

Nourishing Complete Intelligence
Professor Robert I. Matz
Saturday, September 12, at 10 a.m.
Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road

We hear a great deal about the need for our students to pursue careers in the STEM fields, where the jobs of the future will be. Our own association promotes girls' pursuits of these careers with career days and other activities that we sponsor.

These activities mark a move away from broad-based learning, according to some, putting America on a dangerously narrow path for the future. A broad education helps foster critical thinking and creativity, which has enabled us to lead the world in economic dynamism, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

As Steve Jobs once said, "It's in Apple's DNA that technology alone is not enough—that it's technology married with liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yields us the results that makes our heart sing." A survey of 100 business leaders found that 84 of them would rather hire smart, passionate people even if they don't have the exact skills their companies need.

Our speaker is Dr. Robert I. Matz, professor of English and associate dean for curriculum and technology in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at George Mason University.

Burke Centre Library is located directly off the Fairfax County Parkway between Roberts Road and Route 123.

Our speaker's topic, an opinion shared by many others, is gaining a foothold and challenges the

rationale behind AAUW's STEM activities. Learn about this line of thinking and help get our year off to an enthusiastic start. Your program chair, Olga Burns, encourages you to attend what will be a most interesting discussion. To engage a speaker from GMU, she had to guarantee an audience of at least 22 people. Bring a friend or a family member whose child is embarking on this critical step in life.

Just a thought

Save the *Focus* to your desktop each month so you can find it instantly!

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The Latest from the President

I am really excited about my upcoming two years as president of AAUW of Fairfax City. It is a privilege to be working with such a great branch of interested, committed people focused on the mission of the AAUW and the exciting ways we support that mission. It is going to be such **fun!**

I was really energized by the Summer Leaders Conference in July. It reminded me that so many branches of AAUW face the same challenges. We are not alone in needing new blood in leadership positions, as well as more participation from our members. It also reminded me why I got excited about AAUW in the first place: we have a fabulous mission, and we have great people who make a day working together such a pleasure with laughter and intelligent compassion.

Please consider spending a little more time with us in AAUW Fairfax City. I promise you, it will be rewarding and such fun to work together!

Gale Rogers
President

Free National Memberships

Each year AAUW provides branches with a free national membership for every two new members who join through the Shape the Future (STF) Membership Campaign. In 2014–15 the Fairfax City branch earned three STF free memberships. Two were awarded in May: one to Leslie Vandivere for her long service to AAUW and one to Penny Welke Crickenberger, who won the raffle at the banquet to raise money for AAUW Funds.

We are pleased to award our branch's third free national membership to Sonja Palomaki. Since joining the Fairfax City branch in 1984, Sonja has been an active member. She has been president, membership vice president,

treasurer, newsletter editor, gourmet club chair (years ago) and Silent Auction chair. In the 1980s, while she was in charge of membership, the branch attained about 73 members. Former member Flo Hales and Sonja initiated the first Book and Author event, our scholarship fundraiser. Sonja often volunteers at our other major branch event, our career initiative for middle school girls. Her abilities as hostess and decorator are put to good use at the holiday parties and pool parties. Of the several interest groups in which she has participated, Night Owls is a favorite. We enjoy her cheery disposition and outgoing friendliness.



Sonja's volunteering is not limited to AAUW. She also serves on the board of GMU Friends of the Center for the Arts. Thanks, Sonja, for all you do for the Fairfax City branch and for the community!

STEMtastics 2016

Save the date: STEMtastics 2016 will be held at NOVA Annandale on Saturday, March 12, 2016.

STEMtastics 2015 was a success, thanks to the efforts of ten dedicated planning committee members and an army of event-day volunteers. The committee not only worked hard to make STEMtastics a success, but also documented the tasks involved. A written post-mortem details what worked well and what needed improvement. Any incoming planning committee member benefits from the experience of other committee members, contacts developed for previous years' events, and from detailed documentation.

We are looking for two volunteers to become members of the STEMtastics planning

committee. High level descriptions of each one's tasks are below.

Volunteer Coordinator: We need someone to coordinate the volunteers. The coordinator is expected to work closely with other members of the STEMtastics planning committee to

1. Assemble a list of task descriptions
2. Recruit volunteers from each branch
3. Assign volunteers to tasks given their preferences
4. Run a volunteer table at STEMtastics

While the task descriptions can be developed at any time, the bulk of the work takes place after January 1. Also, there is much material already available to build on. Furthermore, the supervision of volunteers on the day of the event is handled by other volunteers. For example, the volunteer coordinator would provide several volunteers to work the parent workshops, but the parent workshop coordinator would actually supervise them.

Parent Workshop Coordinator: This volunteer works closely with the STEMtastics planning committee to run the parent workshops. The tasks include the following:

1. Recruit parent workshop presenters and set the program
2. Recruit an MC for the parent workshops
3. Develop an evaluation form
4. Coordinate with NOVA contact on audio-visual setup and delivery of presentations
5. Supervise volunteers and work with presenters at STEMtastics

Half of the parent workshop presenters are more or less automatic (e.g. FCPS counselors). While the parent workshop coordinator for STEMtastics 2015 is leaving the committee, she will provide assistance in recruiting presenters.

Please contact me if you want to join the STEMtastics planning committee. The committee is composed of competent, friendly

women who coordinate well and get the job done in a timely fashion.

Suzanne Mahoney (suzanne070946@mac.com)

How Will This Story End? Come Find Out on October 3

WHO: All Northern District Branch Members

WHAT: Annual Fall District Meeting

WHEN: Saturday, October 3, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Rd.

WHY: Learn, Energize, Act

Once upon a time (1972 to be exact), Congress wisely adopted Title IX. What progress has been made in these 43 years? Many look to women's sports and the incredible changes in that arena. But Title IX is much broader than sports and covers many activities that are civil rights issues. The U.S. Department of Education has just released new guidelines and resources for public schools. That is where we AAUW members come into the picture.



Our invited speaker is Catherine Lhamon, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the Department of Education. Those who attended AAUW National Convention this

year were captivated by this young woman and her very informative talk. Come hear how equal educational opportunities still lag behind, and how AAUW members can be an incredible partners in connecting our school Title IX coordinators with the new guidelines for schools. Join us October 3 for the rest of this story.

Jeanne Elmore (jfelmore1@gmail.com) and Caroline Pickens (carolineaauw@gmail.com) Northern District Co-Representatives

Why I Volunteer

By Joan Dimengo

I had been retired for a short time, and while I always had lots of things to do and the days still weren't long enough to get everything done, I began to feel that something was missing. After having taught for many years, I realized that it was being part of a group and doing something of value.

I had been a member of AAUW a long time ago and decided to Google it. I found the Fairfax City branch, and it had book clubs. I had wanted to be part of a book group for the longest time. A happy surprise was knowing the leader of the evening group (Paulette Miller). She and I had worked together at the same middle school. So I joined and began to meet some wonderful women.

For personal reasons I had to put most things aside for a year or so, but when I was able, I went back to book club and started to go to branch meetings. The Book & Author Luncheons are so wonderful, but I found out that we have great meetings, too. And I began to meet even more interesting and talented women.

Last year I helped with the silent auction for the Book & Author Luncheon, and in March I volunteered at STEMtastics. It felt good to help out an organization whose mission I fully believe in.

So when I was approached this year about being membership vice president, I decided the time was right to say "Yes." I hope I can serve the board, our membership, and hopefully new members, and inspire them to say "Yes," too.

I promise you, the more meetings, events, or interest groups you participate in, the more interesting, smart, witty, caring, and all-around great women you will meet and friends you will make.

So, I started saying "Yes" last year to some smaller volunteer needs. I realized it felt good to help; I know it was appreciated. So when you read that we are asking for volunteers, think about saying "Yes," too. I know I would love to with work you, and so would everyone else!

Pool Party, 2015 Version

We had a rare rain-free July 11 for this year's summer get-together. A hearty olé and many thanks to hosts Olga and Bob Burns for their welcoming home, yard, and pool. It's a lot of work to prepare for 35 guests, and we appreciate that they've invited us every summer for more than a decade. Sonja Palomaki's decorations made it a real Mexican fiesta.

Lots of jokes about old folks made the rounds. For example,

Olga: My lilies were gorgeous a week ago, but they've faded.

Second person: Well, at least we can get an idea of what used to be.

Third person: I guess you could say the same for most of us, too.



The Landlubbers

It seemed as though there were more landlubbers than swimmers this year, with pool volleyball only a distant memory. Some of the gents shot baskets, and a splash of mermaids on noodles exchanged opinions on a variety of topics. It was good to see former regulars like

Myrna and Denis Brown, Pat and Walt Makos, and Barb and Bob Spiller.



And the Swimmers

The branch chefs prepared an impressive array of food—from the heaps of hors d'oeuvres through the sumptuous main dishes of pork, beef, and vegetables and plentiful side dishes, and on to the satisfying sweets that sent us off into the evening.

Make Democracy Work!

Many AAUW of Virginia branches in Northern Virginia are working with the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) and other organizations to sponsor Meet and Greet candidate forums. The magisterial district forums are for candidates for Fairfax County elections. See the flyer in this issue. Two live broadcasts (*Inside Scoop*, August 31 and September 28 from 7 to 10 p.m.) at Fairfax Public Access Television/Channel 10 involve candidates who represent constituents in both the County and the City of Fairfax.

Many volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks at these forums. Can you volunteer at an event or be a member of the television audience on September 28? Go to www.lwv-fairfax.org/2015MeetandGreet.html for information. Scroll down to find links for volunteer opportunities at the various events. Several branch members are volunteering at or planning meetings and encourage your

participation. Be involved, and be an informed voter!

Meet David Kravitz

David Kravitz received his bachelor's degree from Carleton College in Minnesota (which was a shock after high school in Key West) and his doctoral degree in social psychology from the University of Illinois-Urbana. He is now a professor of management in the School of Business at George Mason University.

His primary research and teaching interests revolve around diversity in organizations. For example, he has published work on the relation between diversity training and ethnic minorities' experiences of discrimination.

In addition, he gives occasional briefings on how demographic diversity (and diversity management) relate to organizational performance. He has recently been appointed to the AAUW Diversity and Inclusion Task Force.

Three years ago, David lost his wife, Barbara Martin, to ovarian cancer. They had no children. When not working, he relaxes with reading, running, and trying to maintain Barbara's garden.



*Photo by Creative Services/
George Mason University*

Silent Auction 2015

We are fast approaching our annual fund raiser, Book & Author Luncheon. To make this a success, we need the participation of all of our members. Interest groups should consider their contribution to the Silent Auction. The Silent Auction committee has been working hard to make this the best ever.

Several fun suggestions for baskets include a Christmas Basket with wrapping paper, ribbons, and so on; an Italian Dinner Basket with pasta, bread sticks, and other treats; Movie Night at Home with popcorn, DVDs, and pizza mix. You get the idea. Members who are shy about asking businesses for donations can contribute monetarily to the Money Basket, which will be raffled off. The committee will be happy to cellophane wrap your basket once it is put together.

The committee has a list of patrons who have contributed in the past and would gladly do so again. Gently used treasures might appeal to guests. Think about what you would like to bid on, and you will come up with great items. All contributions must be dropped off at Ida Portland's by October 21. Nothing will be accepted after that date.

Look for the flyer that will be coming your way for sharing with patrons, friends, neighbors, and organizations. This is your event to support our scholarship fund. Sonja Palomaki, chair of the Silent Auction, can be reached at 703 455-9262 or spalomaki@dpalomaki.com if you have questions. October 31 will be here sooner than you think.

Meet Sandy Freeman

Sandy Freeman moved from an Old Town Alexandria home once owned by Winston Groom, author of *Forrest Gump*, to Fairfax City, where her son and his family live. Her daughter and son-in-law live in Kent, Connecticut. Her

husband died in a car crash in 1991. Although she's new to us, she isn't new to AAUW, having been active in the San Diego, California, branch.



She has a bachelor's degree from Earlham College and a master's from U.S. International University in San Diego. Her career was in education, and she has taught elementary-age students, including many

in Title 1 schools, and elementary school teachers all over the world: England, Guam, Prince George's, and Montgomery counties, closer to home. Her hobbies include antiques, reading, dancing, travel, gardening, and music.

Three Reasons to Join AAUW of Fairfax City

1. You want to belong to a powerful network of educated women.
2. You believe in our mission of supporting fair pay for women, ending the gender gap in STEM and human trafficking. You support educational goals for women.
3. You like to have fun through meeting and making friends at our branch meetings, events like our Book & Author Luncheon with our super Silent Auction, STEMtastics for middle school girls, our holiday party, our spring banquet, and summer pool party. And don't forget our interest groups such as book clubs, Great Decisions discussion group, and Musical Notes.

Next month: more reasons to become a member!

Contact Joan Dimengo (jdimgo@gmail.com, 703/203-2765 cell; or 703/815-1586 home).

I'll be waiting to hear from you!

Interest Groups

Afternoon Lit

Wednesday, September 16, at 1 p.m.
Home of Marjorie Rowley
5188 Dungannon Road, Fairfax
703/385-5486

The group will discuss *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doer. Marjorie prefers to be telephoned with your RSVP. Please let her know by Sunday, September 13, if you plan to attend.

Great Decisions–Salon Discussion Group

Friday, September 11, at 12 noon
Home of Diana DeLano
4277 Wiltshire Place, Dumfries
gdk125@verizon.net or 703/730-3963

At the present time we are using the Foreign Policy Association's 2015 *Great Decisions* briefing book as the basis for our discussions. A 30-minute DVD accompanies the briefing book to give us a more complete picture of the topic. All branch members are welcome to attend Great Decisions–Salon. Please notify Kay Corbett at Kaycorbett1@msn.com if you would like further information about the group.

In September we will continue with the fourth topic of the Foreign Policy Association's briefing book, "*India Changes Course*." It always adds interest if you would like to bring newspaper articles about the subject. Diana has agreed to lead the discussion.

Please let the hostess know you will be coming to the meeting. Bring a light lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided by the hostess. Kay will once again be sending out directions to her home to the Salon–Great Decisions Group. We will plan to meet and carpool.



Musical Notes

Friday, September 25, at 1 p.m.
Home of Olga Burns
10623 Timberidge Road, Fairfax Station
703/573-6253

In September we'll view the first half of *Eugene Onegin* with Renee Fleming and Dmitri Hvorostovsky. This is a presentation by the Met with Valery Gergiev conducting.

This group of music lovers usually meets on the last Friday of the month to enjoy an opera or ballet, or videos featuring great stars of the past. We allow two meetings for an opera rather than trying to condense it into one. If you love opera or are a music lover, come join us.

Night Owls

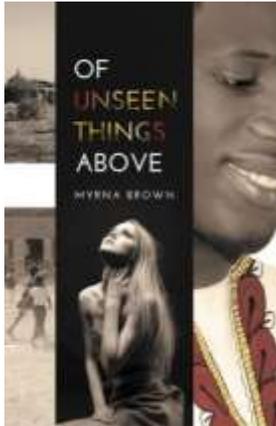
Tuesday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m.
Home of Sonja Palomaki
7014 Ebbtide Lane, Burke
spalomaki@dspalomaki.com or 703/455-9262

Light supper will be followed by our discussion of *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins, led by Joyce Grimes. Please let Sonja know if you will be attending.

As is our Night Owls tradition, we are accepting books for a couple of Silent Auction baskets. Books should be in nearly new condition and of general interest. Books that are not included in the Silent Auction will be donated to Fairfax County Public Library for their used book sales. Please bring them with you to the meeting at Sonja's.

Jan Humphrey has volunteered to put our basket together but will not be at the September meeting. Is there someone who lives near Jan who would be willing to collect the books and baskets that evening and hold on to them until she can come collect them? Please let Sonja and/or Jan know if you can volunteer.

Book News



Former member Myrna Brown has recently written a novel, *Of Unseen Things Above*, available at <http://www.amazon.com>. Jan Humphrey's book, *A Texas Suffragist: Diaries and Writings of Jane Y. McCallum*, originally published in 1988, is being reissued this fall by Texas A&M University Press.

Save the Dates

Each of these events will need your support and time to be successful:

October 31—Book & Author Luncheon/Silent Auction

March 12—STEMtastics

April 15–17, 2016—State AAUW Conference hosted by the AAUW of Virginia's Northern District at Hyatt Dulles

See the flyer in this issue of the *Focus* (and that you already received in an email) for the support needed by Sonja Palomaki for the Silent Auction. This is our major fundraising effort for the year. We all need to pitch in by bringing guests to the luncheon, getting donations (due by October 21), and helping organize the items at Ida Portland's.

Sunshine

If you know of members who are ill or have a death in the immediate family, please let Diana DeLano know so she can send some sunshine along. She can be reached at 703/730-3963 or gdk125@verizon.net.

Calendar

Branch Board Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 7 p.m.
Home of Gale Rogers

Night Owls

Tuesday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m.
Home of Sonja Palomaki

Great Decisions

Friday, September 11, 12 noon
Home of Diana DeLano

Branch Meeting

Saturday, September 12 10 a.m.
Burke Centre Library

Afternoon Lit

Wednesday, September 16, 1 p.m.
Home of Marjorie Rowley

Musical Notes

Friday, September 25, 1 p.m.
Home of Olga Burns

Branch Board Meeting

Thursday, October 1, 7 p.m.
Home of Gale Rogers

Northern District Meeting

Saturday, October 3, 2 p.m.
Kings Park Library

Book & Author Luncheon

Saturday, October 31, 11 a.m.
Fairfax Country Club

STEMtastics 2016

Saturday, March 12, 2016
NOVA Annandale

AAUW of Virginia Conference

April 15–17
Hyatt Dulles

Our Mission

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW—FAIRFAX CITY BRANCH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and RENEWAL

Membership is open to all graduates who have a two-year, RN, four-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 Joan Dimengo: C 703-203-1765; H 703-815-1586 or email jdimengo@gmail.com 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:

Dottie Joslin

11110 Del Rio Dr.

Fairfax VA 22030

j.joslin@verizon.net

703-591-9035

Would you be willing to bring someone to our meetings and events if she lives in your area? Yes or No

Do you need transportation to our meetings and events? Yes or No



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®



Making
Democracy
Work!

FAIRFAX COUNTY MEET & GREET EVENTS FALL 2015 CANDIDATE FORUMS

Wed, Sept 9	7:00 pm	Springfield District * West Springfield Gov't. Center 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield
Wed, Sept 16	7:00 pm	Mount Vernon District ^ Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria
Mon, Sept 21	7:30 pm	Sully District candidates for ** Senate and House of Delegates Sully District Gov't. Center 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly
Mon, Oct 5	7:00 pm	Lee District * **** John Marshall Library 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria
Wed, Oct 7	7:00 pm	Providence District*** Providence Community Center 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax
Thurs, Oct 8	7:00 pm	Braddock District * Kings Park Library Community Room 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke
Tues, Oct 13	7:00 pm	Fairfax County Chairman Bd of Supervisors and At-Large School Bd Members James Madison High School 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna
Wed, Oct 14	7:00 pm	Dranesville District McLean Community Center 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean
Wed, Oct 21	7:00 pm	Mason District * Woodrow Wilson Library Community Rm 6101 Knollwood Dr., Falls Church
Sat, Oct 24	2:00 pm (note time)	Hunter Mill District Reston Community Center 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston
Wed, Oct 28	7:30 pm	Sully District candidates for County ** Board of Supervisors and School Board Sully District Gov't Center 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly

All certified candidates campaigning for office in their respective districts have been invited. A question-and-answer session will allow interaction with the candidates.

For more information go to website: www.lwv-fairfax.org
Questions? E-mail: league@lwv-fairfax.org

Sponsored by: League of Women Voters-Fairfax Area
American Association of University Women of Virginia
Fairfax County Council Parent Teachers Association
Sully District Council, *Providence District Council
****Lee District Association of Civic Organizations

*Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
(also a co-sponsor for these events)
Voice of Vietnamese Americans
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
^Mt Vernon Council Citizens Assoc

BOOK & AUTHOR LUNCHEON

and

SILENT AUCTION

OCTOBER 31, 11:00am-2:00pm

Country Club of Fairfax
5110 Ox Rd, Fairfax



A terrific lunch, great speakers, and a fabulous sale for charity—WHAT COULD BE BETTER!

With 19 years of tradition behind us, we invite you to join a fabulous crowd shopping for unique items in a gracious venue. Best of all, the proceeds go to support scholarships for women at GMU and to the AAUW mission.

We need your donations for the Silent Auction.

Suggestions include: quality jewelry, crystal, name brand purse, gorgeous scarf, tea/coffee basket, wine (local?) basket, designer items, cheese/cracker/food basket, new CDs, theater -movie tickets, hand woven rug (small), items that you would consider bidding on. Business gift cards are hot items. It is easy to ask, especially if you frequent the establishment. If needed, a soliciting letter and flyer are available.

To avoid duplicating efforts, please contact Sonja P.
(All items must be at Ida's by Oct 21st.)

Sonja Palomaki at 703-455-9262 or spalomaki@dspalomaki.com

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

Officers:

President: Gale Rogers
gale.rogers@denkifuro.com

Program Vice President: Olga Burns
rubato12@aol.com

Membership Vice President:
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Web Manager: Leslie Vandivere
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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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