



## **AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH**

Volume 65, Number 11

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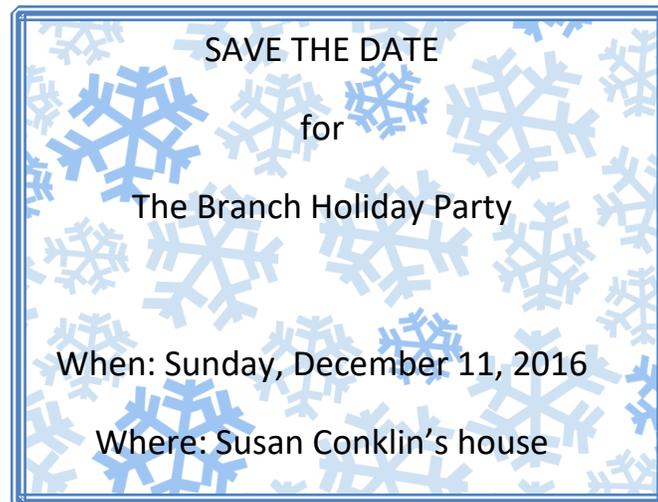
### **November Meeting**

When: Monday, November 14, 7:30pm

Where: Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Road- In the Senior Center

What: Giancarla Rojas, a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient and Edgar Aranda-Yanoc, the Organizing Coordinator, Legal Aid Justice Center's Immigrant Advocacy Program will be our speakers. You'll hear about Ms. Rojas' experience and their work with immigrant populations.

### **December Meeting**



(If you'd like to be involved in planning, please reach out to Kristan at [kkmcmahon@gmail.com](mailto:kkmcmahon@gmail.com) or 703-533-2111

## President's Letter

There has been a lot of fractious rhetoric about immigrants and refugees, not just as part of this election cycle, but around the world. It is a global challenge, and one with which most of us have no real world experience. This month's program will introduce you to Giancarla Rojas, a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient and Edgar Aranda-Yanoc, the Organizing Coordinator, Legal Aid Justice Center's Immigrant Advocacy Program. You'll hear about Ms. Rojas' experience and their work with immigrant populations..

It's hard to believe that this year is almost finished. Please reserve Sunday, December 11 for our holiday celebration. Susan Conklin has graciously offered the use of her home for our frivolity and merriment. I also want to call your attention to the item below regarding the AAUW Bylaws; you must vote by December 5.

Finally, we lost Leah Porzel, a pillar of the community and a past president of our branch in October. The tribute in the newsletter will give you a small idea of how involved and inspirational she was. Thank you to all who attended her memorial. Her family sent a note, which I'll share at our November branch meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.

Stay warm,  
Kristan

## AAUW to Hold Open House

This summer the AAUW national office moved to a new location in Washington, DC: 1310 L Street, NW, Suite 1000. All AAUW members are cordially invited to attend an open house to see the new office space on Thursday, November 17, from 1 to 4 p.m. Since the event is limited to 200 members, reserve your spot as soon as possible at [rsvp@aauw.org](mailto:rsvp@aauw.org). The deadline for registering is Monday, November 14. Several Falls Church Branch members plan to travel by Metro to the open house. If you would like to join us, please contact Marilyn Falksen at [fcaauwpublicpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:fcaauwpublicpolicy@gmail.com) or [703-534-8740](tel:703-534-8740), so we can make arrangements to meet you.

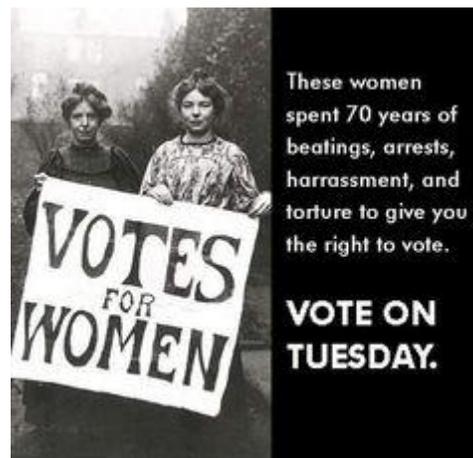
## Comment on AAUW Bylaws and Public Policy Program

It's again time to make our views known about proposed changes to the AAUW Bylaws and Public Policy Program. It's easy to do. Just go to <http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>. You will come to the AAUW election home page where you can see the links to the Bylaws and the Public Policy Program. Click on the Bylaws, log in and follow the instructions for commenting. To comment on the Public Policy Program, go back to the election home page,

click on the Public Policy Program and follow the instructions for commenting. The deadline for submitting comments is December 5, 2016.

At the AAUW District meeting on October 22, all members were urged to express their opposition to the proposed amendment to Article XIII, Section 4b of the Bylaws. If this proposed amendment were to be adopted, the AAUW membership would no longer vote on the organization's Public Policy Program. Instead, it would be adopted by the Board of Directors in consultation with AAUW staff. Because the Public Policy Program is a statement of the priorities of the membership and serves as the guide for the public policy work of the members and staff, the entire membership should vote on it, not just the Board of Directors. Additionally, AAUW Lobby Corps members lobby for (or against) legislation based on this Public Policy Program. If the change were to be adopted, Lobby Corps members would no longer be able to say they represent over 170,000 AAUW members and supporters when they speak with Senators, Representatives, and their staffs, thus diminishing their effectiveness.

Be sure to make your views known before December 5.



## **Book sale activities slowing down for the Holidays Book Collection to resume after January 1**

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.

	<b>AAUW Educational Equity Booksale</b> Falls Church Community Center April 17 and 18 <i>Promoting education and equity for women and girls</i>
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.	

## Memories of Leah Porzel



In October, we learned of the death of Leah Porzel, beloved leader in Falls Church AAUW for decades. Leah died at the age of 98 in Indianapolis, IN, where she had been living near her daughters the last few years. Many of us in Falls Church AAUW remember her as a life-long inspiration.

***From Ellen Blalock :*** AAUW Christmas parties at the Porzel's started with the warm and welcoming spirit that permeated every moment - from entering the bustling, holiday-fragrant kitchen, to be greeted by Leah's radiant smile - to chatty dinners catching up on everyone's news - to gathering cozily in her living room for sing-alongs of everyone's favorite Christmas carols, accompanied by various small music ensembles – so festive, so familiar – now, looking back, so missed. In those lovely and loving “AAUW family” moments, all seemed right with our world and we all felt so lucky and blessed and proud to be contributing.

We knew we had Leah's affection – but what many of us prized even more was her respect, because she represented everything that we aspired to be. What an incredible legacy from one small woman with the intelligence, energy, dedication, and righteous determination of a giant. Leah was our inspiration, our guide, and our friend...and those of us fortunate enough to have had her in our life will forever treasure – and try to live up to – her memory. ... Ellen

**From Becky Gaul:** *What* I remember most about Leah was that she was always cheerful, gracious, and willing to do whatever was needed. And, of course, opening her beautiful home for so many functions. Not only the Holiday parties but post-booksale celebrations, gourmet dinners, board meetings and all those international luncheons. Leah always seemed calm, even with 60+ people for a sit-down meal, swarming all over her house. She'd remember everyone, plus what your spouse and kids were up to. She'll always be an inspiration for me...Becky

**From Mollie Jewell:** For me, Leah was the heart and soul of Falls Church AAUW - and a quiet, but effective leader and organizer. Others will tell you about her extraordinary hospitality -which was her to the core. But I also remember the woman who made things happen, from the fun (organizing and hosting gourmet dinners) to the serious (hosting and recruiting renowned speakers for International discussion groups). She worked at every level for AAUW - local level (holding almost every office in our branch and, of course, the book sale) to the state and even national level (working on Nancy Joyner's campaign for AAUW president). And, of course, AAUW wasn't her only interest. She was a founding force at Aurora House and extremely active at St. James. If you needed anything, you knew you could count on Leah. I can't drive past her house on Hillwood Street without thinking about her with a mixture of gratitude, warmth, and regret.

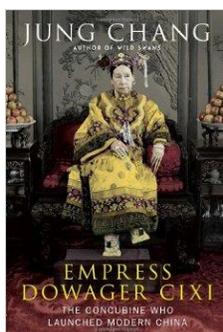


Leah (right) with Jean Zapple

## Book Club

Date and time: Tuesday evening, November 15 at 7:30 PM

Location: Home of Martha Trunk, 6571 Snowbell, Falls Church



We will discuss the book [The Concubine Who Launched Modern China](#) Empress Dowager Cixi by Jung Chang.

We will not meet in December but will resume meeting in Jan.

Here is a list of books we will voting on to read at our next four meetings in 2017. If you see any that you are interested in, please let us know. We welcome new readers to join us. You can look up the book descriptions on Goodreads or Amazon.

AAUW Book Suggestions for Jan., Feb., Mar. and May 2017

1. The Lowland by Jhumpa Lahiri
2. The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula K. Le Guin
3. To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee and play at Providence Players
4. The Lake House by Kate Morton
5. Hag-Seed by Margaret Atwood
6. Nutshell by Ian McEwan
7. Double Cross by Ben McIntyre
8. Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance
9. Lab Girl by Hope Jahren
10. The Distracted Mind: Ancient Brains in a High Tech World by Adam Gazzaly, Larry D. Rosen

## How Islam Empowers Women

Eight AAUW-FC members represented our branch at an interfaith and cross cultural event at Kenmore Middle School on Sunday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>.

This was a collaboration between AAUW-Arlington, our branch and the Muslim Women's Coalition of Greater Washington DC. Four panelists discussed various aspects of how Islam empowers women.



Dr. Maryam Bibi, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee and recipient of Pakistan's highest medal of honor, spoke of her work with women and girls in the most remote regions of tribal areas in Pakistan. She spoke of how Islam helped her in changing the mind set of powerful stakeholders in the most conservative societies especially in the realm of girls' education.

Dr. Margaret A. Johnson, is a sociologist, author, international speaker, and owner of Transfirex Translation Services, Inc., a global language translation company. Dr. Johnson gave a brief historical overview of Islam with an emphasis on the transformation of the status of women over time. She spoke of the spiritual wholeness brought to her life through Islam.

Dr. Sahar Khamis, an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Maryland, College Park, spoke of how Islam empowered her. She clearly made the distinction between religious teachings and cultural practices as they influence the status of Muslim women.

Kristin Garrity Sekerci works at the Bridge Initiative, a research project on Islamophobia at Georgetown University. She is also an advocate for Paid Family and Medical Leave.[Our national AAUW Lobby Corps has gone out on this issue and continues to advocate for families with this bill. Anne Baxter spoke with Kristin after the formal presentation about AAUW's Public Policy involvement, got Kristin's business card and asked Kitty to follow up with the national office.]Kristin also spoke of the radical femininity/feminine essence of Islam and the importance of engaging in social justice issues, from both a moral perspective, and as a challenge to Islamophobia.

The Arlington Branch is to be congratulated for leading this collaborative effort. Approximately 100 attendees participated.

## **FC AAUW Welcomes Anna Shaffer and Shannon LaBarbera**

We are delighted to welcome two new members to our branch.

**Anna Shaffer** discovered AAUW FC when she came to our book sale last year. She was impressed with the magnitude of the event, was curious about the organization that was hosting the sale and talked to members about AAUW. She liked what she heard so decided to join.

Anna received her BS from the University of Southern Mississippi with a major in mathematics and a minor in computer science. After graduation she came to the Washington DC area and began a successful 25 yr. career with the federal government.

For the past five years Anna has worked at the Dept. of Commerce – International Trade Commission in acquisitions which deals with purchasing through contracts and purchase cards.

Her commitment to continued learning and career self-improvement has attracted the favorable attention of management within her agency.

Anna's daughter is attending the University of Toronto. She worked last summer as a student trainee assisting contracting personnel mentoring other student trainees at the Dept. of Defense through the Pathways Program.

Anna is planning to learn more about all aspects of AAUW and has found the newsletter and the Vision news magazine helpful. She is interested in exploring "how my talents fit into the organization".

Anna is a beginner level winter skier and hopes to progress to the intermediate level through patience, practice, lessons, and mentorship. Anna took up skiing as a means to face her fear of heights and has enjoyed the amazing feeling that

**Shannon LaBarbara** recently moved back to the US, married in August and is getting settled in her new home. One of her "settling in" moves is to join AAUW.

Shannon spent childhood years in Kentucky, Indiana, North Carolina then back to Indiana. She graduated cum laude from Ball State University in Muncie, IN with a BS in Elementary Education and a minor in Reading and Endorsement in Kindergarten. She has a 16 year teaching career with 13 of those teaching with the Department of Defense in Germany and Okinawa.

Several years ago a close friend in Germany moved to San Jose, California. She joined AAUW there and was so inspired by the experience she told Shannon "When you come back this is an organization you need to get involved with".

Shannon is passionate about education for women and girls, life long learning and empowering women to develop their strength throughout life. She plans to take the coming year to settle into her new life and community and enjoy the freedom to visit family back in Indiana.

An interesting bit of information - for 5 years Shannon was involved in dragon boat racing. This activity started in China some 2,000 years ago. Teams from 10 to 32 participants engage in sprint races, straight races and circuit races. More information is available at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dragon\\_boat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dragon_boat)

Welcome Anna Shaffer and Shannon LaBarbara!

## Northern District Meeting-October 22, 2016

The Northern District meeting was held October 22 with 51 attendees and all branches represented except Greater Manassas. The program was



“Gender Bias in Politics: Is it Real?” The panel was excellent: Melissa Richmond, Vice President of Running Start (which collaborates with AAUW on Elect Her), and Melissa Jackowski, formerly AAUW Grass Roots Advocacy manager and now with TargetSmart, which uses data to assist candidates in their campaigns. Both young women are committed to getting more women into politics and have experience in campaigns (both were active in the 2008 campaign, Richmond with Mitt Romney and Jackowski with Joe Biden). They had fascinating insights into gender bias, which often comes from within the woman candidate herself (less confidence in her own skills

and self-downplay of her achievements). Encouraging and training young women is crucial. An interesting theory is that when legislatures reach **30%** female members, that is the point when the universe for women candidates will expand quickly: critical mass. Another interesting fact: due to the extensive use of data, you may see a political ad on your TV and your neighbor may see a different one on the same channel—a factor both horrifying and awesome.

Shout-outs for branches were given for new members (12 for **Reston-Herndon**), filling officer positions (100% for **every branch**), fundraising (\$50,300 grossed at **McLean Area’s** book sale), three new Honorary Life members (**Peggy Stotz**, McLean Area; **Frances Campbell**, Arlington; **Diane Watts**, Mt. Vernon), and special recognition for **Anne Peabody** in the Falls Church Area Branch, who joined AAUW 75 years ago in 1941. Patsy and Sandy presented **Dianne Blais** with her Legacy Circle pin and announced **Marion Stillson** had also recently joined.



--Susan Burk and Caroline Pickens, Northern District Co-Representatives

## Here are some firsts for women in U.S. Government:

- 1887 Susanna Salter first woman mayor (Argonia, KS)
- 1892 Laura Eisenhuth first woman to win a statewide election (ND Superintendent of Public Education)
- 1896 Martha Hughes Cannon first woman elected State Senator (Utah)
- 1917 Jeannette Rankin first woman elected to Congress (MT)
- 1922 Soledad Charon first Latina elected to statewide office (NM Secy of State)
- 1925 Cora Reynolds Anderson first Native American woman elected to a state legislature (MI)
- 1925 Nellie Taylor Ross first woman governor (WY)
- 1928 Minnie Buckingham Harper first African American woman in a state legislature (appointed, WV)
- 1933 Minnie Craig first woman Speaker of the House in a state (ND)
- 1933 Frances Perkins first woman cabinet member (Secy of Labor)
- 1938 Crystal Bird Fauset first African American woman elected to a state legislature (PA)
- 1955 Consuelo Bailey first woman Lt. Governor of any state (VT)
- 1965 Lorna Lockwood first woman Chief Justice of a state supreme court (AZ)
- 1965 Patsy Mink first woman of color and first Asian American woman elected to Congress (HI) (and an AAUW member who co-sponsored Title IX bill)
- 1968 Shirley Chisholm first African American woman elected to Congress (NY)
- 1978 Nancy Kassebaum first woman elected to a full term in the U.S. Senate in her own right (KS)
- 1981 Sandra Day O'Connor first woman appointed to the Supreme Court
- 1984 Arlene Violet first woman elected state Attorney General (RI)
- 1984 Geraldine Ferraro first woman Vice Presidential candidate of a major political party
- 1985 Wilma Mankiller first woman elected Chief of the Cherokee Nation
- 2016 Hillary Clinton first woman Presidential candidate of a major political party



AAUW staff show off all of our Elect Her-Campus Women Win sites across the country.

# SAVE THE DATE

for

The Branch Holiday Party

When: Sunday, December 11, 2016

Where: Susan Conklin's house

(If you'd like to be involved in planning, please reach out to Kristan at [kkcmahon@gmail.com](mailto:kkcmahon@gmail.com) or 703-533-2111)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 14	Branch meeting at the Falls Church Community Center, 7:30pm
November 15	Book Club, Home of Martha Trunk, 6571 Snowbell, Falls Church
November 17	Open House at AAUW Headquarters, 1310 L Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, D.C.
December 5	Deadline to comment upon AAUW bylaws and Public policy Program
December 11	Holiday Party at Susan Conklin's house



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>