

**Fairfax City Branch Annual Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 23, 2015, 6:00–9:00 p.m.**  
**City of Fairfax Regional Library, Meeting Room A**  
**Pizza Party!**  
**Masterfully Marketing Our Branch**  
**With Facilitators Sandy Lawrence and Patsy Quick**

Celebrate our branch! Chat with friends and meet new ones over pizza, beverages, and fruit. The Pizza Party begins at 6:00 p. m. Please RSVP to Olga Burns ([rubato12@aol.com](mailto:rubato12@aol.com), 702-239-2876) by Thursday, April 16. Once again, we’re bribing you with food to entice you to share your ideas about the branch!

At our Visioning workshop, we identified a vision of what the Fairfax City Branch is and what we want it to be. We developed an action plan to achieve this vision. Join Sandy Lawrence and Patsy Quick, AAUW of Virginia Co-Presidents, as they lead branch members in creating marketing ideas to showcase the branch so it will stand out in the crowd. Identify how to make eye-catching posters and interest-provoking program and event descriptors. We’ll also investigate the use of social media to promote our branch.

The annual meeting will include the election of officers. (See the separate article.) A proposed annual budget and bylaws changes will be presented for approval. You’ll have an opportunity to give direction to the board.

You can help women and children who have escaped domestic violence. Do you have unopened hotel toiletries that you picked up on your travels? Bring them to the meeting and donate them to help victims of domestic abuse. Sandy Lawrence takes donations to the George Mason University Women and Gender Studies

Center, where they are very much appreciated. The Center delivers the toiletries to a local women’s shelter for victims of domestic violence. Many of these victims leave home with nothing more than the clothes on their backs.

Come, participate, and have fun at this event. There is ample parking in the library’s parking garage. RSVP to Olga Burns ([rubato12@aol.com](mailto:rubato12@aol.com), 703/239-2876) by Thursday, April 16.

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## Directions: Fairfax Regional Library

### From Route I-66 West:

- From I-66, take the exit for Route 123 South (Chain Bridge Road).
- Continue south on Route 123 just over a mile.
- Turn left onto North Street. Get into left-turn lane.
- Turn left onto University Drive.
- Turn right into the first driveway on the right that leads into the library's parking garage.

### From I-495:

- Take the exit for Route 236 West (Little River Turnpike).
- Continue on Route 236 for 4 ½ miles.
- Merge right onto Old Lee Highway, just after Main Street Marketplace.
- Get into the right lane and turn left onto North Street.
- Turn right onto University Drive.

## Branch Business Meeting

At our April meeting, the Nominating Committee will present its slate of officers for 2015–17:

- President: Gale Rogers
- Vice President for Membership: Joan Dimengo
- Treasurer: Dottie Joslin

In addition, the branch needs a person to fill Gale's term as secretary (one year) and a Public Policy chair to keep us informed of important issues. Two additional good souls are needed for next year's Nominating Committee. Please consider getting more involved in the branch by taking one of these roles.

Also on the agenda are proposed branch bylaws changes, as follows:

- **ARTICLE VIII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS:**  
**Section 2.** All officers shall submit such

reports to the president as may be requested. ~~submit an annual written report to the president.~~

- **ARTICLE XIII. MEETINGS:**  
**Section 3.** The annual meeting shall be to conduct business including but not limited to ~~hearing officers' reports,~~ hearing the President's report, reviewing the budget, electing officers and nominating committee,

## STEMtastics: Inspiring Middle School Girls to Pursue STEM Careers

A capacity crowd of 500 middle school girls and parents filled the NOVA-Annandale Ernst Center auditorium on Saturday, March 21 for the opening of STEMtastics 2015. More than 280 students from 36 schools attended the career day event designed to educate and inspire the students to consider careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Keynote speaker Valerie Bradley, a 2014 Harvard graduate who majored in Statistics, provided advice and inspiration as she described surviving cancer and her motivation to pursue a STEM career. Following opening ceremonies, forty female presenters from across STEM fields ran interactive breakout workshops on twenty-seven careers for the students.



*Registration Check In*

Parents had the opportunity to attend informational workshops on resources, financing options, and supporting their daughters. We know that events such as this can make a difference when parents say, “I wish my daughter had access to resources on a more regular basis regarding women in STEM concentrations and access to mentors!” and “Ensure the word is spread even if girls are not taking technology-related courses in middle school.”



**Dr. Christine Holt of NOVA**

The event was sponsored by the Fairfax City, McLean Area, Springfield-Annandale, and Vienna Area branches of AAUW, in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools and Systemic Solutions. Kudos to co-chairs Suzanne Mahoney and Judy Page, to Charles Britt, a partner from Systemic Solutions, and to the entire planning committee. Caroline Pickens led the effort to recruit and work with the student workshop presenters. Olga Burns headed up recruitment and assignment of volunteers, and Ann Sharp organized refreshments.

A group of more than 60 AAUW volunteers and spouses ensured the event ran smoothly. A photo gallery from the event is available at <http://mclean-va.aauw.net/stemtastics/stemtastics-2015-photo-gallery>.



**Volunteers at Refreshment Table**

## STEMtastics Workshops

STEMtastics presenters come from many fields. The session with a nurse with a doctoral degree was energetic and animated. Never would you believe that the highlight of the session was how to put on sterile gloves and keep them sterile! Desks and doorknobs collect a plethora of germs that show up under the light. Hearing the gurgle of the intestines and the heart made several of the girls smile with pleasure. After the second session I wished I had gone into nursing—especially as a nurse practitioner. About ten years of specialized training is required to become a nurse practitioner. The presenter demonstrated how cool it is to be a nurse and listed all the tasks they accomplish daily. She hinted that in real life physicians don't, in fact, do a number of the procedures dramatized on TV.

The marine biologist gave her group a quick description of all the marine mammal species from baleen whales to sea otters. Whales, dolphins, and seals, oh my! Some of the students were very well informed, and it seemed as though some had already begun pursuing this as a career through reading, films, and other media. Was that a little envy going around the room as the presenter described her five years observing social behavior among orcas in the wild? She also gave the students a clear idea of the preparation they would need for a broad range of careers in marine biology:

research, teaching, writing, film making, art, and her own career in advocacy for animal protection.

## Book and Author 2015

This is just a quick reminder that our Book and Author Lunch is just seven months away. Does that sound like a long way off? Think again. There is work to be done.

It is all the time we need to get out and contact eager contributors to the Silent Auction. We have a list of last year's contributors if you need a hint or if you would like a suggestion of whom to contact. If that is not your pleasure, think about that item of value at the back of a closet that would be someone's treasure in the Silent Auction. We will be limiting the number of items, so make your selection early. Let us know ahead of the luncheon what you want to offer instead of just bringing it the day of the event. Remember Book and Author will be a week earlier this year. So mark your calendar for **October 31**.

## Membership Memo

### Vote Twice!

All members will vote twice this spring: once for the AAUW national ballot and once for the AAUW of Virginia ballot. It is very important for you to participate in both One Member/One Vote initiatives because of quorum requirements. Vote online or by paper ballot.

The AAUW National ballot will include candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors, proposed bylaws amendments, and the 2015–17 Public Policy Priorities. The proposed bylaws amendment, "Eliminate the Degree Requirement for Membership Eligibility," is of particular interest. (See the March *Fairfax Focus*.) Check the Voter Guide on the AAUW website

(<http://www.aauw.org/files/2015/01/2015-AAUW-National-Election-Voter-Guide-nsa.pdf>)

for directions on how to cast your ballot, candidate biographies, and details on the issues. Voter PINs and ballots will be emailed to members on April 1. Members can request paper ballots from April 1 to May 8. Online voting begins April 15.



AAUW of Virginia's ballot will have the candidates for the AAUW of Virginia Board of Directors. Go to [aauw-va.aauw.net/newsletter/](http://aauw-va.aauw.net/newsletter/) for election details and candidate information. Watch your email for voting instructions in late April and early May. Online voting begins April 27. Cast your vote to help reach the 7 percent quorum.

### Are You Going?

One of the best ways to be energized by AAUW's inspiring members and important achievements, while having fun, is to attend the state conference. There's still time to register for the Virginia/West Virginia State Conference in Charlottesville on April 18–19. First time attendees are especially welcomed. Plenty of information is available in the state and branch newsletters.



## Equal Pay Day 2015

Equal Pay Day is the day when women's earnings catch up to men's earnings from the previous year. For 2015, women in general will have earned as much as men did in 2014 on April 14, 2015. Come celebrate or mourn this achievement at an "unhappy hour" at AAUW headquarters, 1111 Sixteenth St. NW (near L

and 16th) in Washington between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. on April 14.

## Federal Lobby Day

The date for Federal Lobby Day has been changed to May 14. Some of you may be interested in being paired with experienced Lobby Corps members and assigned Congressional offices to visit that day to discuss timely legislation. It's too early to know which bills the group will lobby for, but be prepared to be in Washington bright and early.

Please let our Virginia Vice President for Public Policy know by April 23 if you plan to attend. Give her your email address and the name of your Congress member ([ltourigny@gmail.com](mailto:ltourigny@gmail.com)).

## Hunting Ground

George Mason University Department of Women and Gender Studies has scheduled a showing of the film, *Hunting Ground*. This documentary concerns campus sexual violence and will be part of Mason's annual week-long focus on violence and assault in our communities, both on and off campus.

*Hunting Ground* is scheduled to be shown at the Johnson Center Cinema on the campus in Fairfax on Thursday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m.

## The Paycheck Fairness Act of 2015

The idea of equal pay for equal work has been around for decades. In 1963 when the Equal Pay Act was enacted, women earned a reported 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. More than 50 years later, that gap persists, although it may have narrowed to 81 cents. (Statistics on this issue are notoriously hard to calculate fairly.)

The Paycheck Fairness Act of 2015 (H.R. 620) is an attempt to close some of the loopholes in the 1963 law. The Act would require employers to prove that any gender wage discrepancies are the result of legitimate business qualifications rather than gender and would prohibit

employers from retaliating against employees who "raise concerns about gender-based wage discrimination." AAUW supports this bill.

Its sponsors have been trying to get it passed since 2009, and at the time of this writing, it is before the House Ways and Means Committee. Once again, its chances of passage are slim, but keeping the issue on the front burner draws attention to the existing gender wage gap.

## Women on 20s

An ambitious group of women, founded by entrepreneur Barbara Ortiz Howard, is campaigning to change the face on the twenty dollar bill. They would like to replace Andrew Jackson's picture on the twenty with that of a woman as a tribute to the centennial of woman suffrage in 2020.

They started with the names of 100 women who died at least two years ago, a requirement for enshrinement on U.S. currency. Through informal discussion they whittled the number down to 60. That number was halved by a survey that considered the women's impact on society and the difficulty of their task. The final 15 were chosen by a survey of 100 women, including a number of experts in women's history and using the same criteria as the preceding step.

Two additional rounds of voting remain. You can go to [www.womenon20s.org](http://www.womenon20s.org) and vote for three of the candidates in a primary round. The final voting will select the group's recommendation. A petition of 100,000 signatures will enable President Obama to initiate an executive action. The candidates are

Susan B. Anthony  
Clara Barton  
Rachel Carson  
Shirley Chisholm  
Betty Friedan  
Barbara Jordan  
Patsy Mink  
Rosa Parks

Alice Paul  
Frances Perkins  
Eleanor Roosevelt  
Margaret Sanger  
Elizabeth Cady Stanton  
Sojourner Truth  
Harriet Tubman

## Interest Groups

### Afternoon Lit

Wednesday, April 15, at 1 p.m.  
Home of Dottie Joslin  
11110 Del Rio Drive, Fairfax  
703/591-9035 or [j.joslin3@verizon](mailto:j.joslin3@verizon)

Please let Dottie know by Sunday, April 12, if you plan to attend. The group will be discussing *Nine Parts of Desire* by Geraldine Brooks.

### Great Decisions/Salon Discussion Group

Friday, April 10, at 12 noon  
Home of Olga Burns  
10623 Timberidge Road, Fairfax Station  
703/239-2876 or [rubato12@aol.com](mailto:rubato12@aol.com)

Why do some people believe that evolution is not an accurate explanation of the origin of human life? Why do some deny that global warming is occurring, despite the scientific evidence? Why do some parents believe that vaccinations are dangerous? Jan Humphrey will lead a Salon-style discussion on science deniers of several varieties at our April meeting. Her resources consist of a number of books, including *Reality Check: How Science Deniers Threaten Our Future*, by Donald R. Prothero, and recent newspaper articles.

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

### Musical Notes

Tuesday, April 24, at 1 p.m.  
Home of Kay Corbett  
7226 Clifton Road, Clifton  
703/222-6012 or [Kaycorbett1@msn.com](mailto: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 April 24 gets closer. Please let Kay know that you are coming.

### Night Owls

Tuesday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m.  
Home of Suzanne Mahoney  
8313 Chapel Lake Court, Annandale  
703/978-3258 or [suzanne070946@mac.com](mailto:suzanne070946@mac.com)

Light supper will be followed by our discussion of *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Steadman, led by Judy Weltz. Please let Suzanne know if you will be attending.

Upcoming: On May 12 we will discuss *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown.

## Calendar

### Equal Pay Day

April 14

### 2015 AAUW of Virginia Conference

April 18–19  
Charlottesville

### Branch Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 23, 6:00 p.m.  
Pizza Party. Masterfully Marketing our Branch  
City of Fairfax Library, Room A

### AAUW Federal Lobby Day

May 14

### Branch Annual Banquet

Tuesday, May 19, 12 noon  
Springfield Country Club

### AAUW Annual Convention

June 18–21  
San Diego

## 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](http://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](mailto: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:

**Mercedes S. Pfeffer** (H) 703-978-5643  
8704 Queen Elizabeth Blvd. (C) 703-346-2491  
Annandale, VA 22003  
lospfeffers@verizon.net  
B.A. Chemistry/Mathematics, St. Joseph College

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

## Officers:

Co-President: Dianne Blais  
[dianneblais@aol.com](mailto:dianneblais@aol.com)  
Co-President: Vacant  
Program Vice President: Olga Burns  
[rubato12@aol.com](mailto:rubato12@aol.com)  
Membership Vice President:  
Dottie Joslin  
[ijoslin3@verizon.net](mailto:ijoslin3@verizon.net)  
Secretary: Gale Rogers  
[gale.rogers@denkifuro.com](mailto:gale.rogers@denkifuro.com)  
Treasurer: Kelly Espy  
[KellyEspy@aol.com](mailto:KellyEspy@aol.com)  
AAUW Funds and Scholarship:  
Paulette Miller  
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Web Manager: Leslie Vandivere  
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## Branch Event Chairs

Book and Author Luncheon:  
Barbara Klementz  
[brbklm5@verizon.net](mailto:brbklm5@verizon.net)  
Suzanne Mahoney  
[suzanne070946@mac.com](mailto:suzanne070946@mac.com)  
STEMtastics: Suzanne Mahoney  
[suzanne070946@mac.com](mailto:suzanne070946@mac.com)

## Interest Group Chairs

Afternoon Literature: Jean Arnold  
[arnoldjh52@aol.com](mailto:arnoldjh52@aol.com)  
Night Owls: Paulette Miller  
[psmiller10847@verizon.net](mailto:psmiller10847@verizon.net)  
Salon Discussion Group : Kay Corbett  
[kaycorbett1@msn.com](mailto:kaycorbett1@msn.com)  
Musical Notes: Olga Burns  
[rubato12@aol.com](mailto:rubato12@aol.com)



**Penny C. Welke**

**ATTORNEY AT LAW**

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Centreville, VA 20120