

The Roanoke Valley View

Roanoke Valley Branch | AAUW

Chartered in 1923



Branch Newsletter

Spring 2015

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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

Welcome to Spring. As the weather warms, we, in AAUW-RV, get busy and enjoy the days of no snow on the roads and no threat of ice storms. First we want to remember **Kay Koehler** who left us on March 13, 2015. Kay belonged to AAUW for over 50 years; she was active in both VA State AAUW and in our branch. Kay was a joy filled member with a great sense of commitment and love of life. She will be seriously missed by all of us.

On March 8th, on International Women's Day we, and an audience of over 60 folks, enjoyed *Afghan Dreams*, a documentary produced by **Laila Rossi**. It was a remarkable experience. Special thanks to **Beth Ann Rossi** and her committee for all their hard work in making this event a success. We also look forward to our community outreach program March 28 where we have partnered with **Help Save The Next Girl** and **Total Action for Progress** to educate young women about the signs of a potential abuser or predator.

We have started a lunch interest group called *Epicureans*. An International Interest group will be forming soon. In addition, our two book groups continue to meet monthly with excellent book reviews and enthusiastic participation.

Our next meeting will be the Annual Meeting on April 11th with elections and a general business meeting. Then we will conclude the current year on May 2nd with our New Member Tea and Scholarship Awards.

We thank everyone who has worked so hard to make this year successful. Please never hesitate to contact us with any comments and suggestions. See you all at the next event!

Peggy and Charlotte



Access the AAUW Member Services Database

Updating contact information: address, phone or email - Members who have new contact information should send updates to **Membership VP Heddie Sumner**. She will make sure that this information gets to our members. Heddie can be reached by phone at **540-884-2256** or email at **sumnerfam@aol.com**.

To make sure that you do not miss the National AAUW publications, you have the ability to update your information at National through the Member Services Database (MSD). As a member of AAUW, you have access to the AAUW Member Services Database on-line at AAUW.org, or visit this link: <http://www.aauw.org/resource/member-services-database/>.

You can use the MSD to update your member record and contact information, make a contribution and track your membership and giving history for tax purposes. Additionally, branch members can view their branch members roster and leader contacts on the MSD.

Your personal record on the MSD is called your Profile. It is extremely important that your Profile information be accurate.

National and AAUW of Virginia use mailing and email addresses to send AAUW Outlook, Virginia Vision, voting ballots, and other information to you.

Congratulations! Our Winter Book Sale made \$6000 for our branch scholarships!

On behalf of Melody Blankenship and myself as Book Sale Co-Chairs, I really want to thank you all for your efforts in making the winter book sale a success! We made \$6000 toward our branch scholarships, a number we can be very proud of. We had lots of people step up to volunteer to help with the sale itself and of course we cannot thank the sorters enough for helping every Tuesday and Thursday for the months leading up to the sale.

While we continued to take donations for books during the months of February and March, we gave ourselves, and you, a much needed break from sorting books. Our normal Tuesday and Thursday sorting days will begin again on April 1, 2015.

Thank you all for your hard work and I look forward to seeing you at our next event on March 8th with our International Program at Center in the Square.

Peggy Shifflett, Co-President and Book Sale Co-Chair

March 28: Community Outreach Program for Girls

The Roanoke Valley Branch of AAUW has joined with **TAP** (Total Action for Progress) and the **Help Save The Next Girl** to offer an interactive, educational program to help middle school girls learn the signs of a potential abuser or predator.

All members are encouraged to observe this workshop and if you have any granddaughters, daughters, nieces, or neighbors who you think might like to attend, please encourage them to contact **Peggy Shifflett** at 540-580-6330.

If you would like to assist during this workshop or bring snacks, please contact Peggy at the above phone number.

INCOME FROM WINTER BOOK SALE	6,028.00
INCOME FROM ONLINE SALES 9/15-12/15	2,925.00
TOTAL INCOME	8,953.00
Expenses	
Cash for sale	400.00
Stamps for book sale	290.00
Alphagraphics--printing-post cards	14.00
Supplies--snacks	35.37
Advertising	
TOTAL EXPENSES	739.37
FINAL TOTAL AFTER EXPENSES:	\$8,213.63
Donation from member in memory of Dorothy Provine	100.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$8,313.63



Where: Tanglewood Mall, Roanoke, Va
When: March 28th, 2015, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Join AAUW, Total Action for Progress, and Help Save the Next Girl for an interactive and educational program to educate middle school aged girls (grades 6th-8th) about the signs of a potential abuser or predator. Snacks and lunch will be provided. Registration is limited.

Contact: Peggy Shifflett at pshiffle@radford.edu or 540.580.6330.



International Women's Day Event: Afghan Dreams

It was a postcard perfect Sunday afternoon in Roanoke Virginia, on March 8, 2015 when our AAUW Roanoke Valley Branch hosted a celebration of International Women's Day. There were 64 in attendance including members of the **Athenians**, the **Newcomers Club** and **Botetourt General Federated Women's Club**.

Peggy Shifflett, Co-President, welcomed the guests and explained our AAUW mission. There was no admission charge for the program but we asked, if people were so inclined, to bring in donations for **Turning Point**. **Charlotte Seth**, Co-President, explained the mission of Turning Point, the domestic violence shelter. A variety of items were collected as well as \$530 in cash, checks and gift cards. We thank everyone for their generosity.

Barbara Craig, International Relations chairwoman, gave us a brief history of how *International Women's Day* came to be. Not all countries celebrate on the same day but ironically Afghanistan does. As a matter of fact three of the four girls featured in the presentation e-mailed director **Laila Rossi** wishing her best wishes on this day of days minutes before her filmed played. They did not know of her presentation so they were thrilled and asked her to give everyone a big hello from them.

Beth Ann Rossi, Diversity chairwoman, introduced her daughter-in-law, **Laila Nawroz Rossi**. Laila is the Executive Producer of **Black Salt Production** and this, her first documentary. After a very brief introduction the group sat, as if meditating in church for 26 minutes. This was the first time Afghanistan had attended the contest against 800 top law students in the world. The top students selected in Afghanistan happened to all be females. This is remarkable seeing that the girls were born in the Taliban-era when girls were not permitted to go to school. Against all odds, and with little or no resources, the girls made it to college and on to Law School.

The four young Afghan girls mesmerized us with their keen intelligence, their humbleness and their beauty as they practiced for this prestigious international arbitration competition. The competition was all in English so they had to quickly translate their Farsi thoughts. The cameras follow the four from the dirt streets of Kabul to the skyline of Hong Kong. We watched them sit on a dock dipping their feet into a ocean, the first ocean they'd ever seen in their eighteen years of life. They all considered education their greatest joy and their greatest gift, an Afghan dream, they want to share.



Laila Rossi said: *"The women featured in our documentary dream of a time in Afghanistan when young girls can attend school without fear of reprisal. They dream of a place where women are not attacked, mutilated or killed by their husbands, brothers or fathers for perceived violations of cultural norms. They dream of an Afghanistan where women can stand alongside men and work, shoulder-to-shoulder, toward a better future for all."*

"We at the Adam and Laila Rossi Foundation named the film, Afghan Dreams, precisely because we dream these same dreams. These dreams are our dreams, too. And not just for Afghanistan. We dream of a world where women enjoy equality, the respect and the security granted to their male counterparts. And we believe that by helping to create awareness with this documentary, we are taking on concrete step toward the achievement of these dreams."

"Now we ask you not only to share our dreams, but also to act in ways that we can achieve them. Join us."

The Question and Answer session at the end of the film was equally as good as the film itself. Laila graciously answered questions about customs, her family, about the future of Afghanistan and the risks she took in returning to a country she had not lived in for over thirty years to make this film.

The theme for this year's *International Women's Day* was **Empowering Women-Empowering Humanity: Picture It!** While the American Association of University Women Roanoke Valley Branch celebrates the achievements of women in the past we will continue to work filling in the gaps in the future.

By Beth Ann Rossi, Diversity Chair

April 11th Annual Meeting—Nominees for Office

The nominating committee met on March 18th, 2015 and approached a number of individuals to fill the various roles up for election this year: Vice President of Membership, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and 2 nominating committee members. The slate of officers to be presented to the membership are:

Vice President of Membership: Heddie Sumner

Heddie Sumner is a 1975 graduate of the University of Virginia with a BSN degree. She has been active in AAUW since the late 1970's in Michigan and, among other roles, served as branch president for the Midland, Michigan branch. Heddie was appointed in 2014 as VP Membership as Charlotte Seth assumed the office of Co-President. Per branch bylaws, an appointed term does not count toward maximum terms served, so if elected, the 2015-2017 term will be Heddie's first elected term as VP Membership.



Recording Secretary: Gail Burruss

Gail Burruss has been a member for about three years, and especially enjoys the programs, and interesting and wise people in our chapter. She serves as Clinical Director for adults at Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, and spends as much time outside as possible. If elected, the 2015-2017 term will be her second term in this office.



Treasurer: Judy Goodwin

Judy Goodwin is a retired Roanoke County school teacher. She volunteers at the Salem Food Pantry, the Salem Museum, and Salem Presbyterian Church. She is active in the Salem Garden Club, and the Herb Society. She has served as the Roanoke Valley AAUW treasurer for the past two years, and enjoys helping organize the AAUW book sales. If elected, the 2015-2017 term will be her second term in this office.



Nominating Committee: Vianne Greek and Marilyn Hubbard

Vianne Greek joined AAUW in February 2013 and serves as the Communications Chair for the branch. She is a marketing professional, project manager and business analyst, mother of a fuzzy fur-baby named Emily, and Oma to 3-year old Alex and 8-year old JR. Vianne was appointed to replace Lotty Hebblethwaite in 2014. Per branch bylaws, an appointed term does not count toward maximum terms served, so if elected, the 2015-2017 term will be Vianne's first elected term on the nominating committee.

Marilyn Hubbard was a court clerk in California before moving to Roanoke where she became a paralegal with Woods Rogers law firm. After 19 years with Woods Rogers, she retired in 2013. She enjoys being retired, reading, and watching her 6-year old grandson go through the various stages of growing up. If elected, the 2015-2017 term will be Marilyn's first term on the nominating committee.

Women's History Month

The Women's History Month website posted images of the following ladies being represented this year:

Delilah L. Beasley, Historian and Newspaper Columnist

Gladys Tantaquidgeon, Mohegan Medicine Woman/Anthropologist/ Tribal Elder

Eleanor Flexner, Historian and Independent Scholar

Polly Welts Kaufman, Writer/ Teacher/Activist

Lynn Sherr, Broadcast Journalist and Author

Judy Yung, Oral Historian/Author/ Professor

Darlene Clark Hine, Historian and Educator

Holly Near, Singer/Songwriter/ Activist

Vicki L. Ruiz, Educator and Pioneer in Latina History

<http://www.nwhp.org>

International Women's Day:

Each year International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on

March 8. The first International Women's Day was held in 1911. Thousands of events occur to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women.

Organizations, governments, charities, educational institutions, women's groups, corporations and the media celebrate the day.

Scholarship Committee Announces 2015 Recipients

Our favorite time of year is upon us, when we recognize the fruits of all the hard work we put in as a branch. Each year, the branch holds two book sales: one in September and one in February. The purpose of the book sales is to raise funds for branch scholarships to deserving women and girls in the community. Thank you all for your help with sorting books throughout the year and helping on book sale weekend. Your work is much appreciated.

The Scholarship Committee, made up of **Charlotte Seth, Peggy Shifflett, Carmen Garrido, Melody Blankenship, Nancy Ocorr, and Tricia McMahon**, has completed their work for this year. We had 37 applicants representing 6 high schools and 2 colleges. It's a pleasure to know that our scholarships have become known in the community as great support for the next generation.

YOUNG WOMEN SCHOLARSHIP

The following high school seniors received the highest scores in the categories of application, academics, financial need, essay, community service and honors received. Each will receive \$1000.00.

Wilson, Hunter L., Senior at Glenvar High School in Salem

Perkins, Rachael C., Senior at Glenvar High School in Salem

Marciniec, Carolyn M., Senior at Glenvar High School in Salem

Harmon, Sarah G., Senior at Patrick Henry High School in Roanoke



WOMAN SCHOLARSHIP

The \$1500.00 Scholarship for women 21 years or older, who have not previously obtained a bachelor's degree were earned by:

Matranga, Hannah J., Studying at Roanoke College

Wingfield, Elizabeth A., Studying at Jefferson College of Health Sciences



NORMAN & MYRTLE SHIFFLETT SCHOLARSHIP

The \$1500.00 Myrtle and Norman Shifflett Scholarship for women 21 years or older pursuing a career in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics was awarded to:

Wright, Samantha E., Studying at Jefferson College of Health Sciences



DOROTHY KAYSER PROVINE SCHOLARSHIP

The \$2000.00 Dorothy Kayser Provine Scholarship for women pursuing a career in the humanities was awarded to:

Lowder, Mary J., Studying at Roanoke College

Supreme Court Delivers a Win for Pregnant Workers

Peggy Young, the UPS driver who was forced to leave her job when she got pregnant because she says the company wouldn't assign her light duty, will have another day in court. The 6-3 opinion, written by **Justice Stephen Breyer**, sends the Young case back to the Fourth Circuit of Appeals, which had previously ruled against Young. The Fourth Circuit, Breyer wrote, should have asked, "*Why, when the employer accommodated so many, could it not accommodate pregnant women as well?*"

The question the court had to consider was whether the second part of the 1978 law making it illegal to discriminate against pregnant women also meant that employers have to provide reasonable accommodations to keep them at work. That part of the law says that "*women affected by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions shall be treated the same for all employment-related purposes ... as other persons not so affected but similar in their ability or inability to work.*"

UPS has since changed its policy to explicitly include accommodations for pregnant workers, but the rules laid out by the case will impact working women at companies around the country, since they guide lower courts in future litigation.

Excerpt from:

<http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/supreme-court-rules-pregnancy-discrimination> as viewed on March 25, 2015

Spring Safari Group Outing

DATE: Sat. May 30th - Sun. May 31st

DESTINATION: Saltville, VA ; Abingdon, Va

ITINERARY:

May 30: 8:00 a.m. Leave Roanoke from Park-n-Ride on Thompson Memorial Dr. in Salem (traveling by car...drivers will be needed)

10:00 a.m. Arrive Saltville, VA, "Salt Capital of the Confederacy Tour the Museum of the Middle Appalachians (\$1-\$2 depending on group size, museum is a non-profit organization so donations over and above admission price are encouraged)

1:00 p.m. Arrive Abingdon, VA

Lunch at HEARTWOOD (Southwest Va. Artisan Center)
Enjoy music and craft exhibits

3:30p.m. Arrive Abingdon, VA

Check into Comfort Inn (170 Jonesboro Rd., Abingdon
276-676-2222)
DowntimeRELAX!

6:15p.m. Dinner at "Bob's at Barter" (\$12-\$15)

8:00p.m. Barter Theatre production of "Mary Poppins"

May 31: Free Breakfast at Comfort Inn (or your choice)

Bike the VA Creeper Trail*, sightsee around Abingdon and have lunch, or return home (based on interests of the occupants of each vehicle)

* -bring your own bike or rent from bike shop in Abingdon

-ride will be from White Top to Damascus (easy downhill ride..approx. 17 mi...3-4 hr)

-cost of shuttle service from Abingdon to White Top: \$13 with your bike, \$26 with rental bike

-bring snacks and water

COST: \$194 for two people!...so FIND A BUDDY! Guests are welcome.

--includes hotel room for two, two Barter tickets, and two lunches at Heartwood

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MARCH 31

PAYMENT IS DUE AT TIME OF RESERVATION!

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

Pat Hales
4522 Farmwood Dr.
Roanoke, VA 24018

Questions? Ask Pat at: 540-529-3756 or lwlady71@gmail.com

bartertheatre.com | myswva.org/heartwood | saltville.org | museum-mid-app.org | visitingabingdonvirginia.com
vacreepertail.us | vacreepertailbikeshop.com

It's Time To Pay Your Dues

Your AAUW dues need to be paid by June 1, 2015. Dues are \$75 (\$49 for national dues, \$15 for state dues, and \$11 for local dues) Life members pay \$26.

Checks should be made out to AAUW Roanoke Valley. You can mail your check to:

Judy Goodwin
3132 Clayview Circle
Salem, Virginia 24153



If you have any questions regarding your dues status, or how much your expected dues should be, call Judy Goodwin at 540-389-1696.

In Memoriam

Kathryn (Kay) Koehler

Born May 31, 1930 in Little Rock, AR
Died March 13, 2015 in Roanoke, VA

She moved to Roanoke following the death of her husband in 1996 and became active in many local organizations including the Roanoke and state chapters of the American Association of University Women, and after serving in leadership roles, managed the websites and Facebook pages for both.

Interest Groups

Morning Book Group

Coordinators: Nora Smith, 389-9474 and Charlotte Seth, 774-8742



The morning book group meets at the **Tanglewood Mall Community Room** at **10:30 a.m.** on the **first Wednesday** of each month.

On April 1 **Melody Blankenship** will review [The Last Runway](#) by Tracy Chevalier

On May 6 **Nora Smith** will review [Nothing Undaunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West](#) by Dorothy Wickenden

Please remember that [Amazon Book Store purchases](#) help our branch.

Afternoon Book Group

Coordinator: Melody Blankenship, 580-0185

The afternoon book group meets at the **Tanglewood Mall Community Room** at **2:00 p.m.** on the **third Tuesday** of each month.



On April 21 **Heddie Sumner** will review [Member of the Wedding](#) by Carson McCullers

On May 19 **Cacky Wright** will review [The Skin Collector](#) by Jeffery Deaver

Please remember that [Amazon Book Store purchases](#) help our branch.

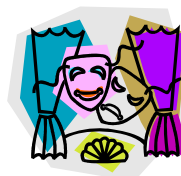
Theatre Group

Coordinator: Gloria Elliott, gloriaelliott24018@hotmail.com, 540-632-2323

LITTLE WOMEN, THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

Sunday, April 12, 2 pm matinee

Set in New England during the Civil War, Little Women is the story of a mother and her four daughters, who experience heartache, hope, and everlasting love. Jo March, the aspiring writer among the sisters, leads you through this timeless and captivating story of personal discovery, brought to life through a glorious Broadway score. Based on the classic novel by Louisa May Alcott.



Admission: \$10. Purchase tickets online at https://secure.sellingticket.com/design22/clients/list/index_byUserListAll.aspx?OrganizationID=104 or call the Hollins Theatre box office at 540-362-6517.

There will be an option of gathering for a group meal (TBA). Contact Gloria for details (see above for contact information).

Epicurean Women of RV-AAUW

(dictionary definition: Those who have refined taste in food and drink)

Coordinators: Charlotte Seth, Ann Gibbons, and Carmen Garrido

A new interest group has begun! Twelve members of the Roanoke Valley Branch of AAUW met at **Taaza** on March 10th for lunch. **Sara Radjou** and her staff treated us royally. The buffet was delicious and the conversation was even better. We invite all branch members to join us at our next luncheon on April 28th. We shall be meeting at a different restaurant every month throughout the year. Be watching for the announcements for upcoming luncheons via email. If you do not have or do not check email and would like to receive notifications about these lunches, or if you have any questions, contact Carmen Garrido 556-9371 or Charlotte Seth 774-8742.

Our next lunch meeting is as follows:

We are set for Tuesday April 28th at 11:30 at Rancho Viejo. The buffet is \$7.99 plus whatever you want to drink. This is a Mexican restaurant near Tanglewood, next door to the KFC. Please RSVP to the committee by APRIL 24 so we can tell Rancho Viejo how many people will be coming.

You may email one of us: Carmen Garrido mgarrido1@cox.net, Ann Gibbons gibbyad@aol.com or Charlotte Seth oldarfie@aol.com

If you prefer to make a telephone call, call Charlotte Seth 774-8742.

Roanoke Valley Branch | AAUW

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

CO-PRESIDENTS:

CHARLOTTE SETH 540/774-8742
PEGGY SHIFFLETT 540/387-9154

VP MEMBERSHIP:

HEDDIE SUMNER 540/884-2256

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

Executive Committee

CHARLOTTE SETH
PEGGY SHIFFLETT
Co-Presidents
SANDRA BROWN-KELLY
Program Vice President
HEDDIE SUMNER
Membership Vice President
GAIL BURRUSS
Recording Secretary
JUDY GOODWIN
Treasurer

Mailing Address

The Roanoke Valley Branch now
has a new mailing address.
PO Box 20636
Roanoke, VA 24018
Please update your records and
begin using this address to send in
your dues.

SAVE THE DATE: National Conference, State Convention, and Branch Meeting

National Convention

June 18-21

On June 18-21, the 2015 AAUW National Convention will be held in San Diego, CA.

Every two years, hundreds of women leaders from across the country gather to discover new ways to empower themselves and other women and girls. AAUW's national convention is a unique opportunity to learn new skills, gain insight and inspiration, and connect with other women leaders.

Our program is full of unique entertainment and fun surprises. It's also a place to meet new friends or catch up with other leaders and advocates from across the country. Plus, you can take in the best culture and entertainment our host cities have to offer

on exciting pre- and post-convention tours. For more information, visit <http://convention.aauw.org/>

Virginia State Conference April 18 & 19

Come and celebrate the 90th year of AAUW of Virginia. We are fortunate to have the State Conference in Charlottesville on April 18-19th. Many outstanding workshops are planned. There will be time to meet other AAUW members in Virginia. Buffet lunch, all-American buffet, a Parlour play Saturday night, and a tour to Ash Lawn-Highland with a box lunch Sunday morning are planned. Conference registration including Saturday luncheon is \$80 (received by March 27) Received after

March 27 \$90. Lodging at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Charlottesville is \$139 plus tax. The tour on Sunday is \$20.

You may look on the AAUW-VA web site for the Conference Application and information.

Branch Annual Meeting April 11

Please mark your calendars for the ANNUAL MEETING to be held on April 11th from 10-12 noon. We will meet in the Tanglewood Mall Community Room. There will be the annual business meeting, elections of officers, and a social hour. We will also learn about the AAUW Funds. Hope to see you there.

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