



November 2009
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Number 3

McLean Area Branch

AAUW of Virginia

News

November Branch Program

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Great minds never stop learning at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Housed at George Mason University as well as locations in Reston and Loudon, the Institute has been providing intellectual and cultural experiences for active people in their retirement. Not retired yet? Look what you have to look forward to! Thom Clement, executive director, will share information about the Institute and how you can join people who refuse to stop learning no matter what their ages.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University serves the Northern Virginia community by providing intellectual and cultural experiences for active people in their retirement years. The common thread among the members is that they all have a desire to learn. No homework, no exams, no required degree, no age

threshold — just learning for the pure joy of learning. For one annual fee, you can enroll in as many courses and special events as you want, subject only to class-size limits. Courses, which are offered during daylight hours, are in the following categories: art/music, economics/finance, history/current events, religion/ethics/philosophy, language/literature/theater, and science/technology/health.

There are also special events and clubs which have grown out of the members' own interests.

The November branch meeting will be held Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m. at the McLean Community Center.

Isobel Rahn, Vice President Programs

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And More!



Henriette de Bruyn Kops

Holiday Luncheon "Behind the Exhibits" Henriette de Bruyn Kops National Gallery of Art

Henriette de Bruyn Kops was born and raised in the Netherlands. Her 'foreign' life started with a two-year posting on the island of Dominica in the Caribbean, followed by a supposedly temporary move to Washington, D.C. that ended up being permanent. Interim postings took her to Jakarta, Indonesia for three years and more recently to Sofia, Bulgaria for another three years. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland and her doctoral degree from Georgetown University.

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**McLean
Area
Branch**

**2009/2010
EXECUTIVE
BOARD**

President

Ginger MacEwen

703/734-0367

vmacewen@alumni.duke.edu

Program

Vice President

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

703/448-0467

nosigma@aol.com

Pam Raymer

703/805-4714

plraymer@cox.net

Presidents' Corner

Our branch has many things to be proud of. However, one area in which we really need to improve is attendance at our branch meetings. If driving in the evening is holding you back, please give a call to me or to either of our membership vice presidents and let us try to connect you with another member in your area who can give you a ride.

I wish more of you had been present at our branch meeting on Oct. 20 when we heard from Janey George, President of the Fairfax Area League of Women Voters. She told us about the history of the League which grew directly out of the suffragette movement of nearly 100 years ago. Then she told us about the "Turning Point Memorial."

In 1917 suffragists were picketing the Woodrow Wilson White House for the right to vote. More than 120 women were arrested and imprisoned in the Occoquan Workhouse that was part of Lorton Prison. As the news spread of these women being held in inhumane conditions and in some cases beaten and force-fed, people around the country were shocked and sympathy for the suffragist cause grew. This became the turning point of the movement. The 19th Amendment was passed and finally ratified in 1920. After this achievement, some of the former suffragettes formed the League of Women Voters with the goal of educating women about their new responsibilities as voting citizens.

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Committee is working with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority to raise funds to erect a memorial to commemorate the struggle of these women.

Our branch meeting on Nov. 17 will feature Thom Clement of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University. At least one of our members has been enjoying OLLI courses for years. Come to the meeting and find out whether OLLI is something you would enjoy.

Our December luncheon will be on Dec. 1 at the River Bend Country Club. You will find a reservation form on page 9 in this newsletter. Don't put this off and forget to send it in! Fill it out and mail to *Triante Dakolias* right away.

Ginger



Janey George, president of the Fairfax Area League of Women Voters, at the branch's October Meeting

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.

Note: the next newsletter covers December and January.

Please send your **articles for the Dec/Jan. News by November 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 the Northern Virginia District Meeting Everything You Never Knew About LAF

Linda Wells, Juanita Cullen, and I attended the AAUW Northern Virginia District meeting on Oct. 17. We enjoyed the chance to network with members of our neighboring branches and learn about their recent activities and upcoming events.

The meeting program was all about LAF and was presented by Holly Kearl, AAUW's Legal Advocacy Program Manager, and Adam Zimmerman who works on both LAF and public policy at the AAUW national office. Originally LAF stood for Legal Advocacy Fund and its goal was to provide financial and legal assistance to women who had suffered from gender discrimination in the academic workplace. They also participated as amicus curiae (friend of the court) in legal cases involving women's rights. Holly explained that the focus of LAF's work has recently broadened to include plaintiffs in any type of workplace. At the same time LAF's focus has narrowed a bit in that they have moved away from providing plaintiffs with direct financial support. Instead LAF has chosen to expand their friend of the court role and put AAUW's efforts and prestige behind strategic cases which will set precedents for issues important to women. They feel this has the potential to make the biggest impact and protect more women against discrimination in the future. Holly urged us to contact her to suggest cases we think LAF should support.

LAF is still providing some kinds of assistance to individual plaintiffs. They have a legal referral network of more than 300 lawyers around the country who will work for reduced fees or on a pro bono basis on women's rights cases. LAF also provides an online library of resources about workplace discrimination issues and sexual harassment.

Adam Zimmerman spoke on the process of judicial nominations. He pointed out that counting all levels of federal courts there are a total of 875 seats for Federal judges. AAUW keeps an eye on all judicial appointments and supports nominees who have a positive track record on issues relevant to AAUW goals.

The meeting concluded with an update on plans for the AAUW of Virginia Convention next spring on April 23-25 at the Fair Lakes Hyatt

Hotel in Fairfax. Our branch will be working on registration and credentials of delegates and we will need plenty of volunteers. We have decided not to have a McLean branch meeting in April; instead, we will encourage as many branch members as possible to attend the convention.

Ginger MacEwen, Branch President

Some Really Good Scenes

Finally – Success! The Hate Crimes Prevention Act Passes

After many years of lobbying and support by AAUW members and its Lobby Corps, the Senate passed, on Oct. 22, the landmark legislation that expands the coverage and protection of federal hate crime laws to now include sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and disability. While a 1994 federal law technically covered lesbians and gay men, the scope of the law was so narrow that it was hardly ever used. This legislation is expected to be signed by President Obama soon. It marks the first practical expansion of the most broadly applicable criminal civil rights law since 1968. The Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act is named after the University of Wyoming student who died on Oct. 12, 1998 after a vicious attack and who was targeted because he was gay.



*Public
Policy
Matters*

Continuing Lobby Corps

Also on that great day, Oct. 22, nearly 14 women attended the AAUW Lobby Corps Open House for the first time. A number of them are interns and fellows with AAUW, but a large contingent of Arlingtonians and *Reed Isbell* from our branch also attended. Tracy Sherman, government relations manager, gave a policy update on Title IX — still lots to accomplish

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“Public Policy”

(Continued from page 3)

there. And Catherine Hill, AAUW senior researcher, gave an overview, with statistics, on the wage gap. One of our Lobby Corps members with a doctoral degree had her questions answered expertly. Kathy Kelm, coordinator for the corps, showed Congressional visits and legislative successes with bar graphs made out of brownies and coconut and nut ‘bars.’

Walking the Walk: The “Shriver Report”

Following the open house, members traveled to Senators’ offices to deliver AAUW policy recommendations related to the newly released *The Shriver Report – A Woman’s Nation Changes Everything*. The 400 page report provides a snapshot of America’s 21st century workforce: women now make up half of all workers in the country. The next thought, of course, is that the pay gap between men and women still exists. AAUW is taking the lead on providing policy recommendations and grassroots action to improve women’s status and to strengthen the economic security of their families in critical areas such as pay equity, work-life balance, education, and healthcare.

Information about the report and AAUW’s related policy recommendations can be found on AAUW’s website. You might be interested that under the subtitle *Sick and Tired, Still Your Mother’s Health Care System*, AAUW proposes

and will work for lowering premiums women pay for health care, ensuring access to and coverage of preventive services, protecting vital elements of the current health care system (Medicare, Medicaid, S-CHIP program), protecting reproductive rights, expanding the family and medical leave act, providing paid sick days for all, and providing paid parental leave for federal employees.

There are four more sections that provide substantial descriptions of additional policy recommendations linked to *A Woman’s Nation*; to see them go to AAUW.org and click the link to the report.

Election Day – Depending

Depending when you are reading this newsletter, Election Day, Nov. 3, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., may have come and gone. We’ll be the heirs, or you could say customers, of what we did or did not do that day; lots more news to come on the state level, especially with new state-wide elected officials and new or re-elected delegates.

An added note – the branch October program featured the president of the Fairfax Area League of Women Voters who reviewed the history of the effort for women to achieve the right to vote, never mind run for office. It’s still fairly current history – how many grandmothers of ours, or maybe mothers, who experienced finally having the right to vote in their life time? Voting is not to be taken for granted. Kudos to the League for all they do to inform and encourage citizens and also to sponsor debates between candidates.

Sources include AAUW Policy Recommendations, and the *Huffington Report* (on the hate crimes legislation update).

Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair



Lobby Corps members and guests listen to updates on AAUW’s public policy priorities

McLean Area Branch Photo Gallery



Branch members and guests enjoy Dining Out at Clydes' Lobster Fest in October.



Branch VP Programs Isobel Rahn gives a thank you gift to AAUW's Jill Birdwhistell at the September meeting.



Branch President Ginger MacEwen and Jill Birdwhistell from AAUW's national office display two certificates for Philanthropy Towards Education for Women and Girls awarded by AAUW to the McLean Area Branch at the September meeting. In 2009 McLean was second nationally among all AAUW branches in giving to the Educational Foundation and in combined support of all AAUW programs.



At the September meeting, from l to r: Jeannie Brown Leonard, director of the Bachelor of Individualized Studies Program (BIS), George Mason University; Pamela J. Martin, our branch's scholarship winner from GMU BIS concentrating in "Literacy in Special Education"; Emogene Martin, Pamela's mother; and Rahn C. Kim, branch local scholarship committee.

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

AROUND TOWN

Holiday Homes Tour

The Woman's Club of McLean will be holding their annual Holiday Homes Tour on Thursday, Dec. 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The club will also be offering a Holiday Marketplace at Trinity United Methodist Church at 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. on the same day. The tour will feature the homes of Supervisor John

Foust (D-Dranesville), Susan Cooper, who owns a unique octagon house, and our own *Sandy Sieber*. Contact *Dawn Schulz* (703/448-8711) for tickets and information.

Rebecca Horahan

The Fairfax City Branch Annual Book and Author Luncheon

Join us Saturday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for an event filled with literature, food & fun plus a great silent auction! The location is Fairfax County Club, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax, Virginia,

This year's stellar assortment of books has settings from San Francisco to Moscow, via Washington and Iceland.

Natalie Wexler *A More Obedient Wife:* *A Novel of the Early Supreme Court*

The relationship between the wives of two justices is featured in this historical fiction written by a well-recognized attorney and former law clerk to a Supreme Court Justice.

Solveig Eggerz *Seal Woman*

After World War II, a painter from Berlin tries to start a new life in rural Iceland.

Olga Grushin *The Dream Life of Sukhanov.*

A well-connected artist gives up what he values as politics holds sway in 1980s Russia.

John Lamb *Clockwork Teddy:*

A Bear Collector's Mystery

A retired San Francisco cop is involved in solving a murder with a bearish connection. The author is a former policeman.

Nick Kotz *Judgment Days:*

Lyndon Baines Johnson, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Laws that Changed America

Two complex personalities formed a tense alliance to advance civil rights. The author is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist.

This annual event raises funds for scholarships for women in our area. It also helps our national association provide financial help to women in education and other promising careers.

Tickets: \$38 per person

Please mail your check or VISA/MASTERCARD information to Sonja Palomaki at 7014 Ebb Tide Lane, Burke, Virginia 22015; phone, 703/455-9262; e-mail. spalomaki@cox.net. Checks should be made payable to AAUW Fairfax City Branch. Reservations must be made by Nov. 4, 2009. Price includes lunch, silent auction, and many door prizes!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

CURRENT EVENTS

On Oct. 6, eight members met at *Ethel Hansan's* home for a lively two-hour discussion, as usual. Topics that members contributed included health bill proposals, hospital bills, the death penalty, written pieces by professionals regarding the future of the Supreme Court now that the new justice is seated, the current political campaign in Virginia, and a column by Gail Collins.

All members are invited to attend. There are only two rules: RSVP to the host and bring an article to the meeting. Since the first Tuesday of November is Election Day, we will hold the meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 9:30 a.m. at the home of *Suzanne Watts*, 6800 Fleetwood Rd., McLean. Please RSVP to her at 703/356-7926 or scwatts@verizon.net.

In December, the holiday luncheon is scheduled for the first Tuesday, so Current Events will be held Tuesday, Dec. 8, 9:30 a.m. at the home of *Cyril Leland*, 8340 Greensboro Dr, McLean. Please RSVP to Cyril at 703/827-0485 or ber-cyrl52@aol.com.

Questions? Ask *Mary Lou Melley* 703/536-6498 or melleym@aol.com.

Mary Lou Melley

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY

Our September meetings were a huge success and many new diplomats' faces have joined us from all corners of the world. We met to share our summer travel experiences as well as to learn about native plants from a wonderful botanist at Meadowlark Gardens. We learned how to choose travel plans and agents and had a fabulous Mexican celebration organized by our Mexican ladies. Janet Bergson's rare collection of American first lady dolls introduced us to the fun of collecting, and we also learned a lot about our country's first ladies.

Coming up in November is a visit to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal District. Our volunteers provide an authentic Thanksgiving "dinner" of all the favorite holiday foods so that our diplomats can know more about this important day and how it is celebrated.

We hope that you will want to join us. For information, please call *Nan Finken* 703/448-0344 or e-mail nfinken@stanfordlummi.org

MORNING LIT

The Morning Literature group will meet on Friday, Nov. 20 to discuss the book *The Yacoubian Building* by Alaa Al Aswany. Morning Lit meets at 9:30 a.m. at the McLean Community Center. *Dorothy Hassan* will review the book; *Ann Marie Grady* and *Jane Schmiedekamp* will host. All are welcome.

Rebecca Horahan

GREAT DECISIONS

The evening Great Decisions group meets the first Monday of the month (unless the first Monday follows a holiday weekend) at 7:30 p.m. Our remaining meetings are

Nov. 2, Chapter 7, "Cuba," *Pam Bacher's* home
Dec. 7, Chapter 8, "Human Rights," hostess to be announced.

The morning Great Decisions group has completed its year. Morning members who missed one of the last two discussions are welcome to attend an evening group's session.

Betsy Reddaway

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following change to your directory

Sipe, Barbara **bfs4000@aol.com**

Please add the following members to your directory

Lubetkin, Linda **703/790-0254**
1748 Great Falls St., McLean 22101
Lubetkin174@hotmail.com
Radford C., VA; U. of Northern Colorado, MA.

Wolfe, Judith W. L. **703/356-8394**
6800 Fleetwood Rd. #801,
McLean 22101 jwlwolfe@aol.com
Lawrence U., Downer C., VA; U. Tennessee,
Chattanooga, MAT.



The Holidays Are a Time for Giving

“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

We are all living in challenging times right now, but for some times are desperate. So at our holiday luncheon we will be collecting checks and much needed items for Share, Inc. and showing our support for such a worthy local organization. (They were also founded the same year as our branch!) 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 or call 703/284-2179.

Rebecca Horahan

“Holiday Luncheon”

(Continued from page 1)

Henriette is employed as researcher in the Department of Northern Baroque Painting at the National Gallery of Art in Washington and currently teaches one class in early modern history at Georgetown University. Her book on the wine and brandy trade between France and the Netherlands in the 17th century was published in 2007. Her work *Pride of Place: Dutch Cityscapes of the Golden Age* is an exhibition booklet published in 2009 by the National Gallery of Art. Her current research project focuses on five

generations of one merchant family in the turbulent period of 17th century globalization.

The Mclean Area Branch Holiday Luncheon will be held Dec. 1 at the River Bend Country Club. Our luncheons always promise good food, good company, and a wonderful program; be sure to attend and bring a friend or two. Use the flyer on the facing page and make your reservations soon. Directions to River Bend Country Club appear below.

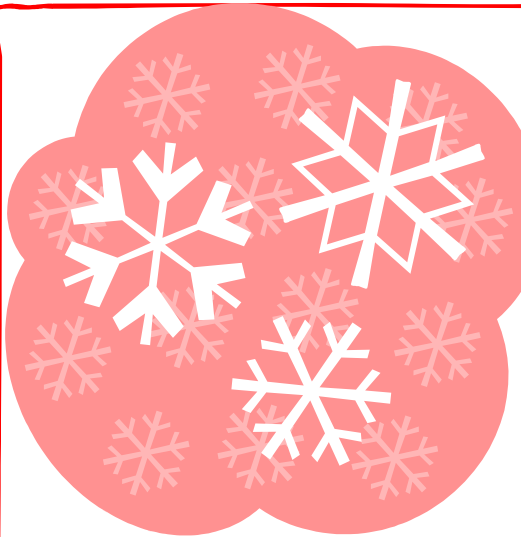
Isobel Rahn, Vice President Programs

Directions to the River Bend Country Club

From McLean going west 9 on Georgetown Pike: from the beltway, go approximately 6 1/3 miles; turn right on Walker Road (at Great Falls Shopping Center), continue to stop sign, continue after the stop sign for 1.1 miles, the country club entrance will be on the **right**.

From Tysons Corner going west on Rt. 7: turn right on Colvin Run Rd, go 1/2 mile then turn right on Walker Road, go 3.8 miles (past the Great Falls Shopping Center) to the Country Club entrance on the **right**.

**375 Walker Road,
Great Falls, VA
703/759-3030**



AAUW McLean Area Branch

Holiday Luncheon

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 11:30 a.m.

River Bend Country Club

375 Walker Road, Great Falls, VA

Speaker

Henriette de Bruyn Kops

*Department of Northern Baroque Painting
National Gallery of Art*

"Behind the Exhibits"

Luncheon

Choice of Entrée

Salmon or Chicken

All entrées accompanied by a salad, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, rolls and butter

Ice cream and brownies

Coffee, tea, and soft drinks

Friends, colleagues from other branches, and others are welcome!

Reservation

Name

**Entrée
Choice**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Cost is \$28 per Person (includes gratuity and sales tax)
Make check payable to AAUW - McLean Area Branch
Mail by Nov. 25 to Trianthe Dakolias, 1246 Stoneham Ct., McLean 22101



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

NOVEMBER CALENDAR



- Mon, 2 7:30 p.m. **Great Decisions meeting** at Pam Bacher's home *
- Tues, 3 7 p.m. *Board meeting* at the McLean Community Center
- 6 a.m. – 7 p.m. **ELECTION DAY**
- Sat, 7 11 a.m. **Fairfax City Book and Author Luncheon** at the Fairfax Country Club *
- Tues, 10 9:30 a.m. *Current Events meeting* at Suzanne Watts home *
- Tues, 17 7 p.m. *Branch Meeting* at the McLean Community Center *
- *Fri, 20 9:30 a.m. *Morning Lit Meeting* at the McLean Community Center *
Deadline for the November News
- Wed, 25 **Deadline for Holiday Luncheon reservations ***

AND IN EARLY DECEMBER

- Tues, 1 11:30 a.m. **McLean Area Branch Holiday Luncheon** at the River Bend Country Club *

* More information appears in 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

