

Our Troubled Waters
Speaker: Claudia Friedetzky
Saturday, February 21, 10 a.m.
Braddock Supervisor’s Office, Kings Park Library

Water is our most precious resource, and we take it for granted that when we turn on the tap, it's always going to be there. In places such as California; however, supplies are running dangerously low. The old struggle between the cowhands and the farmers is being updated to the suburbs with their golf courses and the commercial farms that supply all of us with our food.

What role is climate change having in accelerating the shortages that are forecast around the globe? And what about our own water supplies, both with regard to purity and supply? If, as proposed, fracking is permitted in the George Washington National Forest, what risk will that bring?

Our guest, Claudia Friedetzky, a climate activist with the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club, is well qualified to inform us about the effects of climate on our waterways, as well as global water shortages. Claudia is a senior fellow in the



Environmental Leadership program and Public Policy Fellowship program at the Center for Women in Government.

This is a joint meeting with the Springfield-Annandale branch. The Braddock Supervisor’s Office is located at the back of the Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke, near the intersection with Rolling Road.

Directions:

- From Braddock Road: Turn south on Burke Lake Road. Go one block. Kings Park Library will be on your right.
- From Fairfax County Parkway: Turn north on Burke Lake Road. Kings Park Library will be on your left, just past Lake Braddock Secondary School.

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Vision to Reality **A Special Branch Workshop**

Saturday, February 28, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Home of Dianne Blais
5211 Gunpowder Rd., Fairfax 22030

What does the AAUW Fairfax City Branch mean to you? Is it all you would like it to be? How can we make it a stronger, more visible branch with satisfied members who are working together to achieve the goals we set for ourselves?

Come to a special branch workshop, *Vision to Reality*, facilitated by Caroline Pickens and Jeanne Elmore, our dedicated Northern Virginia District Co-Chairs. It will be held on Saturday, February 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Dianne Blais's home.

AAUW is about empowering women and girls. That mission encompasses many topics including STEM, education funding, public policy, legal support, campus outreach, sexual assault, and more. As a branch we cannot do it all. But we can determine which topics inspire our members. What is our niche? What steps will help us achieve our vision? See the following article "Why Join AAUW?" for a statement of some of the specific things AAUW does in support of its mission.

Come to share ideas and have lunch, which will be provided. We want your thoughts: long-time members and new members, deeply involved members and those who seldom attend. Your input is valuable. We want to hear from everyone.

Please RSVP by February 21 to Gale Rogers (gale.rogers@denkifuro.com). We need an accurate count for the lunch order. Our current plan is to have sandwich platters from Wegman's. These includes three types of wraps, one of them a vegetarian choice. Wine will be available. Join us for the fun!

If you are unable to attend, email your thoughts to Gale.

Inclement weather: If activities at Fairfax County Public Schools are canceled due to inclement weather on February 28, the Visioning meeting will be canceled or rescheduled (see www.fcps.edu/news/emerg.shtml).



Why Join AAUW?

For many members one important reason for joining AAUW is to support its mission. AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. An acronym to help remember the AAUW Mission is *REAP*. Below are descriptors to help understand the mission.

Research. AAUW conducts groundbreaking research on issues related to gender equity in education and the workplace: *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap* (2014); *Women in Community Colleges: Access to Success* (2013); *Graduating to a Pay Gap: The Earnings of Women and Men One Year after College Graduation* (2012); *Crossing the Line; Sexual Harassment at School* (2011); *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics* (2010).

Education. AAUW is known for its campus leadership programs and work promoting STEM education for women and girls.

Advocacy. AAUW's policy work connects and rallies advocates at the local, state, national,

and global levels to advance our work to empower women and girls. AAUW uses lobbying and grassroots efforts to promote policies that break through educational and economic barriers for women. (Examples: STEM education, equal pay, and violence against women).

Philanthropy. AAUW is one of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women. AAUW is providing more than \$3.7 million in funding for more than 244 fellowships and grants to outstanding women and nonprofit organizations in the 2014–15 academic year.

We'll keep AAUW's mission in mind as we develop our vision for the Fairfax City branch on February 28.

Book & Author Update

Plans are proceeding for the 2015 event at the Country Club of Fairfax even as we finalize the figures for 2014. We expect to give you the scoop next month when all bills and credits are in order. Meanwhile, make sure October 31 is on your calendar **in ink** for our 24th book and author event! Please note that this is a week earlier than usual.

STEMtastics: Inspiring Middle School Girls to Study Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

STEMtastics introduces middle school students to women professionals working in science, technology, engineering, or math. In a series of three workshops, these women conduct hands-on sessions with the girls. Concurrently, parents attend informational workshops on financial, community, and school resources.

This year STEMtastics will be held the morning of March 21 at the Annandale campus of the Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). The Fairfax City, McLean Area, Springfield-

Annandale, and Vienna branches are partnering with Systemic Solutions of NOVA Annandale in hosting the event and with Fairfax County Public Schools in providing access to middle schools and school counselors.

STEMtastics preparations are in full swing. The registration web site is open at <http://mclean-va.aauw.net/stemtastics/>. We will soon send out a postcard mailer to the parents of girls at 13 FCPS middle schools. We have more than 20 student workshop presenters lined up, along with a full slate of parent workshop presenters. The keynote speaker, Pooja Chandrashekar, a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, promotes computer science for girls through her own nonprofit, ProjectCSGIRLS.



Members from all four branches will be needed on March 21 for various tasks and at different times. We will assign volunteers to each workshop to attend to any needs the presenter might have. If you can stay for the morning, this would be an interesting activity. Other jobs involve checking the girls in, guiding presenters to their classrooms, helping with refreshments, and being an usher in the auditorium. If you can stay for the whole morning, that would be great. You'll be rewarded with a nice box lunch. If you can only stay for a few hours, that's okay, too. So please let us know your availability. Please call Olga Burns to volunteer or get answers to your questions (703/239-2876).

Anne Sharp will need two volunteers to shop at Costco with her to get the juice and snacks. This will mean delivering them to the college by

7:30–7:45 on Saturday. For most other jobs you will need to arrive by 8:00. If you can't come until 9:00, you could sit in on the student workshops. We need to know if you can stay for lunch.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee is pleased to submit the following slate of officers for the 2015–17 term:

President: Gale Rogers

Vice President for Membership: Joan Dimengo

Treasurer: Dottie Joslin

Because Gale's term as secretary is ended early by her accepting another office, the board will appoint one of its members to serve in this capacity. Gale would much appreciate some help in the duties of the presidency. We are still waiting for that person to step forward. Is it you? Give it some serious consideration.

Meet Kitty Lou Smith

Kitty Lou Smith has been involved in science education for more than 30 years as a teacher of elementary and middle school science and physics and a curriculum developer in New York, Maryland, Singapore, and Virginia. During her years at the Smithsonian Science and Education Center, she served as director of the nationwide middle school science project, Science and Technology for Middle Schools.

Dr. Smith holds a degree in administration and supervision from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University with a research specialization in minority achievement. She has presented workshops and papers to various professional educational research organizations and to local groups of educators and science specialists across the country.

As an active retiree, she continues to consult on education projects for the Smithsonian Institution, works for the Fairfax County Teacher Collaborative Program, conducts



structured field trips on global warming and aging at the Koshland Science Museum, and volunteers as an ombudsman at a local long-term health care facility. Her other interests include reading, theatre, current events, opera, travel, and friends, along with her family.

With an avid interest in women's issues, Dr. Smith first joined AAUW in the 1970s (once the University of Virginia opened its doors to all Virginia female residents) in Albany, New York. Two years ago year her interest in the group was rekindled when she met "two AAUW dynamos" (Dianne Blais and Sandy Lawrence) in the Kings Park Library Great Decisions Group.

Meet Carolyn Dietrich

Belonging to AAUW was an important part of my life many years ago, and I look forward to belonging once again. Although I joined AAUW in Arkansas and Illinois, it was as a member in Virginia that I served as Membership Vice President, Fellowships Chairman, and state of Virginia board member for Fellowships. I earned my degree from the University of Colorado, where I majored in journalism with a minor in partying! Journalism was the ideal degree for me by default: there was no math requirement.

I have lived in 12 states and two foreign countries: Panama once and Germany twice. Looking back, my most enjoyable work experience was as a secretary for judge advocate lawyers in Heidelberg when the U.S. was still an occupying power. It was a marvelous time for a young woman to learn and travel throughout Europe. I first met my husband Dean in Heidelberg where he drove a flashy and most impressive MG convertible. I was widowed seven years ago, and I have two delightful children, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. I retired in 2010 after working as a realtor for 31 years.

A friend told me I was “chronologically gifted,” having just completed my first 86 years. I hope to meet and share another AAUW experience with all of you.

Holiday Party

Multiple simultaneous conversations dominated the branch holiday party on December 13. Topics ranged from national policy to branch activities to holiday plans. No



Gale Rogers and Diana Delano

differences of opinion were resolved by anyone, and no consensus was reached on issues of any importance. If you weren't there, you may have been talked about, but not necessarily.



Joan and Dennis Dimengo

Many thanks to Gale Rogers who did a fantastic job of organizing the meal and producing parts of it and to her sister Susan Gaughan, whose home with two elegantly decorated trees provided a perfect setting for us. Susan's home allowed small groups to gather in several areas to chat, laugh, and simply enjoy each other's company. It was a delightful way to spend the afternoon and celebrate friendships.



Suzanne and Rob Mahoney

Snapshot of Human Trafficking

The definition of human trafficking includes coercing victims to perform sex acts or labor against their will. It is a modern adaptation of slavery. Although the majority of all trafficking occurs in Asia and Latin America, 161 countries are involved. More than 14,500 individuals are trafficked into the US each year, and victims are

US citizens in 41 percent of sex trafficking cases and 20 percent of labor trafficking cases. Women are the majority of victims in both types of trafficking.

The Polaris Project tracks individual state's efforts to enact laws to combat trafficking and assist its victims. Although Virginia ranks in the top group of states with good anti-trafficking laws, it is among those with the least legal protection for victims. Victims need safeguards to prevent them from being treated as criminals, specialized recovery services, and assistance in preparing for their future. There is work to be done.

[Source: AAUW *Quick Facts: Human Trafficking*, January 2015.]

Membership Memo: Savings for New and Lapsed Members

Bring a guest to our February 21 joint meeting and share your enthusiasm for AAUW! New-to-AAUW and lapsed members can join the Fairfax City Branch **at the meeting** by paying half-year *Shape the Future* dues of \$28.75 for membership through June 30, 2015. (A lapsed member has not been an AAUW member for two or more years.) Regular half-year branch dues are \$41. Please refer prospective members to Dottie Joslin (j.joslin3@verizon.net; 703/591-9035).

Bring your questions and concerns about membership to our February 28 branch visioning meeting. We can benefit from hearing all voices. What can we do to attract more members? How aggressively should we work to increase our membership? How can we make our branch more appealing to younger women?

AAUW of Virginia State Lobby Day

On February 4, 2015, a cadre of AAUW of Virginia members is headed to Richmond—and we're going to make an impact! We'll be carrying with us the signed petition that we all

have been collecting signatures on since October asking our lawmakers to pass additional measures to provide assistance to survivors of human trafficking, especially sexually exploited minors. At the time we are going to print, we don't have the final figures on how many signatures we have collected, but we are optimistic that we will meet our goal of 1,000 signatures. Stay tuned for the final count, and thanks to everyone for collecting signatures.

Lobby Day activities will start at 8:30 a.m. when we attend the League of Women Voters of Virginia's Legislative Roundtable. We will then meet with the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker's Chief of Staff. All will receive copies of our signed petition and hear about our other legislative priorities. Our group will then fan out so each of us can visit our respective senators and delegates. Following this, we will split into two groups—one going into the Senate Gallery and the other into the House Gallery, where we will be introduced.

General Assembly Session and Call-In Day

Keep posted on what's happening during the current session of the state General Assembly. Watch for legislative updates from AAUW of Virginia Vice President for Public Policy Leslie Tourigny to see how you can help promote our legislative priorities. Important issues before the legislature include reproductive health and the ERA.

AAUW of Virginia has tentatively scheduled February 18 as General Assembly Call-In Day. Depending on what bills are under consideration at that time, we will ask you to make calls to your legislators. So, please write the February 18th Call-In Day on your calendars—in pencil—and be on the lookout for confirmation as the date approaches.

Calling in will take less than 10 minutes of your time. It will involve two telephone calls—one to your state delegate’s office, and the other to your state senator’s office, to let them know how you’d like them to vote on certain bills. After that, there will be a short online feedback form to complete. That’s all there is to it. Not time-consuming, but very effective.

You can follow the action in the legislature on the website <http://viriniageneralassembly.gov/>.

New STEM Report Due Soon

A new AAUW research report, *Solving the Equation: Women in Engineering and Computing*, will be published in the coming months. It will discuss the factors that contribute to the persistent underrepresentation of women in computing and engineering and suggest what can be done to help even the balance.

He Made a Difference

John Baer, who spoke to our branch in January 2014, died in December. He gave an inspiring presentation about his life in Germany before 1940, when his family was finally able to leave for England, and from there, came to the United States. After a career with the government and a retirement job as a consultant, he devoted the rest of his life to his major interests: music and helping others. We were honored to hear his life story.

The Persian Perspective



Members and their guests were treated to a fascinating presentation about Iran by Johnnie Hicks at the January branch meeting. Hicks lived



in Iran for a number of years in the 1960s and 1970s when it was ruled by the Shah. Her presentation was remarkable for its careful summary of a colorful history and rich cultural heritage of a unique people. The Ancient

Persian Empire began in 549 BCE with the rule of Cyrus the Great. Zoroastrianism was the predominant spiritual way of life, and its influence is still felt today. Much of Iranian culture had origins in the Persian Empire: an Aryan (non-Arab) lineage, Farsi language, poetry, bazaars, food, carpets, painting, and gardens.



In 1979, the Shah’s monarchy was overthrown and replaced by the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is ruled by the Ayatollahs of Shi’a Islam. The country’s current population is about 80 million, more than two-thirds of whom are under age 30. About half claim descent from Persians; other Iranians are Kurds, Azeris, Baluchis, Turkmen, Armenians, and Arabs, and a small number are Jews.

Women have played a role in Iran’s history beginning with Queen Esther in the Persian

Empire. Today's star is attorney and human rights activist Shirin Ebadi, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003. Hicks emphasized that women's power is more often evident in the privacy of the home where they carry the honor of the family. When women seek to exert their influence in the public realm, they become a threat to the regime.



Among the guests at the meeting were members of the Forum of Iranian University Women at George Mason. Fariba Parsa said

that about 60,000 Iranian women are students at U.S. universities. The group's interest is not limited to women's rights, but emphasizes the rights of all humans. Nasrin Afzali is working on the campaign for One Million Signatures for the Repeal of Discriminatory Laws. (See tavaana.org/en/content/one-million-signatures-battle-gender-equality-iran.)



Interest Groups

Afternoon Lit

Wednesday, February 18, at 1 p.m.
Home of Sonja Hancke
10328 Sager Avenue, #222, Fairfax City
703/277-2804 or shanckel@verizon.net

Please let Sonja know by Sunday, February 15, if you plan to attend. The group will be discussing *Clara and Mr. Tiffany*, by Susan Vreeland.

Great Decisions Salon Discussion Group

Friday, February 13, at 12 noon
Home of Gale Rogers
6010 Deep Lake Way, Burke
703/938-0520 or gale.rogers@denkifuro.com

The Great Decisions and Salon Discussion Group decided in January to continue the Great Decisions from the Foreign Policy Association for 2015. Our February meeting will be the first topic in the Great Decisions briefing book. Gale Rogers will lead the discussion on *Russia and the Near Abroad*. Please buy the briefing book so you can read the material for discussion. We will also discuss the accompanying DVD at the meeting.

During our January meeting we also decided to insert domestic discussions in some of the monthly meetings. This will give us an opportunity to explore some domestic topics, too.

Please let Gale know if you will be coming to the meeting. Bring a light lunch. The hostess will provide drinks and dessert.

Musical Notes

Friday, February 27, at 1 p.m.
Home of Olga Burns
10623 Timberidge Road, Fairfax Station
703/239-2876 or rubato12@aol.com

We will view the second half of Verdi's *Luisa Miller*. Please let Olga know if you plan to attend or if you need directions. Guests are always welcome.

Night Owls

Tuesday, February 19, at 6:30 p.m.
Home of Joan Dimengo
13536 Heathrow Lane, Centreville
703/815-1586 or jdimengo@gmail.com

Light supper will be followed by our discussion of *Canada* by Richard Ford, led by Gale Rogers. Please let Joan know if you will be attending.

Upcoming: On March 10 we will discuss *The Burgess Boys*, by Elizabeth Strout.

Calendar

AAUW of Virginia Lobby Day

Wednesday, February 4

General Assembly Call-In Day

Wednesday, February 18

Joint Branch Meeting

Fairfax City/Springfield-Annandale

Saturday, February 21, 10 a.m.

Our Troubled Waters

Kings Park Library

Branch Visioning Meeting

Saturday, February 28, 10–3

Home of Dianne Blais

STEMtastics: Inspiring Middle School Girls to Pursue STEM Careers

Saturday, March 21, 8 to noon

NOVA Annandale Campus

2015 AAUW of Virginia Conference

April 18–19

Charlottesville

Equal Pay Day

April 14

AAUW Federal Lobby Day

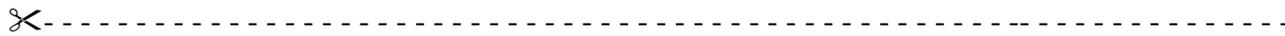
May 10

Membership Directory Update

New Members:

Trudy Harsh
 14375 Jarnigan St.
 Centreville, VA 20120
 (H) 703-830-8852
trudy.harsh@cox.net
 B.A. Gettysburg College

Anita Light
 10467 Courtney Dr.
 Fairfax, VA 22030
 571-221-3328
anita.light95@gmail.com
 B.A. Longwood U.
 M.S. Virginia Tech



**AAUW—FAIRFAX CITY BRANCH
 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Half-Year Membership for New or Lapsed Members

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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

E-Mail: _____

Degree: _____ College: _____ Field: _____

Degree: _____ College: _____ Field: _____

Optional: Name of spouse or significant other _____

DUES: \$41

For new or lapsed AAUW members only, half-year membership dues, **\$41** (\$24.50 national, \$7.50 state, \$9 branch) for membership through June 30, 2015 will be in effect for dues paid from January 1 through March 15. Note: \$23 of the national dues is tax deductible.

For new or lapsed AAUW members who *join at our February 21 branch meeting*, half-year dues combined with AAUW’s Shape the Future discount further reduce the dues.

Name of member who introduced you to AAUW _____

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

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

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dianneblais@aol.com

Co-President: Vacant

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rubato12@aol.com

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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



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