

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

Volume 63, Number 9

December 2014



Mark your calendars! You are invited

AAUWFC Branch Holiday Party
December 7 3:30-5:30pm
At the home of Bunny and Marshall Jarrett
200 Forest Drive, Falls Church
703-533-8230

December 2014

From the President

The holiday season is upon us, and I am ready to have some fun! Our annual Holiday Party is Sunday, December 7th. I look forward to seeing you there. This is a great opportunity to meet the spouses and friends of other members and get to know members new to our branch. The animated conversations at our Branch meetings tell me we all have plenty to talk about.

As I write this the day before Thanksgiving, I am reminded of the things I am thankful in AAUW. First, I am thankful for the camaraderie of like-minded, intelligent women. Second is involvement in an organization that stands for principles that are important to me and principles that I want to work to move forward in our community. Third is the opportunity to advocate for women and girls through Lobby Corps, the 2-Minute Activist, and our issue-oriented Branch programs.

I am looking forward to the second half of our AAUW year with the January meeting on human trafficking, the Scholarship Awards meeting, and, of course, the Book Sale.

Until then, I wish you a happy holiday season with your family and friends.

See you at the Holiday Party!

Bunny Jarrett, President

From the Board

The Board met November 24th at the home of Mollie Jewell. Present were Bunny Jarrett, President; Kristan McMahon, Co-Program VP; Kitty Richardson, Membership VP; Martha Trunk, Treasurer; Susan Conklin, Secretary; Mollie Jewell, Book Sale Co-Chair; Becky Gaul, Communications; and Pam Martinov, Newsletter Co-Editor.



Programs: Kristan reported that the November branch meeting at Jimmy Potters was a fun and resulted in many attractive pieces of pottery by our members. Although only a small number of members attended, they raised \$147 for our Branch!

The January 25 meeting on Human Trafficking is being co-sponsored by the LWV of Falls Church and The Commission on Women. Other co-sponsors may be added. A flyer about the meeting will soon be available for distribution.

The Holiday Party is Sunday afternoon, December 7 at Bunny Jarrett's house.

Kristan reported that she has had no interest in a performance before the party, so we will not have this option this year. Members of the Board volunteered to call each member with an invitation to the party and to find out who will attend. They also volunteered to bring food and drink to the party.

Membership: Kitty reported that we have 41 paid members and four Life members. Those who have not renewed their membership have been contacted by Kitty and other board members. November 30 is the last day to pay dues before members are removed from the rolls. Kitty continues to explore the diversity issue by attending a meeting at the Unitarian Church and investigating activities we might pursue for Black History Month.



Treasurer: Martha reported that members who have not paid dues by November 30 will be removed from National and Branch rosters. The book sale balance is \$17,25.00. Our branch bank account has \$1,192.06. Martha will include the donation from an anonymous donor as part of our payment for the Career Development Fellowship. Martha met with the Subcommittee on Corporate Donations, Susan Hesser and Christiana DeJong. Several possible fundraising strategies were discussed. Caroline Pickens will join them for their next meeting to address tax exempt status and other issues.

Book Sale: Mollie presented a prototype of a table sign for the Book Sale that she and Mary Youman have developed. The Board was enthusiastic about the new sign format and agreed that Mollie should follow through with production of the signs. Book collection will begin again in March 2015.

Public Policy: Bunny indicated that we need to continue to get signatures on the AAUW-VA petition to the VA Legislature to address victims of Human Trafficking. Kristan had hard copies of the petition at the November meeting and will have it available at the December Holiday Party. Kitty plans to attend the Legislative Roundup in Richmond in December.

Computer Science Education Week Proclamation: At the request of AAUWFC, the Falls Church City Public Schools (FCCPS) School Board declared December 8-14 Computer Science Education Week at their meeting November 18. Eight Branch members attended the meeting and were recognized by the Board. The proclamation was facilitated by AAUWFC member Marybeth Connolly.

Communications: Becky is still looking for volunteers to submit notices of our activities and events to various media outlets. The Branch member roster has been updated.

Book Group: Book Group thanks Nancy Fulwiler for hosting a wonderful meeting on November 18th, based on [The Smartest Kids in the World and How They Got That Way](#) by Amanda Ripley. Nancy invited three guests whose participation really enhanced our discussion of global education: Karin Tooze, an IB English Literature teacher at Geo Mason High School; plus Foreign Service friends Setsuko and Kanako, who both taught and attended school in Japan. We had a lively discussion about education in the US, comparing US secondary schools with those in Japan, and why Finland, South Korea, and Poland outscore the US on the PISA test. We learned from each other, enjoyed international snacks, and look forward to future conversations.

The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 13 at the home of Martha Trunk.

AAUWFC Spearheads Computer Science Education Week

The Falls Church City Public Schools (FCCPS) Board passed a resolution at their November 18 meeting that announced December 8-14 as Computer Science Education Week. This resolution was adapted for local use from a sample created by the staff at National AAUW. Our Falls Church Branch asked the School Board to adopt the resolution. Several Branch members were present at the School Board meeting and stood to hear the resolution along with two FCCPS teachers. The process was facilitated by Branch member Marybeth Connelly of the FCCPS's Business and Community Partnerships and a member of the Falls Church City Council.

The Computer Science Education Week resolution will draw attention to the importance of offering computer science education in all levels of our public school curriculum. The resolution will be announced in the School's Morning Announcements the week of December 8-14 and will be shared with teachers and administrators and the community.



AAUWFC members and FC School Board members

AAUW of Virginia Petition Drive on Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is an international disgrace. It forces an estimated 27 million people world wide into prostitution or involuntary labor. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) reports that it received 742 phone calls from individuals seeking help in Virginia in 2013—the sixth-highest number of calls among all states and Washington, D.C., that year. Despite the wide scope of the problem, Virginia's laws do little to provide assistance to human trafficking survivors. The Polaris Project, which runs the NHTRC and tracks federal and state laws

on human trafficking, recommends that Virginia pass laws to provide assistance to human trafficking survivors, including creating "safe harbors" for sexually exploited minors. In response, AAUW of Virginia has embarked on a petition drive with a goal of collecting at least 1000 signatures in support of legislative action by January 30, 2015. These petitions will be presented to lawmakers in Richmond on February 4, 2015, AAUW's State Lobby Day. Your help is needed to reach and exceed this goal. You can "sign" the petition online at the following link: <http://bit.ly/1F56cLG>. Then, forward the link to your friends, relatives and acquaintances, asking them to sign as well, or post the link on your Facebook page. Together we can reach our goal.

Diversity Dialogue

The diversity subcommittee continues to work on expanding experiences. The goal is to become more aware of opportunities presented in our daily lives with "new eyes". Currently we are seeking ways to learn more about our sisters from different cultures and to let them get to know us/our organization.

A vital member of the subcommittee, Elizabeth Kessel, says: "We are using structures already in place to encourage our sensitivity to diversity. Members of the film group went to see 'Dear White People', directed by Justin Simien. It is a comedy, set at a liberal arts college, that satirizes college manners and attitudes which reflect racism.

The book group read The Smartest Kids in the World and How They Got That Way, which shows how other countries encourage their student excellence. Nancy Fulwiler had friends from Japan discuss education in Japan. Snacks served were from various countries (Finland, South Korea and Poland) with high-performing educational systems. Even though the next book selection is an American Classic, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, we are reading it because the Iranian author, Azar Nafisi, sees Huck Finn as embodying defining American characteristics."

Please share your ideas on diversity with Kitty, Elizabeth and Nancy.

Introducing Mary Ellen Gannon

Mary Ellen Gannon recently retired from her career as teacher and nurse so has decided to share some of her time with our branch.

Mary Ellen grew up in the suburbs of Boston. As a young married woman she lived in St. Louis, MO then moved to the Washington, DC area in the 1970s.

Mary Ellen received a BS in Nursing from Boston College. As her three children were growing up she worked a flexible schedule at Arlington Hospital (now Virginia Hospital Center) at first as prn (as needed), then part time and finally full time. Her career led to specializing in intensive care nursing then to administration. She decided to get her Masters in Education at

Marymount University which prepared her for teaching which she loved. At one point she was involved in a collaborative program with No. VA Community College and other institutions to introduce students to various occupational opportunities in health care.

Fourteen years ago the Virginia Hospital Center's Medical Brigade was formed in response to a devastating hurricane in Honduras. Mary Ellen joined the effort in its second year and every year since then. Personnel, equipment and supplies are transported to Honduras to provide surgery, medical care and rural clinic outreach services. In recent years clean water and in-home air quality have been a focus. One of the Brigade's volunteers noticed that the female members of households suffered a much higher incidence of respiratory symptoms than the men. Further investigation identified that smoke from in-home stoves was the culprit. A "smokeless stove" project ensued to provide top vented replacement stoves which improved the quality of both air and respiratory health. The study was recently published in a medical journal.

Mary Ellen heard about AAUW from Bunny Jarrett. She was impressed with AAUW's printed material which profiled areas of great interest to her – specifically girls mentoring and scholarship programs and women's rights. Mary Ellen says is looking to AAUW as an "opportunity to participate in meaningful activities". She already accepted Bunny's invitation to help with interviews of high school student candidates for volunteer positions.

Welcome Mary Ellen.

Book Group News

Our January selection is Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. We will not meet in December, giving everyone plenty of time to reread this American classic. First published in 1885, it still stirs controversy. Some assert that this was the one book from which all modern American literature came. Of all Twain's novels, Huck Finn was the one that sold best at its initial appearance. On the other hand, many initially condemned it as coarse and currently view it as racist. Plan to come to Becky Gaul's home at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, January 20th, for an interesting discussion.

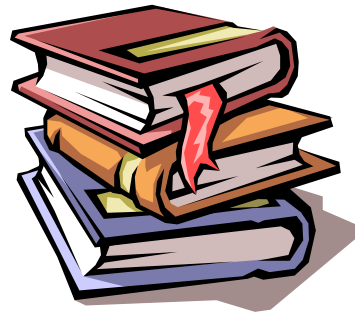
Can you Help?

Branch Communications chair Becky Gaul needs volunteers to send notices to the Falls Church News Press, online newsletters, neighborhood blogs, etc. What do you read? Where are you willing to share AAUW news? Please consider this small, but very important, job! Contact Becky at beckygaul@verizon.net or 703-608-9121.



Movie Blog

The Movie Group is still viewing the latest from Hollywood! If you want to read one member's take on the films of the day, go to Susan Conklin's blog <http://suzismovies.blogspot.com/> And consider joining the group any Wednesday; contact Kitty Richardson kittyrichardson6@gmail.com for information.



Book sale on winter vacation:

Now that we have wrapped up our fall book sorting and closed our collection station at the Falls Church Community Center, the book sale is going on "vacation" for a couple of months. During the hiatus, we will work on signs and publicity, but won't be actively collecting books.

If your friends/neighbors want to de-clutter books before the holidays, please have them box the books and bring them to Mary's (call first 703-528-8993). But ask them to wait, if possible. We prefer to start collecting books again at the end of February through March 2015. Guidelines for donations are below.

We are focusing on signs and publicity. If you'd like to help, please sign up at the Holiday party or contact Mollie Jewell, 703-941-5643, gjewell@cox.net. We will have a meeting to assemble new "category" signs sometime in January or February. We will need to get our publicity to the outlets and printers by early February.

Guidelines for book donations: Our customers don't buy magazines, textbooks, encyclopedias, old reference books, or books that are damaged, moldy or in poor condition – no matter how meaningful they are to the donor. So please explain to people that we accept only saleable books in good condition and remind them about the list of things we can't take. The other books, unfortunately, should be recycled.



**AAUW Educational Equity
Booksale**

Falls Church Community Center

April 17 and 18

Promoting education and equity for women and girls

Thank you for your donation of:

_____ Soft cover books

_____ Hard cover books

_____ Other:

Value to be established by donor.

50% Tax deductible.

Benefits AAUW scholarships/projects for girls.



Of interest to AAUWFC members....from Susan Hesser

CAPWIC 2015 is a regional Celebration of Women in Computing. Our aim is to bring together women in computing from all stages of their careers. We invite high school students, college students (including graduate students), and professionals to attend.

CAPWIC 2015: "Computing Connects Us"

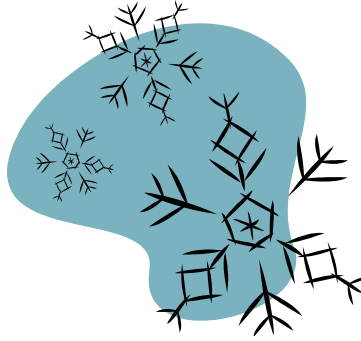
Fri. February 27, 2015 through Sat. February 28, 2015

James Madison University

Registration Fee: \$50

Website: capwic.org

If you have any student or know students who might want to present a poster, do a BOF or a flash talk or even a workshop on something, please refer them to CAPWIC or to Farzana Rahman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor Dept. of Computer Science, James Madison University, VA, USA, <http://w3.cs.jmu.edu/rahma2fx/>



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- December 7 AAUWFC Branch Holiday Party at the home of Bunny and Marshall Jarrett, 200 Forest Drive, Falls Church, VA 22046 703-533-8230
3:30-5:30 pm
- January 13 AAUWFC Branch Board Meeting at Martha Trunk's home, 6571 Snowbell Lane, Falls Church, VA 22042 7:30 pm
- January 20 Book Club at Becky Gaul's home, 6119 18th Road North, Arlington, VA 22205
7:30 pm
- January 25 AAUWFC Branch Meeting, 3:00 pm, FC Community Center

Empowering Women Since 1881

The American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

<http://aauw-va.aauw.net>