

Book & Author Luncheon

October 28, 11–2

Springfield Golf and Country Club

8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield

Your time is getting short! One short month remains for you to tell your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and anyone who loves books about this event. A big crowd will share the spirit, buy more books, and bid up the items in the silent auction. We need your help in packing the dining room! It's an enjoyable, stimulating program—meet new people, learn about new books, and be with friends. This is our only fund-raiser during the year, when the branch earns money to provide scholarships for women returning to college at George Mason University and to support AAUW programs and advocacy.

Besides enjoying your meal, you will meet five authors who will tell you about their writing and sign copies of their books for you. There's also a silent auction, which features treasures of all varieties and certificates from local restaurants and businesses.

Send your check or credit card information for \$42 per person to Sonia Esteve, 7416 Seabrook Lane, Springfield, VA 22153. Be sure to include the names of people in your group whom you want at your table. Do it today! For an electronic copy of the flyer to send to friends, email Barbara Klementz (brbklm5@verizon.net).

Come Meet and Talk with AAUW's New CEO

Saturday, October 21, 1:30–4:15 p.m.

Northern District Meeting

George Mason Regional Library

7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale

Kim Churches, AAUW's new CEO, will bring us up to date on AAUW and tell us her vision for AAUW's future as the premier organization for women's equity and education. Best of all, there will be plenty of time for you to make comments and ask Kim your questions. Those of you who attended national convention were impressed with this young, dynamic, articulate woman. AAUW is very fortunate!

You will also hear about the outstanding and exciting branch and state events on the horizon. We have a full agenda, so please arrive about 1:15 so you can pick up some refreshments and be ready to start right at 1:30.

Directions: Proceed east on Little River Tpk. past the Beltway, past most of the businesses in Annandale, Backlick Road, the Giant (on the left), John Marr Drive. The library is on the right set back from the road at the corner of Hillbrook Drive.

—Susan Burk and Caroline Pickens, Co-Northern District Reps

Silent Auction Suggestions

The Silent Auction Committee had a brainstorming meeting and came up with some appealing ideas for baskets at the Book & Author Luncheon. We are asking you to help make our fund-raiser as successful as it was last year. Listed below are suggestions we came up with, but with a little imagination, you may come up with an inspired idea! The Committee will assemble the baskets. All donations should be dropped off at Ida Portland's home, 10810 Glen Mist Lane, Fairfax, on Sunday, October 22 (afternoon) and Monday, October 23 (all day.)

- **Winter Wonderland:** hats, gloves, scarfs, ice scraper, woolen socks, throw, deicing salt, etc.
- **Breakfast Basket:** muffin mix, pans, pancake mix, syrups, jam, IHOP or breakfast restaurant gift card, napkins, coffee, tea, etc.
- **Tea Time:** teas of all varieties (flavored, black, green, white, herbal), cups, teapot, honey sticks, cinnamon sticks, tea cookies, tea cozy, teabag holders, loose tea holders, strainer, etc.
- **Margarita Night:** Tequila, margarita mix, salt, salt plate, limes, margarita glasses, chips, salsa, napkins, salsa CD (music), etc.
- **Car Emergency Kit:** flashlight, flares, first aid kit, jumper cables, instructions for changing a tire, pressure gauge, etc.
- **Gourmet:** serving plate, olive oils, vinegars, herbs, preserves, chocolate, mustards, crackers, honey, wine, tinned oysters, smoked clams, cheeses, capers, pickles, chutney, etc.

See the September *Focus* for more ways to contribute.

Sonja Palomaki
Silent Auction Chair
703/455-9262
spalomaki@dspalomaki.com

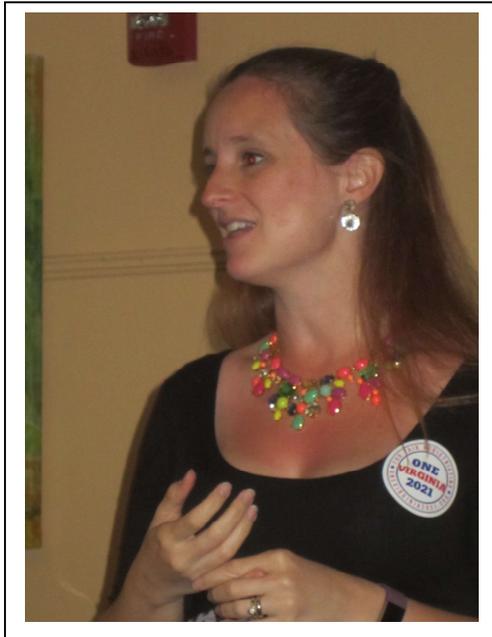
From the President

The Board has had no reply to several requests for leadership assistance. We will be meeting this week to discuss what we might do to handle the workload. Most of the ideas that occur to me personally are ways to reduce the workload so that the same number of people can handle the absolute essentials only. We certainly can't continue the way we are. We need

- A person to format the articles for the *Focus*
- A person to be co-Vice President for Membership with Sue Manganiello
- Two people for the Nominating Committee
- Two replacements in the spring as Vice President for Programs and Secretary

Please email me if you are willing to work with us or if you have ideas about how we can handle the workload better.

Gale Rogers



Gerrymandering in Virginia

The term “gerrymander” came into use in 1812 when Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry signed into law a bill redrawing a state senatorial district to favor his Democratic Republican Party. To many, the district had the shape of a salamander. Since that time, politicians of all stripes have played this game with increasing precision. Redistricting is now more of a science, and the dominant party can pack the opposition’s voters into a few districts, increasing their own power and further limiting that of the opposition. The result is that legislators become entrenched, incumbents are impossible to unseat, their opinions are more firmly held, and legislative gridlock is more likely.

Our September speaker, Liz White (pictured at left), is development director for OneVirginia2021, a group based in Richmond. The group is gearing up to improve the fairness of the redistricting process in the state, which will

take place during the 2021 legislative session. The current situation, in which incumbents pick their voters, must be reformed, Ms. White says, to one where voters genuinely choose candidates for office.

The big question, of course, is how to take the politics out of the redistricting process. OneVirginia2021 is pressing for an independent, impartial commission to establish a fair and transparent process for redistricting. Fairly drawn districts are compact, contiguous, and of equal population. This means keeping cities, towns, and counties together; keeping communities of interest together; and not drawing lines with the intent to harm a particular group.

For more information on this important topic, go to the group’s website at www.onevirginia2021.org.

From the Editor

Seen a good movie lately? Cooked a fantastic recipe recently? Read something you’d recommend? Have an opinion you’d like to share? Want to brag about something your grandkid said? Let me know, and we can put it in the *Focus*—with or without your name attached. I’ll even help you develop your story by talking with you. I’m always looking for tidbits to include in the next issue and ways to make the newsletter livelier. I’d love your input.

Just Out

See AAUW’s new report, *The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap*, based on the most recent data from the Census Bureau, Department of Education, and Bureau of Labor Statistics. The report indicates that the general narrowing of the gender pay gap has slowed and is still at 80 percent for the country as a whole. To download the entire report, go to www.aauw.org/resource/the-simple-truth-about-the-gender-pay-gap/.

Update on American Museum for Women's History

The Congressional Commission on the American Museum for Women's History's report in November 2016 clearly stated that the first critical step toward a permanent, stand-alone Smithsonian museum is the creation of a pan-institutional Smithsonian Women's History Initiative.

The Initiative would hire and place women's history curators in key museums throughout the Smithsonian's family of museums and support exhibits showcasing American women and their contributors to our country's success story. The goal of the Initiative would be to build momentum and grassroots support for the eventual building of a permanent museum in a prominent location on or very near the National Mall.

Our first "mini-step" was getting a portal on the Smithsonian's web site. And it has happened! Check out this link to the Smithsonian Women History's Initiative, which is now up and running: <https://support.si.edu/site/SPageNavigator/womenshistory.html/womenshistory>

Spread the word via your social network and ask your friends and colleagues to follow us and contribute to the effort. Email away! Thanks!

Wendy S. Pangburn
Executive Director
Congressional Commission on the American Museum of Women's History

Women's Conference

Congress member Don Beyer of Virginia's 8th district is sponsoring a women's conference and forum with the title **Moving Forward, Together - Impact & Influence. It will take place on Saturday, October 14 from 8:30 a.m. until noon at George Mason University.**

Admission is free, but you must preregister at www.eventbrite.com/e/moving-forward-together-impact-influence-tickets-37254473132

Interest Groups

Afternoon Lit

Wednesday, October 18, at 1 p.m.
Home of Jean Arnold
14611 Algretus Drive, Centreville
arnoldjh52@aol.com
703/830-8189

Please let Jean know by Sunday, October 15, if you plan to attend. The group will discuss *Hillbilly Elegy*, by J.D. Vance.

Great Decisions—Salon Discussion Group

Friday, October 13, at 12 noon
Home of Kay Corbett
7226 Clifton Road, Clifton
Kaycorbett1@msn.com
703/222-6012

We are continuing the 2017 edition of the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions with topic number six, Latin America. All members are welcome to attend. We will listen to a 30-minute DVD on the topic before our discussion.

Please let the hostess know if you are coming. Bring a light lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, October 4, at 11 a.m.
Clifton Café
7144 Main Street, Clifton

Wednesday, November 1, at 11:30 a.m.
Brion's Grill
10621 Braddock Road, Fairfax

Please email Gale Rogers if you can come to either lunch (gale.rogers63@gmail.com).

Musical Notes

Friday, September 27, at 1 p.m.
Home of Olga Burns
10623 Timberidge Road, Fairfax Station
rubato12@aol.com
703/239-2876

This month we'll view the next two acts of "Tales of Hoffmann." All are welcome; just let Olga know if you intend to come.

Night Owls

Tuesday, October 10, at 6:30 p.m.
Home of Dianne Blais
5211 Gunpowder Road, Fairfax
dianneblais@aol.com
703/830-1998

When we cancelled our September meeting, we decided to discuss *The Underground Railroad*, by Colson Whitehead in October. September's book (Elena Ferrante's *The Story of a New Name*) is now our selection for May. Light supper will be followed by our discussion, led by Judy Weltz. Please let Dianne know if you will be attending.

Upcoming in November: *The Widow*, by Fiona Barton.

Calendar of Branch Events

Oct 21, 1:30 pm, Northern Virginia District Meeting

Oct. 28, 11–2, Book & Author Luncheon

Dec., Holiday Party, TBD

Jan. 20, 1 p.m., Meeting on the African American Museum of History and Culture

Feb. 17, 1 p.m., Meeting on the opioid crisis. A representative from the Fairfax County Community Services Board will give a presentation on the opioid crisis—its prevalence, its effects, and policy recommendations to reduce its tragic costs.

Mar. 10, 6:30 a.m. STEMtastics

Apr. 19, 7 p.m., A microbiologist from the U.S. Geological Survey will discuss STEM issues and the practical applications of her research.

May, Spring Luncheon, TBD

AAUW—FAIRFAX CITY BRANCH
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is open to all graduates who have a two-year or a more advanced degree from an accredited institution. AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

You can join or renew *online* at www.aauw.org. Click on *Join* (or *Membership*). Under Branch Member, click on *Join/Renew*. 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: _____

DUES: \$77 (\$49 national, \$15 state, \$13 branch) for membership through June 30, 2018.

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

TRANSFERS: If transferring from National Membership (MAL) or another branch, the dues you owe may differ. To learn the correct amount of dues, contact:

Sue Manganiello, Membership V.P., smango54@yahoo.com, 703/764-1453, or

Dottie Joslin, Treasurer, j.joslin3@verizon.net; 703/591-9035.

Membership expiration date: _____ AAUW ID #, if known: _____

PAYMENT: Make check payable to *AAUW—Fairfax City Branch*.

Please send this form and your check to the branch treasurer:

Dottie Joslin
11110 Del Rio Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

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

The Fairfax City Branch of AAUW presents

Book & Author Luncheon

Saturday, October 28, 2017, 11 am to 2 pm

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

In our featured books, diverse characters are searching for ways to resolve their difficulties.

-  **Carolyn Parkhurst, *Harmony*.** The parents of an extremely challenging child, desperate for solutions, hope her camp's visionary leader will help her.
-  **Neely Tucker, *Only the Hunted Run*.** A shooting at the U.S. Capitol is prelude to this fast-paced thriller, featuring newspaperman Sully Carter.
-  **Jennifer Close, *The Hopefuls*.** A young couple join the political class in Washington, lap up its unique culture, and take what they have learned.
-  **Dolen Perkins-Valdez, *Balm*.** Three Civil War survivors travel to Chicago after the war seeking new lives and hope for the future.
-  **Myrna Brown, *Of Unseen Things Above*.** A young American woman experiences a life-changing mission to Africa as she becomes involved in village life.

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 Sonia Esteve at 7416 Seabrook Lane, Springfield, VA 22153 • (703) 569-1456 • email: westeve47@gmail.com • Checks should be payable to AAUW Fairfax City Branch.

Reservations must be made by October 21, 2017, 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.



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

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gale.rogers63@gmail.com

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STEMtastics:
Gale Rogers
gale.rogers63@gmail.com

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arnoldjh52@aol.com

Night Owls: Paulette Miller
psmiller10847@verizon.net

Salon Discussion Group: Kay Corbett
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Musical Notes: Olga Burns
rubato12@aol.com

Lunch Bunch: Gale Rogers
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