

October Northern District Meeting
Women in Politics: Is Gender Bias Real?
Saturday, October 22, at 2:00
Kings Park Library

All branch members are invited to the annual Northern District meeting. We'll have a thought-provoking panel discussion, featuring Melissa Richmond, vice president of Running Start (a nonpartisan organization that trains young women to run for office and that launched Elect Her in collaboration with AAUW), and Melissa Jackowski, former AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Manager and now Campaign Services Manager for TargetSmart Communications (which provides data-driven solutions to campaigns).

Both women have strong backgrounds in politics and campaigns. Interestingly, both have worked on previous presidential campaigns: Richmond for Mitt Romney and Jackowski for Joe Biden. This is a fitting topic for this election year and fits in with AAUW's most recent research report, *Barriers and Bias*.

You can also

- Meet and greet old and new friends from other branches.
- Hear what's going on with AAUW of Virginia and the other district branches.
- Enjoy refreshments, too!

Kings Park Library is located at 9000 Burke Lake Road in Burke, not far from Braddock Road and the Beltway.

Susan Burk and Caroline Pickens
Northern District Co-Representatives

Blood Drive

Freshman Brent Kiefer sent us word of a blood drive at Paul VI High School on Monday, October 3, from 1:30 to 6:00 p.m. He's encouraging blood donations as a leukemia survivor who received donated blood as a toddler.

A single pint of blood can save as many as three lives. Unfortunately, only 37 percent of the population is eligible to donate blood and sadly, only three percent actually do. Please be part of the three percent.

To be eligible to donate, you must be in generally good health, be at least 16 years old, and weigh at least 110 pounds. People are eligible to give blood every 56 days. There are travel restrictions and other criteria. Appointments are strongly preferred, and Brent can make them with an email to him at PantherPints@gmail.com. You can also make an appointment at www.vablood.org.

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Silver Anniversary Book & Author Luncheon

This year's Book & Author Luncheon will be celebrated at a new location, Springfield Golf and Country Club. Our lineup of outstanding authors has written books for readers of varied interests. We have one month to make our 25th anniversary luncheon the best ever.

You can begin by inviting others to join us, perhaps asking someone you have not asked previously. Spread the word at other functions you attend. Take a copy of the flyer with you when you visit with friends. Remind people in other AAUW branches to come to the luncheon.

You can support the Silent Auction in several ways: by donating attractive items in good condition, helping to fill a basket, or asking businesses to donate. Most restaurants are very amenable to donating.

This is our only event that promotes the education of women financially. If all our members contribute in some way, our branch will stand out as an active contributor to the mission of AAUW.

I was going to give him a nasty look, but he already had one. 😊

Lunch at Giardino's Italian Restaurant

September 7 found ten hungry members at Giardino's Italian Restaurant enjoying a delicious lunch. The salads, pizzas, and sandwiches were all delicious. We had a great waiter who provided us with excellent service as well. Giardino's is located in a Kings Park Shopping Center off Braddock Road on Burke Lake Road. Give it a try the next time you're thinking Italian for dinner.

The next lunch is Wednesday, October 5, at Guapo's. Come and enjoy your favorite Tex-

Mex specialty. We meet at noon, so we have plenty of time to eat, drink, and socialize. We'll lunch at the Guapo's at the Fair Lakes, 13050 Fair Lakes Shopping Center, Fairfax. Plenty of good places to shop before or after lunch are nearby: Home Goods, Michael's, Target, DSW, World Market, and Off 5th Saks Ave (opened recently). Let Gale Rogers know if you will be coming



Lunch Bunch at Giardino's

Restaurant Recommendations (Cont'd.)

Dottie Joslin would like to add her favorite vegetarian restaurants to the list in last month's *Focus*.

- Lotus Vegetarian (Chantilly)
- Sunflower (Vienna)

Any other additions?

I'm great at multitasking. I can waste time, be unproductive, and procrastinate all at the same time.

Membership

It's almost time for our Book & Author Luncheon and Silent Auction. It is always a wonderful event. Please consider bringing along a relative or friend. They will enjoy themselves, and hopefully they will join AAUW and the Fairfax City Branch that day. We would love to have them be a part of our branch, and joining at an event open to the public gives them a discount (half off the National dues).

Here is another good reason to join AAUW and the Fairfax City affiliate:

Members stay informed about issues important to women everywhere. Our newsletter, as well as our website and Facebook page will keep you up-to-date with everything that our branch is doing. Go to <http://www.aauw.org> and learn about all the interests that are being researched, such as equal pay for women, human trafficking, educating girls in the STEM fields. It is true that "knowledge is a powerful thing."

We hope to see your guests and you at the Book & Author Luncheon. Stop by the membership table, say hello, and look at all the information that will be available.

If you ever have any questions about membership, please contact Joan Dimengo at jdimengo@gmail.com or 703/203-2765 (C) or 703/815-1586 (H).

AAUW promotes equality for all women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

Silent Auction

You joined AAUW for many different reasons and probably not one of them was to raise money. However, you most likely support scholarships for women returning to college after a hiatus. These women are in need of help—help to improve their employment opportunities and better support their families.

The Book & Author Luncheon on November 5 is our only fundraising event. Last year, we did quite well with the Silent Auction, but, we can make it

better. How? A couple suggestions come to mind. Ask the businesses you frequent to contribute a gift card. One of our new members did just that and was rewarded with a substantial gift card. She didn't even have to beg! Of course you may not always be successful, but don't take it personally.

Another way to assist is by donating an item that you have been thinking about getting rid of but just couldn't because it is special, of good quality, and Aunt Bertha gave it to you. The Silent Auction can be the vehicle for unloading that wonderful gift.



The Silent Auction does need help with filling baskets. Can you supply a couple items to fill the following baskets? Here are some suggestions, but you can certainly use your imagination.

- Gourmet (any special food item)
- Santa Holiday (wrapping paper, tape, ribbon, tissue, cards, wreath)
- Hostess Thank You (wine, napkins, special crackers, cheese, snack food)
- Italian Dinner (restaurant gift card, pasta, pasta sauces, cookbook, olives)
- Relaxation/Exercise (massage gift card, pass from your spa or gym, exercise mat, weights, water bottle)
- Tea and/or Coffee Time (cookies, tea, teacups, teabags, teapot, coffee gift card, biscotti, napkins)

Also, please remember to donate used and new books. Anyone have a quilt to donate?

All items should be delivered to Ida Portland's home, 10810 Glen Mist Lane, Fairfax, 703/352-0125, on Thursday, Oct. 27, 1:00–7:00 or by Friday, Oct. 28, 10:00–7:00.

The Silent Auction has no overhead or administrative charges. We are all volunteers. Please help by contributing. And don't forget to invite your friends, neighbors, and family to the Book & Author Luncheon.

Can Women Have it All?

The discussion of whether and how to balance the demands of work and family has gone back and forth for decades now. It has evolved somewhat and become more nuanced. One of the most recent contributions to the debate has been made by Anne-Marie Slaughter in her book, *Unfinished Business*.

Slaughter is a former professor and Director of Policy Planning in the U.S. State Department and current President and CEO of New America, a think tank, and mother of two. For most of their children's lives, her husband has been the "lead parent," allowing her to pursue her career.

In *Unfinished Business*, she emphasizes the lack of respect paid to caregivers: nannies and day care workers make minimal salaries, stay-at-home parents are assumed to have nothing of importance to contribute in social situations, workers who take a break to tend to their families have a difficult time re-entering their jobs, and parental leave and child care are not generally supported in the workplace.

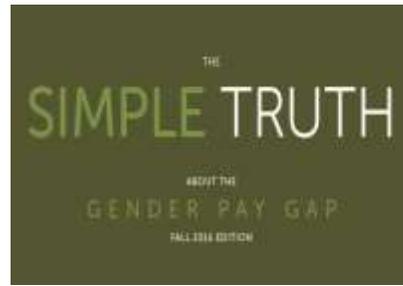
Some of Slaughter's thinking about caregiving was stimulated by a little book published decades ago, *On Caring*, by Milton Mayerhoff. (Check this one out, too.) Slaughter says "we are never going to get to gender equality between men and women unless we value the work of care as much as we value paid work—or when both men and women do it."

Source: Ellen McCarthy, "She famously said that women can't have it all. Now she realizes that no one can." *Washington Post*, 8-26-16.

Latest Figures on the Gender Pay Gap

The U.S. Census Bureau's latest data indicate that in 2015 women earned 80 cents for every dollar earned by men. This is a penny increase over last year's data. At this rate it will be 2152 before the pay gap is eliminated. Can you wait?

The Simple Truth



AAUW's *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap* explains how the pay gap in the United States

affects women of all ages, races, and education levels; and what you can do to close it. On the fifth anniversary of *The Simple Truth*, the report is updated with information on disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Download the full report and see state-by-state rankings at www.aauw.org/research/the-simple-truth-about-the-gender-pay-gap/.

Alleged Gender Bias at NIH

A scientist working at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), a division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, alleging gender bias at NIH. Bibiana Bielekova has had an outstanding career at NIH, publishing 52 papers in peer-reviewed journals, developing an international reputation, and helping to identify a treatment for multiple sclerosis. She received an excellent review from experts in her field outside NIH, yet she has not been put up for tenure. Of the 37 scientists at NINDS with tenure, only 3 are women. In NIH as a whole, 22 percent of those with tenure are women.

A panel from the National Academy of Sciences that examined women in academic settings in science and engineering noted that "unintentional biases and outmoded institutional structures" are factors working against women's advancement. The tenure system was developed when most scientists were men with stay-at-home wives. Although

the world has changed significantly since that era, tenure decisions are still made using the same criteria and procedures. NIH is aware of the gender imbalance in its ranks, but has been unable to improve it.

Bielekova admits that filing her complaint could cast a shadow over the rest of her professional life, but she says that “it’s time that women express publicly what they say privately.”

Source: Lenny Bernstein, “Tenure-seeking scientist alleges NIH gender bias in complaint, Washington Post, 8-29-16.

AAUW National Convention

Every two years, AAUW hosts the national convention where women leaders from across the nation gather together to learn new skills, gain insight and inspiration, and connect with other women leaders. Registration opens October 1, 2016.

Event Date: June 14–17, 2016

Location: Washington, DC

Don’t miss the opportunity. **Register now** At <http://convention.aauw.org/register/>.



Sometimes I wake up grumpy; other times I let him sleep. [ba-da-bing!]

Online Book Discussion *What is Visible: A Novel*

WHAT IS VISIBLE



KIMBERLY ELKINS

In recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month join the Adelante!! online discussion with Kimberly Elkins, author of *What is Visible: A Novel*, based on the true story of the first blind and deaf person to learn language. And no, we’re not talking about Helen Keller.

When: November 3, 2016, at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Online

Cost: Free for members; \$10 for non-members

Get event details and registration information today at www.aauw.org/event/2016/11/what-is-visible-a-novel-webinar/.

Interest Groups

Afternoon Lit

Wednesday, October 19, at 1 p.m.

Home of Prativa Prasad

9030 Scott Street, Springfield

balramprasad@gmail.com

703/866-4038

Please contact Prativa by Sunday, October 16, if you plan to attend. Please note the change in books. The group will discuss *The Residence* by Kate Andersen Brower, **not** *Pax* by Sara Pennypacker.

Great Decisions—Salon Discussion Group

Friday, October 14, at 12 noon

Home of Kay Corbett

7226 Clifton Road, Clifton

Kaycorbett1@msn.com

703/222-6012

At the present time we are using the Foreign Policy Association's 2016 Great Decisions briefing book as the basis for our discussions. A 30-minute DVD of each topic accompanies the briefing book and gives a great deal of information for discussion. In October we will continue with the sixth topic, *United Nations*.

Please let the hostess know if you will be attending. Bring a light lunch. The hostess will provide drinks and snacks. (Dessert thanks to Marjorie Rowley.)

Musical Notes

Friday, October 28, at 1 p.m.

Home of Olga Burns

10623 Timberidge Road, Fairfax Station

Rubato12@aol.com

703/239-2876

We will watch the second half of Rossini's *Cinderella*. We meet the fourth Friday of every month, and all are welcome to come and watch excellent performances of the major operas.

Night Owls

Tuesday, October 11, at 6:30 p.m.

Home of Suzanne Mahoney

8313 Chapel Lake Court, Annandale

suzanne070946@mac.com

703/978-3258

Light supper will be followed by our discussion of *My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout, led by Leslie Vandivere. Please let Suzanne know if you will be attending.

In November we will read *Arcadia* by Lauren Groff.

Calendar

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Filipino American History Month

LGBT History Month

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Branch Board Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 7 p.m.

Gale Rogers's Home

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, Oct. 5, noon

Guapo's at Fair Lakes

International Day of the Girl Child

Oct. 11

Ada Lovelace Day

Oct. 11

Northern District Meeting

Saturday, Oct. 22 at 2:00

Kings Park Library

Anniversary of the first National Women's Rights Convention

Oct. 23–24

Halloween

Oct. 31

Anniversary of the Pregnancy Discrimination Act

Oct. 31

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*> *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, 2017.

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 2016, remit \$82.

 If your National membership expires in 2017, 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

The Fairfax City Branch of AAUW presents

Book & Author Luncheon

Saturday, November 5, 2016, 11 am to 2 pm

Springfield Golf & Country Club • 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield
\$42 per person (includes luncheon and silent auction)

Our featured books look to the past through personal, familial, and international lenses.

-  **Ellen Herbert, *The Last Government Girl*.** A young woman comes to Washington while World War II is raging, unaware that a killer is targeting government workers.
-  **Dean King, *The Feud: The Hatfields and McCoys: The True Story*.** Based on original research, this history captures all the brutality and intrigue of this Appalachian saga.
-  **Sophie Perinot, *Médecis Daughter: A Novel of Marguerite de Valois*.** This 16th century French princess learns her role as a pawn in marriage under the intimidating tutelage of Queen Catherine.
-  **Urmilla Khanna, *Boundaries of the Wind: A Memoir*.** A young south Asian woman surmounts countless obstacles to fulfill her dream of practicing medicine in the United States.
-  **Jane Hampton Cook, *America's Star Spangled Banner Story: Celebrating 200 Years of our National Anthem*.** A slice of history comes to life, showing the power of this hymn to make patriots of us all.

This annual event is sponsored by AAUW Fairfax City Branch to raise funds for scholarships for women in our area and for the AAUW Fund.

Please mail your check or Visa or MasterCard information to Suzanne Mahoney at 8313 Chapel Lake Ct., Annandale, VA 22003 • (703) 978-3258 • email: suzanne070946@mac.com • Checks should be payable to AAUW Fairfax City Branch.

Reservations must be made by October 29, 2016, and are payable in advance.

Requests for seating must be made at the time of the reservation.

Guests with special dietary requirements must make their requests when making reservations.



