



September 2009
Volume XXXIX
Number 1

McLean Area Branch

AAUW of Virginia

News



Get Ready The 40th Used Book Sale Is Almost Here

The AAUW McLean Area Branch 40th Used Book Sale will be held at the McLean Community Center at 1234 Ingleside Ave in McLean.

The proceeds from this sale go to fellowships and scholarships for women—local, national, and international.

Sept. 11–13
Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m.

The really important information: admission is free, the average book costs \$2, Sunday most books are \$7 a bag, and we accept only checks or cash.

More information: 40,000 used books, videos, and CDs are sorted for adults and children. There is a main room, a children's room, and a treasures room for books of particular value.

Remainders go to Diana's Books (www.Dianasbooks.org). Diana's Books ship books to local and international beneficiaries including three schools and two libraries in Kenya, Zambia, and the Philippines.

Members: Please e-mail this information to all your friends; to volunteer to help (and we do need volunteers), call *Anne Studner* at 703/938-9251.

Juanita Cullen

INSIDE

International Fellowships	2
Convention News	3-5
Workshops	
Speakers	
Public Policy	
Bylaws Changes	
A Letter to the <i>Post</i>	5
We Support Women Leaders	5
Public Policy	7
Connections	6-7

And More!

McLean Area Branch September's Program

✓ **Jill Birdwhistell**, chief of strategic advancements for the national organization of AAUW, will join us for the September meeting. She will present a certificate to the branch for its achievements in philanthropy toward education for women and girls.

Birdwhistell works closely with national staff and AAUW leaders to facilitate implementation of board goals and AAUW strategic planning. She holds a bachelor's of arts from the University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree in education from the University of Virginia, and a doctoral degree in higher education administration and policy/law from the University of Vir-

ginia. Before coming to AAUW, she taught high school and served on the faculties of Kansas University, University of Virginia, and Tulane University. She was the senior vice president for America's Health TV Network, and a senior executive for the American Lung Association, National Mental Health Association, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, American Medical Women's Association, Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network, and Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nursing.

The September branch meeting will be held Sunday Sept. 27, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center. Be sure to come and bring a friend.

Peggy Stotz and Rebecca Horahan

**McLean
Area
Branch**

**2009/2010
EXECUTIVE
BOARD**

President

Ginger MacEwen

703/734-0367

vmacewen@alumni.duke.edu

Program

Vice Presidents

Isobel Rahn

703/475-4160

Isobel.Rahn@gmail.com

Membership

Co-Vice Presidents

Mary de Tray

703/992-7526

mdtray@gmail.com

Dawn Schultz

703/448-8711

portia11@verizon.net

Co-Treasurers

Rae Fawcett

703/938-8588

raedf0805@earthlink.net

Caroline Pickens

703/448-0415

Pickens_slim@hotmail.com

Board Secretary

Nancy Patterson

703/847-3195

nanrpatt@aol.com

Branch Co-Secretaries

Margaret Hines

202/337-2294

bonitahines@aol.com

Pam Raymer

703/805-4714

plraymer@cox.net

Presidents' Corner

For many of us I think, September seems more like the start of the year than January does. So let me be one of the first to wish you a Happy New Year with McLean Area Branch of AAUW!

We have had a busy summer preparing for our 40th Annual Used Book Sale. During the five Saturdays when we collected books at the Sun Trust Bank in Vienna, the books literally poured in. At times, cars were lined up with people waiting to donate their books to us. We eagerly anticipate another fantastic sale at the McLean Community Center on Sept. 11 through 13. Hopefully, you are already scheduled to help during book sale weekend. If not, call *Anne Studner* ASAP and ask where she can use you.

Our branch had seven members attending the AAUW National Convention in St. Louis in June! I was happy to be one of your delegates and I can tell you it was a great experience. There were nearly 1,000 attending. The workshops were informative and the speakers were excellent. It was exciting to hear Lilly Ledbetter speak at the opening ceremony. We

were thankful for the two huge screens that showed a close-up of each speaker because the Virginia delegates were seated in a back corner of the hall! Later I had the chance to meet and speak with Lilly and have her sign a copy of the Spring 2009 *Outlook* with her picture on the cover.

I hope you will be able to attend our branch meeting on Sunday Sept. 27 at 2:30 p.m. Jill Birdwhistell from the AAUW national office will be with us. You will hear from her about our branch's super achievements in support of AAUW's Educational Foundation. We will have a report on the gross receipts from the book sale. And we expect our three local scholarship winners to attend and share with us information on their current studies and goals for the future.

Be sure to pick up your copy of our 2009-10 McLean Area Branch Membership Directory. You can get it first at the book sale. If you miss out then, you can get it on Sept. 27. I hope to see you at both events!

Ginger

Did You Know ... ?

International Fellowships

Last year more than 1,100 women from 100 countries applied for an AAUW International Fellowship? AAUW was able to fund 36 of those women for a total of \$716,000.

The first International Fellowship was given in 1917 to a woman from Venezuela studying the treatment of leprosy. Since then more than 3,000 women representing 135 countries have been funded.

Our book sale proceeds enabled the McLean Area Branch to endow one of these International Fellowships, so every year there is an International Fellow with a fellowship in our name.

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 October News by September 20** via e-mail or postal mail.

prbacher@verizon.net

Pam Bacher 1442 Towlston Rd.,
Vienna, VA 22182

Newsletter Editor: Pam Bacher, 703/281-2595
Mailing: Barbara Carr, 703/356-3127

Report from St. Louis

The 2009 AAUW National Convention was held in St. Louis on June 26 to 28. The Renaissance Grand Hotel was indeed quite grand and, once I figured out the route under the street from the part of the hotel where our rooms were to the Concourse Building where meetings were held, it was actually very convenient.

There were more events each day than you could possibly attend. I will readily admit that I missed all of the 6 to 7 a.m. exercise sessions! However I did attend two excellent workshops. The first was on AAUW programs to expand the participation of women and girls in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields. I was impressed by the number of ongoing programs and wonder if the McLean Area Branch should work on a project in this area. The second was called "Creating a Healthy Branch Culture and Branch Best Practices." What I remember most from that is some horror stories about how one bad apple (i.e. really difficult member) can cause big problems. How lucky we are to have only talented, positive, forward-thinking members in McLean Area Branch!

It was fascinating to hear Lilly Ledbetter speak about her journey from factory supervisor to fame as the "face of pay equity." But there were several other equally interesting speakers. Two I remember in particular are Jackie Speier who is a congresswoman from California and Wanda Hardy who received the 2009 Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award for her financial education organization whose mission is to help people gain the knowledge and skills to manage their finances. Wanda Hardy stunned the banquet attendees by giving her talk in just about as many words as the Gettysburg Address and with equally meaningful content.

I bought a book which Jackie Speier wrote with some friends. It is titled *This Is Not the Life I Ordered: 50 ways to keep your head above water when life keeps dragging you down*. It is a fun read—both entertaining and inspiring and I will be glad to lend it to you.



Branch Delegates to the 2009 AAUW Convention in St. Louis. From left to right, Rebecca Horahan, Jo Young, Ginger MacEwen, Mary Lou Melley, and Peggy Stotz.

The most important part of convention was undoubtedly the business session where we voted on the adoption of the new bylaws, most of which are related to the new structure of AAUW and the AAUW Action Fund. The Action Fund is the entity which now has responsibility for the political advocacy work of AAUW. Most of the proposed bylaws passed, some after considerable discussion. The exception was the one which would have eliminated the degree requirement for membership. For me, the most impressive part of the bylaws discussion was seeing our own *Caroline Pickens* at the podium, fielding questions and objections and complicated parliamentary maneuvers while remaining perfectly calm and unruffled. I know the other branch members shared my pride to think that Caroline is our very own.

The other big reason for McLean Area Branch pride occurred at the convention banquet when we learned that in 2008 our branch ranked second among all AAUW branches in the nation both in giving to the Educational Foundation and in combined support of all AAUW programs. Congratulations to all of us!!

Ginger MacEwen, Convention Branch Delegate

(Continued on page 4)

The 2009 AAUW Convention

The 2009 AAUW Convention

“Convention News”
(Continued from page 3)

Public Policy From the Convention Floor

A AUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations Lisa Maatz was in her element in St. Louis. Addressing the 1,000 attendees, she reported the many recent successes on the national legislation front, including the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Lisa had attended the bill signing ceremony at the White House in January, representing AAUW members from far and wide.

Rousing the members' support for AAUW's public policy principles for action was Lilly Ledbetter, Representative Rose DeLauro (D-CT) an original author of the bill, and Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA). Rep. DeLauro is a key player in Congress for AAUW's concerns. Rep. Speier, guest speaker at the banquet, served in the California State Assembly and Senate for 18 years before being elected to Congress. She has crusaded to protect consumers' financial privacy and to regulate credit rating agencies. Along with three other women, she has authored a book, *This Is Not the Life I Ordered*, which empowers women to keep their heads “above water when life keeps dragging you down.”

Members addressed the proposed AAUW 2009-11 Public Policy Program. They debated and voted on a number of amendments. Overall, the

AAUW Public Policy Program states that it underscores AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research and speaks to women's needs, aspirations, and concerns across the life span. AAUW advocates public discussion to ensure enlightened decisions on these principles, working to increase the number of underrepresented populations, including women, in policy and other decision-making positions. Two of the approved amendments include postsecondary education and a statement of support for the guarantee of civil rights in all family structures. The final version is available online at http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/principles_priorities. An action priority of particular interest is “increased access to quality, affordable health care.” Keep an eye out for AAUW's response or messages during the health care debate in Congress.

Lisa challenged all attendees to be part of the legislative process by using their cell phones to urge their senators to support pay equity. She handed out a list of nonsponsoring senators of the Paycheck Fairness Act, along with their phone numbers and talking points to convince them to cosponsor the bill (S.182). Many attendees followed through with calls to their senators.

Mary Lou Melley, Convention Branch Delegate

Breaking Through Barriers

Breaking through barriers was the theme of the convention in St. Louis, and it lived up to its name. Besides the changes to AAUW's structure and by-laws, we heard from a woman who made that theme come alive, Lilly Ledbetter. She is the inspiration behind the first piece of legislation signed by President Obama. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which became law on January 29, restores basic protections that allow workers to challenge wage discrimination. She was introduced by AAUW's dynamic public policy director, Lisa Maatz, and received a standing ovation. Lilly is a soft spoken woman who lived and worked in Alabama. She found out that during her 19 years at Goodyear she had been underpaid. She filed suit with the EEOC and her case went all the way to the Supreme Court where they ruled 5-4 against her. This ruling allowed employers to discriminate as long as they weren't caught within the first



Lilly Ledbetter surrounded by supporters at the 2009 AAUW Convention

(Continued on page 5)

“Convention News”

(Continued from page 4)

six months. Lilly continued her fight and with the help of AAUW and other organizations she made history, creating another milestone in women’s long fight for equality.

Rebecca Horahan, Convention Branch Delegate

An Idea from St. Louis

One presenter at a convention workshop on fundraising was Chris Johnson of

BetterWorldbooks.com. The company not only helps organizations run used book sales (we certainly don’t need that), but they will collect the leftover books, transport them to their facility where they categorize them and then sell them online with a percentage going to the originating organization. Of course there may be effort and some initial expense to packing a very large number of books for them to pick up. They operate, successfully, as sort of an amazon.com for used books. They aim to save unwanted books from the landfill; just a thought to file for the future.

Mary Lou Melley, Convention Branch Delegate

Branch Supports Women Student Leaders

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders is one of the national opportunities offered to young women by AAUW and one that we support as a branch with funds from our used book sale. This conference offers students an opportunity to gather the information, skills and resources needed to embrace today’s leadership challenges. They hone skills in leadership, advocacy, civic engagement, and networking. And create practical solutions to challenges on their campuses and in their communities.

We received thank you letters from two of the women our branch supported through scholarships. Teka Christiane Johnson, Christopher Newport University, was so inspired by the conference that she plans “to start a women’s center at my university.” “I have met incredible fellow attendees and presenters.”

Wafa M. Al-Daily, an architecture engineer at Virginia Tech, said of the scholarship she received, “Thank you so much for that great opportunity you awarded which will impact my future academic and professional lives.”

“Coming from a country like Yemen where women have no voice, I became more inspired to make a positive change in women’s status in my country.” Wafa’s own personal struggle with the culture of her country and her husband’s demands has only encouraged her to apply what she has learned. “I have now stronger base to continue my journey and finish my Ph.D degree and then help other women and girls in my country.”

*Peggy Stotz,
Branch Educational Foundation Chair*

Equal Play for Men and Women

The following letter to the editor appeared in *The Washington Post*, Monday, Aug. 10, 2009

According to H. Clay McEldowney, “a lot has changed for men and women on campus since 1972” and the passage of Title IX. I say hurrah for that.

Some years ago, male and female classified job ads were the policy, and women were told that they should become teachers and nurses and not doctors and lawyers. They were also told that women didn’t advance in the working world because they had not learned how to compete in that world because they had not played team sports, even though there weren’t many opportunities for them. The bottom line is that there are those who want women to be treated as second-class citizens who shouldn’t try to get the same opportunities that men have taken for granted over so many, many years.

As the playing field becomes more level, some cry foul. But when women win their rights, that doesn’t mean men lose anything.

*Rebecca Horahan
McLean*



Connections

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

Ramona Rayle
703/821-8503
monirayle@cox.net

Jane Schmiedekamp
703/938-6918
Alphajane@aol.com

Great Decisions

Great Decisions is a discussion program, designed by the Foreign Policy Association. Each year, the program highlights eight major international issues facing the United States. Each month's meeting focuses on one chapter in a publication created by the FPA, in which an expert examines the history, politics, and various alternative approaches to a topic. Participants in this program are urged to buy the booklet, which is ordered in November or December.

The purpose of the program, and FPA's aim, is stated in the introductory material in the 2009 program book:

"... any lasting success in foreign policy depends upon reaching a broad audience—an informed citizenry willing to support informed leaders. A vigorous democracy is sustained by the ability of the public to have access to information that can be utilized to broaden individual and collective choices. And it is not knowledge *per se*, but sharing knowledge that unleashes power. This is a compelling rationale for the democratic form of government; great decisions in the public sphere benefit from the deliberations of informed communities."

Our branch has two Great Discussion opportunities each month—a Morning Group and an Evening Group. The Evening Group will meet on the following schedule.

Sept. 14, Chapter 5, Egypt. (*Betsy Reddaway's* house, 7:30 p.m.)

Oct. 5, Chapter 6, Global Food Crisis (*Ginger MacEwen's* house, 7:30 p.m.)

Nov. 2, Chapter 7, Cuba on the Verge, location TBA

Dec. 7, Chapter 8, Human Rights, location TBA

The morning Great Decisions Group will meet on Sept. 15 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of *Suzanne Watts*. We will finish the book with chapter 8, Human Rights.

Members are encouraged to attend either study group depending on their schedule for the month. We welcome new members to join us.

Betsy Reddaway and Angela Ehemann

Current Events

After a June 'recess,' 10 or more members met during July and August. They brought articles of immediate interest and enjoyed the discussion and sharing of insights. There continues to be, shall we say, a plethora of topics that are important and of interest. So think about joining the group. No sign up is necessary but respond to the hosts for each event and ask to be put on the e-mail list.

The group meets the first Tuesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to around noon at a member's home. On Sept. 1, all members are invited to come and bring a topic to discuss—maybe health care? We will meet at the home of *Jeanette Calland*, 1810 Melbourne Drive, McLean, near Kent Gardens School. RSVP to Jeanette at 703/734-0659 or janeausten61@verizon.net.

Mary Lou Melley

Out and About

The McLean Community Center is offering a day trip to James Madison's Montpelier on Thursday, Oct. 22. Lunch will be at the Palladio restaurant at Barbourville Vineyards. For more information and to sign up, go online or in person to the Center. There is also a DuPont Holiday trip to Longwood Gardens and the DuPont estate on Tuesday, Dec. 1. <http://www.mcleancenter.org>.

Rebecca Horahan

Morning Lit

Meetings are held at the McLean Community Center and begin at 9:30 a.m. Upcoming books to be discussed by the Morning Lit Group are listed below.

Sept 18: *Payback: Debt and the Shadow Side of Wealth* by Margaret Atwood; *Marjorie Lewis* will review the book, and *Connie Small* will host.

Oct 9: *Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows; *Jeanette Calland* will review the book.

Jane Schmiedekamp

SAVE THE DATE!

Fairfax City Branch Annual Book & Author Luncheon

Saturday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fairfax County Club

Five fabulous authors

Benefits college scholarships for women in our area

Tickets: \$38 per person

Join us for an event full of literature, food, & fun
Plus a great silent auction!

Contact Kathleen Henry, kchenry@aeitv.net

Branch Directories

The 2009/10 branch membership directories will be available in the members' break room at the annual book sale, Sept. 11-13, and at the first branch meeting on Sept. 27. Be sure to pick up your copy.

Public Policy

From the State Convention

AAUW of Virginia has created its public policy priorities for 2009-11. These include gender equity in education, employment, pay, retirement benefits, and public appointments; public funds for education to be used for public schools only; access to quality, affordable health care; freedom from violence and sexual harassment; individual choice in reproductive decisions; access to quality, affordable dependent care; and programs that provide women with education, training, and support. The AAUW VA web, site www.aauwofva.org, has an excellent section on public policy, resources, and advocacy.

Public Policy and You A Branch-level Opportunity

This is an invitation to all branch members who want to pursue a more active role in public policy advocacy—join the McLean Area Branch Public Policy Committee. This involves educating yourself by becoming familiar with the AAUW Public Policy Program, signing up for e-mails such as the *Washington Update* and *Two-Minute Activist*, and taking part in discussions such as in the branch Current Events Group. In addition, you can read some of

AAUW's position papers and become familiar with the AAUW *Congressional Voting Record*, both on the AAUW website. E-mail or call your elected representatives on issues suggested by AAUW, urging them to support specific legislation. Contribute your ideas for branch efforts to raise public awareness of issues and important elections. Volunteer to meet, along with other members, with your elected officials on a specific issue. Submit your ideas for branch programs that would contribute to members' awareness and motivation to advocate.

Contact *Mary Lou Melley* melleym@aol.com or 703/536-6498 for more information and a suggested date and time for an initial meeting.

AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps

Congress will soon be back in session and the AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps will be back on Capitol Hill every Thursday, advocating for AAUW's issues in proposed legislation. To find out more, contact Mary Lou Melley, melleym@aol.com, or 703/536-6498.

Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair



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

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR



- Tues. 1** **9:30 a.m.** *Current Events at Jeanette Calland's home**
7 p.m. *Board Meeting at Peggy Stotz's home*
- Thurs, 10** **Deadline for articles to be in the October News**
- Fri, 11** **9 a.m.–7 p.m.** **40TH USED**
- Sat, 12** **10 a.m.–6 p.m.**
- Sun, 13** **Noon–4 p.m.** **BOOK SALE**
- Mon. 14** **7:30 p.m.** *Great Decisions Discussion Group at Betsy Reddaway's home **
- Tues. 15** **9:30 a.m.** *Great Decisions Discussion Group at Suzanne Watts home **
- Fri., 18** **9:30 a.m.** *Morning Literature Group at the McLean Community Center **
- Sun, 27** **2:30-4:30 p.m.** *Branch Meeting McLean Community Center **

* More information inside this newsletter

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**

