***AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH***

## Volume 65, Number 2 February 2, 2016

# Branch Meeting date change: Sunday Feb. 7

## Deborah Kahn, Author

The February branch meeting will now be on Sunday, **February** **7** at **2** **pm**.  Meet Deborah Kahn, author of the book, The Roads Taken: Complex Lives of Employed and At-Home Mothers. This book grew out of her doctoral dissertation in Counseling and discusses the stresses and challenges mothers encounter caring for children and family, self, and often, career. Life is hard for all mothers. Society struggles to support either working or stay-at-home mothers. Mothers are challenged by all manners of things to meet the needs of their family, provide support and opportunities, and grow as independent adults.

# Nominating Committee Needs Your Support

Kitty Richardson, Olivia Cedillo, and Diane Bodeen have agreed to serve as this year’s nominating committee. This is an important job, getting good candidates for branch offices is key to the continued vitality of our organization. If you are interested in serving, please contact one of them and be prepared to say “yes” when they come knocking.

According to the bylaws, we are seeking nominations for

* president,
* program, and
* secretary.

Each will serve a 2-year term.   Look for nominations to be announced on or before Feb 28 is the target. Elections will be held at the branch meeting on March 14.

# President’s Message

It seems like the year is getting off to a busy start, even though our January meeting was cancelled because of snow.

* On Jan 10, five of you joined me in a working group to summarize the results for the branch survey, as outlined in another article in this newsletter. Thank you!
* Again in February, we have adjusted the meeting date. Our general branch meeting will be February 7 to accommodate our author/speaker.
* The nominating committee is forming. Thanks to Kitty Richardson, Olivia Cedillo, and Diane Bodeen for serving on this year's nominating committee.  This is an important job, and thank you for taking it on. If you are interested in holding a branch office, contact one of them. Details above.
* Book sale preparations are starting. Come to the February 7 general meeting and/or the February 13 sale organizing meeting to learn more.
* Preparations for the State Conference in Herndon are underway. With the convention here in northern VA, we are busy supporting it.
* FC Branch Grant applications are being accepted through March (more details below).

### Branch meeting date announcement – February 7

We have changed the date of the February meeting to accommodate the speaker and avoid the conflict with Valentines’ Day. See you at 2pm on Feb 7 (Falls Church Community Center) to meet Deborah Kahn, author of the book *The Roads Taken: Complex Lives of Employed and At-Home Mothers*.

### Mandatory Bylaws Updates

Kristan McMahon is completing the update to our branch bylaws so that we conform to AAUW's requirements. Once they have been approved by the state, we'll present them to you at the March meeting and post them to the website. Because these are mandatory changes, they won't be subject to a branch vote.

### FC Branch Local Grants approved – Deadline March

Following established procedures, the FC AAUW board approved four grant applications submitted by branch members. These grants are for:

* JEB Stuart High School AVID Program
* Homestretch in alliance with Falls Church Episcopal to sponsor a Syrian family
* Aurora House Etiquette Class
* Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation Black History Month Project

See Kitty Richardson’s article for more details on these projects.

To submit a grant application on behalf of a local project, consult the FC AAUW website. From the main page, go to Member Center, login and click on the link for “Special Projects Applications and Procedures.” Our grants “benefit or advance a person or organization local to the Falls Church/Northern Virginia area that benefits women and/or girls.”

# Virginia AAUW Lobby Day

Becky, Marilyn and Kitty plan to brave the I-95 trip to Richmond very early Wednesday, Feb. 3rd to attend the Virginia AAUW Lobby Day. AAUW works in coalition with numerous organizations that are in agreement on many issues such as equity for women, voters’ rights and legislation to deal with human trafficking. These three Falls Church AAUW members will participate in a briefing presented by the League of Women Voters then will visit our state officials to speak about the public policy concerns. All have been well prepared for this experience by participating in AAUW’s Lobby Corps on Capitol Hill.

# We Are Falls Church AAUW

 Some years ago Dianne Bodeen, then Membership VP, had a brilliant idea – to make a book with pictures of members with brief quotes. The format was an introductory paragraph starting with “I am”. The second paragraph started with “I love” and the third paragraph said “I joined AAUW because. This book is invaluable for other members to read about their colleagues. It is a convenient way to get acquainted with new members as well as find out new and interesting info. about members one already knows. One added bonus for this “I am” book is how helpful it is to have on hand at the book sale so potential members can see who we are.

So where is this wonderful book? It “went missing” for some time. Around Christmas this year Kitty found it in a stored AAUW box along with book sale items from the 2013 book sale. As current Membership VP, Kitty plans to put forth a concerted effort to update the book for the book sale in April. When you are contacted it will be much appreciated that you provide information you want to share about yourself and have your picture taken for this book.

# Public Policy News

## The Centennial Rally for Equal Rights - February 16

You are invited to participate in the Centennial Rally at the Virginia State Capitol on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. More than a century has passed since our foremothers rallied for suffrage on the Virginia Capitol steps in 1915. Suffrage was only the beginning. The Suffragists also worked for the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, which states: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

Thirty-five states have ratified the ERA. Virginia is not one of them. THREE more states

are needed for the amendment to become part of the Constitution. The Centennial Rally will bring together groups from across the Commonwealth in a show of support for the Equal Rights Amendment. AAUW joins the League of Women Voters, The National Organization for Women, and Women Matter in planning this event. We must make it clear to our General Assembly that the time for waiting is over. The schedule for this momentous event is as follows:

10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe,

11 a.m. - Noon Vigil and Gathering at the Bell Tower

Noon - 1 p.m. Luncheon at the Library of Virginia (800 East Broad Street)

1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Distinguished Guest Speakers and Networking, Library Auditorium

Your participation will help heighten awareness of how the ERA can empower women and their families, emphasize the urgent importance of Constitutional equality, and complete the circle of equal rights for all Americans. If you wish to attend the luncheon, you must make a reservation and pay in advance ($30) by going to http://www.vanow.org/rally. You may also make a donation toward rally expenses by going to the same link.

## Support AAUW Priority Legislation

The Virginia General Assembly is now in session and will continue its work until March 12, 2016. Bills that are part of AAUW’s public policy goals such as equal pay, paid sick days, and raising the minimum wage have been introduced and will be considered by the General Assembly in the next two months. It is important that our legislators hear about AAUW’s position on these measures, which are so important to women and their families. When a bill of interest to AAUW is about to be considered, the State Public Policy Chair notifies each branch so that interested members can share their views with the appropriate legislators. If you would like to receive notice of bills important to AAUW that the General Assembly is acting on, please send your email address to the Branch’s Public Policy Chair, Marilyn Falksen, at falksen@yahoo.com. She will then provide you with information about the bill and its status and tell you which members are voting on the bill so that you can share your views with the appropriate legislators.

****AAUW Virginia Conference - Save the dates: April 15-17

The AAUW of Virginia State Conference will be held on April 15 to 17 at the Hyatt Regency Dulles Hotel in Herndon, Virginia. Plan to attend.

# Branch Survey - Summary of key results

As you know, the branch conducted a survey last fall to identify key branch functions important to members. This will allow officers to focus on key activities and minimize others with the aim of attracting members to serve as branch officers.

On Jan 10, six branch members attended a meeting to review and summarize the results provided by 21 members. Key findings follow. With this in mind, the board is considering actions to make jobs easier and focus on the information you have given us. Expect to hear more from us in the March meeting.

Q1. Reason for membership: Friendship (57%) is #1 reason for branch membership, with branch meetings and other branch activities following.

Q2. Ranking of branch activities: Close tie. The #1 ranking is book sort/collect/sale, etc, with #2 Local scholarships, and #3 monthly branch meetings. Although the rankings were close, #1 book sale was clearly highest importance as first choice for the respondents.

Q3. Meeting topics: Education/schools was rated with emphasis on “local” – see following questions.

Q5. Diversity;90% said increasing diversity is still a branch concern. Suggestions included:

* Partner with diverse groups with same goal.
* Partner with GMU.
* Include more social occasions/time:

a)Lunch before winter meetings?

b) Before March meeting – appetizer and dessert.

c) Face book: Recruit a member-Face book user to evaluate/create face book page.

Q7: To improve branch jobs:

* Share jobs
* Conference call for board meeting (experiment in Feb meeting)
* Shorter term
* Mentor for new job holders
* June planning: meeting to prioritize ideas submitted in advance. When submitting ideas, include a contract/resource

Attending the January working session were Mollie Jewell, Susan Conklin, Marilyn Falksen, Martha Trunk, Anne Baxter, and Aida Loomis. Thanks to all who completed surveys, to Becky Gaul for conducting the survey, and all who completed the forms!

# A Special Invitation to the theater

## Girls Who Glow, Feb 11, 7pm, Yorktown High School

**Thursday, February 11 at 7 pm** - "Girls Who Glow", a play, written by Ginny Mohler, Yorktown HS ('06), will be presented at 7 pm, Thursday, February 11, 2016, at Yorktown High School followed by a talkback with Ms. Mohler. **Free admission!** This event is sponsored by the Arlington and Falls Church chapters of the League of Women Voters and the Arlington branch AAUW. **Please let Kristan know if you are interested in attending. Hungry members will meet for dinner at 5:30 pm at Joe’s Pizza and Pasta on Lee Highway before the play.**

It is a story based on an historical tragedy that is useful as a framework for discussing modern-day health, safety and consumer issues. During the early 20th century, teenage girls were hired by several U.S. companies to paint watches to make them glow in the dark for use in war. The paint was made with radium, known at the time by scientists to be toxic, particularly because girls were encouraged to lick the brushes to maintain fine points and thus ingested the paint.

The truth about the radium-laden paint's dangers was hidden for many years, as the companies profited from the glowing watches and other radium-containing products. Hundreds of young girls fell ill and many died from cancers caused by the paint. Six of these desperately ill girls sued U.S. Radium Corp. for poisoning them. In the face of an increasing public outcry, the company settled and the Radium girls were left with meager settlements and lives cut short by the toxic paint.

# Special Project Grants 2016

 Your Board of Directors has been busy reviewing applications and have approved four submissions. It is gratifying to see how some of the funds we work so hard to raise contribute to valuable and diverse causes in our community. The four projects approved are:

### JEB Stuart High School AVID Program:

This grant of $700 assists the AVID college tour program. AVID started ten years ago at Stuart to target students who have the potential to succeed in attending college but deal with financial and other challenges. AVID targets these students who clearly have the potential to go to college but need more guidance and resources to get there. Almost all of the students in AVID will be the first in their families to attend college. Our grant helps to generate enthusiasm by providing the valuable opportunity for these students to tour college campuses.

### Homestretch in alliance with Falls Church Episcopal:

The Falls Church News-Press featured an article on the front page of their Dec. 29, 2015 edition about the collaboration of Homestretch and Falls Church Episcopal to sponsor a Syrian family in Falls Church. Homestretch has experience working with the refugee community to help them attain permanent housing and employment. Many of their clients are single parent women. With this $250 grant AAUW continues to support basic needs and projects to improve the status of women and children in our community and at the same time supports our commitment to diversity.

### Aurora House Etiquette Class:

Aurora House is a residential counseling center for girls ages 13-17 and certified by the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice. Aurora House offers long-term community-based treatment to a group of up to 12 girls. This grant for $300 helps to fund classes in dining skills, table manners and other etiquette skills to help further their social success. [Leah Porzel, one of our FC-AAUW “matriarch emeritus members” volunteered at Aurora House for many years.]

### Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation Black History Month Project:

The Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation works throughout the year to profile the rich history and current community projects of this African American community of Falls Church. The Harlem Renaissance Fair is offered for the first time in celebration of Black History Month. This grant of $250 provides an opportunity for AAUW-FC to express support and admiration for the work of the Tinner Hill Foundation.

Applications for Special Project grants are still being accepted until March 15th. Check the FC-AAUW website under Special Projects Application for information about the process.

AAUW Note cards

Vote for Martha Trunk's entry
"As you may know, AAUW has a contest among its members to choose the images that are used on their notecards. This year, our own Martha Trunk, has an entry in the running.  It's called "Playing with Color".    Voting runs from February 3 through February 29." Go to-AAUW.org, Calling all artists- to vote for Martha’s entry!

# Book Club

Please join us when we meet on Tuesday, February 16, at 7:30 pm, at Becky Gaul's home to discuss Gratitude Diaries by Janice Kaplan.  Here's an Amazon summary: "Kaplan makes a promise to be grateful and look on the bright side of whatever happens. She realizes that how she feels over the next months will have less to do with the events that occur than her own attitude and perspective. Getting advice at every turn from psychologists, academics, doctors, and philosophers, she brings readers on a smart and witty journey to discover the value of appreciating what you have. Relying on both amusing personal experiences and extensive research, Kaplan explores how gratitude can transform every aspect of life including marriage and friendship, money and ambition, and health and fitness. "

Our March selection will be Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg by Irin Carmon & Shana Knizhnik

#  AAUW Book Sale Supports Educational Funding

## Our book sale helps..women and girls.

Wondering what we do with the money we earn? Well, our branch provides scholarships to local high schools girls and grants to local organizations helping educate girls. We also donate generously to AAUW's Educational Foundation.

The AAUW Educational Foundation, which is the largest source of funding exclusively for graduate women in the world, supports aspiring scholars around the globe, teachers and activists in local communities, women at critical stages of their careers, and those pursuing professions where women are underrepresented. Last year, AAUW awarded $3.7 million in 245 grants and fellowships to 241 scholars, researchers, and community-based programs.

Currently, our branch is funding the endowment a career development grant which we expect to fully fund in the next few years. When fully funded ($75,000), this grant will help women return to university for education to advance their careers.

## Support this worthy cause by volunteering for this year's book sale.



# Book sale organizing brunch - Sat. Feb 13

## Learn about book sale jobs.

If you're interested in helping with this year's book sale, please come to the organizing brunch (pot luck) on Saturday, February 13 at 11:30am. The brunch is at Mollie Jewell's, 3715 Tollgate Terrace, just off Columbia Pike between Bailey's Crossroads and Annandale. Call Mollie for details at 703-941-5643.

If you can't come and want to volunteer, there are still plenty of opportunities - Sign up at the February 6 branch meeting or call Mollie Jewell 703-941-5643.

# Mark your calendar:

## calendar_clip_art[1]Book Sorting Saturdays starting March 5Setup - April 7Book sale – April 8-9

Book sale time is approaching and sorting starts on Saturday March 5. Aside from good weather, our biggest need is **your energy.** As usual, we have lots of books to sort before the sale (although we did actually get some sorted last fall!). You can sign up at the brunch or at branch meetings or just come on the sorting dates (4419 N. 18th Street, Arlington)!

We sort from 10am to 4pm in the Youman’s driveway, so dress for the weather. No experience is necessary, we offer on-the-job training. And we invite all book sorters to share in a simple lunch each week, so you don’t have to worry about getting hungry. And, remember, book sorters get first crack at the books!

Talk to Mollie Jewell 703-941-5643 with your questions or to volunteer.

# Book sale Volunteers - Don't be shy



Staffing the book sale and related activities is a challenge for a small branch like ours. As always, we need your help with the book sale! Our biggest need is for your help

1. Sorting books … Saturdays in March (Sundays in case of rain)
2. Selling books… at sale (April 8 and 9)
3. Posting publicity … April 1-April 9.

## Book Sorting

Sorting is our biggest effort staring in March. The job is straightforward: sort books and box them by subject. Even a few hours of your time helps get the job done. Come to Mary Youman’s (near Ballston at 4419 N. 18th Street) any time between 10am and 4pm on Saturdays in March.

## Publicity

Publicity is key, because it draws paying customers. Pick up your posters at the next meeting or sorting session and signup for a convenient location. Starting April 9, hang the posters.

## Sales

Selling books is what it’s all about! The job is comparable to retail clerking; if you like books, people, or money, it’s really rewarding. There are 70 distinct jobs during the sale, so sign up for at least one 3-hour shift!

## Volunteer for many jobs!

Remember, you don't need to limit yourself . We're recruiting people to help with almost 200 distinct tasks before and during the book sale. Sign -up at the meeting. If you have any questions or suggestions, or wish to volunteer, call Mollie Jewell 703-941-5643.

# Book donations

## Book collection starts Feb 15

Starting Feb 15, we will resume accepting books at the Youmans, 4419 N. 18th Street, Arlington: call ahead to make arrangements 703-528-8993. If you have a friend or neighbor whose spring cleaning includes some good books, please approach them about donating to our sale.

Guidelines for book donations**.** Avoid magazines, textbooks, encyclopedias, old reference books, and books that are damaged, moldy or in poor condition. Please tell donors that we are accepting only saleable books in good condition and remind them about the list of things we can’t accept.

If you are accepting book donations from your friends, you can cut out and give them the following receipt:

AAUW Educational Equity Book Sale

Falls Church Community Center

April 8 and 9

*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.

Profits to AAUW scholarships for girls.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Falls Church Area AAUW Date

(703) 941-5643

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

 Falls Church AAUW 2016



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

# CONTACT US

* President: Mollie Jewell
* Co-Vice Presidents for Programs: Peggy and Kristan McMahon
* Membership: Kitty Richardson

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

February 3 all day VA AAUW Lobby Day, Richmond, VA

February 7 2pm Branch meeting at the Falls Church Community Center

February 11 7pm "Girls Who Glow", Yorktown High School

February 13 11am Book Sale organizing brunch at Mollie Jewell’s house,
3715 Tollgate Terrace, Falls Church.
Bring your calendar and a dish to share

February 16 10am Centennial Rally on the Capitol Steps in Richmond, VA

February 16 7:30pm Book Club, Becky Gaul’s home-Gratitude Diaries by Janice Kaplan