



Bennington Branch News
American Association of University Women
Bennington, Vermont November 2018

November Bennington Branch Meeting

Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 2:00 pm
Note change of date and afternoon time.

VPI South Residential Treatment for Girls

197 Fairview Street, Bennington
(campus of former Bennington School)
Directions on page 2

Speakers: Kathy Houran
and Lori Vadakin

Please note: This meeting at the school is not open to the public. However, members may bring a guest who is interested in the program offered by VPI South to traumatized girls.

Living Here, Learning Here

The girls arrive on this Bennington campus from all parts of New England, as young as 11, as old as 20. They may have come with their parents or caregivers, this may be their first experience of living away from home, and they may be excited and eager—or skeptical, reluctant and even scared. But what they all have in common is that they have suffered a trauma that has interrupted their development, their education, and their chance to thrive as adults. While the residential school is new to them, the professional staff that welcomes them—a complement of educators, therapists, program specialists and residential advisors—is experienced and ready to receive them.

This month we have received a rare invitation to come to the campus of VPI South (Vermont Permanency Initiative South) to learn about a therapeutic community in our own backyard. The peaceful, tree-shaded community enables girls to heal from past trauma, enjoy their present lives, and build inner resources for their futures. Its two schools—Vermont School for Girls and New England School for Girls—provide specialized assistance and staffing at different levels, depending on student needs. A strong academic program—the standard middle and high school curriculum of mathematics, science, English, social studies and electives—is supported by residential, social, behavioral, and therapeutic services.

Guest speakers Kathy Houran and Lori Vadakin, both new branch members who bring their extensive expertise to their work at VPI South, will share stories about the kinds of emotional disturbances that lead these students to Bennington and the paths they travel to get here, with examples of the evidence-based treatment they receive once they arrive. We will learn about a few programs that have proven their effectiveness, from trauma-informed care to experiences that promote growth and secure relationships.

Continued on page 2

In this Issue

November Branch Meeting	1,2
First Monday Meeting	2
AAUW Calendar, Theater Fundraiser	3
President's column, New Members	4
Candidate Forum Retrospective	5

November Branch Program

Continued from page 1

Can trauma-sensitive yoga, equine and art therapy, and learning to grow, cook, and eat nutritious food help a traumatized girl learn to self-regulate and feel safe, confident, and competent? Can a therapeutic residential school pave a troubled girl's way to a healthy adulthood? Kathy and Lori will give us a glimpse into what is possible for the school's alumnae as they move into their futures.

Kathy Houran, Special Education Director, received her BS in Human Services from Fitchburg State



University and her Master's Degree in Educational Psychology from New York University at Albany. She has extensive training in the Compassionate Schools and Circle of Courage Models, as well as various Trauma Sensitive Schools models.

Founder and coordinator of an alternative educational program serving traumatized youth in Bennington for 19 years, she joined the VPI South Team in 2013.

Lori Vadakin, Director of Trauma Intervention



Services and Individual Clinician, received her BA in History/Pre-law from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and her Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology from Antioch New England Graduate School. She was one of Vermont's first clinicians trained in ARC

(Attachment, Self-Regulation & Competency) and provides trauma-informed care trainings.

Directions to VPI South

Address: 192 Fairview Street, Bennington

Please note: Google Directions are wrong; the school is shown on the wrong side of Fairview Street and Peaceful Way is not labeled.

From Monument Avenue:

Turn left onto Walloomsac Road

Turn right onto Fairview Street

Turn right onto Peaceful Way (you'll see a sign for Vermont School for Girls)

Continue straight toward the school (about 50 yards away). Park on the right in an old basketball court. The center door of the big building leads to the room for our meeting.

From 67A:

Turn right onto Silk Road

Turn left onto Fairview Street

Turn left onto Peaceful Way

Continue straight toward the school (about 50 yards away). Park on the right in an old basketball court.

First Monday Meeting
November 5, 2018 at 12:30 pm
Federated Church of East Arlington
Ice Pond Road, Arlington

New member Sheila Mullineaux will speak about her role as Landlord Liaison for BROCC Community Action (Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council). Sheila's work is part of the Housing Opportunity Program grant that helps low income people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless find and maintain housing. BROCC's mission is to provide "hope, opportunity, and a path forward out of crisis or poverty, so our neighbors and communities thrive."

Bring a sandwich; a beverage and dessert will be provided by the hostess Jan Day. Please telephone Jan at 442-9299 or email her at mday2837@comcast.net if you are planning to attend.

AAUW Calendar

Monday, November 5, 2018 at 12:30 pm

First Monday Meeting at the Federated Church of East Arlington. Sheila Mullineaux will speak about BROCC. See additional information in box on page 2. Contact Jan Day at 442-9299 or mday2837@comcast.net if you are planning to attend.

November 6, 2018 Election

VOTE early or VOTE on this day.

Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 1:00 pm

Scribble Sisters Meeting at the home of Wilma Johnson. Information: Suzanne Kirkpatrick (cell) 314-496-5628 or suzykirkpa@gmail.com.

Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 2:00 pm

Branch Meeting at VPI South. See pages 1 and 2 for program details and directions.

Wednesday, November 21, 2018

No Book Group Meeting because of Thanksgiving.

Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 1:00 pm

Scribble Sisters Meeting. Information: Suzanne Kirkpatrick (cell) 314-496-5628 or suzykirkpa@gmail.com.

Monday, December 3, 2018 at 4:30 pm

Holiday Party at the home of Pat Clancy in Arlington. Additional information will be in the December Newsletter.

Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 2:00 pm

Holiday Party at the Old First Church Barn in Bennington. Back by popular demand, the acoustic ensemble Rosin the Beaux will perform a musical program, this year with one or two seasonal sing-alongs.

AAUW Calendar continued

Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 1:00 pm

Scribble Sisters Meeting. Information: Suzanne Kirkpatrick (cell) 314-496-5628 or suzykirkpa@gmail.com.

Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at 12:00 noon

The Book Group will meet in the back room of Chauncey's Restaurant in Arlington and will order lunch from the menu. Following lunch, members will take turns reading aloud Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. Mary has enough copies for everyone. Information: Mary Feidner at 442-7845 or mfeidner@comcast.net.

Monday, January 7, 2019

No First Monday Meeting in January.

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 12:00 noon

Book Group Meeting at the Martha Canfield Library in Arlington. *Heart Spring Mountain* by Robin MacArthur. Information: Mary Feidner. at 442-7845 or mfeidner@comcast.net.

Theater Fundraiser Was A Success!

The branch cleared \$672 from the Oldcastle Theater Fundraiser. Members bought 30 tickets and \$14 profit per ticket netted \$420 for the branch. Members who could not attend the performance sent in \$252 in contributions.

As in previous years, the Bennington Branch will contribute \$250 of the profits to the national AAUW Fellowships and Grant Program which has awarded \$3.9 million to 250 women and community projects for the 2018-19 academic year. \$422 will be added to our local AAUW Scholarship program for female non-traditional students at CCV in Bennington.

On Gratitude

By Ruth Botzow, Branch President

November is the month when giving thanks is brought to the forefront of our attention. It's not the only month in which to practice gratefulness—there is always something or someone to be thankful for—but with shorter days and cooler weather it feels appropriate to focus on gratitude.

Writing this shortly after the Candidate Forum I am grateful to Margaret Howland and everyone who helped make the forum a positive experience for the candidates and audience. By any and every measure it was a success. It looked easy, but to create that smooth running forum took hours of detailed work in securing the room, inviting the candidates, producing and distributing publicity, and formulating questions. On the evening itself, branch members provided food for the reception, assured a fair process, kept the candidates within their time limits, acted as moderator, asked questions, and more. To each of you, thank you.

On November 6th we have the great responsibility to vote. It is easy to pass on this—but even easier to vote. Please exercise your voice as your choices do make a difference. Whether at the end of that day, looking at local, statewide and national elections, you are relieved or disappointed, it is vitally important to our democracy that *we the people* participate. I am grateful we have this right.

November 11th is Veterans Day (with a national holiday on the 12th) when the nation commemorates past and honors present military personnel for their service to the country. Whether or not we agree with all of the activities of the military, we can all be thankful to the men and women who serve the public in this way.

On Thanksgiving Day I hope all of you are with family and / or friends enjoying a day full of delicious food, stimulating conversations, fresh air—and abundant gratitude.

Two New Members

Please welcome the following new members of our branch. Since both have joined after the latest membership directory was assembled, the newsletter editors suggest that you print this information and tape it into the back of your membership booklet.

Janet Andrea
310 County Street
Bennington, VT 05201
(cell) 802-753-6601
Email: janet.andrea310@gmail.com

University of Rochester, BA
Vermont Law School, JD

Trudy (Gertrude) Carter
283 Village Lane
Bennington, VT 05201
802-753-7933
Email: trudycleave@verizon.net

Duke University BSRN
Smith College MSW

Candidate Forum Wrap-up

President Ruth Botzow welcomed everyone, then turned the evening over to Kathy Wagenknecht who moderated the event. Kathy explained the format of the forum, then began by asking the candidates to give opening statements. Next, candidates responded to the four questions members had prepared on minimum wage, the opioid epidemic, climate change, and health care. After those rounds of responses there were a few questions from the audience, including two questions related to health insurance, one on internet censorship, and one on education funding.

The formal part of the forum ended with the candidates giving closing statements. Most of the audience stayed to enjoy donuts and cider while continuing their conversations with the candidates. The *Bennington Banner* covered the well-attended forum in their Oct. 25th edition and the video should be available on CAT-TV's YouTube page.



Moderator: Kathy Wagenknecht

Photo Credit: Julie Mackaman



Candidates from left: Chris Bates, Jim Carroll, Mary Morrissey, Timothy Corcoran, Jim O'Connor, Michael Stern, and Nelson Brownell. Kevin Hoyt and Frederick Miller did not attend.

