

May 2017

NEWSLETTER AAUW

FAIRBANKS (AK) BRANCH AAUW



Wine and Chocolate

May Meeting

Karen Emerson's Home

1112 Shannon Drive

Monday, May 22, 7 pm

Bring your favorite beverage or chocolate to share
Relax and enjoy the evening while we take care of
"business"

Good company and conversation
New friends are always welcome!

Wine&Chocolate

Come enjoy good company with your favorite beverage and chocolate on Monday, May 22 at 7 p.m. at Karen Emerson's home (1112 Shannon Drive). Bring your Spring 2017 issue of AAUW Outlook magazine; your personal PIN and member number are on the back of your magazine. We'll have a couple of computers set up so you can vote, and computer-savvy members will be there to help you.

Some topics you might be interested in are whether AAUW should admit new members who

do not have college degrees and if AAUW should designate a new "Advocate" membership category. Perhaps you know someone who would be a good AAUW member but who does not have an American college degree ... or maybe you feel that you worked hard for your degree and want to retain that recognition.

Good conversation openers for this May meeting!

FAIRBANKS 2017 BOARD & DIRECTORS

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Public Policy Chair
(open)

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AAUW National Election — One Member, One Vote!

AAUW members received their voter information in early April by email and mail with the Spring issue of AAUW Outlook magazine! The candidate slate, bylaws proposals, Public Policy Program proposals, and resolutions were published in the Spring issue. Bring your spring issue of Outlook with you to vote online at the May meeting

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.

Do you know any graduating college senior women?

Give the Gift of Free AAUW Membership!

<http://www.aauw.org/resource/give-a-grad-a-gift>

As an AAUW member, you can gift one year of **FREE** AAUW national membership to as many recent graduates as you like. (And yes, national members, that means you, too!)

We all know that the future of our organization depends on today's graduates. Give a minute; gain a new community of AAUW leaders.

MEMBERSHIP DUES PAYMENT FOR 2017-18

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

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

If you have any questions about membership dues payment please call Gael Murakami at 479-0804 or email: gaelmurakami@gmail.com. Also, computer savvy members will be available at the May 22nd Wine and Chocolate meeting to show you around the online membership pages at AAUW National.

Member Profile



Barbara Matthews interview
conducted February 10, 2017
by Carol Schlentner

Thank you Carol
for conducting interviews
and writing profiles of
Fairbanks Branch
Members

Barbara Matthews came to Alaska in 1959 as a newlywed with her husband Jim Matthews who was working for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service. Her first jobs were at the Alaska Employment Office and at Todd Air Force Base (Now Fort Wainwright). They first lived near Weeks Field (Pedro Street) but they wanted to live out of the ice fog, so from 1962-1963 they worked on building their own home, after work, UNTIL MIDNIGHT! They both lost 20 pounds by doing all of the work themselves, except for the concrete work for the basement. To this day Barbara continues to enjoy their ice fog free home on McGrath Road. The closeness of her daughter Shannon, husband Ken, and their lovely daughter Arin, born June 21, 2016, makes this possible.

At first Barbara and Jim were in and out of Alaska for his Master's Degree earned in 1961 and his Doctorate earned in 1970. Their son Peter was born in 1967 and their daughter Shannon born in 1969.

Barbara joined the local AAUW chapter in 1968, and got to know Ellen Witcher, Lola Tilly, Peg Ritter, and Margaret Van Flein as well as others. The AAUW evening meetings were well attended, as most of the women "craved" being with other educated women. Today Barbara cherishes the lasting friendships made with women from all professions and different generations.

When she first joined AAUW Barbara was the editor of the newsletter, and helped with the House Tour. Barbara also served as AAUW chapter historian for many years. Barbara's professional jobs also utilized her accomplished editing skills. She served as Arctic Arrow Medical Lab technical publication editor for four years, and seven years as editor of the Geophysical Institute Northern Engineer Magazine. The magazine was three years behind when she was asked to help them out. Her most difficult editing job was typing her husband's doctorate thesis over and over after all the revisions. This, of course, was on a manual typewriter! Barbara was thankful that her employers offered her flexible hours, and that she would work many hours from home, as she kept busy with AAUW on the National level as well. Barbara's additional writing and editing includes non-fiction writing for a Canadian Outdoor magazine, rewriting Lois Lapp's parka sewing instructions, craft magazines on how to do different crafts, editing symposium booklets explaining speakers and their topics. Naturally, Barbara has always enjoyed the AAUW book group and continues to this day. Barbara and Jim loved to travel, and showed their slides as part of Nancy Johnson's travel group. Once every few months someone would host a viewing of their trip at their home.

Barbara's largest AAUW project was spearheading the Farmers Loop and Ballaine bike trails. The impetus for the project grew out of an Environmental Awareness conference AAUW sent Barbara to in Chicago. She wanted to give something back to the community so she and Ann Swift got together with 20 people and called every 10th name in the phone book doing a survey asking people about the need for a bike trail. Farmers Loop was first choice. Public pressure was exerted for DOT to release funds. Barb was interviewed on Channel 11 TV. The Ballaine bike trail was constructed when the road was paved. (Carol notes that she used the new paved trail in 1973, 1974, and 1975.)

Barbara loves flowers and for years was the flower gardener and waterer at the Luthern Church opposite the Noel Wien Library. She was a member of the Mid Acres, Forget-Me-Not, and Fairbanks Garden Club, always beautifying Fairbanks intersections. Now the most precious activity for Barbara (especially since Jim died in 2013) is babysitting her granddaughter Arin.

"Today AAUW still provides the friendship and intellectual stimulation at age 83 as it did when I first joined."
Barbara Matthews

Upcoming Book Group Meetings

Date: **May 8 (Monday), 1:30 pm**
 Title/Author: Still Life / by Louise Penny [fiction, 2008]
 Location: Home of Jodi Gouwens, Linck Estates, 924 Kellum, Unit #304, 474-9144
 [off Cowles & 10th, behind Arctic Bowl]

Date: **June 12, (Monday), 1:30 pm**
 Title/Author: Being Mortal : Medicine and What Matters in the End /
 by Atul Gawande [non-fiction 2014]
 Location: Home of Barb Matthews, 1377 McGrath Road, 457-3537
 [on west side of road with white gate & uphill driveway]

Date: **July 10, (Monday), 1:30 pm**
 Title/Author: Hidden Figures / by Margot Lee Shetterly [non-fiction, 2016]
 Location: To be determined

AAUW Scholarship Committee Questions for May Meeting Vote

The AAUW Scholarship Committee asked for clarification to the wording of the scholarships. We will discuss and vote on the proposals at the May meeting. Please look them over before the meeting.

- The first proposal is to clarify who is eligible as a "resident"
- The second proposal is to clarify eligibility
- The third proposal is to determine if an "educational project" still meets our eligibility requirements and if so, to create examples.

See the following example clarifying the committee's recommendations

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 (If we want to keep this as an option)

From the Desk of President Gretchen Murphy

The latest issue of AAUW Outlook magazine informed us that the Outlook will transform to a digital format. The Spring issue was the last one to be distributed by mail in print. If you would like to retain your subscription in print, please bring your copy of the Spring Outlook magazine to the May meeting and we can help you request printed magazines for future issues. Also, there is a proposal to raise national dues by \$10 this summer, so be sure to renew while the National dues remain at \$49!

HOUSE TOUR

The annual house tour will be July 8, 2017. Hostesses are needed so please contact Rita Osborne to sign up.

SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

We were pleased to award the Ann Rhian Scholarship to Kitty Berner. Kitty is a librarian at Noel Wien Library and is working on a Masters of Information Technology from Rutgers University online. With this degree she hopes to provide even better service to Fairbanks through digital opportunities. Some of you may know Kitty from the Bookmobile. Margaret Soden presented the scholarship and spoke about Ann Rhian's contribution to AAUW and the Fairbanks community.

The Nancy Johnson Scholarship was awarded to Barbara Van Flein and was presented by her mother Margret Van Flein. Barbara is working as the special education teacher in the village of Tanana and is working on her Masters of Education with an emphasis in special education. We thank Barbara for her years of service to AAUW and wish her well in her higher education degree.

The First Annual Ellen Whitcher Service Award was presented to Margaret Soden. Ellen was the essence of AAUW. She believed in its importance to women and supported it with her time, experience, wisdom, energy, and intelligence. Margaret Soden was a longtime friend of Ellen and epitomizes the values that Ellen so passionately believed.

We have five 50-year members who were honored at the Luncheon. Margret Van Flein and Pat Turner received their 50 Year Certificates. Vera Alexander and Suzanne Black were honored for their 50 years of membership and service. Peg Ritter could not attend so her certificate will be mailed to her.

Each year our local branch donates money to national funds and this year we are revising the tradition of donating in honor of outstanding members. The branch named donations this year are:

\$500	Educational Opportunities Fund	in honor of Gael Murakami
\$200	Unrestricted LAF Support	in honor of Ritchie Musick
\$500	Public Policy Fund	in honor of Carla Willetto
\$200	Eleanor Roosevelt Fund	in honor of Ellen Whitcher

Please remember to stop by the Noel Wien Library to see the file that we donated in honor of Ellen Whitcher's service to AAUW.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

If you would like to serve for a short time next winter to help contact prospective new board members, please contact Gretchen Murphy. The more the merrier!

Pictures from the April Scholarship Luncheon



Update on how you can help Terry Tirrell's daughter Michelle

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.

Upcoming Dates to Put on Your Calendar

Monday, May 22	Wine & Cheese Social 7pm * Karen Emerson's Home
Saturday, July 8	Annual House Tour

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

