

NEWSLETTER

Fairbanks Branch

Fairbanks, Alaska



January, 2016
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2015 - 2016 OFFICERS

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JANUARY LUNCH MEETING

Saturday, January 16

12:00 Noon

Cookie Jar Restaurant

January meetings have, in recent years, followed a “getting to know you” theme. When we distributed our branch member survey last May, we received mixed responses from members about holding a meeting in January, often a cold and inhospitable time to come out. Instead of holding a formal meeting, we have opted for an informal lunch get-together.

We hope you will join us at the Cookie Jar Restaurant on Danby Street, for lunch or just coffee or dessert. We look forward to the opportunity to get to know each other in a more casual way.

Please RSVP to Gael Murakami, Program VP, at 479-0804 or at murakami@mosquitonet.com by Thursday, January 14th so she can make reservations for our group! We hope to see you there for a merry time!

DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

Twenty members gathered in the home of Mike and Ritchie Musick for our annual holiday party and white elephant gift exchange. Food, as always, was varied and scrumptious along with beverages for all tastes. Exchanges of the gifts were relatively mild and nobody tried to garner the genuine “white elephant” cake from Mike. They missed a great tasting breakfast treat!



Revelers enjoy a wonderful variety of foods at the holiday potluck.



White elephant gifts get the “once over” by members waiting for the gift exchange to begin!



Mike Musick with “white elephant” cake.

HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECT

We thank everybody for the great assortment of women's and children's gifts and wrapping paper for the Fairbanks Center for Women in Crisis. Our donations allow women a chance to select something they find appropriate for someone else on their gift giving list. It puts them on the giving end at a time when resources may be limited. Mike and Ritchie had to make several trips from their car into the shelter in order to deliver the numerous donations. Thank you to all!

BRANCH DUES INCREASE

Our Branch dues have remained \$11 for a very long time...around fifteen years? Our house tour funds our local scholarships and our donations to National fellowship programs, but local expenses including directories, newsletters, building rentals, memorials, etc must come from our Branch membership dues. Many of these costs have increased with inflation. In recent years memberships have decreased (although they are again rising slowly thanks to some very active recruiters).

Your Board of Directors has unanimously voted to seek a raise in dues from \$11 to \$16 per year. This will make the combined National and Branch dues \$65 instead of \$60. This must be approved by our general membership and will be on the agenda for our annual membership meeting in March.

OUR ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This is the time of year for us to seek applicants for our annual scholarships funded by our summer House Tour. We will again offer two one thousand dollar scholarships to women who are returning to education or are pursuing a graduate program. An application will be appended at the end of this letter. Offer it to any woman you think might qualify.

This year applications may be submitted directly on-line to us in a pdf format. (See the attached flyer for details)

Barbara Van Flein heads our scholarship committee and can always use help in getting out the information and in making final selections. Contact her at bvanflein@gci.net if you want to help.

HOUSE TOUR NEEDS YOUR HELP

The House Tour Committee will begin meeting soon and needs new participation. Locating homes to be on the tour is the first step. If you know of a nice home with a unique flavor, please contact Margaret Soden, margaretdsoden@gmail.com, with contact information and we will take it from there. If you can serve on the committee itself let Margaret know so we can give you special notification of our first meeting.

BOOK GROUP

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 Street, Unit 208, ph: 457-4671

Date: February 8, (Monday), 1:30 pm
Title/Author: **I'd Like to Apologize to Every Teacher I Ever Had** /by Tony Danza
[non-fiction, 2013]
Location: Home of Jodi Gouwens, Linck Estates, 924 Kellum Street, Unit #304
Call Jodi Gouwens for further info (474-9144)

WRITERS GROUP

Date: January 21, 2016, 12 noon
Location: Pike's Landing on Airport Road

Wanting to record those memoirs? Aspiring writers, or all who like to jot down their thoughts, are welcome at the writers group. Bring something you wrote to share, a few reflective thoughts or a poem, essay, letter, or short story. Length is not important nor is any level of proficiency. We like to eat and share! If you do not care for lunch, they have great coffee etc and you will be just as welcome.

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



HAVE YOU HEARD?

In September '15 **Don and Carolyn Gray** stayed for a few days in St. Charles, MO to look around Defiance, the area where Carolyn's great grandmother, Emma Darst Stott, had been born. Carolyn's grandmother's brother's daughter had found the cemetery where Emma's father was buried along with his father and grandfather. It was like a homecoming as Don and Carolyn found Emma's father's grave by feeling the gravestone through the moss and then cleaning it just as they had done with Emma's grave in Salt Lake City for the last time in 1952. The cemetery has been preserved by the Boone County Historical Society just outside of Defiance. The oldest ancestor had participated in the Revolutionary War so the DAR had cleaned and decorated his grave. The earliest ancestor, David Darst, moved to the Spanish Land Grant with Daniel Boone and settled on the parcel beside him. Darst Bottom Road still bears his name. The Grays visited Daniel Boone's last home built nearby for him by his youngest son. It took 2 days, in the early 1800s, to go from Defiance to St. Louis by canoe. They also visited the explorer's museum in St. Charles where Lewis and Clark began their expedition. The displays made Carolyn realize why Great Grandmother Emma had majored in botany at Valpariso University where she met her husband, a mining lawyer, and why they moved to Eureka UT far away from the eternal flood area of the Missouri River. Emma not only taught Carolyn about the plants in Utah but also talked about the division among families as she was born in 1867. Her sister bore the middle name Lee after Robert E. Lee but she, the younger, did not. Coincidentally, Darst Bottom Road off Hwy 94 was closed by their DOT last week as the Missouri again flooded.



Ellen Whitcher is settled into her room at the Pioneer Home and welcomes visitors from about 10:30am to 1:30pm and from about 3:30pm until 7pm. Even though she misses her own home and cats, she is enjoying her new "home". Tabitha, the resident cat, checked out her room last week so Ellen is hoping Tabby will visit more often now that she knows Ellen is there.

Margaret and Larry Soden are off to Hawaii on Wednesday and will be there until the end of January. Their son and his family will be there until the 15th, then Margaret's cousin and her husband from Idaho will join them for a week.

Carla Willetto and her daughter, Anne, are off on their next curling adventure. The 2016 Junior National Curling Championships will be in Willmar, MN. They're looking forward to some good curling, as well as more prairie land and hot dishes! There is a Willmar AAUW branch there, so who knows...maybe Carla will make new contacts.



SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fairbanks Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is offering **two (2) \$1,000 scholarships** to local women with plans to upgrade their education or to pursue educational projects.

The awards will be based primarily on merit.

Each applicant should write a letter stating her educational background, why she wants to continue her education, her educational goals, her needs, and how she plans to use her education in the future.

If the applicant wishes to pursue an educational project instead of taking formal classes, she should describe the project and how she plans to use the award money to complete it.

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY: MARCH 1, 2016

Letters should be emailed in PDF format to:

FairbanksAK.AAUW@gmail.com

Or mailed to:

AAUW Fairbanks Branch Scholarship Committee

Barbara Van Flein, Chair

P.O. Box 82345

Fairbanks, AK 99708-2345

The American Association of University Women is a nationwide organization open to every person who holds an associate or baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

For information regarding these scholarships, please contact:

Barbara Van Flein – 457-2788

Or visit **fairbanks-ak.aauw.net/scholarships**