

NEWSLETTER

May, 2016
Volume 3, Issue 5

Fairbanks Branch

Fairbanks, Alaska



2015 - 2016 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Ritchie Musick
479-5336: ritchiemusick@gci.net

VICE PRESIDENT (PROGRAM)

Gael Murakami
murakami@mosquitonet.com

VICE PRESIDENT (MEMBERSHIP)

Carla Willetto
cewilletto@alaska.edu
Pat Babcock
pbabcock@acsalaska.net

SECRETARY

Rita Osborne
ritaosborne@gmail.com

TREASURER

Vera Alexander
vera.alexander1@gmail.com

PRESIDENT ELECT

Gretchen Murphy
gretmurphy@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

Pat Babcock
pbabcock@acsalaska.net

WEB MANAGER

Gael Murakami
murakami@mosquitonet.com

WEB SITE

<http://fairbanks-ak.aauw.net>



Photo: Courtesy of Bud Marschner.

Trumpeter Swans.

MAY MEETING

Join us for Wine, Cheese and Chocolate!

Monday, May 16

7pm

Home of Karen Emerson

1112 Shannon Drive

Help our branch chart a path forward in the coming year to support our AAUW missions for Advocacy, Education, and Community. Please consider how your skills may benefit the branch as we look for members to assist in branch communications, directory production, branch history and STEM education. We would also like to know who would be interested in attending local leadership training later in the summer. Come share your vision for our branch future.

Chat and enjoy a glass of wine or a cup of tea with friends!

Take the Steese Hwy to Trainer Gate Rd, go two blocks and turn left onto Shannon Drive. Go all the way to the end of the street. The house is a ranch style with green trim and on the left hand side. **Beware of the seven speed bumps** before you get there. They are marked with yellow and black diagonal stripes. You will quickly be reminded if you forget! Ample parking is available in the driveway. It should accommodate six cars. There is also parking on the street. (378-8485)

SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Twenty seven members and guests gathered in the Raven Landing lounge to celebrate with our 2016 scholarship winners. Circular tables were beautifully set and adorned with flowers. The atmosphere invited friendly sharing of an incredible buffet brunch.



Good food and excellent camaraderie were enjoyed by twenty seven members at the annual Scholarship Luncheon.

There were 15 applications reviewed by the Scholarship committee chaired by **Barbara Van Flein**. In addition to Barbara, the other members of committee were: **Julia Stewart, Pat Turner, Margaret Soden, Margret Van Flein, and Becky Long**. We thank them for their time, effort and careful consideration of the applications.



Erica Nardella is presented with a check by **Barbara VanFlein, Scholarship Chairman**.

Erica Nardella was awarded the **Nancy Johnson Memorial Scholarship**. She is seeking a Bachelor in Social Work at UAF and plans to complete her degree in 2018. She went to college immediately after high school but did not finish. She is returning to school after more than a decade of recovery. Her mission statement is: "Everyone has a story; my desire is to understand the unique, diverse and special lives of Alaskans so that I can help and encourage them to achieve their goals, offering hope to as many as I can."

JoLee Giuchici was awarded the **Ann Rhian Memorial Scholarship**. She is pursuing her Master of Public Administration through UAS distance education so she can remain in Fairbanks with her two children. She volunteers extensively in the non-profit arena in Fairbanks and currently works for the United Way of the Tanana Valley which "allows



JoLee Giuchici is presented with a check by **Ritchie Musick, President**.

her to work towards making Fairbanks a better place to live, work and raise a family for all who live here." She is working on this degree to go into management of an organization. She had to miss our Scholarship Luncheon for a very important reason. Her five year old daughter was competing in a Tae Kwon Do tournament in Nenana that day. She competed as the only girl in her division of 5 competitors. She fought hard, even making one young man cry, and knocking him down. She took 2nd place in both sparring and patterns. Even at a young age, she is promoting Equity for Women and Girls.

Our Fairbanks Branch offers our congratulations to both women and wish them well in their endeavors.

The Program Committee would also like to thank the following members for their help: Carla Willetto for the flower arrangement for the tables and scholarship recipients and for the meeting room set up; Vera Alexander and Ritchie Musick for processing meal and dues payments; and Pat Babcock and Joyce Potter for helping with name tags and guest book.

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 53 members on our roster. It is time to renew dues for the 2016-17 year which begins on July 1. Some of you have already paid, so THANK YOU! Most members find it easiest to pay their dues with a credit card on-line. Go to the National AAUW site, (aauw.org) log in with your member number, enter the member services data base and follow the directions. Branch dues were voted an increase to \$16 making total dues \$65. Paid life members and dual members may still renew Branch membership on line for \$16 and the funds will be transferred to our branch. You may also mail a check to Vera Alexander, 3875 Geist Rd. Ste E PMB 296, Fairbanks 99709-3549.

NEW HISTORIAN

We are happy to announce that Stephanie Stowman will replace Barbara Matthews as Branch Historian. Assisted by her mother, Pat Turner, she will maintain our scrapbooks and historical records.

ELLEN WITCHER ESTATE SALE TO BENEFIT OUR BRANCH

Ellen was a longtime passionate supporter of AAUW. Over the years she held every office possible in our branch, and served on our House Tour Committee right up to last summer. Ellen generously left instructions that after she died left over household possessions were to be sold and the proceeds donated to our AAUW Branch.

Brenda Birdsall, who has inherited Ellen's home, needs help in sorting and organizing materials for the sale. We have set three times to work toward this end:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Tuesday, May 17 from 10 am-2:30 pm, | Sort and organize |
| Friday, May 20 from 5-7 pm. | Sort and organize |
| Friday, June 3 from 4-8 pm | Setup for the sale |
| June 4 from 9 am- 4 pm | The Estate Sale |

We hope that all members will find time to come at least to one of the pre-sale days and that most members will sign up to work the day of the sale. Please call Brenda (388-0557) or Margaret Soden (479-6793) to sign up for a block of time on sale day.

ELLEN WHITCHER MEMORIAL SERVICE

There will be a Celebration of Ellen's Life on what would have been her 101st birthday, August 21st at Skiland. All friends of Ellen are invited. AAUW will be represented, and we will offer assistance as needed to the organizers. We will let you know later in the summer how we might be involved.

HOUSE TOUR MEETING

Our 2016 House tour is scheduled for July 9, and we hope that all members mark their calendars and plan to help as hostesses. The house tour committee will meet again at 11 am , Wednesday May 4, in the home of Karen Emerson, 1112 Shannon Drive. Since it is nearly lunch time we suggest that everyone bring a salad or something to share, and we can enjoy a meal while planning. Contact Margaret Soden for more information at 479-6793.

TECH SAVVY PROGRAM MEETING

At our annual meeting members were enthusiastic about embracing an AAUW TechSavvy program. This is partially funded by AAUW and inspires girls to pursue STEM programs (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). This will involve putting on an area wide one-day program in the spring. Members interested in serving on a committee to work toward this purpose are invited to a meeting at 1 pm, Tuesday, May 3 at Gullivers Book Store Café on College Rd. Contact Terry Terrell at 374-8555 for more information.

VOTER REGISTRATION TRAINING

At the February meeting some members showed an interest in helping with nonpartisan voter registration. If you wish to help with voter registration tables at summer events and with upcoming naturalization ceremonies, you need to take training soon. The Voter Registration Office in the State Building holds regular trainings twice each week, Mondays at noon and Wednesdays at 3:00. Any one is welcome but should call ahead (451-2835) so they have enough packets. The State Building is at 675 - 7th Avenue (across from Sadlers).

Further, the Office will work with us to create a special training in May or June if we have enough interested members. We will need to know the time that works best for the members. If you are interested contact Gretchen Murphy (479-8224 or gretmurphy@gmail.com)

WRITERS GROUP

Date: May 19
Time: 12 noon
Location: Pike's Landing on Airport Rd

The writers group had five people enjoying lunch at Pikes last month. Firmin Murakami has been published in Iceberg, the University of Alaska English Department's on-line publication with *Boot Camp* and brought copies of his continuing manuscript to share. Ritchie Musick shared some poetry attempts made during a recent OLLI class. Not everybody brings something to share, but we all enjoy the company and listening to each other. Join us!

BOOK GROUP

Date/Time: May 9 (Monday) 1:30 pm
Title: ***The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution***
Author: Walter Isaacson (non-fiction, 2014)
Location: Home of Barb Matthews, 1377 McGrath Rd, 457-3537

Date/Time: June 13 (Monday) 1:30 pm
Title: ***A Tale for the Time Being*** (a novel)
Author: Ruth Ozeki (fiction, 2013)
Location: Home of Glenda Burbank, 1280 Overhill Drive, 479-3804

Date/Time: July 18 (Monday) 1:30 pm (changed from July 11)
Title: ***So How Long Have You Been Native? Life as an Alaska Native Tour Guide***
Author: Alexis C. Bunten (non-fiction, 2015)
Location: Home of Margaret Soden, 3222 Anella Ave, 479-6793

The League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley are reading the book ***Firecracker Boys: H Bombs, Inupiat, and the Roots of the Environmental Movement*** by Dan O’Neil. The author will be attending the discussion of this book on Saturday, May 14, at 10 am in the Noel Wien Library auditorium. They have extended an invitation to our group and to the public to attend this event.

HAVE YOU HEARD

Steffi Ickert-Bond, Herbarium Curator, will be giving a public lecture on “Plant Identification: An Essential Life Skill?” at the UA Museum of the North on Thursday, May 5, 6pm, as part of the Museum’s Discovery Series. These interactive programs feature specimens and discoveries from the collection.

Firmin Murakami had his essay, “**Boot Camp**” published in the UAF English Department’s on-line magazine, **Icebox**. It can be read in the non-fiction section located at <https://uafacebox.wordpress.com/icebox-2016/murakami-bootcamp/>

Gretchen and Ed Murphy rafted through the Grand Canyon in April with the UAF Summer Sessions group. They marveled at the changing light and stunning scenery of the Canyon, saw stars and constellations so bright they thought they could touch them. The rapids splash and dash rafters for good fun. They learned that aging bodies complain when they sleep on the ground for two weeks, but the aches and bruises are worth every minute in the Grand Canyon.

Laura Walsh is interested in playing board games, such as The Castles of Mad King Ludwig, Ticket to Ride, and Dominion. She has been playing these games at MeetUp group meetings, but is frequently the only woman there. Usually the games start with teaching new players how to play the specific game, because almost always the game is new to at least one player. The games are a bit like Monopoly or Life, except there are usually multiple strategies players can use to win, making them more challenging to learn and play. If you are interested in games of these types, please let her know at lauralynnwalsh@gmail.com.