

# NEWSLETTER



November 2014  
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## Fairbanks Branch

Fairbanks, Alaska

### 2014 - 2015 OFFICERS

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### November Meeting:

**Monday, November 17th**

**Noel Wien Library Auditorium**

**7:00 pm**

**Greg Hill presents "Guys Read"**

Greg Hill, former Director of the Noel Wien Library, lover of books, libraries, and the written word started the "Guys Read" program to get elementary school age boys interested in reading. Simply, he wants to introduce boys to books. As he has said, "Boys who read, become men who think." The program is offered to all 4th grade boys in the local elementary schools, and this year's program will begin in January. By using Graphic Novels as the "hook" to interest the kids, local community volunteers read to the boys during the lunch break. The program is in conjunction with the school libraries. so the books read are also readily available for checkout. "Guys Read" has also inspired a sister program called "Gals Read" which is still in the works. Greg will be bringing examples of the books used in the program. This meeting is open to the public, and all are invited to attend including children. Greg Hill's appreciation of books, words, and libraries is apparent in his weekly Monday column in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner.



## **Notes from the October Brunch Meeting:**

Congratulations and many thanks to Membership Vice President, Carla Willetto! The AAUW October, 2014 Potluck Brunch was enjoyed by 13 members and 8 guests at the Fairbanks Resource Agency building. The buffet line was set up in FRA's café area, and all took their filled plates into the conference room where tables were warmly decorated with a fall harvest theme.

Each guest was presented on arrival with a packet and a "Goody-bag" containing AAUW items including a pin and orientation materials along with a door-prize ticket. Every member who brought a guest received an extra door prize ticket, and additional tickets were available for \$1.00 each. There were several door-prizes, with a beautiful watercolor painting by Gael Murakami displayed during the meeting and featured as the Grand Prize.

Carla Willetto had prepared a slide show that gave highlights of the National AAUW Organization and a short summary of its history, goals **and purposes**. It also featured some of the accomplishments of the local AAUW branch throughout the years. It was designed as a guest orientation to the AAUW, but it also served as a reminder to members as to what the goals and purposes of AAUW truly are. President Ritchie Musick called a meeting to order. Gael Murakami explained the new Fairbanks Branch web site she has set up for us with links to National. Each board member was then asked to present her plans for the year. The proposed 2014-2015 budget was presented by Treasurer Vera Alexander and was approved by a show of hands. This budget includes an additional \$500 to be fund raised in order to meet the costs of our scholarships. House tour revenues were too short to meet our usual commitment.

Then came the drawings for the door prizes-and they were lovely- including baskets of baked goods by Jodi Gouwens, and items donated by Carla and others! The Grand Prize painting was won by Steffi Ikert-Bond! As a result of this program, we now have 5 new members.

### **New Branch Website: <http://fairbanks-ak.aauw.net>**

The AAUW Branch website <http://fairbanks-ak.aauw.net> is now active and linked to the national [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) site. It is a work in progress, so please check it out, try the links, and let Gael Murakami ([murakami@mosquitonet.com](mailto:murakami@mosquitonet.com) 479-0804) know if you have corrections, suggestions, or questions. The NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE menu is password protected so only local members can access it. The password is currently: fairbanks1881

There are links on the right hand side of the page that will take you directly to sections of the national website. One is the AAUW Member Services Database (MSD) which is your online access to AAUW's national database records. The MSD makes it faster and easier to control the accuracy of your membership records. Individual Members can use the MSD to update their member record and contact information (to do this contact [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org)), print a membership card, make a contribution and track their membership and giving history for tax purposes. Additionally, branch members can view their branch member roster and leader contacts.

In order to use it the first time, you must register. During registration, you will provide your name, the last 4 digits of your phone number, and your zip code. Then an activation email will be sent to the email address on file with AAUW. Once you have activated your account and set your password, in the future you will log-in with your AAUW member number and password.

I have already talked two members through this process, so if you have problems, contact me at 479-0804. Gael Murakami.

## **Give a Grad a Gift (a free way to increase AAUW membership)**

AAUW members can give recent college graduates a free, one-year AAUW membership within two years of graduation, at no cost to you or them.

With a gift of AAUW membership, you will...

Expose the grad to the power that comes from belonging to a national women-led organization of more than 170,000 members and supporters who believe in and advance equity and education for women and girls.

Expand their networking opportunities through career development opportunities and community action projects.

Keep them current on the events and people that affect their life as they receive Mission & Action, AAUW Outlook, Action Network alerts, and more.

There is now a link on our branch website <http://fairbanks-ak.aauw.net> that will take you directly to the on-line form on [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). Before you go there, collect the following information: graduate's first/last name, mailing address, city/state/zip, phone number, email address, College (select from a drop down menu), Highest degree earned, year graduated. Then you must complete your contact info, if you don't have your membership number, it will search for you, then include your state and branch and the relationship to you: daughter, niece, granddaughter, friend, or other). That's all there is to it and they will be notified by national that they have been given a one year national membership.

## **Book Club**

**Date: November 10 (Monday) 1:30 pm**

Title/Author: The Girls of Atomic City: the Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II  
by Denise Kiernan (non-fiction)

Location: Home of Jodi Gouwens, 924 Kellum #304 (Linck Estates) 474-9144

**Date: December 8 (Monday) 1:30 pm**

Title/Author: Your choice of a contemporary Young Adult Book

Location: Home of Jodi Gouwens, 924 Kellum (Linck Estates) 474-9144

**Date: January 12 (Monday) 1:30 pm**

Title/Author: Boots, Bikes, and Bombers: Adventures of Alaska Conservationist Ginny Hill Wood (Oral History) by Karen Brewster (Editor)

Location: to be determined later

## **Writers Club**

Writers will meet on the third Thursday of the Month (November 19) at 11:30 am at Pikes Landing on Airport Rd. Bring something you have written to share and enjoy conversation about writing.

## **HAVE YOU HEARD?**

**Ritchie Musick** and husband Mike returned to Alaska in time to vote on October 7th. They bought a 1985 Vanagon Westfalia Weekender in Portland and moved into their mobile home in early August for a two month sojourn in the West. After a Musick family reunion they headed south visiting the Oregon volcanoes and Crater Lake, Lava Beds, Lake Tahoe, drove south along the Pacific Coast, then over to Joshua Tree and down to visit brothers in southern Arizona. Heading north from Bisbee they stopped in Canyon de Chelly, enjoyed an astronomy festival in Great Basin, crossed Nevada on Hwy 50 (loneliest hwy in America) then crossed through Tioga Pass into Yosemite and on to Napa CA where they left their van safely parked and flew home. Their little home on wheels is waiting for next time!

**Steffi Ikert-Bond** (a former member of our Branch) has rejoined. She is the curator of the Herbarium at the Museum of the North, and is a professor of botany at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. More later about Steffi's year in South America while working on her Doctorate, and about our other New Members!

**Margret Van Flein** is home- for awhile! After fulfilling her Great-Grandmotherly duties in El Paso, she returned home after helping her granddaughter settle into a new home with great-grandbaby twins and their toddler big brother. As dad was working nights, the entire family benefitted from an extra set of hands. Next, Margret plans to visit her granddaughters but will be here for the December meeting.

**Carolyn Gray & Gretchen Murphy** had to forego attending the October meeting. As members of the teacher's sorority (ADK), they were both highly involved in the events of International Friendship Day. This year they had more participating nations than ever before.

**Aldean Kilbourn** and husband David are somewhere in the air flying their plane to destinations in the south. They will visit family and friends and return possibly by November 20th. We wish them clear weather and safe flying.

### **Put this on your calendar:**

### **AAUW National Convention, San Diego, June 18-21, 2015**

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. To find out more information about the coming convention go to <http://convention.aauw.org/register/>

### **We have a Facebook Page!**

If you have not yet done so, check out the Facebook page for AAUW Fairbanks Branch. You have to be accepted as a friend to post on it but anybody can read it.

## Photos From October Brunch



Wonderful cuisine.



Gael Murakami gave an informative talk about our new AAUW website.



Attendees at the October Brunch.



Wonderful door-prizes.