

## President's Corner

As we come to the end of 2014 there are so many achievements and successes for the branch. Along with a most successful book sale, we have had interesting monthly events. December will be no different and hope you all will be attending the holiday luncheon, Saturday December 6, at River Bend Country Club. The speaker will be Liza Mundy, journalist and author.

Also going on in the branch is the work of the finance and bylaws committees. They are reviewing and updating policies and procedures that will help the branch function smoothly.

We are looking forward to the coming year with AAUW. Programs and events are outstanding and our special interest groups are meeting regularly with enthusiasm. Check them out!

Have safe and happy holidays and we wish all of you a Happy New Year.

*Nancy and Peggy*



**Liza Mundy**

## November Election Not exactly Breaking News

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, AAUW Vice President of Government Relations Lisa Maatz provided members a post-election analysis by conference call.

With a nationwide voter turnout of 36 percent, the lowest since 1944 (when the country was at war), the Republicans took control of the Senate and increased their majority in the House. In general, new photo ID laws suppressed turnout and voting. More Tea Party members were elected, which may result in more obstruction. There is a core of moderate senators that may broker deals. West Virginia elected its first female senator, a Republican and a Title IX advocate.

Although it was a rough night for

women candidates, some AAUW-supported ballot initiatives did well. An increase in the minimum wage passed in four states and a paid sick days measure passed in Massachusetts. Anti-choice initiatives were rejected in two states.

During the lame duck session, now in progress, Lisa said the issues facing Congress include a continuing resolution for appropriations (dollars to run the government), expiring tax cuts, Ebola funding, Syria funding, and the threat of closure of the Federal government.

Issues coming up in the new Congress starting in January will be the Keystone Pipeline, the fast track trade agreement, repealing the tax on medical devices, and repealing the Affordable Care Act. The president may use the veto more often.

*Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair*

## STEMtastics 2015

STEMtastics for middle school girls will be held March 21 at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, sponsored by the Fairfax City, Springfield-Annandale, McLean Area, and Vienna Area branches. We are seeking young women working in the STEM fields or experienced in those fields to present the student workshops. Each student attends three workshops. The presentations should be participatory and hands-on as much as possible, featuring a science, technology, engineering, or math career or one based on that expertise.

If you have a suggestion for a presenter, please send the name and contact information to *Caroline Pickens* at [carolineaauw@gmail.com](mailto:carolineaauw@gmail.com). Thank you!

## What's Happening This Month?

### Morning Lit

The Morning Lit group meets on Friday, December 12, at 9:30 a.m., at the McLean Community Center. Dawn Schulz will present *Galileo*, by Bertholt Brecht. All are welcome.

Reed Isbell

### Current Events

Are you interested in participating in a discussion about current events? Come to Star\*Nut Gourmet, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean on the first Tuesday of every month at 9 a.m. Bring an article about your item of interest. If you plan to attend or have questions, contact Dawn Schulz ([portau@verizon.net](mailto:portau@verizon.net)).

### And Then Breakfast

In addition – everyone is invited to have breakfast at the McLean Family Restaurant the last Thursday of every month. RSVP to Suzanne Watts ([scwatts@cox.net](mailto:scwatts@cox.net))

Mary Lou Melley

### Arena Stage

The McLean Branch of AAUW Arena Stagers have tickets on December 7 and 20 for *Five Guys Named Moe*. Anyone wishing to attend one of these performances, please call or email Elaine Lailas. Transportation is available.

Elaine Lailas, 703/779-8679, [elailas@aol.com](mailto:elailas@aol.com)

### Share at the Holiday Luncheon

Each year at our branch's holiday luncheon members have contributed generously to Share. Share is a local organization that makes a happy holiday celebration possible for many needy families. We can help again this year by contributing gift cards or checks (made out to Share). Margie Broderick will be collecting for Share at the holiday luncheon on December 6.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to *Triante Dakolias* on the death of her husband, Michael, who passed away in October while in Greece.

**MCLEAN AREA BRANCH 2014/2015**

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<i>December Calendar</i>		
Tues, 2	9 a.m.	<b>Current Events meeting</b> at the Star Nut Café in McLean
Sat, 6	Noon	<b>Branch Holiday Luncheon</b> at the River Bend Country Club
Sun, 7	2 p.m.	<b>Arena Stage event</b>
Fri, 12	9:30 a.m.	<b>Morning Lit meeting</b> McLean Community Center
Sat, 20	2 p.m.	<b>Arena Stage event</b>
Sat, 20		<b>Deadline for the January Newsletter</b>



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