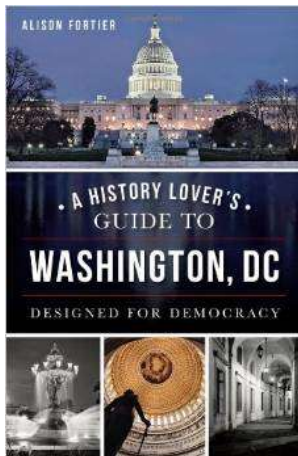


**End-of-the-Year Banquet
12 to 3, Thursday, May 19
Springfield Golf and Country Club
8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield**

We hope to have a big turnout for our final gathering of the year, our banquet at Springfield Golf and Country Club. If you were there last year, you know what a beautiful setting it is. It's a good chance to chat with someone you haven't seen in a while, meet new members and scholarship winners, make plans for summer activities, and volunteer to help the branch!

Just in time for spring and summer trips into D.C., author Alison Fortier will share her book, *A History Lover's Guide to D.C.*, with us. Subtitled *Designed for Democracy*, her book goes far beyond a traditional guidebook to offer a historical journey through our nation's capital. Whether you are a newcomer or a long-



time resident of the National Capital area, Ms. Fortier's book will take you places you may have never known about and will be sure to offer insights and history that may well surprise you. From George Washington's Mount Vernon to the Kennedy Center, she will take us on a trip of discovery through each era of Washington, D.C.

Alison Fortier has lived and worked in and around Washington, D.C., for more than thirty

years. She began her career on Capitol Hill working as staff for the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the U.S. House of Representatives.

She then worked in the State Department and on the staff of the National Security Council in the White



House before moving to the private sector. Alison has a bachelor's degree in government from the College of William & Mary and an master's degree in history from the University of Michigan.

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The book is available from Amazon and Barnes and Noble. It might be fun to have your own copy to make notes in and get a head start on your own historical trip around D.C.

To make a reservation, send your check for \$35 and your choice of menu to Kelly Espy at 5814 Spruce Grove Court, Haymarket, VA 20169. (You may include a separate check for your dues or pay them at the banquet.) Please respond by May 15.

Luncheon Menu

Green Salad with Raspberry Vinaigrette or Ranch Dressing
Rolls and Butter

Entrées

Chicken Napa with Grapes, White Wine, and Butter Sauce
Oven-Roasted Herb Potatoes
Asparagus Parmesan

OR

Fillet of Salmon with Tarragon Butter Sauce
Wild Rice with Cranberries
Asparagus Parmesan

Dessert

To be arranged
Cash wine bar

Directions: Take Old Keene Mill Road east from Fairfax Parkway. Go 3.5 miles to the country club. Cross Rolling Road. The country club entrance is immediately on the right after the Rolling Road intersection and is somewhat hidden, so slow down and watch for the entrance.

STEMtastics

STEMtastics 2016: With the majority of the 2015 planning committee returning and an evidence-supported belief that we could inspire 300 middle school girls in 2016, the STEMtastics planning committee will organize STEMtastics again next year. Systemic Solutions has already

reserved the Ernst Center at NOVA-Annandale. We set the date as Saturday, March 12, 2016, to avoid conflicts with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) spring break, Springfield Annandale's Spring Fling, and the state AAUW conference.

Committee change : Olga Burns will not be a member of the STEMtastics 2016 planning team. She is calling it a day. As many of you know, for over two decades, Olga was the force behind Technology Futures Unlimited (TFU),



STEMtastics' predecessor event. She oversaw the entire process for many years: working with the printer, interfacing with the schools, obtaining donations, holding labeling parties, mailing forms, ordering t-shirts, scheduling girls in workshops, and coordinating event-day volunteers.

The most valuable contribution to STEMtastics that came out of TFU has been the connection with FCPS, which Olga pioneered. Without that connection, we would not have a good mechanism for directly contacting the families of so many middle school girls. In our experience, contacting girls through their schools has usually been ineffective. It is the mailing to the parents that makes the difference.

This past year Olga organized the many volunteers needed to make STEMtastics 2015 successful. In addition to the usual volunteers needed to check in students and prepare

refreshments for all, she provided additional volunteers to assist with each student workshop and guide students during the morning. Thank you, Olga; your leadership and enthusiasm will be missed.

The technology behind STEMtastics: As Olga will surely confirm, the significant difference between TFU and STEMtastics is technology.

We now obtain parent home and email addresses in electronic form. The printer uses the home address to “individually stamp” each mailer. We use the email addresses to recruit more students as well as to send reminders to those who have registered. No more affixing mailing labels to registration forms at Olga’s house. But we do miss the camaraderie and good cooking.

Gone are the days of deciphering hand-written registration information and handling checks. STEMtastics has a website for registration that is linked to Paypal for payment processing. You can find the parent workshop presentations from STEMtastics 2015 at: <http://mclean-va.aauw.net/stemtastics/>.

Students receive evaluation forms tailored to their schedule. The girls don’t have to fill in the workshop information in addition to their evaluation.

The planning committee uses old-fashioned email extensively for communicating.

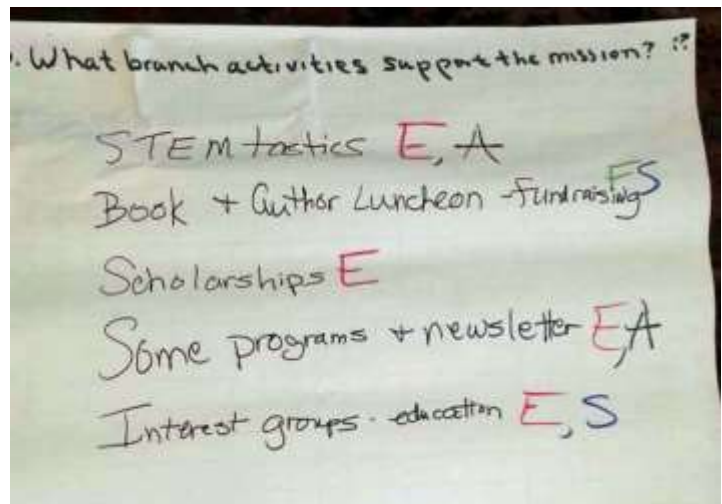
Help wanted: We are looking for a few good volunteers. One volunteer would organize the volunteers. In addition to vital organizational skills, the position requires facility with email and basic knowledge of MS Word. Judy Page and Suzanne Mahoney have carried the bulk of the “technical burden” from running the web site to scheduling the students. We are looking for “trainees” who are willing to learn. Skills are basic web page management and facility with Excel.

From Vision to Reality

What a productive time we had at our Visioning Workshop on March 28! We would not have been nearly as successful without the help of Jeanne Elmore and Caroline Pickens, who were our facilitators, and without the space and comfort in Dianne Blais’s home. The session was very constructive, and we are looking forward to the next step, which is the marketing session on April 23 at our Annual Meeting.

We started by answering five questions (see the charts posted on our website under Visioning):

- What do members care about most?
- What aspects of the AAUW mission are most important to our members?
- What branch activities support the mission?
- Are there things branch members need or want?
- What would you want the branch to do that it isn’t doing now?



We then placed each answer into one of the categories listed below. Group members then voted for three categories that were most important to them. Finally, we broke into four

groups to work on an action plan related to the top four categories.

1. Education (13 votes)
2. Social (10 votes)
3. Branch Management (7 votes)
4. Advocacy (6 votes)
5. Fundraising (5 votes)
6. Membership (4 votes)

Each group then tried to put together some action items to help improve the branch. Those action items are listed in the spreadsheets also posted on the website under Visioning at <http://fairfaxcity-va.aauw.net/members/> in the Member Center. (Contact the [webmaster](#) if you need the password.) These are a work in progress, of course, and input from members who could not attend (and corrections/addition from those who did) will be gratefully accepted.

One clear outcome is that we need more volunteers to work on some of the deficiencies that were identified by the group. Particularly we need a board secretary, a board public policy chair, and nominating committee volunteers. Please ask any board member about these positions if you have interest.

Membership Memo

Dues Alert! Renew Now!

It's time to renew your membership for 2015–16. Dues are \$82 (\$49 national, \$15 state, \$18 branch). Our From Vision to Reality process this spring promises to reinvigorate our branch. Renew, and together we'll have fun next year while promoting our mission: Equity for women and girls through education, advocacy, philanthropy, and research. Please renew by June 1.



Of the national portion, \$46 of your dues is tax deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes.

Membership renewal options:

1. By credit card: You can renew online with a credit card through the Membership Payment Program (MPP) on the AAUW website. You will receive an immediate confirmation email, which is also sent to the branch treasurer. See below under "How to Use the Membership Payment Program."

Or, 2. By check: You may send an \$82 check payable to AAUW—Fairfax City Branch to Kelly Espy, 5814 Spruce Grove Ct., Haymarket, VA 20169. (Life members: \$33.) For your convenience, you may send a separate check for dues with your banquet reservation check to Kelly. Or, you may renew at the May 19 banquet.

How to Use the Membership Payment Program

1. Log-In With Your Member ID: Go to the Fairfax City Branch website, <http://fairfaxcity-va.aauw.net>. Scroll to AAUW Links in the right column. Click on Renew Membership. Click on Login (top bar, next to Join.) If it's your first time, click on Register. Find your AAUW member ID on the AAUW *Outlook* magazine mailing label, or click on the link below the Login box to retrieve it from AAUW. Enter your member ID and password.

2. Access Your Personal Membership Record and Renew. Click Enter Member Services Database. Please verify your contact information and edit it if needed. In the menu on the left, click Renew My Membership. Enter your credit card information.

3. Submit your renewal, verify your entries, and submit again. When you're finished,

remember to click Logout at the top of the renewal page. Look for the confirmation email.

If you have any problems, see the top of the renewal page for the link to the User Guide.

The AAUW Fairfax City Brand

At our April branch meeting, we learned about how we can make our group more attractive to potential members. Thanks to co-presidents of AAUW of Virginia, Sandy Lawrence and Patsy Quick, for their work with our group. Through our literature, our website, our newsletter, and our conversations with nonmembers, we can do more to spread the good word about

- Who we are
- What we do
- Why they should care, and
- What we want them to do.



Sandy and Patsy had us look at the way AAUW is perceived by the general public and then how our branch would like to be known. The two are definitely not the same! With careful marketing directed to the specific audience we want to address, we should be able to change the perception of AAUW. Using the four guiding principles for stellar messaging, we can put forward an appealing self-portrait:

1. Grab their attention first. You have only a brief time to get your audience to read your whole flyer or listen closely to your 30-second description of the group.

2. Focus on what *they* need and want. Use “you” to guarantee that you’re talking to your audience.
3. Represent your branch brand. Include an idea of something the branch does.
4. Images are powerful; make them count. Use photographs of people in action, rather than static clip art, for example.



Solving the Equation

How do you explain the fact that since 1990 women’s participation in careers in engineering has barely improved and in computer sciences and mathematics fields it has actually dropped, while their choice of careers in the biological, chemical, and materials sciences has noticeably increased?

Percentage of Women in Each Field

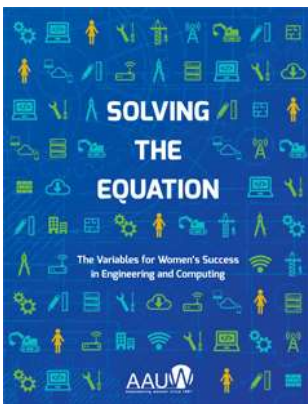
Field	1990	2013
Engineering	9	12
Computers & math	35	26
Biology	42	53
Chemistry & materials science	27	39

This is the question explored in AAUW’s latest research publication, *Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women’s Success in Engineering and Computing*. The research team dug into the existing literature on factors that might contribute to the underrepresentation of women in engineering and computer fields, analyzed data, and conducted interviews. The

factors that seem to make a difference are outlined below.

- **Gender stereotypes and biases** consistently underestimate mathematical abilities of women. In addition, “stereotype threat” serves to decrease women’s performance in math when they become afraid that they will confirm the negative stereotype of their aptitude in math.
- **Social relevance** is given a high priority among women choosing careers. Their preference is to work with and help other people; jobs in engineering and computer science are not perceived as providing opportunities to improve societal well-being and work in a collegial atmosphere.
- **A sense of belonging** is often missing, according to women in engineering and computing fields. They don’t feel they are a “good fit” with their chosen career.
- **The college and workplace environments** feel uncomfortable to women. Freshman computer science courses often assume a level of expertise that first-year women have not attained. This discourages some

students from the start. Women who have left jobs in engineering and computing had few opportunities for career development, little encouragement for creating job-home balance, and little support on the job.



The report includes a lengthy list of recommendations regarding these four variables. They are addressed to educators, employers, men and women in the workforce, policy makers, parents, and girls. Reading this brief summary is no substitute for the reading the entire report. For all the details, go to <http://www.aauw.org/research/solving-the-equation/> and download the full report.

Kudos to Barbara Klementz



At April’s AAUW of Virginia State Conference, Barbara Klementz was announced as Fairfax City’s honoree. Barbara was selected for her many years of chairing our Book and Author event. Since Barbara attended the conference, she was able to pick up her certificate in Charlottesville. Locally, she is known for her 11-months-a-year dedication to this heroic effort. Congratulations!

Shape the Future

Free Memberships

This year the Fairfax City Branch earned two free one-year national memberships through AAUW’s Shape the Future Membership Campaign. AAUW offers a free national membership for every two new-to-AAUW or lapsed members who join (with a dues discount) at a branch event open to the public. Keep telling people about AAUW and inviting your friends! That’s a great source of new members.

Leslie Vandivere Honored

We are pleased to award one of the free national memberships to Leslie Vandivere for her valuable service in many leadership positions at the branch, state, and national

levels of AAUW. Leslie currently serves as webmaster for the Fairfax City Branch's website and for AAUW of Virginia's website and Facebook page. She also is member of the AAUW National Social Media Committee. As branch Communications Chair, she fosters branch communications, including emailing notices to members and sending us the branch newsletter, the *Focus*, for which she is the layout editor.

Leslie was a member of AAUW of St. Mary's City, Maryland, (now AAUW of Patuxent River) and held various offices from the mid-1970s until her family moved to Fairfax in 1992. Other Fairfax City Branch leadership positions Leslie has held since rejoining AAUW in 1999 include co-president, treasurer, secretary, and editor of the membership directory. Her favorite interest group is Night Owls.

Leslie's volunteering is not limited to AAUW. She has experience as a board or committee member for other local government and nonprofit organizations, including the League of Women Voters and the Fairfax County Board of Education's Human Relations Advisory Committee. We thank Leslie for her dedication and expertise.

Dues Raffle

Bring a \$5 bill to the end-of-year banquet for a chance to win the second free AAUW national membership for next year, a \$49 value. (Three tickets cost \$10.) Proceeds will be donated to AAUW Funds, the philanthropic engine of AAUW. AAUW Funds promotes women's empowerment, leadership, and equality through educational funding, research, case support, STEM education, campus leadership, voter education, global connections, and member leadership. You can help the Fairfax City Branch continue its long record of contributing toward AAUW's programs.

AAUW Degree Requirement

Exercise your responsibility through AAUW's One Member One Vote process! In addition to voting on the membership requirement bylaw proposal, offer your voice on AAUW's proposed 2015–2017 public policy program and biennial action priorities. Select the Board of Directors members in a contested election. See your Spring/summer edition of *AAUW Outlook* magazine or go online to <http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>. Voting continues until the June Convention. Make your voice heard!



It's also time to vote for AAUW of Virginia's Board of Directors. For details go to <http://aauw-va.aauw.net/>.

Mentoring

At our March 28 Visioning meeting, some members expressed an interest in mentoring. In fact, AAUW of Virginia already has such a program, the AAUW of Virginia ONLINE Mentor-Protégé Program. Women in Virginia serve as mentors to college students (undergraduate or graduate), sharing their experience, advice, and knowledge with college students who want to connect with successful role models. For further information, see this link: <http://aauw-va.aauw.net/aauw/directors/membership>.

Fairfax County is also seeking mentors if you are looking to support someone in grades one through six one hour a week for one year (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/mentoring.htm>).

Belonging

Are you getting everything from your membership in AAUW Fairfax City Branch that you expected? If you're not satisfied, perhaps you don't feel very involved in the group. Perhaps you don't know other members very well or don't feel comfortable going to meetings.

One solution is for you to accept a role in the branch's functioning. Take on just a small job, such as the phone tree or offering rides to members. Join an interest group and contribute to the discussion. Attend a board meeting or two; they're open to members.

When you're ready, accept a larger task, like becoming public policy chair or secretary. Plenty of possibilities exist for you to find a niche that suits you perfectly.

If you become more committed to the branch's activities, your satisfaction with belonging will increase. It's a win-win situation.

Hunting Ground

Dianne Blais may have been our only member to see *Hunting Ground* at GMU in April. Falls Church AAUW covered \$200 of the cost of the showing and had a table with AAUW literature. The movie is a documentary about the problem of sexual assaults on campuses. Not only are the assaults frequently unreported, but even when they are, the perpetrators seldom face punishment.

The movie begins by showing how excited girls and their families are about getting into their desired college. A student then discusses how

she was raped at the University of North Carolina in her first few weeks on campus. Other students describe their assaults. The stats in the film are scary. The film points out the reluctance of schools to prosecute the offenders, to discuss the role of alcohol and



underage drinking, and to acknowledge the role of sports (particularly football) and fraternities.

The movie's focus is on two girls who successfully used Title IX to highlight the magnitude of the problem so that future victims will not be alone and ignored as they were.



AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION

June 18–21, 2015 | San Diego

Interest Groups

Afternoon Lit

Wednesday, May 20, at 1 p.m.
Home of Jean Arnold
14611 Algretus Drive, Centreville
703/830-8189 or arnoldjh52@aol.com

Please let Jean know by Sunday, May 17, if you plan to attend. The group will discuss *Same Kind of Different As Me*, by Ron Hall.

Great Decisions/Salon Discussion Group

Friday, May 8, at 12 noon
Home of Ann Slomski
7611 Clifton Road, Fairfax Station
703/250-9134 or anabbott@verizon.net

In May we will continue the Foreign Policy Association's *Great Decisions 2015 Briefing Book*. Our May meeting will cover the third topic in the Great Decisions briefing book, "Sectarianism in the Middle East." We will also discuss the accompanying DVD at the meeting.

Please let Ann know you will be coming to the meeting. Bring a light lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided by the hostess.

Musical Notes

Friday, May 29, at 1 p.m.
Home of Kay Corbett
7226 Clifton Road, Clifton
703/222-6012 or Kaycorbett1@msn.com

The program is yet to be determined as we put the finishing touches on this issue. Contact Olga Burns for details as May 29 gets closer.

Night Owls

Tuesday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m.
Home of Gale Rogers
6010 Deep Lake Way, Burke
703/938-0520 or gale.rogers@denkifuro.com

Light supper will be followed by our discussion of *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown, led by Jan Humphrey. Please let Gale know if you will be attending.

Upcoming: Our June 9 meeting at Joyce Grimes's home is our annual planning meeting. So start putting together your suggestions for next year and come prepared to "sell" them to the group.

Calendar

AAUW Federal Lobby Day
May 14

Branch Annual Banquet
Tuesday, May 19, 12 noon
Springfield Country Club

AAUW of Virginia
Online voting ends
May 27

AAUW Annual Convention
June 18–21
San Diego

QUOTE FROM A BOOKLOVER

I WOULD BE MOST CONTENT IF MY CHILDREN GREW UP TO BE THE KIND OF PEOPLE WHO THINK DECORATING CONSISTS MOSTLY OF BUILDING ENOUGH BOOKSHELVES.

—ANNA QUINDLEN

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.

AAUW—FAIRFAX CITY BRANCH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and RENEWAL

Membership is open to all graduates who have a 2-year, RN, 4-year or higher degree from an accredited institution. AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

You can join or renew *online* at aauw.org. Click on *Membership> Join/Renew> Branch Member*. Follow the prompts. We are "VA3042 Fairfax City."

Or, Complete the application below and mail it with your check to the treasurer.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

E-Mail: _____

Degree: _____ College: _____ Field: _____

Degree: _____ College: _____ Field: _____

This information will be published in our directory and newsletter, unless you indicate items to omit.

DUES: \$82 (\$49 national, \$15 state, \$18 branch) for membership through June 30, 2016.

Note: \$46 of the national dues is tax deductible.

If *transferring* from National Membership or another branch, submit dues to the treasurer:

If your National membership expires in 2015, remit \$82.

If your National membership expires in 2016, remit \$33.

Contact Dottie Joslin (j.joslin3@verizon.net; 703-591-9035) for verification of the dues amount.

AAUW ID #, if known: _____

Dues enclosed for transfer: _____ National membership expiration date: _____

Make check payable to AAUW—Fairfax City Branch.

Send this form and your check to the treasurer:

KELLY ESPY
5814 SPRUCE GROVE CT
HAYMARKET VA 20169

New Member:

Folake Akinbi

9854 Main St.

Fairfax, VA 22031

D.D.S., Virginia Commonwealth U. College of
Dentistry

Branch Website: <http://fairfaxcity-va.aauw.net/>

Officers:

Co-President: Dianne Blais
dianneblais@aol.com

Co-President: Vacant

Program Vice President: Olga Burns
rubato12@aol.com

Membership Vice President:
Dottie Joslin
ijoslin3@verizon.net

Secretary: Gale Rogers
gale.rogers@denkifuro.com

Treasurer: Kelly Espy
KellyEspy@aol.com

AAUW Funds and Scholarship:
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psmiller10847@verizon.net

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lvandivere@cox.net

Newsletter Editor: Jan Humphrey
dandjumph@aol.com

Web Manager: Leslie Vandivere
lvandivere@cox.net

Branch Event Chairs

Book and Author Luncheon:

Barbara Klementz
brbklm5@verizon.net
Suzanne Mahoney
suzanne070946@mac.com

STEMtastics: Suzanne Mahoney
suzanne070946@mac.com

Interest Group Chairs

Afternoon Literature: Jean Arnold
arnoldjh52@aol.com

Night Owls: Paulette Miller
psmiller10847@verizon.net

Salon Discussion Group : Kay Corbett
kaycorbett1@msn.com

Musical Notes: Olga Burns
rubato12@aol.com



Penny C. Welke

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