

December 2016

NEWSLETTER AAUW

FAIRBANKS (AK) BRANCH AAUW

AAUW Annual Holiday Party

4231 Aspenwood Drive

(Home of Ritchie & Mike Musick)

Monday December 19, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Bring a side dish & Join the Holiday Spirit!

Mark your calendars for the AAUW annual Christmas party and gift exchange in the home of Ritchie and Mike Musick. This is a time for lots of food, friendship, and fun. Join the holiday spirit with members and their spouses for an evening of good cheer.

Ritchie will provide the main "meat" course and some beverages, everybody else is asked to bring a side dish, salad, dessert, or bread. We usually end up with a gourmet variety!

Our annual charitable drive again this year is for the Interior Alaska Center for Nonviolent Living. We ask members to bring something that a woman there can use as a gift to be given to a person on her gift list. Gifts for women or for children, wrapping paper and ribbon are desired and greatly appreciated. Last year AAUW contributed three LARGE bags filled with items for IACNVL's Gift Drive.

A fun tradition of the holiday party is our annual white elephant exchange. Bring a wrapped gift for the gift exchange. This may be nice, funny, recycled, or...?? A few gifts return year after year, always fun and entertaining. If your spouse accompanies you, bring a gift from each of you so everyone gets in on the fun.

Directions to the Musick's house follow well-maintained roads: Parks Hwy to Mile 349, turn LEFT onto Cripple Creek Road. Take the 4th street to the right called Aspenwood. Musick's is the first house on the left, a log home with Christmas lights. Plenty of parking is available.

Put "4231 Aspenwood" into your cell phone or gps and let it guide you like Rudolf. Musick's home phone is 479-5336, cell phone service ceases just prior to arrival at Musick's.

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Have You Heard?

Ritchie and Mike Musick recently returned after spending five weeks living and traveling in their '85 VW Vanagon Westfalia Weekender. They started south of Tucson, enjoying hiking in the Chiricahua Mountains, Big Bend National Park, Big Bend Ranch State Park, and the Guadalupe Mountains. Ritchie spent three days at a National Call to Action conference in Albuquerque while Mike went on to Santa Fe and Taos. After exploring the Pueblo Cultural Center in Chaco Canyon they headed west to leave the van with a relative in Napa, CA and to fly home for Thanksgiving.

From AAUW National

Election 2016 touched on many issues that affect women and families at every level: local, state, and federal. We still face congressional gridlock over

the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#), resulting in **more** to work toward equal pay. Students are still waiting for real action on [college affordability](#) and high student debt, and they expect a continued commitment to [combating campus sexual assault](#). Working families are still looking for good jobs with [paid family and medical leave](#) and other [workplace equity policies](#). And Americans still don't have the basic necessity of a [full Supreme Court](#). (click on above underlined links to access National AAUW Action Items) Candidates must now work to deliver on their promises. Women voters expect our newly elected officials to work together on solutions. AAUW believes democracy demands work every day of the year, and hyperpartisan rhetoric only damages the chances for reasonable consensus. Women

voters are watching. We've laid out our priorities, and we will hold each and every candidate accountable.

Alaskans voted nearly two to one to embrace a progressive new voter registration reform. Under the new law, Alaskans who sign up to receive their annual PFD payouts from the state's oil wealth trust will be automatically added to the state's voter rolls. These results make Alaska the sixth state to have approved some form of [automatic voter registration](#).

Branch Facebook Page

Find the Facebook public page for our Fairbanks AAUW branch at:

www.facebook.com/AAUWFairbanksAKBranch

Anyone can view this page. Please "like" our page and visit often to catch up on what's happening.

Have news or items for the Newsletter?

Send them by the last Thursday of the month, to kayt.sunwood@alaska.edu with the subject line: AAUW Newsletter Item. Please send "Have You Heard" Member News to keep us up on what you are doing, where you are going. Also send reports on Branch activities, pictures, and other items of interest. Future Newsletters will feature profiles of our members so that we can all get to know each other. Newsletters will also feature exciting and engaging new items to facilitate connections.

Help build our AAUW community by inviting new members to join

Let your neighbors, local students, colleagues, and acquaintances know that by [joining AAUW](#) they can help break through barriers for women in government, in the workplace, and on campus.

AAUW's values are non-negotiable. We believe that bias and discrimination of any kind are unacceptable in our national dialogue and that our government must represent all of us. Throughout our 135-year history, we've always stood for solutions that work for all women and families — and we don't intend to quit now. With your support, AAUW will continue to speak truth to power and fight for gender equity from the White House to the statehouse.

USE SOCIAL MEDIA? CHECK OUT THE COOL AAUW HOLIDAY "CARDS" YOU CAN SHARE ON FACEBOOK OR TWITTER

There's nothing like a new year to welcome in new beginnings. It's been a long 2016, but as you get ready for the year ahead, make a plan of action. Beat the winter blues by sharing fun reminders to take action and empower women nationwide. Below is one example of a "card" you could share.



Click on the following URL for the full set of sharable "cards."

<http://www.aauw.org/2016/11/28/feminist-versions-of-holiday-songs>

Upcoming Book Group Meeting

December 12, (Monday), 1:30 pm] Location: Home of Laura Walsh, 4427 Condor Ct, Apt 306, [303-709-9895](tel:303-709-9895) [Geist Rd, South on Loftus to end, R. on Condor]

Title/Author: *Young Adult Literature suggestions (Laura is writing a musical based on each)*

Dealing with Dragons / by Patricia C. Wrede [YA fiction, 2015] &/or

Pennies For Hitler / by Jackie French [YA fiction, 2013]

Branch Directory

The **Branch Directory** is being updated. If you have contact information updates or errors in your listing from last year, please contact Gael at gaelmurakami@gmail.com. We are working on making the information available on-line in a "Members Only" area of the website. We currently have a copy of the national roster in pdf format available for you to view at:

<http://fairbanks-ak.aauw.net/members-only/>

This is a password protected area, contact the webmaster at FairbanksAK.AAUW@gmail.com for the password.



Recognize these feet?

These happy feet, which belong to Gael Murakami and Rita Osborne, were enjoying themselves at Molly Tedesche's Monday noon yoga class at Heart Stream Yoga studio. Great way to spend a Monday according to the feet!

President's Message from Gretchen Murphy

Looking forward to getting together for our annual AAUW Potluck Holiday Party Monday, December 19 at Ritchie Musick's home off Cripple Creek Road. Bring an unwrapped gift item for the Interior Alaska Center for Nonviolent Living Gift Drive. (See page one for additional details) For our own fun, we enjoy a white elephant gift exchange after dinner. We encourage spouses to come and bring a white elephant gift to add to the fun evening. Join us for an evening of fun, 6:00 pm on December 19 at Ritchie's log home, 4231 Aspenwood off Cripple Creek Road.

On January 21 we get together for another social event, the Sourdough and Cheechako No Host Lunch. Come chat and get to know other AAUW members. The place will be announced when a location is determined. If you know of a comfortable restaurant that will be open for lunch in January, please let Pat Babcock know.

Congratulations to our newest 50 Year Life Member, Margret Van Flein. Margret has lived in Fairbanks since 1963 and has been an active member through the years. Watch for a celebration of our 50 Year members this spring.

The Ellen Witcher Memorial Fund will help two members go to the National AAUW Convention in Washington D.C. June 14 to 17. Combine your personal vacation or business trip with AAUW for a win-win week. Contact Gretchen Murphy or any Board Member.

Shirley Liss will coordinate our local activities around National Equal Pay Day in April. Equal Pay Day is the symbolic day when women's earnings "catch up" to men's earnings from the previous year. It's also a powerful occasion to raise awareness about and organize action around the gender pay gap in our own community. The pay gap is even worse for women of color. AAUW observes Asian American Women's Equal Pay Day in March, African American Women's Equal Pay Day in August, Native American Women's Equal Pay Day in September, and Latina Equal Pay Day in October.

Kudos to Pat Babcock, Program VP, for an excellent program on Historical Women of the Tanana Valley on November 14! Four women spoke that evening about the toughness and perseverance of Pioneer women. Dealing with the frontier town mentality of misogyny and racism, the early pioneer women bonded together to create a more livable community.

Some interesting sidelights were that Fairbanks gold money helped to build Paramount Movie Studios in Hollywood after Judge Wickersham ruled against Belle Dormer who accused her partner of rape and assault, Kitty Hensley died destitute as many early women did, and Pat Babcock's family was instrumental in founding educational opportunities for early Fairbank children. The program will be repeated as an OLLI class on April 19 for those of you eligible for Osher Lifelong Learning. One of our speakers, Joan Skilbred, also has a book coming out with her research about early Fairbanks pioneer women.



Upcoming Dates to Put on Your Calendar

Our meeting calendar has been organized by our Program VP Pat Babcock.

Mark Your Calendars

Monday, December 19	Annual Holiday Potluck @ Musick's 6PM
Saturday, January 21	<i>No Host</i> Sourdough and Cheechako Luncheon
Saturday, February 18	Panel Discussion on Green Dot Community Bystander Intervention Program
March 18 or 20 ?	Annual Meeting
Saturday, April 22	Scholarship Luncheon
Friday, May 19	Wine & Cheese

AAUW Mission: Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy,
education, philanthropy, and research.

National website www.aauw.org

Fairbanks Branch website <http://fairbanks-ak.aauw.net>

Fairbanks (AK) Branch AAUW

FairbanksAK.AAUW@gmail.com

