

The Roanoke Valley View

Roanoke Valley Branch | AAUW

Chartered in 1923



Branch Newsletter

April-May 2013

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AAUW: Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political.

Message from the Co-Presidents

The Roanoke Valley Branch of AAUW has been very busy from the winter book sale to the STEM program to the wonderful International program that was held in March. We would like to thank those who have taken on leadership roles in making all of these events successful.

Attendance at the 2013 Annual Meeting held on April 6th was one of the largest in recent memory. During the meeting, the 2013-14 board was elected. We are eager to work with the new board and will hold the annual board retreat in midsummer to plan for the 2013-14 year. We anticipate the coming year to be as successful as the current, and we thank all who played a role in making it so.

On April 13th, Co-President **Pam Kestner** attended the AAUW Virginia State Conference and Annual Business Meeting along with **Jennie Sue Murdock** and **Kay Koehler**. Several key issues were discussed including "Pay Equity," membership recruitment and the upcoming state and national AAUW elections. We encourage you to stay tuned to emails as the time period for these elections overlap and may confuse members.

During the Annual Business Meeting, **Kay Koehler** was recognized and presented a gift for her service on the AAUW Virginia State Board as she rotated off of the board. Kay's leadership in maintaining the state's website was particularly noted by AAUW Virginia President **Caroline Pickens**. We also want to thank Kay for her years of service at both the state and branch levels!



Virginia President Caroline Pickens presents Kay Koehler a gift for her years of service.

While membership recruitment continues to be a challenge for most volunteer associations, we have been so pleased that Roanoke Valley Branch members are actively recruiting new members for the branch. Our next program scheduled on May 4th will focus among other topics on our membership. We hope you can attend and celebrate our members!

Paula Prince, PhD
Co-President

Pam Kestner, MSW
Co-President

May 4th New Member Tea and AAUW Funds Meeting

The meeting, held in the Community Room at Tanglewood from 10-12 noon, will include information about AAUW Funds, meeting new members, and a memorial for **Betty Price** and **Millie Willis** followed by a musical interlude

by **Betsy Biesenbach**. There will be an installation of officers, an honoring our new fifty year members (come and see who they are), and a celebration of our named gift recipients. The morning will end with a drawing for a free

National AAUW membership for 2013-2014. You must be present to win. Refreshments provided by the Membership Committee will follow. If you have any questions, call **Charlotte Seth** at 774-8742 or OLDARFIE@aol.com

April, May and June Book Sorting Schedule

We are sorting books at the AAUW Tanglewood Space on the same days as last year—

TUESDAY 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
THURSDAY 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
SATURDAY 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

The calendar indicates the date and the GO-TO PERSON who will be in charge. We need assistance. Please put some dates on your calendar and call the GO-TO person and give them the HOURS you can work so they will be expecting you. THANK YOU.

Enter the AAUW Space via the corridor across from Belk on the second floor.

April 23—Tuesday: Cheri Hughes
April 25—Thursday: Pam Jones
April 27—Saturday: HelenRuth Burch
April 30—Tuesday: Cheri Hughes
May 2—Thursday: Melody Blankenship
May 4—NO SORTING: Branch meeting
May 7—Tuesday: Cheri Hughes
May 9—Thursday: Melody Blankenship
May 11—NO SORTING
May 14—Tuesday: Cheri Hughes
May 16—Thursday: Melody Blankenship
May 18—NO SORTING
May 21—Tuesday: Cheri Hughes
May 23—Thursday: Pam Jones
May 25—Saturday: HelenRuth Burch
May 28—Tuesday: Cheri Hughes
May 30—Thursday: Peggy Shifflett
June 1—Saturday: HelenRuth Birch
June 4—Tuesday: Cheri Hughes
June 6—Thursday: Peggy Shifflett
June 8—Saturday: Peggy Shifflett
June 11—Tuesday: Cheri Hughes
June 13—Thursday: Peggy Shifflett
June 15—Saturday: Peggy Shifflett
June 18—Tuesday: Cheri Hughes
June 20—Thursday: Peggy Shifflett
June 22—Saturday: Peggy Shifflett
June 25—Tuesday: Cheri Hughes
June 27—Thursday: Peggy Shifflett
June 29—Saturday: Peggy Shifflett

July and August schedule will be forthcoming—check the AAUW website.

Book Sorting Contact Information

Cheri Hughes 540/890-5121
Pam Jones 540/776-1828
HelenRuth Burch 540/797-2760
Melody Blankenship 540/344-0313
Peggy Shifflett 540/580-6330

*Thoughts and Prayers for
our Member*

Martha Roberta Faucher, sister
of **Jennie Sue Murdock**, passed
away Monday, April 15.

International Affairs: Educational Exclusion and the Resilience of Iran's Baha'i Community

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of which Iran is a signatory, clearly defines education as a fundamental human right. But since the 1979 Iranian Revolution, youth who identify as Baha'is, Iran's largest non-Muslim religion, have been barred from attending any of Iran's universities.

In 1987, the Iranian Bahá'í community started an informal university which has evolved into the Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education (BIHE). Graduates of the Institute have been accepted at 75 institutions internationally, including Harvard, Stanford, and City University, London.

In May 2011, the Iranian government began raiding dozens of homes, confiscating BIHE computers and materials, and arresting 18 professors and administrators, seven of whom received 4 to 5-year prison terms.

Two accessible resources on this human rights situation are:

- *Education Under Fire*, a 30-minute documentary film released in October 2011 and co-presented by Amnesty International;
- 'Knowledge as Resistance: The BIHE', a February 2013 report by UK-based Small Media, focused on research on Iran.
(download at <http://smallmedia.org.uk/knowledge.pdf>)



Those interested in viewing the film or participating in a small-group discussion of it, please contact **Barbara Craig**, International Chair, bac2010@verizon.net or 989-1379 to arrange a time.

Do you need a ride to book group or to meetings?



The membership committee is looking into ways to help all our members attend our meetings and/or book groups. Could you attend if you had a ride with one of your branch members? Please let **Cheri Hughes** know at cherihughes@gmail.com or 890-5121. We will contact you and see what we can arrange.

Gentle Reminder: Dues

Membership Dues need to be paid by June 15, 2013. The fees are National \$49.00 (\$46 tax exempt); State \$15.00; and Branch \$11.00: \$75.00 total dues.

Life Members

National \$00.00; State \$15.00; and Branch \$11.00: \$26.00 total dues.

40-year Member

National \$49.00; State \$15.00; and Branch \$00.00: \$64.00 total dues.

Send your check to Peggy Shifflett
700 Cherrywood Road
Salem, VA 24153-2757

or you may pay at the May 4th meeting.

Thank you very much.

The Membership Committee

Charlotte Seth, VP Membership
Peggy Shifflett
Cheri Hughes
Betsy Biesenbach

Roanoke Valley AAUW Interest Group Updates

Morning Book Group

Coordinators:
Mary Boenke, 890-3897
Inez Good, igood@verizon.net



The morning book group meets at the Roanoke Coop on Grandin Road, in the Community Room, at 10:30 a.m.

On May 15 **Charlotte Seth** will review *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* by Deborah Moggach.

On June 19 **Peggy Davis** will review *The Greater Journey* by David McCullough.

Nora Smith and **Charlotte Seth** have agreed to be Morning Book Group Co-Coordinators for 2013-2014. There will be a discussion on May 15 of possible books to review for next year. Please come and bring books and your ideas.

Evening Book Group

Coordinators:
Lotty Hebblethwaite, 776-8011,
Lynne Victorine, 345-6009

The evening book group meets at the Tanglewood Mall, Community Room, at 7 p.m.



On May 13 **Catina Webb** will lead the discussion of *Cleopatra: A Life*, by Stacy Schiff.

On June 17 **Marcia Shelton** will lead the discussion of *Janet Reno: Doing the Right Thing* by Paul Anderson.



Membership Dues Scholarship: Partial or Full for our Roanoke Valley Branch

If you have been an active member for two years you may request some financial help for paying your dues. It's easy. Just send a request in writing with justification for the scholarship. Send it to the Membership VP Charlotte Seth and to the Treasurer Peggy Shifflett. The committee will award these scholarships June 15th. Let us hear from you.

International Program Spurs Immediate Response from Participants

The topic at the International Program was "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide" based on the book by Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn. Break-out session surrounded the topics of Maternal Mortality, Gender-Based Violence, Sex Trafficking and Forced Prostitution, and Economic Empowerment. At the end of the session the participants felt moved to take action and make impromptu donations.

An attempt was made to spread the funds with some going to local women in need as well as international women in need. The branch can be proud that we not only educated each other at the International Program Meeting, but we took immediate action to make a difference.

Peggy Shifflett, Finance Officer

Description	Amount
Funds donated from the Roanoke Valley AAUW Branch	100.00
Funds donated by program attendees	155.00
Total funds collected	255.00
Disbursements	
Heifer International for purchase of one goat	120.00
Loan to Carmelita (Philippines) for medicine	57.50
Turning Point Battered Women Shelter, Roanoke	50.00
Women for Women International for Girl's Education	27.50
Total funds donated	255.00

Roanoke Valley Branch | AAUW

Meetings held in the
Community Room at Tanglewood Mall
4420-A Electric Rd
Roanoke, VA 24018

CO-PRESIDENTS:

PAM KESTNER 540/353-4264
PAULA PRINCE 540/343-6844

VP MEMBERSHIP:

CHARLOTTE SETH 540/774-8742

GROUP EMAIL: rvaauw@gmail.com



Roanoke Valley Branch | AAUW

Online at <http://roanokevalley-va.aauw.net/>

Please send suggestions for articles to Newsletter Editor: Vianne Greek vmgreek@gmail.com

2013 Scholarships Recipients



The Roanoke Valley Branch of AAUW congratulates all the recipients of the scholarship awards. From left to right: Marsha Redwine, Kelly Ann Albert, Kathy Chaney, Olivia Louise Williamson, Zoe Alyce Aust, Jordan Kantor, Julia Burton Lowen. Not pictured: Kate Craighead.

Save the Dates!

Virginia Lobby Day on Capitol Hill
Washington, D.C.
May 16, 2013

AAUW National Convention
New Orleans, LA
June 9-12, 2013
"Laissez les bons temps rouler"

Give a Grad a Gift!

If you have upcoming college graduates you'd like to present with a year's free membership in AAUW, here is the new web link to the form:

https://svc.aauw.org/join/gradgift_wp.cfml

Only members can take advantage of this offer. Your grad will receive a one-year member-at-large membership. She can join a branch at any time but will be responsible for paying branch and state dues.

Board of Directors

PAM KESTNER
PAULA PRINCE
Co Presidents

BETTY BLACK
SALLY SIZER
Co Vice Presidents for Program

CHARLOTTE SETH
Vice President for Membership

GAIL BURRUSS
Recording Secretary

PEGGY SHIFFLETT
Finance

Election Results

At the April 6 branch annual meeting, the following people were elected to continue or take office on July 1.

CHARLOTTE SETH
VP Membership

GAIL BURRUSS
Recording Secretary

JUDY GOODWIN
Finance

LOTTY HEBBLETHWAITE
NANCY OCORR
Nominating Committee

Congratulations to all!

THE MISSION OF AAUW, FORMERLY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, IS TO ADVANCE EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, PHILANTHROPY, AND RESEARCH