



McLean Area Branch

AAUW of Virginia

News

Dec 2009/Jan. 2010
Volume XXXIX
Number 4

2009/10 Names Honored

Bettie Clark

Margaret Hines

Jo Young

book sale co-chairs

Fran Sullinger

immediate past co-president

Branch charter members

in honor of branch's 40th anniversary

David Dibner

in memorial for his years of service to the book sale

Scott McCaffrey,

editor, *McLean Gazette*,
for continued publicity of the sale

Where Does the Money Go?

2009 Funds Committee Report

The AAUW Fellowships/Scholarships Funds Committee met on Nov. 10 to disburse the funds from the 2009 Used Book Sale. Those on the committee who attended were Book Sale Chairs *Bettie Clark* and *Margaret Hines*; Sale Treasurer *Caroline Pickens*; Local Scholarship Committee members, *Suzanne Watts*, *Rahn Kim*, and *Juanita Cullen*; branch members, *Pam Bacher*, *Rebecca Horahan*, and *Ruth Powers*; and AAUW Funds Chair *Peg Stotz*.

Campaign College program is a campus program that works with women to run for student government.

The other third of the funds are used for local scholarships and for branch members to attend conferences and conventions. The committee also recommended that some specific funds for conventions be designated for first time attendees.

As a result of the success of this year's sale, we have more money to distribute to local scholarships. After a good deal of discussion, the committee unanimously voted to increase the number of scholarships to Trinity College. In addition, the amounts of all local scholarships were increased.

The committee also selected this year's Names Honored which will be submitted with our AAUW donations.

Specific allocation amounts appear on page 5.

Peggy Stotz, Funds Chair

It has been tradition for the branch to give two thirds of the book sale funds to AAUW for the fellowships program, Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, and leadership programs. LAF works to combat sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund conducts research and releases reports, such as *Hostile Hallways* and *Behind the Pay Gap*, to the general public. The leadership programs include a national convention for college women. The

usability. He has published over 95 research papers and is on the editorial boards for several scientific journals. He received the Best Teacher Award from the School of Information Technology and Engineering in 2003.

The January meeting will be held Saturday, Jan. 23, 9:30 a.m. at the McLean Community Center.

Isobel Rahn, Program VP

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January Program

Is It Really You?

Worried about identity theft? Afraid to order that special gift online? Can you bank safely online? Join us at our January meeting as Jeff Offutt delves into the realm of Internet security. A professor of Information and Software Engineering at George Mason University, Jeff is an expert on web software applications, testing of software and its

**McLean
Area
Branch**

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Presidents' Corner

By the time you read this, our Dec. 1 luncheon will either be just about to happen, or just a memory. I hope you didn't miss it! The River Bend Country Club is always beautifully decorated in December and I am expecting our speaker to give a fascinating talk about her work at the National Gallery of Art.

We have more great programs and special events planned for early 2010 so read this newsletter thoroughly to be informed of happenings through January. Remember there will be no branch newsletter in January! One January event will be an "Around Town" event to attend a National Symphony matinee concert at the Kennedy Center on Friday, Jan. 15 at 1:30 p.m. *Mary de Tray* is arranging for a block of seats at a special reduced price. Please call to tell her if you are interested in attending. We will carpool.

Our January and February branch meetings will also be daytime events: the Saturday, Jan. 23 and Saturday, Feb. 20 meetings will start with coffee and goodies at 9:30 a.m. followed by the program at 10 a.m. It can seem uninviting to venture out in the dark and cold of winter evenings, so we will frolic in the daytime for the next couple of months!

Our other branch activities will continue on their usual schedules. Many branch members are regularly enjoying International Hospitality, Morning Literature, and the Current Events groups. We have a good group of tutors helping students at Pimmit Hills High School but could always use more—contact *Suzanne Watts* for information. The number of our bridge players has dwindled and the group would welcome some additional players. Give *Nancy Richardson* a call.

The Great Decisions daytime group starts up again in February on the third Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. The other Great Decisions folks who had held evening meetings are trying something new—you can join them for lunch on the second Thursday each month from noon to 2 p.m.—bring your own sandwich. E-mail or

phone *Betsy Reddaway* for details on where they will meet and how to get the Great Decisions study book.

All the contact information for our interest groups appear on page 7 of this newsletter.

In March we will be electing new officers to lead us in the coming year. When our nominating committee calls you, please consider stepping up to the plate and contributing to AAUW and our branch in a leadership role.

Meanwhile, I hope you enjoy the festivities and good times with family through December and into the New Year.

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

Pam Bacher 1442 Towlston Rd.,
Vienna, VA 22182

Newsletter Editor: Pam Bacher, 703/281-2595
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November Branch Meeting

Life-Long Learning

Branch members gathered Nov. 17 to learn about the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) housed at George Mason University. Turns out that several of our members have been taking classes at OLLI for several years and were great cheerleaders for the variety of programs and wonderful people they have met.

Many thanks to Thom Clement, executive director, and Kathleen Meyer, OLLI participant (and AAUW member), for sharing the program and their experiences.

Isobel Rahn, Programs VP



Thom Clement, executive director OLLI, and Kathleen Meyer, an enthusiastic participant at OLLI were the speakers at the November branch meeting

Trinity Recognizes Branch *American Association of University Women: Supporting Scholars*

Trinity wishes to recognize the members of the McLean, Virginia, chapter of the [American] Association of University Women (AAUW) for their dedication and commitment to the education of women. This year marks the 17th year that this local group

has given a scholarship to benefit a Trinity student.

Members of the McLean branch volunteer hundreds of hours each year to raise scholarship monies through their annual used book sale. This year the branch set a fundraising record as it collected over 40,000 books for their 40th sale, which was held in September.

The McLean chapter was recently honored with a national AAUW award recognizing its generous contributions to fellowships and grant drives at the national level. The American Association

of University Women also hosts a yearly leadership and training institute for college women, which Trinity students have attended over the past two years through the generosity of the Alumnae Association of Trinity College.

Trinity is grateful to the McLean, Virginia, chapter of the AAUW for their dedication to the education of women and for their particular interest in and support of Trinity students.

This article appeared in TRINITY Magazine. TRINITY is the official alumni magazine of Trinity Washington University in Washington, D.C.



Jill Birdwhistell, chief of strategic advancements AAUW, Juanita Cullen, branch local scholarships committee member, Judy Tart, Trinity University director of development



AAUW at the White House Or, What I Did on Friday the 13th

The first call came on Tuesday as I was talking with my brother in his nursing home. The cell phone rang and the message was the AAUW staff person wants to know if I'd like to attend a presentation on health care legislation at the White House, Michelle Obama hosting. Answer? Of course!

I was directed to be at the east entrance to the White House, 15th and E Streets by 2 p.m., since the event would start at 2:30 p.m. How exciting! Three other AAUW volunteer lobbyists would be there as well as an AAUW staff person who would take pictures.

I read up on health care legislation on the AAUW's web site, doing my homework as usual as a volunteer lobbyist. I put in my mind a few facts: women comprise 60 percent of people who receive Medicare and need prescription drugs. They tend to have less income than men and desperately need help with the drugs' cost. How many suffer trying to pass through the 'donut hole,' paying about \$6,000 before they are almost totally reimbursed for drugs for the year. Surely those with serious medical problems will benefit from closing the donut hole. In addition, so many women, who usually pay a higher rate of medical insurance, tend to be ad-

versely affected when stricken with breast cancer: losing health insurance because of a pre-existing condition or not being able to afford the much higher premiums if they can find new insurance coverage. I was ready, in case anyone asked me.

It was a rainy day and arriving early, I looked for my Lobby Corps members. Finding them, Marion Mudd, from Bethesda, Kitty Richardson from Falls Church, and Marcy Leverenz from Arlington, we huddled under one of the umbrellas, as we shared our excitement. AAUW program manager, Holly Kearn joined us with her very large array of cameras. After a number of security processes, we walked toward the actual east entrance to the White House.

We could not resist taking pictures once we were in the White House, pictures of the beautiful garden through the window on the ground floor and pictures of us AAUW members in front of the portraits of past presidents and first ladies.

By this time, when we arrived at the East Room for the event, the only seats available were in the last row. Little gold chairs arranged in two columns, about 12 seats in each row, and about 20 rows filled with women and some men. Behind us was a phalanx of TV cameras and bright lights. A military usher came and asked if we would like to sit closer. He found two seats in the third row; Marion Mudd and I were thrilled to be so close to the presenters.

Finally the group came in. White House staff person Tina Tchen introduced herself and welcomed us for this occasion. Nancy DeParle, a White House staff member who works on health care legislative efforts, spoke about this important time when the country can actually change and move toward better conditions for all Americans for medical care.

She introduced three women, each of whom spoke meaningfully and emotionally about their stories: stories of illness, disability, loss of insurance, inability to purchase new insurance because of pre-existing conditions, and two who suffered with breast cancer and were unable, in some instances, to afford the very high cost of curative drugs. One of the women heads a non-profit organization

(Continued on page 5)

Public Policy Matters



AAUW at the White House: from left, Marion Mudd (Bethesda), Mary Lou Melley (McLean), Marcy Leverenz (Arlington), and Kitty Richardson (Falls Church)

(Continued from page 4)

and has thirty employees. Her organization has to pay \$400,000 each year for her employees' health insurance

Finally first lady Michelle Obama came to the podium, a beautiful and outstanding presence. She spoke intelligently and meaningfully about the facts of health care at the present time and the proposals to improve citizens' care with the legislation passed by the House. I recognized many of her statements, right out of the AAUW briefing paper! It was very familiar to us volunteer lobbyists.

Then we were allowed to wander a bit and take pictures, some in front of the portraits of past presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Clinton. The military aides started ushering us down the stairs, but we stopped in the anteroom of the women's restroom and again took pictures of portraits there, of Patricia Nixon, Hillary Clinton, and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Kitty Richardson wrote, on the blog referenced below, "An aspect of AAUW's effectiveness and strength was exemplified in the meeting Friday; many women, from many professions and backgrounds, came together as a coalition to get things done."

As Holly Kearl wrote on the blog, "I look forward to the passage of a new bill, so everyone can have health care, especially children and the elderly. But I hope it does not come at the expense of women's reproductive rights. Write to your senators today!"

Read more on the AAUW blog <http://blog-aauw.org/2009/11/19/women-deserve-better-than-the-status-quo/> and see the pictures.

Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair

Lobby Corps Training Begins in the New Year

All AAUW members are cordially invited to consider joining the volunteer Capitol Hill Lobby Corps. To start the New Year, there will be training in January, usually a Thursday morning in the second or third week.

The commitment for new corps members begins with training. Then, each week that Congress is in session, members prepare by reading the briefing on the topic of the week, distributed by e-mail from AAUW. On Thursdays, corps members show up at the House or Senate side at 9:30 a.m. for an

oral briefing and assignment. Lobby Corps members go out in pairs and visit six to eight offices, asking for the legislative aide, delivering a short message, and leaving a letter from AAUW with the aide.

Interested—or questions? Contact *Mary Lou Melley* 703/536-6498 or melley@aol.com

Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair

McLean AAUW Book Sale 2009 Allocation

2009 Book Sale Income

Book Sale Proceeds	\$49,458.00
Book Sale Proceeds Expenses	9,419.33
Net Income from Sale	\$40,038.67

Available \$ Per Bank Statements

Book Sale Checking Account	\$2,160.21
Book Sale Checking Account Savings Account	49,286.97
Totals	\$51,447.18

Budget/Committed Funds

2010 Book Sale Seed Money	\$9,447.18
Future Conferences (see below)	

Available Funds for Disbursement

Total \$ less 2010 Book Sale Seed Money	\$42,000.00
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Allocation of Available Funds

Allocation Category	Allocation Amount
AAUW Fellowships and Scholarships	\$27,000.00
Eleanor Roosevelt Fund	\$2,000.00
R&P Grant 40th Anniversary	\$19,000.00
Undesignated funds	1,000.00
Legal Advocacy	2,000.00
Leadership Training Institute	2,500.00
Campaign College	500.00
Local scholarships	\$10,000.00
George Mason University	\$2,500.00
Trinity College	5,000.00
Pimmit Hills HS (1 or 2 students)	\$2,500.00
Conferences and Conventions	\$5,000
Total	\$42,000.00

Connections

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY

Thanksgiving—Celebrated with International Friends

The McLean International Conversation and Cultural Exchange (MICCE) Group (co-hosted by AAUW McLean Area Branch and THIS) celebrated a traditional Thanksgiving luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 18 at the reception room of the Church of the Holy Comforter in Vienna. Approximately 50 attended, including diplomats, hosting volunteers, and guests. AAUW and THIS decorated the room beautifully the night before with tablecloths and seasonally colorful plates, napkins, and table decorations. The entirely homemade offerings consisted of turkey, gravy, stuffing, white and sweet potatoes, and numerous salads and side dishes traditional to various families. Desert included several pies, apple cake, and other goodies.

Co-chairs *Nan Finken* (AAUW McLean Area Branch) and *Johanna Nutter* (THIS) described the origins of Thanksgiving as a harvest festival with Native Americans and Pilgrims and declared a national holiday finally by President

Lincoln. We learned a traditional Thanksgiving song and enjoyed seeing a beautiful oil painting of a cornucopia by THIS member, *Diane Moran*.

The international friendships I have developed and witnessed while a member of this group are very special and treasured by all. We enjoy sharing each other's traditions as well as important events in our lives. Especially at this time of year, I have these special relationships to be thankful for and wish the international goodwill we share could be transmitted worldwide.

Sandy Seiber

CURRENT EVENTS

Members discussed a variety of issues at the November meeting, including the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Some branch members spoke of their experiences there, even traveling through it before 1989. A current poll shows that in Eastern European countries, some newly democratic, two top concerns of the citizens are the economy and corruption. Of course Virginia's November election was discussed, along with the issue of life sentences for 13-year-olds found guilty of serious crimes.

All are welcome to join in the discussion. Two rules: RSVP to let the host know you are coming and bring an item from the web or printed media.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 9:30 a.m. at the home of *Cyril Leland*. Please RSVP to Bercyr152@aol.com or 703/827-0485.

In 2010! The meeting will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 9:30 a.m. at the home of *Mary Lou Melley*; melleym@aol.com or 703/536-6498.

Mary Lou Melley



Getting ready to carve turkey: from left *Nan Finken* (McLean), *Juanita Cullen* (McLean), *Carol Younger* (THIS), and *Yuki Egawa* (Japan)

AROUND TOWN

Kennedy Center Concert in January

Around Town is planning to go to the Kennedy Center for an NSO matinee on Friday, Jan.15. The concert begins at 1:30 p.m. and the conductor is Michael Stern with Emanuel Ax on the piano. They will perform Barber: Symphony No. 1, Beethoven: Piano Concerto No.2, and Sibelius: Symphony No. 2.

I would have to pay for the tickets in advance to have them keep a section for us. The price is \$32.50. I must know by Dec. 14 if you are interested and must have payment at the time of sign up. We can arrange car pooling. Those who wish to enjoy lunch in the cafeteria before the performance, should let me know and I will ask if a special area can be reserved for us.

Please call if you have questions or if you wish to reserve a place, 703/992-7526

Mary de Tray

MORNING LIT

The Morning Literature group will meet on Friday, Dec. 11 to discuss the play *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde. Rebecca Horahan will review the play and Mary Lou Melley and Anne Studner will host.

The Morning Literature group will meet on Friday, Jan. 8 to discuss the book *The Nine: Inside the World of the Supreme Court* by Jeffrey Toobin. Ramona Rayle will review the book and Cyril Leland and Sally Liff will host.

Morning Lit meets at 9:30 a.m. at the McLean Community Center. All are welcome.

Rebecca Horahan

GREAT DECISIONS

There is still time to sign up to participate in the Great Decisions Study Group, starting next February. The evening group has been canceled but there will be two daytime groups. The one that meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. will continue. We have added a second group which will meet at noon on the second Thursday of the

month. To date we have about 21 members. The deadline for ordering discounted books has passed, so contact Betsy Reddaway at 703/448-9195 for details on ordering the book.

We especially welcome new members to join the group.

Angela Ehemann

AND MORE

Fairfax City Branch Meeting The Jüdische Kulturbund Project

Saturday, Jan. 23, 1 to 2:45 p.m.
Burke Centre Library
5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke

The Jüdische Kulturbund was a Nazi-sanctioned Jewish cultural association, 1933-1941, in which Jewish musicians and artists performed in theatres in 42 cities across Germany. The power of music, the resiliency of the human spirit, and the will to survive: We want to tell this story to the world.

RSVPs are helpful for planning; please contact Dottie Joslin, j.joslin3@verizon.net, 703/591-9035

DIRECTORY ADDITIONS

Please make the following change to your directory.

Hazera, Lydia D. 703/927-6887 (M)
2 Quintard Ave.,
Old Greenwich CT 06870

Please add the following new member to your directory.

Norton, Amanda 916/367-7499 (H)
703/229-9875 (M)

3738 N Woodrow St.,
Arlington VA 22207
amandanorton1@yahoo.com
Reed C., BA economics; Northwestern U.,
MBA. Interests: book group

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
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Linda Wells
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Great Decisions Morning

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Evening

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International Hospitality

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Morning Literature

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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

December

- Tues, 1 11:30 a.m. **Branch Holiday Luncheon at River Bend Country Club ***
- Tues, 8 9:30 a. m. **Current Events**, at the home of *Cyril Leland **
- Fri, 11 9:30 a.m. **Morning Literature** at the McLean Community Center *



January

- Tues, 5 9:30 a.m. **Current Events Group**, at the home of *Mary Lou Melley*
7 p.m. **Branch Board Meeting** location TBA
- Fri, 8 9:30 a.m. **Morning Literature** at the MCC *
- Fri, 15 1:30 p.m. **Around Town** at the Kennedy Center *
- Wed, 20 **Deadline for articles to be in the February News**
- Thurs, 21 10 a.m. **Bridge** at *location TBA*
- Sat, 23 9:30 a.m. **McLean Area Branch Meeting** at the MCC *
1 p.m. **Fairfax City Branch Meeting** at the Burke Centre Library

* Info on event appears in this newsletter

The MCC is the McLean Community Center

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



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