

NEWSLETTER

April, 2016
Volume 3, Issue 4

Fairbanks Branch
Fairbanks, Alaska



2015 - 2016 OFFICERS

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Courtesy of Bud Marschner.
Trumpeter Swans.

APRIL SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Saturday, April 16

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Raven Landing Community Center Lounge/Library

Come celebrate with our 2016 scholarship recipients at a luncheon in their honor. Barbara Van Flein and her Scholarship Committee have worked hard to review the fifteen applicants. We will present the Ann Rhian and Nancy Johnson scholarships to two local women returning to education and hear about their plans and goals.

The cost of the lunch is \$22 which covers both food and gratuity. The menu consists of spinach quiche (with no crust), ham, banana pancakes, fresh fruit, and a dessert of coconut chocolate cookie bars or gluten-free zucchini cake.

***Please make reservations no later than **Friday, April 8** to Gael Murakami at murakami@mosquitonet.com or call 479-0804 or text 460-0424. That is this coming Friday, folks, as Raven Landing wants a week's notice.

We hope that we can show these young women our pride in their endeavors with a great turnout of our membership.

MARCH ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

Twenty five members and one guest attended our annual meeting in the home of Aldean Kilbourn who was able to seat all of us at one table that simply grew as the evening progressed. We really appreciate her hospitality and willingness to be hostess of this important evening. Carol Schlentner attended from Lake Minchumina although her presence was in the form of a cell phone in the middle of the table. After reports on the year's activities, members voted to raise the Branch dues from \$11 to \$16 beginning this 2016-17 year. They also voted to approve the new Branch By-laws as presented by Gretchen Murphy who laboriously rewrote our existing ones into the new format required by AAUW. The four minor changes previously sent out to all members were included in the approval. The following officers were elected for this coming year:



Gretchen Murphy	President (current president elect)
Joyce Potter and Pat Babcock	Vice Presidents, Program
Carla Willetto	Vice President, Membership
Rita Osborne	Secretary (continuing)
Gael Murakami	Treasurer
President Elect	Margaret Soden
Nominating Committee	Carol Schlentner, Joyce Potter, Sandy O'Connor

Terry Tirrell introduced the program called TechSavvy asking that we consider taking part in it this coming year. It is a program for STEM encouragement both sponsored and funded by AAUW. Members were very enthusiastic. Terry will invite interested members to work with her starting early in May.

Molly Tedesche, one of our members, gave us an entertaining synopsis of her activities as a hydrologist with the International Arctic Research Center and on working with school children in many rural Alaskan villages.

It was another successful meeting combining business, entertainment, and great food and wine.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME IS HERE

The on-line membership renewal time is again open on our National AAUW Data Base. You may sign on to the National site into Membership services using your Member number and password and renew your dues using a credit card, for both national and branch dues. Your branch dues are quickly transferred from National to our local checking account.

At our Annual Meeting, we voted to increase the \$11 branch dues by \$5 so they are now \$16. This change has been updated on the national AAUW website and you may now pay your 2016-17 dues on-line with a credit card or print out an invoice so you can mail a check to Vera Alexander who is the branch financial officer. The link is <http://www.aauw.org/resource/member-services-database/>. If you have any trouble logging in to the national database, please call Gael, at 479-0804 for assistance. The national dues remain the same at \$49. So the total for most members is \$65. Paid life members pay only \$16.

You may also pay by check to our treasurer at the April meeting. Dues are to be paid by November 30th according to National policy and we encourage you to do so as early as possible so we can start work on our fall directory.

80th ANNIVERSARY OF OUR BRANCH

We received a certificate from National AAUW recognizing that our Fairbanks Branch has been recognized since organizing in 1936. Our first president was Dorothy Robe from 1936-1938. She is not marked as deceased in our directory (?), and I wonder if anybody knows anything about her or what has become of her. Looking over that list of past presidents I am happy to see a number of them still are active and working for our branch.

HISTORIAN POSITION AVAILABLE

Barbara Matthews is asking to resign from her position as Historian for our Branch. Many years ago she offered to replace Ellen Whitcher when Ellen's eyes limited her abilities. Now it is Barbara's turn to ask for someone else to step up as her eyes are now limiting her. If anyone is interested in taking over the job collecting our records, etc for archival purposes, please let the Ritchie know. The several scrapbooks that Barbara has are current, so it is an easy way to become involved in the branch.

HOUSE TOUR COMMITTEE

It is time for the House Tour Committee to begin meeting. Our 2016 tour is scheduled for July 9th. There is a job available for anybody interested in helping. These include locating and visiting homes, obtaining tickets and posters, finding sales outlets, advertising, flowers, communication with home owners, finding hostesses, and more! Please join us for the first meeting on Tuesday, April 5th, at 6:30 pm in the home of Karen Emerson, 1112 Shannon Drive. 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.** They are marked with yellow and black diagonal stripes. You will be reminded if you forget!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

AAUW welcomes new members **Don Gray, Ana Fochesatto, Shirley Liss, Leslie McCartney, Firmin Murakami, Marilyn Russell, Molly Tedesche, and Laura Walsh** who joined us after our directory was printed.

One of the recent members is **Laura Walsh** who moved to Fairbanks in February from Boulder, Colorado where she lived for 6 years. She's a returning Alaskan, and we're glad to have her back. Laura enjoys MeetUps which are local groups who meet to enjoy similar interests, and she's joined the board game group. She mentioned there is also a Russian language group, a Toastmaster's group, and an "Ideas Worth Spreading" group. Laura is a frequent Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival participant and especially enjoys writing songs and musicals. She's working on her second musical and is looking for a music teacher/drama aficionado who can work with her. Laura's email address is lauralynnwalsh@gmail.com

Firmin Murakami is interested in helping women gain their rightful place all over the world. Firmin was born two years before the beginning of the Great Depression of 1929. He spent a couple of years in an internment camp in Jerome, Arkansas during the early part of WWII and served in the United States Marine Corps before WWII finally came to an official end in 1946. The internment camp in Jerome is the same one where George Takei of the Star Trek series was also imprisoned. After Firmin was honorably discharged from the Marines with the rank of Sergeant, he used the benefits he earned through the WWII G.I. Bill to attend Universities in Ann Arbor, Michigan and at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo where he earned two degrees. Then, much later in life in Fairbanks, Alaska, he earned two more degrees. In 2015 Firmin joined the AAUW writer's group where he is enjoying reading essays written by other members of AAUW. Firmin's essays are non-fiction and consist mostly of the period of his life where most of the exciting drama takes place. Firmin started to put some of his essays onto a blog: firminmurakami.blogspot.com. His essay, "Boot Camp," has been submitted to the on-line magazine, *Icebox*, at UAF.

BOOK GROUP

Date/Time: April 11 (Monday), 1:30 pm
Title: The Signature of All Things
Author: Elizabeth Gilbert (fiction 2013)
Location: Home of Jodi Gouwens, Linck Estates
924 Kellum St, Unit #304
Phone: 479-9144

Date/Time: May 2 (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: To be determined

WRITERS GROUP

Date: April 21st
Time: 12 Noon
Location: Pike's Landing on Airport Rd.

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

Many members have been enrolled in OLLI classes and seeing each other frequently at University Park School. If you are not currently enrolled and participating, there are a number of classes still open for the April session.

Carla Willetto is again sitting in the stands drinking beer with Canadians while her daughter, Anne, curls her heart out in Edmonton.

Etsuko Kimura-Pederson was featured in the closing concert of this season's Music in the Woods concert series. Kimura is an accomplished jazz pianist and composer. She is world renown and a recipient of many awards and recognitions.



Courtesy of Bud Marschner.
Trumpeter Swans.