AAUW Fairfax City (VA) Branch

FOCUS

February 2016 Volume 42, No. 4

Our Troubled Waters
Speaker: Claudia Friedetsky
Saturday, February 20, at 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, 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, campaign and communications manager with Waterkeepers Chesapeake, 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.

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (Courtesy Maryland Office of Tourism Development)

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. Our host branch will supply the refreshments.

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.

Postscript

Remember Rachel Gettler, our speaker on Title IX enforcement? In the spending bill passed by Congress in December, the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education where she works, received an increase in its budget from $100 million to $107 million. Perhaps this will fund more investigations of reported violations.

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Holiday Party

A very festive mood dominated our holiday party on December 20 at the home of Dianne and Gerard Blais. A smattering of carol singing and holiday spirit interrupted the lively exchange of travel plans, anecdotes, recipes, lies, reminiscences of days gone by, opinions on health issues, information about where to shop for what, recommendations for good books and movies, and so on. We feasted on plenty of appetizers, a hearty and healthy dinner, and holiday sweets.

'Twas a merry crowd with plenty of reason to salute the season. Many thanks to our hosts, to Anita Light who assisted with the meal, and to the bakers who came laden down with plates of yummy cookies.

Coming in March

The latest AAUW research report, *Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership*, is due to be published in March. Women are about 50 percent of the workforce, but hold only about 4 percent of the CEO positions in the country's major corporations, 26 percent of college and university presidencies, and 19 percent of the seats in Congress.

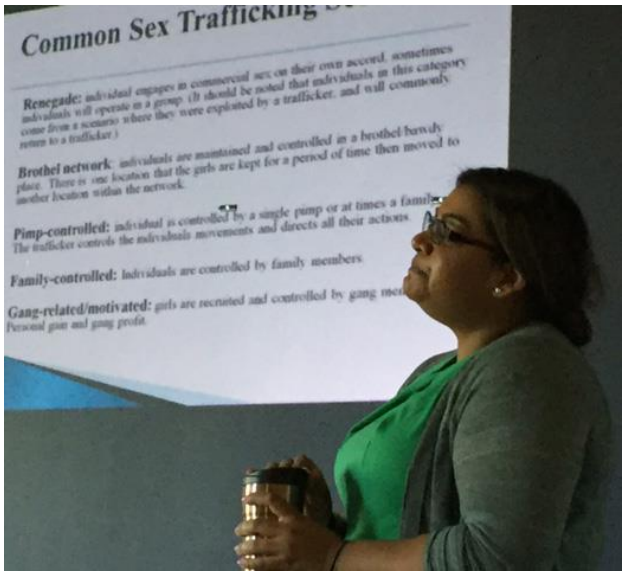
Watch for the report and learn about the explanations for these discrepancies and what can be done to reduce the gender barrier to leadership.

Sex Trafficking in Northern Virginia

At our January meeting Deepa Patel, clinical social worker and certified sex offender treatment provider, gave a gripping portrayal of

sex trafficking in Northern Virginia. Our area is known on the East Coast for sex trafficking, and a number of cases have been prosecuted in Fairfax County. Ms. Patel made some points that are helpful to understanding what the crime is and how it occurs.

- There is no portrait of a "typical" victim. The girls and young women come from all socio-economic classes, racial and ethnic groups, and types of families. Many are between age 12 and 14 when they begin this life. Some are runaways.
- The victims do not see themselves as victims; they do not recognize that they have been manipulated into selling sex. From the perpetrator they receive a sense of belonging to a group and being valued, improved self-esteem, a social life including close personal relationships, and money.
- Victims are active at times when young teens can easily be absent from their homes (e.g., weekdays between 3 and 7 p.m. and weekends between noon and 6 p.m.).



Deepa Patel

Fairfax County Public Schools became involved in the issue of sex trafficking and now teaches a unit in middle school aimed at prevention. It is important to raise public awareness of this type of abuse, make sure people know that trafficking for sex is occurring in Northern Virginia, and recruit volunteers for mentoring and other activities.

Resources:

- www.justaskva.org: a prevention website
- *Girls Like Us*, a book by Rachel Lloyd
- Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, training materials distributed by Shared Hope (see www.sharedhope.org)

Campus Sexual Assaults

Under the Clery Act, passed in 1990, colleges and universities that receive federal funds are required to report crimes occurring on campus. In 2014, the latest year for which Clery Act data are available, 91 percent of campuses reported no incidents of rape, according to a November AAUW report. How can one reconcile this with data from other sources indicating that one in five women experiences a sexual assault during her college years? Not very easily.

Two factors probably contribute to this discrepancy:

1. Students do not feel comfortable reporting incidents of sexual assault to campus administrators for a variety of reasons.
2. Universities have not put in place procedures and channels to handle this information confidentially and comfortably.

AAUW held a news conference on January 14 at the National Press Club to discuss these findings. Clearly, in order to improve the handling of sexual assaults on campuses, much work needs to be done.

On a related note, the Department of Defense recently released statistics on sexual assault and harassment at the nation's military service academies for the 2014–15 year. They showed an increase from the previous year's 59 to 91 reports of sexual violence. Underreporting is rampant at military academies, as well as on other college campuses.

Membership

A very warm welcome to our newest members, who joined us at the Book & Author Luncheon:

Susan Manganiello
8405 Georgian Way 703/764-1453
Annandale, VA 22003 smango54@yahoo.com
B.A., Miami U.; M.S.L.S. Catholic U.

Cheryl Smith
6523 Trillium House Lane 703-216-0801
Centreville, VA 20120 crsmith.va@gmail.com
B.A., M.A. California State U., San Bernadino

Do you know anyone who might be interested in joining us? Now is a great time! From now until mid-March dues are half off. Dues are $41 and are valid through June 30, 2016.

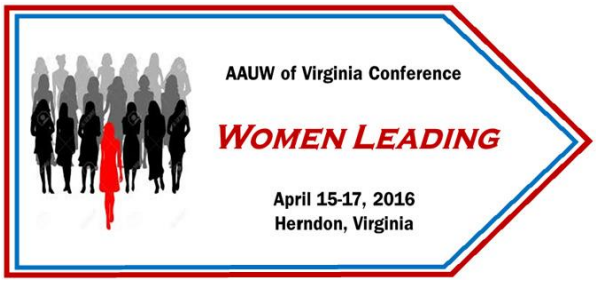
This offer is good for new members and does not include transferring Members at Large (national member only) or "lapsed members" of two years or less. As always, joining at an event like our meetings or Book & Author Luncheon discounts the National dues by 50 percent (state and branch remain the same). Yes, this does seem complicated, doesn't it? But Joan Dimengo has figured out all the ins and outs. Next year will be easy.

Our current membership stands at fifty-two and two student affiliates. Joan is happy to answer any questions about being a member (jdimengo@gmail.com, 703-203-2765 C or 703-815-1586 H). If she doesn't know the answer she will make every effort to find it.

AAUW of Virginia Conference

The AAUW State Conference "Women Leading," which is being hosted by Northern Virginia AAUW branches, will be April 15–17 at the Hyatt Regency Dulles Hotel.

Gale Rogers recommends spending two nights there to avoid traffic and be ready early Saturday morning for the whole day's program. Several members of the Board plan to attend, and you are encouraged to join them. This is a great opportunity to meet members from other branches, share ideas, and get energized. You can hear inspiring speakers and panelists on Saturday and Sunday morning and applaud the astronaut Woman of Achievement at the Saturday night banquet.



The cost is a mere $90 for registration, which includes lunch on Saturday. The Hyatt Regency special room rate of $99 includes two full buffet breakfasts. Rooms can sleep three if you really want to save money because there is a sofa bed in each room. The third person would have to purchase breakfast.

You can book your hotel room at https://resweb.passkey.com/go/aauw2016 . Rooms are going fast, so don't be left out! Program details will be in the February *Vision*.

Sonja Hancke, Recovering at Home

Sonja Hancke is recovering from a broken femur at home, where she will continue rehabilitation. She welcomes calls to her cell phone (703/629-1287).

New Officers for 2016–18

If you read Gale Rogers's compilation of AAUW's accomplishments for 2015 in this issue, you will know how important the work of our association is. Our combined strength, along with that of other groups, can influence decisions that are made at the highest levels. As a member of Fairfax City branch, you can be a part of these efforts.

The branch cannot get along without the work and dedication of its members, however. Just belonging and paying your dues isn't enough. We each have a bigger role to play.

The Nominating Committee (Dianne Blais, Kelly Espy, and Jan Humphrey) is looking for members to serve as Vice President for Programs and Secretary for two-year terms beginning in September 2016.

Will you call us before we call you?

Membership and Volunteering

Earlier this year I shared reasons why I have chosen to volunteer for our branch. While perusing the Internet I found a thought-provoking list on motivations for volunteering. I think most, if not all, are also reasons we join various organizations. Does this happen to you? Someone asks why you joined a group or why you are volunteering and suddenly you can't think of a reason?

One of the most interesting things I thought about when I read the list was that it included things we might think but would never admit. Why not? Just maybe all our reasons are very, very good ones.

- To feel needed
- To keep busy
- To relieve the pressure from a friend or relative (hopefully it all turned out well, though!)
- To be on the "inside" of the group

Why I Support STEMtastics

When I was thirteen, I composed an essay about my preferred career: nuclear physicist. I was too aware of cultural biases to ever confide such an ambition to friends. Even so, in the face of an unsupportive culture and no role models, I quietly went on to major in mathematics with a minor in physics and have spent my career developing technological solutions for customer problems.

Other women my age who were interested in science and engineering were actively discouraged by family, friends, and even teachers from entering fields considered to be the domain of men.

Suzanne Mahoney

I was lucky. My father, who had confidence in my talents, introduced me to physics, lauded the accomplishments of a young female analyst at his work, and encouraged me. Throughout my working life, I have had supportive colleagues and friends.

Today, I am disappointed that cultural biases and perceptions continue to discourage girls interested in math, science, engineering, and technology from pursuing careers in those fields. One way we can counter these influences is to introduce girls to role models. That is what STEMtastics does.

Middle school girls participating in STEMtastics attend three different workshops led by women professionals working in STEM fields. The hands-on workshops give the girls a chance to interact with role models and learn more about what it is really like to work in one of these fields.

To sign up to volunteer on March 12 at NOVA-Annandale, email me at suzanne070946@mac.com.

Firsts for Women in 2015

Compared to other years, "first woman" accomplishments in 2015 may look a bit meager, but we're still proud of them.

- The first female to be named a professional football coach is Jennifer Welter, named linebacker and special teams coach of the Texas Revolution, which plays in Allen, Texas, in the Champions Indoor Football league. Previously, she had coached inside linebackers for the NFL Arizona Cardinals and played running back for the Texas Revolution.
- The first woman—and the first person of color—to lead the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is Michelle K. Lee. Her full title is Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO. She was promoted from her position as Deputy Director of USPTO and has years of experience with high tech firms such as Google and Hewlett-Packard. She has bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from MIT and a law degree from Stanford Law School.
- Capt. Kristen Griest and 1st Lt. Shaye Haver are the first women to graduate from U.S. Army Ranger School. Both women are graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Griest served in Afghanistan a military police officer and Haver is an Apache attack helicopter pilot.

Suggestions for additions to this list are welcomed.

How to Close the Gender Pay Gap

In an article in *The New York Times,* journalist Claire Cain Miller offers the following suggestions for closing the gender pay gap:

- Make salaries transparent. When salaries are open information, women negotiate for higher pay and employers either cut men's salaries or they boost women's pay to avoid legal action.
- Negotiate (or not). More men than women ask for more money when given a job offer, and they ask for higher salaries than women do. On the other hand, some research has shown that men are rewarded for negotiating their salaries, while women are penalized. One solution is for employers to set a salary range for each position, base salary on experience, and not allow negotiation.
- Make workplaces more flexible. Helping to keep mothers in the workforce with policies such as parental leave, flexible work hours, affordable childcare, and job sharing will allow women to stay on a career path so they are not penalized for working fewer hours or taking a leave of absence.
- Change the law. Mandate equal pay and include reporting and enforcement provisions in the law.

Source: Claire Cain Miller, "How to Bridge that Stubborn Pay Gap," *New York Times*, Jan. 15, 2016.

Basket for State Conference

This year the State Conference Committee has asked each branch to donate a themed basket for a Silent Auction to be held at the conference. The Fairfax City Branch has chosen the theme of "Feed the Birds" for our basket.

We are asking branch members to donate items for our basket that fit our theme, such as bird seed, suet feeders, feeders, bird houses, bird books or bird items with bird décor. Be creative! To help gather these items

easily, we ask you to bring them to the February branch meeting. If you are not able to attend the meeting, contact Paulette Miller by email (Psmiller10847@verizon.net) or phone (703/250-0876) to arrange for pick-up.

Thanks for your help with this project.

Scholarship Committee Members Needed

It is time again to select the recipients of our Beverly Anderson Scholarship funds. The application has been posted on our branch website and on the George Mason University Financial Aid site. Last year we had an excellent response from several very qualified women, and we are expecting the same this year.

The timeline is as follows: the deadline for application is April 15. Once all applications are received, I will compile packets for each applicant and distribute them electronically to the committee members for review along with an evaluation matrix. The committee will then meet once to discuss the applications and select the recipients. Selection will be made in time to invite the recipients to join us at the May luncheon.

Please contact me if you would like to serve on this very important committee. Remember, this is the reason we hold the Book & Author Luncheon each year. It is very rewarding to be part of helping another woman fulfill her dream of returning to school.

Paulette Miller
Psmiller10847@verizon.net or 703/250-0876

From Gale Rogers: Did You Ever Wonder What AAUW National Does?

Well, I am here to tell you that their accomplishments are really impressive. You can keep up with and be a part of National's activities by becoming a Two-Minute Activist. Go to www.aauw.org and click on "Take Action." This list is just a sample of the activities of national AAUW staff and members.

- Over 250,000 emails were sent by Action Network members to their state and national legislators.

Photo Courtesy of AAUW

- AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps made over 1,300 visits to senators and members of Congress on issues important to women and families.
- New Title IX coordinator materials were released this year. These free resources reinforce the authority of Title IX coordinators and supports their effort. AAUW's work on these publications was specifically mentioned in the press, from *Politico* to *Huffington Post* and *Inside Higher Ed*.
- A number of AAUW leaders played a key part in coalition lobbying efforts to advocate for critical civil rights protections in federal K–12 education laws. The bill that was signed into law included several of these important provisions.
- AAUW's Lisa Maatz was invited to testify at the House Education and Workforce Higher Education Subcommittee Hearing on "Preventing and Responding to Sexual Assault on College Campuses."
- After advocacy by AAUW and other groups, the U.S. Department of Justice released much-needed guidance on identifying and

preventing gender bias in law enforcement's response to sexual assault and domestic violence.

- AAUW released *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap*, complete with new information and tools about AAUW's expanded state policy efforts.
- AAUW released *Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing*, with additional recommendations for state and federal policy makers to increase women's participation in STEM fields. AAUW hosted briefings at Google and on Capitol Hill to share the policy recommendations.
- President Obama's paid leave executive order includes many AAUW priorities and follows years of persistent member advocacy.
- The U.S. Department of Labor issued final rules prohibiting federal contractors from retaliating against employees who ask about or share salary information. AAUW led the fight to secure this executive order, and AAUW members from all 50 states submitted over 1,000 comments in support of this rule to the U.S. Department of Labor.
- AAUW's annual Title IX anniversary event on Capitol Hill exceeded expectations with over 200 attendees. It was a bipartisan event attended by 45 congressional and committee offices, 25 advocacy and civil rights organizations, and AAUW members.

AAUW public policy priorities were included in the 2015 State of Union Address. We heard the president urge Congress to support reforms that will provide concrete economic benefits to women and their families: working toward equal pay, expanding care tax credits, establishing paid sick days and paid family leave, making college more accessible and affordable, raising the minimum wage, and making investments in education.

A National Treasure, Remote and Intriguing

Do you know which national park is the size of Rhode Island and the most remote park in the lower 48 states? This is Big Bend National Park in west Texas, where my husband, Jim, and I spent a week in November for birding and enjoying nature.

Big Bend is majestic and vast, encompassing three ecosystems: Mountains, Chihuahuan Desert, and the Rio Grande River zone. Over the ages, several periods of volcanic activity and intrusions of inland seas created varied geological features. Erosion sculpted intriguing land forms, revealing mountain strata, mesas, hoodoos, dikes, and canyons.

The only accommodations are campgrounds and the park service's motels in the Chisos Mountain basin. We chose a motel in this "sky island," where scenic mountains over 7,000 feet high ring the basin. The basin's Window View Trail provides a view through the gap between mountains to the rippled desert and distant mountain ranges below. To our delight, the landscape was dotted with colors, as flowers had emerged after recent rains.

Eastward view of Casa Grande through the Window

The isolated Chisos Mountains are home to mountain lions, bears, and distinct flora and fauna that survived after the mountains became surrounded by desert. Leaving the basin, we descended to the Sotol-grassland. Here the grassy desert was punctuated by the tall, withered flower stalks of the Sotol plant. On the way back, we heard a raucous cactus wren and spotted a covey of scaled quail speedily scooting from a shady clump of creosote bushes.

Mules Ears Peaks

Other days we followed a scenic drive designed to best show the stunning geological features of the park. At the ruins of Sam Nail Ranch we found respite in the shade of old pecan trees. Echoes of cattle ranchers and tales of Comanche Indian raiding parties drifted through our minds. Instead of the western birds we hoped to encounter, cardinals and mockingbirds greeted us.

One morning we birded along the Rio Grande, where a great horned owl slept in a cottonwood tree, and brilliant vermillion flycatchers hawked for insects. Nearby, on the Santa Elena Canyon trail we viewed marine fossils as we climbed steps cut into the limestone ridge. A steep descent led us to a path along the river until we came to a peaceful view of the Rio Grande narrowed by the cliffs flanking the river.

It's hard for me to imagine living in such a remote and beautiful location as a child. Kerosene lamps, electricity only in the evening hours, and home schooling were a part of Leslie Vandivere's childhood there. So were riding Bill the burro and catching tarantulas to put in jars. Our visit to Big Bend National Park was fun, but what an experience it must have been to live there decades ago!

~ Dottie Joslin

Calendar

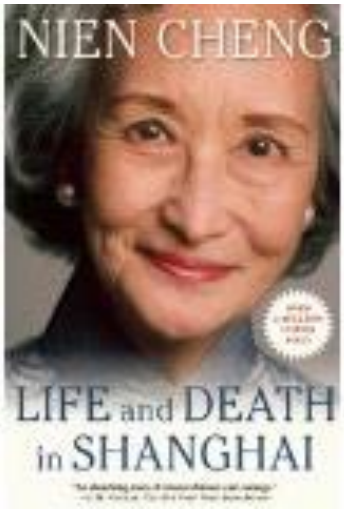
Black History Month
National Human Trafficking and Slavery Prevention Month
State Lobby Day
Wednesday, February 3
Richmond, Virginia
National Women and Girls in Sports Day
February 3
Branch Board Meeting
Thursday, February 4, 7 p.m.
Home of Gale Rogers
National Rosa Parks Day
February 4
National Wear Red Day
February 6
V-Day
February 14
Presidents' Day
February 15
Centennial Rally
Tuesday, February 16, 10–2
Steps of the State Capitol
Richmond, Virginia
February Branch Meeting
Saturday, February 20, 10 a.m.
Kings Park Library
Presidential Primary Election
World Day of Social Justice
February 20
STEMtastics
Saturday, March 12
NOVA Annandale Campus

Interest Groups

Afternoon Lit

Wednesday, February 17, at 1 p.m.
Home of Dottie Joslin
11110 Del Rio Drive, Fairfax
j.joslin@verizon.net
703/591-9035

The group will discuss *Life and Death in Shanghai* by Nien Cheng. Please let Dottie know by Sunday, February 14, if you plan to attend.



Great Decisions–Salon Discussion Group

Friday, February 12, at 12 noon
Home of Kay Corbett
7226 Clifton Road, Clifton
Kaycorbett1@msn.com
703/222-6012

We will be discussing "*Middle East* Alliances," the first topic in the 2016 Foreign Policy Association briefing book. You can obtain your book on line. We will also be watching the accompanying DVD, which always gives a great summary of the material.

We will be meeting at the home of Kay Corbett for each of the monthly meetings. In February Dottie Joslin will lead the discussion. Marilyn Parker has graciously offered to provide the dessert and the hostess the drinks. Bring a light lunch. Please let the hostess know that you will be attending.

Musical Notes

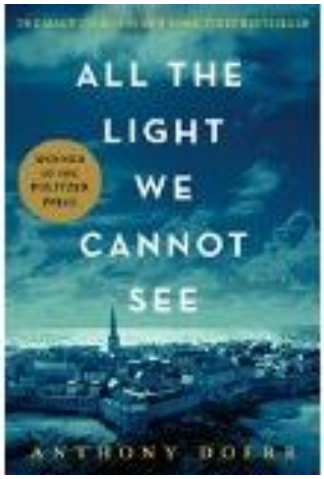
Friday, February 26, at 1 p.m.
Home of Olga Burns
10623 Timberidge Road, Fairfax Station
rubato12@aol.com
703/239-2876

We will gather to watch the second half of *Il Trovatore*. We'll hope for no snow so we can find out how this dramatic story ends.

Night Owls

Tuesday, February 9, at 6:30 p.m.
Home of Ida Portland
10810 Glen Mist Lane, Fairfax
idaport@verizon.net
703/352-0125

Light supper will be followed by our discussion of *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr, led by Gale Rogers. Please let Ida know if you will be attending.



New members are always welcome! Please contact Paulette Miller for more information (703/250-0876; psmiller10847@verizon.net)

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 www.aauw.org. Click on *Membership*> J*oin/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 transferrin*g* 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 703/203-2765 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 22030-5339
j.joslin@verizon.net or 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

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

Officers:

President: Gale Rogers
gale.rogers@denkifuro.com

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rubato12@aol.com

Membership Vice President:
Joan Dimengo
jdimengo@gmail.com

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Treasurer: Dottie Joslin
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Newsletter Editor: Jan Humphrey
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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
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