



A R L I N G T O N
BRANCH REPORT

AAUW OF VIRGINIA

January 2015

Volume 71, Issue 5

January 20, 2015

7:00 pm

Patrick Henry Elementary School Library

Come to the first branch meeting for 2015 to learn about raising the political voice of young women in America. Our speaker will be Susan Wellford, President and Founder of *Running Start*.

Susan Wellford has a J.D. from the University Of Virginia School Of Law. She worked for several years in private practice. Prior to law school, Ms. Wellford worked in the Clinton White House on the Health Care Task Force. She is also a former Legislative Assistant for Senator Wyche Fowler from Georgia. Ms. Wellford speaks frequently to colleges, political groups and many international groups on the importance of involving young women in politics.



Running Start was founded in early 2007 when it became clear that there was only a small number of young women and girls considering careers in politics and running for elected office. *Running Start* hopes to provide the education, skills and encouragement through their leadership programs, fellowships and mentoring to inspire the next generation to engage in politics.

Arlene Shapiro, Vice-President for Programs
arleneshapiro@yahoo.com

President's Message

Friends of ours host a party in December where each guest gets a sprig of holly to toss into the fireplace to symbolize casting away the old year's cares and problems. I hope each of you has found a way to clear your mind of the tribulations of 2014, and are entering 2015 with a renewed spirit.

After the joyful frenzy of the holidays it is always pleasant to engage in the more relaxed pace of January. However, should you find yourself wanting some activity providing interesting conversations and experiences, do plan to attend AAUW events in January and February.

First, I want to thank Meg Tuccillo for hosting the holiday luncheon, Arlene Shapiro for arranging for Molly Lam of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) to speak to us, and all who attended for the delicious food and spirited conversation. LAF began at Cornell University in the 1960's as an organization related to, but separate from AAUW. The goal of LAF was to help women in academia who were challenging policies that discriminated against them in pay and the granting of tenure and promotions. In 2008, LAF became a formal part of AAUW, and its mission expanded to include women in other workplaces, the first one being Lilly Ledbetter. Her name may sound familiar. When she found out Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, for whom she had worked for 19 years, was paying her thousands of dollars less than men in similar supervisory positions, she sued the company in a case that went to the Supreme Court. The Court ruled she should have filed suit within 180 days of the first unequal paycheck. Since company rules prohibited employees from discussing their pay, with firing being the punishment for doing so, and Ledbetter had only found out about the discrimination because of an anonymous note, she clearly could not have met that deadline. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's minority opinion urged Ledbetter to work to get the laws changed, which she did. On January 29, 2009, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act was the first piece of legislation signed by President Barack Obama. She had a signing of her biography, *Grace and Grit*, at AAUW headquarters, and was lavish with her praise of the emotional and financial support she received from AAUW. Now AAUW and LAF are helping Peggy Young, the UPS driver suing the company for not providing light duty work for her when her doctor indicated it was necessary due to pregnancy complications. You can find details at the AAUW website, Supreme Court Review.

On January 20, at 7:00 pm in the Patrick Henry School Elementary School library, Susan Wellford, founder and CEO of *Running Start*, an organization attempting to provide the education, skills and encouragement women need to enter politics, will be our speaker. This would be an excellent program for you to

bring a younger friend who might be interested in politics.

The Northern District AAUW meeting is Saturday, January 17, 2015 at the King's Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Springfield. Leaders from the Branches in the area will be discussing ways to attract and keep members, especially young women; and to revitalize programs and meetings. If you have some ideas about these issues, please contact Sara Anderson with them, and/or plan to attend.

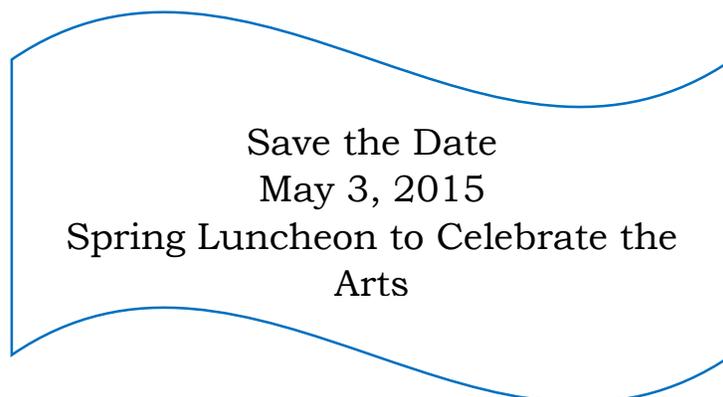
If attracting a more diverse membership is a concern of yours, look into participating in the diversity webinar on January 14, 2015. You can register at the AAUW website.

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 is the annual Lobby Day in Richmond where AAUW, the League of Women Voters, National Organization for Women and other organizations visit delegates and Senators and focus their attention on women's issues. This year we will be presenting a petition calling for action against human trafficking. We will have petitions available for you to sign on January 17. If you cannot attend that meeting, please contact Sara Anderson, and we will get a petition to you.

We hope several of you will plan to go to Richmond on February 4. It is an interesting, enlightening experience--and fun as well! It is well worth getting up early and heading South on I-95! Look for the Lobby Day article in this Report, noting that we need to let the state staff know how many may be attending by January 23.

Best wishes for a healthy, happy, rewarding year in 2015!

Sara Anderson



Membership News

The Shape the Future membership campaign is a recruitment tool for current members to offer a discounted rate to prospective members. With this campaign, new members and students can take 50% off the national dues rate when they join on the spot during an AAUW public event. Branches also earn one free national membership to give away for every two newly recruited members, with a maximum of five free memberships annually.

The Arlington Branch uses this mechanism to attract new members; we've usually earned 1-2 free national memberships per year, which we use as incentives for members to renew their dues early in the annual cycle.

Carol Dabbs, Finance Officer

Upcoming Events

Let's Talk About Books

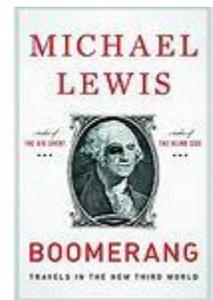
Our January meetings will be at the following times and locations:

- The second Monday, January 12 at 2 pm at the home of Dorothy Miller, 1016 S Wayne Street, #903, 703/950-1279, dmiller903@verizon.net
- The fourth Tuesday, January 27th at 2 pm at the home of Barbara Gallagher, 4612 20th Street, N, 703/243-1043, bgallag2@gmail.com

Our book selection for January is ***Boomerang Travels in the New Third World*** by Michael Lewis.

Be sure to let the hostess know if you will be attending the session at her home.

Barbara A Gallagher
bgallag2@gmail.com



International Coffee

The THIS/AAUW International Coffee Group starts out the new year with two coffees in January.

- On January 14 the coffee will be held from 10-12 a.m. at the home of Juliana Madan in Annandale.
- On January 28 the coffee will be at the home of Arlene Shapiro in Alexandria.



Branch members are welcome. For further information please contact Priscilla Becker at JBecker841@aol.com or 703-841-0647.

Arlington Mill Lunch Bunch

The Arlington Mill High School Lunch Bunch volunteers will meet on Thursday, January 15, 2015 from 12:40 pm-1:20 pm at the Arlington Career Center, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive, Arlington, in the **Library**. This is a change of location. The students will view another segment from the documentary film, *Girl Rising*, which shows how girls around the world face barriers to education, that boys do not. Discussion will focus on what similarities and differences the students face in their everyday lives as compared to the girl in the video.

If you would like to attend this inspirational group, or be a speaker at one of the lunches, please contact Mary Ann Ullrich or myself. We look forward to seeing you at one of our Lunch Bunch programs this year.

Lunch Bunch Coordinators,

Michele Milden
mbmilden@aol.com
703/820-7794

Mary Ann Ullrich
maryann.ullrich.va@gmail.com
703/573-2002

LOBBY CORPS OPEN HOUSE

We were 30 strong at the November 21 Lobby Corps open house and luncheon at AAUW headquarters. Representing the Arlington Branch were Marjorie Hobart, Norma Kacen and Marcy Leverenz. Lobby Corps members and interested folks listened to an upbeat briefing by AAUW's lobbyist, Lisa Maatz, and Vice President of Government Relations. She talked about the recent mid-term elections and how AAUW works with those who will help the organization's public policy agenda.

Many of the AAUW staff spoke to us. Patty Snee, the new Field Director told us about many of the state ballot initiatives that past or were strongly supported in the midterm: paid sick days in Massachusetts, Alaska, Arkansas, Illinois and South Dakota strongly supported minimum wage increases. To see the rest of how women fared in state ballot measures go to www.aauw.org/2014/11/06/state-ballots-2014/.

Other staff informed us of a list of advocacy how-to resources, and the importance of Facebook and Twitter to help put out our message. Members can follow AAUW on Facebook, or twitter.



Anne Hedgepeth, Government Relations Manager gave us an overview of the AAUW website and members/public can see what issues the Lobby Corps has worked on. Go to aauw.org, LAF, LOBBY CORPS and then click on Archive.

A Lobby Corps training session will be held in January, date is to be determined. You all are invited to join and be part of AAUW at work on the big picture.

Marcy Leverenz
Lobby Corps
mleverenz@comcast.net

Events of Interest

The Virginia General Assembly will meet in Regular Session in Richmond from January 14-February 28, 2015. You'll be able to find out lots of useful information about the lawmakers and proposed legislation at the following websites: <http://viriniageneralassembly.gov>, <http://lis.virginia.gov>, and <http://www.richmondsunlight.com>. As of today, there are already 284 bills pre-filed in the House of Delegates and another 164 in the Senate. Of particular interest is House Joint Resolution No. 495, which addresses ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

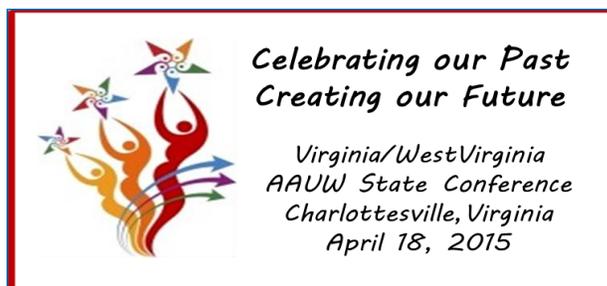
On **Wednesday, February 4, 2015**, we will be holding our annual State Lobby Day and hope that you will be joining us. I am currently firming up the agenda and will let you know when all the pieces fall into place. However, you should expect that the day's agenda will begin early (8:30 am or earlier) and should wrap up after lunch. As in the past, we will be joining the League of Women Voters (and perhaps other groups) at lunch.

In addition to lobbying our lawmakers about some of the bills introduced in the General Assembly, we will also be dropping off our human trafficking petitions. Please keep those signatures coming so that our lawmakers recognize that their constituents are interested in additional legislative measures to provide assistance to victims of human trafficking.

Night before Lobby Day: As in the past, several members from the AAUW Greater Richmond Branch will graciously be opening their homes to our members participating in State Lobby Day, who arrive on February 3rd and spend the night. Please let me know **No Later than January 15, 2015**, if you would be interested in staying at the home of a Richmond branch member. If you arrive the night before, you can also figure that there will be group arrangements for dinner, if you would like to participate.

Because we will be preparing packets of information to drop off at lawmakers' offices, please email me the names and email addresses of your branch members participating in Lobby Day by **January 23, 2015**.

Lunch: If you would like to join the group for lunch on State Lobby Day, please let Sara Anderson know that as well by **January 23, 2015**.



2013-2014 Executive Committee

President:	Sara Anderson , 532-3830, sfpaaauw6382 at aol.com
Vice-President for Programs:	Arlene Shapiro , 719-5467 arleneshapiro at yahoo.com
Vice-President for Membership:	Susan Senn , 243-0913, sennsu at Verizon.net
Secretary:	Cindy Almand , 533-9223, calmond47 at aol.com
Treasurer:	Carol Dabbs , 379-6840, carol_dabbs at yahoo.com
Assistant Treasurer:	Nancy Morgan , 465-1245, nhmorgan.va at gmail.com
Past President:	Arlene Wilson , 534-6837, arlenewilson at verizon.net

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American Association of University Women
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Arlington, Va. 22204-1003
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mission of AAUW- Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

The Arlington *Branch Report* is published monthly from September through June by the Arlington Branch of the American Association of University Women. Articles for the February 2015 *Branch Report* should be mailed or emailed by January 10 to Editor Barbara Olivere at 5901 2nd St S, Arlington, VA 22204 or blolivere@aol.com.

Address changes or corrections should be made to Nancy Morgan.

Calendar of Coming Events

January 12	2:00 Book Club
January 14	10:00 International Coffee
January 15	12:30 Lunch Bunch
January 20	7:00 Branch Meeting
January 27	2:00 Book Club
January 28	10:00 International Coffee
February 4	State Lobby Day
April 18, 2015	State Convention
May 3, 2015	Spring Luncheon

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR