



A R L I N G T O N
B R A N C H R E P O R T
AAUW OF VIRGINIA
February 2015
Volume 71, Issue 6

February 17, 2015
7:00 pm
Patrick Henry Elementary School Library

We will have a wonderful opportunity at our February 17th meeting to hear a presentation by AAUW Archivist, Suzanne Gould. She has earned graduate degrees in women's history and library science.

Suzanne preserves AAUW's historical records. She shares stories about the many fascinating women and events in AAUW's history on her blog on the AAUW website as well as articles in AAUW Outlook Magazine. Her articles have featured Ellen Swallow Richards, the first woman to earn a chemistry degree and one of the founders of AAUW, Eleanor Roosevelt and Frances Perkins.

Suzanne is working to preserve the stories of the thousands of women over the last 100 years who have received fellowships to continue their studies. Many AAUW fellows have overcome obstacles, witnessed world events and have displayed bravery and courage.

Suzanne will be sharing with us many of the fascinating stories of the women in the United States and internationally who were able to continue their university studies in medicine, science, education, literature and many other fields.

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

Inclement weather – If Arlington Schools are closed for evening activities, the meeting will be canceled.

President's Message

"I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes.

Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and, more importantly, you're doing something."

Neil Gaiman, Author

This quotation was in the recent electronic update on Leadership for Branch Presidents from the National Office of AAUW. I was struck by it because it made me suddenly wonder if one reason people--and this is true of many groups, not just AAUW--are reluctant to come forward and accept positions of leadership is that they fear making mistakes. Such an understandable fear. We receive messages all our lives from many sources, that mistakes are bad--something to avoid. However, Gaiman is emphasizing the importance of learning from mistakes, and accepting them as an indication that you are trying something new.

I hope all of you will keep this in mind this year as our Branch experiences a larger than usual turn-over in leadership. My term as President as well as Carol Dabbs's term as Treasurer and Susan Senn's as Vice President for Membership all end on June 30, 2015. In addition, for various reasons Arlene Shapiro (Vice President for Programs) and Cindy Almand (Secretary) will not be serving the second year of their terms. That means nearly the entire Executive Committee will be new during the 2015-16 year. At its meeting on January 8, the Board of Directors made note of this fact, and will be working with the incoming officers to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Carol Dabbs, Barbara Gallagher, Marjorie Hobart, Gloria Rothman and Robin Strub have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee, doing the important job of assembling a slate of officers. Marjorie is serving as Chair. Please give their request serious consideration when they call you. Or better yet call one of them and volunteer for a position!

Other events in February to note include our Branch meeting featuring Suzanne Gould bringing us interesting facts about the history of AAUW on Tuesday, February 17. See Arlene Shapiro's article on page 1.

On Wednesday, February 4, several of us will be driving to Richmond for the Lobby Day. Representatives of the League of Women Voters (LWV) and National

Association for Women (NOW) will be gathering at the Capitol to hear updates on legislation of concern to women, and to make visits to their legislators. This is a wonderful opportunity to make your voice heard on bills of interest and concern to you. You will also learn a great deal about the workings of our state government, which is vastly more complex than most of us realize. I learned a great deal by participating in 2013, and am looking forward to another interesting experience on Feb. 4. Please see the Public Policy article in this newsletter, and join fellow Branch members in this adventure!

Save the date, Saturday, March 14, for our annual meeting at 10 am at the Shirlington Branch Library. Our meeting and election of officers will be followed by a post-Session Legislative Forum we are co-sponsoring with the League of Women Voters of Arlington. The delegation to the Virginia General Assembly has been contacted, and several have already responded that they will participate. Our responsibilities include doing publicity and providing a moderator and time keeper. We will also bring light refreshments for those attending. Please contact the Branch President if you are able to help with this event.

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. 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

Our thoughts go to **Lora Rinker** whose husband Charlie Rinker died on January 8th. In December, Lora as founder of A-SPAN, recently made a presentation to Branch members on the state of homelessness in Arlington.

Spring Membership Tea

The Spring Membership Tea will take place on Sunday afternoon, April 12, 2015. The Executive Board agreed to change the name from The New Members' Tea because, by April, the new members have been part of the branch for most of the calendar year. We felt it would be nice to expand the attendees to include potential new members who have been invited to attend the tea along with both the 2014-2015 new members and the general membership. An idea was proposed to host a New Members' Tea in the fall season so as to introduce any current new members and to share with them information about all the various groups within the Arlington Branch. So, put the date in your calendar and begin thinking about who of your acquaintances might be interested in hearing about all the wonderful and important work

Upcoming Events

Let's Talk About Books

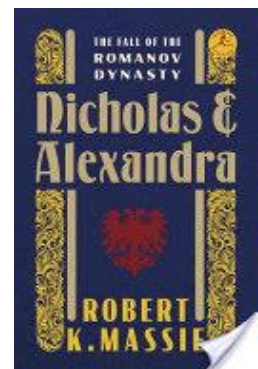
Our February meetings will be at the following times and locations:

- The second Monday, February 9 at 2 pm, at the home of Priscilla Becker, 2375 N Vernon St, 703/841-0647, jbecker841@aol.com
- the fourth Tuesday, February 24 at 2 pm, at the home of Sharon Schoumacher, 3800 N Fairfax Drive, #1006, 703/522-9014, sharon1006@verizon.net

Our book selection for February is *Nicholas and Alexandra* by Robert K. Massie.

Be sure to let the hostess know if you are planning to attend 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 February

- February 11 at the home of Sandy Sieber in McLean
- February 25 at the home of Canadian Diplomat Peg Brandon in Arlington.



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 will meet on February 19, from 12:40-1:20 in the Library at the Career Center, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive, Arlington. The students will continue their video-based *Girl Rising* journey, this month to Peru, to meet Senna who shares her story and struggle to survive in a bleak Peruvian mining town. Through her father's insistence that she go to school, she discovers the transformative power of poetry. Senna says, "Poetry is how I turn fear into will."

Girl Rising is both a film and a grassroots movement that highlights the critical need to educate girls in order to break the cycle of poverty and related issues including gender-based violence, discrimination, forced labor and human trafficking. Discussion and interactive activities are included to enhance and support the storytelling format of the film.

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

STEM Update

Arlington AAUW has been offered the opportunity to join with Alexandria AAUW and, hopefully, another branch in Northern Virginia to plan and implement an all-day *Tech Savvy Conference* for 6-9th grade girls. *Tech Savvy* is a day-long STEM Career Conference designed to attract young women to the fields and is sponsored by National AAUW. In this case, BAE Systems, an international defense system company, on the same order as Northrop-Grumman and Lockheed-Martin, is fully funding this conference for \$30,000. The conference will occur mid-October-mid-November, 2015. One interesting fact - we will not have to collect fees for the conference as that will be taken care of online. Our Executive Committee agreed to support this endeavor. We have to have four branch members to participate in the planning. I have agreed to chair our four-person group. Another member has already agreed to be one of the other three members. Our tasks will be identical, of sorts, to our other three STEM Conferences except that we will be working at with at least one other branch. The fact that it is fully-funded and that we will not have to go through what we've been through collecting fees makes my heart sing. I am all in. Who amongst you will agree to be the other two branch members who plan this event?

Here is a link to National AAUW information on Tech Savvy:

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/stem-education/tech-savvy/>

Let me hear from you soon!

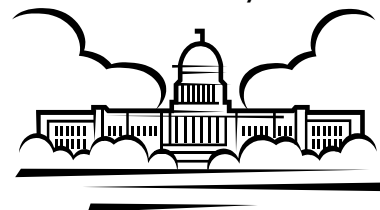
Susan Senn

LOBBY CORPS AND THE 113TH CONGRESS

Lobby Corps, the volunteer arm of AAUW's Action Fund just completed its January training and lunch. Here are some of Lobby Corps' amazing accomplishments in the 113th Congress.

- Lobby Corps made 1,150 visits on 17 different bills. AAUW received feedback from 85% of the office visited. These offices included all 50 states, District of Columbia and 4 territories. There was at least 1 visit to 72% of the Representatives, and 100% of the Senators received a visit.
- Some of the corps' successes include: passage of the National Women's History Museum Act, an Executive Order regarding Fair Pay, Paycheck Fairness Act gained 6 more cosponsors and the Workforce Investment Act was reauthorized.

Lisa Maatz, Vice President for Government Relations, talked to us about the issue focus for the coming year. Ahead of us is the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. One of the buzzwords to watch for is portability for Title I students, pushing for the student to take the funds with the student when the student moves to another school, similar to a voucher. Social Security is affected by recent House rules not allowing for the different form of SS funds to be kept separate. Fair Pay Bill may now be tailored to reflect the New Hampshire and Minnesota Bills. Also, support of the process of Executive Orders is on the table.



AAUW staff member, Pam Yuen will be facilitating the Lobby Corps. Pam will be providing us briefing on Thursday mornings.

Yes, it was a busy year and this year will be the Lobby Corps' 40th Anniversary and another busy year. Representing the Arlington Branch were Sara Anderson, Karen Bopp, Marcy Leverenz and Betsy Marron.

Please join us on Thursday mornings for these visits.

Marcy J. Leverenz
Lobby Corps
Mleverenz@comcast.com

Do you want to make a difference for Women in Virginia?

Join members of AAUW, the League of Women Voters and National Organization for Women in Richmond on Feb. 4!

The message below is from our Virginia AAUW leadership. Please contact Sara Anderson if you would like to join others from Arlington for this adventure in civic activism! We will leave early (about 6:00 am) and drive to Richmond, returning in the afternoon. In the past, we have sometimes joined the others for lunch; other times, our group has left right after the morning's events. Reply to the contacts below if you want to go on your own.

- The agenda is currently being developed and will be distributed when all the pieces fall into place. However, you should expect an early start (8:30 a.m. or earlier), and we should wrap up after lunch. As in the past, we will be

joining the League of Women Voters and other groups at lunch at The Tobacco Company.

- Please let Leslie Tourigny know at ltourigny@gmail.com know the names and email addresses of anyone who will be participating in State Lobby Day, as well as those wanting to attend the lunch, by January 23, 2015.

A note from Opera Nova

So often I have heard seniors say---Oh they never do anything for us---they only know we are alive when an election is coming up, they do everything for children and schools...



For years Opera Nova has been trying to get seniors to attend the 10 am school-day productions of the annual children's opera with modest success. Then about five years or so ago, I met Tom Fonseca, who with others established *The Fenwick Foundation* focusing on getting residential seniors out of nursing homes and learning a little about them and their challenges. Foundation took them first to a National's baseball game providing van transportation, a ticket and \$10 to cover refreshments at the game. WOW! I thought we want to do that and by the performance on November 22, 2014 of *Magic Flute*—Fenwick Foundation arranged for 51 residential seniors from five different Nursing Homes in the area to attend. Eleven of the 51 seniors were in wheel chairs, some on walkers, but they did like the live theater production of *Magic Flute*. *Così fan tutte* is scheduled for the various dates in February by Arlington County Cultural Affairs, we will follow our pattern that we have for 40 years for children---condense the three hour opera to 75 minutes, develop a study guide, have English translations in the program and on overhead slides. We are considering having a narrator and we've asked Don Beyer to attend to welcome them---needless to say when we asked his schedule was not yet set---but we will get some political figure to welcome

SO WE ASK AAUW---will you join us in "honoring" seniors? Come attend if you are a senior!! Bring a senior! Send a donation which we can always use---buy five tickets and give them to seniors to facilitate their coming---maybe you have a Senior Outreach Committee. If AAUW members would contact their church to get the invitation to attend to any Senior Committee the Church might have that would help too.

Thanks for listening.

Miriam Miller
Opera NOVA
mcdm1@verizon.net
703-536-7557



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

Arlington Branch
American Association of University Women
5901 2nd St., South
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

February 4	State Lobby Day
February 9	2:00 Book Club
February 11	10:00 International Coffee
February 19	12:30 Lunch Bunch
February 17	7:00 Branch Meeting
February 24	2:00 Book Club
February 25	10:00 International Coffee
April 18	State Convention
May 2	Spring Luncheon

