

NEWSLETTER

Fairbanks Branch

Fairbanks, Alaska



December 2015
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2015 - 2016 OFFICERS

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HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AND SERVICE PROJECT

Monday, December 14
6:30 pm

It is time once again to celebrate the season, both with our annual party and our service project.

Our service project will again be to provide gifts and gift wrap to the women in the Women's Shelter that they may give to people on their Christmas gift lists. Gifts can include anything suitable for children or teenagers or women. Wrapping material is very welcome. All gifts should be unwrapped as the women will select which to use for their family or friends. Gifts should be brought to the AAUW Christmas party or may be delivered prior to December 14th to Jodi Gouwens' home, #304 Linck Estates, 924 Kellum. Please call her first to be sure she is there..

The holiday potluck and white elephant gift exchange will be held in the home of Mike and Ritchie Musick, 4231 Aspenwood Dr in Cripple Creek Subdivision. Roads are well-plowed and hopefully will remain that way. Bring a dish to share. Ritchie will provide a main dish, but all other edibles are needed and welcomed. Our variety is usually quite good thanks to your creativity. Bring your significant other to join in our fun. The more the merrier...and Mike enjoys the male company!

Each person should bring a white elephant for the gift exchange. One never knows what might turn up in that colorful package! Sometimes it is a token from the past, other times a nice/useful/outrageous item for the present.

Take the Parks Hwy past the weigh station to mile 349. Turn left onto Cripple Creek Rd, then right at the fourth street onto Aspenwood. The lighted home on the left is the Musick's home. There is plenty of parking.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Our branch is fortunate to have two members who have received AAUW Dissertation Fellowships. At our November meeting at Noel Wien Library we heard from both Stefanie Ickert-Bond, a 2002 recipient, and Casey Brown, a 2015 recipient, about their work and how they have benefited from this opportunity. We had a good turnout of about 14 members who came out on a very cold night to hear them and learn about the American Fellowship program. Home-made refreshments were provided by Rita Osborne.



MEMBERSHIP

Our membership roll hit 50 and we are thrilled to welcome new members and new blood into our organization. The ideals of AAUW are important to all women, and we are proud of the role that AAUW has taken nationally and locally to further the equal role of women, particularly in the job market. There is still a long way to go, and opportunities abound for enthusiastic members to take part in the struggle.

NEW MEMBER

Molly Tedesche
260 Gunflint Ct. #2
Fairbanks AK 99709
907-317-2042
metedesche@alaska.edu

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES

Aldean Kilbourn reports that all current members should now have a 2015-2016 directory. We owe a big thank you to Aldean for all her work in collecting information and getting the directory printed and distributed. If someone finds an error, please send her an email to akilbourn@gci.net with the correction. Members who joined at the October Membership meeting are included in an addendum at the end. Two address corrections that did not arrive in time to be included are:

Azara Mohammadi: 3832 Pluto St., Redding CA 96002
Karen Emerson: 1112 Shannon Dr., Fairbanks AK 99701

VERA ALEXANDER AWARDED HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

An AAUW member who has been a member for fifty years is eligible for Honorary Life Membership, and Vera Alexander received notice of her award. Here is an excerpt from the letter that Vera received from the AAUW Board Chairperson, Patricia Fae Ho:

“Dear Vera: Congratulations! In recognition of your fifty-year commitment as a member of the AAUW, I am pleased to award you the status of Honorary Life member. Thank you for your outstanding commitment to AAUW, a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance...”

THANK YOU FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to offer a sincere thank you to all who led AAUW in my absence. I want to recognize especially Vice President Program, Gael Murakami, Vice Presidents Membership, Carla Willetto and Pat Babcock, and President Elect, Gretchen Murphy, Secretary Rita Osborne, and Treasurer, Vera Alexander for stepping up to the plate during my absence and not just filling in, but surging ahead. Membership has spiked for the first time in many years. We have a president elect for the first time in several years. I became president again with the understanding that I would again be gone the first two months, and accepted the position with some guilt for this. I return with a deep sense of gratitude that our branch has flourished and grown in my absence. We can look ahead to a bright future!

Ritchie Musick



READERS GROUP

Date: December 14 (Monday), 1:30 pm
Title/Author: *The End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe. [non-fiction, 2013]
Location: Home of Jodi Gouwens, Linck Estates, 924 Kellum, Unit #304
Phone: 474-9144

Date: January 11 (Monday), 1:30 pm
Title/Author: *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr [fiction, 2014]
Location: Home of Margret Van Flein, Linck Estates, 924 Kellum, Unit #208
Phone: 457-4671

WRITERS GROUP

Date: December 14 (Monday), 1:30 pm
Location: Pike's Landing on Airport Road

The Writers Group meets every third Thursday at Pikes for lunch. The group is growing! This past month Gael and Firmin Murakami and Carla Willetto joined Suzanne Black and Rose Levno. Come and bring something you have written or just a desire to write something. Sharing is fun and inspirational.

Call Rose Levno for further info (488-7227).



Suzanne Black and Rose Levno are joined by Gael and Firmin Murakami at the Writers Group.



HAVE YOU HEARD?

Ellen Whitcher is happily receiving visitors at the Pioneers' Home to which she has been moved. She currently resides in a room on the Hospital wing but is waiting to move into her newly assigned permanent room. She is happy with all the activities available to her and looking forward to exciting times ahead. She is making great progress with her recovery and is her same sharp witted and beautiful self! She welcomes visitors, preferably in the morning and late afternoon. Please avoid lunch and the nap time that follows.

The University Women's Association gives a BIG thanks to **Vera Alexander, Pat Babcock, Kathi Cameron, Karen Emerson, Aldean Kilbourn, Gael Murakami, Gretchen Murphy, Joyce Potter, Margaret Soden, and Kayt Sunwood** for their help during UWA's Holiday Bazaar on November 7 & 8 at the Pioneer Park Centennial Center. The bazaar was a great success, and proceeds go to fund UAF scholarships. UWA women help at our AAUW home tour as hostesses.

Aldean Kilbourn's youngest son, Peter, will graduate December 14 with a degree in Finance from Arizona State University. They will be attending his graduation so will miss the AAUW Christmas party.

Azara Mohammadi has moved to Redding CA and has joined the AAUW branch in her area. She has attended her first meeting and joined a committee that is putting on a STEM conference.

Diane Knudsen was in town recently for the birth of her newest grandchild. She was able to get together for coffee with **Karen Emerson, Gael Murakami and Rita Osborne** to bring them up-to-date on her life in Tigard, Oregon which is near Portland. Diane is a dual member of the Fairbanks branch.

Ritchie and Mike Musick have returned from their two plus months traveling across the US in their '85 Volkswagen Westie. They relearned their American History as they slowly moved through Springfield, Gettysburg, Philadelphia, and Boston. They fulfilled the goal of eating lobster in Maine and visiting Acadia National Park. After a rapid trip to New Orleans and then to Tucson they put their vehicle to bed under its blanket at a brother's home in Patagonia AZ. They hope to fly out later to continue the journey.



Ritchie enjoys lunch at the Green Dragon tavern where the Sons of Liberty overheard the British plot the invasion of Lexington.



Elfreth's Alley, the oldest street in Philadelphia.

Terry Tirrell, along with her daughter and granddaughter, celebrated the latter's 16th birthday in the city of light, Paris, in early November. The art and history, not to mention the grandeur of Paris are the things that she loves about the city. Her granddaughter may take some time to fully appreciate the complexities of Paris. It is such a unique and beautiful city, the terrorist attacks will not diminish it in any way, but it is sad and tragic. Fortunately they left Paris a week before it occurred. Her husband joined her in Paris, and they continued on to the Basque region in Spain, staying in an apartment in Getaria and touring that beautiful and unique region, then on to Barcelona, another of their favorite European cities. They also found Gaudi to be amazing. She is home now and we look forward to getting to know her better through AAUW.