

Our March program, co-presented with AAUW-Allentown, was "Spirituals, Songs and Stories" featuring acclaimed equity actress and singer Grace Spruiell Hochella. In spite of the heavy snow the day before, 120 attended the March 3 event at Foy Concert Hall. AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund free benefitted from a will offering totaling \$305.

This program took us on a journey through the slave experience, starting with the travails of the slaves on ships during the "Middle Passage" from Africa. Grace detailed slave auctions where families were ripped apart; lynchings from the Jim Crow era (including graphic images); the Civil Rights Era and the present day. She noted that she had been privileged to meet "Daddy King", the father of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Grace was accompanied on guitar and piano by Ken Purcell, and interspersed with her wonderful rendition of spirituals and slave songs were audience sing-a-longs of "We Shall Overcome" and "Amazing Grace".

Comments after the program included "moved me to tears", "thought-provoking narrative", "inspiring music", "enlightening", "we were meant to be here". The most disturbing of the images shown was a young child in a KKK outfit and a scene of the Alt-Right marchers in Charlottesville with tiki torches.

Ann Brown updated our membership display and had a membership table in the lobby. Thanks to Stacey Zaremba for facilitating our use of Foy Hall at no cost.

CAPTION: Grace Spruiell Hochella accompanied by Ken Purcell

