



# **ARLINGTON BRANCH REPORT AAUW OF VIRGINIA**

September, 2016  
Volume 73, Issue 1

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## **PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

Summer is over, kids are back to school and it's a new year for AAUW as well! New beginnings, new opportunities and new challenges! We are so fortunate to have many wonderful, hard-working folks at our Arlington branch and there has been much thought and effort put into making the 2016-2017 year a valuable and meaningful one for us. **Mary Van Dyke** and **Mary Beth Pelosky** have created a schedule of programs that will include a focus on Muslim women, help us understand what is looming in the future from our elected officials and provide an opportunity to discuss women's leadership.



**Cece Michelotti** has taken over the newsletter position from **Barbara Olivero**, who has done a great job for a number of years, and her first edition is terrific! We are also fortunate to add **Mary Garrison** to our board as the new secretary (thanks to **Susan Senn** for her stint in the position too!) and we appreciate Mary's willingness to take this on!

While we're mentioning our appreciation, please remember **Mattie Walker** who passed recently and who was instrumental in several aspects of AAUW over her many years of service.

**Marcy** and **I** are excited about a number of opportunities that are emerging as we look around us right here in Arlington at a number of organizations and groups with whom we might collaborate and coordinate efforts on issues where we share an interest and commitment. When we celebrated **Susan Senn's** recognition at the Women of Vision awards given by the Arlington Commission on the Status of Women, we engaged in some interesting dialogue about ways both organizations might work together on specific issues in the future.

The League of Women Voters is seeking help in staffing a series of voter registrations at condos in Arlington and that is certainly something our members could do – look for contact info in the volunteer section of this

newsletter! We will be keeping our eyes open for more opportunities for sharing efforts on issues important to us all!

As we begin our new year, we encourage you to think of friends and colleagues who might be interested in joining us and invite them to one of our upcoming programs. AAUW has much to offer women interested in the fair and equal treatment of all and the role women will play in the future of our society. Together, the world is better!

**Meg Tuccillo**

## **HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENIN' THIS YEAR!**

### **AAUW Arlington Branch Programs for 2016 - 2017**

Save the dates and please do **join us** for our AAUW Arlington branch's evening and daytime programs, discussions, and events throughout the coming year.

AAUW Arlington branch program dates for the year 2016-2017 and themes are as follows:

- **Monday September 26, evening 7:00-9:00.** Join AAUW National's **Claudia Richards** for an update on the national agenda for AAUW in 2016-17 as well as a window into the recently released Barriers and Bias report. Bring a friend and join your AAUW friends to reflect on our collaborative efforts to raise our own awareness about **bias in our lives. (Check your emails to get the location for this very important first meeting.)**
- **Monday October 24, evening 7.00-8.30** program at Women's Club of Arlington. AAUW Falls Church, AAUW Arlington and the Muslim Women's Coalition are co-hosting a discussion program with **Uzma Farooq**  
**The theme: *How Islam Empowers Women***  
Please RSVP for this event on the link  
<http://goo.gl/forms/1nLGbbZEgaY9wMJc2>

- **Friday November 11, evening 7:00-9:00.** A Wine and Cheese Social. Come meet new and potential members for a relaxed evening at **Susan Senn's**.
- **Saturday December 10, luncheon,** details to be decided.
- **Monday January 23, evening 7.00-8.30** program at Women's Club of Arlington.
- **Monday February 27 evening** – no meeting scheduled, in deference to the weather. But possibly use for a snow date for the January meeting.
- **Saturday March 18 afternoon, 2.00-3.30** at Arlington Central Library (TBC), Annual AAUW Branch Meeting, with a program focusing on the State Legislature and Arlington County Board members
- **April/May,** AAUW Arlington Branch Awards program; possibly Luncheon or alternate format.

**Program Updates in newsletter, emails and on Facebook**

Watch for program updates and more details in the coming months newsletters, in our emails, and on the AAUW Arlington Branch Facebook page.

Please let **Mary Van Dyke** and **Mary Beth Pelosky** know if you have ideas and topics that highlight the AAUW mission, and that we could bring as programs to our branch members. Many thanks, **Mary**

**AAUW Falls Church Branch Programs 2016 - 2017**

AAUW Falls Church branch has also planned a year of public programs and warmly invites AAUW Arlington members to attend. AAUW Falls Church branch meetings are all at the Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls St, Falls Church, VA 22046.

Dates for AAUW Falls Church branch programs are as follows, themes TBD:

Monday September 12, 7.30 - 9 PM

Monday November 14, 7.30 - 9 PM

Sunday January 8, 2 - 4 PM

Sunday February 12, 2 - 4 PM

## **Membership News**

### **LUNCH BUNCH**

The Arlington Branch AAUW members have been volunteering at the Arlington Mill High School for over 25 years. The school's name and location has been changed starting this past summer. It is now called the **Arlington Community High School** and is located **at 800 S. Walter Reed Drive in Arlington**. It is directly



across the parking driveway from the Arlington Career Center.

The school serves students from diverse cultural backgrounds, all working on earning their high school diplomas. Our Lunch Bunch offers educational programs to the young women (aged 18 to 30) related to current issues, including health care, careers, finance, sexual harassment, and navigating legal systems.

Once a month from October through May, on the third Thursday, several Arlington Branch members meet at the school about 12:30 p.m.. We provide a lunch of pizza, salad, dessert, and water for about twenty young women during their 40 minute lunch break. During this time, a guest speaker engages the

students in a relevant topic of discussion. The volunteers help serve the food and may choose to mentor a student.

If you would like to volunteer for this rewarding group, or be a speaker at one of the lunches, please contact the **Coordinators** either **Mary Ann Ullrich** or **Michele Milden**. We look forward to seeing you at one of our Lunch Bunch programs this year. Check the online newsletters for specific times and dates.

## **LOBBY CORPS**

**Join AAUW Lobby Corps! An Exciting Opportunity to Represent AAUW on Capitol Hill.**

**LOBBY CORPS Fall Open House** is tentatively scheduled for Wed., Sept. 7. Come and see what we are about.

**What is Lobby Corps?** The AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps is local AAUW members who promote AAUW's Public Policy Program by serving as volunteer advocates on Capitol Hill.

Members represent the views and positions outlined in the AAUW member approved Public Policy Program.

**Lobby Corps meets on Thursday mornings when Congress is in session**, usually at 9:30 am, in either the Senate or House office buildings, as determined by AAUW staff each week. (Congress is in session about 30 weeks each year, taking breaks for holidays, summer, and campaigning.) Lobbying visits are usually completed by noon. Members come from Virginia and Maryland branches across the region. Most members use Metro to reach Capitol Hill.



**Lobby Corps volunteers must:**

1. Be an active member of AAUW

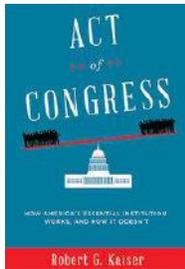
2. Commit to AAUW issues and convey AAUW's position on strategic policy issues
3. Commit to regular participation, with consistent weekly attendance.
4. Attend an annual Lobby Corps Open House/ Training session at AAUW Headquarters. (Date not yet announced.)

### **Here's how the Lobbying process works:**

By Tuesday of each lobbying week, the AAUW Government Relations Staff Liaison notifies members of the weekly topic and provides background information.

By Wednesday evening, members receive detailed email information on the issue and current status.

On Thursday morning, Lobby Corps meets in the House or



Senate cafeteria to review information, receive AAUW letters and fact sheets, and specific lobbying targets. After the group briefing, Lobbying pairs head off to their five or six office visits, usually finishing by noon. Members report the results of their visits to the AAUW Staff Liaison via an online web service.

You'll be well prepared before every Congressional visit and will always have an experienced partner. Add your AAUW voice to ongoing national conversations in person. Lobby Corps membership is a painless way to get in-depth knowledge on current issues for Washington area members, plus it's a fun activity.

Lobby Corps needs you! Please consider joining us this fall.

**Contact MARCY LEVERENZ, [mleverenz at comcast.net](mailto:mleverenz@comcast.net) or PAM YUEN, [YUENP at AAUW.ORG](mailto:YUENP@AAUW.ORG).**

Written by: **Becky Gaul, Member**

**International Coffee**

The AAUW Arlington's International Coffee Group in cooperation with THIS, has welcomed diplomats for over thirty years. THIS was established in 1961 to assist diplomats and their families during their stay in Washington to help build international understanding among more than 190 foreign missions.

There are special program committees offering events in art, cooking, travel and the performing arts. The service committees have book discussions, play bridge, have foreign language conversations and international coffee and cultural exchange groups in Washington, Virginia and Maryland.

The Arlington International Coffee Group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays from September through May. Our volunteers open up their homes for the coffees with co-hostesses providing delicious food. There is wonderful conversation and interaction with diplomats from many countries. All members are welcome.

On September 14th coffee will be hosted by **Marjorie Hobart** in Arlington.

Topic: Summer Vacation travels



On September 28th coffee will be hosted by our diplomat from Mexico, **Claudia Garcia Lastire** in Falls Church.

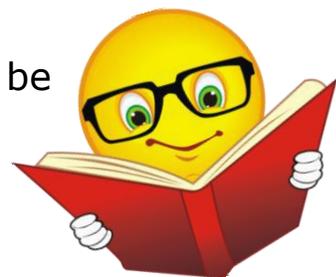
Six diplomats from Mexico will co-host.

Topic: Mexican history and food

For further information please contact **Priscilla Becker** at 703-841-0647 or JBecker841 at aol.com

Please contact **Arlene Shapiro** if you would like to join us. Her email address is: arleneshapiro at yahoo.com

## LET'S TALK ABOUT BOOKS



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

The second Wednesday, Sept 14 at 2 pm at the home of **Dorothy Miller**, 1016 S Wayne Street., Apt 903, 703-920-1279 , [damiller903 at verizon.net](mailto:damiller903@verizon.net) and the fourth Tuesday, Sept 27 at 2 pm at the home of **Marjorie Hobart**, 239 N Barton St., 703-527-4647, marjhobart at aol.com

Our book selection for September is ***The Bully Pulpit*** by Doris Kerns Goodwin.

Be sure to let the hostess know if you will be attending the session at her home. The book group meets the second Wednesday and the fourth Tuesday of each month from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the homes of members for dessert and coffee and a discussion of the selected book. Both groups read the same title. In December we have a joint potluck dinner meeting. Our July meeting is also an evening joint session of both groups where we select titles for the coming year. We do not meet in August. There is no set format for the meetings, e.g., published study questions, but if a member has found something they think will be helpful, they present it to the group. We never seem to lack for discussion. Titles on the list for 2016 through July 2017 include:

<b>Sept</b>	<b>The Bully Pulpit</b>	<b>Doris Kerns Goodwin</b>
<b>Oct</b>	<b>The Boys in the Boat</b>	<b>Daniel James Brown</b>
<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dark Money: The History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right</b>	<b>Jane Mayer</b>

<b>DEC.</b>	<b>The Little Bookstore of Big Stone Gap</b>	<b>Wendy Welch</b>
<b>Jan</b>	<b>Our Souls at Night</b>	<b>Kent Haruf</b>
<b>Feb</b>	<b>Lit Up: One Reporter, Three Schools, Twenty four Books that Can Change Lives</b>	<b>David Denby</b>
<b>Mar</b>	<b>The Nightingale</b>	<b>Kristin Hannah</b>
<b>Apr</b>	<b>The Summer Before the War</b>	<b>Helen Simonson</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>American Nations</b>	<b>Colin Woodward</b>
<b>Jun</b>	<b>The Wings of the Dove</b>	<b>Henry James</b>
<b>Jul</b>	<b>The Wright Brothers</b>	<b>David McCullough</b>

**So read the books and come join the fun!**

### **AAUW Bridge Group**

On Saturday, May 14, the AAUW sponsored Bridge Group held its Spring Luncheon at the home of **Penny DeFillippi** to celebrate finishing this year's round of games. There were 14 players on teams of two each.

Each team played each of the other teams one time during the year (September – April). Scores were tallied and sent to **Jill Nusbaum**, our organizer, who declared the overall team winners at the luncheon. At the beginning of the year (September, 2015), we had decided to simply leave it up to the teams to plan when to play the games rather than assign team play once a month as in previous years. This gave us greater flexibility in our planning and in our ability to play all six games.

**Cathy Bare** and **Sylvia Daneel** were our top team members.



We are always looking for more players. Each member of the Bridge Group contributes \$20 to the Arlington AAUW Fund at the beginning of each playing year. If you are interested in joining this year's round of games, please contact **Susan Senn** at [sennsu at verizon.net](mailto:sennsu@verizon.net) or by phone, 703-243-0913 or cell 703-244-0175.

### **Help Wanted Ads**

#### **WANTED: Arlington League of Women Voters Volunteers**

The League is staffing a series of voter registrations at Arlington condos this fall and are seeking condos willing to host a voter registration event and are also seeking volunteers to help. **Don Gurney** is coordinating this effort and can be contacted at [donwren at comcast.net](mailto:donwren@comcast.net).

#### **WANTED: A Public Policy Chair for Arlington Branch AAUW**

This person will advocate for AAUW's priorities to policy makers, represent AAUW's public policy priorities to elected officials and keep members updated on advocacy efforts. Please let **Marcy or Meg** know if you are interested.

#### **WANTED: Additional Lunch Bunch Volunteers**

**Michele Milden** and **Maryann Ullrich** are doing a fabulous job in supporting young women in the Arlington Mill Program (now called The Arlington Community High School). A small core of volunteers have been committed to the program but we can use additional AAUW members to help this important work. Please **contact Michele or Maryann** if you are interested!

#### **WANTED: Membership Committee Members**

Membership VP (that's **Carol Dabbs** now that **Betty Dunn** is Treasurer) seeks Arlington AAUW members to conceptualize ideas for membership retention and to attract new members to the branch. Opportunities for

imaginative outreach and support to members. Please contact carol\_dabbs at yahoo.com for more specifics.

**WANTED: AAUW dues for 2016-2017**

More than half of our members have now paid their dues. If you have not paid, be sure to send your dues by November 2016 so that your name will appear in the directory. If you are not sure, check the AAUW web site or contact [betty.dunn3 at verizon.net](mailto:betty.dunn3@verizon.net). Dues (national, state, and branch) are \$80, of which \$46 is a tax-deductible contribution to a 4-star charity which works to advance the education of women. Thanks in advance.

Betty Dunn, Treasurer

**Let's get Acquainted \***

Hello. My name is **Mary Tokuno-Garrison**. I am the new **secretary of the AAUW Arlington Branch**. This position appealed to me because I believe it is important to maintain a record of board meeting discussions, plans and outcomes and to provide this information to our members. I became acquainted with AAUW when I attended an AAUW workshop for college students at NVCC and when my daughter participated in a STEM event in middle school.

I was impressed by AAUW's proactive and well-organized approach to improving the social, economic and political status and conditions of women. As an RN, I have been involved in advocating for progress in women's health and education. I am very pleased to be a part of such an excellent organization and look forward to serving as secretary.

Hi! I'm **Cece Michelotti**, your **new AAUW Branch Newsletter Editor**. I'm not new to the Arlington Branch, just VERY new as newsletter editor, so, please be very patient with me.

I joined the Branch almost 10 years ago and jumped right in serving as Membership VP with **Denise Decker**. For a couple years I served as one of several volunteer lobbyists on Capitol Hill. Such fun, and quite interesting. I highly recommend it.

I assisted with Lunch Bunch some, and got to know several of the girls. I actually tutored one of them in math for several weeks. For three years I worked with a team of about 10 members plus, organizing and offering three STEM Conferences for many of our young girls in the area.

I write these things down to share with you that this has been a most rewarding time for me and I totally encourage you to think about getting more involved in the Branch activities, if you are not yet involved.

Call me or another of our involved members, to get more information. Several phone numbers are included in this newsletter. CONNECT ! It's a fun adventure.

*\*ED. NOTE: With your help, I'm hoping we can post some short bios and pictures of some of our newer members in the coming issues.*

### **BRANCH LEADERS AT YOUR FINGER TIPS**

Here is a list of Arlington Branch leaders. If you would like to help them or have questions regarding a program, just contact them.

Sara Anderson	Past Pres., Nominating Committee and Publicity	<a href="mailto:sfpaaauw6382@aol.com">sfpaaauw6382 at aol.com</a>
Priscilla Becker	International Coffees & Book Group	<a href="mailto:jbecker841@aol.com">jbecker841 at aol.com</a>
Carol Dabbs	VP Membership	<a href="mailto:carol_dabbs@yahoo.com">carol_dabbs at yahoo.com</a>
Betty Dunn	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:betty.dunn3@verizon.net">betty.dunn3 at verizon.net</a>
Barbara Gallagher	Book Group	<a href="mailto:bgallag2@gmail.com">bgallag2 at gmail.com</a>
Mary Garrison	Secretary	<a href="mailto:marytgarrison@aol.com">marytgarrison at aol.com</a>
Marcy Leverenz	Co-President	<a href="mailto:mleverenz@comcast.net">mleverenz at comcast.net</a>
Cece Michelotti	Newsletter Ed.	<a href="mailto:cecemich@yahoo.com">cecemich at yahoo.com</a>
Michele Milden	Lunch Bunch	<a href="mailto:mbmilden@aol.com">mbmilden at aol.com</a>
Mary Beth Pelosky	Co-VP Programming	<a href="mailto:jespero10@gmail.com">jespero10 at gmail.com</a>
Susan Senn	Branch's listserv Keeper	<a href="mailto:sennsu@verizon.net">sennsu at verizon.net</a>
Arlene Shapiro	International Coffees	<a href="mailto:arleneShapiro@yahoo.com">arleneShapiro at yahoo.com</a>
Meg Tuccillo	Co-President	<a href="mailto:mtuccillo4@comcast.net">mtuccillo4 at comcast.net</a>
Mary Ann Ullrich	Lunch Bunch	<a href="mailto:maryann.ullrich.va@gmail.com">maryann.ullrich.va at gmail.com</a>
Mary Van Dyke	Co-VP Programming	<a href="mailto:maryvandyke4@gmail.com">maryvandyke4 at gmail.com</a>

SAVE THE DATE!  
Northern District Meeting  
October 22 at 2:00 p.m.  
King's Park Library  
Fairfax, VA

## Gender Bias in Politics—Is It Real?”

Most of us would say “Yes,” but you might be surprised at the how and when and even the “no.” It’s a timely subject and also fits with AAUW’s latest research on “Bias and Barriers.” We will feature Melissa Richmond, vice president of Running Start (a non-partisan organization that trains young women to run for office), and Melissa Jackowski, campaign services manager for TargetSmart Communications (which provides data-driven solutions to campaigns) and former AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Manager. Both women have incredible backgrounds in politics and electoral campaigns. Watch for more details in early October—and put October 22 on your calendar.

Susan Burk and Caroline Pickens  
Northern District Co-Representatives

*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.*

[arlington-va.aauw.net](http://arlington-va.aauw.net)

Arlington Branch  
American Association of University Women  
6325 19th Street North  
Arlington, VA 22205  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Calendar of Events

Branch Members meeting dates to consider:

### GENERAL MEETINGS

Sept. 26 evening  
Oct 24, evening  
Nov 19, afternoon  
Dec 10, afternoon  
Jan 23, evening  
Feb 27, evening  
March 18, afternoon – Annual Branch Business Meeting  
April/ May not finalized



### BOARD MEETINGS

Sept. 20  
Nov. 15  
Jan. 17  
March 21  
May 16  
July 18



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 October Branch Report should be mailed or emailed by September 10, 2016 to Editor **Cece Michelotti** [cecemich@yahoo.com](mailto:cecemich@yahoo.com)

Address changes or corrections should be made to **Elizabeth Dunn**.