

McLean Area Branch AAUW of Virginia **News**

Upcoming Branch Programs



Feb. 20 Branch Meeting Anne Hurley to Give Vocal Concert

We are pleased to have Anne Hurley present a vocal interlude as part of our branch meeting on Saturday, Feb. 20, 10 a.m. at the McLean Community Center.

Anne has a lovely voice which will be a joy to hear.

Anne's extensive career. Anne's other voice related talents include operating a vocal health clinic, acting as a voice consultant, and performing as a choral director. She is a past president of the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

The McLean Branch is honored to have Anne sing for us.

*Margaret Doole,
Co-Vice President Program*

INSIDE

Page 3

Meet Our New Members

Page 4

AAUW of VA Conference

Page 5

**Proposed
Bylaws Amendment**

Page 6

Public Policy News

Page 7

**New Members' Coffee
A Gift for New Grads
Connections**

And More!

Anne is a gifted performer in both operatic and popular genres. She has performed in New York City at a Lincoln Center out-of-doors concert. Currently she has her own voice studio in Fairfax, Virginia. She continues to study voice with Ruth Drucker.

She was born in Canada but has spent most of her life in the United States. Many facets of voice training highlight

March Business Meeting and Potluck

We are looking forward to having all of you join us for our annual branch business meeting and potluck supper to be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15 at the McLean Community Center.

(Continued on page 5)

Branch Elections Coming

Nominations are open for branch president, vice president for program, vice president for membership, secretary for board, secretary for branch, and treasurer.

Please consider serving the McLean Area Branch of AAUW for 2016-17. You may wish to share an office with another member; it works just fine. Let us continue to serve as a stronghold for AAUW's MISSION to "advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research."

If you would like to discuss the possibility of holding office, please call any one of the committee members. We are here to serve you.

Nominations Committee: *Elaine Lailas, 305/281-5787; Diane Alden, 703/356-7452; Naz Basit, 703/356-6365; Adarsh Trehan, 703/356-8368.*

Elaine Lailas

McLean Area Branch

2015/2016 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Co-Presidents

Bob Alden

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Jane Schmiedekamp

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Board Secretary

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Branch Secretary

Linda Regan

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Presidents' Corner

It certainly is a great privilege and high honor for me to serve as your co-president with my friend and very talented *Jane Schmiedekamp*. When men were authorized to become members of AAUW I became the first male member of our branch, and I have been told that I am one of the first two male members to become president or co-president of an AAUW branch.

There were those who said it was a just reward for my having been responsible for opening the National Press Club to women members. I had proposed the amendment to the NPC bylaws to permit women to join, and 75 percent of the male members voted in favor of the amendment.

I have since sponsored nine of the first 27 women members including Katherine Graham who was at that time publisher of *The Washington Post*. We now have more than 1000 women members, several of whom have become president of the NPC.

Women have made many gains in the past century. But despite those gains there remain many injustices such as not earning equal pay for equal work.

In addition to the outstanding work our and other branches have done in the STEM program, we continue to be in the forefront of supporting equality in the workplace and opposing discrimination in any form.

I regret that on Dec. 6 I had a great fall in Great Falls and broke my right ankle. I thus may be unable to undertake all the responsibilities expected of me. But I am currently undergoing rehabilitation and hope to be able to fulfill my duties soon.

I look forward to attending our meetings this winter and to getting together with all of you dedicated women again.

Bob

What do you do when you are snowed in for three days? I watched Ken Burns' documentary on the Civil War and became interested in Julia Ward Howe who wrote the words for the "*Battle Hymn of the Republic*" and set it to the song "*John Brown's Body*." She was a prominent abolitionist and social activist and after the Civil War she dedicated herself to women's suffrage. She was founder and president from 1876 to 1897 of the Association of American Women which advocated for women's education. I don't have space here to mention all her accomplishments, but I encourage you to read about her. She was a doer and an advocate for women and her story is inspiring for all women.

Women still have much to do to promote a social and political agenda to help all women. What is happening to women in the Middle East and sex trafficking in our own country are a testament to the fact that women have a long way to go in securing equal rights and opportunity. We are about to pick new officers for our branch, and I hope you will be an activist. Take time to read about some of the women who worked so hard to secure basic rights for women. There is still much to do, and we need all of our members to support the mission. Please volunteer. Pick a cause. We have a great group of women who can make a difference. Consider your time and talents and find something you can do. You owe it to the ones who paved the way for all of us. (The movie "*Suffragettes*" is on Netflix ... get inspired.)

Jane

Meet Our New Members

Sherry Joslin

Sherry first came to this area from York, PA to attend George Washington University. She has lived in McLean for 19 years and has two rescue cats. Sherry retired last year as the office manager for a law firm. She has an active volunteer life ushering for the McLean Community Center and First Stage, driving seniors to medical appointments, and helping out at the Fairfax County Library. Her interests are reading, theater, music, cooking (and eating), and walking. She looks forward to learning more about AAUW.



Erica Scherzer

Erica hails from Colorado and currently splits her time between Arizona and the Washington, D.C. area. She has a bachelor's degree in history and liberal arts with a minor in business from Colorado State and is pursuing a master's in public administration and nonprofit management at the University of Colorado. She is passionate about philanthropy and is currently an ambassador for Polaris. The focus of her philanthropy is primarily on women, human trafficking, and animals.

Betsy Schroeder, Co Vice President Membership

The Branch Newsletter Next Please?

After 20 years or so, this is my last year editing the branch newsletter. So, next year our branch will need a new newsletter editor.

Even though I want to move on to concentrate on family tasks, this is also a time for the branch newsletter to move on. It gives the branch a chance to re-evaluate what it wants in a newsletter: make it more suitable for current and prospective members; change its publication schedule; and/or improve it in any number of ways.

I don't think producing the newsletter is difficult but there is no doubt that it is a time commitment. This commitment really depends on the skill set and time available of the editor and the possibility of splitting the task between two people. It also depends on what the editor and branch leadership agree needs to be done. Producing the newsletter

is a collaborative effort involving the editor (s) and the branch; members have always been willing to provide the articles needed for each newsletter.

Personally I believe doing the newsletter was a benefit for me post retirement. Certainly one benefit was gaining a sense of doing something useful and creative for the branch. Also a plus was being able to work at home and to have some flexibility of when to do the work. It was a way of keeping some skills sharp and learning new ones. In the future I would be happy to advise and help the new editor as needed.

If you are curious, interested, or whatever, please call or email me with questions or for more information. Asking questions in no way implies a commitment but I do hope someone will step up and volunteer for this branch position.

Pam Bacher
prbacher@verizon.net
703/281-2595

From the Editor

The McLean Area Branch News is published September, November, February, April, and June. A two-page update, *NewsBits*, is published in October, December, January, March, and May.

Articles are due the 20th of the month preceding each issue. Articles should be in final form and identified as being for the newsletter. Guidelines for your articles are welcome

as are suggestions for the newsletter.

Please send your **articles for the March newsletter by February 20.**

Newsletter Editor: Pam Bacher prbacher@verizon.net
703/281-2595

Distribution: Barbara Carr
Barabarcarr@msn.com 703/356-3127



YOUR GETAWAY WEEKEND!

It's been a busy winter. You've been under stress. You need a break. You deserve to get

jazzed at the AAUW of Virginia Conference in Herndon! Relax and enjoy the Friday Night Salon, hear awesome speakers and panelists on Saturday and Sunday morning, and applaud our astronaut Woman of Achievement at the Saturday night banquet. You could purchase and go home with lovely jewelry, beautiful photo note cards, or a basket full of goodies from the raffle supporting the Legal Advocacy Fund. Gather with women of like mind from around the state; laugh and renew friendships. So right now... mark your calendar for a getaway weekend of fun and inspiration at the AAUW VA Conference April 15-17 at the Hyatt Regency Dulles!

Are you thinking you could drive back and forth each day?

That's not a getaway weekend! Spend the night. Pamper yourself with no traffic worries, an awesome hotel room, and great meals you don't have to cook yourself. Nearly half of Virginia's AAUW members live in Northern Virginia, so we really need you to stay so we can meet our hotel commitment. Make it a getaway weekend! Did we mention no traffic worries?

The price for your special weekend is great. The \$90 registration includes Saturday lunch. The \$99 executive suite hotel room includes a breakfast buffet for two, two double beds or a king, and a seating area with a sleep sofa. So you could even bring two friends and have a great slumber party! There is also a list of activities in the area for family members who decide to join you.

Watch for the Spring *Vision* with all the details, including online registration for the first time ever, or go to the state website at <http://aauw-va.aauw.net/>. See you in Herndon!

*Bunny Jarrett and Caroline Pickens,
Co-Chairs AAUW of Virginia Conference*

AAUW of VA Woman of Achievement Kathryn C. Thornton NASA Astronaut

Kathryn Thornton was our #1 choice for this award in 2014, but she couldn't accept it because she was already committed to a presentation elsewhere.

She had several firsts as a woman astronaut in her 12 years with NASA: she was the first female crew member aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery, she was the second woman to walk in space but her record for the most space walks by a female was held for 12 years, *and she was the first astronaut to use a power screwdriver in space.*

In her post-career as a professor and dean at the University of Virginia, she has been committed to educational outreach, including co-authoring a science program for K-6. She is currently a member of the board of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, which seeks to retain the U.S. world leadership in science and technology by providing college scholarships to students pursuing STEM degrees, as well as promote the importance of science and technology to the general public. She is featured on the National Earth Science Teachers Assn website "Windows to the Universe."

She says, "The younger generation needs to be pulled rather than pushed into science and engineering." To her there is no more powerful pull than the opportunity to explore the universe. She has testified before Congress to preserve and fund the space programs.

I found a quote from a young girl that is pertinent to our

award: "She is an important woman because she led a lot of women to further their education in the field of physics and astronomy as well...She is an important leader for women who think they can't do much when they really can achieve a lot."

If you'd like to see a video of her speaking to the USA Science and Engineering Festival (which focuses on students) in 2014, google Kathryn Thornton and then scroll down until you come to the link for www.usasciencefestival.org. (You can't find it by going straight to their website.) She's a very good speaker. She definitely fits our criteria as a Woman of Achievement.

Kathryn C. Thornton is a professor at the University of Virginia in the School of Engineering and Applied Science in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. She served from 1999 until 2012 as the Assistant Dean and later Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. Selected by NASA in May 1984, Thornton is a veteran of four space flights. She was inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2010, only the third woman to hold this honor.

She received a bachelor of science degree in physics from Auburn University in 1974; a master of science degree in physics from the University of Virginia in 1977; and a doctorate of philosophy in physics from the University of Virginia in 1979.

Married to Stephen T. Thornton, of Oak Ridge, Tennessee. She has two stepsons and three daughters. She enjoys scuba diving and skiing.

*Caroline Pickens,
Co-Chair AAUW of Virginia Conference*

A New Branch Bylaws Amendment for Discussion and Vote

The following proposed amendment to our branch's bylaws (1/7/16) was approved by the board at its January meeting and is submitted to the branch members for discussion and vote at the March meeting.

Rationale: Many women have attended our events as guests or members of the public and have expressed interest in joining the branch to support our mission. In particular, the branch's book sale attracts not only buyers from the larger community but also people interested in its preparation. There have been a number of women who ask to help with the sorting and selling, for instance. They have contributed their interest, time, and effort. Invariably they may ask to join AAUW since they find they support its mission and they desire to contribute. When they discover that a requirement to be a member is a degree from an accredited college, (two year or four year), they realize they are not eligible. One such volunteer even donated \$75 after she was told of AAUW's member requirements.

Other AAUW branches have also recognized the commitment, experience, and value of these affiliates.

To promote the inclusivity of AAUW and to appreciate the benefit derived from such people who support the

mission and are willing to contribute, the following amendment to our branch bylaws is presented for discussion and vote.

NOTE: Changes are written in **Bold Italics**

Replace Article IV. Section 4. Student Affiliates with

Section 4. ***Affiliates***

a. Student Affiliates. An undergraduate student enrolled in a qualified educational institution shall be eligible for student affiliation. Student affiliates shall be entitled to attend branch, state, multistate, comparable AAUW-affiliated entity and AAUW meetings and receive the publications distributed to all members of AAUW. Student affiliates may not vote or hold office. Fees for student affiliates shall be established by the AAUW Board of Directors. State fees shall be established by the state board of directors. Branch fees shall be established by the branch Board of Directors.

b. Other Affiliates. The Branch may have non-voting affiliates, whose rights to vote and hold office shall be in accordance with the bylaws of AAUW and of the Branch. Affiliates shall pay only Branch dues.

Bylaws Committee Members: *Judy Page, Caroline Pickens and Mary Lou Melley*

Mandated Bylaws Changes Approved

A AUW Board Chair Patricia Ho, stated in a recent memo that the IRS-approved contract between AAUW state organizations and branches and AAUW national must conform to AAUW bylaws in all material respects. The mandatory state and branch bylaw amendment revisions were listed. These revisions do not require a vote of the state or branch membership.

In cooperation with Virginia AAUW, the changes to our branch bylaws were made by the branch bylaws committee and were accepted by the state and also by national. The changes address wording regarding purpose, financial administration, elections, officers, and meetings.

You will find the updated branch bylaws on our web site.

Bylaws Committee Members: *Judy Page, Caroline Pickens and Mary Lou Melley*

"Annual Meeting"

(Continued from page 1)

Those whose last names begin with A through G bring a side dish or salad; last names beginning H through O should bring a main dish; and those whose last names begin with P through Z should bring a dessert.

We will also have a "silent auction." Members are asked to bring their treasures to auction off for the benefit of the branch.

Following a delicious meal, the nominating committee will present the candidates for the 2016-2017 branch officers who will be elected at this meeting. There may also be

nominations from the floor.

We will then have a discussion and vote on a proposed by-laws amendment which would allow the branch to have affiliates. For information regarding this amendment, please read the article on this page.

We look forward to seeing all of you at this important meeting of business, elections, good food, socializing, and fun.

Diane Alden, Co-Vice President Program



Up and Running

As citizens in Virginia we have to be 'up and running' these days. Although we are slowly getting used to '2016' when we write, March 1 will be upon us soon. That is the date of Super Tuesday in many southern states, the date of the 2016 presidential primaries in Virginia! Although the series of presidential debates had seemed endless, it's time for Virginia voters to make our voice heard.

Vote your choice on March 1 at your regular polling place. Or consider the absentee voting in person schedule that extends from Jan. 15 to Feb. 27. During this period you can vote at the Government Center, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., (on Thursdays 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.) On Saturday, Feb. 27 you can vote in person at the McLean Government Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are 19 valid reasons to vote absentee.

You can apply for an absentee ballot online by printing the online absentee ballot application. Fax or email it and your absentee ballot will be sent to you in the regular mail; you then mail your ballot. For any questions, email voting@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Virginia General Assembly

As Senator Janet Howell has reported, the 60-day session has started and it will have to pass the biennial state budget of more than \$109 billion. The Republican majority made changes in rules and banished the press from the Senate floor. One of the proposed bills would prohibit state agencies from assisting any efforts by the federal government to resettle certain refugees in Virginia. Be sure to read the area's papers to find out the progress of legislation.

Finally, you may know that a three-judge panel of a federal court has picked a new congressional map that significantly changes the racial makeup of two districts and it ordered Virginia to establish a new redistricting map for the 2016 election. The panel had concluded for a second time that legislators in 2012 had illegally packed black voters into the 3rd Congressional District.

Out of Virginia!

On Jan. 14 at the National Press Club, AAUW's Vice President of Government Relations Lisa Maatz and Government Relations Manager Anne Hedgepeth discussed trends in campus sexual assault policy and offered insights on the legislative actions necessary to improve the current climate on college campuses. They provided a breakdown of a recent AAUW analysis that showed 91 percent of college campuses reported zero incident of rape in 2014.

Meanwhile hundreds of AAUW members have pledged to deliver new resources from the U.S. Department of Education to Title IX coordinators at schools in their area. There will be an all member conference call to hear the status of those efforts including recent success stories and tips for overcoming common challenges from those who have already take action. Sign up for the Feb. 3rd call at 7:30 p.m. by registering through AAUW Action Network.

Dates to note in February

Feb. 3, 2016 – State Lobby Day for AAUW members in Richmond

Feb. 16 – Centennial Rally in Richmond with the League of Women Voters of Virginia, Women Matter, and NOW – commemorating a rally held by Suffragists 100 years ago on the steps of the State Capitol in Richmond.

Interest, questions? Contact *Mary Lou Melley*

Sources include the "*Washington Post*," AAUW Action Network, The League of Women Voters, and Fairfax County and Virginia Board of Elections.

Mary Lou Melley maryloumelley@gmail.com
Public Policy Chair



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.

CURRENT EVENTS

Lots happening these days – bring your article of interest to the Current Events gathering at Star Nut Gourmet, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean, Feb. 2 at 9 a.m. and share discussion with members. Everyone is invited, but RSVP to Dawn Schulz (portia11@verizon.net).

Current Events – Breakfast

Everyone is invited to eat together at the McLean Family Restaurant at 9 a.m. on the last Tuesday of the month, Feb. 23. RSVP to Suzanne Watts (scwatts1cox.net).

Mary Lou Melley

MORNING LIT

The Morning Lit group will meet on Fri., Feb. 12, at 9:30 a.m. at the McLean Community Center. We'll discuss "The Girls of Atomic City," by Denise Kiernan.

Snow policy: If the Fairfax County Government offices open late or close for the day because of snow, we will not meet. Please note that sometimes the schools close but the county government stays open.

Reed Isbell

New Member Coffee

On Sunday March 6 there will be a coffee for new members and those interested in joining McLean AAUW. The coffee will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the home of Juanita Cullen at 1405 Beulah Road, Vienna. This will be an opportunity to meet AAUW volunteers and to learn more about the activities of McLean AAUW locally and nationally.

Please RSVP by March 1 to juanitacullen@verizon.net.

Juanita Cullen,
Co Vice President Membership

Connections

GREAT DECISIONS

2016 Beginning

The first meeting of the new session will take place on Feb. 16 at my house at 9:30 a.m. The topic will be Middle East Alliances. Please let me know if you plan to attend. Hope that many of you will be able to join us. New members can still join. Call me for details.

Angela Ehemann

BRIDGE

Bridge will be Monday, Feb. 8 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.) at a place to be announced. If you would like to play, Contact Barbara Carr at barbaralcarr@msn.com.

Barbara Carr

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Arena Stage

Elaine Lailas
703/779-8679,
Elailas@aol.com.

Bridge

Barbara Carr
703/356-3127
barbaralcarr@msn.com

Current Events

Jeanette Calland
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Dawn Schulz

703/448-8711
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Suzanne Watts

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Great Decisions

Angela Ehemann
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acehemann@verizon.net

Morning Literature

Reed Isbell
703/734-3385
reedisbell@gmail.com

Mary de Tray

703/992-7526
mdetray@gmail.com

Give New Graduates AAUW Membership It's Free!

A AUW members can give a recent grad—a friend, daughter, son, granddaughter, grandson, niece, or nephew—a free one-year AAUW membership within two years of graduation. At no cost to you or them! Only members can take advantage of this offer.

We each just might know of someone who graduated last year or will graduate from college this coming year.

Elaine Lailas (from the Virginia Vision)

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
Juanita Cullen
703/759-5112
Or
Betsy Schroeder
703/356-4352

FEBRUARY CALENDAR



- Tues, 2** **9 a.m.** **Current Events Meeting** at the Star Nut Café in McLean *
- 1 p.m.** **Board Meeting** at the Community Room at McLean House, 6800 Fleetwood Road
- Wed, 3** **State Lobby Day for AAUW members** in Richmond *
- Mon, 8** **10-2** **Bridge**, place TBA. *
- Fri, 12** **9:30 a.m.** **Morning Lit Meeting** McLean Community Center *
- Tues, 16** **9:30 a.m.** **Great Decisions Discussion Group** at Angela Ehemann's home *
Centennial Rally in Richmond *
- Sat, 20** **10 a.m.** **Branch Meeting** at the McLean Community Center *
Deadline for the March newsletter
- Tues, 23** **9 a.m.** **Current Events Breakfast**, the McLean Family Restaurant *

AND IN EARLY MARCH

- Tues, 1** **9 a.m.** **Current Events Meeting** at the Star Nut Café in McLean *
- 1 p.m.** **Board Meeting** at the Community Room at McLean House, 6800 Fleetwood Road
- Presidential Primary in Virginia "Super Tuesday"** *

*More Information inside



McLean Area (VA) Branch
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Vienna, VA 22182

Branch Website:
<http://mclean-va.aauw.net>

AAUW VA Website:
<http://aauw-va.aauw.net>

AAUW Website: www.AAUW.org