

STEMtastics
Inspiring Middle School Girls to Pursue STEM Careers
Saturday, March 21, 8:15–12
Northern Virginia Community College
Annandale Campus

STEMtastics introduces middle school girls to women professionals working in science, technology, engineering, and math. During the course of a Saturday morning, these women conduct up to three hands-on workshops with the girls. Concurrently, parents attend informational workshops on financial, community, and school resources.

STEMtastics 2015 will be held on 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 to host the event and with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) for access to middle school girls and school counselors.



The Ernst Center on the NOVA campus will serve as the headquarters for STEMtastics. Student check-in will take place in the Atrium, while morning refreshments will be provided in

the second level Forum. The keynote speech for everyone and parent workshops will take place in the Ernst Center’s Harris Theatre. The student workshops will be held in two of the academic buildings on campus. A post-event box lunch in the Forum will give presenters and volunteers the opportunity to relax and socialize.

If you know a middle school girl or parent, encourage them to check out the STEMtastics website at <http://mclean-va.aauw.net/stemtastics/>. In addition to registration information it has links to NOVA Annandale maps, a page of frequently asked questions, a list of some STEM careers; pictures from STEMtastics 2014, and a testimonial video from a STEMtastics 2014 attendee.

The STEMtastics planning committee has lined up 27 student workshops divided into four categories: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. We ask the presenters to engage the

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girls in a hands-on activity as well as talk with them about their education and work. When registering, the girls indicate their preferences among the four workshop categories. These are reflected in the schedule each girl is handed when arriving at STEMtastics. At the end of each workshop we ask the girls to rate the presenter and indicate whether she increased their interest in STEM. After the final workshop each girl will receive a green and blue water bottle proclaiming STEMtastics 2015.



For parents, in addition to workshops about FCPS school resources and financial aid, we have put together a panel of current high school and college students and a workshop on how parents can support their daughters in their pursuit of STEM studies. And for the first time we will distribute and collect parent workshop evaluations.

Each student workshop will be assisted by a volunteer. In addition to providing general assistance and distributing souvenir water bottles in exchange for student evaluations, the workshop volunteer will report on the topics covered by the presenter and the nature of the hands-on activity. These workshop volunteer reports will help us better understand what works in engaging the girls as well as provide examples of successful activities to future presenters. These volunteer reports along with evaluations gathered from students and their parents will be used to improve future

STEMtastic workshops. If you have not yet volunteered, please contact Olga Burns. In addition to student workshop volunteers, volunteer tasks include helping with student check-in and handing out schedules, ushering in the theatre, and helping with morning snacks. We also need volunteers to act as guides as the girls move between workshops and to and from the Ernst Center. If you can help out only for a few hours, come early (7:30) and help set up. If you can stay for the morning, ask to be a student workshop assistant or guide.

We are looking forward to a successful STEMtastics 2015.

Editor's note: We're looking for a few people to write up brief pieces about their experiences at STEMtastics for the April *Focus*. Please contact Jan Humphrey (dandjumph@aol.com) if you can do this, or she may call on you!

Book and Author Proceeds

November's fundraiser, our Book & Author Luncheon netted a whopping \$3,899.63. Of this amount, \$2,341 came from the silent auction. We will have \$6,229.64 available for the Beverly Anderson scholarships this spring. Congratulations to all who brought friends, bought books, bid on silent auction items, and spread the word about the event.

Membership Memo

The February 1 Count: 51 members (8 new)

AAUW takes the official count of branch membership on February 1 each year. Fairfax City Branch's membership has been quite stable, with 50 members in 2014 and 54 in 2011. Every fall we lose some members when they move or don't renew for other reasons. As eight members joined the branch since September, we had 51 members on February 1. The new members are Carolyn Dietrich, Silvia Fenton, Trudy Harsh, Anita Light, Trish Martell, Kitty Lou Smith, Mikki Terry, and Valerie

Thompson. We are delighted to welcome them to the branch. Several joined because they already knew a branch member. Spread the word about AAUW, and we'll attract more members.

Should AAUW Have Open Membership?: The AAUW National Election

Until ten years ago AAUW members were required to hold a bachelor's degree. Changing the membership requirement was hotly debated at the 2005 National Convention, before the delegates voted to require only an associate's degree. At the 1987 Convention delegates voted to approve the controversial issue of allowing men to join. This spring there is a bylaws proposal titled "Eliminate the Degree Requirement for Membership Eligibility." Now, *you* can vote! Since AAUW instituted the procedure named One Member, One Vote, you don't have to be a delegate to the National Convention to register your opinion.



In mid-March look for the Spring/Summer *AAUW Outlook* magazine in the mail. Then read and save it! Your Voter PIN for the 2015 AAUW National Election will be printed on the label. The final slate of candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors, the bylaws proposal, and Public Policy Program resolutions will be published in this issue. Read the rationale for and wording of the proposed bylaws amendment and assess the other ballot issues in the *Spring/Summer Outlook* or check the 2015 AAUW National Election Voter Guide on the AAUW website (www.aauw.org).

Consider the membership eligibility issue, and discuss it with other members. Voting will begin on April 15 and close on June 19. Vote online or request a paper ballot after you receive the *Outlook* or AAUW's email with election instructions. Let's strive for high participation by Fairfax City Branch members.

Prospective Members Get a Break

Do you know someone who might join the branch? After March 15, annual dues will provide membership for up to 15 months, as new memberships will expire on June 30, 2016. Similarly, this is an opportune time for Members-at-Large (National Members) to transfer to the branch. New members (not transfers or renewals) who join at a branch meeting or STEMtastics are eligible for AAUW's discount of 50% off the national portion of dues. This savings of \$24.50 reduces branch dues from \$82 to \$57.50. Invite someone to join!

Meet Mikki Terry

Michelle (Mikki) Terry is a native of California who has traveled extensively in the Far East. The mother of two daughters and widow of a Marine Corps lawyer, she admits to being a bit of a news junkie. She graduated from Long Beach State College with a degree in English and began teaching in a local high school. When her husband's wounds from Viet Nam led him to law school in Georgia, she became the first white teacher in a formerly all black school in a district that had fought desegregation. The differences in the teaching experience between California and Georgia were profound. Mikki taught or served as an administrator in a variety of settings, including the Philippines, Okinawa, Hawaii, and Alexandria. She retired from a large education association where she had responsibility for developing and sustaining quality educational programs. She divides her time between homes in Annandale and southern Maryland and has grandchildren in

Boston and Fayetteville, North Carolina. She has a master's degree in counseling from the University of Virginia and a doctoral degree in administration from George Washington University.

State AAUW Conference

Give some thought to attending the state AAUW conference as a representative of our branch. We should have at least one carload going to Charlottesville. The experience will give you a chance to see what other branches are doing and how they are dealing with some of the same problems our branch faces. You'll meet new people with whom you already have a lot in common and get a hefty dose of energy for the spirit and work of AAUW.



The AAUW of VA Conference, slated for April 18 and 19 in Charlottesville, is getting closer, and the March 27 deadline to get the discounted registration rate is just ahead. The conference will focus on our state priorities and issues that are relevant to women and girls.

Geoffrey Skelley, media relations coordinator for the University of Virginia Center for Politics and associate editor of *Sabato's Crystal Ball*, which is the Center's nonpartisan newsletter on American campaigns and elections, will discuss the implications of the 2014 elections: what he sees as our political priorities leading to the 2016 elections and how this will shape our national and state priorities.

Human trafficking exists in Virginia, and Lara Powers, of Polaris's National Human Trafficking Resource Center, will address this issue. As a

Regional Specialist for the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States, she oversees and manages the anti-trafficking responses to calls originating in Virginia and neighboring states.

Campus sexual assault is another hot topic at the conference. Mary Ann Sprouse, Director of George Mason University's Wellness, Alcohol, and Violence Education and Services, along with JoAnn Bautti, Assistant Director, Old Dominion University Women's Center, will speak on strategies to prevent this crime, which is receiving national attention.

The conference is a great opportunity to get up to speed on AAUW. Suzanne Gould, AAUW Archivist will discuss our rich history and significant milestones. Linda Hallman, AAUW Executive Director, will answer your questions on AAUW's impact. In another session she will discuss the organization's future.

Leisure activities during the conference include the Ash Lawn-Highland tour of James Monroe's home. You will help us build a cake with your wishes for AAUW. Actually, there isn't enough space to list all the fun events so you just have to come and see for yourself.

Don't forget to buy your copy of *The History of AAUW of Virginia* for only \$10. Author Neola Waller will accept cash and checks.

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate AAUW of VA's 90th anniversary. Get all the information you need at <http://aauw-va.aauw.net/>.

See you in Charlottesville!

Build a Cake

We are proud to be celebrating 90 years of AAUW of Virginia! What do you wish for AAUW in the next 90 years? Is there a specific issue that concerns you? Do you hope particular legislation passes? Is there a change that you hope happens? Do you want to see more of something or to see something continue? Is

there something you are proud of that you wish to draw attention to?

We will “build a cake” with your wishes at the conference. There are three ways to participate:

- Write down your wish at the conference in Charlottesville at the birthday table.
- Send a wish early by email by April 13 to pnquick@cox.net, or sandyaauw@juno.com.
- Email an ad with a birthday wish from you or your branch to srogers1nm@aol.com by April 10. An ad costs \$100 for a full page; \$50, half page; and \$25, quarter page. Ads must be black and white camera ready! Pay by check payable to AAUW Virginia Northwest District mailed by February 27 to Sylvia Rogers, 2353 Massanetta Springs Road in Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801.

See the cake at the conference!



Spring Fling

Springfield/Annandale branch AAUW is having its 13th annual Spring Fling on Saturday, March 14 at 11 a.m. at the Country Club of Fairfax. This is their major fundraiser of the year, which supports national AAUW projects. In addition to enjoying a lunch of chicken or pasta, you can snap up treasures at a silent auction and hear guest speaker Petula Dvorak, *Washington Post* columnist. Tickets are \$40. The deadline for reservations is March 9. Contact Rose Clark at springfling@rclark.net.

Firearms: Reducing the Risk in Fairfax County

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is sponsoring a public forum on Sunday, March 22, from 2 to 3:30, at the Pohick Regional Library, Burke, as an outgrowth of their studies on firearms risk and safety. Presenters will show how county agencies and law enforcement cooperate to identify people at risk of victimization and work to reduce that risk.

Interest Groups

Afternoon Lit

Wednesday, March 18, at 1 p.m.
Home of Jean Golightly
10701 Howerton Avenue, Fairfax
703/591-9363 or jeancgo@aol.com

Please let Jean know by Sunday, March 15, if you plan to attend. As agreed, we will be discussing *Clara and Mr. Tiffany* by Susan Vreeland.

Great Decisions Salon Discussion Group

Friday, March 13, at 12 noon
Home of Diana DeLano
4277 Wiltshire Place, Dumfries
703/730-3963 or gdk125@verizon.net

The Great Decisions and Salon Discussion Group will continue Great Decisions from the Foreign Policy Association, 2015 edition. Our March meeting will cover two topics in the Great Decisions briefing book, "Privacy in the Digital Age" and "Human Trafficking." We will also discuss the accompanying DVD at the meeting.

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

Musical Notes

The March program and location are yet to be determined as we put the finishing touches on this issue. Contact Olga Burns for details as March 27 gets closer.

Night Owls

Tuesday, March 10, at 6:30 p.m.
Home of Ida Portland
10810 Glen Mist Lane, Fairfax
703/352-0125 or idadport@verizon.net

Light supper will be followed by our discussion of *The Burgess Boys* by Elizabeth Strout, led by Jan Humphrey. Please let Ida know if you will be attending.

Upcoming: On April 14 we will discuss *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman.

Calendar

STEMtastics: Inspiring Middle School Girls to Pursue STEM Careers

Saturday, March 21, 8 to noon
NOVA Annandale Campus

Branch Visioning Meeting

Saturday, March 28, 10–3
Home of Dianne Blais

2015 AAUW of Virginia Conference

April 18–19
Charlottesville

Branch Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 23)

Equal Pay Day

April 14

AAUW Federal Lobby Day

May 10

Branch Annual Banquet

Tuesday, May 19, 12 noon
Springfield Country Club

AAUW Annual Convention

June 18–21
San Diego

**AAUW—FAIRFAX CITY BRANCH
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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.

Dues submitted after March 15 will provide membership through June 30, 2016.

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.

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

If transferring from national membership or another branch, contact Dottie Joslin (jjoslin3@verizon.net; 703-591-9035) for the dues amount.

AAUW ID #, if known: _____

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



**AAUW National
Convention**

June 18–21, 2015
San Diego

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
j.joslin3@verizon.net
Secretary: Gale Rogers
gale.rogers@denkifuro.com
Treasurer: Kelly Espy
KellyEspy@aol.com
AAUW Funds and Scholarship:
Paulette Miller
psmiller10847@verizon.net
Communication: Leslie Vandivere
lvandivere@cox.net
Newsletter Editor: Jan Humphrey
dandjhumph@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
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

Crickenberger & Welke
Fairfax Commons, Suite 71B
3921 Old Lee Highway
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Area Code: 703
Telephone: 691-8900
Fax: 691-1088
Residence: 323-7313



FAIRFAX CITY
(VA) BRANCH

13825 Baywood Ct.
Centreville, VA 20120