

American Association of University Women
Bon Air Byline | December 2009



December Christmas Party Greater Richmond Branch

Greater Richmond AAUW will gather on Thursday, December 10, for a Christmas dinner party at the 2300 Club in H Church Hill, near St. Johns Church. Attendance is limited to the first 25 members and their spouses or other special sign up.

When: Thursday, December 10, 6:00 to 9:00 pm
Where: The 2300 Club in Historic Church Hill
Street address: 2218 East Grace Street (2 blocks behind St. John's Church)
Phone: 804 560 4705 **Website:** www.the2300club.org
Parking in rear of facility or on the cobblestone street
Directions: see www.anywho.com. Click on maps and fill in your information; any questions, please call Marian Seigla or the club
Cost: \$20.00 per person

Sign up by Thursday, December 3

Menu (no substitutions): Pan-fried trout, house salad with balsamic dressing, oven roasted or sautéed vegetables, a Coffee and tea are included in \$20 per person price, as are tax and 15% gratuity. You may also add additional gratuity and purchase additional drinks, which you will pay for separately.

Member Sponsor: Marian Seigla

Please confirm reservation by Thursday, December 3, by email or telephone to Marian. Marian must receive later than Wednesday, December 8. Please mail your check to her home address: 6112 Olde Hartley Place, Glen Allen 804-272-6174, mmseigla@comcast.net

For a little extra fun, please bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift with no name or tag for a fun-filled gift exchange.

Many thanks to Marian for arranging this party for the branch!

*Gina Turner
Program Chair*

Wine Tasting 2009: Final Report

We are very excited to report on our successful wine tasting held on November 13th! We had approx 86 people attending the party. All but 2 branch members participated by bringing fantastic food,

money for food, helping set up, cleaning up, and/or assisting at the event. We had plenty of food and wines were great. The six South American wines were very well-received; we anticipate a huge run on Tiza Malbec in the near future. There were lots of positive comments on the food and remarks that it was the best party yet! We were ably assisted this year by several of the Richmond branch members who bought tickets and brought food, getting a jump on the future!

Tickets sales and donations were \$2544.98. Expenses were \$508.25 leaving us with total of \$2,036.73 to donate. Over \$2000 for the first time! As this event has matured, it is getting legs; that is, many come year after year, giving some continuity to the event, which now feels much more like a great party than a fund-raising event. That, of course, is a strong predictor of success for next year and after.

Thanks go to all who made the food and money contributions. The wine tasting is dependent upon its success. Thanks go also to our set up and clean up crew and those who ably manned the welcome table. We also have great husbands – our thanks to Len Mallahan who helped set up, Ed Mazur who worked almost the whole evening, Dale Phillips and Glen King who helped clean up, and Garry Gallagher Gordon Lawrence, whose wives are not even current members, who also helped clean up!

*Carol Mazur
Marcia Phillips
Wine Tasting Co-Chairs*

Board Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2009 7pm-9 pm Bon Air Library

Present: DeAnn Lineberry, Laura Wimmer, Marian Seigla, Gina Turner, Marsha Carter, Carol Mazur, Marcia Phillips King, Jane Newell and Kathy Kelley

DeAnn reminded us that we need to consistently refer to our branch as the Greater Richmond AAUW.

Cheryl said the Treasurer's Report will be in the next newsletter.

Marcia and Carol did a follow up on the wine tasting which was our most successful ever. It was partly due to the additional Richmond branch members who contributed and sold tickets. Newsletter will have details.

Jane said the Bylaws committee met and a draft is almost complete. It will be sent out by early February for members review and will be voted on at our March business meeting. The committee also plans to update our policies and procedures descriptions.

Gina discussed the programs for the months December through May. Details will be in the newsletter and a calendar will be sent to the members along with a directory of memberships.

Maggie reminded us that the Newsletter deadline is 11/20 and suggested that we sign up on the Greater Richmond AAUW Facebook page. Also Jane reminded us that if there is a change in a date or time to send her an email for the website. The line should say "web site update."

Laura explained a fundraiser that could potentially be in the spring. We could sell tickets to a play at the Chamberlay Theater which could earn give us \$675.00. We will try to get a matinee so that older members would be able to attend.

Marsha discussed the results of the Membership Committee meeting. It was very a profitable meeting and more will be in the newsletter.

Kathy Kelley

Tidbits from State Board Meeting

Oct. 31 and Nov. 1

New State Board members to replace those who have left:

- Kathy Braeman, VP Programs, Arlington Branch
- Ann Sauberman, Recording Secretary, Springfield Annandale Branch
- Athena Michael, International Affairs, Winchester Branch
- Mary Swain, State rep for AAUW Funds/LAF (yay!)

Note that EF has been replaced by AAUW Funds—more about that later.

Kathy Braeman reported that Title IX which is about sports equity for girls is a new venture for AAUW. She participated in a webinar which will soon be available to view on the AAUW website. Check out the Program in a Box which is available.

Nominations are due to me for the following State Board Officers by **January 15, 2010**: Co-President, VP Public Programs, VP for Communications/*Vision* Editor

Elections will be at the convention and also be prepared to elect a new district representative.

There have been changes made to the state bylaws which will be voted on at the state convention.

Be sure to check the AAUW VA web site to get details about the convention in April. It is important to reserve your room. Call the Hyatt Fair Oaks at 800-233-1234 and mention code G-AAUW to get special rates.

Kathy Kelley

Six Former Branch Presidents Brainstorm the Future

On November 10th, six former branch presidents met over dinner to discuss how to serve well the membership of our new Greater Richmond Branch. The topics discussed ranged from communication programs, and to orienting all members to the AAUW message(s).

Marian Seigla, Carol Mazur, Lois Hofstra, Kathy Kelley, Marry Farrell and Marsha Carter agreed on key points, which were then shared with the Board on Monday November 17th:

- Communication that reaches all members is essential, and therefore sending hard copies of information is advised. Reliance on computer-generated communication as the only avenue is not effective.
- Programs could be planned under an umbrella of Life Long Learning. Some programs could

focus on traditional AAUW concerns (gender pay equity, girls' education, under-representation the science and math careers). Other programs might include women's health, choosing a 'g lifestyle', a Branch -"read" followed by book discussion at a monthly meeting, and visiting a cultural venue with a tour guide on a specific topic.

- An annual New Member Orientation is recommended. It could be an afternoon tea or a win cheese event. Whatever the venue, it is an essential tool for improved communication and understanding. This could be held for new members, as well as people considering member prior to joining.

The idea behind these suggestions is to encourage growth and enthusiasm in the new branch membership.

*Marsha Carter
Membership VP*

Calendar

December 10
Branch Christmas Party, 6-9 PM

December 11
Happy Hanukkah!

December 12
Gourmet, 7 PM

December 17
Book Group, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*, 7:30 PM

December 25
Merry Christmas!

December 26
Happy Kwanzaa!

January 1, 2010
Happy New Year!

Welcome to Our Website!

Welcome to our Website at aauwbonairva.org. Richmond Branch members should check the site basis; the program calendar will keep you informed sponsored meetings and events. You can also keep AAUW national news through real-time feeds on Welcome members new and old! Look for a special announcement on our branch Facebook group.

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

*Jane Newell
Webmaster*

Gourmet



Carol and Ed Mazur usher in the holidays with *Food and Wine Pairings*. It promises to be a successful gathering of AAUW friends enjoying

Book Group

Continuing a more than 30-year-old tradition, Bon Air AAUW Book Group will meet Thursday, December 19, 7:30 p.m. at Carol Mazur's home. Please let Carol know if you plan to come either by email mazur2309@verizon.net or call 272-846-1111.

Marcia Phillips will lead our discussion of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*, by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows (2008). The story begins in January 1946, when popular author Juliet Ashton, much like her fellow British citizens, is recovering from the dark days of World War II. As Juliet exchanges a series of letters with her publisher and her best friend, readers are immediately warm to this author in search of a new subject in the aftermath of war. By the time Juliet receives an inquiry from Dawsey Adams, we are caught in a delightful web of letters and vivid personalities and eager for Juliet to find the inspiration she seeks.

Drawn together by their love of books and affection for each other, the unforgettable characters of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* collectively tell a moving tale of endurance and friendship. Through the chorus of voices they created, Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows have composed a rich tale that celebrates the power of hope and humanity in the shadows of war.

Future Reading:

January 21, 2010: *The Towers of Trebizond*, by Rose Macaulay (originally published 1956, reissued 1980 & 2003). Discussion leader – Kathy Kelley. With poetic vision, exquisitely wrought prose, and an entertaining mix of ordinary events, Rose Macaulay tells the story of an eccentric group of English travelers who set off for Turkey to explore the possibility of establishing a religious mission there. " 'Take my camel, dear,' said my aunt Dot." So begins Rose Macaulay's greatest novel. Traveling overland from Istanbul to legendary Trebizond, the narrator and her companions have a series of adventures.

VA AAUW Website <http://www.aauwofva.org/>

AAUW Bon Air Byline December 2009