

# **McLean Area Branch**

**AAUW of Virginia** 



# INSIDE

Page 3 Time Marches On District Rep Nominations

Page 4 New Member Spotlight Lobby Corp Training We Get Letters

Page 5
AAUW VA Annual Conference

Page 6 **Public Policy Matters** 

Page 8 Girls Shouldn't Feel Weird for Loving Science and Math

> Page 9 Connections

# And More!

February 2014 Volume XLIII Number 5

## February Meeting Program Women in College... What Their Lives Are Like Today

Semester break is over, time to return to campus. For me in the early 1960s that meant rushing to 8 a.m. classes in a matching skirt and sweater outfit or with my raincoat thrown over my flannel nightgown (no slacks, please!), taking copious handwritten notes, later meeting my date (aka "gentleman caller") at my dorm's front desk, signing out, and making certain to sign back in before women's curfew. Oh, and did I mention trying to insert footnotes into my term papers using a barely portable typewriter and erasable bond?

If any of these memories resonate with you, or if you are a young woman who has not yet matriculated, you're the perfect person to attend our branch's February 15 dialog with a group of students who have agreed to answer our questions about college life for women today. AAUW leader Nancy D. Joyner, dean and executive director of the Lutheran College Washington Consortium and dean of the Lutheran College Washington Semester, has invited two current students and one recent graduate to tell us about their experiences at the undergraduate level and beyond.

(Continued on page 7)

# **STEMtastics** – We Need Your Support!

In our December-January newsletter, we announced that our branch is partnering with the Fairfax City and Reston-Herndon branches of AAUW and Fairfax County Public Schools to sponsor **STEMtastics**, a career day event designed to inspire middle school girls to pursue careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields. STEMtastics will be held on March 8, 2014, at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, where female presenters will lead hands-on STEM-related workshops for students and informational workshops for parents.

Since December:

• The STEMtastics planning committee agreed to include the two McLean middle schools, Cooper and Longfellow, in the list of 11 schools to be targeted with a mailing to the students' homes. Fairfax City Branch has found this to be the most effective way to reach students based on hosting similar events in the past.



Looking forward, the branch meeting in February will include talks by college students about college life today (different from what many of us experienced!) and about life shortly after grad-

Then February 5 is Lobby Day in Richmond, a terrific opportunity to speak with our state legislators about the issues we care about and legislation we'd like to see proposed or passed. This should be a very interesting day, especially since we have a new legislature and a new governor. Everyone should have received an e-mail with instructions for attending.

Thanks to everyone for your participation in branch meetings and special events. There's more to come in the months ahead and I'm looking forward to seeing all of you along the way.

703/281-2595

703/356-3127

Linda Regan

# Time Marches On!

### Election of Branch Officers Coming Up

This is February, so I know that next month will be March! Our March branch meeting is always a pot luck dinner, followed by our annual business meeting and election of branch officers for the New Year (which starts in July).

In McLean Area Branch we try to spread responsibilities around so no one finds their job a burden. That is why we have two secretaries and two vice presidents (one for membership, one for program). We also frequently have co-presidents and co-vice presidents. This works especially well when one of the "co-s" has served in the position previously, and the other is new to the job but will stay on as the "experienced" one the second year. However, to fill the slate with co-officers, we need to find quite a few members willing to serve. This shouldn't be a problem since our branch is filled with highly qualified women! However, as Sheryl Sandberg has described in her recently popular book *Lean In*, many women are reluctant to step forward and expand their role in a job or organization.

We have a nominating committee currently working to fill

the slate for our executive board positions. They are *Barbara Sipe, Betsy Schroeder, Sandy Sieber,* and *Aroona Borpujari*. One of them may contact you and ask to put your name in nomination for one of our open positions. I am asking you to "lean in" and be willing to serve our branch in the coming year. I sincerely believe that you will find it a rewarding experience! You will learn more about both AAUW as a national organization and McLean Area Branch as an active group of women in our community. You will certainly deepen your friendship with some of the many fun and interesting members of our branch.

On the other hand, the nominating committee might somehow overlook you! Then it is even more important that you "lean in" and let one of them know of your interest in being on the slate. And don't hesitate to suggest another member's name to the committee if you know someone else who should be considered for one of our elected positions.

After our March elections, we will need to find more branch leaders willing to "lean in" and get things rolling for our 2014 Used Book Sale. Talk to me or to a member of the nominating committee about the role you would like to fill in the book sale.

Ginger MacEwen, Co-President



#### If You Shop at Amazon ...

Next time you make a purchase from Amazon, first go to our branch website. http://mclean-va.aauw.net, then click on the link to Amazon at the bottom of the home page and make your purchase. Amazon will give our branch cash in our bank account.

## Northern District Representative Candidates Needed

his is the official notice for candidates for the position of AAUW of Virginia Northern District Representative. Northern District is one of the four districts in Virginia.

The district representative (DR) is a member of the state board of directors. She serves as a conduit between district branch members and the state board. The DR also facilitates communication among branches in the district and coordinates at least one meeting in the district each year. A full list of responsibilities can be found in the AAUW of Virginia Board of Directors Handbook at http://aauwva.aauw.net/files/2012/12/VABoardHandbook.pdf

This position may be held by two people as co-district reps.

Co-holders of a position share responsibilities and have one vote at board meetings.

Being the Northern District representative has been very fulfilling and I've enjoyed every minute. I've met amazing members, worked with remarkable board members, and learned so much about the impressive activities AAUW is doing at the branch and state level. If I could run for a third term, I would have my "hat in the ring" today.

If you are interested, please send your biography to the chair (Sandy Lawrence, <u>slawrence4@juno.com</u>) by March 15. Elections will be held at the district meeting on April 6 at the state conference at Smith Mountain Lake. Please consider throwing your hat in the ring!

Sandy Lawrence Northern District Representative, AAUW of VA <u>slawrence4@juno.com</u> 703/569-1588



finance and economics from Walsh College in Troy, Michigan. After working in corporate accounting and finance for over 15 years, Laurie decided to change careers and returned to school to earn a master's degree in historic preservation from Eastern Michigan University. She moved to Northern Virginia in 2008 and works as a heritage resource specialist at the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning. She works on historic preservation planning, and has earned several awards for her work.

Laurie currently lives in Falls Church. She volunteers at a local animal shelter and enjoys the variety of museums and cultural activities the Washington area has to offer. Laurie joined AAUW because she enjoys the book sales, and to meet other educated working women.

#### Laura Slobey

Born in Washington D.C., Laura moved to McLean in 1952 where she went to Kent Gardens elementary and McLean High School. She received a bachelor's degree from Ameri-

# Lobby Corps – Training and Briefing

re you curious? Do you have the desire to *act* instead of reading or discussing with a very few people? Come to AAUW headquarters on February 20, 10 a.m. for a four-hour session on becoming a volunteer lobbyist for the AAUW cause. In fact, you're also invited to join the lobbying group on three Thursdays before February 20. On January 30, members will lobby for the Paycheck Fairness Act in the Senate, and on the following two Thursdays will lobby on the FAMILY Act (paid family leave), and distribute to senators and representatives AAUW's *Congressional Voting Record*, which identifies voting records on AAUW's public policy issues.

If interested please contact Anne Hedgepeth at <u>hedgepetha@AAUW.org</u>. If you have questions contact *Mary Lou Melley* at melleym@aol.com.

Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair

can University in international affairs and a master's degree in public health and population studies from the University of Hawaii and the East-West Center in 1976.

Shortly thereafter she joined the U.S. Agency for International Development where she enjoyed a long and satisfying career working as a public health specialist. She met her husband in Kenya and they were married there in 1988. Together they worked in international development overseas: in Kenya, Lesotho, Egypt, Mozambique, Ghana, Bosnia, and Jordan. Growing up as "third culture kids," their son and a daughter began life in the U.S. upon entering university. Doug goes to school in South Dakota and Kristine, who graduated from Tufts University, is currently working in health policy in Washington D.C. In 2013, Laura and her husband returned to the U.S. and to their house in McLean .

As a veteran foreign service officer, Laura is interested in international affairs as well as women's health and other gender-related issues. She looks forward to joining the current events and Great Decisions groups and getting to know the women of AAUW McLean. AAUW has already served to reunite Laura with two former neighbors, *Suzanne Watts* and *Fran Pearce*, both good friends of her mother. Laura used to babysit Fran's girls and was a classmate of Cameron Watts. Now she is proud to be an AAUW colleague!

Barbara Sipe, VP Membership

# We Get Letters ...

The branch has received a thank you card and holiday greeting from Eva Kabundu, our International Fellowship recipient. Eva had sent the cards to Association and they in turn forwarded them to me. I have written her a note and hopefully will be able to invite her for a visit.

The thank you card has a lovely message:

"Although this note says 'Thank You' In just this simple way,
There's special meaning in these words To all of you today,
For the thoughts behind this message Are especially warm and true, And words cannot express
The special thanks this brings to you."
"With Lots of Love & Appreciation

Eva Kabundu Nahukunda"

Peggy Stotz. AAUW Funds Chair



### Our Destination April 4-6 is Smith Mountain Lake!

Join members of AAUW from around the state at Smith Mountain Lake, location of the 2014 AAUW of Virginia Conference, April 4-6. Smith Mountain Lake (SML) is less than a four hour drive from anywhere in the state. If you have never been to SML, you now have a great reason to visit! This will be a very enjoyable and informative destination weekend! The serene, beautiful location will inspire all who attend. The complete details of this conference are located at the State web site: <u>aauw-va.aauw.net</u> or the Smith Mountain web site: <u>smithmountain-va.aauw.net</u>. Print out the "brochure" that is there or just the registration form! But, register NOW! *The rate for registration goes up after March 15.* 

#### What can you expect at this conference?

- Welcome Reception Friday Night: "Moonshine and Poppy Cock" (local entertainment, desserts, hors d'oeuvres and a cash wine bar)
  - **Keynote Speaker**: Rebecca Norlander, national AAUW Board member and owner of a technology company, whose goal is to change the world for the better through technology.
  - **Workshops:** Synergy of Programming and Membership; Promoting Pay Equity & STEM How do we do it? ; AAUW Funds What is the point?
  - **Exciting Excursions, Basket Raffle, Book Chatter, Movie "Lake Effect" inspired by and filmed at SML**: All listed on the websites mentioned above, and on the conference "brochure" that your branch president will send to you.
  - Saturday Night Banquet: Woman of Achievement Awardee Barbara Ryder, Department of Computer Science chair and only woman among 54 named professorships in VA Tech's College of Engineering; head of National Center for Women and Information Technology program to increase women in technology and computing.

We hope to see you there to meet with old friends, find new ones, share ideas, and just have a good time! Smith Mountain Lake is conveniently located between Roanoke and Lynchburg in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Directions are in the *Virginia Vision* and on the websites mentioned.

Ann Johnson and Karen DeLaCroix Co-Chairs of the AAUW of VA Conference Smith Mountain Lake



#### More of the Same – Forever Quests

If you have had trouble remembering that it's 2014 when you write a check, you may remember that it is a new year. Perhaps this year will bring the country closer to equity and justice, basic tenets of the American Association of University Women.

#### A New Year for Virginia

As this is written, it is Election Day in the Loudoun area. Voters have the opportunity to choose one among three people running for a Virginia Senate seat. Previously, the Senate was divided 20 to 20, Democrats and Republicans, which meant if there was a tie vote the lieutenant governor would vote to break the tie. Because Democratic Senator Mark Herring was elected as attorney general this is an election for his replacement. If the Democratic candidate Jennifer Wexton wins, the Senate will remain tied. If either of the other two wins, the Republicans will gain control of the Senate; it already controls the House of Delegates. The newly elected governor Terry McAuliffe will have difficulty achieving legislative victories for items on his agenda.

After the governor was inaugurated, he signed an executive order banning discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender state employees. The order adds gender identity to sexual orientation as a protected class: a little progress in the New Year.

On January 18, Senator Janet Howell hosted a town hall meeting with some of our local state senators and delegates at Longfellow Middle School. Delegate Bob Brink said he has submitted a bill, among others, that would make the attorney general subject to a Freedom of Information Act request. Delegate Marcus Simon has introduced bills regarding domestic violence. One of Senator Favola's bills would force a person convicted of sexual assault to give up firearms for five years. Mark Keam has a bill called Safe Days, proposing that women who are victims of abuse be given paid time off to deal with medical, police, and court issues.

When the floor was open to those attending, speakers spoke succinctly and fervently regarding mental health housing and support, school support for those with development disabilities, early education, cost of higher education and more equitable salaries for those teachers, renewable energy, outdated divorce laws, needed improvement in the standards of learning process, and gun violence.

#### Capitol Hill – New Year

Remember supporting (or lobbying for) the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Prevention Act? Breaking news: the Department of Education's negotiated rulemaking committee is working on regulations to implement the new campus safety law, a feature of that act. This past week, a bipartisan committee introduced common sense legislation that would repair and restore the Voting Rights Act. It would fix the damage done by the Supreme Court's decision in Shelby v. Holder, which determined that some of the evaluation measures within the legislation were not correct, due to passage of time.

#### Again — the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

There is a current issue related to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and insurance for contraception coverage to employees. In The Washington Post, January 21, an article describes the Little Sisters of the Poor. They serve more than 13,000 elderly poor people in 31 countries around the world. They operate 29 homes in cities across the United States and employ many staff. According to ACA, employers should provide health insurance, including coverage for contraception, for the employees. However, if a non-profit is religiously affiliated they are free to opt out of this requirement. The Little Sisters of the Poor have refused to sign the form that provides a waiver of this requirement. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor issued a list-minute procedural injunction for that requirement, relieving the nuns from signing, pending a response from the Department of Justice.

#### Again – Lilly Ledbetter

On January 30, AAUW will host a reception to honor Lilly Ledbetter, five years from the day that President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. The bill was limited in effect but since that time many, including AAUW members and lobbyists, have been supporting the broader Paycheck Fairness Act in the Senate and House.

On January 30, AAUW members are invited to join the Lobby Corps members to visit Senate offices and urge them to pursue final passage of the comprehensive bill. RSVP online or call Laura Jepsen at 202/785-7705

Sources include AAUW Washington Update, The Washington Post, and League of Women's Voters Take Action.

Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair

#### "February Meeting Program"

(Continued from page 1)

Heather Olson, a political science and economics major from Concordia College (MN), is interning with ANERA (American Near East Refugee Aid), which helps Palestinian refugees and other poor communities in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon. Heather is a student-athlete who participates in track and field and runs cross country.

Zanele (Elsie) Muronzie is a native of Zimbabwe. She is an accounting and management major at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Elsie participated in last year's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders of which AAUW's McLean Area Branch has been a big supporter. Elsie is interning with the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS).

Jessica Mead, former student and graduate of Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio, is currently teaching math to 6, 7, and 8th graders at Hart Middle School in Southeast



**Elsie Muronzie** 

Washington, D.C. While in the Washington Semester program, she interned with the Public Prosecutor's Office of the District of Columbia.

As an AAUW leader, Dean Nancy Joyner served as president of AAUW of Virginia and executive vice president of both AAUW and the AAUW Educational Foundation. Dean Joyner earned her doctoral degree in political science from Florida State University and did post-doctorate work at the University of Virginia. She has served internationally with the USO in Vietnam, with the U.S. Department of State in an exchange visit with women leaders in the former Soviet Union, and as a lecturer about women and politics on the Semester at Sea, a floating around-the-world university. She



**Heather Olson** 

is also active in support of homeless American service veterans.

I'm already beginning to sense some differences between my college experience and the experiences of the young women who will speak on Saturday, February 15. Please join us at 9:30 a.m. at the McLean Community Center to hear the rest of their stories.

The McLean Community Center is located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue. Bring a friend and your questions. Need a ride to attend? Phone *Barbara Sipe*, 703/356-2385 and she will look for a member who can give you a ride to and from the meeting.

Nancy Richardson, VP Program



**Nancy Joyner** 

#### "STEMtastics"

(Continued from page 1)

- The McLean Area Branch submitted a proposal to AAUW of Virginia for a \$100 grant to help offset the cost of STEMtastics and was notified that we received the grant! Both other branches also applied for and received grants for a total of \$300 from AAUW of Virginia.
- Our branch took the lead on creating an online STEMtastics registration and payment website, which is linked off our branch's website. You can visit it at http://mclean-va.aauw.net/stemtastics/.
- Our board approved recommending to the branch a donation of \$250 to help with costs, with the funds coming from our Amazon income (which has surpassed this amount through the end of December). Although students are asked to pay a \$15 registration fee, these fees do not cover the costs associated with the event.

So, how can you help support STEMtastics?

• At our February 15 branch meeting, branch members will be asked to vote on the motion to donate \$250 to STEMtastics – you can vote to support this motion.

- You may choose to make a personal donation to STEMtastics – this can be done through the website link above or by sending a check, made out to AAUW McLean Area Branch and noted for STEMtastics, to treasurer Judy Page.
- Volunteers are needed on March 8 to help with items such as registration, serving breakfast, guiding presenters to their classrooms, collecting student surveys, and so on. Some of you have already been contacted by Fran Lovaas, who is coordinating this on behalf of all three branches. Anyone else interested should send an e-mail to *Judy Page*, judypage@gmail.com, to be put in touch with Fran.

Judy Page

## Girls Shouldn't Feel Weird for Loving Science and Math

ech Trek was the first time I didn't have male classmates looking down on me or making me feel weird for loving science and math," says Ellen Thuy Le, a recent chemical engineering graduate from Stanford University. Le attended Tech Trek, a science camp for girls created by AAUW of California, when she was 12 and credits it with sending her on a lifelong journey in the sciences and with being involved in AAUW.

"Tech Trek was a really transformative experience. It was this amazing environment where I felt supported and empowered to be the best that I could be," says Le, who went on to be a Tech Trek counselor and to serve on the AAUW National Student Advisory Council, a yearlong leadership development program.

Success stories like Le's are common across the country thanks to AAUW-hosted science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs. While AAUW of California has been growing Tech Trek since 1998, members of the AAUW Farmers Branch-Carrollton (TX) Branch have held a workshop for the past 23 years that encourages girls to pursue STEM careers and introduces them to female role models. For 22 years, the AAUW Woodbridge (VA) Branch has put on a conference to introduce girls to STEM professionals through hands-on workshops. And for 24 years, AAUW of Ohio has hosted a summer camp to develop middle school girls' confidence and excitement about STEM. But these are just a few of the innovative projects that volunteers are bringing to their communities. In 2013, AAUW — working with states and branches — started building on the successes of these programs by expanding them nationwide. The first national pilot program was Tech Trek.

For more than 15 years, AAUW of California has run the highly successful, weeklong camp, which develops girls' excitement and self-confidence in STEM. Surveys from Tech Trek attendees demonstrate the camp's effectiveness: Alumnae, like Le, complete a higher number of science and math courses in high school and attend college at higher rates than the national average.

In summer 2013, AAUW Tech Trek camps took place at four pilot sites in Florida, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Washington; in 2014, the national pilot camps will expand to Alabama, New Mexico, and Oregon as well.

Editor's Note: The above article is excerpted from the AAUW website and shows how AAUW's STEM programs positively affect girls. The original article appeared in the 2013 AAUW annual report

#### AAUW McLean Area (VA) Branch NEWS: February 2014, Page 9

# AROUND TOWN

#### Women of vision:

*National geographic* photographers on assignment

It's not often you get two choices for an AAUW field trip. Seems as if some can only do Saturday and others can only do a weekday, so you can choose which day suits your schedule. Join your friends for a trip to National Geographic on either March 1 (Saturday) or March 5 (Wednesday) to see this first-ever exhibit of Geographic award-winning female photographers. It kicks off a three-year multi-city tour to mark Geographic's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A celebration of "diversity, artistry, muscularity, and voice," there are 99 photographs by 11 photojournalists.

E-mail or call *Caroline Pickens* with the date you wish to go by February 17 (<u>carolineaauw@gmail.com</u>; 703/448-0415).

We'll organize the two groups as to meeting place and drivers those mornings. If you are willing to drive, please give Caroline that information, too. Tickets are \$11/\$9 seniors and members. March 9 will be a snow date (keep your fingers crossed).

Caroline Pickens

### CURRENT EVENTS

Join the discussion of Current Events on Tuesday, February 4 at 9 a.m. We meet at Star\*Nut Gourmet, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Bring a news clipping or item national, state, or local— to discuss with the group. If you plan to attend or have questions, contact *Dawn Schulz* <u>portiau@verizon.net</u>.

Mary Lou Melley

# **GREAT DECISIONS**

This interest group will start a new session in February with eight topics to discuss throughout the year. Members can choose from two dates each month to participate. Meetings are held in members' homes and include a video and discussion



of a topic from the Foreign Policy Association publication. Books can still be ordered for new members.

The February meeting dates are Thursday, February 13 at noon, at the home of *Betsy Reddaway* and Tuesday, February 18 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of *Angela Ehemann*. We will start with chapter one. You will receive a meeting reminder, please contact your hostess promptly if you plan to attend.

Please contact me if you want more information.

Angela Ehemann 703/893-3578, acehemann@verizon.net

# MORNING LIT

The Morning Literature group will meet on Friday, February 14, at 9:30 a.m., at the McLean Community Center, to discuss *The Woman Upstairs*, by Claire Messud. *Bettie Clark* will present the book and lead the discussion. All are welcome.

Reed Isbell

# AND MORE ...

Mona Smith, a founding member of the branch, has moved to a new facility. I am sure she would like to hear from old friends from the branch. I sent her a Christmas card from the branch.

Mona Smith The Villages at Gordon House 501 N. Main St., Room 33 Gordonsville, VA 22924

Peggy Stotz

# SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Around Town Anne Studner 703/938-9251 annsanster@gmail.com

Bridge Nancy Richardson 703/759-4789 nrichardsn@aol.com

Current Events Jeanette Calland 703/942-6201 mamerec@gmail.com

Dawn Schulz 703/448-8711 portia11@verizon.net

Suzanne Watts scwatts1@cox.net 703/356-7926

Great Decisions Angela Ehemann 703/893-3578 acehemann@verizon.net

Morning Literature Reed Isbell 703/734-3385 rwisbell@verizon.net

Mary de Tray 703/992-7526 mdetray@gmail.com AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

> For membership information call Barbara Sipe 703/356-2385

# FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Tues, 4	9 a.m.	Current Events Meeting at the Star Nut Gourmet in McLean *
	7 p.m.	<b>Board Meeting</b> at the McLean House (6800 Fleetwood Rd., McLean) Community Room
Wed, 5		Lobby Day in Richmond
Thurs, 13	Noon	Great Decisions Discussion Group at Betsy Reddaway's home *
Fri, 14	9:30 a.m.	Morning Lit Meeting at the McLean Community Center *
Sat, 15	9:30 a.m.	Branch Meeting at the McLean Community Center
Mon, 17		Deadline for National Geographic Trip reservations *
Tues, 18	9:30 a.m.	Great Decisions Discussion Grp at Angela Ehemann's home *
Thurs, 20	10 a.m.	Lobby Corps training at AAUW Headquarters * Deadline for the March News

# AND IN EARLY MARCH

Sat, 1	TBA	Trip to National Geographic photography exhibit *
Tues, 4	9 a.m. 7 p.m.	<i>Current Events Meeting</i> at the Star Nut Gourmet in McLean * <i>Board Meeting</i> at the Community Room at McLean House, 6800 Fleetwood Road
Wed, 5	ТВА	Trip to National Geographic photography exhibit *