

NEWSLETTER

March, 2016
Volume 3, Issue 3

Fairbanks Branch

Fairbanks, Alaska



2015 - 2016 OFFICERS

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NEWSLETTER

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WEB SITE

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Bohemian Waxwing: Courtesy of Bud Marschner.

IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING!

Monday, March 21
6:30 pm
Home of Aldean Kilbourn
3217 Riverview Drive

The 2016 annual meeting of our Branch is always a wonderful time to share food, friendship, and insure the success of our Branch membership in AAUW. Please bring a dish to share. Aldean will provide a main course and all members are asked to bring a side dish, bread, or dessert. Somehow it always works out to be a wonderful variety of delicious food.

Our featured speaker will be one of our new members, Molly Tedesche. She is a PhD student at UAF's International Arctic Research Center studying snow hydrology and climate change. She was recently honored as the Scientist of the Month at IARC.

Our annual business meeting will familiarize all members with a summary of our Branch activities since last March. We will elect officers for 2016-17 (nominations will be found later in this newsletter) and vote on our newly revised by-laws and also on a potential Branch dues increase. A copy of the proposed by-laws was sent to every member 30 days prior to the meeting.

Come join us for an important evening and take an active role in your AAUW branch. You may call Gael Murakami at 479-0804 for further information or to see what may be needed.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Our February meeting was visited by Linda Witt of the League of Women Voters. She explained voter registration processes and discussed some of the voter restriction laws that have been pending throughout the nation. AAUW and the League are comrades overlapping in some of their missions. AAUW promotes a Get Out the Vote campaign and recognizes the importance of voting for candidates that support women's issues. We have a very active League here in Fairbanks and found her presentation interesting and timely.



PROPOSED BY-LAWS 2016

It has been mandated by National AAUW for all Branches to reorganize their by-laws to include material that defines our part in the National organization. Most of this new inclusion was written by National and sent to us in a template form. We have added it to our current edition and then reorganized our sections and articles to match their given format.

Only three minor changes have been made to ours. We have added to Article IV, Membership and Dues, Section 5 Dues, a Amount (2) ***Local dues shall be waived for Partner Members.*** Since the University pays membership for our UAF partner we wish to waive the Branch dues now paid by the member.

Article IV Section 5, b Payment (1) ***Local dues will also be one-half for this time period.*** This refers to new members paying between Jan 1 and March 15 who pay one half the annual association dues. Currently they pay our full branch amount.

Article VI Officers Section 2 Duties d. ***A permanent paper and an electronic file of minutes be maintained for archive purposes.*** This refers to the duties of our secretary and adds an electronic file to the written record.

We hope that all members come prepared to vote to accept or reject the entire document. Thank you to Gretchen Murphy for taking on this huge task and giving us the final document. Copies of both old and new by-laws were sent to all members more than 30 days prior to the annual meeting. They are also available at <http://fairbanks-ak.aauw.net/bylaws/>

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS FOR 2016 - 17

Our nominating committee consisting of Aldean Kilbourn, Carol Schlentner, and Margaret Soden has submitted the following nominations:

President;	Gretchen Murphy
President Elect:	Margaret Soden
Vice President Program:	
Vice President Membership:	Carla Willetto
Treasurer	Gael Murakami

Nominating Committee: Carol Schlentner, Sandra O'Connor, and Joyce Potter

Secretary is a two year term being filled by Rita Osborne, and Past President will be Ritchie Musick

Nominations will be taken from the floor in addition to these nominations. We need someone to run for the position of Vice President Program (could be shared). This position is responsible for planning Branch programs of which there are usually four, two of which should be Mission based. Many resources are available.

MEMBERSHIP

Several new members have recently joined the branch. Please print this page and add it to your directory. Please remember that the Branch Roster is always available on-line in the Member Services Database at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/member-services-database/>

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GIVE A GRAD A GIFT!

Some of our recent increase in membership has been through the Give a Grad a Gift Program sponsored by National AAUW. Fairbanks Branch members have used this program to give free one year national memberships to recent graduates. It costs nothing to give it for one year, but up to the graduate to renew it. Last year, Carla and Pat obtained the email addresses of all UAF women graduates and attempted to contact all of them with this offer. We all must know a daughter, granddaughter, neighbor, niece, friend or acquaintance who might qualify. To initiate the process, you need the recipient's name, mailing address, phone number, email address, year of graduation, University or college, and degree (BA, BS, etc.) The program then asks for your information, and if you don't have your membership number it will let you search for it. Please go to <http://www.aauw.org/resource/give-a-grad-a-gift/> for more information. This is a free, easy way to grow AAUW's membership.

Contact Carla Willetto or Gael Murakami for more information or for help in entering the information.

ELLEN WHITCHER

Aug 21, 1915-February 25, 2016

Ellen was the essence of AAUW. She believed in its importance to women and supported it with her time, experience, wisdom, and energy. I am not sure exactly when she joined our Fairbanks branch, but she was active when I joined in 1968. She has held every office in the organization and served on every



committee. When macular degeneration took her eye-sight, she continued active participation by serving on the House Tour Committee and phoning the many hostesses among other jobs. She continued to open her home to our Board of Directors meetings right up until she moved into the Pioneer home. She was my inspiration and one of the reasons I remained active in AAUW. Her enthusiasm and dedication never wavered.

Ellen was a paid up Life Member of AAUW, but only recently we realized that she had never received the honor of recognition for her more than fifty years membership. It was coincidental that her photo receiving this certificate from National AAUW was published in the News Miner on the day that she died.

Ellen's sense of humor remained sharp until the end. Her wish was not to have a memorial but a party in her memory. We all feel privileged to have been able to celebrate her 100th birthday parties with her last summer. There will be another party for her next summer, one to which her many friends can come and share their memories.



BOOK GROUP

Date: March 14 (Monday), 1:30 pm
Title/Author: **The Signature of All Things**: A Novel / by Elizabeth Gilbert [fiction, 2013]
Location: Home of Jodi Gouwens, Linck Estates, 924 Kellum Street,
Unit #304, Ph: 474-9144

Date: April 11 (Monday), 1:30 pm
Title/Author: **The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution** / by Walter Isaacson [non-fiction, 2014]
Location: To be determined later

WRITERS GROUP

Date: March 17 (Thursday)
Time: 12 noon
Location: Pike's Landing on Airport Road

Do you think about recording your memories? Do you enjoy writing short essays or poems? 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 in 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?

Gretchen and Ed Murphy spent the last half of January in Panama. They saw close to 200 species of the 970 type birds that can be seen. San Lorenzo on the Spanish Main was one of their favorite spots and is where Gretchen's third great grandfather stopped when he rounded The Horn en route to California in 1849. Going through The Canal, they calculated that The Canal uses as much water annually as flows down the Tanana River in a year. Of the 300 Canal captains that guide vessels through the locks, only two are women. A good AAUW talking point!

New branch member, **Molly Tedesche**, was recently recognized by IARC as Scientist of the Month for February. As a PhD student at IARC Molly studies snow hydrology and climate change, and the impacts on mountain watersheds, ecology, and indigenous cultures of Alaska and the Arctic. She has a rich profile of interests and education, including civil engineering and watershed science, and has traveled the world to broaden her skills and training. IARC's Publications team interviewed Molly Tedesche recently about her research, background, and interests. For the full article, see <http://www.iarc.uaf.edu/research/highlights/2016/molly-tesdesche>

Gael Murakami is participating in the 17th Annual Fairbanks Watercolor Society show at the Well Street Art Company (1304 Well Street). She will have three pieces included in the group exhibition. The opening reception is Friday, March 5, 5-8pm. The show will continue to hang through the month of March. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 pm. Gael has also submitted one of her paintings to be considered for an AAUW gift card.