



February 2010  
Volume XXXIX  
Number 5

# McLean Area Branch

AAUW of Virginia

# News

## 2010 AAUW VA State Convention Comes to Northern Virginia

### New Horizons

The 2010 AAUW state convention is on the way with the spring weather. Some exciting workshops and opportunities to meet with AAUW members from around the state will happen April 23, 24, and 25 at the Hyatt Fair Lakes Hotel in Fairfax, Virginia. Look for all the details in the upcoming *Virginia Vision*. If you haven't made your hotel reservation yet, please do so quickly.

Our convention hotel rate is \$81.75, including tax. The cutoff date for reservations is Friday, April 2; reservations made after that date will be at the prevailing hotel rate. To reserve your room, go to the Hyatt Fair Lakes home page [www.FairLakes.Hyatt.com](http://www.FairLakes.Hyatt.com). Find "Rooms and Rates" in the left-hand column and enter your check in and check out dates and the special convention group/corporate # G-AAUW. Then click "Check Availability;" this link takes you to the registration page. Or call 1 800/233-1234 to book.

The keynote speaker at the Saturday night banquet will be U.S. Department of Education Under Secretary Martha Kanter. Prior to her current position, Martha Kanter was for 16 years president and then chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District in California, one of the largest community college districts in the nation.

Saturday's programs start with a continental breakfast and welcome by Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova, followed by a business session, and then workshops. The luncheon speaker will be State Senator Mary Margaret Whipple, D-31, a member of the Arlington Branch of AAUW.

Saturday morning workshops will focus on AAUW programs including Emerging Leaders Outreach; Lobby Corps; and Program in a Box, Title IX. Afternoon workshops will be Leadership and Communications with consultant and trainer Elizabeth Turner; Diversity and Equity with Patricia Taylor, chief of the Office of Intelligence Community Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity; Changing Lives Through Literature with Katie Strotman, programming coordinator for the Fairfax County Public Library; and Creating Our Lives After 50 with author and lecturer Renee Fisher.

Saturday afternoon will also feature options of a bus trip to Lorton and a tour of the Turning Point site and Lorton Arts Center, a visit to the Udvar-Hazy branch of the Air and Space Museum at Dulles Airport, and shopping. Sunday will open with an Eleanor Roosevelt Run/Walk, followed by a full breakfast buffet, "birds of a feather" meetings for branch leaders, and district meetings.

You still have an opportunity to place ads for your favorite restaurants, wineries, hotels, and more in the convention book. Remember that

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### February Branch Meeting and Program

### Being a Muslim Woman in Northern Virginia

Speaker: Mrs. Wafika Albani  
Fairfax County Public Schools Translator and Parent Liaison

Feb. 20, 9:30 a.m. at the McLean Community Center

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Area  
Branch**

**2009/2010  
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# Presidents' Corner

**A**t our January branch meeting we enjoyed an excellent presentation on how to stay safe while using the Internet. Jeff Offutt, a professor at George Mason University, showed us specific examples of e-mails that we should delete or send to our junk folder without opening. Just as children are taught not to talk with strangers, we should not respond to an e-mail sent by someone we do not know. That means do not click on any link in an e-mail from an unknown source—even if it will supposedly “unsubscribe” you. And certainly do not give personal information in response to any e-mail request, even if it appears to be from your bank or other entity you do business with! This caution applies equally if you are posting on Facebook. Offutt cheerfully answered dozens of questions from members, some husbands, and other guests who had read about the meeting in a local paper. Those of us who do a lot of online shopping were glad to know that he considers this to be quite safe as long as we stick to legitimate companies who have secure web sites. If you missed the meeting, ask someone who was there how to avoid “spamming,” “spoofing,” and “phishing.”

Our next meeting promises to be just as interesting. On Saturday, Feb. 20, come hear what it is like to be a Muslim woman living in Northern Virginia. This would be a particularly good program to bring a daughter or younger friend.

At our business meeting we briefly discussed whether to make changes next year in our schedule of branch meetings. There was general agreement that it is good to have our January and February meetings on Saturday mornings. Some members felt we should have more daytime meetings. Having at least one more luncheon meeting during the year was also suggested. There was also interest in having some branch meetings that would be more informal, perhaps with presentations from members of our interest groups like Great Decisions or International Hospitality. Please give some thought to these and other possibilities and share your ideas with me or another board member.

*Ginger*



## Branch Snow Policy

If Fairfax County schools are canceled or if school is dismissed early, the McLean Community Center is closed and our meetings there are canceled. Saturday meetings are canceled if school activities are canceled. This is the policy to go by for branch and board meetings and for Morning Lit since they meet at the Community Center. To assure that members know the branch or board meetings are canceled the president should put out an e-mail confirming that the meeting will not be held. Likewise for Morning lit, the chair should put out a confirming e-mail.

For the meetings of other interest groups, the chair and/or hostess should decide to when to cancel a meeting. She should notify members via e-mail or phone (for those who don't use e-mail).

## 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 March News by February 20** via e-mail or postal mail.

[prbacher@verizon.net](mailto:prbacher@verizon.net)

Pam Bacher 1442 Towlston Rd.,  
Vienna, VA 22182

*Newsletter Editor: Pam Bacher, 703/281-2595*

*Mailing: Barbara Carr, 703/356-3127*

December 3, 2009

Dear AAUW Members,

On behalf of SHARE, I would like to thank you for including SHARE in your holiday support efforts. Ms. Horahan forwarded checks totaling \$313 and delivered 15 bags of food and toiletries! This was an incredibly generous donation on the part of the McLean Branch members. Thank you.

Your donation arrived at a particularly critical time as we replenish our pantry shelves, which were drawn down during the summer months, and prepare for the holiday season ahead. This Thanksgiving we will serve close to 225 families, including many children, elderly, and disabled people, through our Thanksgiving grocery certificate program. We expect to serve even more families at our Holiday store and food program in December, 2009. Your donation will make a big difference in the lives of hundreds of people through the SHARE programs you are supporting.

As you know, SHARE Inc. is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization entering its 40th year of operations devoted to meeting the needs of the less fortunate in McLean, Great Falls, Pimmit Hills and nearby communities. To run our programs we rely on spring and fall food drives conducted by local public and private schools, religious communities, service organizations and the donations of individuals and local organizations. Our food and clothing rooms regularly serve well over a hundred families every month, covering up to 600 individuals in some months. As a designated Community-Based Organization, we intervene directly in family emergencies. This year we have responded to more than 1800 calls to assist people in distress over the cost of rent, utilities, medical services, prescriptions, etc. A network of transportation volunteers provides free rides to hospitals, clinics, and doctors' offices. Our two trucks are kept busy with pick-up and delivery of much-needed donated furniture. Every year, our volunteers and donors enable SHARE to offer Holiday Food Baskets and a Holiday Store where clients can receive items or gift cards that help to brighten an otherwise bleak holiday period.

These important outreach activities are made possible because of the interest and support of individuals like you. All of us at SHARE truly appreciate your generosity. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation and the entire amount is eligible for consideration as a tax deduction.

Every contribution makes a difference. Thank you so much for sharing!  
Sincerely,

Roberta O. Barnes  
Corresponding Secretary

Share, Inc. A non-profit organization incorporated in 1969. Meeting local community emergency needs. Food/Clothing Room Donations 703/790-0824; Furniture Hotline 703/448-1054  
Operated out of McLean Baptist Church. Visit us at [www.shareofMcLean.org](http://www.shareofMcLean.org).

We Get Letters ...

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### **“AAUW VA 2010 Convention”**

*(Continued from page 1)*

AAUW members do travel throughout the state and many may be interested in what your area has to offer.

Some branches are taking out ads to advertise their programs and support the convention book. For instance, a Springfield/Annandale branch ad will picture the four girls chosen for its diversity awards last spring and explain a bit about this program.

The ads vary in cost by size: full page, \$200; half page, \$100; quarter page, \$50; and business

card size, \$25. Branch presidents have been sent the letter explaining sponsorship and advertising opportunities along with a response form. The deadline for ad placement is Feb. 28, and all ads must be camera ready.

We are looking for businesses and individuals interested in being a convention sponsor or donating items or gift certificates for door prizes. Please contact Convention Co-Chairs Bea Malone ([bmalone\\_ARA@hotmail.com](mailto:bmalone_ARA@hotmail.com), 571/292-0048) or Ercell Binns ([ercellbinns@gmail.com](mailto:ercellbinns@gmail.com), 703/208-7111) with your suggestion



## Public Policy Matters

### Congressional Action – looking back

AAUW Action Network has published a statement of thanks, listing legislation passed in the first session of Congress as well as nationwide advances for women, in general.

AAUW members may be thankful for: Passage of the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the House passage of the more detailed Paycheck Fairness Act.

Passage, after more than ten years of AAUW advocacy, of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, extending coverage for crimes motivated by gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.

Establishment of the White House Council on Women and Girls and for a White House Advisor on Violence Against Women. AAUW Lobby Corps members and AAUW staff have been invited to the White House for events relating to women's issues on a number of occasions.

Passage in the House of paid parental leave for federal employees.

Publication of *The Shriver Report*, advocating for women's issues.

Nobel prizes this past year given to five women, one an AAUW member.

The addition of a second woman to the Supreme Court.

The administration's support to public education by a multi-billion dollar grant program available to the states, "Race for the Top."

### Congressional Action – looking ahead

Both the House and the Senate had passed their own versions of health care legislation and negotiations had taken place to determine a final version of the bill satisfactory to both houses and to the administration. Both the Senate and the House would still have to vote on the final version. (Since this is written during the day, Tuesday, Jan. 19, the outcome is yet to be determined in the election for the new Massachusetts senator. If the Republican wins, there will be a loss of the 'filibuster-proof' number of Democratic senators (60) to pass health care legislation.)

The very important and well-funded administration program, Race for the Top, (see above) should result in improvements in public education in those states that apply for the grants.

Of course, if you would like an in-depth survey of what lies ahead in Congress, become a member of the AAUW Lobby Corps. At the training we will have had substantial briefings on elementary and secondary education, Title IX, jobs and workforce investment, pay equity and the legislative outlook in general. Every week members receive a briefing about specific legislation needing co-sponsors or yes votes, as determined by AAUW public policy staff. Many of these briefings are also available on [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

Sources include *AAUW Action Network*.

*Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair*

## Time To Clean Out Your Closets!

**L**angley Residential Support Services (LRSS), based in McLean, serves individuals with intellectual disabilities, providing both group residential opportunities and in-house counseling for those who live in their own homes. However, while LRSS is fiscally sound and nearly all the individuals we serve have jobs, the board believes we must provide more. A good life means a well rounded life with activities that provide fulfillment and fun, even joy. Our fundraising efforts focus on this aspect of our mission and thus go towards those activities that enrich life, such as drama club, literacy club, art club, sports participation, and more.

We had a wonderful wine-tasting fundraiser this last November at the home of our Dranesville Supervisor John Foust and his wife, Marilyn

Jerome, and hope some of you will join us next fall as our gracious hosts have invited us back. We must supplement that income, however, with smaller events in the spring and early summer.

For the first time, LRSS board members will take part in the McLean Community Center Garage Sale on April 10. We are looking for new or gently used items to sell at this hugely popular event. Please call me at 703/407-2828 if you have anything you would like to donate.

Thank you so much for your generosity.

*Dorothy Hassan*



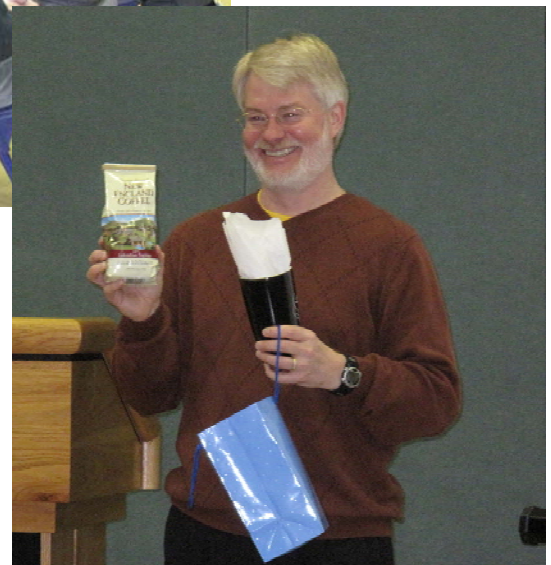
Members gather to catch up with each other at the branch holiday luncheon held December 1 at the River Bend Country Club  
*(photo by Rebecca Horahan)*



Holiday luncheon speaker Henriette de Bruyn Kops, from the National Gallery of Art, gives an insider's view of exhibit creation  
*(photo by Rebecca Horahan)*



January's program attracted members and visitors who wanted to learn about safe computing on the Internet from George Mason professor Jeff Offutt (right)  
*(photo by Pam Bacher)*



Jeff Offutt seems pleased with his gift after giving an informative presentation on Internet security at the branch meeting Jan. 23.  
*(photo by Pam Bacher)*



## BRANCH SNAPSHOTS

# Connections

## AROUND TOWN

### Out and About Town

Our first outing for the year was a marvelous day at the Kennedy Center. Eleven of us enjoyed the dramatic performances of the National Symphony Orchestra featuring Michael Stern, conductor, and Emanuel Ax, pianist, as the orchestra interpreted musical works by Barber, Beethoven, and Sibelius. We carpooled with Pam Bacher and Fran Sullinger as our volunteer drivers, parked at the Kennedy Center, picked up our discounted tickets (thanks to Mary deTray), had a leisurely lunch in the cafeteria, and then enjoyed the afternoon symphony program.

Join us in March with another of our out and about the town series.

*Dawn Schulz*

### Dining Out in February

Come and join AAUW friends for fun and dinner and chase away the winter blues by "Dining Out." We will meet at the new Maplewood Grill (formerly Le Canard), with a fresh, classy menu on Monday, Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m. Please e-mail or call Sally Liff (703/356-1344) by Sunday, Feb. 7 if you plan to come. The address is 132 Branch Road, S.E., Vienna, opposite the Giant grocery store.

*Sally Liff*

## CURRENT EVENTS

On the first Tuesday in January, eight branch members met to discuss topics of interest. Some of the discussion centered on plate tectonics and weather, chemical manufacturers hiding the toxicity of their products, travel security and national intelligence, bombing of CIA personnel in Afghanistan, the nation's diversity and continued strength or loss of immigrants' cultural life and values, and the ongoing discussion of health care legislation, particularly the Stupak amendment

If you are interested in joining the ad hoc discussion, follow two rules: bring an item of interest

from any media and RSVP to the host.

Next meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 2, 9:30 a.m. at the home of new branch member *Reed Isbell*, 6723 Baron Rd., McLean (King's Manor), 703/734-3385 or [rwisbell@verizon.net](mailto:rwisbell@verizon.net).

## MORNING LIT

The Morning Literature group will meet on Friday, Feb. 12 to discuss the book *The Monster of Florence* by Douglas Preston. Morning Lit meets at 9:30 a.m. at the McLean Community Center. *Sally Liff* will review the book and *Ramona Rayle* and *Diane Alden* will host. All are welcome.

*Rebecca Horahan*

## GREAT DECISIONS

### Great Decisions Begins a New Year

We are confident that by now, all participants have a copy of the publication that will be used for our discussions this year. We will continue to have two groups, but both will meet during the day for a total of eight meetings each. The schedule will be the second Thursday of the month at noon (participants bring their lunch) and the third Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. The groups will have their first meeting on Thursday Feb. 11 at the home of *Betsy Reddaway* and on Tuesday, Feb. 16 at the home of *Angela Ehemann*. Please let your hostess know if you plan to attend. You can mix and match your choice of dates. At these first meetings members can sign up to host a specific future meeting.

There is still time to join the groups and you can purchase a book directly from the Foreign Policy Association. Call Angela or Betsy for more information. Start reading the first chapter and be prepared for a lively discussion.

*Angela and Betsy*

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## INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY

McLean International Conversation and Cultural Exchange Winter Activities

The MICCE group has had a busy and enjoyable winter with our international members.

In December there were two special events. One was the meeting at the home of The Hospitality and Information Service (THIS) member Janet Bergson in Great Falls where we demonstrated and engaged the group in a gingerbread house building contest. Janet's lovely home was lavishly decorated for Christmas and everyone enjoyed the activity. On the first Saturday in December an evening holiday potluck dinner was held at the home of *Sandy Sieber* for members and spouses. A total of 40 attendees came out of 44 planned despite the (relatively) light snow. This group can really cook! Also it was nice to be able to meet the spouses.

Our January activities have included a program at *Miriam Howard's* on New Year's resolutions and discussion of various country's customs as well as whether (and why) we make them and keep them. The second meeting encouraged all to bring a work of their own art to share at the home of *Maya Somers*. Finally, at *Juanita Cullen's* home we had a discussion of winter sports and what activities members enjoyed in their countries. While Finland has a great climate for winter sports, my favorite was Mexico where one lady liked going to the beaches!

We all look forward to warmer weather so we don't need to repeat the snow cancellation policy at each meeting.

*Sandy Sieber*

## AND MORE !

### Vienna Area AAUW Invites You to Its February Program with Asian Pacific American Author and Activist Jackie Bong-Wright

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m.  
City of Fairfax Library, Mtg Room A/B  
10360 North Street, Fairfax

Join us to hear Jackie Bong-Wright speak of her life in Vietnam and subsequent public service in the United States. Her autobiography, *Autumn Cloud: From Vietnam War Widow to American Activist*, describes four generations of her family as they lived through four wars in Vietnam. She is a reporter for *Asian Fortune News*, focusing on Asian Pacific American's profiles and community activities. Presently, her main interest is to raise public awareness of the need to fight human trafficking and to abolish this modern-day slavery.

Wright started her career as a teacher of history and French in Vietnam. Later in the United States, she provided social services and founded the Indochinese Refugees Social Services in 1979. Her organization resettled about 1,000 Vietnamese boat people, Cambodian, Laotian, and Afghan refugees in the late 1970s and 80s. The U.S.-Asia Institute awarded her as one of ten outstanding Asian-Americans in the United States in 1981 for her refugee work. For her effort in registering and getting Asian Pacific Americans to vote, she received commendations from the Virginia House and Senate in 2005. Her energy and efforts on behalf of others is truly inspiring.

A question and answer period will follow her presentation. Refreshments will be served. Note: There is parking available under the library.

## 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

*Sally Liff*  
703/356-1344  
sdlact@cox.net

*Isobel Rahn*  
703/475-4160  
Isobel.Rahn@gmail.com

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

### Great Decisions

#### Morning

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

#### Evening

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

### International Hospitality

*Nan Finken*  
703/448-0344  
nfinken@stanfordalumni.org

### Morning Literature

*Mary de Tray*  
703/992-7526  
mdetray@gmail.com

*Rebecca Horahan*  
703/356-1424  
rhorahan@verizon.net



## BRANCH SNOW POLICY

See page 2 of this newsletter for the branch policy on cancellation because of weather conditions.



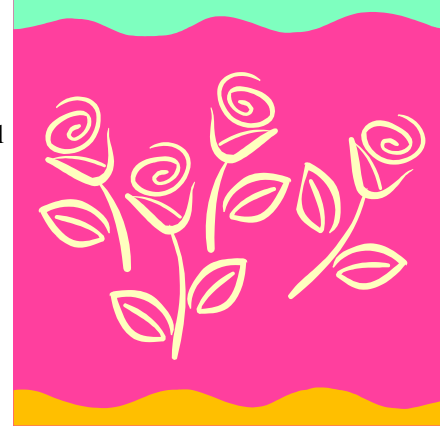
**AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.**

*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)**

# FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- Tues, 2 9:30 a.m. Current Events Group** at *Reed Isbell's home* \*
  - Mon, 8 6:30 p.m. Dining Out** at the Maplewood Grill in Vienna \*
  - Tues, 9 7 p.m. Vienna Area Branch program speaker: Jackie Bong-Wright** at the City of Fairfax Library, mtg Rm A/B \*
  - Thurs, 11 Noon Great Decision's BYOL Group** at *Betsy Reddaway's home* \*
  - Fri, 12 9:30 a.m. Morning Literature** at the McLean Community Center \*
  - Tues, 16 9:30 a.m. Great Decision's Morning Group** at *Angela Ehemann's home* \*
  - Thur, 18 10 a.m. Bridge** at *location TBA* \*
  - Sat, 20 9:30 a.m. Branch meeting** at the McLean Community Center \*
- Deadline for articles for the March NEWS**



\* Article on event is in this issue of the newsletter.

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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**



**McLean Area Branch  
1442 Towlston Rd.  
Vienna, VA 22182**

**Branch Website:  
[www.mcleanaauw.org](http://www.mcleanaauw.org)**

