



October 2009
Volume XXXIX
Number 2

McLean Area Branch

AAUW of Virginia

News

Another Record-Breaking Book Sale



The 2009 McLean Area Branch Book Sale set another record, grossing \$48,201.50 during the three days of the sale. In addition, pre-sales to members who sorted and Community Center staff on setup afternoon brought in \$1,134, for a grand total of \$49,335.50. There is still \$74 owed in pre-sales, so we can consider our book sale gross this year to be \$49,400. This is \$5,000 more than the 2008 gross, which was also a record. Expenses are expected to be about the same as last year, \$9,400, which includes moving expenses; rental of the MCC, shelves, tables, dumpster, and PODs; copying and ads; and supplies.

What a welcome relief to achieve such a great success for all who labored over mounds of books all summer as well as for those who worked at the sale. A successful book sale happens when many people put in a lot of work beginning in May when our book collection begins. After the first collection, AAUW members begin to sort books, collect and cut boxes, price books, and do a myriad of other tasks in order to be ready for a sale in September.

A hearty thank you goes to all the volunteers who worked on the sale from beginning to end. Your time and effort helped to make this sale a resounding success. Because we do not have names at this time of all who contributed, we

(Continued on page 3)

INSIDE

Branch Directories	2
Upcoming Meetings	3
Book Sale Vignettes	4
Ashburn/Leesburg Area Open House	4
Public Policy	4, 5
Directory Additions and Updates	5, 7
Connections	6-7

And More!



At work sorting and pricing books. From right to left, Rebecca Horahan, Joanne Field, Rahn Kim, and Gary Field (photo appeared in the September 3 issue of the *SunGazette*)

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Area
Branch**

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Presidents' Corner

I hope that, as you are reading this newsletter, we are all enjoying some crisp but sunny fall weather, have rested up from the book sale (our 40th!!) and are feeling energized and excited about the coming year of programs and activities with McLean Area Branch.

First off, let's raise a cheer for our triumvirate of 2009 Book Sale chairs. Thank you Bettie, Margaret, and Jo for a job well done!

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see articles on the AAUW District meeting on Saturday morning Oct. 17 and our branch meeting Tuesday evening Oct. 20. I hope you will put those meetings on your calendar and plan to attend at least one of them.

During the coming month neither the media nor the candidates are going to let us forget that we have state elections for Virginia coming up in November. Be informed! Learn about all the candidates and issues and, above all, plan to vote.

If you have not already done so, choose to become a Two-Minute Activist! Sign up for the AAUW Action Network online at www.aauw.org/advocacy/ and click on AAUW Action Network. You will receive legislative alerts and updates from AAUW and will also be given information on how to contact your congressional representative and senators, including their e-mail addresses. Another way to keep informed is to attend our current events discussion group which meets on the first Tuesday every month.

Jo Young, who was elected along with *Isobel Rahn* to be co-vice president for programs, has decided she will be unable to serve in that position this year due to increasing personal and job responsibilities. I regretfully accepted her resignation, but I am happy to know that Jo plans to assist Isobel as much as she can and remain active in the branch

Hopefully you have picked up your AAUW McLean Area Branch 2009/2010 Membership Directory. In it you will find not only the names and contact information for all our current members, but the list of branch officers

and the dates of branch meetings from now through May. You will also find a list of all our branch activities, with the name and phone number of the person to contact for more information. If you did not pick up your directory, it will be mailed to you.

Ginger

Branch Directories

The 2009–2010 McLean Area Branch Membership Directory is ready for distribution. Many members picked up their directories at the book sale. Others will pick them up at the Sep. 27 branch meeting; after that, the final few directories will be mailed. If you do not receive your directory by Oct. 13 please contact *Mary de Tray* at mdetray@gmail.com or 703/992-7526; or if you would like to report errors in the directory, please contact *Pam Bacher* at prbacher@verizon.net or 703/281-2595.

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

prbacher@verizon.net

Pam Bacher 1442 Towlston Rd.,
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Mailing: Barbara Carr, 703/356-3127

McLean Area Branch October Program

The October Program will feature The League of Women Voters. Information covered will include the mission and activities of the League. In addition we will hear an update on elections in Virginia. The October meeting will be held Oct. 20, 7 p.m. at the McLean Community Center.

Northern Virginia District Meeting

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St.
Arlington, Va.

Plan to come to the district meeting. We will learn what is happening in AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund. LAF has changed its focus somewhat in recent years and this program will bring us up to date on its accomplishments and goals.

Speakers: There will be two speakers from the national AAUW office. Holly Kearl oversees LAF initiatives including case support, plaintiff travel grants, campus outreach, and research reports, so she will be able to tell us a great deal about LAF's work. The other speaker will be Adam Zimmerman who works in both LAF and public policy. He has a good handle on the Supreme Court aspect as well as the cases AAUW has signed onto as amicus curiae (friend of the court).

Get to know other branches in our district: Someone from each branch will share briefly about recent activities of her branch. Also, branches are invited to bring information about fundraising events, including sale items for display and purchase.

Food: Each branch is asked to bring three finger

foods to share. District will provide drinks, plates, cups, and napkins.

So that we can coordinate food contributions and rides, please let me know that you are going to attend. There is plenty of parking at the library.

Ginger MacEwen

AAUW of Virginia State Convention Preview

Save the dates for our AAUW of Virginia Convention April 23–25. The theme is “New Horizons.” Northern Virginia branches are hosting the convention at the Fair Lakes Hyatt Hotel in Fairfax. The hotel is just off Fairfax County Parkway near Interstate 66.

Our branch is responsible for credentialing and registration. *Marjorie Lewis* and *Fran Sullinger* are representing the branch on the Local Area Committee, which has plans well under way to make this the largest and most successful convention ever. Marjorie and Frances are recruiting others to help with our branch tasks. If you would like to get on board, please let them know. Every member is urged to solicit ads for the convention booklet. Full-page ads are \$200. Smaller, less expensive ad space is also available.

It is not too early to make your reservations if you want to stay over one or two nights at the convention hotel. Our special rate is \$75 per room per night. A few (a bit more expensive) rooms are available with wrap-around views.

The Program Committee is lining up some extraordinary speakers for the three-day celebration.

Fran Sullinger

When Is
the Next
Meeting?

“Book Sale”

(Continued from page 1)

will thank workers individually in another issue. One very nice aspect of the book sale this year was the large number of new or newer members who worked at the sale. We hope they had as much fun as we long-time members do!

We would also like to thank the SunTrust Bank in Vienna for the space they provided to us to collect and sort our books, the McLean Commu-

nity Center for all the support they have provided, and the Office Movers for the fine work they do and for charging us less because we support scholarships for women. We are also grateful to Maryann Weber who runs Diana's Books and who took all of our leftovers after the sale, as well as throughout the summer. She supports a number of charities, and our leftover books help her immensely.

*Bettie Clark, Book Sale Co-chair,
Caroline Pickens Book Sale Treasurer*

Book Sale Vignettes

The check is in the mail?

A check from Prudential Life Insurance for \$298.17 was found in a book during the sale—dated May 1970 and made out to a man in Connecticut.

This coffee tastes like ...

One pot of coffee for the volunteers tasted a bit weak when the “high quality” coffee used was left in the plastic bag in the brewing basket and the coffee pot was turned on to brew—hot water.

Another record

The Friday 2:30 p.m. pickup of \$12,165.50 was the largest ever one-time pickup.

Now, play nice

We had a tense altercation on Friday between two moms who both wanted the same book in the children’s book room.

Not all books were \$2

The most expensive book sold at the sale was \$400—an early edition of Charles Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species*.

AAUW
American Association of University
Women

Ashburn/Leesburg Area Branch

Open House

Saturday, October 17, 2009, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Equal Rights Amendment:
Three-State Strategy
2 p.m.

Diana Egozcue
Legislative Vice President, Virginia NOW
Guest Speaker

Door Prizes
Refreshments
Women’s History Trivia Contest

Come find out what AAUW is all about!

Or contact us at
aauw.ashburn.leesburg@gmail.com

Cascades Library
21030 Whitfield Place, Room C
Potomac Falls, VA 20165

Election Time – Again

In case you hadn’t noticed, we Virginians have the opportunity to make our voices heard.

Oct. 3: the last day to vote absentee in person;

Oct. 5: the last day to register to vote.

Oct. 27: the last day to apply to vote absentee by mail;

Nov 3: polls open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. at your regular polling place.

For more information you can log on to www.sbe.virginia.gov, the web site for the Virginia Board of Elections.

On Oct. 12 at 8 p.m., a statewide televised debate between the gubernatorial candidates, Creigh Deeds (D) and Robert McDonnell (R), will occur, broadcast by PBS and CBS and moderated by Judy Woodruff. The debate is presented by AARP of Virginia and the League of Women Voters of Virginia at a site in Richmond.

Here is a list of candidates with their websites and debate dates.

For District 34, the incumbent is Margaret Vanderhye (D), www.vanderhye.com; the other candidate is Barbara Comstock, www.comstockfordelegate.com. The debates between these candidates will take place Sep. 24, 8 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange and on Oct. 6 in the evening, hosted by the McLean Citizens Association at the McLean Community Center.

For District 53, the incumbent is Jim Scott (D) www.delegatejimscott.com; the second candidate is Christopher Merola (R), www.merola09.com

Websites for the gubernatorial race are for ‘Bob’ McDonnell, www.bobmcdonnell.com and for Creigh Deeds, www.deedsforvirginia.com.

For lieutenant governor, candidates are ‘Bill’ Bolling (R), www.billbolling.com and Jody Wagner (D) www.jodyforva.com.

Finally, candidates for attorney general are Ken

(Continued on page 5)



Public
Policy
Matters

(Continued from page 4)

Cuccinelli (R), www.cuccinelli.com and Stephen Shannon (D), www.shannon2009.com.

Another Topic Healthcare and You

Here is an example of communicating with your elected officials with very interesting and substantive results. You too are urged to send your questions and opinions to Congress.

The papers and television continue to report or opine on proposals to improve health care in this country. Two objectives of health care reform are to provide coverage to more citizens and to rein the abuses of some health insurance companies.

As a constituent, I recently wrote to my elected officials, Rep. Frank Wolf and Senator Mark Warner regarding the proposed public option. I wanted to find out their stances on the topic. I went to their web sites (warner.senate.gov and wolf.house.gov), clicked on contact and wrote four sentences asking for their response. As a result, I want to share with you some excerpts from each of the quite lengthy responses I received.

First, from Rep. Wolf, (a two-page letter by snail mail); although he supports “considerations that must include choice, affordability and portability,” he writes “questions have been raised about the fast track ... without the opportunity for bipartisan alternatives.” As of Aug. 31, he states “I am opposed to the bills reported out of these committees.” He goes on to state the possible impact on employers and “forcing private health plans to stop offering coverage and instead rely on the government to pick up the tab.”

Senator Warner, as of August 28, states “I am actively engaged in drafting legislation to be included in the final package.” “Much of the current controversy surrounding reform efforts has been focused on whether the bill should include a public health insurance option. As evidence that there is room to compromise, several alternatives are being discussed ranging from non-profit regional co-operatives to a delayed public option.”

If you would like to read the letters, let me know – melley@aol.com.

AAUW believes that health care is a basic right, and that women in the United States are in particular need of health reform legislation. Specifi-

cally, AAUW believes that any health reform legislation must include the following three tenets: an end to the practice of gender rating; coverage of reproductive health services; and access to and coverage of preventive services and care. If you haven't yet done so, [urge your members of Congress](#) to make these three critical pieces a part of the final health care reform bill. For more information, read AAUW's full [position paper](#) on health care.

Sources include the web sites of the League of Women Voters, the Virginia State Board of Elections, the Vanderhye update, and the AAUW *Washington Update*.

Reminders

Two opportunities await members who are interested in public policy. First, the opportunity to brainstorm with others about branch activism in the public policy area;—contact the branch Public Policy Chair *Mary Lou Melley* (melley@aol.com). If you feel the urge to ‘walk the walk’ on Capitol Hill, bringing AAUW's message to elected officials, consider joining the AAUW Volunteer Lobby Corps. An open house and one-day training in January are being planned. For more information contact Mary Lou.

Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair

Directory Updates

Please make the following name and e-mail change to your directory.

Helene T. Beale *

heleneandjim@comcast.net

Please add the following entries to your directory.

Eacho, Esther *

703/356-2330

1163 Ballantrae Lane, McLean 22101

ceacho@gmail.com

BA communications.

Hager, Mary

703/241-1072

6611 Oerland St., Falls Church 22043

hagermg@aol.com

Pomona C. – Claremont, BA; Stanford U., MA.

(Continued on page 7)

Connections

CURRENT EVENTS

Bright and early on the first Tuesday of September, nine members gathered to share information and opinions on the latest events. Members bring items from newspapers, magazines, and web sites to inform the attendees and to discuss concerns about the topics. In September, topics included health care, both here and abroad, the current status of rail to Dulles Airport, and some latest medical research.

Information from Fairfax County was also relayed. There will be a Community Dialogue on the County's Fiscal Year 2011 budget on Tuesday, Sep. 29 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the McLean Community Center. Other meetings will be held throughout the County. Check the web site www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chair.

On Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 9:30 a.m., members are invited to come to the home of *Ethel Hansan*, 6813 Rosemont Dr., McLean. Bring information and your experiences for free-flowing conversations. RSVP to Ethel at ehansan2000@yahoo.com or call 703/893-8815.

The following month, the meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 3 (Election Day) at a place to be determined. Contact *Mary Lou Melley* for the location (melley@aol.com or 703/536-6498).

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY

Our purpose is to help diplomats and their families by encouraging friendly and supportive relationships between our volunteers and diplomats' wives for the duration of their stay in our country. Our branch is a co-sponsor along with The Hospitality and Information Service (THIS) and all our members are welcome to participate. We meet every Wednesday morning in various homes with a coffee social and cultural exchange. For further information, please call or e-mail *Nan Finken* 703/448-0344 or nfinken@stanfordalumni.org or *Claire Hooper* simpatico3@earthlink.net. 703/827-0985.

Nan Finken

AROUND TOWN

"Dining Out" has returned in time for Lobster Fest at Clyde's. Join your AAUW friends for a festive dinner at Clyde's, Tysons Corner, on Thursday, Oct. 8 at 6:30 p.m. Please contact *Sally Liff* at 703/356-1344 or by e-mail sdlect@cox.net if you plan to attend.

Dawn Schulz

Culture Warriors

On Sunday, Nov. 1, we have the opportunity for a docent-led tour of "Culture Warriors" at the Katzen Arts Center at American University. This exhibit from Australia contains 90 works of contemporary Aboriginal art. The tour will start at 2 p.m. so we plan to meet at 1 p.m. at the McLean Community Center to carpool. However, if you prefer to go directly to the Katzen Art Center, it is at 4499 Mass Ave and there is plenty of underground parking which is free on weekends. Let *Mary de Tray* know (mdetray@gmail.com) by Oct. 15 if you plan to go with us because if we are a large enough group we will have our own private tour. If you can't make that date, the exhibit is under way now and will continue through Dec. 6. If you want to know more, there was an enthusiastic review in the *Washington Post* on Sep. 11. On the *Washington Post* web site you can find it if you search 'culture warriors aboriginal art.'

Mary de Tray and Dawn Schulz

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*. For more information visit their website at <http://www.mcleanwc.org/>

Rebecca Horahan

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

A Play in McLean

On Saturday, Oct. 3, we are all invited to join the members of our branch's Morning Literature book discussion group who are going to see Oscar Wilde's play, *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the McLean Community Center. The play will be given during three weekends, beginning Sep. 25. They have chosen the 3 p.m. show on Oct. 3 because there will be a pre-show introduction by George Mason University professor Rick Davis at 2 p.m.

Rebecca Horahan

MORNING LIT

Morning lit on Friday, Oct. 9 will discuss the book, *Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows). Morning Lit meets at 9:30 a.m. at the McLean Community Center.

Jane Schmiedekamp

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

- Oct. 5, Chapter 6, "Global Food Crisis," *Ginger MacEwen's* home;
- Nov. 2, Chapter 7, "Cuba," *Pam Bacher's* home;
- Dec. 7, Chapter 8, "Human Rights," hostess to be announced.

Please contact the hostess if you plan to attend.

The morning Great Decisions group has completed its year. Morning members who missed one of the last three discussions are welcome to attend an evening group's session. Also, anyone who would like to see what this interest group is like can borrow a book from Angela, 703/893-3578, and attend a meeting.

We will be ordering books for the following year this fall. Please let Angela or Betsy know if you want to be included. There is a discount for early orders. We encourage more members to join us.

Betsy Reddaway and Angela Ehemann

(Continued from page 5)

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U. of Cincinnati, Political Science, American history.

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C. of William and Mary, BA, MBA.

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Larry.hughes1@verizon.net
U. of Georgia, BA literature/philosophy.

Isbell, Reed * 703/734-3385

PO Box 206 (mail)
6723 Baron Rd, McLean 22101
rwisbell@verizon.net
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Interests: public affairs

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6925 Butternut Ct., McLean 22101
bnKatz@cox.net
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Rogers, Judy * 703/242-0978

101 Yeonas Dr. SE, Vienna 22180
peterandjudy@verizon.net
Hanover C., BA; Johns Hopkins, MA.

Shah, Debra M. 703/281-2103

1015 Westwood Dr. NE, Vienna 22180
debrashah@hotmail.com
Susquehanna U., BA music education.
Interests: arts, cooking, gardening

Sipe, Barbara * 703/356-2385

6510 Smoot Dr., McLean 22101 bfs@aol.com
Barnard C., BA; Columbia U., MA.

Thevenet, Susanne * 703/536-5828

2415 20th St. NW, Apt. 17
Washington, DC 20009
sdthevenet@gmail.com
George Washington U., BA, MBA; Catholic U., MLS.
Interests: growing old gracefully

Trangsrud, Elizabeth * 703/534-3119

5841 Bermuda Ct., McLean 22101
ltrangsrud@hotmail.com
Johns Hopkins U., BA; U. of Miami, MBA.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Bridge

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

Current Events

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Dining Out

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Great Decisions Morning

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International Hospitality

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Morning Literature

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Jane Schmiedekamp
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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

OCTOBER CALENDAR



- Sat, 3 2 p.m. *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the McLean Community Center
- Mon, 5 7:30 p.m. *Great Decisions Discussion Group* at Ginger MacEwen's home
- Tues, 6 9:30 a.m. *Current Events Meeting* at Ethel Hansan's home*
- 7 p.m. *Board Meeting* at the Dolley Madison Library, McLean, lower conference room.
- Thurs, 8 6:30 p.m. *Dining Out* at Clyde's, Tysons Corner *
- Fri, 9 9:30 a.m. *Morning Lit Meeting* at the McLean Community Center *
- Sat, 17 10 a.m. *AAUW VA Northern District meeting* at the Arlington Central Library *
- 1:30-3:30 p.m. *Ashburn/Leesburg Area Branch Open House* at the Cascades Library *
- Tues, 20 7 p.m. *Branch Meeting* at the McLean Community Center
- Deadline for the November News*

AND IN EARLY NOVEMBER

- Sun, 1 2 p.m. *Culture Warriors at the Katzen Arts Center* * (carpool at 1 p.m. from the McLean Community Center)
- Mon, 2 7:30 p.m. *Great Decisions Discussion Group* at Pam Bacher's home

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

