

**Vol 43, Number 8 ~ Woodbridge, VA Branch Newsletter ~ May 2016**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Second Wednesday of the Month ~ Book Club Uno Panera's at the Glen 2 pm**

**May 12 Federal Lobby Day, Capitol Hill**

**May 14 Salad Desert Luncheon Location Noon- 2:30 pm  
Sara Anderson's Home  
8403 Kirkwood Court, Manassas 20112**

**June 4 Planning Session for 2016-2017 9:00 am -11:30  
Kelly Leadership Center, 14715 Bristow Road, Manassas**

**President's Message**

**WOODBIDGE SHINES AT THE CONFERENCE**



Woodbridge members were out in force at the 2016 state conference and a big part of its success. Thank you to Carol and Ali for running the paper registration. Also, thanks to all the members who give time at the registration table. Our "Prince William County" basket was a bit hit (could it have been the three bottles of wine?), and the Basket Raffle raised over \$1,700 for LAF. Thanks to Barbara for putting the basket together and everyone who donated items. Thanks to Joyce for being the Parliamentarian for the state business meetings and everyone who pitched in whenever a hand was needed. You are the best!

We have our end of year Salad and Dessert Luncheon. Great chance to get together, hear our Science Fair winners, and elect new officers for the coming year. I hope to see everyone there.

Also, I hope to see everyone at the June 4 Planning session. This is your chance to help format our programs, events, and activities for the coming year. Bring your ideas and suggestions to the session

We also say goodbye to two stalwarts of the Branch. Tania is a charter member, several times branch president and Membership VP. She is a dedicated and avid member and supporter of AAUW and is moving to Maryland. Jeanne is moving to North Carolina and has been an AAUW advocate and activist, at the branch and state level. Both will be missed: Fair Winds and Following Seas.

**Sandy Lawrence [sandyaauw@juno.com](mailto:sandyaauw@juno.com)**

## APRIL PROGRAMS

The **2016 Virginia AAUW State Conference** “Women Leading” was certainly an exciting event held right here in our District on April 15-17. It was such a pleasure to meet our AAUW VA members from throughout the State. The speakers, workshops, and panel discussion were very informative and the meals were delicious. It was also productive to speak with other program officers to hear what they are doing and possibly collaborate on mission-related programs. Many thanks to Dorothy Salesses, Jeanne Elmore, and Martha Langer for assisting Ali and me with staffing the Registration Desk.

**Our Salad and Dessert Luncheon on May 14, from 12:00 pm – 2:30 pm**, will be held at the home of Sara Anderson. Her address is **8403 Kirkwood Court, Manassas, VA**. Thanks to Sara for once again hosting this important event! Since this is pot luck, please bring either a salad or desert. We will also have the **wrapped gift raffle**. Just bring a wrapped gift and money to buy raffle tickets. Our Science Fair winners and their parents are also invited. Please **RSVP to me at breeze053@aol.com no later than Wednesday, May 11th and if you are bringing a salad or dessert**.

**Directions to Sara Anderson's house** @ 8403 Kirkwood CT., Manassas, VA 20112 phone #703-792-5822 Off Rt. 234.

**From Dumfries area:** take 234 to Morningside Drive (Morningside Dr. is 1.8 miles past the intersection of Rt.234 and Hoadly Rd.). Turn left onto Morningside Dr. Take the third right off of Morningside (the first right is Larch, the second is Woodlark and the third is Stoneybrook). Take the first left off of Stoneybrook onto Kirkwood Ct. Sara is on the first driveway on the left on Kirkwood Ct. It's a very long driveway that splits with the right going towards the garage and the left (or straight) towards the front of the house. You can go either way. There is plenty of parking w/o blocking anyone.

**From WB, Lake Ridge:** Take Hoadly Rd. to Rt. 234 and turn right onto 234. It will be 1.8 miles to Morningside Dr. See other directions above.

**From Manassas:** Morningside Drive will be a right turn for you from Rt. 234. See directions above.

**Our 2016-17 Program Planning Session** will be **Saturday, June 4, from 9:15-11:30** at the Kelly Leadership Center, 14715 Bristow Road, Manassas. Please note the change in the location as the McCoart Building is unavailable from May 18 through September. So bring your thoughts and ideas to share for next year's programs.

Thank you for your support of AAUW Woodbridge Branch during 2015-2016. It went by too quickly and always a pleasure to see so many at our programs.

**Carol Campbell** [Breeze053@aol.com](mailto:Breeze053@aol.com)  
**Vice-President, Programs**

## NAMED HONOREES

The following Woodbridge branch members were honored at the state conference as 2015 Named Honorees: **Sara B. Anderson, Susan Bardenhagen, Eileen Thrall, Karen Wolf**

They will receive their certificate at the Spring Luncheon. Please congratulate them when you see them. Each honoree represents \$500, donated on our branch's behalf to AAUW Funds.

## SPRING MEMBERSHIP NEWS NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

As we prepare for our spring luncheon, we have a gentle reminder that it is a good opportunity to put together your dues for the official new membership year that begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Potential members are invited as guests, the parents of our Science Fair winners get to witness the best of us, and we welcome the future with the winners' presentations of their innovative ideas and projects.



I received an inquiry from an Illinois AAUW member who moved to Woodbridge and is interested in joining us. I hope she can attend the luncheon, too.

Nine of us represented our branch at the state conference. The dinner was awesome. In addition to Dr. Thornton's award, many branches were celebrated because of their efforts, and many members were honored for their work.

**Our two incumbents- Vice-President for Program Carol Campbell and Treasurer Karen Wolf, have both**

**agreed to be on our slate of officers for the terms beginning July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018.** We will vote at the luncheon and nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

**Susan Bardenhagen** [successconference@juno.com](mailto:successconference@juno.com)  
Membership Vice-President

### WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER: DR. KATHRYN THORNTON

VA AAUW's awardee for 2016 is a simply awesome woman with whom I have shared many memorable events. For those of you who weren't able to attend the state conference over the April 15-17<sup>th</sup> weekend, here is an excerpt from the program for the 16<sup>th</sup>'s dinner.



*Kathryn C. Thornton, PhD., is a professor at the University of Virginia's School of Engineering and Applied Science in the Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering. She served from 1999 until 2012 as the assistant dean and later associate dean for graduate programs. Selected by NASA in May 1984, Dr. Thornton is a veteran of four spaceflights from 1989 to 1994. She has logged over 975 hours in space, including more than 21 hours of extravehicular activity.*

*Dr. Thornton had several firsts as a woman astronaut in her 12 years with NASA. She was the first female crew member aboard the space shuttle Discovery; she was the second woman to walk in space and held the record for the most space walks by a female for 12 years; and she was the first astronaut to use a power screwdriver in space. In completing her fourth space flight, she orbited the Earth 245 times and*

*traveled over 6 million miles.*

*Dr. Thornton has been committed to educational outreach, including co-authoring a science program for grades K-6. She is currently a board member of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, which seeks to retain the US world leadership in science and technology by providing college scholarships to students pursuing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) degrees, as well as promoting the importance of science and technology to the general public. The recipient of numerous awards, our Woman of Achievement was inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2010, only the third woman to hold this honor.*

The first time I met her was at George Mason University when she was the keynote speaker for Sally Ride's "Science Camp for Girls". She fielded questions from young students and adults about micro-gravity and science topics- explaining all in such a way that we all felt smarter about aerospace engineering and physics. It was amazing! Over the years since, she's recommended presenters for the SUCCESS! Conference and soon, I hope, she can be a presenter for us!

The next time I met her was at the VA Association of Science Teachers' Friday night events at our annual Professional Development Institute at the Air & Space Museum in Hampton Roads. It just so happened that a space shuttle launch had been rescheduled to that night. When we let her know that we were getting a monitor to be able to view the liftoff which would happen at the end of her presentation; that some people might slip out- she said of course she wouldn't think them rude, especially if they didn't think she was rude as she scurried in front of them. ☺ We then got an astronaut's second by second description of what was happening and what the astronauts in the shuttle were feeling and experiencing! It was as if we were there.

I'm proud to know Kathryn and pleased that AAUW VA chose her for the award.

**Susan Bardenhagen**

## **STEM UPDATES & EVENTS**

In no particular order, there were several Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics events which occurred this past month. Of course, our awardee at the Virginia State Conference is first.

Dr. Kathryn Thornton, is a Physics Professor at the University of Virginia and an astronaut who flew four missions in the space shuttle program. The award guidelines for the "Woman of Achievement Award" are:

*This award is given to a Virginia woman who has made outstanding educational, civic, and cultural contributions; demonstrated excellent leadership skills; and contributed in the advancement of women in STEM fields. It is a priority of AAUW of Virginia to encourage and support women and girls' interest in and entrance into STEM careers. By all measures, this year's recipient surpasses the criteria.*

Dr. Thornton's acceptance speech was wonderful- sharing how she met her husband, how she was pregnant with her daughters in between space missions, and her life growing up in Alabama where she and her siblings skateboarded down their driveway with walkie-talkies pretending to be astronauts!

The fourth biannual USA Science & Engineering Festival was the same weekend as the state conference and took over the DC Convention Center. Lockheed Martin (one of our t-shirt sponsors for SUCCESS!) is the founding super sponsor with the theme of their almost an acre of space: “This Science is Not Science Fiction.” This time I volunteered with the organization I’ve been part of since 2002- the Federation of Galaxy Explorers. My role was to hold up a cardboard cut-out of an astronaut in which “future astronauts, wannabe astronauts, dreaming of being astronauts, or I wish I had become astronauts” could take selfies. This included a few thousand people from babies in strollers to grandmas and grandpas. My informal data collection was that more than half of those who wanted these photos were female! This photo shows our future is in good hands, doesn’t it?



The eighth annual Real World Design Challenge was held at the national 4-H Center on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. I’ve been judging this for about six years- the first year I judged, a winning team was all girls from Hawaii. This time I judged the first group of teams from China- next year may be the first international competition with India, China, and the U.S. The team we chose as winners was the only one which included female members and they rocked! The challenge was to create a UAS (unmanned aerial system) and choose two crops to observe the moisture levels with the UAS’s drone. I love the STEM, plus the design process that brings in innovation and creativity.

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, I attended an author’s lecture at “One More Page” bookstore in Falls Church. Laura Elliott (author of Under a War-Torn Sky) did a lot of research on Leonardo daVinci’s portrait of Ginevra de’Benci. The event was celebrating the STEAM-star’s birthday, his 564<sup>th</sup>; Elliott’s historical young adult novel, DaVinci’s Tiger, was showcased. Eye-opening was the history behind commissioned portraits of women – this portrait changed art history!

*"In fifteenth-century Florence, the dashing Venetian ambassador commissions young Leonardo da Vinci to paint a portrait of his Platonic love, Ginevra de' Benci, a well-educated, teenaged poet in a passionless marriage, propelling her into the world of art, politics, and romance, with all of its complications."*

What I am hearing at business and technology workshops, from guest speakers at the aforementioned events, and from AAUW is that we have to encourage and support the future workforce (especially women) to be prepared for STEM, especially technology jobs. Similarly, at the Kennedy Center’s third annual Arts Summit on April 25<sup>th</sup>, we talked with national community leaders and moderators YoYo Ma and Renee Fleming, about how, as citizen artists, we can engage businesses, leaders, and our country can become stronger.

**Susan Bardenhagen** [successSTEAMconference@gmail.com](mailto:successSTEAMconference@gmail.com)  
“Girls + Math + Science = SUCCESS!” Conference Coordinator

## 2016 STATE CONFERENCE PHOTOS



Dorothy and Jeanne handing out cider



Branch basket



Registration Table

Woodbridge homepage: <http://woodbridge-va.aauw.net/>  
AAUW of VA homepage <http://aauw-va.aauw.net>

AAUW homepage: <http://www.aauw.org>