

**STEMtastics 2016**  
**Saturday, March 12, 8:15 to 12 noon**  
**Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center**  
**NOVA Annandale Campus**

How does a high school junior do well at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology *and* run a company that teaches students how to code? Those of us lucky enough to hear Swetha Prabakaran deliver the keynote address at STEMtastics 2016 will find out. She is the youngest keynoter we have had and promises to be an inspiration to the middle school girls sitting in the audience.

Are you now thinking of joining the audience in the Harris Theater in the Ernst Center on the NOVA Annandale campus on the morning of March 12? Sorry, we have a full house. In fact, we set a record by shutting down registration in mid-February, almost four weeks prior to STEMtastics. The number of students registered is 374, but we know that not all will attend.

The postcard mailer we sent to parents of girls in half of the schools was ineffective. It was perhaps overlooked in the chaos of the late January snow storm.

So how did we do it? With the blessing of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), we used a blast email to solicit registrations from the parents of middle school girls. For the first time, we have effectively reached out to *all* FCPS schools!

Following the keynote address, students will attend 3 of 23 different workshops while their parents attend ones given by FCPS counselors and a financial aid specialist. A panel discussion featuring college students majoring in STEM

fields concludes the parent workshops. Judy Weltz's granddaughter is one of the inspiring young women on the panel.

Thank you to all who are volunteering. We look forward to bumping into you on March 12.

## **Membership**

As you meet parents and presenters at STEMtastics on March 12, encourage them to stop by our membership table. Membership Chair Joan Dimengo will be happy to tell them about AAUW and our Fairfax City branch. Starting that Saturday, dues will be good until June 30, 2017.

Because this is an event open to the public, dues will be part of our Shape the Futures campaign. For new or lapsed members, national dues will be half the usual price of \$49 or \$24.50. National, state, and branch dues will total \$57.50.

We have fifty-two members and two student affiliates. We hope that number will be higher after STEMtastics.

Join or volunteer

- To make new friends
- To do something different from your current or past jobs
- To be part of a team

## Our Troubled Waters

Claudia Friedetsky spoke to a joint meeting of our branch and the Springfield–Annandale branch about issues of water quantity and quality in Maryland and Virginia. She is a passionate advocate for water quality and taking action to mitigate climate change.



Unless water resources are adequately managed, she reported, 2.8 billion people on our planet will have insufficient water for at least one month of the year by 2025. Factors contributing to shortages of clean water include

- Water pollution. In the developing world, 90 percent of sewage is dumped directly into surface water.
- Population growth. This increases demands on water supply.
- Sprawl growth. Instead of building up and densely, we spread out when we build, destroying forests, which promote healthy water cycling.
- Excessive water consumption. Swimming pools, lawns in the desert, and irrigated agriculture consume extreme amounts of water. Meat-based agriculture, in particular, requires heavy irrigation.
- Water pollution from agriculture and runoff from impervious cover in developed

countries. Both increase the need for modern sanitation methods.

- Climate change. Higher temperatures and massive storms change water cycling.

We need smart growth to improve water availability and quality. Yet decisions about water resources need to be made for a watershed, not for a human-created area such as a county, and by those who do not have a financial interest in controlling them. Ms. Friedetsky practices what she preaches: that citizen advocacy can be a powerful force and is an effective means for making changes in water policy.

## Save the Date

A Celebration of Women will be our theme for the May Banquet. Instead of one speaker, six of us will portray notable women with six-minute profiles highlighting the accomplishments of their lives. This is a program initiated by another branch with monologues for six of our members to read. We'll be looking for volunteers, so don't be bashful. It will be a lot of fun.

The date is Wednesday, May 18, at noon, at the Springfield Golf & Country Club. Our last two banquets were held here with kudos for the food and the facility. We hold a luncheon rather than a dinner to keep the cost down. More details to come.

## Springfield-Annandale Spring Fling

The Springfield-Annandale branch's annual fundraiser will be held on Saturday, March 19, from 11 to 2 at the Springfield Golf & Country Club. The featured speaker is *Washington Post* film critic Ann Hornaday. The silent auction, always loaded with wonderful items, precedes the luncheon. Tickets are \$40. Email or call Rose Clark for reservations at [SpringFlingAAUW@gmail.com](mailto:SpringFlingAAUW@gmail.com) or 703/973-3783.

## AAUW of Virginia Conference

Detailed information about the State Conference is in the AAUW *Virginia Vision* newsletter. After it went to press, we confirmed that our keynote speaker on Saturday morning will be the Honorable Jane Marum Roush. Judge Roush recently served interim terms on the Virginia Supreme Court and was previously the presiding judge in the Washington sniper case. She clearly is an excellent example for our theme of “Women Leading.”

See the schedule below for details on the mini-break sessions, the workshops, and the excellent presentations throughout the weekend.



### Action Requested:

- We will be stuffing the Welcome Bags for the State Conference on April 13. All materials will be provided to us, so it will just be a fun time to fill the estimated 150 bags. Many hands make light work! Stuffers will meet at Gale Rogers’s home at noon.
- Rooms at the hotel are filling up, particularly double rooms, so if you plan to share, book now.
- Donations are needed for the LAF Basket. Our theme is “Feed the Birds.” Contact Paulette Miller.

## AAUW of Virginia State Conference Schedule

### Friday, April 15

11:30 am–6:45 pm State Board Meeting  
 3:00 pm–8:00 pm Conference Registration  
 7:30 pm–9:30 pm The AAUW Salon—featuring cider tasting, musicians, and art through photography

### Saturday, April 16

7:30 am–8:15 am Casual Yoga with Joanna Crane  
 7:30 am–9:30 am Conference Registration

9:00 am–11:15 am Opening Session, Keynote Address, Annual Business Meeting

11:30 am–12:15 pm Mini-Break Sessions

- Branch Sharing Ideas—Fun Ways to Keep Members
- Purchase LAF Basket Tickets
- Buy Empowering Women International items and VA AAUW history books
- Take a Walk
- Socialize

12:25 pm–1:10 pm Lunch

1:10 pm–1:55 pm Rebecca Norlander, AAUW Board of Directors Presentation

2:10 pm–3:25 pm Workshops

- Leading in Philanthropy: Effective Fundraising with Available Volunteers
- Leading on Campus: AAUW’s Programs for College Women
- Leading for Equitable Treatment: What’s New in LAF

3:35 pm–4:15 pm Mini-Break Sessions (those above plus chair yoga and new member reception)

4:30 pm–5:30 pm Lean In: What Body Language Says About Leadership  
 (Chris Ulrich, Body Language Institute)

6:00 pm–6:45 pm Legacy Circle/Past State Presidents Social (Neola Waller, host)

6:30 pm Cash Bar Opens

7:15 pm Dinner and Presentation of the Woman of Achievement Award to Dr. Kathryn Thornton

### Sunday, April 17

8:30 am–9:15 am District Meetings

9:30 am–10:30 am Women Breaking Through (a panel of successful women in male-dominated fields)

10:40 am–11:05 am Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership, AAUW’s new report

11:05 am–11:50 am Final Business Meeting/LAF and First Timer drawings/District Rep elections announcement/Unfinished and New Business

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

## Silent Auction Basket

This year the State Conference Committee has asked each branch to donate a themed basket for the 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!

Contact Paulette Miller by e-mail ([psmiller10847@verizon.net](mailto:psmiller10847@verizon.net)) or phone (703-250-0876) for information. We particularly are looking for bird seed and feeders.

Thanks for your help with this project.

## Global Gender Gap Report

In its 2015 report, the World Economic Forum ranks the United States 28th among 145 countries of the world in gender disparities. This represents a drop from 20th position in the 2014 report. The Forum's rankings are based on scores of gender gaps in four areas: health, education, economy, and politics.

Several indicators are used to determine scores in each of the four areas. For example, in politics the ratios of female to male members of parliament, government ministers, and heads of state during the past 50 years are used to determine a score for the political gender gap. (This gives you an idea why the U.S. doesn't rank any higher!) The highest U.S. subindex score was 6th in economic participation and opportunities.

Countries given scores for a smaller gender gap than we have are Iceland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Ireland, Rwanda, Philippines, Switzerland, Slovenia, New Zealand, Germany, Nicaragua, Netherlands, Denmark, France, Namibia, South Africa, United Kingdom, Belgium, Latvia, Estonia, Bolivia, Burundi, Barbados, Spain, Moldova, and Mozambique. That does not mean that you would want to live in any of the more

highly ranked countries or that you would be better off there. It does mean that given the Forum's scoring methods, the U.S. has a persistent gender gap that is not getting any narrower.

The report is a fascinating snapshot of gender disparities around the world and a festival of interesting data. If you like this sort of thing, you are encouraged to go to the source and browse.

Source: World Economic Forum, *The Global Gender Gap Report 2015*, see [www3.weforum.org/docs/GGGR2015/cover.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GGGR2015/cover.pdf)

## Scholarship Committee Members Needed

It is time to begin the process of selecting 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 deadline for application is April 15, 2016. Once all applications are received, chair Paulette Miller 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.

### **We need at least one more member to complete this 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. Please contact Paulette Miller if you would like volunteer ([psmiller10847@verizon.net](mailto:psmiller10847@verizon.net) or 703/250-0876).

## Interest Groups

### Afternoon Lit

Wednesday, March 16, at 1 p.m.  
Home of Jean Golightly  
10701 Howerton Avenue, Fairfax  
[jeancgo@aol.com](mailto:jeancgo@aol.com)  
703/591-9363

Please let Jean know by Sunday, March 13, if you plan to attend. The group will discuss *The Kitchen House*, by Kathleen Grissom.

### Great Decisions—Salon Discussion Group

Friday, March 11, at 12 noon  
Home of Kay Corbett  
7226 Clifton Road, Clifton  
[Kaycorbett1@msn.com](mailto:Kaycorbett1@msn.com)  
703/222-6012

We will be discussing “Islamic State,” the second topic in the 2016 Foreign Policy Association briefing book. If you have not already ordered your book, you can obtain it online. We will also be watching the accompanying DVD which always gives a great summary of the material.

Bring a light lunch. Please let Kay know you will be coming to the meeting.

### Musical Notes

Friday, March 25, at 1 p.m.  
Home of Olga Burns  
10623 Timberidge Road, Fairfax Station  
[Rubato12@aol.com](mailto:Rubato12@aol.com)  
703/239-2876

We will view the second half of *Il Trovatore*. Here’s hoping all the regulars (and others interested) can make it.

### Night Owls

Tuesday, March 8, at 6:30 p.m.  
Home of Joyce Grimes  
8550 Fisher Woods Drive, Lorton  
[joyce\\_grimes@cox.net](mailto:joyce_grimes@cox.net)  
703/550-8722

Light supper will be followed by our discussion of *The Flight of the Sparrow* by Amy Belding Brown, led by Ida Portland. Please let Joyce know if you will be attending.

## Calendar

### National Women’s History Month

#### Presidential Primary Election

Tuesday, March 2

#### International Women’s Day

Tuesday, March 8

#### STEMtastics

Saturday, March 12

NOVA Annandale Campus

#### Beginning of National Deaf History Month

Sunday, March 13

**30 years after graduation,**



**women with engineering  
degrees are half as likely as  
men to be working as engineers.**

**There’s a reason for that. A lot of  
reasons actually. Read more at  
[www.aauw.org/research/solving-the-equation/](http://www.aauw.org/research/solving-the-equation/).**

### 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](http://www.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 703/203-2765 H 703/815-1586 or email [jdimengo@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:gale.rogers@denkifuro.com)

Program Vice President:  
Olga Burns  
[rubato12@aol.com](mailto:rubato12@aol.com)

Membership Vice President:  
Joan Dimengo  
[jdimengo@gmail.com](mailto:jdimengo@gmail.com)

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Dottie Joslin  
[ijoslin3@verizon.net](mailto:ijoslin3@verizon.net)

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**Branch Event Chairs**

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

STEMtastics: Suzanne Mahoney  
[suzanne070946@mac.com](mailto:suzanne070946@mac.com)

**Interest Group Chairs**

Afternoon Literature: Jean Arnold  
[arnoldjh52@aol.com](mailto:arnoldjh52@aol.com)

Night Owls: Paulette Miller  
[psmiller10847@verizon.net](mailto:psmiller10847@verizon.net)

Salon Discussion Group : Kay Corbett  
[kaycorbett1@msn.com](mailto:kaycorbett1@msn.com)

Musical Notes: Olga Burns  
[rubato12@aol.com](mailto:rubato12@aol.com)



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