



FOCUS

FAIRFAX CITY BRANCH

Volume 37, No. 1
September 2010

Women, Fair Trade, and International Commerce Branch Meeting and Potluck Supper Wednesday, September 29, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred's Oak Road (*directions below*) Speaker: Lois Culler, Fair Trade Winds, Fairfax Old Town Plaza

Fair trade is a just, economically and environmentally sound global cooperative between artisans, traders, farmers, buyers, and consumers. By selling directly to buyers in North America, producers in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and other developing countries receive a reasonable living wage for their goods.

Not only do workers and their families benefit, but the profits are often reinvested in the community to improve health and education. Communities learn the advantage of grassroots development and environmental sustainability. Fair trade builds relationships and encourages gender equality among the producers; the products preserve traditions and cultures. This partnership eliminates government intervention and inflated consumer costs.

Lois Culler and her husband founded Fair Trade Winds first in Bar Harbor, Maine, and then in Fairfax City. The Fairfax store provides an outlet for consumers to buy handicrafts and unique products from a diverse group of artisans. As the first exclusively fair trade store in Bar Harbor and in Fairfax, Virginia, this is a family-run business committed to helping alleviate global poverty and increase social responsibility through fair trade.

The meeting will also feature a potluck dinner. Bring a dish and a guest! Please RSVP to Anne Sharp (annesharp1@mac.com; 703-425-6013) by September 24 and tell her what you will bring.

Directions to the library:

From 123/Ox Rd:

Exit onto Fairfax County Parkway South. Take an immediate left on Fred's Oak Road. Burke Centre Library will be on the right.

From Fairfax County Parkway heading north:

Turn right on Fred's Oak Road. Burke Centre Library will be on the right.

From Fairfax County Parkway heading south:

Turn left on Fred's Oak Road immediately after the 123/Ox Road exit. Burke Centre Library will be on the right.

Board Members: There will be a brief board meeting after the program on September 29.

Membership Memo

By Dottie Joslin

Fairfax City Branch membership stands at 50. At the May banquet, we welcomed Susan Lynch, our Beverly Anderson Scholarship recipient, as a student affiliate. We'll miss the three members who moved away: Myrna Brown, Barbara Fischi, and Barbara Sears. Myrna, who joined the Wilmington, N.C., Branch, will maintain ties with the Fairfax City Branch through her dual membership.

Please invite new, old, and prospective members to our meetings and events. Carpooling is a good way to keep in touch and to help those who may otherwise find it difficult to attend. Spread the word about our branch and AAUW's mission—advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research—and refer prospects to me. Invite a friend to join our branch. Most new members join because someone asked.

New members (those entirely new to AAUW or rejoining after a lapse of at least two years) are offered a Shape the Future (STF) discount of half off the national dues, when they join at a branch meeting or event that's open to the
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public. Discounted new member dues of \$45.50 for membership through June 30, 2011 will be in effect at the September meeting. (Of the discounted national portion, \$23 is tax deductible.) For members who paid full national dues, \$46 is tax deductible.

Calendar

Branch Meeting and Potluck

Wednesday, September 29, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Burke Centre Library

5935 Fred's Oak Road, Burke

Program: Lois Culler, Women, Fair Trade, and

International Commerce

Northern Virginia District Meeting

Saturday, October 16, Richard Byrd Library

7250 Commerce Street, Springfield

Meeting Room 1/2

Branch Meeting (Joint with Springfield/Annandale Branch)

Thursday, October 21, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Richard Byrd Library

7250 Commerce Street, Springfield

Meeting Room 1/2

Program: Karna Bodman, White House Staff Member, Reporter, Author

Book and Author Luncheon

November 6, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road

\$38 per person; reservation deadline Nov. 3

Send check to Suzanne Mahoney, 8313 Chapel Lake Ct. Annandale, VA 22003

Holiday Brunch

December 12, 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Home of Dianne and Gerard Blais

5211 Gunpowder Road, Fairfax

2010 Scholarship Winner: Susan Lynch

Susan decided to return to college 33 years after receiving her Associate Degree from Endicot College in 1977. She was a graphic designer for 20 years and worked for a number of great companies. She used her skill as a designer to branch out and eventually became a marketing director where she managed large-scale branding campaigns and website designs. In 2002, she was laid off.

At the time, she switched careers and became a real estate agent. She did well until 2008, when the economy and real estate took a downward spiral. She struggled to make ends meet with part-time freelance design jobs; however, that work was not enough, so she started applying to corporate America for a full-time position. She soon

realized that she had the knowledge but not the degree, so she was always being turned down.

Susan decided to return to George Mason University for a bachelor's degree. With her limited income, she had only been able to take one course per semester but is determined to finish even if it takes her 10 years. Susan was so grateful for our Beverly Anderson scholarship. She will be able to attend college full time for the next year, which will allow her to finish her degree several years earlier than expected.

From the President

Welcome to a new season with your Fairfax City AAUW. The board and new program vice president, Anne Sharp, have planned various events for the year beginning with the September 29th program and potluck, which you can read about in this month's *Focus*. If anyone is interested in forming a new interest group, let me know. Recently, I ate at the Jaipur in Fairfax Circle, which offered a buffet of delicious Indian food at a reasonable price. There are many other good, affordable ethnic restaurants in our area, so if you're interested in a lunch or dinner group, let me know.

Perhaps a travel group or one to see and discuss movies would attract some of our members and guests. Interest groups are a great way to meet other members of the branch and to introduce AAUW to your friends, so I'm open to suggestions. In any case, I hope to see you on September 29.

Jean Arnold

Program Vice President: Anne Sharp

Anne Sharp was raised on Chincoteague Island and left in 1978 to attend the College of William and Mary. There she wrote for the student newspaper, *The Flat Hat*, and *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*. After majoring in English and minoring in education, she taught literature and writing in Virginia Beach City and Fairfax County Public Schools.

Anne retired from teaching in 1995 in order to care for her young daughter and terminally ill mother. She has volunteered extensively in the Fairfax music community—with Robinson Secondary School Band and Orchestra and with George Mason University Friends of Music (where she currently serves as Board Member). She has also been actively involved with William and Mary and currently serves on the College of William and Mary Foundation Board of Trustees.

Anne has been married to her college sweetheart, Barry, for 27 years. They have one daughter, Katie, who is now a student at William and Mary. When Anne is done organizing her desk, cleaning her closet, walking her two dogs and grows up in general, she plans on becoming a writer.

Minutes of Board Meetings

May 27:

Treasurer's Report:

Operating Account:	\$6,060.98
EF Account:	\$4,362.25
Total:	\$10,423.23

Scholarship Recipient Search: Barb Spiller reported that the winner was the only one to fulfill all of the requirements and so received the entire \$4,000 available. There were only four applicants. Discussion about George Mason University and how it handles scholarships followed.

AAUW Mission: AAUW's focus on education and advocacy and its relationship with CARE and VGIF were discussed. It was noted that VGIF would be the recipient of our Holiday giving.

Technology Futures Unlimited: Olga filled in some details on the process. Suzanne volunteered to take on the responsibility from Olga.

August 10:

Old Business

President commented briefly on the reason for the change in the originally scheduled meeting for September due to the Jewish holiday and Gail Prensky's unavailability.

Treasurer Jan Humphrey reported EF Account \$355.25, Operating Account \$4,034.98 for total of \$4,390.23. Jan presented a budget for 2010-2011. **Motion was made** that the Board accept the budget for 2010-2011, and it will be presented to the membership. Motion passed.

Program Report: Anne Sharp presented plans for the branch meetings through December. It was suggested that Myrna Brown's donation to the Branch of wine be made into three baskets for the Silent Auction at the Book & Author Luncheon.

New Business

Career Day: Corporate sponsorship is needed to cover expenses for this event. Approximately \$5,000 is needed to underwrite the cost.

Membership: Dottie Joslin reported that we now have 49 members. Work is being done to recruit new members and to encourage members to renew their membership. New promotional materials for AAUW have been received along with a lovely leaders' resource notebook describing AAUW.

Scholarship: Barbara Spiller has talked with the head of GMU's Scholarship Office, Liz Carter, about the minimal number of applicants for our scholarships. This year we had only four applicants. It was noted that many scholarship go unclaimed and that the Fairfax City Branch's Beverly Anderson Scholarship can only be found with difficulty on the GMU website. It was

suggested that we print out the scholarship application and ask Liz Carter to display it in her office.

Motion was made that contributions to the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund be collected at the Holiday Brunch and sent in the name of our branch to VGIF. Motion passed. The branch will be credited for these donations, and members can take their contributions as a tax deduction.

It was noted the \$46 of the national portion of our annual dues is tax deductible. The Branch retains \$13 for operational expenses.

Silent Auction at Book & Author Luncheon

By Barbara Spiller

It's that time of year again when donations are needed for the **Silent Auction** at our Book & Author Luncheon.

Interest Groups: Please put on your thinking caps and create a basket for the Silent Auction.

Members: Please let me know if you would like to donate something special. Last year we raised \$1,199. I hope that we can beat last year's amount raised.

If you frequent a favorite restaurant, please bring a flyer to them and ask them if they would like to donate a gift card toward our scholarship. I have received commitments from Red Hot and Blues, Hard Times Café, Thai Cuisine, PF Changs, Bonefish, Eggspectation, and Villa Mozart. We also have a weekend at a member's resort home and movie tickets.

I will be away from September 6 to 23 in Peru, so please call me before then. If later, contact me by email and I will check respond when I return.

Contact Barbara at 703-608-8436 (cell) or 703-830-7971 (home) or Barbski33@att.net.

Book & Author Reminder 2 Months and Counting

The time to line up your guests is NOW. The Book & Author Luncheon is our major fundraiser. AAUW asks for a branch contribution of \$25 per member. In addition we are committed to providing at least one scholarship per year to a deserving student at George Mason University.

So if you are unable to attend, please consider "buying a ticket" by sending a check to our treasurer Jan Humphrey, made out to AAUW Funds so it will be totally tax-deductible to you.

One Member, One Vote

Adopted at the 2009 AAUW National Convention, the concept of One Member, One Vote moved AAUW national elections beyond a delegate-only process to an every-member opportunity.

Under One Member, One Vote, members can now propose and discuss bylaw changes, resolutions, and Public Policy Program amendments online and “meet” the candidates through biographies, video, and candidate links.

In addition to frequent website and other online updates, key information will be available to all members in the Fall, Winter, and Spring/Summer issues of *AAUW Outlook* as well.

Please log in, explore the [One Member, One Vote](#) online system, and familiarize yourself with the process. A [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document (FAQ) is available to assist you. To access the online system from the AAUW home page, click on Member Center (in the top right corner), log in with your member ID, and then select One Member, One Vote.

McLean Area 41st Annual Used Book Sale

Friday, September 10, through Sunday, September 12
McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue
Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Directions:

Take 123 one block north of Old Dominion Drive. Turn left on Ingleside Avenue and follow signs to McLean Community Center Parking Lot. For more information, please call 703-356-8364. Proceeds support the American Association of University Women Educational Opportunities Fund and local scholarships.

Paycheck Fairness Act

By Dianne Blais

AAUW has made passing the Paycheck Fairness Act (PFA) a major objective. AAUW is leading a coalition (which includes Business and Professional Women USA and the National Organization for Women) and is pulling out all the stops to get the PFA passed as soon as possible after Congress reconvenes in September.

AAUW held a conference call on August 2 about the PFA, and 34 AAUW VA members signed up to be included. AAUW's top public policy adviser, Lisa Maatz, made the following points:

1. The PFA passed the House in January 2008 but has been stalled in the Senate for over a year, even though 40 senators are cosponsors.

2. The PFA closes loopholes and is more comprehensive than the 1963 Pay Act.

3. The PFA is a good companion act to the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009.

If you are not already familiar with “Get It Done!” AAUW’s 21 Days of Action campaign, the calendar along with details on the PFA and AAUW’s position may be found at http://www.aauw.org/act/issue_advocacy/actionpages/pay_equity.cfm.

AAUW has urged Virginia AAUW members to make a special effort to contact Senators Mark Warner and Jim Webb since neither has signed on yet. Turn up the heat on the Senate through emails and phone calls, in-district meetings, Facebook and Twitter messages, or whatever—let’s get this passed in September 2010!

AAUW—FAIRFAX CITY BRANCH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	
Name:	_____
Address:	_____
City, State, Zip:	_____
Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____	
E-Mail:	_____
Degree: _____ College: _____ Field: _____	
Degree: _____ College: _____ Field: _____	
This information will be published in our directory and newsletter, unless you indicate items to omit.	
DUES: \$70 (\$49 national, \$8 state, \$13 branch) for membership through June 30. Note: \$46 of the national dues is tax deductible. If transferring from national membership or another branch, contact the Dottie Joslin (703-591-9035) for dues amount.	
Make check payable to AAUW—Fairfax City Branch. Send this form and check to the branch membership VP:	
Dottie Joslin 11110 Del Rio Dr. Fairfax, VA 22030-5339	

Interest Groups

Bridge

The bridge group will continue to meet on a regular basis. Anyone interested in more information should contact Charlene Comtois (703-323-7747; charcomt@aol.com).

Musical Notes

Friday, September 24, 1:00 p.m.

Kay Corbett's home
7226 Clifton Road, Clifton
703-222-6012; kaycorbett1@msn.com

We'll be watching the first half of the opera *Thais*, by Jules Massenet. It premiered in Paris in 1894 and is set in fourth-century Egypt. According to Milton Cross, the opera reveals the composer's gift for rich, sensuous melody and effective dramatic characterization. Be sure to let Kay know if you can make it. We'll also plan out the rest of the year, so bring your ideas.

Salon Discussion Group

Friday, September 10, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Kathleen Henry's home
7418 Spring Village Dr. #501, Springfield
703-451-6846; kchenry@aol.com

Aren't we lucky that in a world with so much going on, we have an opportunity to discuss things with other intelligent, informed women! Bring your ideas and your calendar and after a short discussion period, we will set up the schedule for the coming year.

Bring your own lunch; beverage and dessert will be provided. Please try to give Kathleen a day or so's notice if you are planning to attend.

Night Owls Book Discussion Group

Tuesday, September 14, 7:00 p.m.

Barbara Klementz's home
8102 Briar Creek Drive, Annandale
703-978-3961; brbklm5@verizon.net

The discussion will about *The Piano Teacher*, by Janice Y. K. Lee, moderated by Kelly Espy. Please let Barbara know if you are coming.

Afternoon Literature Group

Wednesday, September 15, 1:00 p.m.

Prativa Prasad's home
9030 Scott Street, Springfield
703-866-4038; balramprasad@gmail.com

We will discuss *The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett. Please let Prativa know if you are coming.

Virginia Rotunno's phone number has changed. New number: 703-218-4536. New room at Sunrise is #28.

Save the Date!
2011 AAUW National Convention
Breaking through Barriers—Advocating
for Change
Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C.,
June 16–19

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2010–2011

Branch Website

<http://www.aauwofva.org/branches/fairfaxcity.htm>

President: Jean Arnold
(arnoldjh52@aol.com)

Program Vice President: Anne Sharp
(annesharp1@mac.com)

Membership Vice President: Dottie Joslin
(j.joslin3@verizon.net)

Secretary: Suzanne Mahoney
(suzanne070946@mac.com)

Treasurer: Jan Humphrey
(dandjhumph@aol.com)

AAUW Funds and Scholarship:
Barbara Spiller
(Barbski33@att.net)

Public Policy: Renee Prasad
(reneemprasad@hotmail.com)

Branch and Major Event Chairs

Newsletter Editor: Naomi Kassabian
(nkassabi(@cox.net)

Directory: Dottie Joslin, Leslie Vandivere

Book and Author Luncheon:

Barbara Klementz
(brbklm5@verizon.net)
Sonja Palomaki
(spalomaki@dspalomaki.com)

Career Day for Middle School Girls: Technology:

Futures Unlimited:

Coordinator: Suzanne Mahoney
(suzanne070946@mac.com)
Olga Burns
(rubato12@aol.com)

Interest Group Chairs


Bridge: Charlene Comtois
(Charcomt@aol.com)

Afternoon Literature: Renee Prasad
(reneemprasad@hotmail.com)

Night Owls: Pat Makos
(patkms@verizon.net)

Salon Discussion : Kathleen Henry
(kchenry@aeitv.net)

Musical Notes: Olga Burns
(rubato12@aol.com)



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Naomi Kassabian
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Annandale VA 22003

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. The AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.