

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

Volume 65, Number 6

June 1, 2016

June Meeting - Program Planning

When: Monday, June 13 at 6pm

Where: Cherry Hill Picnic Pavilion, adjacent to the Community Center

What: Social and Planning for 2016-2017.

Potluck picnic, bring a dish to share.

F.C. AAUW Announces Scholarship Winners for 2016



Falls Church's American Association of University Women awarded seven young women, graduating from area high schools, its 2016 scholarships. Pictured at a recent awards ceremony, from left to right, are: Mary Ellen Gannon , Elizabeth Kessel of F.C. AAUW; Anh Truong, Blaise Sevier, Rimsha Rana, Farhana Montaz, Samiran Ibrahim, Layla Fawaz; Anne Baxter of FC AAUW. Also receiving scholarships but not shown in the picture was Batres Maku. AAUW raises money for scholarships through their annual book sale held in the Falls Church Community Center each April. (Photo: Edward Levine)

Thanks to all who helped out with last evening's meeting and selection of the winners.

- Sharon Zackula, Elizabeth Kessel, AND Mary Ellen Gannon Scholarship Committee members, for wading through mounds of paper, negotiating selection of winners, help with greeting and meeting logistics
- Edward Levine (Elizabeth Kessel's husband)for his wonderful photos
- Kitty Richardson AAUW student membership and literature packets and Dianne Bodeen for the suggestion to provide this information to awardees
- Kristan McMahan and Pam Martinov for arranging the talks by AVID young women
- Aida Loomis and donating members for the wonderful refreshments
- Martha Trunk for paying the colleges and universities
- all the high school counselors who promoted our scholarships

- all our members for their ongoing support of the local scholarship program and attendance at the Scholarship Awards night

We are all energized by the accomplishments of these young women and their plans for future education.

President's Letter

The AAUW program year is winding down and we have accomplished a lot this year. Our "annual report" shows just how much of a contribution we make to life in Falls Church, as we learn and grow. Before we close the books on 2016, come to our June meeting (potluck picnic) to support our new branch officers in planning for an exciting and meaningful future. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm and a dish to share!

And, speaking of closing the books, remember to renew your AAUW membership. To renew online, take a shortcut to <http://www.aauw.org/join/>. Click on the Join/Renew link for Branch members, and "Renew your branch membership" by logging on to the MSD. Then in the pane on the left, look toward the bottom for the "Membership Payment Program (MPP) to renew your membership.

Falls Church Branch Highlights – 2016.

For me, the highlight came in November, when we celebrated our 65th anniversary with a gala brunch, reminiscing about AAUW activities in Falls Church since 1950! Kristan McMahon assembles a fantastic collage of photos, clippings, and newsletters telling our story. Claudia Richards, AAUW Senior Branch Relations Manager, reviewed AAUW's proud history and Dr. Cristina Stanciu of Virginia Commonwealth University, current recipient of the FC AAUW funded American Fellowship, was an honored guest at the gala. Local storyteller Colleen Pelar rounded out the program.



Above: Falls Church AAUW members celebrate branch's 65th anniversary

But branch activism continues all year. Several members of the Falls Church branch continue their enthusiastic participation in the Capitol Hill Action Fund Lobby Corps, representing AAUW members nationwide. Our members by visit Senate and House offices each week Congress is in session, providing AAUW public policy perspectives in person. In addition, our request for the "Equal Pay Day" proclamation was formally recognized by the Falls Church City Council.

Our annual spring used book sale continues as the major focus of branch activity and philanthropic effort. The sale represents thousands of books and hundreds of volunteer hours attesting to our member's commitment and passion for supporting scholarships. This year we made \$16, 725 profit (on a gross sales of \$21,960.95). The sale funds the scholarships donated to local girls at our May meeting. Finally, this year 1/3 of our branch participated in a member survey to identify important branch activities. Responses show that maintaining friendships is the driver of membership. Diversity was rated as important by 90% of participants. And education/schools was the highest rated meeting topic, followed

by science/technology, and “Other” – with an emphasis on LOCAL. We expect that results of this survey will set us on course for another 65 years of service to women and girls in Falls Church.

Plan to attend the Planning Potluck - June 13

Our annual planning meeting will be at Cherry Hill Picnic Pavilion, adjacent to the Community Center, on June 13. We are starting early (6pm) to allow for a supper and social time before we get to work. Bring a dish to share at this potluck picnic.

Virginia Federal Lobby Day

Thirteen members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Virginia participated in Federal Lobby Day on May 12, 2016. After a thorough briefing by AAUW government relations staff, the 13 women were paired in experienced Lobby Corps volunteers and began their visits to Congressional offices, where they spoke with Members of Congress and/or their staffs about The Women’s Health Protection Act and asked them to cosponsor the bill. This measure would preserve and protect access to safe, legal, essential reproductive health care for every woman in the U.S. no matter where she lives. The legislation creates federal protections against state restrictions that threaten women’s health and intrude upon personal decision-making.

The AAUW Lobby Corps is made up of AAUW members from the DC metropolitan area who go to Capitol Hill each Thursday Congress is in session to speak to members and their staffs about issues of importance to women and their families. Eight Falls Church Branch members – Marty Behr, Susan Conklin, Marilyn Falksen, Becky Gaul, Peggy Howard, Bunny Jarrett, Kitty Richardson, and Lee Roussel – participate in this program. If you are interested in learning more about Lobby Corps and its activities, email the Branch Public Policy Chair, Marilyn Falksen, at fcaauwpublicpolicy@gmail.com or talk with her or one of the other Lobby Corps members.

Book Group Notes

Book Lovers, planning for the AAUW book Group for 2016-2017 has begun.

- First, we need a new coordinator. Becky has had this role for a few years along with her web role. Please volunteer if you can. Contact Kristan McMahon at kkcmahon@gmail.com to volunteer.

-There are 7 book group meetings in the program year in September, October, November, January, February, March, and May. We usually meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. We hope to pick 3-4 book soon to make sure members have time to get popular books and have sufficient to read the longer books.

-We'd like to have at least one Saturday meeting out of 7 in our program year to attract more members. November 18 is a possible date.

-We want to check with members to see if there is interest in a book/play choice. Here are a few suggestions for plays scheduled for DC performances in 2016-2017

- Arena Stage is doing ***Raisin in the Sun*** by Lorraine Hansberry from March 31 to 4/30/17

- The Folger is doing *Sense and Sensibility*, an adaptation of Jane Austen's novel, from September 13 to October 30, 2016

-We welcome any suggestions for different ways to organize the book group. Check our the New York Times Best Book list or Kirkus Review Best Book list for possible selections.

-Some **very preliminary** suggestions for books to read include the following:

Non-Fiction:

DEAD WAKE	Erik Larson
DOUBLE CROSS	Ben McIntyre
THE SIXTH EXTINCTION: AN UNNATURAL HISTORY	Elizabeth Kolbert

Fiction:

THE SUMMER BEFORE THE WAR	Helen Simonson (long library wait)
EVERYTHING I NEVER TOLD YOU	Celeste Ng
THE YONAHLOSSEE RIDING CAMP FOR GIRLS	Anton Disclatani

Biography/Memoir

LOUISA: THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF MRS. ADAMS	Louisa Thomas
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GIVE US YOUR INPUT ON THESE BOOKS AND OTHERS THAT YOU'D SUGGEST!!

EMAIL BECKY GAUL OR BRING YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO THE **JUNE 13** PROGRAM PLANNING PICNIC.

Time to Renew

Thank you for being a member of our incredible branch. It's time to renew your membership for 2016-2017. I will be sending out an email reminder in a few days.

You can either pay your dues online or send a check made out to AAUW to Martha Trunk at 6571 Snowbell Lane, Falls Church, VA 22042.

The National dues are \$49 (\$46 of which is tax-deductible, if you itemize your charitable contributions), state dues are \$15 and our branch dues are \$13. Our branch dues have not changed in over 20 years. The total dues are \$77.

Paying online is easy. Click on the link that is in the email. It will take you to a page that has all your information. Enter your credit card information and you're finished. Unless you chose to round up your payment (all tax-deductible if you itemize). This is an easy way to contribute to our Career Development Grant. There is a place under your name that says additional contribution. There is a drop-down box that says select a fund for your contribution. Patiently scroll down the list, past the various AAUW funds, then the individual donors and finally to the second branch designation – Falls Church Area Branch CDG (2010). You can also contribute to an AAUW fund if you pay by check. Let me know your wishes when you send me the check.

This is also a chance to verify your information that is in the database. Please correct it, if necessary, and advise me of the correct information..

And if you know someone who wants to join us, they can join online at AAUW.org but they have to indicate that they are interested in being a MOB (member of branch) and of course, indicate Falls Church Area Branch. We will be notified that we have a new member and we will update our database to make

sure they get our newsletter and other information. Or they can send me a check with their information, including what college or university they attended, when they graduated and the degree they attained.

MAY Snapshots

Eric Welch and J.E.B. Stuart AVID students, speakers at our May meeting (Photos: Edward Levine):



2016 FC AAUW Scholarship winners with Scholarship Committee members (Photos: Edward Levine):



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| June 13 | 6:00 pm | Potluck Picnic, Cherry Hill Park, 6 pm. Bring a dish to share. |
| June 27 | 7:30 pm | Joint board meeting at Mollie Jewell's (3715 Tollgate Terrace) |



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.

CONTACT US

President: [Mollie Jewell](#)

Co--Vice Presidents for Programs: [Peggy Montgomery](#) and [Kristan McMahon](#)

Membership: [Kitty Richardson](#)

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