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# McLean Area Branch

AAUW of Virginia

# News

*"I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; I will not refuse to do the something I can do."*

*Helen Keller*

## The Holidays Are a Time for Giving

We are all living in challenging times right now, but for some times are desperate. So at our holiday luncheon we will be collecting some much needed items for Share, Inc. and showing our support for such a worthy local organization. They are badly in need of breakfast cereals, canned fruit, juices, grape or strawberry jelly, rice, sugar, flour, pasta, cooking oil, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dish detergent, laundry detergent, diapers, paper towels, and toilet paper. Your generosity will be much appreciated.

Share, Inc., which is housed in the McLean Baptist Church, was established in 1969 by a coalition of religious and civic institutions to meet the emergency needs of the less fortunate in McLean, Great Falls, Pimmit Hills, and surrounding areas. Share is sustained by donations of food, clothing, furniture, and funds, and is administered by volunteers. Share aids lower income families in Northern Virginia to meet

their emergency needs through a number of active programs and special events. To learn more visit [www.shareofmclean.org](http://www.shareofmclean.org) or call 703/284-2179.

## 39th Used Book Sale Update Book Sale Total Hits New High! Ruth Powers Logs in Top Hours!

As of early October, our 2008 Book Sale gross sales went up even further. After the book sale weekend, two first editions were purchased by dealers for \$1,000 each and five other treasures were sold for \$265. *Caroline Pickens* reported a total gross figure, as of Oct. 8, of \$44,536. That amount is more than we've taken in before, to the best of my knowledge.

In counting up the many hours that members worked at the Sun Trust Bank, *Ruth Powers* came in with the highest figure—over 102

*(Continued on page 3)*

## INSIDE

EF Committee Report	3
AAUW Gives Thanks	4
Public Policy Update	5
<i>Dreams From My Father</i>	5
<i>Out Stealing Horses</i>	6
Connections	7

**And More!**



## World Bank Advisor Speaks at Nov. Meeting

At the McLean Area Branch meeting Tuesday, Nov. 18, Nadereh Chamlou, right, a senior advisor at the World Bank, gave a power point presentation titled "Gender Equality and Its Importance for Development." Chamlou works with gender issues projects in the Middle East and North Africa and had just arrived from Dubai.

*Marjorie Lewis*, left, co-vice president for program, who arranged for the program, introduced Chamlou.

**McLean  
Area  
Branch**

**2008/2009  
EXECUTIVE  
BOARD**

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# Presidents' Corner

**W**ith the historic election behind us and the last of the leftover turkey just a memory, we are—can you believe it?—well on our way to 2009!

If you are interested in serving as a state AAUW officer, look at the Winter *Virginia Vision* newsletter to get the information about nominations. State is looking for a vice president for membership and branch development, a vice president for finance, and a recording secretary. The deadline for submitting nominations was set for Dec. 1, but they probably will accept them a few days after that.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our Holiday Luncheon Dec. 3, marking the beginning of the holiday season.

Then let's gear up again for a busy January! Our meeting on the tenth, a Saturday morning, will feature a panel on an issue very close to AAUW hearts, the recent report on "Where the Girls Are" and how our own area is impacted by the issue of educational equity for girls and women.

Fran really enjoyed the Lobby Corps Open House at the AAUW Headquarters in downtown Washington. She learned many things about the way AAUW volunteers blanket our members of Congress both on the Hill and in their own constituencies. She also learned about power and leadership in the two houses of Congress and got some idea about how our senators and representatives are jockeying for position in the next round. Fran intends to go to the January training for Lobby Corps and devote time to this most worthwhile endeavor. Why not join her there! We are truly fortunate to be close enough to talk face to face to our representatives and their staffs about the issues important to us.

We will also try to get to the state Lobby Day in Richmond Jan. 21 (snow date Jan. 28). Lorena Thorne-Bruner, our state and federal vice president for public policy, will be leading this effort. Lorena, who is from the Reston Branch, will also be planning the 2010 AAUW VA Convention here in Northern Virginia. If you're interested in either of these activities, let

her know at brunerlorena57@hotmail.com.

Now is the time also to think about the "Give a Grad a Gift" program, which offers graduates free one-year Membership-at-Large in the Association. In order to take advantage of this offer, the graduate must be recommended by an active member. Dues must be paid to state and the branch for membership at these levels.

Have you joined the blog conversation? If not, give it a try! The AAUW Dialog can be accessed through the [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) website or directly at <http://blog-aauw.org/>. There you will find briefings on AAUW issues and comments from other members.

Just a reminder: If you want to submit a nomination for Educator or Education Advocate of the Year, it needs to be completed no later than Jan. 31.

Happy Holidays!  
*Fran and Ginger*

## From the Editor

The McLean Area Branch *News* is published monthly, September through June, except for a bimonthly issue for December and January. 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 February News by January 20** via e-mail or postal mail.

prbacher@verizon.net

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McLean Area Branch AAUW  
**2008 Book Sale/Scholarship Fund Allocation**

2008 Book Sale Income	
2008 Book Sale Proceeds	<b>\$44,675.85</b>
2008 Book Sale Expenses	<u>9,651.83</u>
Net Income from 2008 Book Sale	<b>\$35,024.02</b>

Available \$ Per Bank Statements	
Scholarship Savings Account Balance	
Scholarship Checking Account Balance	
Funds to be deposited	
Total\$	<b>\$52,590.86</b>

Budgeted/Committed Funds	
2009 Book Sale Seed Money	<b>\$9,650.86</b>
Future Conferences (transfer to Op. Acct) (See right)	

**Available Funds**  
**Total \$ less 2009 Book Sale Seed Money** **\$42,940.00**

Allocation Category	2008 Allocation	2007 Allocation	Notes
Education Foundation		\$ 1,000	Falls Church
R&P Grant Mclean 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.	<b>\$30,000</b>	10,000	
Undesignated funds	<b>940</b>	2,000	
Legal Advocacy *		2,000	
Leadership Training Institute	<b>2,000</b>	2,000	
Local Scholarships			
George Mason	<b>2,000</b>	2,000	
Trinity	<b>2,000</b>	2,000	
Nova **		2,000	
Pimmit Hills Alt. HS, 2 students	<b>2,000</b>	2,000	Graduating Seniors
Conferences/Conventions	<b>4,000</b>	2,500	**
Total	<b>\$42,940</b>	\$27,500	
		\$7,671	Reserved for 2008 distribution

EF Committee Report  
**Branch To Honor  
 40th Anniversary**

The EF Committee met on Oct. 27 to disburse the funds from the 2008 Used Book Sale.

After some discussion and written recommendation from *Rae Fawcett*, representative to NOVA, it was recommended by the committee that a local scholarship not be given to NOVA. Making and maintaining contact with the recipients and working with NOVA has been difficult. Since the Pimmit Hills grads will almost certainly go to NOVA, we in effect will still have scholarship recipients at NOVA.

The bulk of the money was allocated to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Research & Projects Grant to bring it to \$40,000 for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the branch. This amount more than meets branch policy that at least 2/3 of the net from the book sale is to go to the Foundation or other 501(c) (3) AAUW entities. The remainder was divided among the other local scholarships and our traditional giving to AAUW Leadership Training Institute.

The money designated for conferences and conventions is to defray the cost of our delegates to the state and national conventions, which we consider leadership development.

Committee members: *Peg Stotz*, EF chair, *Betsy Reddaway*, book sale chair; *Caroline Pickens*, book sale treasurer and branch co-treasurer; *Suzanne Watts*, local scholarships chair, and *Linda Wells* and *Rebecca Horahan*, elected by the membership.

*Peggy Stotz, EF Chair*

\*LAF currently not supporting individual plaintiffs.  
 \*\* See explanation above

**“Book Sale Update”**

(Continued from page 1)

hours. Other high scorers for Sun Trust Bank activities were *Bettie Clark* (99 hours), *Sue Burggraf* (78 hours), *Rebecca Horahan* (67 hours), and *Ginger MacEwen* (54 hours). As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, this record-keeping system is not exact, as often workers for-

get to sign in or out, and many workers put in long hours at home researching the value of special books.

Thank you, Ruth, and thank you to all the members who supported this year’s book sale in so many different ways.

*Betsy Reddaway, 2008 Book Sale Chair*

## AAUW Action Network: AAUW Gives Thanks

**A**s Thanksgiving approaches, AAUW reflects back on the many things we have to be thankful for this year. Here are just a few of them.

We're thankful for coaches in California and Florida, students in Colorado, and moms in Michigan who insist on holding colleges and high schools accountable on Title IX.

We're thankful for NCAA President Myles Brand who recently told colleges and universities not to blame cuts to athletic programs on Title IX.

We're thankful that the House of Representatives recognized the importance of women in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, and that AAUW is undertaking a major research project on the topic.

We're thankful for AAUW state and branch affiliates nationwide that registered new voters, held candidate nights and issues forums, advocated on statewide ballot initiatives, and generally ensured that women's voices were heard in this year's election.

We're thankful for states that heed the research on comprehensive sex education and choose to reject federal abstinence-only funding.

We're thankful for presidential debates that bring issues like school vouchers and pay equity into the spotlight.

We're thankful for AAUW's good friend Lilly Ledbetter, the Face of Pay Equity, for putting pay equity issues on the national stage at the Democratic National Convention, in congressional hearings, and on Capitol Hill.

We're thankful for cities and states that show their support for working families by passing paid family leave and paid sick days legislation before the federal government gets around to it.

We're thankful that AAUW gained special consultative status at the United Nations with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). We're thankful for 30 years of civil rights law that helps women to fight the "Motherhood Penalty."

We're thankful that *Roe v. Wade* has survived

35 years of Supreme Court ups and downs.

We're thankful for the AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps, whose persistent and thoughtful volunteer advocacy helped pass bills on pay equity and higher education, and held lawmakers accountable on their votes.

We're thankful for a new federal law that ensures health plans provide the same coverage for mental illness as they would for any other health condition.

We're thankful for AAUW's merry band of bloggers and all those contributing to the fruitful public discourse on AAUW Dialog.

We're thankful that Americans who were previously deemed "not disabled enough" will benefit once again from protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

We're thankful the Florida Supreme Court rejected school vouchers in the Sunshine State, ensuring precious taxpayer dollars go only to public schools.

We're thankful for improved federal aid programs that help students – including our honored veterans – make the dream of a college education a reality.

We're thankful for girls who see themselves as advocates, and college students working to make the world a better place.

We're thankful for courageous women who break through the brass ceiling, the glass ceiling, and the marble ceiling.

We're thankful for AAUW members and supporters who put their money where their mouth is, generously giving time and resources to help women get their degrees and develop leadership skills.

And of course, we're thankful for you, the AAUW Action Network, for your spirited advocacy to break through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

From all of us at AAUW, best wishes for a safe and happy Thanksgiving and a joyful beginning to your holiday season.



**Washington Update** is AAUW's free, members-only weekly e-bulletin. It offers an insider's view on the legislative process, the latest policy news, resources for advocates, programming ideas, and updates from the Public Policy and Government Relations Department. To stay up-to-date on all issues important to our mission, you are encouraged to subscribe to *Washington Update* by e-mailing [VoterEd@aauw.org](mailto:VoterEd@aauw.org).

Public Policy

Talk about CHANGE!

Every day and in every way we are learning about the changes in the national and state governments. It will be a brand new day when Jan. 20 arrives. Looking back on the records of some of our newly elected officials, as determined by AAUW's 'Report Card' on our issues, it may just happen that women will have more access to educational, economic, and health benefits. (Senators Biden and Obama had a 100 percent score). As Linda Hallman wrote on the AAUW action network, "the AAUW public policy staff will be more active than ever, taking your voice to Congress and the president. The Capitol Hill Lobby Corps puts a face on our issues, ensuring policy makers understand there are real people affected by their decisions. In the past year we have made great progress on higher education and fair pay issues, but we must seize the opportunity at hand."

Some issues to watch in the coming months include women's college enrollment. The work requirements under the 1996 federal welfare reform law significantly lowered the rate of college attendance for single mothers. While rules

governing the law vary from state to state, all states significantly limit the amount of time spent in a classroom that can be counted toward the work requirements.

Title IX may face criticism in upcoming months because, as the economy continues its downward path, there is a rush to cut athletic activities in schools across the country – even Fairfax County.

The U.S Department of Labor released final regulations this week on the Family and Medical Leave Act. The new regulations contain some provisions for military families, but it will be harder for most workers to take FMLA leave.

And finally, on Nov. 20, Senators Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced legislation to block implementation of regulations that would severely limit women's access to reproductive health and family planning services. The regulations are expected to be finalized within the week.

Sources include AAUW's *Washington Update* and *Action Network*.

Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair

CHANGE – and You

AAUW's volunteer Capitol Hill Lobby Corps gears up in January. There is a one or two day training session on Thursdays in January and then the action begins – bringing AAUW's message on our issues to the elected officials each Thursday morning that Congress is in session; very exciting and worthwhile. Watch for e-mails on specific dates or e-mail Sandy Sieber or Mary Lou Melley.

Two Morning Lit Book Reviews

*Dreams from My Father*

In *Dreams from My Father – A story of Race and Inheritance*, Barack Obama, tells of his search for his father, the meaning of his father's life, and for his own identity. His father, with roots in rural Kenya, had shown promise in his young life and had been selected to study at the University of Hawaii. There he met Obama's mother, another gifted student, whose family had migrated to Hawaii from Kansas. The two students fell in love, were married, and Barack Obama was born seven months later. Obama was two years old when his father left him and his mother in Honolulu to go to study at Harvard University. There he earned a doctorate in economics and returned to Kenya to achieve success and prominence in the government.

Obama remembers a time when he was 10 and his father came to visit him and his mother for one month. He found his father impressive but domineering and the two did not establish a positive relationship. Nevertheless, he did continue to hear from his mother stories of his father's effectiveness and success. In addition she tried to keep Obama's ties with black culture alive as she presented him with the pictures and

stories of successful and prominent African Americans.

While at Columbia University he was notified of his father's death in an automobile accident. He recalls that he didn't experience sadness at that time, only the knowledge that his father's death signaled a lost opportunity to meet him again.

But first, Obama had other life experiences which shaped his identity. His mother's second marriage to an Indonesian engineer took him to Jakarta for four years. There he observed and related to a culture very different from that which he had known. Concerned about his formal education, his mother took him back to Honolulu to live with his grandparents and attend Punahou school. There was only one other African American in the school and he did experience some loneliness and confusion. He experimented briefly with alcohol and drugs in an attempt to cope with doubts about his affinity.

From Honolulu he went to Occidental College in Los Angeles and Columbia University in New York. He continued to struggle with the fact that he had grown up in a family of Caucasians and

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

primarily in mainstream culture. Once he was in college, he felt free to select friends from among politically active blacks, chicanos, and foreign students. He related to Marxist professors and structural feminists and punk rock performance poets. At night in the dorms and in the coffee-houses he and his friends would converse about political philosophies and the problems of social injustice.

Next the reader finds Obama in Chicago, where as a community organizer he began to know the feeling of being part of a community. He heard black men discuss Harold Washington and how this black man had made them proud of themselves. Obama observed that there could be “collective redemption” which could come through education and political leadership. He decided he wanted to become part of this process.

Obama had experienced disaffection as a youth, but in community organization and participation in a Black activist church, he experienced some feeling of “salvation.” He continued to learn about the need for employment, training, school reform, environmental strategies, control of drugs, and improved housing. He learned of the need to forge a link between business, government and the inner-city. He met union leaders, city council members, and politicians. Eventually he decided that in order to be more effective he would improve his education by going to law school.

But first, as he was establishing his identity as a Black leader, thoughts of his father “haunted” him. He wanted to see more clearly that African-American part of himself. So seven years after his father’s death he journeyed to Kenya to meet his father’s family, a journey of self-discovery. He found his family members to be strong and loving and struggling with their own sets of problems. He learned much from them about his father – “Dr. Obama” – “The Old Man.” He learned about his father’s broken dreams in post-colonial Kenya and about his “tragic flaws.” The myth of his father that his mother had spun for him and which had brought him comfort was shattered. Yet in his father’s homeland he felt that he had found a “missing key” to the Black part of himself. Finally he made his way to his father’s grave and wept.

Finally, the narrative is beautifully written. As one reader has observed, “Obama’s writing is characterized throughout by graceful eloquence, generosity of perception and spirit rare in young man of many gifts and charisma.”

Another reader has commented on the universal relevance of his story. “The challenges of mixed lineage, border dancing and divided loyalties are of utmost importance and encompass the globe.”

Margaret Hansen

## *Out Stealing Horses*

For November the Morning Lit group read the novel *Out Stealing Horses* by the Norwegian author Per Petterson. This is a book which won several significant awards, both in Norway and in Britain. The translation we read, by Anne Born, was listed by the *New York Times Book Review* as one of the ten best books of 2007. In all it has been translated into 24 languages.

The book begins with the narrator Trond (a man in his mid-sixties) describing his life in a small house in a forested area of eastern Norway. He has recently moved there and intends to live out his life in solitude, having as little as possible to do with other people. As many of its reviewers note, this is a book in which you feel at first that nothing much is going to happen. But as Trond thinks back over the events of his life he focuses particularly on the summer of 1948 when he was 15. This was just three years after the end of the German occupation of Norway. It was the summer when he had experiences through which he matured a great deal. It was the summer when he found out the truth about what his father had done during the war. It was also the last time he saw his father. It gradually becomes clear that the loss of his father is something that he has never gotten over and is still struggling to understand.

As the book takes us back and forth between Trond’s present (1999) and his fifteenth summer we learn about some very traumatic events of that summer which had a significant impact on him. In our discussion we noted that the story unfolds in layers “like peeling an onion.” We agreed with the reviewers who said the novel has “a distinctly Scandinavian tone.” The principal characters are all male and throughout the book they never share their feelings with each other. In fact throughout the story there is little conversation. The other thing we noted about these men is that each of them, sooner or later, comes to a point where they walk out on their families and never look back.

(Continued on page 7)

## Directory Updates

Please make the following corrections to your directory.

**Curry, Mary Ann** 859/858-8156  
172 Wesley Dr., Wilmore, KY 40390

Please add the following members to your directory.

**Katcher, Linda M \*** 703/938-0106  
9888 Palace Green Way,  
Vienna 22181 nov12@verizon.net  
Olivet C., BA; U. of Virginia.  
Interests: education, politics, books

**Monroe, Jewel \*** 703/356-0641  
6643 Holland St.,  
McLean 22101 jewelmonroe@mrs.com  
U. N. Dakota, BA.

**Hoyer, Diane T.** 703/421-0564  
908 Rolling Holly Dr., Great Falls 22066  
dhoyer@finsvcs.com  
SUNY NewPaltz, BS English; SUNY Albany  
MA. Interests: reading, hiking

\* New Member

## Daytime Bridge Group Expanding

By Nancy Richardson

The McLean Area Branch's Daytime Bridge Group is looking for a few good sports. Whether you're an experienced player or just starting out, we're the bridge group for you. Play starts at 10 a.m. on the third Thursday of the month. However, the next game will be played on Jan. 22. *Ginger MacEwen* will host at her house, 1703 Chesterford Way, McLean 22101. In the past, we paid \$1 to play, played five hands per round, favored party scoring, and brought our own lunch. These details may be negotiable. Money

(Continued from page 6)

This is a beautifully written book, skillfully translated by a woman who is a poet and writer herself. The descriptions of nature and of daily activities of life are vivid. The times of grief and love and poignancy are skillfully related and we really enter into the deep feelings of these men, even though these feelings are never expressed. I thoroughly agree with the reviewer who said that

# Connections

not awarded in prizes is donated to AAUW's Educational Foundation and our branch's local scholarship fund. Non AAUW members and folks only interested in substituting are welcome. Please contact *Nancy Richardson*, at 703/759-4789 or nrichardsn@aol.com, to sign up.

## Current Events

By *Mary Lou Melley*

You might think we only talked about the election on the meeting we had on Tuesday morning in November, but actually AAUW members brought information and raised issues about the financial condition and aspects of 'torture' during the current wars as well. The group meets usually the first Tuesday morning of every month and is informal and conversational.

You're invited to attend Tuesday, Dec. 2, 9:30 a.m. RSVP to *Mary Lou Melley* (melley@aol.com) or 703/536-6498. There will be an e-mail notice about the location, but it is usually with the McLean area.

## Next Up for AM Lit

The December and January meetings will be held at the McLean Community Center.

Dec. 12, 9:30 a.m. Book, *Geography of Bliss* by Eric Weiner; reviewer *Mary de Tray*; hostesses, *Margaret Hansen* and *Ginger MacEwen*.

Jan. 9, 9:30 a.m. Book, *Dreams of Scipio* by Iain Pears; reviewer, *Sally Liff*; hostesses, *Ramona Rayle* and *Lindy Rackiewicz*.

the book "takes its reader by stealth" and that it "ensnared me in a family story that grew deeper and more complex with every page."

*Ginger MacEwen*

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### Bridge

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

### Current Events

*Mary Lou Melley*  
703/536-6498  
MelleyM@aol.com

### Dining Out

*Linda Wells*  
703/255-5275  
Linda@tritec.com

### Great Decisions Morning

*Chris Morrison*  
703/356-1797  
Chris7512@verizon.net

### Evening

*Betsy Reddaway*  
703/448-9195  
pbreddaway@verizon.net

### International Hospitality

*Juanita Cullen*  
703/759-5112  
juanitac1@cox.net

### Morning Literature

*Ramona Rayle*  
703/821-8503  
monirayle@cox.net  
*Jane Schmiedekamp*  
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Alphajane@aol.com



AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, 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.*

Website: [www.AAUW.org](http://www.AAUW.org)

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## December

- Tues, 2 9:30 a. m. *Current Events*, location to be announced \*
- 7 p. m. *Branch Board Meeting* at the Dolley Madison Library in McLean
- Wed., 3 11:30 a.m. *Branch Holiday Luncheon at Monterey Bay Fish Grotto* \*
- Fri, 12 9:30 a.m. *Morning Literature* at the McLean Community Center \*

## January

- Tues, 6 9:30 a.m. *Current Events Group*, location to be announced
- 7 p.m. *Branch Board Meeting* at the Dolley Madison Library in McLean
- Fri, 9 9:30 a.m. *Morning Literature* at the MCC \*
- Sat, 10 9:30 a.m. *Branch Meeting* at the MCC
- Tues, 20 *Deadline for articles to be in the February News*
- Thurs, 22 10 a.m. *Bridge* at Ginger MacEwen's home

\* Info on event appears in this newsletter

The MCC is the McLean Community Center

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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 **Mary de Tray 703/992-7526**  
or **Dawn Schulz 703/448-8711**



AAUW

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