

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

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December 2013



Holiday Party December 8

Members and spouses as well as friends who are interested in AAUW are invited to the gala Falls Church AAUW holiday party. Everyone is asked to contribute her favorite finger food or dessert, a bottle of wine or favorite Christmas ale, soda, etc.

Details: The Gaul residence

Address: 6119 18th ROAD North, Arlington 22205

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Pre-Party Holiday Performance. The pre-party holiday performance this year will be at Creative Cauldron, Falls Church, and is the “Christmas Cabin of Carnaween.” Creative Cauldron describes the play as a classic Irish folktale, which is back by popular demand “for one final engagement!” This is an Irish folktale, about a tinker’s daughter who yearns to have her own cabin. The “little people intervene” and, apparently, this intervention is accompanied by live music, which should be a lot of fun and lively.

Details: Creative Cauldron on December 8, at 2:00 p.m.

Address: 410 South Maple Avenue (Parking is available at 410 or 412 South Maple Avenue) (near Orso Restaurant)

Ticket Pricing: \$18 (Seniors \$15)

Contact Sharon Zackula at zack2913@verizon.net or at 703 475-4310 if you have questions.

What’s Inside?

Our new Public Policy guru Marilyn gives you action items. Letter from Bunny is a brief on the visioning project. Confirm details on our holiday party—always a treat! While you’ve got your calendar out, check Book Group title and dates for January. More about your AAUW read on!



From the President

The members of the Falls Church Area Branch of AAUW turned out in full force for the November Branch meeting. Nineteen members participated in the workshop to clarify our vision/focus for the Branch. The workshop was led by two members of the AAUW Member Leadership Department, Program Manager Stephanie Kraemer and Director Deepti Gudipati. Also attending the meeting were Denise Decker, our mentor in the visioning pilot project, and Caroline Pickens, AAUW-VA President.

What would you say is the **focus of our branch**? Through discussion facilitated by Stephanie, we determined that the focus of our branch is to:

1. Provide **scholarships** to local high school seniors and graduate students with proceeds from the Book Sale.
2. Create and maintain bonds among **members**.
3. Provide **educational events** for the Branch and the community.
4. Address **policy issues** through participation in Lobby Corps.

Join us at the January Branch meeting where we will discuss the steps we need to take to fully achieve our focus or vision. This is your chance to create the branch you envision through a shared process with other members. Stephanie and Deepti will give us specifics about the format of the meeting sometime in December.

The varied interests of our members are reflected in our current activities. In addition to the workshop, Susan Hesser gave a very interesting presentation on her travels to the Arctic and spoke about the establishment of a Travel Group for the Branch. December brings our Holiday Party, one of the most popular activities of the year.

In January, in addition to the visioning workshop, we will be going to Curves for a mid-Winter workout. How can you possibly stay away!?! (Ed. Note: see page 5 for details)

Please note that there is no news from the Board this month. The major item on the agenda was planning for the Holiday Party. However, Sharon and Becky are organized and ready to go, so the Board did not meet.

See you at the Holiday Party December 8th!

Bunny Jarrett, President

Book Group Meetings

We will be reading and discussing the following books in January and February:

- *Middlemarch* by George Eliot for January 14. Hosted by Peggy Howard
- *TransAtlantic* by Colum McCann for February, day tbd.

Please note book group begins at 7:30 pm . New members are always welcome!
Contact **Olivia Cedillo** with questions. olyced@gmail.com or [571-224-3612](tel:571-224-3612).

Reminder—your CPA will thank you!

Last month Bunny described the various AAUW Funds that enable you to support AAUW programs with a tax-deductible contribution. If you are thinking of making a contribution, check out the website www.aauw.org/contribute/ and include AAUW in your end-of-the-year donations.

What Is Your Special Project?

Every branch member can submit an application for a Special Project, for amounts up to \$500. It was a Special Projects award from Sally Brett that first paid the College and University Partner fees for George Mason University. Thanks to Special Project applications from Pam Martinov and Anne Baxter, students from local high schools have been able to visit college campuses and middle school students have attended science workshops. For the past four years, a scholarship funded by a Special Projects request has paid full fees for a George Mason U. coed to attend NCCWSL.

What good can you do, with the support of our branch? Learn more by talking to any Board member or go to the branch Web site.

Time to Plan for Equal Pay Day

April 8, 2014, will be Equal Pay Day, the symbolic day when **women's earnings** finally catch up to men's earnings from the previous year. The Virginia AAUW Public Policy Chair is encouraging each Virginia branch to consider a special event related to Equal Pay Day. Grant money up to \$100 is available to the branch for this purpose. Possible activities include writing letters to the editor of local papers, asking the Falls Church mayor to issue a proclamation, holding a rally, and handing out information at our book sale and at the Farmers Market in Falls Church. **If you have additional ideas or would be willing to assist in this effort, please contact Marilyn Falksen at falksen@yahoo.com or call her at 703-534-8740.**

Additionally, the Virginia AAUW will be circulating an equal pay petition requesting that the Virginia General Assembly pass equal pay legislation protecting workers who share salary information with their co-workers. **Information on how you can sign** this petition and encourage others to do so as well will be sent out shortly.

Lobby Corps – What Can You Do to Change Lives?

The AAUW branches in the Washington DC metropolitan area are in a unique position to affect Congressional action through the AAUW Lobby Corps. When Congress is in session, this group of dedicated women spends a couple of hours on Thursday morning sharing with Senators, Representatives and their staffs **AAUW's position on legislation that affects women and girls.**

On **Monday or Tuesday**, Lobby Corp members receive an email telling them what issue they will be talking about on Thursday and asking them to let the coordinator know if they are able to lobby that week. By **Wednesday evening**, Lobby Corps members receive via email a position paper pertaining to the issue of the week. On **Thursday morning**, after a short but thorough briefing on the issue, Lobby Corps members break into groups of two and go to several offices where they share AAUW's message, explaining that they are speaking on behalf of AAUW members who are the Senator's or Representative's constituents.

Because they are concerned individuals rather than paid lobbyists and because they represent voters, **Lobby Corps members do have an impact** on the way Senators and Representatives vote. This past year, every member of Congress and every Senator was visited at least once by Lobby Corps. **If you are interested in learning more** about Lobby Corps and/or joining this important endeavor, **please contact Marilyn Falksen** at falksen@yahoo.com.

Make Your Voice Heard

Do you have just two minutes to make your voice heard about important policy decisions that affect women and girls? All you need is an email address, and **you can become a Two-Minute Activist.** As a Two-Minute Activist, you will receive emails that briefly describe current issues and allow you to send email letters to your Senators and/or Representative with just a click of the mouse. The email letter is already prepared and addressed to your Senators and/or Representative, but you are also able to add and/or delete language to personalize the letter before it is sent. To join, **visit www.aauw.org/actionnetwork and follow the prompts.** Contact Marilyn Falksen falksen@yahoo.com if you have questions.

Keep Your Boss Out of Your Medicine Cabinet

You may like and respect your boss, but would you really want him or her to have control over your medical care? Do you want to think about your boss every time you open your medicine cabinet or take a prescription?

Of course not. But it could happen because the Supreme Court has decided that it will hear challenges to the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive coverage requirement.

Under the ACA, certain preventive health care services are covered without co-pay or cost sharing. Contraception is covered, as are immunizations, annual physicals, and certain screenings.

Yet more than 40 for-profit companies have sued for the right to deny their employees access to this contraceptive coverage. This effort is led by Hobby Lobby, a for-profit arts and crafts chain, which wants to deny its employees this benefit. These companies want the right to put themselves between women and their doctors.

If the Supreme Court rules in Hobby Lobby's favor, the ruling could open a slippery slope for women and anyone seeking medical care. In the not so far future, your boss could deny more than just your vacation request. She could deny you contraception and make medical decisions that should stay between you and your doctor. In the name of corporate religious liberty, your boss could deny coverage of vaccines, surgeries, blood transfusions, or mental health care.

Take action today. Write a letter to your local paper about this case and the impact it could have on women and everyone else. Your voice can help AAUW make a difference.

Your Health and Our Future: Two Opportunities To Best Begin 2014

It will soon be January, the start of a new year. As a member of Falls Church AAUW, you will have two immediate (January 12) opportunities to make this a beginning of special moment for yourself and for the branch.

Opportunity One: Our program chair Sharon Z. has arranged an opportunity for you to start the year 2014 off with a healthy session at Curves, the women-only exercise and conditioning facility. You will work out in a private session with only Falls Church AAUW members, with private instruction on use of the equipment. There is no fee for this workout session. Wear comfortable, loose clothing, and sneakers or appropriate gym footwear

Curves Falls Church is located at 246A Broad Street, Falls Church 22046. The phone number is 703.536.0140. The studio is **upstairs**, with the stairway between the Antiques Store and the Local Market, all facing Broad Street. Off street parking is available behind the building or across the street at the former USPO facility.

Opportunity Two: Remember the Visioning project introduced at the November branch meeting? The followup working session will follow the Curves workout session. Bunny will send more details via email, but this will be the second of three planned sessions in the Leadership and Visioning project that Falls Church Branch has been selected to pilot for national AAUW. See Bunny's letter on page 2 for more details.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun., Dec. 8	Holiday Party, 3 to 5:30 p.m. , 6119 18 th Road North, Arlington 22205 2 p.m. Pre-Party Play (see page 1)
Wed., Jan. 1	Half dues for new members begin! Deadline for newsletter submissions (member news welcomed)
Sun. , Jan. 12	2 p.m. Member meeting in two sessions: Private session, no fee, Curves, 246A Broad St., Falls Church Followed by a Branch Focus Workshop
Tues., Jan. 14	7:30 p.m. Book Group discusses <i>Middlemarch</i> , 613 N. Oak St. Falls Church 22046
Mon., Jan. 27	Falls Church AAUW Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Sun. , Feb. 9	2 p.m. Branch Focus Workshop (Final Visioning session)
TBD	State Lobby Day in Richmond VA
March	DEADLINE for Special Projects applications 2013 – 2014



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

Buying a gift for a baby girl, preteen or teenager? Look first at the AAUW gift buying guide for girls!

<http://www.aauw.org/2013/11/05/gift-guide-for-girls/>