

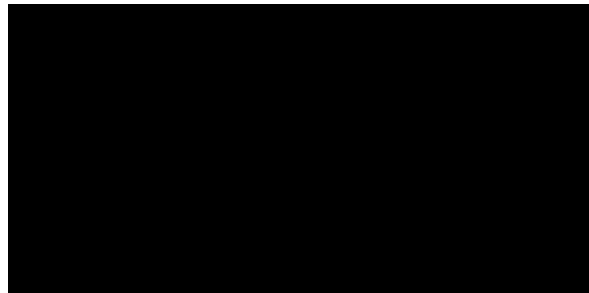
**American Association of University Women
Bon Air Byline | May 2009**

Annual Banquet
Tuesday, May 12, 2009, 6:30 PM
Positive Vibe Cafe

Please join us for our annual banquet at the Positive Vibe Cafe, a non-profit restaurant providing opportunities to special needs individuals, for this interesting dinner meeting and annual business session. Daniel Neman, former Richmond Times Dispatch staff writer for film and restaurant reviews, will share his experiences with us.

All are welcome to this meeting celebrating the end of the program year! Pay your dues that night (or before) and be eligible for a drawing to receive a rebate of our local dues.

Please RSVP to Kathy Kelley, bookie002@yahoo.com



**Thank you for helping the Richmond branch
celebrate 100 years of AAUW in Virginia**

Bon Air Branch Planning Meeting
April 13, 2009

Present at meeting:

Deann Hubicsak, Kathy Kelley, Pat Mallahan, Gina Turner, Marsha Carter, Maggie King, Ann

Sterling (Richmond and Local Chairperson for AAUW Convention), two state board representatives

Old Business:

1. Laurie Coulter was selected as Alternate Delegate to AAUW State Convention.

Banquet details: Deann will send Marsha Carter the bio for our speaker, Daniel Neman. Kathy Kelley will send an email to membership reminding of details. Marsha Carter will greet, sit with and introduce speaker.

Membership Dues: Pat Mallahan will write for the newsletter that dues will be accepted at Banquet and that there will be a drawing for free branch dues.

Installation of Officers will be performed by Mary Farrell, the immediate past presidents of the Branch. If she declines, Kathy Kelley will install officers.

Deann will select a small gift for outgoing officers. She will submit receipt to the Treasurer, Susana Hernandez.

Treasurer's Report was accepted for audit.

New Business:

A Membership Grant was received (\$500). It will be held for the incoming Board of new officers to plan and spend. Our current membership is 25.

Since we have no Membership VP, Marsha Carter, who was the Nominations Committee chair, will begin contacting members to consider that role.

The committee to discuss a *Local Scholarship Initiative* will meet in June. At this time, the members of the committee are Kathy Kelley, Jane Newell, Marsha Carter.

A discussion ensued about the possible merger between Richmond Branch and Bon Air Branch.

Marsha Carter gave guests and members a brief history of Bon Air Branch. The state officers shared thoughts and agreed to talk with the Membership State chairman about the process for merger. She will update Marsha or Deann or another planning committee member with what she learns. Nothing official will be stated by anyone to either branch. At this point, we are interested in the process and any history from other branches' experiences. Next year's Board of Bon Air and of Richmond will discuss this further. Present at this discussion were 2 state board members, 2 Richmond Branch members and several Bon Air Branch members. Marsha Carter was the founding President of Bon Air and she was present for discussion. The merger discussion became a discussion of AAUW growth in general.

Questions that arose during our discussion are these:

- Should we market ourselves differently? We are the largest source of \$ for women pursuing graduate work. Does the public know this?

- Do colleges have information sessions at which AAUW could have a “booth”?
- March is Women’s History Month. How should we use this for marketing AAUW?
- Should we ask the League of Women Voters how they get publicity? Contacts?
- Select a University to target ---to make contacts for the future, for networking.

Marsha King Carter

Membership Matters

It's renewal time for us in the Bon Air branch—the time when membership matters the most. And, as you know, it's easy to renew your connection with all of us who support AAUW's mission.

Simply write a check for \$68.00 to **AAUW - Bon Air Branch** by June 30. (This amount covers national, state and branch dues for the period from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.)

To make it even easier, you can give your check to Finance V.P. Susana Hernandez-Kurtulus at our banquet on Tuesday, May 12. Renewing between now and May 12 makes you eligible to win the drawing for a branch dues rebate of \$11.00. Add that possibility to the great food at Positive Vibe Cafe plus the banquet's positive interaction vibes. You have a definite win-win experience. Don't miss it.

If however, you can't attend the banquet, please mail your check for \$68.00 prior to June 30 to:

Patricia Mallahan
9941 Maplestead Lane
Richmond, VA 23235

Pat Mallahan, V.P. Membership
Susana Hernandez-Kurtulus, Treasurer

You Can Find It On Our Website . . .

Be sure to visit our branch website at <http://aauwbonairva.org>. You will be able to stay current on upcoming Branch events, read current and archived newsletters; find the schedule for the branch book group and the gourmet group; and find links guiding you to information about AAUW and its public policy issues ... and much, much more.

Comments or suggestions? Contact Jane Newell at jane.newell@comcast.net

Jane Newell
Webmaster

Calendar

May 2
Gourmet, 7 PM

May 12
Annual Banquet, Positive Vibe
Restaurant, 6:30 PM

May 21
Book Group, The Grandmothers –
Four Short Novels, 7:30 PM

Book Group

Our May meeting will be held at 7:30 Thursday, May 21, at the home of Dori Buckley. Please contact Dori at dkbuckley@hotmail.com or phone 320-9727 to let her know you will attend. This month we will examine ***The Grandmothers – Four Short Novels***, by Doris Lessing, 2007 winner of Nobel Prize in Literature. The *Grandmothers* (2003) is her most recent fiction publication. As the title indicates, this collection includes four novellas with a range of topics and styles, reflective of Ms. Lessing's wide range over many years of writing.

Here's our summer reading list and meeting information:

June 18: we will meet at Gina Turner's home, joining groups all over Virginia reading a classic of 20th Century African-American fiction, ***Their Eyes Were Watching God***, by Zora Neale Hurston, an influential writer and thinker of the Harlem Renaissance period. The novel was originally published in 1937; then after a few years it was overlooked and almost forgotten until Alice Walker "re-discovered" it and made sure it was republished 1978. This seminal work is the inaugural selection for **Virginia's Big Read**, sponsored by Virginia Center for the Book, in conjunction with National Endowment for the Arts' nationwide Big Read project. Currently, 208 communities around the nation are encouraging literary reading through *The Big Read* programming from September 2008 through June 2009. *Website:*

<http://www.virginiafoundation.org/bookcenter/bigread/index.html>

July 16: Cheryl Kapec will host our meeting, with a discussion of ***The Inn at Lake Devine*** by [Elinor Lipman](#). Skillfully interweaving a bittersweet narrative with threads of both tragedy and comedy, Lipman displays empathy and affection for her flawed and slightly eccentric cast of characters. The story begins in 1962 when the liberal Jewish Marx family is politely discouraged from vacationing at a placid Vermont resort by the owner's comment that "guests who feel most comfortable here, and return year after year, are Gentiles." Experiencing her first taste of overt anti-Semitism, 13-year-old Natalie Marx becomes instantly obsessed with the Inn at Lake Devine and the seemingly bigoted family that owns and operates it. Ultimately, she embarks on a humorously enlightening 10-year odyssey, entangling the course of her professional and romantic destiny with the lives of the rigidly implacable proprietor of the inn and her two naive yet attractive sons.

August 20: we will get together for our annual summer social.

September 17: Kathy Kelley will host us the group as we start another year of reading with ***Suite Française***, by Irene Némirovsky. Just published in 2007, the novel was actually written in Nazi-occupied France in the early 1940s, but remained hidden and unknown for 64 years. Némirovsky's plan for the novel consisted of five parts; unfortunately, she completed only the first two, yet they are not fragmentary – instead, they read like polished novellas. Beginning in Paris on the eve of the Nazi occupation in 1940, ***Suite Française*** tells the remarkable story of men and women thrown together in circumstances beyond their control. As Parisians flee the city, human folly surfaces in every imaginable way. Moving on to a provincial village now occupied by German soldiers, the locals must learn to coexist with the enemy – in their town, their homes, even in their hearts.

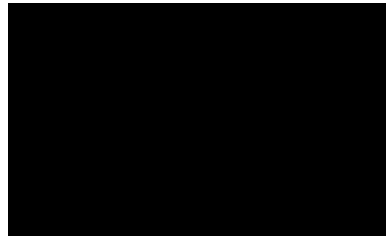
When she began working on ***Suite Française***, Némirovsky was already a highly successful writer living in Paris. Born in Kiev in 1903 to a wealthy banking family, she emigrated to France as a teenager during the Russian Revolution. After attending the Sorbonne, she began to write

and swiftly achieved success with five complete novels. But she was also a Jew, and in 1942 she was arrested and deported to Auschwitz, where she died. Now what became her last work has been brought to light for us to enjoy and ponder what might have been.

Bon Air AAUW Book Group routinely meets on the third Thursday of each month. All Bon Air members and their guests are welcome. Contact DeAnn Hubicsak at DeAnn.Hubicsak@earthlink.net or call 233-5352 for Book Group information. For more information about the Bon Air Book Group's selections, click here: <http://aauwbonairva.org/groups.html>, or go to the Bon Air web site at <http://aauwbonairva.org/>, click on the Interest Groups link on the left column.

DeAnn Hubicsak
Book Group Coordinator

Gourmet



Nancy and Ken Berger are hosting an Island Dinner, recipes from *Sugar Hill Caribbean Cookbook*. For details, contact Nancy. The May group will meet on May 2, at 7pm.

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.
AAUW Member Helpline 800-821-4364
AAUW Website <http://www.aauw.org>
VA AAUW Website <http://www.aauwofva.org/>

AAUW Bon Air Byline May 2009