

April 2017

NEWSLETTER AAUW

FAIRBANKS (AK) BRANCH AAUW



Annual Scholarship Lunch

Raven Landing Multipurpose Room
(first door on the left after the main room)

1222 Cowles Street

Saturday April 22nd, noon

Lunch cost is \$20 – Pay at the Luncheon

RSVP by April 14th to Gretchen Murphy
gretmurphy@gmail.com or Pat Turner at
378-6517, as we must have a head count by
mid-April.

Scholarship Lunch

Our Scholarship winners this year are Kitty Berner and Barbara Van Flein. Come hear their stories and celebrate all our successes at our Scholarship Luncheon on April 22 at noon in Raven Landing Multipurpose Room, the meeting room adjacent to the big dining area. Catered lunch is \$20. Your RSVP will hold your spot and you can pay at the luncheon. Call Pat Turner at 378-6517 or email Gretchen Murphy at gretmurphy@gmail.com to rsvp.

We need to hear from each member please. Featured at the luncheon in addition to fabulous food:

- The Nancy Johnson & Ann Rhian Scholarships will be awarded
- 50 Year Members will be recognized
- The Ellen Whitcher Service Award will be presented

Join us to Celebrate!!

FAIRBANKS 2017 BOARD & DIRECTORS

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Newsletter
Kayt Sunwood

Scholarship Committee
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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. 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.

We also have an AAUW Fairbanks Branch Closed Group for branch members at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/261190453917232>

Go to the above URL and ask to join the group to keep up on branch news

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.

MEMBERSHIP DUES PAYMENT FOR 2017-18

The new AAUW fiscal year begins July 1, 2017 and we are now beginning to accept national and branch dues payments.

First, although a national dues increase is planned for the future, the national dues remain \$49 and the branch dues \$16 for a **total of \$65 (or \$16 for Paid Life members)**.

You have several options for paying your dues:

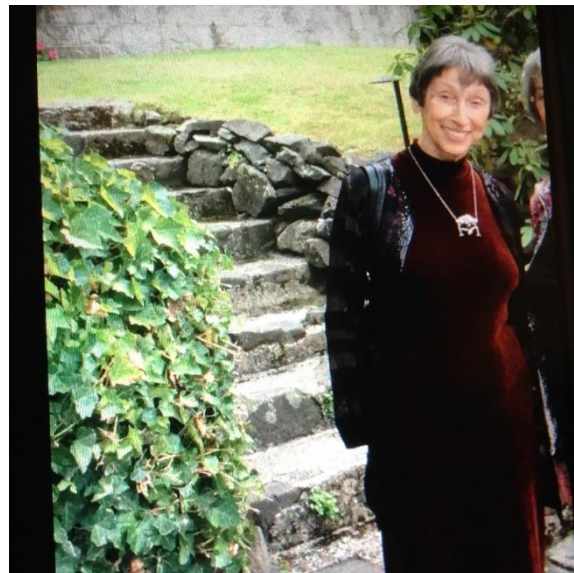
- 1) Bring a check for \$65 or your credit card information to the April 22, Scholarship Lunch (Paid Life Members only owe \$16), or
- 2) I will have an invoice emailed to you a week before the April 22 meeting and you can either follow the link to pay your dues on-line with a credit card or print the invoice and mail a check to me (Gael) at the address on the invoice.

If you have any questions, please call Gael Murakami at 479-0804 or email: gaelmurakami@gmail.com.

Member Profile

Margret Van Flein interview conducted in late January 2017 by Carol Schlentner

In 1963, Margret Van Flein joined the local chapter of the AAUW when Raye Ray was president of the chapter. Other members active at that time included Liz Wells, Jackie Goering, Mary Kay Barsdate, and Jean Mackin. Margret joined because she needed the stimulation of communicating with other women involved in worthwhile causes. She was invited to the University women coffee clutch as her husband Helmut was the director of the Art Department, and they lived on campus. Raye invited Margret to become a member of AAUW.



Margret became program chair in 1964. Her goal was to get more community women involved in the predominantly university women AAUW membership. In 1965, Margret was elected chapter president. She had with four children under five at home at the time (two girls and twin boys). She loved the evening meetings as her husband cheerfully babysat so Margret could have conversations with adult women conversation as well as positive projects to work on. She recalls her first project with a funny incident. She took over updating the directory and used every woman's first name. Well, she had to do it over using Mrs. and the husband's first name.

In reading the "Outlook Magazine" in the early 1960's you can find the goals of the national organization. Both Republican and Democrat women were members and were supported by the beginnings of National Public Radio on campus. Not until the Equal Rights amendment and abortion issues were part of the platform of AAUW did the local chapter lose membership. "We do not seem to have members on both sides of the issue as we did in the past", says Margret.

An initial project of the AAUW Margret joined wholeheartedly was working with Liz wells on the play, "The Emperor's New Clothes" performed in Schaub Auditorium. This was the beginnings of the Fairbanks Drama Theater for which Margret served on the Board of Directors. Money making projects included a January Dinner Dance and the House Tour. William R. Wood held the Christmas Ball downtown, as he wanted to eliminate the division between town and gown and the military. Margret is very talented in sewing fancy dresses so she made a little money for herself during these days of dinner dances. Barbara still has one of her beautiful gowns that Margret sewed for these occasions.

A Book Club was started in the chapter, with "1984" one of the books discussed in the 1960's. Call Margret if you can find where the author uses the words "alternative fact." In the 1960s for our AAUW Fairbanks Chapter, local issues were the focus rather than national issues. You will get a chance to read more about this in an upcoming interview/profile of Barbara Matthew.

Margaret and her husband were gone on sabbatical leave 1970-1971. On her return, Margret did substitute teaching and that led her to pursue her teaching certificate. She had always wanted to be a lawyer so she became active as the Teacher's Rights Chairman in the Teacher's Union.

Margret feels that in the 1980's and 1990's the National AAUW was so successful with resolving women's issues that the local chapter started losing membership. Now in the past ten years more and more younger women cannot commit for long term. There is one issue that still has not been adequately addressed: "Individuals need to be judged on individual ability and not on gender. AAUW will keep on evolving and keeping up with pertinent issues, because it is the kind of organization that is constantly working on what can we do better".

What keeps Margret active in mind and body and soul is her passion for competitive swimming. Margret is a member of the USA Master's Swim Association. She competes in the 200 yard back stroke and 50 yard butterfly and front crawl. As her children grew up and were active on the swim team, she was the parent who kept track of everyone's times and had to type them out and mimeograph off the results.

Upcoming Book Group Meetings

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:

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.

Other Books Mentioned for future reading:

Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly [non-fiction, 2016]

Rise of the Rocket Girls: The Women Who Propelled Us, from Missiles to the Moon to Mars by Nathalia Holt [non-fiction, 2016]

Commonwealth by Ann Patchett [fiction, 2016]

The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah. [fiction, 2015]

Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow [non-fiction, 2005]

AAUW Scholarship Committee Report (2017)

The members of the AAUW Scholarship Committee this year were:

- Kathi Cameron
- Brenda Dow
- Leslie McCartney (Chair)
- Ritchie Musick
- Margaret Soden

Eleven AAUW scholarship applications were received by the due date of March 1, 2017. Blind copies were distributed to committee members along with a grading rubric. Committee members individually graded the applications based on pre-set criteria. Members submitted their grades to the Chair who averaged the grades. Four of the committee members met on March 21, 2017 to review the applications taking grading and objective reviews into consideration of the top five rated applications.

Two final applications were selected based on the strength of their application with the AAUW set criteria.

The Committee recommended and the Board approved \$1,000 AAUW Scholarships to be awarded to the two following applicants:

- Catherine (Kitty) Berner of Fairbanks
- Barbara Van Flein of Tanana

Both awardees have been invited to the Scholarship Lunch on April 22, 2017. Emails to the unsuccessful candidates have been sent.

The Committee requests that the Board and members discuss the following issues and make recommendations to assist in setting grading criteria for next year's scholarships:

- Issue 1: Better clarity on the term 'resident'
- Recommendation: The following to be included on next year's flyer and application, "An Alaska resident whose permanent address is in interior Alaska"
- Issue 2: Better clarity on eligibility
- Recommendation: The following to be included on next year's flyer and application:

This Year's flyer:	Recommended Changes:
<p>The Fairbanks Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is offering two (2) \$1,000 scholarships to women who...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reside in Alaska's interior; • are pursuing a certificate or degree to advance their careers, change careers, or reenter the workforce after a break; • or are pursuing an educational project. 	<p>The Fairbanks Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is offering two (2) \$1,000 scholarships to women who...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are an Alaska resident whose permanent address is in interior Alaska; 2. Are pursuing a certificate or degree to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Advance their careers; or (b) Change their careers; or (c) Reenter the workforce after an employment or educational break; or are (d) Pursuing an educational project (See Issue)

- Issue3: Educational Project
- Recommendation: If this category is kept we should give one example of a project that would be funded and perhaps an example of what would not be considered a project that would be considered.

Fairbanks AAUW Equal Pay Day Awareness Campaign

Our Fairbanks Affiliate AAUW Equal Pay Day awareness campaign (information and PayDay candy bar distribution) went into high gear leading up to, and into Equal Pay Day April 4th, with displays and distribution of our information infused PayDay candy bars at the Woman's Affair Saturday and Sunday April 1st and 2nd, at [The Golden Eagle Saloon](#) in Ester on Sunday evening, during the UAF Faculty Senate meeting on Monday, April 3rd, and at legislative offices, borough and city offices, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute events, and additional locations and venues. Radio announcements and a community perspective piece in the newspaper also raised awareness, started conversations, and facilitated action.

Big shout outs to Brenda Birdsall who donated her sponsored day at KUAC to AAUW Equal Pay Day messages in honor of Ellen Whitcher. Shirley Liss wrote the newspaper messages. Carla Willetto spearheaded the Pay Day candy drive, and many members helped to distribute them throughout the community. Kayt Sunwood scored space at a Woman's Affair table.

Reminder from our President, Gretchen Murphy: Though April 4 has passed, we need to keep in mind that Equal Pay Day comes even later in the year for many groups of women. For Alaska Native women, Equal Pay Day doesn't come until September 25. Keep reminders visible on behalf of women.

Visit <http://www.aauw.org/fairpay> for things that you can do to advocate for Paycheck Fairness and Fair Pay/Equal Pay.



A Woman's Affair



Fairbank's Mayor's Office

ACTION ITEM from UAF University Partnership Representative Dr. Sine Anahita

The University of Alaska, in response to crippling cuts to higher education by the state legislature, is wielding its budget knives on several academic programs that are vital to Alaska's future. Currently, both Sociology and Economics are slated to be dissolved, and their faculty members either displaced into another department or terminated entirely. The Clinical PhD in Psychology, Natural Resource Management, and Geography are also on the chopping block. AAUW members understand that social science disciplines are essential for students, as these courses: teach critical thinking skills, provide analytical tools, and facilitate understanding of social issues like poverty, drug addiction, domestic violence, and the social effects of climate change.

Concerned persons may get involved in several ways.

- You could contact the Board of Regents and urge them to reject the idea of cutting academic programs. Find Board of Regents contact information here: <https://www.alaska.edu/bor/members/>
- You could also contact the President of the University, Jim Johnsen at jjohnsen@alaska.edu.
- Finally, you could contact your state legislative representatives and ask them to insert strong intent language in the FY18 budget that would preserve academic programs and the mission of the University of Alaska. Find contact information here: <http://akleg.gov/>

Board Members @ Fairbanks Branch
Annual Meeting &
80th Birthday Celebration
March 24th, 2017

March Board Meeting 3/28/17
@ Brenda Birdsall's
(back "home" to Ellen Whitcher's)



Follow-up info and update on how you can help Terry Tirrell's daughter Michelle

As many of you may know, in the fall of 2014 branch member Terry Tirrell's daughter Michelle was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) and was forced to relocate to Seattle for intense chemotherapy. After a tough battle, Michelle went into remission but has had a slow recovery due to a compromised immune system. 2 ½ years later, Michelle was diagnosed with a new cancer, Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), likely caused by the original treatment. This new disease requires a 10 day round of chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant this summer, both only available in Seattle. This new treatment is lengthy, difficult and expensive.

Michelle is a dedicated mother and valued member of the Fairbanks community. She wants nothing more than to beat this and come back home with her daughter.

Ways you can help:

1. Donate now to this Go Fund Me account. Michelle will withdraw directly from this fund
<https://www.gofundme.com/michelle-azis-cancer-fight-fund/donate>
2. Become a bone marrow donor at join.bethematch.org
3. Donate blood in your community
4. Register for CaringBridge to get updates on Michelle's progress and the Tirrell family's needs
5. Donate air miles to help with travel to Michelle Tirrell's Alaska Airlines account #51523942
6. Donate directly to Michelle at Mt. McKinley bank

routing #325271268
account # 29028620

It is times like these when you find yourself grateful to be part of the kind of community, like ours, that takes care of one another. From love, thoughts, and prayers; to donations of any size; air miles; letters; or becoming a bone marrow or blood donor, the Tirrell family feels and appreciates your love.

Thank you,

Danielle (sister) and Terry (mother)

Help spread the word!

Upcoming Dates to Put on Your Calendar

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

