



In January, we are changing our meeting plans. FC AAUW will join the Arlington branch for our branch meeting to continue the ...

**Discussion of Human Trafficking**

**Date:** Monday January 25 from 7.00 PM – 8.30 PM  
**Location:** Woman’s Club of Arlington, 700 S Buchanan Street, Arlington VA 22204  
**Carpools:** Form at Falls Church Community Center at 6:30 on 1/25.

***WISHING YOU A HEALTHY, HAPPY, PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS  
2016***

Happy New Year 2016: Wishes and thoughts to inspire you all through the year. A new year is all about starting afresh and realizing your dreams. So, let’s raise a toast to a Happy New Year and even happier beginnings. Take inspiration from these quotes to help you get started and if you are inspired enough, share your enthusiasm with your loved ones. (Thanks to <http://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/life-style/happy-new-year-2016-24-inspirational-quotes-and-greetings-to-start-the-year-on-a-happy-note/#sthash.YE71pKuz.dpuf>):

*“A good beginning makes a good end”* – English Proverb  
*“Drink from the well of yourself and begin again”* — Charles Bukowski, author

*"This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change"* — Taylor Swift, singer  
*"The beginning is the most important part of the work"* — Plato, philosopher  
*"Something is going to come out of this. Something new. This can end you up in a whole new place—a better place, a much more open place"* -Pema Chodron, author  
*"And now we welcome the new year, full of things that have never been"* — Rainer Maria Rilke, poet

## President's Message

Happy New Year 2016! We are getting the year off to a running start. After a series of terrific programs this past fall, we are shaking things up a bit in January by joining with Arlington for their meeting on Human Trafficking and using our regular meeting time for a working group on our member survey. Branch members have also started planning for the annual book sale benefiting scholarships and grants for women. Join us at our organizing brunch on Feb 13 to learn more.

**Carpool to joint meeting Monday evening 1/25.** Building on our meeting last year and the tremendous support for Courtney's House in the December meeting, we are joining with the Arlington Branch for their January meeting, a Discussion of Human Trafficking.

The meeting will be held Monday evening, January 25 from 7.00 PM – 8.30 PM at the Woman's Club of Arlington, 700 S Buchanan Street, Arlington VA 22204. The Women's Club is located in a residential neighborhood between Rt. 50 and Columbia Pike, before you reach George Mason Dr. To join an informal carpool to the Jan 25th meeting, come to the Falls Church Community Center by 6:30; we'll meet just inside the front door to form carpools.

**Join the working group on streamlining branch offices.** The working group will take advantage of the calendar hold for Jan 10 to meet at 2pm at Mollie Jewell's, 3715 Tollgate Terrace, near Bailey's Crossroads. Many members have responded to the survey, now we need to turn your opinions and suggestions into actions that focus and streamline our branch and make holding an AAUW office more efficient and exciting. For more information, see the article below.

## Holiday party raises \$455 for Courtney's House

Courtney's House was the beneficiary of your generous contributions at the AAUW holiday party. Courtney's House was founded in 2008 by Tina Frundt. A survivor of domestic sex trafficking herself, Tina is relentless in her fight to protect children from sexual exploitation and the devastation that comes from it. You raised \$455 and a gift card from Barnes and Noble. Come to our joint meeting with Arlington to learn more about the important issue of Human Trafficking.

## Join the working group on streamlining branch offices.

### January 10 at Mollie Jewell's (3715 Tollgate Terrace) at 2 PM

In the fall, I set my goal of having a clear and willing candidate for FC AAUW branch presidency by the next election, coming up in March 2016. To meet this goal, the board decided to survey members and focus on the core functions revealed by the survey. Many members have responded to the survey, now we need to turn your opinions and suggestions into recommendations and actions that focus and streamline our branch and make holding an AAUW office more efficient and exciting. All this work points to encouraging nominees for the March elections.

We want **you** to be part of this group! We are especially hoping that new/recently joined members will join to bring a fresh perspective to this work. The working group will meet Jan 10 at 2pm at Mollie Jewell's (3715 Tollgate Terrace, near Bailey's Crossroads, 703-941-5643). We need lots of new ideas, so we'd like your input.

If you haven't taken the survey yet, it's not too late. Check your email of October 19, 2015, for your unique link and take the survey today!

## Book sale organizing brunch

### February 13 at Mollie Jewell's (3715 Tollgate Terrace) at 11 AM.

Yes, it is that time of year again –we are getting ready for the annual book sale. Our goal is to raise \$20,000, and that's a lot of used books! Help make this year's sale another success by joining us for the planning meeting/brunch on February 13. This informal brunch is a great opportunity to make suggestions, find out how you can help, and volunteer for one of the many jobs available in the run-up to this year's sale. Come to Mollie Jewell's (3715 Tollgate Terrace in Lake Barcroft off Columbia Pike between Bailey's Crossroads and Annandale).on Sat. Feb 13 at 11am. Bring a dish to share or just come; everyone is welcome.

**Date:** Saturday, February 13, from 11:00  
**Location:** 3715 Tollgate Terrace  
**Bring:** Your calendar and a dish to share

## AAUW-VA State Conference

### Woman Astronaut VA AAUW Women of Achievement 2016

The new year is off to a great start. Dr. Kathryn C Thornton has accepted as our Woman of Achievement for 2016. Dr. Thornton has had several firsts as a woman astronaut in her 12 years with NASA. She was the first female crew member aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery, she was the second woman to walk in space but her record for the most space walks by a female was held for 12 years, and she was the first astronaut to use a power screwdriver in space.

In her post-career as a professor and dean at UVA, she has been committed to educational outreach, including co-authoring a science program for K-6. She is currently a member of the board of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, which seeks to retain the U.S. world leadership in science and technology by providing college scholarships to students pursuing, STEM degrees. (See additional information about Dr. Thornton at the end of this newsletter.)

See the AAUW-VA website (<http://aauw-va.aauw.net/>) has the latest conference information.

### From Dr. Thornton's UVA Biography:

Kathryn C. Thornton is a Professor at the University of Virginia in the School of Engineering and Applied Science in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. She served from 1999 until 2012 as the Assistant Dean and later Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. Selected by NASA in May 1984, Thornton is a veteran of four space flights: STS-33 in 1989, STS-49 in 1992, STS-61 in 1993, and STS-73 in 1995. She has logged over 975 hours in space, including more than 21 hours of extravehicular activity (EVA). Since leaving NASA, Thornton has served on several review committees and task groups, including the National Research Council Study: Science Opportunities Enabled by Constellation (2007) as co-chair,

and the NASA Return to Flight Task Group (2006) which evaluated NASA's work in meeting goals set by the Columbia Accident Investigation Board prior to resumption of Space Shuttle flights. She also served for several years on the National Research Council Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board. She is a member of the Board of Director of the Space Foundation and a co-author on Pearson's Interactive Science, a K-8 science program. Prior to becoming an astronaut, Thornton was employed as a physicist at the U.S. Army Foreign Science and Technology Center in Charlottesville, VA. Dr. Thornton is the recipient of numerous awards including NASA Space Flight Medals, the 1993 Robert J. Collier Trophy from the National Aeronautics Association (with the Hubble Space Telescope Recovery Team), the Explorer Club Lowell Thomas Award, the University of Virginia Distinguished Alumna Award, the Freedom Foundation Freedom Spirit Award, and the National Intelligence Medal of Achievement. She was inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2010, the only the third woman to hold this honor.

## Lobby Corps News

### AAUW LOBBY CORPS AT WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING ON PRESIDENT'S PLANS FOR 2016

AAUW Lobby Corps members, including four from the Falls Church Area Branch – Bunny Jarrett, Becky Gaul, Marty Behr, and Marilyn Falksen – attended a White House Policy Briefing on December 10, 2015, at the Old Executive Office Building. Several White House staffers, led by David Simas, Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Political Strategy and Outreach, spoke about the President's plans for his last year in office. Mr. Simas spoke about four major focus areas: the economy including providing opportunities to all Americans and working toward income equality; the environment and turning the accompanying challenges into economic opportunities; foreign policy with an emphasis on building consensus and using diplomacy first to solve conflicts; and working toward fixing our broken political system.



Above: Lobby Corps members on their way to White House Briefing

Attendees also heard about immigration reform efforts; changes to the criminal justice system, which is a bipartisan effort; the status of enrollment in the Affordable Care Act; gun violence prevention; and work with state and local officials on paid sick and family leave and raising the minimum wage. Finally,

attendees learned about the White House Fellows Program, which offers exceptional Americans first-hand experience working at the highest levels of the Federal government. The briefing included opportunities for participants to ask questions and comment on the issues raised.



FC AAUW members: Bunny Jarrett, Becky Gaul, Marilyn Falksen, Marty Behr at White House Briefing

### **STATE LOBBY DAY – Feb 3**

**On Wednesday, February 3, 2016**, AAUW members from across Virginia will travel to Richmond to meet with state legislators and officials. Once again, the Greater Richmond Branch will be providing beds for members who arrive in Richmond on February 2, the day before Lobby Day. If you would like to spend the night of February 2 in Richmond at an AAUW member's home, please send your name and email address to Marilyn Falksen ([falksen@yahoo.com](mailto:falksen@yahoo.com)) as soon as possible, but no later than **January 12, 2016**. If you plan to attend Lobby Day but are not staying overnight in Richmond, please forward your name and email address to Marilyn by **January 19, 2016**.

### **CENTENNIAL RALLY COMMEMORATES SUFFRAGISTS – Feb 16**

**On February 16, 2016**, AAUW of Virginia, League of Women Voters of Virginia, Women Matter (a pro-ERA group), and Women's Equality Coalition, and NOW, among other groups, will hold The Centennial Rally on the Capitol Steps in Richmond. The rally commemorates one held by Suffragists 100 years ago and will also highlight the need to pass the ERA. The event begins at 10 a.m. on Virginia's Capitol Steps with a vigil and gathering at 11 a.m. at the Bell Tower, followed by a luncheon from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Library of Virginia. If you want to attend the luncheon, you will need to register and pay in advance. See the following link for registration and payment information: <http://www.vanow.org/rally>

## Important Announcement: NPC Newsmaker Program – Jan 14

### AAUW To Discuss Trends In Campus Sexual Assault Policy

Susan Hesser sends us this information from the National Press Club –Representatives of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), will speak Thursday, January 14, 2016 at the National Press Club on current trends in the fight to end sexual assault incidents at American colleges. Speakers include Lisa Maatz, vice president of government relations at AAUW and Anne Hedgepeth, Government Relations Manager at AAUW. They will also discuss a recent AAUW analysis of data released by the U.S. Department of Education that shows 91 percent of college campuses reported zero incidents of rape in 2014 among other findings.

AAUW led the charge to include additional statistics on sexual violence in data required under the Clery Act. The group also worked to include the Campus SaVE Act in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization of 2013, which instituted final regulations that require colleges to take new and better steps to end sexual violence. The organization has called on their thousands of members in all 50 states to deliver vital tools and resources to Title IX Coordinators at their local schools and colleges, ensuring they know their part in overseeing all aspects of Title IX at their schools. AAUW also examined the presence of sexual harassment in education with two separate research reports: [Crossing the Line](#) reviewing K-12 and [Drawing the Line](#) focusing on higher education.

This Newsmakers news conference is scheduled for Thursday, January 14 at 10 a.m. in the club's Bloomberg Room, on the 13th Floor of the National Press Building at 529 14th St., NW, Washington, D.C. To attend, send an email to FC AAUW member, Susan Hesser, [seffhess@usa.net](mailto:seffhess@usa.net), and she will put you on the list. Or, contact Tony Gallo NPC Newsmakers Event Host 202 -544-6973, [agallo2368@verizon.net](mailto:agallo2368@verizon.net)

### Book Club News

**Note: Our January meeting date is tentative; please contact any member to confirm.**

At our November branch book group this week the group decided to read short stories by several 20th century American female authors for our January 2016 book group meeting. Some of the authors are better known for novels but also have written short stories.

Below are the three authors selected: The group decided to read several stories by each author; we'll all read one selected story and each person can read another 2-3 stories, time permitting. As you see there is a link below to the selected story. These authors and stories are all very standard with several other full texts and commentaries on the internet. Enjoy reading this sample of writers.

Willa Cather, Paul's Case  
<http://cather.unl.edu/ss006.html>

Dorothy Parker, Big Blonde  
<https://www.unz.org/Pub/Bookman-1929feb-00639>

Katherine Anne Porter, Flowering Judas  
<http://www.fumc-hammond.org/files/84/flowering%20judas.pdf>

The January book group will be held either 1/18 or 1/26, at 7:30pm at Polly Rosenbaum's home. You can email Polly ([prosenstein@hotmail.com](mailto:prosenstein@hotmail.com)) or call her at (H)(703) 931-4910 for directions.

