***AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH***

Volume 64, Number 2 ***February 2015***

**AAUW OF VIRGINIA**

**January 2015**

**Dear Members of the Falls Church Branch:**

**On behalf of AAUW of Virginia, it is our great pleasure to congratulate the Falls Church Branch on your 65th anniversary. The branch has been a vital and contributing organization in AAUW, and the state recognizes and thanks you.**

**Your branch was chartered at a time with many challenges. In 1950, Sen. Joseph McCarthy accused former AAUW international relations associate Esther Brunauer of being “instrumental in committing this organization to the support of various (Communist) front enterprises.” AAUW General Director Kathryn McHale and the Board responded that “Mrs. Brunauer’s record with AAUW was marked by personal and professional integrity, devotion to the public good, and loyalty to the government of the United States”. The board also issued a statement urging members to continue their “practical work in education” so the nation will “produce and maintain citizens who are sensitive to human values and who will strive to protect them.” These are issues that AAUW continues to advocate for today.**

**Moving forward, we are sure your members will be celebrating your distinguished past and be encouraged to continue their efforts in the challenging times ahead.**

**With best wishes for the next 65 years,**

**Patsy Quick and Sandy Lawrence**

**Co-Presidents** **AAUW of Virginia**

**From the President**

February 2015. This year is off to a good start. Sunday, January 25 was our meeting on Human Trafficking, cosponsored by the League of Women Voters of Falls Church and Arlington. Thank you to the many AAUWFC members who came to the meeting. The estimated attendance was 140! From my count from the back row, 22 AAUWFC members attended, and several members brought guests.

2015 is a very important year for AAUWFC. This year we mark the 65th Anniversary of our branch! We received a wonderful letter of congratulations from our state co-presidents that is published in this issue of The Flash. Some of you have been members of the branch for many years. Others are relative newcomers, but we all are invested in the Falls Church Area Branch. Let’s think of a way to celebrate our anniversary year that will reflect the important work that we do and the commitment of our members to the branch and to each other. I am collecting ideas, so send me your thoughts at anytime. This is the brainstorming phase of planning our celebration, so send any and all ideas you have.

At the January Board Meeting, Board members conducted a review of the Action Plan that we constructed as a follow-up to the Visioning Project. I am pleased to report that we are on target in all areas. Look for Board members to include Action Plan items in their reports to the membership at the Annual Meeting on March 9th.

In addition to the March meeting, our Program VPs Kristan McMahan and Peggy Montgomery have a very interesting meeting planned for February 8th. Look for the meeting notice in this newsletter. April 16, 17 and 18 is the Book Sale, May 11 is the Scholarship Awards meeting, and June 8 is our Planning Picnic. With the Movie Group, Book Group, and Saturday book sorting throughout March, we will have a busy few months.

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event. Come be part of the learning, the work, the celebration, and the camaraderie that is the Falls Church Area Branch!

Bunny Jarrett, President

**From the Board**

The Board met January 13 at the home of Martha Trunk. Present were Bunny Jarrett, President; Peggy Montgomery, Co-Program VP; Kitty Richardson, Membership VP; Martha Trunk, Treasurer; Susan Conklin, Secretary; Marilyn Falksen, Public Policy Chair; Mollie Jewell, Book Sale Co-Chair; and Becky Gaul, Communications Chair.

**Programs**: Peggy reviewed plans for the 25 January Human Trafficking Meeting cosponsored by LWV-FC and LWV-Arlington and six other organizations. Bunny reminded members to send an Event Activity Report to National for all branch events. This is an important reporting function for the AAUW-VA grant.

 **Membership:** Kitty reported that she has constructed an Exit Interview that will be sent to those who did not renew their membership. As Vice President for Membership, Kitty is Chair of the Nominating Committee per our Bylaws. Nominees will be sent to the membership two weeks before the March meeting. National identified 48 national members who live in the Falls Church area and are potential branch members. Becky will help Kitty email those people to solicit interest in our branch.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Martha reported that we have$1433.78 in the branch account and

 $12,123.09 in the book sale account. $51,551.00 has been paid to the Career Development Fellowship. The remaining amount due is $23,549.

**Public Policy: Mar**ilyn reported that AAUW-VA has 600 signatures on the Human Trafficking petition. The petition will be available for signing at the January 25 meeting on human trafficking. State Lobby Day is February 4, 2015. April 14, 2015 is Equal Pay Day. Marilyn is exploring possible activities. A letter to the editor was suggested.

**Book Sale:** Mollie reported that new signs for the table categories will be constructed on 17 January at Mollie’s house.Bunny will ask Mellen to send out a notice of book collection to NVA branch presidents. Mollie will set the date for the Book Sale Planning Brunch.

**Communications:** Becky reported that no one responded to her request to volunteer, but Becky will continue soliciting help. Our Branch logo will be used on all Book Sale signs.

**Announcements**

2015 is the 65th Anniversary of the branch. Bunny received a letter of congratulations from the AAUW-VA Co-Presidents Patsy Quick and Sandy Lawrence. We need to think about how we will celebrate this anniversary.

Bunny has responded to an email from Kathy Kleiman who has developed a documentary about women math majors helping in a secret Army effort in 1943 to calculate ballistics trajectories for long-range artillery. She has asked if we may view the film so we might consider it for a program in 2015-2016.

Bunny has received a request for volunteers to help organize the Tech Savy Conference in Northern Virginia. The Board did not wish to help run the conference, but will ask members to volunteer to help closer to the date of the conference.

Kitty will go to the Northern District Presidents, Program VPs, and Membership VP’s meeting on 17 January.

The AAUW-VA State Conference with WV is April 18-19 in Charlottesville. The theme this year is “Celebrate the Past: Create the Future.” Bunny and Susan plan to attend.

The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, February 23rd.

**Corporate Donation Fundraising Feasibility Report**

The Corporate Donation Subcommittee of Martha Trunk (Chair), Christiane deJong and

Susan Hesser submitted to the Board a well-researched, cogent Corporate Donation

Fundraising Feasibility Report. The Board accepted the report and thanked the

subcommittee for their work. The Board discussed the report in detail, with emphasis on

applying for 501(c)(3) status so we could solicit corporate donations and on alternate forms

of fundraising. Board members spoke in favor of the Book Sale which builds community

and brings people into the Branch. The community identifies us as “The Book Ladies.”

The Board unanimously passed the following motion which was crafted to reflect the

outcome of the discussion: The Board recommends that we defer action on the Corporate

Donation Fundraising Feasibility Report until 2015-2016 when we review our fundraising

strategy as part of consideration of the recommendations of the Book Sale Operations Task

Force so that there is time to take the report to the membership for their consideration and

further exploration.

Becky Gaul has posted the Corporate Donation Fundraising Feasibility Report on the

Members Only section of our website. Please access the report and think about it over the

next few weeks. Discussion of the report will be on the agenda of our March Annual

Business Meeting.

**Special Projects Applications Due March 31**

Do you know what an AAUWFC Special Project is? If not, please read this article because

the Board has not received any applications for Special Projects grants this year. Any

Branch member can submit a request for a project funding. The grant must benefit or

advance a person or organization local to the Falls Church/Northern Virginia area that

benefits women and/or girls. In the past, projects have been funded for Aurora House,

Homestretch, and NCCWSL. New projects are welcome at any time. Applications and

procedures for submission and criteria for selection are available from President Bunny

Jarrett. Here is the information required on the application:

Awardee (Person/Organization)

Street Address

Phone number and email for contact at Awardee organization

Requestor Name

Requestor Email and Phone Number

Dates of Proposed Project

Amount Requested

Purpose of Award

How Award Will Benefit Women and/or Girls

**Nominating Committee**

This year the office of president is the only position to be filled. The nominating committee [Kitty Richardson, Anne Baxter and Peggy Howard] with the help of other members has identified prospective candidates and will be contacting them to investigate their interest in filling the position.

Under Bunny’s capable leadership the branch has seen many accomplishments and advances. She is willing to mentor the president-elect into this position. For a member with the time and energy to spend on branch business this is a wonderful opportunity.

Members will be notified by email of the results of the candidate search. The election will occur at the March business meeting.

If you are asked to consider your candidacy please think about it seriously. The responsibilities of the president can be found on our AAUW of the Falls Church Area website under bylaw. Each person has different demands on their time. At some point in our lives it may be the right time to serve in a major volunteer role. Is this the right time for you?

**Time to submit expense receipts**

Martha Trunk is in the process of preparing the budget for 2015-2016. If you've had any expenses for the past 5 months, please submit your receipts to Martha as soon as possible. Even if it's an expense that you don't want reimbursement for, it is important to know how much it costs to run the branch. We appreciate our generous members and officers but there are many expenditures that never make in onto the budget."

**AAUWFC Branch Meeting Sunday, February 8, 2:00 pm Falls Church Community Center**

Professor Cynthia Moss will present an overview of her research and the impact AAUW has had on her education and career.  Professor Moss received the Seibert Postdoctoral Fellowship in Biology from the AAUW Educational Foundation for 1986-87.

Professor Moss and her research group investigate the mechanics behind spatial perception, attention, learning and memory, and systems used by humans and other animals to direct their actions and navigate in their environment. Moss and her team have established methods to collect neural recordings from free-flying bats, which allows for the study of brain systems in animals engaged in natural behaviors.

 See you there!

**Human Trafficking: Here and Now! Yes, it’s in our Backyard!**

Who would have thought a topic like Human Trafficking would draw so many people on a chilly winter Sunday afternoon?

Maybe people knew it is the second most frequent criminal activity in the country and Virginia is in the top 5 active areas.  Sadly.  And they came to learn what they could do about it.  Maybe they knew naught of the specifics but knew someone affected by it.  Or even horrified by the reality of it in our own backyard.  They came to be educated about the crime, get action ideas, and learn to recognize hints of it, too.

Well, on Sunday, January 25, we learned a lot!  We learned thanks to our panelists including detective Wolfe from local law enforcement, representatives from Courtney House and Tahirih Justice Center.  Our own AAUW Virginia representative Leslie Tourigney for Public Policy gave us an action plan and 80 people signed a petition to go to Richmond!  The goal was met!  Just in time for a February deadline.  I hope you came and learned.  I did.

AAUW FC partnered with the League of Women Voters (LWV) Falls Church and the League of Women Voters Arlington to develop the program.  Another six organizations co-sponsored by helping to get the word out among their members and posting the flyer.  An estimated 150 people attended.

Would you say there is interest in this topic?  Please see the links on our web site for more information and bring your ideas to the June planning meeting if you would like to see such a topic again in the 2015-2016 program year.

And maybe this spirit of cooperation will make Virginia number 1 among the states in human trafficking intolerance.

Speakers included Edith Snyder, President, LWV of FC; Kristin Goss, President, LMV of Arlington; Detective Bill Woolf, Northern Virginian Human Trafficking Task Force; a representative of Courtney’s House; Lee Hopkins of Tahirih Justice Center; and Leslie Tourigny, VP, Public Policy, AAUW of VA.

Panelists and representatives of AAUW and LWV at the January 25, 2015 meeting on Human Trafficking.

**Human Trafficking Resources – National, State, Regional, Local**

Note: There are many resources and services available to advocates, law enforcement, victim services, etc. This is a partial list of resources, compiled by the League of Women Voters-Arlington January 30, 2015.

**Central Source of Information:** [www.traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org)

National Human Trafficking Resource Center and Hotline: 888-373-7888

Or Text HELP to BeFree (233733)

**National**

Department of Homeland Security: Blue Campaign: “One Voice, One Mission, End Human Trafficking.” DHS.Gov/Bluecampaign

To report suspected trafficking, call 1-866-DHS-2-ICE

**State**

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice

http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/victims/humantrafficking/research.cfm

Virginia statutes; resources for commonwealth’s attorneys, law enforcement, victims

**Regional and Local**

Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force (Detective William Woolf: FCPDHumanTrafficking@fairfaxcounty.gov)

A collaboration of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies – along with nongovernmental organizations – dedicated to combating human trafficking and related crimes.

**Arlington County**

Arlington County liaison: Officer Christina Hawkins, cmhawkins@arlingtonva.org

**Advocacy for Legislation**

Bills in 2015 session of General Assembly to support: SB 710; SB 1213; SB 1188; HB 1964

AAUW of Virginia - petition urging state lawmakers to pass legislation supporting trafficking victims

<http://bit.ly/1F56cLG>

**Education and Services**

JustAskVA – End Teen Sex Trafficking

JustAskVA.org or 1-888-373-7888

Tahirih Justice Center:

[tahirih.org](http://tahirih.org/); 571 282 6161

Need donations of money and goods

Courtney's House

[courtneyshouse.org](http://courtneyshouse.org/); 202-525-1426

Need donations of money and goods, as well as volunteers

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**Book Sale Sign Making – Almost done**

The book sale sign-makers had a very productive session on Sat. Jan 17 and completed most of the new “category” signs to go on the tables at the book sale. With seven volunteers, we made amazing progress and the signs look great. Another short session with just a few people should allow us to finish off all the category signs. Thanks to Diane Bodeen, Becky Gaul, Marilyn Falksen, Susan Hesser, Anne Baxter, Mary Youman, Mollie Jewell, and Nadyne Rosen for your help. Many of you may remember Nadyne who is a former branch president who moved to Delaware and was in the area last week and dropped in to help. Thank you all!!!

**Support the FC AAUW Book Sale – volunteer!**

**Sale dates April 17and 18**

This year’s book sale is a little later than usual: Fri and Sat. April 17 and 18, 2015 in the Falls Church Community Center. Profits help us empower women and girls by funding AAUW fellowships, scholarships for Falls Church area high school girls, and special projects in Falls Church area.

**Book collection...already started.** Collection never ends, really. We started filling our storageshelves last fall, and continue to look for more good books. Our book drive starts soon with announcements in the local media. We will be collecting books in a bin at the Falls Church Community Center and at the Youman's during sorting sessions. To streamline processing, we are asking donors to wait until March to give us more books (if possible). To reduce the amount of trash, we are selective about the books we accept. So, please remind your donors about the guidelines.

**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. So please explain 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.

**You can help.** Sign up to help at the February meeting or call Mollie Jewell 703-941-5643 with your questions or to volunteer.

**Book Sale Organizing Potluck – Sat. Feb 7**

Learn more about book sale jobs

This informal potluck lunch is a great opportunity to learn more about the book sale and get involved. Come to Mollie Jewell’s (3715 Tollgate Terrace, off Columbia Pike between Bailey’s Crossroads and Annandale) on Saturday, Feb. 7 at 12:30). Bring a dish to share, or just come; everyone is welcome. We will begin to fill the many book sale jobs. Below is a sample of the jobs that are available:

* “Current and choice” pricer – 1pm to 4pm on sorting days, price new books.
* Sorting lunch hostess – 11am to 1pm on sorting days, purchase (we provide the $)/setup lunch.
* Setup coordinator – coordinates setup in the Rec Center on April 16 (Thursday)
* Publicity coordinator – help with book sale publicity
* Label making and postcard mailing.
* Book collection

For more information, call Mollie Jewell 703/941-5643 or Mary Youman at 703-528-8993.

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**Book Sale Volunteers Needed**

We need your help with the book sale! We're enlisting:

* Cashiers and sorters at sale (April 17 and 18)
* Sorters (Saturdays in March and April)
* Collectors (now to April)
* Publicity

If you want to help, pick one (or more) jobs and sign up at the February meeting or brunch, or call Mollie Jewell 703/941-5643.

**Sorting**

We’ll start sort books again in March (earlier if we have a mild day). We sort books, storing them in boxes by subject. Drop in to sort at Mary Youman’s (4419 N. 18th Street, near Ballston) between 10am and 3pm on Saturdays in March/April. Sign up and we'll give you a reminder call or email. Call Mollie Jewell at 703/941-5643 or Mary Youman at 703/528-8993 to find out more about sorting. (We have a 2-page flyer that “tells all”).

**Cashier**

If you like money, books, or people, this is the job for you. Selling books at the book sale is the key to our success and the first step to a college education of a girl! Sign up for one or more 2-hour shifts. Ask almost any member about the job – most of us are experts on sales.

**Collection.**

We need members to collect books from our bin at the Falls Church Community Center and/or to be "on call" to pick up books and take them to storage at Mary Youman's garage in near Ballston. No denying it, this job does require some heavy lifting!

**Volunteer for many jobs!**

Remember, you don't need to limit yourself to just one job. Sign up at meetings. If you have any questions or suggestions, or wish to volunteer, call Mollie Jewell 703/941-5643.

**AAUW Educational Foundation**

**How our book sale helps...**

In addition to the local scholarships for girls graduating from local high schools and local projects, our branch book sale benefits the programs of 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.

**FC AAUW Endowed Grant Winner**

For our 50th anniversary, our branch funded an American Fellowship ($100,000 endowment), which has been generating fellowships since 2008. This year, our recipient is Elaine Ayo. Elaine is studying for a master's degree in statistics at Georgetown University. She plans to apply statistical methods and data analysis techniques to journalism. Prior to graduate school, she was a reporter and editor in Seoul, South Korea; Santiago, Chile; and her hometown of San Antonio, Texas.

Now, we are building funds to endow a career development grant. When completed, that will fund an annual grant for a woman who is preparing to advance or change careers or re-enter the work force.

Through your support, our book sale makes a difference here in Falls Church and nationally.

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**Receipts for books you collect...**

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

**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.

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

Falls Church Area AAUW Date

(703) 941-5643

 Falls Church AAUW 2015

***Book Group News***

Our February selection is ***Dear Life***, a 2012 short story collection by Nobel Prize winning Canadian author **Alice Munro,**considered one of the foremost short-story writers of her generation.  A New York Times reviewer said, with her "clarity of vision and her unparalleled gift for storytelling, ***Dear Life*** shows how strange, perilous, and extraordinary ordinary life can be."  We will meet on **Tuesday, February 17th, at 7:30 at Anne Baxter's** home.  New members and guests are always welcome, even if you haven't read this book!!   Contact Anne (vabaxter@verizon.net) or Becky (beckygaul@verizon.net) with any questions.

***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/](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fsuzismovies.blogspot.com%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNGhArA4KMLZdCFXcpjl6OeM8YJfvQ)

And consider joining the group any Wednesday; contact Kitty Richardson kittyrichardson6@gmail.com for information.

***Member Notes***

Welcome to Linda Garvelink, our newest member.

Members: Remember that contact information is listed on our wonderful website under Membership Services.

***Past events***

**AAUW Northern Virginia District Meeting**

Presidents and VPs for Membership and Programs for the 12 branches in the Northern Virginia District met January 17th to share successes and resources.

Updates by district co-representatives Caroline Pickens and Jeanne Elmore covered the upcoming state convention in April and other business. Reports on Diversity activities were presented: Kitty for Falls Church and Dottie Joslin for the Fairfax City Branch.

Dottie and Sandy Lawrence, AAUW of Virginia Co-president, met with representatives of the Forum of Iranian University Women (FIUW) at GMU’s Center for Women and Gender studies. Angie Hattery, director of the center, also attended. Information was shared about FIUWs work in their committees on Women and Sexual Violence, Women and Media plus Women and Leadership Education. Discussion and planning is ongoing for future work between the three entities.

The second part of the meeting was small group discussion with the separate groups of Presidents, Program VPs and Membership VPs. The final product was a flip chart list of challenges, successes and ideas from all participants. Copies of this information and Kitty’s Diversity report will be available at the AAUW –FCA Board meeting, at the Feb. 8th. meeting and/or electronically by contacting Kitty at: kittyrichardsonh6@gmail.com

**Black History Month**

On Sunday, Jan. 18th the Creative Cauldron gave performances of Tinner Hill: Portraits in Black & White. The playbill describes, “This ground-breaking work explores the history of Falls Church, as seen through the lens of some of its most influential African Americans. Through a series of monologues, scenes and blues-inspired music, we are taken on an inspiring Journey that began before the Civil War and that continues to the present day.” The acting and music were impressive and the story of local history was compelling.

Following the first performance there was a bus tour of the Tinner Hill area, which included a newly dedicated park and visits to historical sites throughout Tinner Hill. At several sites along the tour members of the community dressed in Civil War costumes assumed the identities of heroes/heroines and make history come alive.

Descendants of the original families of Tinner Hill are active in the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation. A wealth of information about their work is available on websites for Tinner Hill and the Foundation. Black History Month is the perfect time to refresh or expand knowledge of current and past accomplishments of the thriving community.

The Tinner Hill twentieth annual Blues Festival is planned for June 12th. – 14th this year. This celebration includes multiple shows and activities involving performances at the State Theater, Cherry Hill Park, restaurants and business in Falls Church. Many activities are free.

It is often fun to share experiences with others. Closer to the time of the festival our Diversity Subcommittee could explore the interest of the group in getting together to enjoy and discuss some of the events.

***Upcoming Events***

**AAUW OF Virginia State Lobby Day is Going to Make An Impact!**

On February 4, 2015, a cadre of AAUW of Virginia members is headed to Richmond—and we’re going to make an impact!! We’ll be carrying with us the signed petition that we all have been collecting signatures on since October asking our lawmakers to pass additional measures to provide assistance to survivors of human trafficking, especially sexually exploited minors. At the time we are going to print, we don’t have the final figures on how many signatures we have collected, but it is looking good that we will meet our goal of 1000 signatures. Stay tuned for the final count, and thanks to everyone for collecting signatures.

Our Lobby Day activities will start at 8:30 a.m. when we attend the League of Women Voters of Virginia’s Legislative Roundtable. We will then meet with the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker’s Chief of Staff. All will receive copies of our signed petition and hear about our other legislative priorities. Our group will then fan out so each of us can visit our respective senators and delegates. Following this, we will split into two groups—one going into the Senate Gallery and the other into the House Gallery, where we will be introduced.

Everyone who signed up to attend Lobby Day received an email with detailed information. If you plan on attending, but did not receive the email, please let me know right away at ltourigny@gmail.com Leslie Tourigny, State Public Policy VP

**DON’T MISS AN AMAZING AAUW-VA CONFERENCE**

Don’t miss your chance to celebrate AAUW of Virginia’s 90th anniversary. We will be “Celebrating our Past and Creating our Future” during our April 18-19th convention in Charlottesville, VA at the Doubletree Hotel. A rich agenda highlights the achievements of AAUW during its past 133 years and illuminates strategic directions for our goals in years to come which will empower women.

The agenda on 18 April focuses on the past with AAUW Archivist Suzanne Gould’s evocation of our history. Following Suzanne’s presentation is a Q & A session with AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman about AAUW National’s Impact plan. The afternoon sessions include Geoffrey Skelley of the UVA Center for Politics discussing the implications of the 2014 elections for our political priorities leading to the 2016 elections and the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote in 1920. Concurrent with this session is the afternoon workshops that will focus on the issues of Human Trafficking and Campus Sexual Violence.

The celebration continues over dinner and will be capped by a hilarious comedy performed by UVA Prof. Ann Mazur’s Victorian Theatrical Society.

On April 19, you can join with counterparts to share ideas to strengthen your branches. The conference ends with an elective tour and box lunch at Ash Lawn-Highland, home of James Monroe, 5th President of the United States.

In celebrating 90 years of AAUW of Virginia, we will build-a-cake with your wishes at the conference. There are 2 ways to participate:

* Write down your wish at the State Conference in Charlottesville at the birthday table
* Send a wish early by email by April15 to pnquick@cox.net or sandyaauw@juno.com

Show your pride and your hope for the future! Help us build-a-cake.

The Winter/Spring 2015 Vision will have more details on the conference. The state website (<http://aauw-va.aauw.net/> ) has an online brochure and conference registration information. Register before 27 March for $80. After that the registration fee increases to $90.

There are three ways to register fore the Doubletree:

* Special one click webpage: <http://doubletree.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/C/CHOSHOT-AAUW20150417/index.jhtml?WT,mc_id=POG>
* Phone call (800/222-8733, mention AAUW)
* Doubletree.com with code AAW

Don’t miss this amazing opportunity! See you in Charlottesville!!

**AAUW OF VIRGINIA: General Assembly Call-In Day, February 18, 2015???‏**

You may be wondering why we keep on advertising General Assembly Call-In Day on February 18, 2015, as a tentative event. Well, here’s why. The fate of bills during the General Assembly session changes daily, and by February 18th we don’t know if bills we support or oppose will still be under consideration. So, please write the February 18th Call-In Day on your calendars—in pencil—and be on the lookout for confirmation much closer to February 18th.

If we go ahead with Call-In Day, it will take less than 10 minutes of your time. It will involve two telephone calls—one to your State Delegate’s Office, and the other to your State Senator’s Office, to let them know how you’d like them to vote on certain bills. After that, there will be a short on-line feedback form to complete. That’s all there is to it. Not time-consuming, but very effective.

**Other Announcements**

**Generation Hope**

*AAUWFC was recently contacted by Generation Hope, an organization that offers tuition support and mentoring for teen parents. Here is information the organization sent to acquaint our members with their work:*

As our communities continue to grapple with pressing issues such as poverty, homelessness, and hunger, Generation Hope believes that empowering our most vulnerable citizens to earn college degrees is an effective and innovative approach to addressing a root cause of these issues. Generation Hope is giving teen parents the support that they need to become college graduates and professionals who will greatly impact the world that we live in. Also, by completing college they are creating a legacy of educational achievement in their families.  Their children will know that college *is* an option. Generation Hope Scholars are pursuing degrees ranging from cyber security to nursing at leading institutions across the Washington, D.C. Metro Area.  Upon graduation, Generation Hope Scholars are entering the workforce and pursuing graduate degrees.

Generation Hope’s work could not be done without the help of our community members. If you feel that you would like to contribute through volunteering or becoming a sponsor, we would be thrilled to connect with you! You can find more information at [www.supportgenerationhope.org](http://www.supportgenerationhope.org/) or send an email to sarabeth@supportgenerationhope.org.

**The Alexandria Branch is selling Glam A Day spa gift cards**

The following message comes from Ginger Chamberlain gbcaauw@gmail.com, Alexandria Branch Co-president:

Attention:  The Alexandria Branch was the recipient of spa cards from Glam A Day Spa in Alexandria. (A large number of gift cards have been donated, so it is a great opportunity for this branch.) They are worth $45 each and can be purchased by AAUW members, friends, family, co-workers, anyone who is looking for a treat. Please contact Ginger Chamberlain, gbcaauw@gmail.com , to obtain spa cards. We are excited about the opportunity to expand our charitable giving through sale of these cards. Thank you for your help, Ginger

**Gerrymandering**

**Can it be STOPPED?**

**A League of Women Voters Forum**

**Sunday, February 22, 2015**

**3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Falls Church Community Center**

**223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church, VA 22046**

Gerrymandering attempts to establish a political advantage for a particular party or group by manipulating electoral district boundaries to create partisan advantaged districts. The practice is insidious and not limited to any one party. According to One Virginia 2021, “It distorts the electoral process, undermines democracy, and renders legislative elections a meaningless exercise. It is one of the worst forms of unethical political corruption.”

This discussion forum will address: What can be done? Is there a solution?

Speakers: **Brian Cannon**, Executive Director, One Virginia 2021

**Sara Fitzgerald**, member, LWVUS Redistricting Study Committee

***CALENDAR OF EVENTS***

February 8 AAUWFC Branch Meeting, 2:00 pm, Community Center

February 17 Book Club Meeting, 7:30 pm, at Anne Baxter's home.

March 9 AAUWFC Annual Meeting, 7:30 pm, Community Center

April 16, 17, 18 Book Sale, Community Center

May 11 Scholarship Awards meeting, 7:30 pm, Community Center

June 8 Planning Picnic.

**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**](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Faauw-va.aauw.net&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNGm0MXV_5DJXdrPpTwkxLbkPwj-9A)