

**Fairfax City Branch AAUW
Spring Luncheon
Country Club of Fairfax
5110 Ox Road, Fairfax
June 7 at 12 noon**

We hope all of you plan to attend our spring luncheon at noon on June 7 at the Country Club of Fairfax. We will celebrate our major events of the year—the Book & Author Luncheon and the awarding of our branch scholarship made possible by your efforts and support. We will honor our scholarship winner(s), who will be invited to join us, and hear our guest speaker, Ms. Amy Carlini, Director of Communications for Fairfax County Family Services, who will discuss resources and support available for residents in our area.

We need your reservations and luncheon choices by **May 25**, along with a check for \$32. The four meal choices are:

- Grilled Chicken and Penne with Mushrooms, Peppers, Piquant Cream Sauce, and Garlic Bread
- Grilled Salmon with Lemon Thyme Butter
- Three & One Salad with Chicken, Tuna, and Shrimp on Lettuce
- Veggie Entrée TBD

Coffee and tea will be served with a mixed berry trifle for dessert. Wine and/or drinks can be purchased at the bar.

Please mail your check (made out to Fairfax City Branch AAUW) to Co-Vice President for Programs, Kitty Lou Smith at 5240 Lonsdale Drive, Springfield, VA, 22151. Please indicate your meal choice on the memo line. You may include your separate check for dues (\$87) that will be passed on Sue Manganiello. If you have questions, call Kitty Lou (703/323-9214), Dianne Blais (703/830-1998), or Bonnie Nelson (703/323-0771).

The Country Club of Fairfax is located on the west side of Ox Road (Rte.123), approximately .7 miles south of the Braddock Road (Rte. 620)–Ox Road (Rte.123) intersection. Parking is available close to the entrance.



From the Branch Board

Dear Fellow AAUW Fairfax City Branch Members,

The Fairfax City Branch Board strongly urges you to vote in favor of all three of the bylaw changes proposed by AAUW. Voting opens **April 25** and closes on **June 9**. You simply have to log in to the website and enter your PIN to vote. Be on the lookout in your email Inbox for your voter PIN in April. Go to <https://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/> to read AAUW's statement about the bylaws amendments. The Fairfax City Branch Board believes, as does our CEO Kim Churches, that these changes are *essential* if we want to keep AAUW relevant today and into the future.

1. Creating staggered 3-year terms for AAUW (national) board members is consistent, for example, with what our branch already does so that there is some Board continuity year in and year out.
2. Opening AAUW Board service to no more than five individuals who are not members of AAUW (out of the total of 15) allows the organization to recruit outside experts who have critical expertise and/or connections that are of value to AAUW.
3. Opening membership to anyone who supports the AAUW mission, regardless of whether or not she or he has a degree is essential if we are not to be perceived as an elitist organization and uninterested in the viewpoints of those who may not have had the opportunities we have had to receive a degree. I recognize that this has been a contentious issue in the past, but, if you had heard Kim Churches speak at the meeting about what this requirement makes us look like, you would understand why AAUW has proposed this amendment. It is my belief that the number of people that will take advantage of this is small, but important. For example, suppose there is an entrepreneur who has no college education but has achieved enormous success in her field. Such a person would be a valuable ambassador for AAUW, but would she want to work with us if she cannot be an equal partner? I doubt it. Please vote yes on this amendment.

Gale Rogers
President



Membership Renewal Time!

As we anticipate year-end events, it's time to look forward to another year of fulfilling activities as a member of the Fairfax City Branch. In addition to supporting and enjoying the branch, you'll be furthering AAUW's mission to promote equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

On April 12, AAUW (National) sent you an "invoice" with instructions for renewing your membership. It's easy to renew online directly from the link in the invoice. If you prefer, you may renew by check. See the options below.

Dues are \$87 (Paid Life Members, \$28). If you renew by check, make it payable to *AAUW—Fairfax City Branch*. Of the \$59 national portion of your dues, \$56 is deductible as a charitable contribution.

Here are your renewal options:

1. Renew online with your credit card by clicking on the link in AAUW's invoice. You do not need to log in. (Do not renew through the website!)
2. Mail a check to me *before May 10*: Dottie Joslin, 11110 Del Rio Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030-5339.
3. When you send a check for your reservation for the June luncheon to Kitty Lou Smith, enclose a **separate** dues check (\$87 payable to *AAUW—Fairfax City Branch*). Please note "dues" on the memo line.
4. Give a check to Sue Manganiello, Membership V.P., at the June 7 luncheon at the Country Club of Fairfax.

Your membership expires on June 30. AAUW expects treasurers to send dues to them before the end of June, so prompt attention to renewal is appreciated. Thank you!

—Dottie Joslin, Treasurer

Give a Grad a Gift!

It's college graduation time! Do you know any women who are graduating from college or who have graduated in the past two years? As an AAUW member you can give one year of AAUW national membership to as many recent college graduates as you like **at no cost to them or you.**

We all know that the future of our organization depends on today's graduates, so think about giving this easy gift. New graduates can also benefit from AAUW's Start Smart program as they begin their careers.

What Do You Do with a Love of Science and Insatiable Curiosity?

At our April meeting, Denise Akob gave us a picture of her life's journey, both its intellectual aspect and its geographic side. Her curiosity as a child led her to love science classes in school (despite some not-so-great teachers), but she also loved art. Her college experience at St. Mary's College of



Maryland, with its hands-on curriculum, guided her to a major in biology, summer internships in biological sciences, and a senior thesis with field work she found exciting. Her career focus had narrowed considerably! From Maryland, it was on to a doctoral program at Florida State University and an interest in oceanography and research on mangrove ecology. Another shift in Dr. Akob's passion resulted in her dissertation research on bioremediation.

Let's detour into some science here: bioremediation is the use of microorganisms to reduce, eliminate, or contain hazardous contaminants in the environment. In her dissertation research in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Dr. Akob worked with microbes in an effort to rid the site of radioactive uranium that had contaminated wastewater. Certain microorganisms can metabolize uranium, changing it from a soluble to an insoluble substance during this process. Once the contaminating uranium becomes insoluble, it can be physically removed from the wastewater.

After a post-doctoral fellowship in Germany, it was time for Dr. Akob to get a real job. She had originally wanted to teach in a university environment but was quickly lured by the opportunities

available as a fulltime research scientist working at the intersection of microbiology and geochemistry for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). As head of the USGS Microbiology Lab in Reston, she has continued her work in bioremediation. Among the projects the lab is working on is examining the effects of the wastewater generated by hydraulic fracturing in the production of oil and gas on water resources. This wastewater is stored in more than 30,000 injection wells adjacent to fracking sites throughout the country. The results of these studies can inform how gas and oil exploration and production companies will be monitored by federal regulatory agencies.

Dr. Akob is a strong advocate for education in the STEM fields. She has been a presenter at STEMtastics for several years. One of the volunteer interns in her lab attended the career day as a middle school student. Her enthusiasm for her work is contagious, and she makes a good role model for young people exploring career fields. Her lab's research may provide critical answers to complex environmental problems.

Judgment for Equal Pay

A federal appeals court in California ruled that employers cannot take prior salary into account when setting a salary for a new employee. In other words, the Equal Pay Act means exactly that: equal pay for the same work. A pay gap between male and female employees doing the same work cannot be justified by the prior salary of one or the other. This kind of pay differential increases with every percentage increase in pay and results in an ever-widening gap in wages.

Aileen Rizo, the plaintiff in this case, is employed by the Fresno County (CA) Office of Education and was supported in this suit in part by AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund.

Source: Danielle Paquette, "Employers may not pay women less because of salary history, court rules," *Washington Post*, 4-9-18.



ANNOUNCING: The place to be on **July 21** is the Burns's yard for delicious food, great conversation, and refreshing pool water. Kelly Espy will once again be our event manager; you can let her know what you would like to contribute. Festivities start at 3:30 at 10623 Timberidge Road in Fairfax Station and last until dark. Join us!

Congratulations, Ida!

One of our outstanding Fairfax City Branch members has been a branch member since 1984. It was a surprise to learn that she joined AAUW in 1968! As Ida Portland has been an AAUW member continuously for 50 years, AAUW recently granted her Honorary Life Member status. She has paid dues for so many years that she will no longer need to pay any dues to be a member!

Many of you know Ida from her decades of participation and leadership in our Fairfax City Branch. In recent years she has been a valuable member of the Silent Auction team, including opening her home for collecting items and assembling the beautiful baskets. She enjoys the camaraderie and discussions of the Night Owls book group. Many times, Ida and her husband Rob hosted our festive holiday parties, where we enjoyed Ida's gourmet cooking. In her early years here, she worked on the branch's used book sales and participated in several interest groups—gourmet and bridge—as well as the book group. In 1990 Ida received the branch's Named Gift Honoree award.

Ida stated that her most productive years in AAUW occurred in her first two branches: The West Chester, PA, Branch (1968–1978) and the Bernardsville, NJ, Branch (1978–1984). She held officer positions (Vice-President, Membership, and Treasurer) and served on the boards of both branches. Ida chaired and volunteered for many fundraisers, interest groups, and other efforts. These included book sales, progressive dinners, regional luncheons, and a student art show. Both of these branches had large memberships and covered large regions in less densely populated areas. The branches were very active and social, which suited their lives at that time.

When Ida moved to Fairfax City and inquired about AAUW, she found that some of the group's activities were the same as what she had experienced before. That and the friendly members made the transition to the Fairfax City Branch welcoming. Her interest in education has kept her an AAUW member for the past 50 years. Congratulations, Ida, and thank you for all you have contributed!

—Dottie Joslin

U.S. Falls Behind in Percentage of Working Women

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), other developed countries have left the United States in the shade in terms of women's employment in recent decades. In 1985, 70 percent of women in the U.S. between the ages of 25 and 54 were either working or actively looking for jobs. This figure was second only to Sweden.

Since that date, women's employment in the U.S. has grown only slightly to 74 percent, while that in other countries has mushroomed. Sweden still has the highest female employment rate, with 88.5 percent of women in the prime age group (25–54) employed. But France jumped from 68 to 83 percent employed. Germany went from 59 to 83 percent and Australia from 57 to 77 percent.

The IMF report concludes that European nations have enacted more supportive policies for employed women than has the U.S., including “better access to childcare, longer maternity leave and greater flexibility in work arrangements.” Our country is still the only advanced economy that has not mandated paid maternity leave. Affordable child- and eldercare are also less readily available.

Women should not necessarily feel discriminated against, however: men's participation in the U.S. labor force has also declined. In 1985, the rate was 94 percent of men in the prime age group. Since then it has dropped to 88.5 percent, tied with Italy for the lowest rate of any advanced economy. It is not clear why this has happened.

These decreases in workforce participation could become problematic as the U.S. population ages and more citizens will rely on Social Security and Medicare to maintain their standard of living. Making employment more attractive and affordable for women would be one way to help fill this potential need.

Source: Heather Long, “U.S. falters in rate of women at work,” *Washington Post*, 4-12-18.

Women in the Senate

When Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS) was sworn in as a member of the U.S. Senate on April 9, the number of women serving in that body set a record high of 23.



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Calendar

Online voting for AAUW of Virginia election of officers is **now open**. (Voter guide is available in the Winter/Spring 2018 issue of the *Vision* at <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/>. An email with your member number and a PIN that will enable you to vote in this election only was sent to all members on April 24.)

Voting for AAUW proposed bylaws changes is **now open**. (See the article on p. 2. An email with your member number and a PIN that will enable you to vote in this election only was sent to all members on April 25.)

May 1: Complete the survey on the AAUW strategic plan draft by 6 p.m. on this date. See the email that was sent to all members on April 23.

June 2, June 23, and July 14, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.: Book collection dates for McLean AAUW Used Book Sale, Sun Trust Bank, 515 Maple Ave. East, Vienna.

May 14: Online voting closes at 9 p.m. for AAUW of Virginia election.

June 7: Branch Spring Luncheon

June 9: AAUW bylaws voting closes at 9 p.m.

July 21: Pool party!

From the Editor

The *Focus* will return at the beginning of September, with issues following in October, December, February, and April. If you take an interesting trip, send me a write-up. If you read a book you think other members would be interested in, write about it for the *Focus*. We all like to read about other people's experiences.

Do what you enjoy, and enjoy what you do!

—Jan Humphrey

Interest Groups

Afternoon Lit

Wednesday, May 16, at 1 p.m.
Home of Jean Arnold
14611 Algretus Drive, Centreville
arnoldjh52@aol.com
703/830-8189



classroomclipart.com

Please let Jean know by Sunday, May 13 if you plan to attend. The group will discuss the novel *Moonglow* by Michael Chabon.

Great Decisions–Salon Discussion Group

This group is looking for a leader. If you would like Great Decisions to continue in the fall, please step forward, and let Gale Rogers know you would like to take this responsibility.

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, May 2, at 11 a.m.
The Coyote Grille
10266 Main Street, Fairfax

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

Musical Notes

Monday, May 14, at 1 p.m.
Home of Olga Burns
10623 Timberidge Road, Fairfax Station
rubato12@aol.com
703/239-2876

We will hear Bellini's *Norma*. Please let Olga know if you plan to come.

Night Owls

Tuesday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m.
Home of Paulette Miller
10847 Split Oak Lane, Burke
Psmiller10847@verizon.net
703/250-0876

A light supper will be served, followed by our discussion of *The Story of a New Name*, by Elena Ferrante, which will be led by Kelly Espy. Please let Paulette know if you will be attending.

Tuesday, June 12, at 6:30 p.m.
Home of Judy Weltz
10522 Rosehaven Street, Fairfax
jolegp@msn.com
703/272-8242

This is our planning meeting, so come with recommendations for books the group can read next year. A light supper will be served, so please let Judy know if you're planning to attend.

Tuesday, July 10, at 6:30 p.m.
Home of Olga Burns
10623 Timberidge Road, Fairfax Station
rubato12@aol.com
703/239-2876

Bring your suit and towel and enjoy a swim before a light supper. We will discuss *Hillbilly Elegy*, by J.D. Vance. Email Paulette if you are willing to lead the discussion. Please let Olga know if you plan to come.

Our Mission:
**Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education,
 philanthropy, and research.**

**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 online at aauw.org. Click on *Join (or Membership)*. Under Branch Member, click on the *Join/Renew* button. 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: _____

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DUES: \$87 (\$59 national, \$15 state, \$13 branch) for membership through June 30, 2019.

Note: \$56 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: _____

How did you hear about the Fairfax City Branch of AAUW? _____

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

Please send this form and your check to the treasurer:

DOTTIE JOSLIN
 11110 DEL RIO DR
 FAIRFAX, VA 22030-5339

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

Officers:

President: Gale Rogers
gale.rogers63@gmail.com

Program Vice President:
Dianne Blais
dianneblais@aol.com
Kitty Lou Smith
kittysmith@cox.net

Membership Vice President:
Sue Manganiello
smango54@yahoo.com

Secretary: Anita Light
anita.light95@gmail.com

Treasurer: Dottie Joslin
i.joslin3@verizon.net

AAUW Funds and Scholarship:
Paulette Miller
psmiller10847@verizon.net

Newsletter Editor: Jan Humphrey
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Branch Event Chairs:

Book & Author Luncheon:
Paulette Miller
psmiller10847@verizon.net

STEMtastics:
Gale Rogers
gale.rogers63@gmail.com

Interest Group Chairs:

Afternoon Literature: Jean Arnold
arnoldjh52@aol.com

Night Owls: Paulette Miller
psmiller10847@verizon.net

Great Decisions/Salon Group: Vacant

Musical Notes: Olga Burns
rubato12@aol.com

Lunch Bunch: Gale Rogers
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