

Northern District Meeting
The Ups (and Downs) of Electing Women
Burke Centre Library
October 18, 1–3:30 p.m.
5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke

What are the challenges and barriers facing women running for office today? Is being defeated the end of the world? What's the current status of women in elected office on local, state, and national levels?

Join fellow members from the 12 branches in Northern Virginia for a fascinating panel discussion: Jeanette Rishell, Manassas Park Councilmember; Margi Vanderhye, former Virginia House of Delegates member; and Melissa Jackowski, National AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Manager.

Learn what's going on with the state and our local branches, plus enjoy meeting other members. See you there!

Directions: From Fairfax County Parkway (Rte. 286) turn north onto Freds Oak Road. If you're coming from Ox Road, Freds Oak is the first left. If you're coming from the east, it's a right turn just before Ox Road.



Planning for STEMtastics 2015

STEMtastics 2015 is up and running. Led by Judy Page of the McLean Area branch and Suzanne Mahoney, the STEMtastics committee met on September 15. Members of the Vienna Area and Springfield-Annandale branches also participated in the meeting. SySTEMic Solutions will host the event on the Annandale campus of the Northern Virginia Community College on the morning of Saturday, March 21, 2015.

At their meeting the committee reviewed the many tasks to be accomplished and discussed lessons learned from STEMtastics 2014. At their next meeting in October, the committee will set a focus for STEMtastics 2015 and get a head start on the recruitment of workshop presenters.

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Membership Memo

By Dottie Joslin

Discounts for New Members

Bring a friend to the Northern District meeting on October 18 or to our popular Book & Author Luncheon on November 1. New or lapsed members who join AAUW at these events will save \$24.50 on the national portion of dues. Discounted branch dues will be only \$57.50, instead of \$82. Of the discounted dues, \$23 is tax deductible. Graduate students new to AAUW can join as National Members for only \$18.81.

Membership is open to anyone with an associate's degree or higher from an accredited institution. Spread the word about the Fairfax City Branch and AAUW's mission—advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research!

Membership Benefits

Save time and money with AAUW discounts. For details go to <http://www.aauw.org/> and click on Membership>Benefits for AAUW Members. With each purchase AAUW receives a royalty, which supports our programs and services.

Here is a small sample of the offerings:

- Books and publications (New Scientist, archived AAUW research reports, The Feminist Press)
- Education and career development (CareerBuilder.com, *New Scientist Jobs*, My College Options, The Princeton Review)
- Financial (Congressional Federal, The Actuarial Foundation)
- Insurance and medical (AAUW Prescription Discount, Nationwide Insurance)
- Travel (InsureMyTrip.com, TravelSmart)
- Branch services (Tugg, Connex)
- Shopping (ShopAAUW)
- Additional benefits (*AAUW Outlook Magazine*)

Book & Author Luncheon

The fall is here and we are ready to roll with our Book & Author Luncheon. We have five interesting authors prepared to charm us. Now we have one month to do our part to make this luncheon a success.

Contact Olga Burns (703/239-2876) about your items for the Silent Auction. Let her know what spectacular item you will be contributing. Let her know whether you will bring the item to the luncheon on the day of the event or drop it off either at her home or at Joan Dimengo's. Special interest groups should also let Olga know what they will be contributing so we can list the items in the program.

Do you know someone who is a reader and would enjoy hearing these authors? Don't be shy, invite! Remember how your neighbor enjoyed coming before? Invite her. Found a new friend or two? Invite them. It might help to emphasize that the event raises money for scholarships. We enjoy our Book & Author Luncheon, and so will your friends. Let's make this another fantastic fall fundraiser.

Sunshine Fund



Members of the board have established a sunshine fund to send cards to seriously ill members or those who have had a death in the immediate family because we value all who have become members of our organization. This fund will

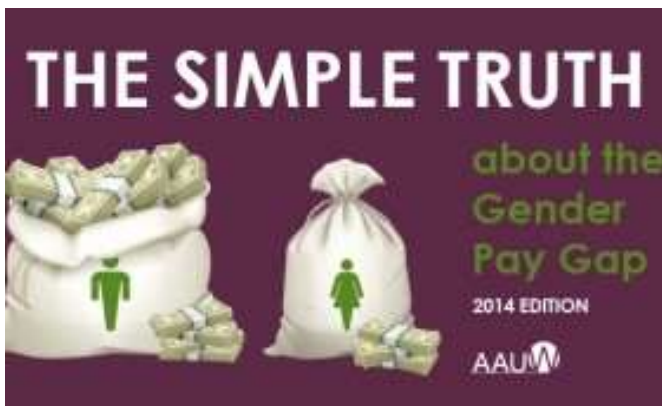
be based entirely on voluntary donations from interested members.

Diana Delano is in charge of the contributions and will keep the board regularly informed of the amount of contributions and expenditures. If you know of members in these categories please let her know at 703/730-3963 or gdk125@verizon.net.

A basket for contributions will be provided at appropriate branch functions, or you can give them to Diana at several interest groups or mail them to her at 4277 Wiltshire Place, Dumfries, VA 22025-3148.

Paycheck Fairness Act Update

AAUW has made gender pay equality a priority for many years. In September AAUW published a report, *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap*. It concludes that pay inequity is not solely the result of women's career choices, as with teaching, a lower paying job; part of the gap is unexplained.



Women are more likely than men to pay a “parenthood penalty” when they return to the workforce full time. Women with children are offered lower salaries than childless women, whereas pay for fathers is the same as for men without children.

With Congress racing to adjourn so that members can campaign, the Paycheck Fairness Act failed to reach the Senate floor for full debate or vote. Given the current political climate, this is not surprising, but it remains a disappointment. The bill is not likely to be brought up again in the lame duck session following the election.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Census Bureau has released data from 2013 regarding the gender

pay gap. Last year women working full time, year round, made 78% of what men made. This is essentially unchanged from 2012.

The gap is larger for African American, Hispanic, and Native American women. Men's median earnings were \$50,033 and women's were \$39,157. This means that 50% of women made less than that figure, and 50% made more. Poverty rates were higher for women in 2013 (15.8%) than for men (13.1%), although these rates were lower than in 2012 for both genders.

Focus on Human Trafficking

AAUW of Virginia has chosen human trafficking as a priority issue for increasing community awareness and public advocacy. Trafficking for both sexual and labor exploitation is a problem in Fairfax County, as well as Richmond and the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center reports that it received 72 substantive calls in 2013 referring to instances of suspected sex trafficking (primarily prostitution) in Virginia and 42 calls referring to labor exploitation in the state, nearly half related to domestic work.

Earlier this year the Northern Virginia Task Force on Human Trafficking received a \$1 million grant from the Department of Justice, half of which will go to the Fairfax County Police Department to fund a unit dedicated to this crime. The Police Department cooperates with the Polaris Project (<http://www.polarisproject.org>) and transports the primarily young victims to Gray Haven in Richmond (<http://thegrayhaven.org/>). Both are excellent resources for learning more about this global issue that affects us locally.

Members might recall an excellent presentation we heard on this topic last year. Perhaps there is another way we could get involved in this issue, such as collecting signatures on a petition or drawing attention to trafficking on State Lobby Day next February.

Effects of Marijuana

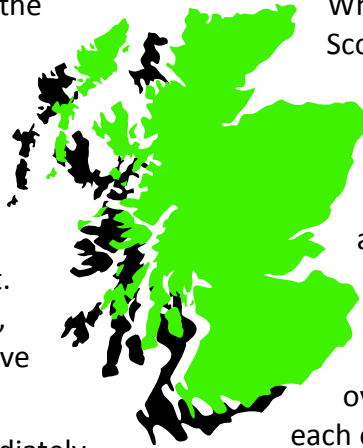
At the September branch meeting, Jocelyn Harris, a forensic toxicologist with the D.C. Office of Forensic Toxicology Services, talked to members about marijuana and its medical effects on young people.

Marijuana is a mixture of the leaves, stems, seeds, and flowers of cannabis, the Indian hemp plant. The mixture is used in many forms, all of which contain the psychoactive chemical, THC.

THC affects the body almost immediately and binds to specific sites in the brain called *cannabinoid receptors*. When these receptors are artificially stimulated by THC, their function is not only disrupted, but also they are overstimulated, resulting in a marijuana "high." Over time, the receptors' function is altered, leading to addiction. THC particularly affects new users and young people whose brains are still developing. Some recently developed forms of marijuana contain relatively high concentrations of THC.

Effects of marijuana use vary by individual and include euphoria, relaxation, anxiety, fear, and heightened sensory perceptions. Long-term use results in memory and coordination loss and, occasionally, acute psychosis.

The Food and Drug Administration hasn't obtained sufficient evidence to approve marijuana for medical purposes. Each cannabis plant varies widely in its chemical composition, so determining standard and consistent ingredients and recommended dosages is difficult.



Still Part of the UK

By Jean Arnold

When I was wondering if I should travel to Scotland alone, a fellow volunteer at the Kennedy Center, who had just returned, raved about the country, so I decided to go. I had been warned about the problems with Heathrow, but after a successful navigation, I arrived safely in Edinburgh, where I was met by my tour guide. That evening a single traveler from California and I bonded over our dogs and thoroughly enjoyed each other's company for the entire trip.

Scotland was as beautiful as I had been told, especially the Highlands with miles of velvety hills, black-faced white sheep, and fields and fields of heather. Our group sailed on Loch Lomond, but somehow failed to see the monster on Loch Ness. We enjoyed the sights in Edinburgh, which included the Royal Tattoo at night at Edinburgh Castle and a tour of the royal yacht Britannia. I had my first taste of haggis in Edinburgh and found it surprisingly delicious.

There were many memorable castles and sites on the way to Glasgow, including St. Andrews, where I bought marked golf balls and tees for my grandson. Just outside of Glasgow, we visited Stirling Castle, where our regular tour guide was joined by a Scot with a lovely brogue who recited Robert Burns' poetry to us, including the poem for which I am named.

We finished the tour with dinner at an old farm where Rob Roy had celebrated his eighteenth birthday. My paternal ancestors had emigrated from Scotland in the seventeenth century, so I felt right at home.

Interest Groups

Bridge

The bridge group is a shadow of its former self, but a couple of us would still like to play if there is interest. Please contact Gale Rogers at gale.rogers@denkifuro.com or 703/938-0520.

Movies at Cinema Arts

Save the second Wednesday of every month (October 8 this time) and join us for a movie at Cinema Arts Theatre in Fairfax. Senior Wednesday ticket price is \$5 for those over 60. We select a movie that starts at about midday; afterward, we stop for coffee and dessert. Contact Gale Rogers for more information at gale.rogers@denkifuro.com.

Night Owls Book Discussion Group

Tuesday, October 14, at 6:30 p.m.
Home of Jan Humphrey
3604 Gawaine Ct., Annandale
703/573-6253 or dandjumph@aol.com.

Light supper will be followed by our discussion of *The Garden of Evening Mists* by Tan Twan Eng, led by Joan Dimengo. Please let Jan know if you will be attending.

Don't forget to bring your books and baskets for our contribution to the Book & Author Silent Auction.

Upcoming: On November 11 we will discuss *Fair and Tender Ladies* by Lee Smith.

Afternoon Literature



Wednesday, October 15, at 1 p.m.

Home of Prativa Prasad
9030 Scott Street, Springfield
703/866-4038 or balramprasad@gmail.com

Note that we will be meeting at the usual time of 1:00 to discuss *Orphan Train* by Christine Kline. Please let Prativa know by Sunday, October 12, if you plan to attend.

Salon Discussion Group: Great Decisions

Friday, October 10, at 12 Noon
Home of Olga Burns
10623 Timberidge Road, Fairfax Station
703/239-2876 or rubato12@aol.com

In October we will continue with the fifth and sixth topics of the Foreign Policy Association's briefing book, *Energy Independence and Food and Climate*. We will be watching the DVD for both topics and discussing them.

Olga Burns has graciously offered to host the October meeting and to lead the discussion. Please let her know you will be attending. Bring a light lunch; drinks and dessert will be provided by the hostess.

Musical Notes

Friday, October 31, at 1 p.m.
Home of Kathleen Henry
7418 Spring Village Dr., Apt 501, Springfield
703/451-6846 or kc_henry@outlook.com

Our opera for this day will be the second half of Verdi's *Masked Ball*.

All music lovers are welcome. Please let Kathleen know that you are coming.

Calendar:

Northern District Meeting

The Ups (and Downs) of Electing Women

Saturday, October 18, 1 p.m.

Burke Center Library

Book & Author Luncheon

Saturday, November 1, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Country Club of Fairfax

Annual Holiday Party

Date, time, and place TBD

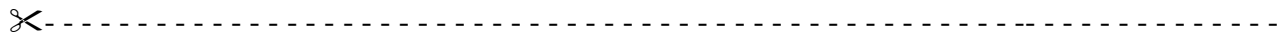


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**AAUW—FAIRFAX CITY BRANCH
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Membership is open to holders of an associate's or equivalent (RN), bachelor's, or higher degree from a qualified institution.

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

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, 2015.

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

Or, 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

The Fairfax City Branch of AAUW presents

Book & Author Luncheon

Saturday, November 1, 2014, 11 am to 3 pm

Country Club of Fairfax • 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax, VA

\$40 per person (includes luncheon)

Watch out! This year's featured books are all about unexpected life changes.

-  **Sarah Pekkanen, *The Best of Us: A Novel*.** Four college friends reunite on a luxurious vacation in Jamaica, and the closeness reveals truths about all their lives.
-  **Mary Kay Zuravieff, *Man Alive!: A Novel*.** A family is changed drastically when a bolt of lightning strikes one of its members.
-  **John Muller, *Mark Twain in Washington, D.C.: The Adventures of a Capital Correspondent*.** Twain's time in the capital in the 1860s proved to be a critical point in his career.
-  **Jan Neuharth, *The Kill: A Hunt Country Suspense Novel*.** Solving a murder in Middleburg puts a cast of colorful residents under the glare of suspicion.
-  **Daniel Stashower, *The Hour of Peril: The Secret Plot to Murder Lincoln Before the Civil War*.** As he traveled from Illinois for his inauguration, Lincoln was the object of a plot foiled by Allan Pinkerton in this spell-binding account.

This annual event is sponsored by AAUW Fairfax City Branch to raise funds for scholarships for women in our area. It also helps our national association provide financial help to women in education and other promising careers.

Please mail your check or Visa or MasterCard information to Suzanne Mahoney at 8313 Chapel Lake Ct., Annandale, VA 22003 • [703] 978-3258 • email: suzanne070946@mac.com • Checks should be payable to AAUW Fairfax City Branch.

Reservations must be made by October 29, 2014, and are payable in advance.

Requests for seating must be made at the time of the reservation.

Guests with special dietary requirements must make their requests when making reservations.



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:
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j.joslin3@verizon.net

Secretary: Gale Rogers
gale.rogers@denkifuro.com

Treasurer: Kelly Espy
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Vacant

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Web Manager: Leslie Vandivere
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Branch and Major 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

Bridge: Gale Rogers
gale.rogers@denkifuro.com

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

Movies at Cinema Arts: Gale Rogers
gale.rogers@denkifuro.com



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