the implementation of online event reservation capabilities that the community quickly embraced and appreciated. This feature also improved the efficiency of the programs committee to conduct events and enabled the membership committee to maintain an accurate member roster. Security features have allowed the site to post members-only content to website subscribers.

LUIS ALOMAR

When former president Janet Overton invited me to become a member of the nascent LWAAAC web development team, I never imagined how much could be accomplished in the span of only one year. During that time, my role evolved and has included defining site requirements, designing and maintaining site applications, assisting with classroom training in site navigation, and being an overall website cheerleader. I believe that the project was both timely and beneficial in meeting the needs of LWAAAC members. Just as importantly, it has been personally rewarding and fulfilling for me. I'm excited to see what the next year brings.

MAZEL PERNELL

It's been an amazing journey working with all the good people who put this website on its feet. Turning on the computer and typing on the keyboard was about the extent of my technological skills, but I have learned so much from them this past year. It's been an honor as chair of the public relations committee also to sit on the tech committee and be involved in creating content for the site and watching it come alive. Kudos to all who stuck with it and made lwaaac.com a reality. I think Janet would be well pleased.

SHERRY WEAVER

MOMENTS



GETTING READY, MAKING SIGNS



THE GREAT TURNOUT ON THE AVENUE



AAHP FRIENDS AT STELO SESSION



SANDY AND FRIEND

STANDING COMMITTEE ROUNDUP

Amenities Committee-Assures members that friends and neighbors in the organization offer their support and compassion during times of illness and bereavement. To share information, contact Karen Robinson, blinkyl1@sbcglobal.net (240) 293-6583; Elise Nicholls, elise2row@aol.com (301) 509-2543; or Louise Markray, markraylv@gmail.com, (301) 598-3839.

Community Service Committee-Initiates, plans, and implements projects and activities to support needs on the LW campus and in the wider Montgomery County area

Volunteers are still welcome for the Grandreaders Program on Wednesdays at Bel Pre Elementary School.

Donations are needed for the Blake High School scholarship that LWAAAC awards to two students each year.

The committee is also seeking volunteers for the Dialogues Across the Ages program at Redland Middle School.

For details on any of the above opportunities, check in with committee chair Juanita Sealy-Williams (202) 494-5633, sealyjaws@gmail.com.

Membership Committee-Enrolls members and maintains a membership database. Alfonso Holston, Chair, alholston38@gmail.com (301) 438-3537.

Al reported a membership of 310 at the April members meeting.

Public Relations Committee-Publishes information about LWAAAC members, events, and activities. Sherry Weaver, Chair, lwaaacprcom@gmail.com (301) 275-8918

The “Then & Now” photo project on the website has proved to be as much fun as anticipated. However, more photos are always welcome. Details on how to submit photos can be found on the website under “More.” But you must be a subscriber as well as a member to get access.

Since the last newsletter, we have posted three profiles on the website: Larry Traynham, Maxine Hooker, and Hakim Rashid, the last written by our newest PR committee member, Sam Langevine. We’re looking for more to come from Sam.

Programs Committee-Plans and executes educational, social, and recreational events. Sandy Henderson, Chair, sky99henderson@gmail.com, (202) 730-5130

The annual spring member appreciation night, aka Fun Night, will be held on Thursday, April 17, in the Activities Room in Clubhouse II. It will feature karaoke, dancing to the oldies, a 50/50 raffle, and food. Members are welcome to BYOB.



Fun Night, 2024

Health and Wellness Collab with Fraternity-SAVE THE DATE



In a second collaboration, LWAAAC and the Mu Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi will hold an interactive, members-only wellness program on Saturday, April 26, 10:00 a.m. to noon, in the Activities Room in Clubhouse II. Doors will open at 9:00, and a light breakfast will be served. Discussion topics are still tentative but will focus on maladies that are prevalent in the African American community. The event is free, but registration is required. More detailed information will be made available on the website lwaaac.com.

Technology Committee-Provides short-and long-range planning for all technology initiatives: innovation, vision, goals, program objectives/strategies/activities, infrastructure, evaluation, and budgeting. The committee collaborates with all standing committees in support of their technical objectives. The committee maintains the organization's websites, event calendars, email accounts, and cloud storage. Luis Alomar, Chair, lwaaactc@gmail.com (See p.4 for perspectives on first year of lwaaac.com)

. . . . AND A FEW MORE THINGS

The LWAAAC Club Reading List for 2025

Master, Slave, Husband, Wife	Ilyon Woo
American Dirt	Jeanine Cummins
Black Indian	Shonda Buchanan
Shaw	Cora Mack
James	Percival Everett
All That She Carried	Tiya Miles
Transcendent Kingdom	Yaa Gyasi

The book club is convened by Marilyn Washington, narty@aol.com

The Janet Overton Prime Time Sister Circle continues to meet for brunch every second Saturday at noon in the Terrace Dining Room in Clubhouse I. Anyone who wants to sign up on the announcement list is encouraged to contact Sherry Weaver at stheweaver@comcast.net. We sit around the “Janet Candle” (thank you, Renee) share a meal, good fellowship, and a lot of laughs.



A typical JOPTSC Brunch

FYI: SOME PEOPLE IN OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

Marc Elrich, County Executive, 240-777-0311

Kristin Mink, District 5 (includes LW) Councilmember, 240-777-7955
councilmember.Mink@montgomerycountymd.gov

Wil Jawando, Council Vice President At-Large, 240-777-7811
councilmember.Jawando@montgomerycountymd.gov

The Drumbeat

The Drumbeat is issued quarterly. It's generated by the public relations committee and approved by the president. It does not endorse political candidates or publish information intended to elicit personal or commercial profit, and it promotes no religious beliefs. The 2024-25 public relations committee is chaired by Sherry Weaver, who is joined by Millie Overton, Connie Ambush, Patricia Means, Lois Pope-Fuller, and Sam Langevine. Photographs in this issue were the work of Al Holston, Sharon Lee, Millie Overton, and Sherry Weaver.

Please direct comments or questions to LWAAAC, Attn: Public Relations Committee, POB 12316, Silver Spring, MD 20908.

Thank you for reading *The Drumbeat*.

Sherry Weaver, Editor
lwaaacprcom@gmail.com



HELLO SPRING!



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