

March 2017

NEWSLETTER AAUW

FAIRBANKS (AK) BRANCH AAUW



Annual Meeting

80th AAUW Fairbanks Branch Potluck

Birthday Party Celebration

Raven Landing Building 4 Commons

1222 Cowles Street

Monday, March 20th, 6:00 PM

Bring a friend

See the full page invitation within this newsletter. Call Gretchen (479-8224) with questions, for directions, or for more info.

80th Birthday Party

Our annual meeting will celebrate our AAUW Fairbanks Branch 80th anniversary with a potluck dinner and party. If your last name begins with the letter A-L, please bring a main dish for the potluck. If your last name begins with an M-Z bring veggies, salad, or fruit. We will have birthday cake for dessert ☺

Building 4 is the new building closest to Airport Way. The Commons, the location of our celebration, is at the outside entrance to Building 4, so you don't need to wind through the hallways of the main building.

Business items for the Annual Meeting include:

- Vote on Bylaws Revisions
- Meet New Board Officers
- Updates on Equal Pay Day & Scholarships



FAIRBANKS 2017 BOARD & DIRECTORS

President

Gretchen Murphy

Vice President

Membership

Carla Willetto

Vice President Program

Pat Babcock

Financial

Gael Murakami

Secretary

Rita Osborne

Past President

Ritchie Musick

President Elect

Margaret Soden

Nominating Committee

Carol Schlentner

Historians

Pat Babcock

UAF University Partner Rep

Sine Anahita

Newsletter

Kayt Sunwood

Scholarship Committee

Leslie McCartney &

Kathi Cameron

House Tour Chair

Ritchie Musick

Public Policy Chair

(open)

Equal Pay Day Chair

Shirley Liss

We can use your news, items, and pictures to enhance our Newsletter!

Send newsletter items, 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, and/or 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. Please send your news to make this NEWSLETTER all that it can be ☺

Fairbanks AAUW 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.

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 AAUW's 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.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Welcome to new branch member Katie Everson

Katie Everson is a PhD student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of Alaska Museum. She studies evolution, biogeography, and species delimitation in Madagascar's tenrecs.

She received a BS in Ecology and Evolution from Ohio State in 2012.

Her PhD in Evolutionary Biology is in progress here at UAF.

See Katie's website <http://www/kmeverson.org> for tenrec pictures and details about her work.



Upcoming Book Group Meetings

Date: **March 13, (Monday), 1:30 pm**
 Title/Author: To the Bright Edge of the World: A Novel / by Eowyn Ivey [*Alaskan author*]
 Location: Home of Laura Walsh, 4427 Condor Ct, Apt 306 303-709-9895
 (Geist Rd, South on Loftus to end, Right on Condor)

Date: **April 10, (Monday), 1:30 pm**
 Title/Author: The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion
 / by Jonathan Haidt [non-fiction, 2013]
 Location: Home of Jodi Gouwens, Linck Estates, 924 Kellum, Unit #304, 474-9144

Date: **May 8 (Monday), 1:30 pm**
 Title/Author: Still Life / by Louise Penny [fiction, 2008]
 Location: To be determined.

BOOK DESCRIPTIONS:

To the Bright Edge of the World: A Novel / by Eowyn Ivey *{An Amazon Best Book of August 2016}* In *To the Bright Edge of the World*, her second novel, Ivey manages to turn an adventure set in Alaska into much more. The book begins with a contemporary relative donating to a small museum the journals and other artifacts from an 1885 expedition. The journals were written by his great-uncle, Colonel Alan Forrester, and his great-aunt, Sophie. While we read about Alan's accounts of his full-on Alaskan adventure, we are also introduced to Sophie's struggles back in Vancouver. Each experiences a shift in the prism through which they see reality—Sophie takes up photography, and Alan begins to develop a more wild view of the world around him. Read it for the adventure. Read it for the time you'll spend thinking about it long after you've turned the last page.

The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion / by Jonathan Haidt [non-fiction, 2013] This well-researched examination of human moral impulses will appeal to liberals and conservatives alike following the 2016 presidential campaign and election. As America descends deeper into polarization and paralysis, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt has done the seemingly impossible—challenged conventional thinking about morality, politics, and religion in a way that speaks to everyone on the political spectrum. Drawing on his twenty five years of groundbreaking research on moral psychology, he shows how moral judgments arise not from reason but from gut feelings. He shows why liberals, conservatives, and libertarians have such different intuitions about right and wrong, and he shows why each side is actually right about many of its central concerns.

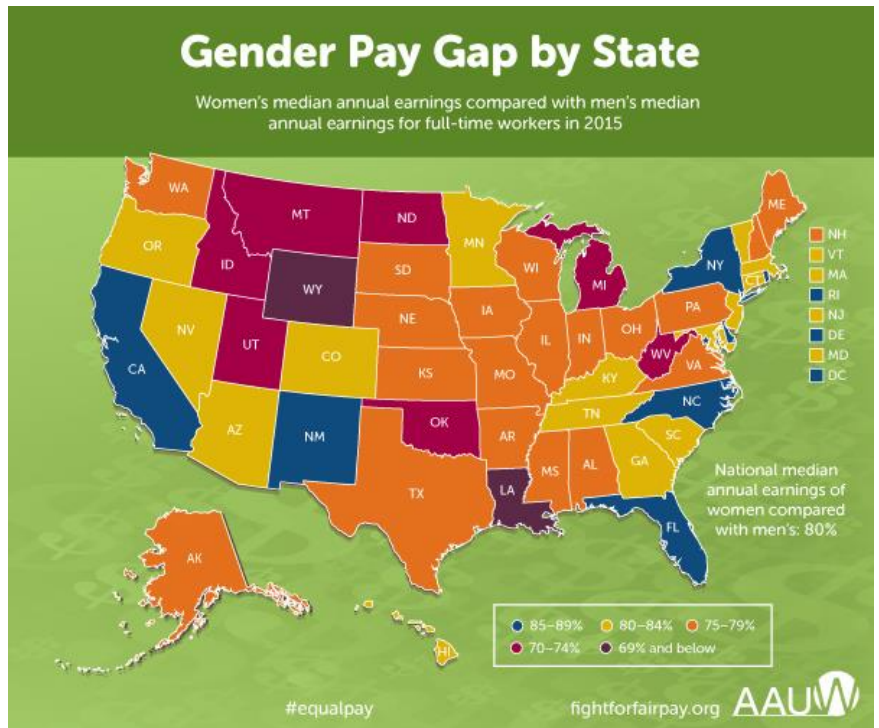
Still Life / by Louise Penny [fiction, 2008] Winner of the New Blood Dagger, Arthur Ellis, Barry, Anthony, and Dilys awards. Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Surêté du Québec and his team of investigators are called in to the scene of a suspicious death in a rural village south of Montreal. Jane Neal, a local fixture in the tiny hamlet of Three Pines, just north of the U.S. border, has been found dead in the woods. The locals are certain it's a tragic hunting accident and nothing more, but Gamache smells something foul in these remote woods, and is soon certain that Jane Neal died at the hands of someone much more sinister than a careless bow hunter. Still Life introduces not only an engaging series hero in Inspector Gamache, who commands his forces--and this series--with integrity and quiet courage, but also a winning and talented new writer of traditional mysteries in the person of Louise Penny.

Equal Pay Day is April 4th

Equal Pay Day — which takes place Tuesday, April 4, this year — is the symbolic day when women's pay finally "catches up" to the wages that men took home the previous year. The date represents the fact that women working full time, year-round in the United States typically [are paid just 80 percent of what men are paid](#), or a gap of 20 percent. (AAUW also observes the equal pay days in March for [Asian American women](#), in August for [African American women](#), in September for [Native American women](#), and in October for [Latina women](#).)

Our local branch will recognize Equal Pay Day on April 4 with radio announcements and Pay Day candy bar messages. With the diversity in our community, we also want to recognize that each cultural group has a different day on which pay between women and men would be equal.

The State of Alaska issued a new report last week about the gender gap in our state. Because of the rise in oil and gas industry salaries (almost all men), our gap widened considerably. Read the full report at the following link <http://labor.alaska.gov/trends/mar17.pdf#art1> Women in Alaska earn about 76 percent of what men here earn, placing the state among the worst when it comes to the gender wage gap, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Think 80 cents is bad?
NATIVE WOMEN ARE PAID EVEN LESS.



Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander women's earnings



American Indian and Alaska Native women's earnings

* Compared with white non-Hispanic men

EVERY WOMAN DESERVES EQUAL PAY.

fightforfairpay.org

AAUW

Branch Member serves on AAUW National's Social Science Fellowship Team

Sine Anahita, one of the two campus representatives for AAUW national, again participated in reviewing applications for the AAUW social science fellowship program. Working with a team member in Colorado by phone and email, they winnowed down their list of 40 applicants to nine. The next step in the process is a three hour phone conference with AAUW panelists from all over the US, which often includes callers from Europe and Canada as well. The entire panel then narrows the list to a group of about 20 who receive the fellowship. The fellowships include dissertation improvement grants and funds to write a journal article or book for publication. Award amounts ranged from \$10,000 to \$30,000. Sine reports that serving on the sub-panel is some of the most rewarding work she does as a faculty member at UAF. "Women all over the country are doing some amazing social science work," she said. "I especially appreciate recommending women for fellowships who are from public universities and community colleges, who do not have the economic resources that are available to women attending elite colleges." You can read more about the AAUW's fellowship program here:

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/american-fellowships>

AAUW has provided more than
\$100 MILLION to more than
12,000 WOMEN and projects

From all 50 states

And more than
140 countries

AAUW
www.aauw.org

The infographic features a dark blue header with white text. Below the header, the background is a light green pattern of small human figures. A vertical line separates the left and right sections. On the left, a map of the United States is shown in green. On the right, a globe is shown in green and blue. The AAUW logo and website address are at the bottom center.

President's Corner

Welcome Back, Sunshine and New Energy! As our glorious spring days burst upon us there are lots of community events and initiatives.

Our annual meeting and birthday party will be on Monday, March 20 at 6:00 at Raven Landing Building 4. As traditional, this will be a pot luck. See the flyer in this newsletter for more details or call Gretchen (479-8224). Please bring a friend to enjoy the birthday party. We will play a game or two, in keeping with AAUW traditions and celebrate accomplishments past and present.

As we move in to Spring, AAUW has lots going on. April 4 is Equal Pay Day. There will be recognition treats (think Pay Day candy bars) for local businesses, radio spots on KUAC, and we are working on a legislative declaration for the state. Please see the new report on the Gender Gap just released by the State of Alaska.

We received 11 scholarship applications from women returning to school. Leslie McCartney and the scholarship committee are busy reviewing them now so we can honor our two recipients at the Scholarship Lunch on April 22. April 22 is also Earth Day and the luncheon is scheduled so those marching for Women in Science can come to Raven Landing for our luncheon after the march.

Remember that AAUW has an active scholarship site for graduate work and research. Go to the national website to find opportunities for funding.

See you on Monday, March 20 at 6:00 at Raven Landing Building 4.

House Tour Committee

Mark your calendars for July 8, 2017, the day of our annual house tour. This fundraiser supports our scholarships so please volunteer to help out on that day. The committee began meeting in February.

Revision and Update of Bylaws

AAUW required bylaw updates at all levels in order to be in legal compliance nationwide. Our local branch completed the bylaws revisions in December, and they will be voted on at the annual meeting in March. Though the format may be different, there are only three changes of note:

- 1) AAUW Branch is now named "Affiliate".
- 2) The Nominating Committee members will be appointed for two year terms instead of one year as in the past.
- 3) The Financial Officer is limited to two 2 year terms.

Articles I through VIII are AAUW written and vetted and not open to change as they describe the foundation that has always been part of our bylaws. The proposed bylaws can be read at our Fairbanks Branch website.

2016 Annual Meeting Minutes for Review at 2017 Annual Meeting

**American Association of University Women
Fairbanks Branch
Annual meeting
March 21, 2016
Home of Aldean Kilbourn**

Members present: (25) Vera Alexander, Pat Babcock, Brenda Birdsall, Kathi Cameron, Brenda Dow, Karen Emerson, Carolyn Gray, Phyllis Haggland, Aldean Kilbourn, Shirley Liss, Gael Murakami, Gretchen Murphy, Monique Musick, Ritchie Musick, Rita Osborne, Etsuko Kimura Pederson, Joyce Potter, Carol Schlentner (via cell phone), Margaret Soden, Kayt Sunwood, Molly Tedesche, Terry Tirrell, Pat Turner, Barbara Van Flein, and Carla Willetto

Guests: (1) Laura Walsh

President Ritchie Musick welcomed members/guests and asked for introductions. The meeting was called to order at 7:56 pm.

Approval of Agenda: Ritchie added 'UAF Partner report' to the agenda. Margaret Soden moved the agenda be approved with the addition, Pat Babcock seconded.
Motion passed.

Minutes: Rita Osborne stated the minutes had been sent to members (3/15/2016). Carla Willetto moved minutes be approved, Margaret Soden seconded. **Motion passed.**

Financial Summary: Vera Alexander gave a brief financial report and stated we are on track with the budget. We provided \$1,000 to the Educational Foundation (EF), and \$200 to the Legal Advocacy fund. We have \$2,000 in our convention travel funds (monies received when the Alaska AAUW state group was dissolved). We provided two \$1,000 scholarships. Other expenses are meetings related. Currently have \$8,077 in assets.

Committee reports:

Programs: Gael Murakami gave a review of program activities.

September-Tour of North Pole Library and Carla Willetto gave report on the AAUW National Convention held in San Diego

October-Membership brunch held at the Fairbanks Resource Agency with 37 members/guests. Program presented by Carla Willetto, AAUW slide show with national and branch information, current goals/activities with emphasis for lifelong education and equity for women/girls

2016 Annual Meeting Minutes for Review at 2017 Annual Meeting

November-Held at the Noel Wien Library, two AAUW American Fellowship recipients (Casey Brown and Steffi Ickert-Bond) shared what the fellowships meant to them with 14 members/guests attending

December-Holiday potluck and gift exchange/collect items for the IAC (Women's Center) at Ritchie Musick's home with 14 members/guests

January-Informal luncheon at the Cookie Jar Restaurant with 15 attending

February- Linda Witt, League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley on Voting Registration, and explanation of voter restriction laws being passed in other states with 15 members/guests

March-Annual meeting at Aldean Kilbourn's home with member/speaker Molly Tedesche on her PhD studies and science outreach

April-Scholarship luncheon at the Raven Landing in Library/Lounge

May-Arrangements being made

Membership: Carla Willetto stated there are 52 members including three new members Don Gray, Firmin Murakami, and Marilyn Russell. We have received AAUW National recognition for our membership increase. As the result of the Shape the Future Campaign we received three complimentary memberships and those were provided to Casey Brown, Sarah Stanley, and Rita Osborne. For the Give a Grad a Gift program we provided five recipients with complimentary membership. Carla reiterated that Ellen Whitcher was a big supporter of AAUW as was evident during the introductions and she was responsible for many being involved with AAUW.

Social Media and Website: The website was started in the fall of 2014 after Lisa Maatz, AAUW lobbyist from Washington DC, said at a luncheon that our branch would need a website to attract and connect with younger members. Gael Murakami was the one with the experience and volunteered. The website can be viewed at www.fairbanks-ak.aauw.net and has links to the national website www.aauw.org. She has expanded content to include an archive of past newsletters and minutes of Board and Membership meetings. This area is protected from the public with a password. Our Bylaws are also posted on the website. The branch already had a Facebook private group created by Ritchie. In addition to the website, Gael created a Public Facebook Page open to the public which can be used to publicize meetings open to the public and the annual House Tour (www.facebook.com/AAUWFairbanksAKBranch.) She also worked with the Branch Board to opt into the national AAUW Membership Payment Program to make it easier for new members to join and current members to renew using credit cards on-line.

House Tour: Margaret Soden reported the AAUW annual house tour is scheduled for July 9, 2016, which is the second Saturday in July. The committee will be meeting soon and the date will be in the next newsletter. The committee is looking for a variety of homes, large, small, energy efficient, etc. Over \$2,000 was earned in 2015.

2016 Annual Meeting Minutes for Review at 2017 Annual Meeting

Scholarship: Barbara Van Flein stated there were 15 applications for scholarships, four were not local and three may possibly not be local. A very nice letter is sent to those not chosen along with information about other AAUW national scholarships.

Book Group: Jodi Gouwens leads this ongoing group that meets on the second Monday at 1:30 pm at Jodi's home and other locations.

Writers Group: Rose Levno is in charge of the group which meets for lunch at Pike's on the third Thursday of the month although the group will start rotating to other restaurants.

Public Policy: Carolyn Gray announced the Barriers and Bias webinar being held on 3/30 in Kayt Sunwood's office Eielson 219 (and that members could also listen in from home). Journalist, commentator and author Cokie Roberts will moderate a panel of experts on the importance of women in leadership roles. Equal Pay Day is April 12 and AAUW has suggestions on their website to promote this event. AAUW is promoting Title IX to insure equality in education.

Historian: Barb Matthews is the historian and she no longer drives at night so wasn't able to attend the meeting. She is collecting clippings and photos of our events.

AAUW Tech Savy Program: Terry Tirrell discussed AAUW's Tech Savy Program. Terry is a dual member with St. George, Utah and that group has received funding and provided a one-day community program focusing on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) for girls in the 6th to 8th grades. The program consisted of hands on science experiments in the morning and real-life skills such as public speaking in the afternoon. The cost of the program is about \$10,000 with \$5,000 from the AAUW grant and they charged \$10 for participants/\$5 for parents. The remaining amount was from funding provided by local businesses and groups. Nation wide in 2015 there were Tech Savvy conferences at 17 sites serving 1750 girls and 730 parents. St. George had 175 girls participating. The National AAUW program provides training for 1-2 members in Washington, DC and the goal for branches is to have 200 participants. Applications are due in September for the 2017 year.

UAF Partner: Ritchie reported from Sine Anahita, the campus representative for our UAF partner. Sine was able to participate in a nation wide review of 26 applications for social science related grants.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business:

Equal Pay Day: April 12 is Equal Pay Day; the day women earn the equivalent of men during January-December 2015. Letters were sent last year urging businesses

2016 Annual Meeting Minutes for Review at 2017 Annual Meeting

to provide discounted lunch or food item to women, however there was no response. Later found this is illegal. There was discussion although no action.

Increase in Branch dues: There is a proposal to increase the branch dues \$5 from \$11 to \$16 to cover additional meeting expenses we have been incurring. Margaret Soden moved for a 2016/17 dues increase to \$16, Terry Tirrell seconded. **Motion passed.**

Approval of the By-Laws: Gretchen Murphy, chair of the bylaws committee, stated our bylaws had not been reviewed for several years and there are some required AAUW changes. In addition a few changes are proposed for our branch which include

1. November drop date (was July 1st although not in practice).
2. Complimentary membership for UAF Partner campus representative
3. January 1-March 15 half dues for branch to align with AAUW national dues
4. Electronic copy and hard copy to be kept for secretary minutes

Carolyn Gray moved the bylaw changes be approved, Terry Tirrell seconded.

Motion passed.

Margaret Soden moved to approve the new format required by AAUW, Aldean Kilbourn seconded. **Motion passed.**

Election of Officers and Nominating Committee: The nominating committee presented the slate of officers.

President-elect, Margaret Soden

Vice President Programs, Pat Babcock and Joyce Potter

Vice President Membership, Carla Willetto

Treasurer, Gael Murakami

Nominating Committee, Carol Schlentner, Sandy O'Connor and Joyce Potter

Ritchie Musick stated our bylaws don't allow for serving more than two terms and Carla would be serving a third term. Aldean moved to suspend the rules for a 3rd term for Carla as Vice President Membership, Margaret Soden seconded. **Motion passed.**

Margaret Soden moved to accept the unanimous ballot, Terry Tirrell seconded.

Motion passed.

Program: Molly Tedesche, AAUW member and PhD candidate was introduced and Molly provided information about her academic background, PhD studies and her science outreach.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm. Margaret Soden moved to adjourn, Aldean Kilbourn seconded. **Motion passed.**

Submitted by

Rita Osborne, Secretary



EMPOWERING

WOMEN SINCE 1881

Our Vision is Simple

We bring people together for the common goal of breaking through educational and economic barriers for women and girls.

HAPPY
Birthday

Our Mission is Sound

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

80th
Fairbanks Branch
Birthday Party
Potluck
Raven Landing
Building 4 Commons
1222 Cowles Street
6:00 PM
Monday
March 20

YOU ARE INVITED + BRING A FRIEND

Our annual meeting will celebrate our 80th anniversary with potluck and party. If your last name begins with letters A-L bring a main dish, M-Z bring veggies, salad or fruit. We will have birthday cake for dessert.

Business items are to * vote on bylaws revisions, * meet new board officers, and * get updates on Equal Pay Day and scholarships.

Building 4 is the new building closest to Airport Way. The Commons is at the outside entrance to Building 4. *No need to wind through the hallways of the main building!* RSVP to Gretchen gretmurphy@gmail.com or Pat Turner at 378-6517, or contact them with questions, for directions, or for more details.

Upcoming Dates to Put on Your Calendar

Our meeting calendar has been organized by our Program VP Pat Babcock with assistance from additional members. Thanks ALL!

Mark Your Calendars

Monday, March 20	Annual Meeting 6:00 PM Raven Landing Building 4 Commons
April 4 Equal Pay Day	Equal Pay Day, local actions in planning stages
Saturday, April 22	Scholarship Luncheon Noon @ Raven Landing, Multipurpose Room
Friday, May 19	Wine & Cheese Social (details TBD)

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

