***AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH***

***Volume 63, Number 8 November 2014***



**The AAUW Lobby Corps in Action**

**From the President . . .**

Bits and Pieces.

I have several things to mention this month, so my letter to you will cover several short topics and updates.

Action Plan Updates:

* Subcommittees on Diversity and Corporate Donors have been formed and have plans to meet.
* The Board decided to make a decision on exploring new sources of revenue after the Corporate Donor Subcommittee meets.
* Recipients of the American Fellowship have been identified and one will be contacted to ask her to speak at a branch meeting or write an article for the newsletter.
* Each person in charge of a committee or event should keep a list of all who participate in order to meet the goal of increasing member participation.
* Members have volunteered to pick up books at the Lantern Bookstore.
* The Book Sale Sign Subcommittee has met and is exploring the cost of a chosen design for signs.

Unreimbursed Expenses: Martha asks that you continue to submit unreimbursed expenses to her. We must keep track of how much we spend and expenses that are not reimbursed to obtain an accurate picture of how much it costs to run our branch.

Nominating Committee: Kitty is Chair of the Nominating Committee in compliance with our branch bylaws. She will be forming a committee soon. If you are approached to run for an office, please seriously consider saying yes. Better yet, volunteer! If you would like to be a member of the Nominating Committee, contact Kitty.

By the time you get this newsletter, you will be opening it with paint under your fingernails. I hope you had fun painting pots at the November 3rd branch meeting at Jimmie Potters!

Bunny Jarrett, President

**From the Board . . .**

The Board met October 27 at the home of Martha Trunk. Present were Bunny Jarrett, President; Peggy Montgomery and Kristan McMahon, Co-Programs VPs; Kitty Richardson, Membership VP; Martha Trunk, Treasurer; Susan Conklin, Secretary; Mollie Jewell, Book Sale Co-Chair; and Marilyn Falksen, Public Policy Chair.

**Programs**: Peggy and Kristan reported that the November 3rd branch meeting will be at Jimmy Potters Studio in Arlington. Members can choose a piece of pottery to pay for and paint. Jimmy Potters will return 40% of the profits to our branch at the end of the evening. The January 25 meeting on Human Trafficking is being co-sponsored by the LWV of Falls Church and Arlington. AAUW of Arlington will advertise this meeting to their members.

The Holiday Party has been scheduled for Sunday afternoon, December 7 at Bunny Jarrett’s house. Peggy and Kristan will explore performances that members may want to attend before the party. The time of the party will be set once that is decided.

**Membership**: Kitty reported that we have 39 paid members. Those who have not renewed their membership have been contacted by Kitty and other board members. November 30 is the last day to pay dues before members are removed from the rolls.

Kitty has explored the diversity issue with the AAUW Task Force on Diversity and with local resources. She has established a Diversity Subcommittee with members Elizabeth Kessell and Nancy Fulwiler. See article below.

Kitty is Chair of the Nominating Committee. She will form the committee soon and begin to talk with people about running for office or being appointed for the coming two-year cycle.

**Treasurer**: Martha reported that the book sale balance is $17,425.00. Our branch bank account has $1,192.06. Martha will include the donation from an anonymous donor as part of our payment for the Career Development Fellowship. Martha is working with Susan Hesser and Christiana DeJong to form an Action Plan Subcommittee on Corporate Donations. Caroline Pickens will act as consultant to the committee.

**Book Sale**: Mollie reported that Becky and Mary are exploring the cost for new signs for the book sale tables. Martha is exploring use of credit cards at the book sale. The Community Center Book Bin yielded five major book donors and will continue to be available in October. Book collection will begin again in March 2015.

**Public Policy**: Marilyn discussed the AAUW-VA petition to the VA Legislature to address victims of Human Trafficking. She will have hard copies of the petition (see below) available at the November branch meeting and the December Holiday Party. Marilyn will send an email to Bunny to be distributed to members inviting them to attend Virginia’s Legislative Roundup.

**Travel Group**: It was reported that no one attended the October meeting of the Travel Group, and that Susan Hesser will not continue the group. The Board is interested in learning the results of the Travel Group Survey Susan did.

**Stem Week Proclamation:** AAUW-VA sent a request that branches ask their City Council or School Board to declare December 8-14 Computer Science Education Week. Marybeth Connolly, School-Community Liaison and AAUWFC member, will forward the request and the sample proclamation to the Chair of the School Board and the Superintendent of Schools.

The next meeting will be November 24 at the home of Mollie Jewell.

***AAUW of Virginia Petition Drive on Human Trafficking***

Human trafficking is an international disgrace.  It forces an estimated 27 million people world wide into prostitution or involuntary labor.  The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) reports that it received 742 phone calls from individuals seeking help in Virginia in 2013—the sixth-highest number of calls among all states and Washington, D.C., that year.

Despite the wide scope of the problem, Virginia's laws do little to provide assistance to human trafficking survivors.

The Polaris Project, which runs the NHTRC and tracks federal and state laws on human trafficking, recommends that Virginia pass laws to provide assistance to human trafficking survivors, including creating "safe harbors" for sexually exploited minors.  In response, AAUW of Virginia has embarked on a petition drive with a goal of collecting at least 1000 signatures in support of legislative action by January 30, 2015.  These petitions will be presented to lawmakers in Richmond on February 4, 2015, AAUW's State Lobby Day.  Your help is needed to reach and exceed this goal.  You can "sign" the petition online at the following link: <http://bit.ly/1F56cLG>. Then, forward the link to your friends, relatives and acquaintances, asking them to sign as well, or post the link on your Facebook page.  Together we can reach our goal.  Submitted by Marilyn Falksen

***Diversity Dialogue***

One of the goals of the AAUWFC Action Plan states “Recruit and maintain a diverse membership”. Kitty Richardson, as Membership VP, is tasked with gathering information about the diversity of our community and community organizations with a specific ethnic and cultural focus. Elizabeth Kessel and Nancy Fulwiler have agreed to form a subcommittee and lend their experience/expertise in exploring the topic.

AAUW at the national level has formed a Diversity and Inclusion task force with Patricia Gaston as chair. (Kat Braeman, who presented at an AAUWFC program on Women and the Law is another member.) Patricia anticipates her group will announce suggested actions and information in spring 2015.

Diversity is at the heart of AAUW’s mission statement. Our branch subcommittee is planning to explore options for heightening awareness of diversity in our branch activities. As we go about our meetings, book club, book sale, movies, etc. there are opportunities to be mindful of the diversity component.

One suggestion for getting started is to take a few moments to check out the census report of Falls Church City and Virginia at the website: [**quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/51/51610.html**](http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/51/51610.html)

***Book Group News***

You are all invited to attend the November 18th Book Group meeting at the home of new member Nancy Fulwiler!  The book is **The Smartest Kids in the World and How They Got That Way** by Amanda Ripley   It should be a very interesting discussion about education in the US and why countries like Finland, South Korea, and Poland produce the smartest kids in the world.  Please bring international snacks to share from one of these three countries.  RSVP to Nancy at 703 237-9073 or [nancyfulwiler@hotmail.com](mailto:nancyfulwiler@hotmail.com).

Date:  Tuesday, November 18 at 7:30 pm

Location:  Oakwood Apartments, 501 Roosevelt Blvd, Falls Church, Main Office Bldg

Directions:  From 7 Corners, Take Wilson Blvd. past Eden Center and turn left immediately on Roosevelt Blvd., take second left into Oakwood Apartments and park by office.  Reserved room is just to the right of the main reception counter.

**Can you Help?**

Branch Communications chair Becky Gaul needs volunteers to send notices to the Falls Church News Press, online newsletters, neighborhood blogs, etc.  What do you read?  Where are you willing to share AAUW news?  Please consider this small, but very important, job!  Contact Becky at beckygaul@verizon.net or 703-608-9121.

***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](mailto:kittyrichardson6@gmail.com) for information.

# Book sale activities slowing down for the Holidays.

On Sat. October 25, we closed out our fall “book work” with a sorting session at Mary’s. Lots of folks came to take advantage of the great weather and we got all the books off the floor! We have tucked the books in for the winter. While active book collection won’t resume until Feb/March, we are accepting books any time at the Youmans. Just call first before you take them over to the garage; the number is 703-528-8993.

Now the book sale sign committee is working on some prototype signs for the tables. We are also getting some calls from older folks that need someone to come pickup books. If you’d be willing to pickup books, please contact Mollie Jewell, 703-941-5643, [gjewell@cox.net](mailto:gjewell@cox.net). We’ll call you when the need arises. If you are collecting books, here’s a donation form below.

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| **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. |

***Member Notes***

Kudos to Becky Gaul who is pictured in the fall edition of the Outlook.  She braved the freezing, wet weather in March to join the AAUW rally in front of the Supreme Court building.  The issue was a woman's right to make personal choices about her reproductive health. The Supreme Court decision is now known as the Hobby Lobby decision.

Anita Cline reports that she just had surgery on her foot. She has 5 weeks of recovery time, three with no weight on her foot.  She can be reached at: [a\_cline1@aol.com](mailto:a_cline1@aol.com)

***Public Service Announcement:***

The American Public Health Association’s (APHA) Get Ready campaign has produced an [Ebola fact sheet](http://action.apha.org/site/R?i=mq-O6W2cXYYIoXD5O2Am4Q) to help the public easily understand the risks of Ebola and how to stay safe. Help us get the facts out. Please share this with your family, friends and community.  ***http://getreadyforflu.org/EbolaFacts.htm***

***Simple Facts on Ebola***

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| When facing a threat like Ebola, it is critical to make decisions based on facts, not fear. However, lately the public is seeing ill-advised quarantine decisions and a discourse that strays from the science-based response proven to be effective.  **Ebola: What you need to know if you live in the U.S.**  Ebola is a serious disease. It can often be deadly to humans. Because of this, many people are concerned about Ebola. However, if you live in the United States, it’s very unlikey you will be infected with the disease.  **What is Ebola? Where does it come from?**  Ebola is a disease that is caused by a virus. The virus is believed to be spread to people by wild animals. In humans, Ebola can be spread from a person who has symptoms to another person.  Ebola first appeared in 1976 in two outbreaks in Africa. Since then, there have been other outbreaks of Ebola in Africa.  In 2014, a serious Ebola outbreak was detected in West Africa, causing thousands of deaths. The disease spread beyond Africa when sick people traveled to other countries and brought the disease with them.  **How does Ebola spread between people?**  Ebola is spread by direct contact — such as through broken skin or through your mouth, eyes or nose — with the body fluids of a person who is sick with the disease and has symptoms.  Objects with body fluids on them, such as needles, can also spread Ebola. Body fluids include blood, vomit, feces, saliva, semen, sweat and breast milk.  Ebola is not spread through the air or by water, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is not spread by food legally sold in the U.S. You can’t catch Ebola from mosquitoes or other insects.  When Ebola is spread, it’s often among those who have close contact with a sick person, such as their family. Health workers can also get Ebola while caring for patients with the disease.  You can only catch Ebola from people who are infected and have symptoms.  **I live in the United States. Am I at risk for Ebola?**  The risk of catching Ebola in the U.S. is very low. Few people have ever become infected with Ebola while in the United States. In fact, as of October 2014, only two people had become infected with Ebola while in America. They were both health workers who had cared for a sick patient who had traveled from Africa, where he caught the disease.  Another reason that you are unlikely to be at risk for Ebola is the U.S. health system. Unlike many countries in Africa, the U.S. has a strong public health network. This network works to detect dangerous diseases. It also helps prevent them from spreading. The U.S. has one of the world’s most advanced health care systems.  **What about my cat or dog?**  Household pets are not at significant risk for Ebola in the U.S., CDC says.  The chances of a dog or cat being exposed to Ebola in the U.S. are very low. Pets would have to come into contact with body fluids of an infected person who has symptoms.  Even in areas of Africa with Ebola, there have been no reports of dogs or cats becoming sick with Ebola.  It’s important to keep pets away from body fluids of a person with symptoms of Ebola, however.  **How can I protect myself?**  If you travel to an area where there is an Ebola outbreak or are in direct contact with someone who has Ebola, CDC offers safety advice, including:  • Wash your hands and avoid contact with body fluids of an infected person.  • Don’t handle items that may have come in contact with an infected person’s body fluids. These can include clothes, bedding or medical equipment.  • Don’t touch the body of someone who has died from Ebola.  • If you are in a country with an Ebola outbreak, avoid contact with animals such as bats or monkeys or with raw or undercooked meat. Don’t eat wild animals hunted for food, also known as bush meat.  **What are the symptoms?**  Ebola symptoms usually appear within two to 21 days after being exposed to the virus. But the average is eight to 10 days, according to CDC.  Symptoms of Ebola are:  • fever  • severe headache  • muscle pain  • diarrhea  • vomiting  • stomach pain  • unexplained bleeding or bruising  **What if I think I have Ebola?**  After you return from a country with an Ebola outbreak or after being in close contact with a person sick from Ebola, you should take several steps, CDC says.  • Call your doctor and tell her or him about your recent travel or contact with a person who has Ebola.  • Monitor your health for 21 days. Take your temperature every morning and evening. Watch for symptoms.  • If you decide to visit the doctor’s office or emergency room, call ahead before you go. Tell them about your possible exposure to Ebola.  **Are there vaccines for Ebola? What about treatment?**  There are no approved vaccines or medicines for Ebola. Scientists are working to create them. In the meantime, medical care for people with Ebola can include giving them fluids, balancing their body salts and treating other infections.  Recovery from Ebola occurs when a person’s immune system fights off the virus. Patients who recover from Ebola have antibodies that last for at least 10 years, CDC says. People who have recovered sometimes have long-term effects, such as joint or vision problems.  **Where can I get more information on Ebola?**  Visit [CDC,](http://www.cdc.gov/ebola) the [World Health Organization](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en) and [APHA](http://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/ebola). |

***CALENDAR OF EVENTS***

November 3 AAUWFC Branch Meeting, 7:00-9:00 pm Jimmy Potters Studio

6504 Williamsburg Blvd Arlington, VA 22213

November 4 Election Day

November 18 Book Club Meeting, 7:30. Contact Becky Gaul

November 24 AAUWFC Board Meeting, 7:30

December 7  AAUWFC Branch Holiday Party, Bunny Jarrett’s home

There was an interesting discussion at the October Branch meeting on Get Out The Vote! and mid-term election issues.



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[**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)