

**American Association of University Women
Bon Air Byline | October 2008**

Contents

**National Girls Collaboration Project
Advancing the Agenda in Gender Equity for Science,
Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**

[National Girls Collaboration Project](#)

Our October Branch Meeting will be the Hampton Roads District Meeting on October 18th at 11:00 AM. Elizabeth Vandenberg, AAUW's liaison to the National Girls Collaborative Project effort, is our scheduled speaker.

[Wine Tasting Fundraiser](#)

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The National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) is a project aimed at strengthening the capacity, impact, and sustainability of existing girl-serving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) projects. The goal of the project is to facilitate collaboration among organizations, institutions, and businesses committed to expanding participation of girls and women in STEM. The NGCP brings together organizations to compare needs and resources, share information, and strategically plan to expand STEM-related opportunities for girls.

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Ms. Vandenberg's topic will be the Project's goal of advancing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects for girls. As their goal is part of AAUW's mission, it is hoped that by that working in tandem we can both meet our goals.

[Leadership Conference](#)

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We will have time for each branch to have a business meeting where among other things we need to vote on the budget and talk about the scholarship program. Also we will discuss as a group whether we want to change our name to the Southeast District as the State Board suggests.

[Book Group](#)

[Web Site](#)

Please be sure to attend this meeting along with the other branches in the district.

Saturday, October 18, 2008
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Carini's Italian Restaurant
3718 Williamsburg Road, Richmond
<http://www.carinirestaurant.com/>

Lunch can be ordered off the menu. However, we need to give the restaurant a number.

Please RSVP by October 16 to your local branch or by email to: Kathy Kelley, District Representative, at bookie002@yahoo.com or 804-330-5588.

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For the fifth year, we will raise our contribution for the Educational Foundation. Once again, we will meet at St. Matthias Episcopal Church, 11300 West.Huguenot Road. Date and time are November 14th, from 6 to 8 pm.

We have been remarkably successful with this event. Parties are always fun, with good food, excellent things to drink, and a wonderful crowd, all bent on enjoying themselves. So that makes this Branch fundraiser not just painless, but a high spot on your Fall social calendar. Even better is that every year we have raised more money. And every Branch member can participate as much or as little as she pleases. We have had good crowds the past several years, which is great. Good parties need lots of people.

But they do require some work. We have to sell tickets, so remind those whom you have sold tickets to in the past that the Wine Tasting is the 14th of November, or think about a colleague who might be interested in joining AAUW. And decide what you want to do to participate: provide some party fixings – your hors d'oeuvres specialty, a favorite non-alcoholic beverage, paper products, or decorations. And Branch members need to meet, greet, enjoy, and clean up after.

Sign up sheets went around at the September Branch meeting, and will also be circulating at the October meeting. Numbered tickets will be mailed to each Branch member to sell. Extra tickets will be available from Carol Mazur (272-8460) or Marcia Phillips (320-5180). All tickets must be sold in advance.

So start thinking about what you can make or bring, who you will ask, and mark your calendars for November 14. We'll be talking to you!

*Marcia Phillips & Carol Mazur
Co-chairs, Wine Tasting*

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Join Our Branch Memory Walk Team

Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk®
Saturday, October 4, 9 AM
Genworth Financial

On Saturday, October 4, the Bon Air AAUW branch is participating in the The Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk®. It isn't an arduous walk, just 1 **or** 3 miles, at the Genworth office park, 6620 West Broad Street, just off the I-64 Glenside exit.

To date, we have twelve registered walkers from our branch!

The Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk® is the nation's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer care, support and research. Since 1989, Memory Walk has raised more than \$230 million for our cause.

Women are nearly twice as likely as men to develop Alzheimer's disease (17 percent vs. 9 percent). One in six women and one in ten men age 55 and older can expect to develop Alzheimer's disease in their remaining lifetime. Although it may appear that being female is a risk factor, more women will develop Alzheimer's because on average, women live longer than men, thereby having more time to develop the disease.

By joining Memory Walk, you'll be walking with a purpose – and MOVING us ever closer to a world without Alzheimer's. To register for the walk, visit <http://memorywalkrichmond.kintera.org> and join the team named Bon Air AAUW.

Calendar

October 4
Memory Walk, Bon Air AAUW team,
Genworth
Gourmet, 7 PM

October 13
Planning Meeting, Willow Oaks
Apartments Clubhouse, 7 PM

October 16
Book Group, *The Map of Love*, 7:30
PM

October 18
AAUW of Virginia Southeast District
meeting, *National Girls
Collaboration Project (STEM)*, 11
AM - 2 PM

November 2
Gourmet, 7 PM

November 4
Election Day

November 14
Annual Wine Tasting Fund Raiser
for EF, 6 - 8 PM

November 17
Planning Meeting, Bon Air Library, 7
PM

November 20
Book Group, *The Good Earth*, 7:30
PM

December 9
Festival of Lights at Lewis Ginter
Gardens: dinner and tour

April 24, 25
AAUW of VA State Convention,
Doubletree Hotel, downtown

Registration is free. If you can't join us for the walk, **you can still support the cause by sponsoring one of the walkers on the Bon Air AAUW team.**

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Maggie King at 967-2517 or e-mail maggie.king@alz.org.

**Our vision is a world without
Alzheimer's**

Maggie King

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Membership Matters

Here is the text of a letter sent on September 19 to Fay Lohr, President and CEO of the Central Virginia Food Bank:

Dear Ms. Lohr,

Today a representative of the Bon Air branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) delivered a donation of food staples to the Food Bank warehouse.

Our Bon Air members realize that women are likely to be most severely affected by the current economic slump and thus, in need of food assistance.

Since AAUW's mission is to "break through educational and

Richmond

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Member Spotlight on... Lois Hofstra

Our branch's newest member, Lois Hofstra, re-joined Bon Air in late August after a hiatus of several years. Lois attended Bon Air's 30th anniversary celebration in 2006, and since, has realized she wanted to renew her connections with the group she first joined in 1980.

In fact, during the 1980's, Lois served a term as branch president and was active in the branch project of "adopting" and furnishing a bedroom in the YWCA Safe House. She also participated in AAUW Lobby Day on Capitol Hill.

Lois grew up in a small family in the small upstate New York town of Ilion. Her first extended contact with the wider world came after she enrolled at

economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance," we are happy to contribute to our Central Virginia neighbors.

The food donations collected at our September kickoff meeting were tangible evidence of Bon Air's goal of completing short-term projects that benefit the local community. Our contributions filled six recyclable shopping bags with:

- 39 cans (soup, veggies, chili)
- 12 boxes (cereal, rice)
- 7 other items (peanut butter, pasta sauce)

What a satisfying project for the start of the new AAUW season! Thanks to all who contributed.

Our next community project of course is the Memory Walk on October 4. As we walk, we'll think of the countless women who are caregivers for Alzheimer's patients and know that we are benefiting both them and their loved ones.

So, when a prospective member asks you what Bon Air AAUW **does ...** you can point with pride to our September and October community projects ... and invite them to the November wine tasting ... and help our membership grow.

*Pat Mallahan
V.P. Membership*

Syracuse University. There she planned to major in mathematics with the goal of becoming a meteorologist. She later switched her plans and her major—to Spanish. (Lois, you will see, has widely varying interests and abilities).

After graduation came a move to Washington, D.C. and a stint teaching Spanish at a Catholic high school for girls. But teaching paled and Lois decided to join Project Hope, an international non-profit medical assistance program. She served as a Spanish translator until she learned of a Hope project in Brazil which required fluent Portuguese. So, Lois learned Portuguese and served as an Admissions Officer. In Brazil, she met and later married a pharmacist volunteering in the program. Their subsequent move to his native Arkansas made Lois realize that she needed a career switch. She chose respiratory therapy and earned an associate degree in that field.

Serendipity has been a key to Lois's work life in Richmond. Being a customer of a local interior designer led her to spend a summer setting up the designer's new office, becoming indispensable, and spending ten years as the firm's office manager. Then a chance encounter with an exercise instructor at the Midlothian YMCA led to Lois's decision to hone her exercise skills and earn certification as an instructor. Currently she leads fitness classes for active older adults at the Bensley Recreation Center, finding this the most satisfying work experience of her life.

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Gourmet Group

The Gourmet Group will have our first dinner on October 4 with a Paris theme. The host is Cheryl Kapec. For more information contact her at 364-1718.

Carol Mazur

Lois is the epitome of the “lifelong learner.” She enjoys reading, with an emphasis on health and wellness; cooking that stresses healthy eating; and travel (her Elderhostel trip to the Grand Canyon was a highlight).

Welcome back, Lois.

Pat Mallahan
V.P. Membership

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Vicky Sanborn in Print

Victoire Sanborn, who so memorably presented us “Jane Austen in the Information Age” last winter, was published in *Virginia Issues and Answers*, the public policy magazine for Virginia Tech, Summer 2008 issue. Her article, “Virginia’s Not So Hidden Secret: The Adult Literacy Crisis” was the cover and lead article. The *Richmond Times Dispatch* requested an abbreviated version for an Op-Ed piece, scheduled for publication at the end of September.

The article is a cogent and strongly researched piece on the extent of low literacy in the state, and the problems not only to the individuals, but also to their communities and the state. The effects reach beyond dropouts and push outs; a significant percentage of high school graduates read and function at the lowest literacy levels. A poorly educated workforce, which was adequate for business demands in the early to mid-twentieth century, can no longer meet business’ needs. While the need continues to grow, funding levels have been level and (probably inadequate) for years.

The article is available at www.via.vt.edu/summer08/feature2.pdf

Marcia Phillips

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Leadership Conference

Jane Newell and I attended the AAUW of Virginia Branch Leadership Conference on September 6 in Fishersville. It was a great way to get to know other branch members and the state board.

The Board shared their leadership experiences with a discussion about lessons learned: “What I wish I had known before I began.” It was very insightful. Claudia Richards from Association gave a very helpful demonstration about the updated web site and how it helps our branches and encourages membership. Caroline Pickens, the National Bylaws Chair, gave us an update on the proposed bylaws changes. More about that in January.

After lunch we had District meetings, as well as breakout sessions for Presidents, Programs/Communications, Membership and Finance.

Esther Mabry gave us a CEDAW briefing followed by a Q & A Forum and Wrap-Up.

Everyone agreed it was a very successful event and worth battling tropical storm Hanna to get there.

Kathy Kelley

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Minutes from Branch Planning Meeting Monday September 15, 2008

Present: Marsha Carter, Pat Mallahan, De Ann Hubicsak, Gina Turner, Marcia Phillips, Kathy Kelley, Susanna Hernandez, Carol Mazur

Agenda was provided by De Ann.

Branch Budget

Last year’s budget was provided as a base for discussion. The group agreed to plan the 08-09 budget on a membership estimate of 28. The allocations were determined for each office or activity. Susanna Hernandez will provide a copy of the proposed budget to the general membership via the newsletter. The budget will need approval from the membership.

response to questions, both the Fund Raising Account and the Operations Account were explained. **The Operations Account holds \$984.17**, an accumulation of monies that were unspent in past years. Those monies can be used for special projects or activities when approved by the general membership. One possible expenditure might be a Membership Tea. **The Fundraising Account holds \$1141.30** that is designated to

LAF (Legal Advocacy Fund) and EF (Educational Foundation).

Those officers who have not turned in receipts for reimbursement were reminded that they should not be spending out of their own pockets and should be turning in receipts.

Membership Update

We have 24 paid members. There was a discussion of how to increase or hold onto membership. Suggestions included a brochure (but that was dismissed due to lack of effectiveness last year), and making a one-panel important dates insert. That idea was accepted. Cheryl Kapec will type up the “mock” for planning group to review. This insert will include the dates and activities for Bon Air Branch this year (08-09) and the contact names and numbers. It will not include the cost of membership.

Memory Walk update

About 10 people will be walking. Reference was made to the informative email sent earlier by Mary Farrell. Reference also was made about the website.

District Meeting, Saturday October 18

Kathy Kelley has notified the other branches. There is an October 14 deadline on the invitation which will come out.

Wine Tasting Fundraiser

There will be a sign up sheet passed at the October 16 meeting. A newsletter article will be submitted for next month. Price will be \$20/ or \$35 for couple. Fifteen dollars is tax deductible.

Miscellaneous

Kathy Kelley said that she had no response to suggestion of a committee for local scholarships. Members at the meeting did not know about it, so it was explained again. There will be a Study Action Group formed to look into offering a local scholarship with money raised by Branch activities. This scholarship would not replace the EF contributions, but would be additional.

Submitted by: Marsha Carter

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[Year End Report and Budget Proposal](#)

	2007/08 Year End Budget Report			2008/09 Budget Proposal	
Revenues			Revenues		
Membership = 32 includes 2 1/2-yr members			Membership estimate (28)		
Branch dues (\$11)	\$341.00		Branch dues (\$11)	\$308.00	
Fund raising	\$ -		Fund raising (Ukrops)	\$40.40	
Total Revenues	\$341.00		Total Revenues	\$348.40	
Disbursements			Disbursements		
President			President	\$20.00	
Finance VP	\$16.45		Finance VP	\$20.00	
Membership VP			Membership VP	\$72.40	
Program VP - General	\$14.09		Program VP - General	\$30.00	
Program VP - Publicity	\$-		Program VP - Publicity	\$10.00	
Program VP - Hospitality	\$7.49		Program VP - Hospitality	\$15.00	
Public Policy VP	\$ -		Public Policy VP	\$5.00	
Assoc. Convention	\$172.00		Assoc. Convention	\$50.00	
Branch Dues Drawing	\$11.00		Branch Dues Drawing	\$11.00	
Historian	\$ -		Historian	\$10.00	
Newsletter	\$ -		Newsletter	\$5.00	
President's Gift	\$50.00		President's Gift	\$50.00	
Website	\$85.95		Website	\$50.00	
Total Disbursements	\$356.98		Total Disbursements	\$348.40	
Revenues less cumulative disbursements	\$(15.98)		Revenues less cumulative disbursements	\$ -	
Bank Accounts Balances			Bank Accounts Balances		

Operations Acct, 6/30/08	\$1,479.17	Includes 08/09 dues	Operations Acct, 8/30/08	\$984.17	
Fund Raising Acct, 6/30/08	\$1,141.30		Fund Raising Acct, 8/30/08	\$1,141.30	Earmarked for EF/LAF Dec08 contribution

Submitted by Susana Hernandez-Kurtulus, Treasurer

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Book Group

Bon Air AAUW Book Group routinely meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Our October meeting will be held Thursday, October 16, at the home of Gaynell Olsen. Contact Gay at gsolsen@vcu.edu or phone 323-4057 to let her know you will attend. **All Bon Air members and their guests are welcome.**

About this month's book: Kathy Kelley will lead our discussion of *The Map of Love*, by Ahdaf Soueif. The author was born in Egypt, educated there and in England, and now lives in London. *The Map of Love* weaves the stories of three formidable women from vastly different times and countries into a single absorbing tale. A finalist for the 1999 Booker Prize, this family saga draws its readers into the complex, troubled history of modern Egypt. The story begins in 1977 in New York, where Isabel Parkman discovers an old trunk full of documents – some in English, some in Arabic – in her dying mother's apartment. Incapable of deciphering this stash by herself, she turns to Omar al-Ghamrawi, an Egyptian man with whom she is falling in love. He directs her to his sister Amal in Cairo. Together the two women begin to uncover the stories embedded in the journal of Lady Anna Winterbourne, who traveled to Egypt in 1900 and fell in love with Sharif Pasha al-Barudi, an Egyptian nationalist. To their surprise, they stumble across some unsuspected connections between their own families. Less surprising, perhaps, is the persistence of the very same issues that dogged their ancestors: colonialism, Egyptian nationalism, and the clash of cultures throughout the Middle East.

In November, we'll read the 1930s classic *The Good Earth*, by Pearl S. Buck. Though more than 70 years have passed since this remarkable novel won the Pulitzer Prize, it has retained its popularity and become a great modern classic. "I can only write what I know, and I know nothing but China, having always lived there," wrote Pearl Buck. In *The Good Earth* she presents a graphic view of China when the last emperor reigned and the vast political and social upheavals of the 20th century were but distant rumblings for the ordinary people. This moving story of the honest farmer Wang Lung and his selfless wife Olan is must reading for those who would fully appreciate the sweeping changes

that have occurred in the lives of the Chinese people over the past century. In 1938, Ms. Buck became the first American woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Contact DeAnn Hubicsak at DeAnn.Hubicsak@dss.virginia.gov 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

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Visit the New Look Web Site ...

Be sure to visit our branch website at <http://aauwbonairva.org> to see its new look. The new pages are using the most recent AAUW logo and have a new structure to them. The Calendar page combines all activities onto one calendar and links to Interest Group, Event Detail, and special event pages to provide more information. There is a Fundraiser, "save the date" page for our wine-tasting so that we can have other sites link directly to it. The AAUW of Virginia website already points to our fundraiser.

Please be patient while the website undergoes its facelift. It is still a work in progress. The purpose of the update is to bring the content up-to-date with AAUW's current standards and make it more accessible, informative and dynamic.

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

Jane Newell

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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/>

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