



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

January
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Bon Air Byline

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January Program: Women in Leadership

January 9, 2007 Bon Air Library, 7:30

Note starting time!

(Introduce a friend to AAUW by inviting them to this meeting).

Kiffy Johnson will be presenting information from the AAUW Student Leader Conference, as well as information from "Women as Global Leaders" in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Her experience with the Women's Leadership Forum and other student organizations will also be a part of the discussion.

Kathleen (Kiffy) Johnson holds a double major at VCU in Women's Studies and Sociology, and is pursuing an Accelerated Master's of Sociology next semester. This means she is both an undergraduate and graduate student! Kiffy is also pursuing the Post-Graduate Certificate Program in Gender Violence.

At VCU Kiffy is Co-President of S.A.V.E.S (sexual assault and dating violence education by students). This is a peer education group. Kathleen is also a Special Assistant for Student Affairs in the Student Government Association and a founding member of the Women's Leadership Forum at VCU. In addition, she's a member of VOX- Planned Parenthood.

- Sharon Davis, Program VP

President's Message

Happy 2007 to one and all!

The 30th Anniversary celebration in December of the inception of our branch was a great success. It was a very special evening -- the site at the Independence Golf Club was beautiful and well decorated for the holidays which enhanced the festive atmosphere; there were many past presidents as well as former members who enjoyed catching up and meeting current branch members; Marsha Carter's presentation was lively and interesting, and the dedication of the founders of our branch to achieve a goal was inspiring. We were also fortunate and pleased to have as a guest and speaker Laura Wimmer, State AAUW Co-President and President of the Richmond Branch. Many thanks to all who made the evening such a success.

As we know, AAUW welcomes and embraces participation on many levels, and the successful events of this past fall were a good example of that aspect. As an organization we're beginning a year of serious reflection and decisions about how AAUW can meet the ever changing needs of our society, how we can continue to grow and prosper as we retain our loyal and interested members and effectively recruit and retain new, interested and energetic members from a diverse population, most notably one of age and education.

Our interests within the organization are diverse, and if Public Policy is one of your interests mark your calendar for **State Lobby Day February 1, 2007**. For further information contact our Public Policy Chair, Katharine Gallagher at belleschoses@mac.com, or Rebecca Bronson, Vice President for State/Federal Public Policy at beckiaauw@hotmail.com

And for more Public Policy information you can quickly and easily sign up for the Two-Minute Activist ! You can also get on the Public Policy mailing list for the latest news about legislation by sending your email address and the request to be on the list to policy@aauwofva.org .

Why do it? Because...“for more than a century, AAUW has influenced legislative debate on critical issues such as education, Social Security, sex discrimination, civil rights, reproductive choice, affirmative action, Title IX, welfare reform, vocational education, pay equity, family and medical leave, and health care reform.”

How can you become more involved in Public Policy? You can:

Subscribe to the monthly <u>Action Alert</u> newsletter.	Monitor the <u>voting records</u> of your members of Congress.
Learn more about AAUW's <u>priority public policy issues</u> .	Read the latest AAUW <u>news releases</u> .
Pass on the messages in <u>Get the Facts</u> .	View and download AAUW's <u>Public Policy Program</u>
Pick up these <u>tools for grassroots activism</u> .	Speak out on today's hot issue with the <u>Two-Minute Activist</u> . “

From AAUW Web site

On the branch level there are many exciting programs lined up for the next 5 months. I hope to see you at the first one of the year on January 9, 2007 at the Bon Air Library,

Eleventh House

As a representative of the AAUW Bon Air Branch, I attended the Eleventh House Holiday Open House on December 12 at their facility. The home was decorated beautifully and the young women were dressed for the occasion. The holiday table was set with tempting hors d'oeuvres and a lovely centerpiece. I personally presented the donation from our branch, and know that it was appreciated and will be put to good use.

Their badly worn carpeting had been replaced, which seemed to give the entire home a fresh, new feeling. The atmosphere was very uplifting and the girls were very welcoming. I talked with two young women who told me how much they liked the Dress for Success presentation that Larinda Cole had done for them. Some of the girls also went to a Fashion Show in Richmond with Larinda.

I enjoyed talking with a director from Jackson-Field Homes who told me how much community involvement means to these young women. She emphasized that many of the girls just couldn't believe strangers cared about them.

Any additional volunteer projects we can do with Jackson-Field Eleventh House will be welcomed. Think about a Life Skill you would be willing to share with them, and give Rebecca Sherard a call at 355-8735 or keep23bec@yahoo.com -Sharon Davis, Program VP

Air AAUW Book Group -Reading List & Schedule, January - July 2007

Bon Air AAUW Book Group routinely meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. January's meeting will be held Thursday, January 18, at the home of Maggie King. Contact Maggie at maggie.king@yahoo.com or phone 269-0275 to let her know you will attend. All Bon Air members and their guests are welcome.

*About this month's book: **When the Emperor Was Divine**, by Julie Otsuka.* This powerful debut novel paints a compelling portrait of the Japanese internment camps. With intensity and precision, Otsuka uses a single family to evoke the deracination – both physical and emotional – of a generation of Japanese Americans. The story unfolds in the third person as four family members move through the different phases of their internment. The mother dispenses with the remnants of the family's life in California when they are forced out of their home. The boy recalls his father's arrest – how he was led out of the house in a bathrobe and slippers. On a train headed for the Nevada desert, the children reflect on how their lives have changed, with their comfortable home giving way to whitewashed horse stalls, and finally to a dusty wasteland in the middle of nowhere. Their father imprisoned in far away New Mexico, the children and their mother eke out a new existence in the "blinding white glare" of the treeless desert internment camp. Assigned to a single room in a tar-paper barracks with three iron cots, they live through brutally hot summers and bitterly cold winters as their once happy and promising lives waste away, and as they wait, patiently, for the war to end.

In February, Book Group focuses on Cuba with ***Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy***, by Carlos Eire. This haunting memoir of the Cuban Revolution, seen through the eyes of a small boy, is the heartbreaking story of the author's privileged childhood in pre-revolution Havana and how he lost everything, including his father. Early in the 1960s, an operation called Pedro Pan flew more than 14,000 Cuban children out of the country, without their parents, and deposited them in Miami. Eire, now a professor of history and religion at Yale, was one of them. His deeply moving memoir describes his life before Castro among the aristocracy of old Cuba and later in America where he turned from a child of privilege into a Lost Boy.

Date	Book	Hostess	Discussion Leader
January 18, 2007	When the Emperor Was Divine, by Julie Otsuka	Maggie King	Dori Buckley
February 15, 2007	Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy, by Carlos Eire	Sharon Davis	Susana Hernandez-Kurtulus
March 15, 2007	First Mothers: The Women Who Shaped Our Presidents, by Bonnie Angelo	Florence Tromater	Cheryl Kapec
April 19, 2007	Freakonomics, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner	Kathy Kelley	Marcia Phillips
May 17, 2007	The Seven Sisters, by Margaret Drabble	Gina Turner	Volunteer needed!
June 21, 2007	Middlesex, by Jeffrey Eugenides	Marcia Phillips	Kathy Kelley
July 19, 2007	Saturday, by Ian McEwan	Cheryl Kapec	Volunteer needed!

Gourmet Group

Now that we are all replete from whatever cookies, candy, nuts, cake and assorted holiday goodies and can barely stand the thought of cooking one more thing -- Get ready for January Gourmet! **Saturday January 6.** The theme is Mexico! Please let me know whether you will be attending so that Carol and I can plan the menu and the assignments appropriately.

–Marcia (marcia-phillips@comcast.net)

LAF Celebrates 25 Years of Fighting for Women in Higher Education

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) is the nation's largest legal fund focused solely on sex discrimination in higher education. Since its inception, LAF has provided more than \$1 million in support of 83 plaintiffs and 80 cases in which students, faculty, staff, and administrators have challenged discriminatory

practices such as sexual harassment, denial of tenure or promotion, pay inequity, and inequality in women's athletics programs.

LAF beginnings reach back into the 1970s when a group of Cornell University women faculty and coaches decided to challenge sexual discrimination encountered on campus. These women quickly gained the support of AAUW Ithaca (NY) Branch whose members provided emotional and financial support during the long litigation process. AAUW Ithaca eventually sought fundraising assistance from AAUW national; as a result, in the summer of 1981, national board established the Legal Advocacy Fund.

Today, the Fund promotes equity for women in higher education by 1) providing plaintiffs financial assistance for their cases, 2) organizing a network of volunteer experts to consult on legal strategies and the strength of current and potential lawsuits, 3) educating the academic community about sex discrimination issues and ways to address and prevent it, and 4) recognizing innovative efforts to improve the climate on campus through annual \$10,000 Progress in Equity Awards.

AAUW Bon Air supports LAF programs with proceeds from the annual Education Foundation Wine Tasting Fundraiser; LAF is a program of AAUW Education Foundation.

To learn more about the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund visit <http://www.aauw.org/laf>, e-mail laf@aauw.org, or call 800/326-AAUW.

-Susana Hernandez-Kurtulus

Our 30th Anniversary Party: Notes from Sharon

I felt everyone had a wonderful time at the 30th anniversary celebration. The room was full of atmosphere and good companionship. The food was good, and presented graciously, and the cake was all I'd hoped it would be! I saw it being cut up into appropriate slices for take-home, at the end of the evening. Katherine did an outstanding job on the beautiful floral arrangements, and I was grateful to Mary for her eloquent, well-prepared introduction.

Marsha and her co-founders seemed to genuinely enjoy recounting stories, and several guests indicated an interest in seeing us again! -Sharon Davis, Program V.P.



Photo: our past presidents

Calendar of Events

January 9, 2007 Women in Leadership
Guests Welcome. Kiffy Johnson, VCU student, will bring us information on the Leadership Conference, as well as her own observations and insight.

February 1, 2007 State Lobby Day.

February 13, 2007 Cuba's Operation "Pedro Pan". Guests Welcome. Hear first-hand from women personally involved in Operation Pedro Pan, and where those "children" are today. Facilitated by Susana Hernandez-Kurtulus.

February 15th Book Group will meet at Sharon Davis' home to discuss Waiting for Snow in Havana, by Carlos Eire. Facilitated by Susana Hernandez-Kurtulus.

February 3rd Gourmet Group members will enjoy a Cuban menu at the homes of Susana Hernandez-Kurtulus and Pat Mallahan.

March 13, 2007 Annual Meeting, followed by AAUW Scholarship. Guests Welcome. Award recipient Brook Vanderlinde, will discuss her study trip to Kenya, and will bring her photo album to share with us.

There will be no program meeting on April 10. Book Group, Gourmet Group, and Board members will meet as usual.

April 20 – 22, 2007 AAUW Virginia Convention, Virginia Beach. Plan to car-pool, room-share, and represent the Bon Air Branch at the state convention in Virginia Beach.

May 8, 2007 End of Year Celebration, and Installation of Officers

Membership News

Please welcome our newest member, Samantha Johnson. A lot of us enjoyed talking to her at the wine tasting. She writes of herself, "I was born and raised in Sri Lanka. I attended University in India. I have a son who is a senior at Temple University and preparing for Law school. I work in Northern Virginia 2.5 days a week. I am married to a wonderful man Mark Johnson and I have lived in Richmond for 15 years. I enjoy cooking, gardening and reading. I look forward to all the exciting opportunities with AAUW." Her e-mail address is the intriguing letsgotolondon@hotmail.com.

Newsletter News

For any news concerning the Branch or its members, please submit them to the newsletter editor, Cheryl Kapec, on or before the 25th of each month. You can email items to Cheryl at ckapec@comcast.net or you can snail mail them to 5632 Belstead Lane, Glen Allen, VA 23059.



AAUW Information

The American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.

AAUW Member Helpline 800-821-4364
AAUW Website www.aauw.org
VA AAUW Website www.aauwofva.org
Bon Air Website <http://www.aauwbonairva.org>