

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH



Volume 66, Number 4

May Branch Meeting

When: Monday, May 8, 7:30 pm

Where: Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Street- In the Community Room

What: The Annual Scholarship Award Ceremony

President's Note

Happy May to you all! First, a tremendous thank you to all who helped with our annual Book Sale. It was a great success for us. You can read more about that in Mollie's note below. Welcome to the new members who joined us at the Book Sale. You can read about some of our new members below as well.

Please join us on Monday, May 8 at 7:30 at the Falls Church Community Center for our annual scholarship award ceremony. We will hear from some of our previous scholarship recipients, and you will get to meet this year's awardees. Come see the impact all of our hard work at the Book Sale enable us to have in the lives of the young women in Falls Church.



My family is mostly of Eastern European extraction, so I grew up celebrating May Day. (That's May 1, if you aren't familiar with it.) The tradition in my family includes providing flowers to the moms in the family. This reminds me every year to stop, appreciate the beauty around me, and express my gratitude for all of the marvelous things in my life. This year, I am especially thankful for all of you. Thank you for your passion, your commitment, and your participation in the Branch.

I hope the May flowers make you smile,

Kristan

Dues

It's that time of year again. Time to renew your membership by paying dues for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. The national dues are \$49, state dues are \$15 and our local dues are \$13. There are two options for paying: online or by check.

To pay online click on the link in the email you receive. It will link to your account in the Member Data Base. Put in your credit card number and you're done. Unless you'd like to

contribute either to the an AAUW fund or to our Career Development Grant #4350, which is in the dropdown menu, add the amount you'd like to contribute.

If you'd like to pay by check, please make it payable to AAUW and mail to Martha Trunk at 6571 Snowbell Lane, Falls Church, VA 22042 before June 30, 2017 or to Anne Baxter at 6337 Hillcrest Drive, Alexandria, VA after July 1, 2017.

Note: There will be a vote for an increase of National dues at the convention and our branch will also vote on an increase in dues in June. Both of these increases, if approved, would be for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

FC AAUW Welcomes New Members

Our branch is fortunate to welcome 4 new members: Kathy Nelson, Kim Weirick, Tony Kesslak and Jennifer Lukas. Here are notes from Kitty Richardson's interviews with 3 of them; the interview with Jennifer Lukas will be included in the June Flash.

Kathy Nelson

Kathy Nelson recently moved to Falls Church to be close to her daughter's family after the death of her husband of 50 years. She heard of our book sale, came looking for children's books and ended up joining our branch.

Kathy attended Harvard-Radcliffe and the New School for Social Research. Her undergraduate degree was in Social Relations, her Masters is in Labor Economics and her PhD is in Urban and Regional Economics.

In the '60s she and her physicist husband both went to work at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. Kathy was the laboratory's first economist. She studied the economic feasibility of civil defense shelters as well as population distribution and job mobility.

HUD, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, was founded in 1966. One of its first projects was to explore using census data to analyze urban growth patterns, especially migration and local and regional differences in population distribution and characteristics. The release of microdata samples from the 1960 Census made such analyses possible with mainframe computers for the first time. Very few organizations had the necessary data, social scientists, and computers. Kathy and the ORNL team were given the task.

Kathy ended up working for HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research for 25 years as an economist and social scientist. Over that time her research evolved from suburbanization and gentrification of *people* to focus on *housing* conditions and severe housing problems, especially among extremely-low-income renters. When Secretary Jack Kemp was negotiating with Congress in 1990 her analysis on "worst case needs for housing assistance" improved the income targeting of rental assistance and developed better measures of shortages of affordable housing.

Kathy has known about AAUW "forever". She was a member of the League of Women Voters in Oak Ridge, where there was no AAUW branch. Kathy considers both LWV and AAUW to be "Good Guys". Kathy is drawn to AAUW for fellowship and for advocacy through Lobby Corps and other activities.

Doubles tennis has been one of Kathy's life-long hobbies and she continues to play. She is very interested in learning about opportunities in the No. VA area.

Kim Weirick

Kim Weirick is retired. In January of this year she was observing and thinking about our political milieu. Her conclusion was to become involved on some level. Her mother has been a member of AAUW for over thirty years so Kim heard about the organization's advocacy efforts. Her internet search brought her to branches in No. VA. When she came to the Falls Church website she liked what she saw – book sale, scholarships, interesting programs. So she came to the February meeting and is now our member.

Kim earned an undergraduate degree from Ohio State University in landscape architecture and put her skills to work here in the Washington area working as a civilian employee for the Navy. She continued to work with them for the next five years specializing in land use for the military then moved to the Marine Corps.

Kim has been married to her architect husband for thirty years. They have two daughters in their late twenties. Kim admits to being an avid college football fan (remember THE Ohio State experience).

An interesting tidbit about Kim – she is learning to play the piano. She played the flute so could already read music. But learning to have the right hand know what the left hand is doing has been a brain stretch which Kim enjoys.

Kim is enthused about AAUW's Lobby Corps. She has already participated and plans to continue.

Tony Kessler

Tony Kessler says he heard of AAUW from "my dear friend Anna Shaffer". He also says he is looking to AAUW for an opportunity to work on important social equality/justice issues and for intellectual stimulation. Tony shares this information about himself:

St Francis University, Loretto, PA (BS Chemistry – Physical Sciences), some graduate work at the Pennsylvania State University (Environmental Pollution Control, no degree). He grew up in Johnstown, Pennsylvania (6th generation).

Manager of Occupational Safety and Health US Department of Commerce, Sideline consulting as a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) and environmental expert (air, mold, asbestos, lead, water, land, hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, etc.), expert in safety, air pollution and environmental chemistry as well as IH. Spent a lot of time traveling/working at various toxic sites and disasters such as New Orleans after the hurricanes and NYC cleaning up after 911.

Tony taught part-time, topics include: Industrial Hygiene, Environmental Chemistry and various Environmental Sciences as an adjunct instructor for; Laurel Highland Community College Johnstown, Pa, Allegheny County Community College Pittsburgh, PA and the Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio.

Married, home in Johnstown Pa, 4 adult children. 1 daughter, 3 sons. Daughter (Lauren) followed into my field and is working for my former employer in DC, has Masters of Science - Aquatic Biology and is a certified deep water diver instructor, studies martial arts judo/karate

and avid hunter. Son Kevin (BS History) lives in Denver, and is a supervisor in the customer service department Apple Computers. Son Ryan (BA Psychology) living at home, son Sean (BA Criminology and Law Enforcement) living at home, wife Debbie (BA Psychology magna cum laude, MA Industrial Relations summa cum laude), housewife/emergency substitute teacher.

Cooking, bicycling, gardening, exercise, reading, the arts, expert down-hill skier and lots of other things that I never have the time to do.

AAUW 2017 National Election

It's that time of year. Take your opportunity for vote on the public policies, candidates for AAUW's Board of Directors, resolutions, and proposed changes to the AAUW Bylaws. Details about the candidates and ballot issues can be found here -

http://www.aauw.org/aauw_check/pdf_download/show_pdf.php?file=2017-OMOV-Voter-Guide as well as in your spring *Outlook* magazine. Your ballot must be submitted by June 15, 2017 at 9 pm.

You should have received an email from Mark Hopkins on or about April 17 providing your unique voting link. If you cannot locate this email, your unique voter ID is also on the back of your spring *Outlook* issue. If you prefer a paper ballot, you have until May 4 to request one by either e-mailing connect@aauw.org or calling 800.326.2289. You'll need to provide your name, member ID, city and state with your request. Don't know your member ID? Check the Member Center on our branch website at <http://fallschurcharea-va.aauw.net/member-center/>.

Vote now. Do not wait until the last moment!

The Book Sale

A report from Mollie Jewell, our experienced and capable Book Sale chairperson. We are grateful for your leadership, Mollie!

"Whew! And congratulations! The book sale is over and it was another success --thanks to all who helped. Several things stand out in my mind.

This year we were more selective in the books we kept which made the sale look great and paid off twice for us: We made almost \$1000 in pre-sale book sales by selling our less than desirable books to Discover books and to Patrick Ferree – and we kept the cost of moving the books down to a little over \$1200 despite the bad weather (thanks also to a price break from Easy Movers). Imagine if we had had twice as many books – we'd have the double the cost and I don't when we would have finished loading them into the sale.

Speaking of which, the weather presented us with a multitude of challenges this year. March and early April were a mess! Lots of rainy Saturdays forced us to cancel book sorting twice and limited our publicity at the Farmers Market. Fortunately, we had spectacular turnout on the few good sorting days and were able to sort almost everything before the sale. And then the rain, hail, and tornado warnings on the Thursday before the sale cost us in terms of both time and money. Because of weather delays (you can't move books in the rain), both the books and the

tables were about two hours late in arriving – which in turn raised the cost of the movers and delayed the final sorting/sale setup.

We couldn't have done it without the excellent student turnout from Stuart's Avid program and Aurora House; as well as some students from George Mason HS and the library. These kids worked both Thursday for the setup and Saturday for the load out. I don't know about you, but that really saved my back!

With everyone pitching in, we got the sale ready for opening by Friday morning. We had the usual big and energetic crowd at 9am Friday to start the sale off on a high note. Steady sales the rest of Friday and Saturday kept the books flowing out the door. Members came and worked hard all day Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, so with plenty of member help; we kept the books straightened and the sales lines moving. The credit cards continued to work well, with 1/3 of the sale by credit. We even recruited three new members!

At 4pm Saturday, we started the load-out. Discovery books came with those huge "gaylords" which we filled both with books and with the used cardboard. This worked very well with the help of the students and many members/friends, we got all the books and tables out of the gym within an hour. In fact, we arrived at the Celebration Dinner EARLY!

As always, the Celebration Dinner was a tired but happy gathering. I didn't count, but I think we had almost 30 people come to hear the announcement of the grand total of \$23,819.48 that is about \$500 more than last year. Good work!

Then, the final job was cleaning out the Youman's garage, which is now free of book debris...and already more books are arriving!



Thanks to all who helped – but especially to the Youmans without whom we couldn't do this.

Youmans, first and foremost, thanks for the garage to store the books, the disruption of hosting us every Saturday in March, and the many trips to Lantern Books in Georgetown to pick up donations. Thanks to Mary for all she does, to Chuck for processing the "big books" (both during and after sorting) and for his work with setup and tear-down for sorting, and to Rich for receiving books, hauling them to the street for Discover, and for setup/tear-down.

And for the many other things they do that we don't even know about.

Thanks also to Renee for pricing and protecting the Special books, to Martha for her work both as treasurer (assisted by Sally) and with publicity, to Becky for signs, other publicity, and the collection bin, to Aida for keeping the bin emptied with the help of Anna, Becky, and Bunny, to Susan Hesser for the signs for the credit cards, to Pam for the AVID students, to Patrick for buying and immediately disappearing the books culled each week, and to new members Anna

and Kathleen who both showed up when needed even when they had no idea what they were getting into.

And that's just to name a few. Almost all the members contributed in one way or another. Here is the list of the workers I know about, but there are more! Thanks to Anne Baxter, Dianne Bodeen, Sally Brett, Madalyn Cafruny, Olivia Cedillo, Susan Conklin, Christiane DeJong, Uyen Dinh, Marilyn Falksen, Patrick Ferree, Mary Ellen Gannon, Becky Gaul, Kathleen Gerrity, Susan Hesser, Marian Jarrett, Mollie Jewell, Sarah John, Renee Klish, Shannon LaBarbera, Pam Martinov, Kristan McMahon, Debbie Pawlak, Kitty Richardson, Polly Rosenstein, Anna Schaffer, Mille Schrieber, Anna Shaffer, Nonie Spevack, Mellen Tanamly, Martha Trunk, Kim Weirick, Sharon Zackula, Mary Youman, Chuck Youman, and Rich Youman. “

See the Booksale in Pictures below.

Thursday – Sale setup

The 2017 book sale grossed \$23, 819 in two days of sales and a year of work! Here it is in pictures...

Pre-sale preparations started Thursday morning.



Moving the books from Youmans in the rain.

Patrick Ferree and movers unload books from the truck.





Renee Klish, Susan Conklin and Sally Brett assemble signs and Becky Gaul hangs a sign
Move-in to the Community Center, and the weather gets worse!



Members sort the "Big" books before the sale.
Facing are Bunny Jarrett and Edward Levine

At the sale: Friday and Saturday

Initial Friday morning rush starts the sale with lots of energy!



And the AAUW sales force is ready



Sales force of Pam Martinov, Becky Gaul, Olivia Cedillo, and Mary Youman talk to Jim Gaul.



The pace was steady all day Friday and Saturday.



Old friends visited the sale:
Former member Juanita Blackburn (now
approaching 100) and
Shannon LaBarbera, one of our newest
members. (Right)



Saturday: Move-out and celebration

Loading gaylords: Sharon Zackula and volunteers.



Christiane DeJong (in the Gaylord) and members and families: Olivia Cedillo, Virgil Bodeen, Anne Baxter, Gary Jewell, John Traub, Pam Martinov.

At the celebration dinner: Bill Richardson, Esmat Niazy,, Anna Schaffer, Polly Rosenstein, Kathleen Gerrity, and Kittry Richardson (standing) (L) and



Pam Martinov, Marilyn Falksen, Susan Conklin, and Mollie Jewell (Below. Right)



These are the folks who bought advertising to help defer our expenses:

Foxes Music Company

New to You (elegant designer brands consignment shop on Broad Street)

DeJong Studio/Architecture PLLC (our own Christiane who also put together the advertisers' board)

Panjshir Restaurant

GPhone – Aida Loomis is major a part of this company

Caribbean Plate—in the strip south of the Falls Church. (The brown stew is recommended.)

Redstone Financial Advisors – our Polly Rosenstein is president

Waverly Rare Books

Falls Church Antique Center

Quinn's Auction Galleries

Partners Estate Sales.

If you have a reason to frequent any of these businesses, a word of thanks would be in order. Together, they provided us with \$240, which helped pay the added moving expenses due to the rain delays.

Book Club News

The book club will be meeting on Tuesday, May 16th at La Madeleine in Bailey's Crossroads.

We will be discussing *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance.

Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis

by J.D. Vance

From a former Marine and Yale Law School Graduate, a poignant account of growing up in a poor Appalachian town, that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class. Part memoir, part historical and social analysis, J. D. Vance's *Hillbilly Elegy* is a fascinating consideration of class, culture, and the American dream.

Vance's grandparents were "dirt poor and in love." They got married and moved north from Kentucky to Ohio in the hopes of escaping the dreadful poverty around them. Their grandchild (the author) graduated from Yale Law School, a conventional marker of their success in achieving upward mobility for their family. But Vance cautions that is only the short version. The slightly longer version is that his grandparents, aunt, uncle, and mother struggled to varying degrees with the demands of their new middle class life and they, and Vance himself, still carry

around the demons of their chaotic family history.

Delving into his own personal story and drawing on a wide array of sociological studies, Vance takes us deep into working class life in the Appalachian region. This demographic of our country has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, and Vance provides a searching and clear-eyed attempt to understand when and how “hillbillies” lost faith in any hope of upward mobility, and in opportunities to come. At times funny, disturbing, and deeply moving, this is a family history that is also a troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large portion of this country.

Hardcover, 272 pages

Published June 28th 2016 by Harper

Original Title

Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis

ISBN

0062300547 (ISBN13: 9780062300546)

Edition Language

English

Setting

[Middletown, Ohio](#) (United States)

Literary Awards

[Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Memoir & Autobiography \(2016\)](#)

Other Editions

- <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/29890212-hillbilly-elegy>

This will be our last meeting until September so come and have an input on the book selections for the Fall. Everyone who is attending please give us your best idea for a book to read for the Fall at the meeting. If you can't attend and want to suggest a book, let Polly Rosenstein or Kathleen Gerrity know before the meeting. We will collect a book selection from each member and vote for three a week later.

We're growing; we've added two new book club members, so come and join in the fun.

Program Notes:

Summer Social Dinner Event

[A summer social dinner event has been planned for the Branch.](#) Please plan on joining us for an evening of delicious food, good company, and intellectual stimulation.

Location: Present Restaurant

Address: [6678 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church VA 22042](#)

Cuisine: Vietnamese

Date: Tuesday, June 6

Time: 6 PM

Speaker: The restaurant will provide a talk on the Vietnamese history of food and culture.

Website: presentrestaurant.wixsite.com/presentrestaurant

Be on the lookout for the event email invitation which will be coming out soon!

A thank you note to our branch:



JEB Stuart High School
3301 Peace Valley Lane
Falls Church, Virginia 22044
<http://www.fcps.edu/StuarHS>

April 20, 2017

Martha Trunk
Falls Church Area AAUW EF
6571 Snowbell Ln
Falls Church, VA 22042-2254

Dear Ms. Trunk:

Thank you for your support of the JEB Stuart High School AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program college field trip to New England this April. Your generous donation to sponsor a student for this trip will make a major difference in the life of that student.

Going away to college is a goal for many of our students, but also a daunting proposition simply because they have never visited a college to realize the opportunities that exist. By visiting these colleges that provide 100% financial aid, our students will recognize that going away to a prestigious college is a goal they can achieve. These college visits become a major motivator for our students' continued achievement and create a "college going" culture and a sense of pride among all of our students.

Your donation of \$ 700 to our school's AVID program is tax-deductible for your 2017 taxes. We greatly appreciate you considering JEB Stuart High School for your charitable donations.

You will be contacted by the student you are sponsoring to hear about his or her experience going on the trip. Our students are very excited about visiting these colleges and understand this trip could not be possible without your support.

Thank you again for your donation!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Penny M. Gros".

Penny M. Gros
Principal
pmgros@fcps.edu

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Wolf Welch".

Eric Wolf Welch
AVID Program Coordinator
ewelch@fcps.edu

A message from Kristan: April Crowdsourcing - Help for an international student.

Sarah John recently extolled the virtues of AAUW to a young woman she met at a restaurant. The young woman reached out to Sarah, who then reached out to me, and I am now tapping into your brains and networks to see what guidance we provide her. Our scholarship guidelines do not allow us to help her, but perhaps you know an organization or a person who can or can direct her as to next steps.

From her email to Sarah: She is an international student, from India, here in the States on her own. She is pursuing a Master's degree in Information Systems from the American College of Commerce and Technology, an online school, with a base of operations in Falls Church. The Master's program is a two-year program and she is part of the way through her first year.

Please send your thoughts to Kristan at fallschurcharea-va@aauw.net, with the subject line of April Crowdsourcing. If you are recommending a specific person, please check with her/him before providing contact information to Kristan. If you are recommending an organization, it would be helpful to have a point of contact.



Women's E-Learning in Leadership, WELL Organization

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION SESSION

Wednesday May 10th 11:00 am-12:30 pm

GMU Merten Hall, Room 3001

We are a not for profit organization located at GMU-Fairfax Campus's Women and Gender Studies.

Our mission is to empower university women to lead through mentorship, educational opportunities, and global networking.

At this session, you will have the chance to meet our board members and executive team members, also to get involved with the mentorship program.

Visit our website: www.wellforpeace.org Email: wellforpeace@gmail.com

AAUW members are very welcome to participate in our networking meeting and exchange of ideas for a mentorship program for our students.

Fariba Parsa, Ph.D.

Researcher and Affiliated Faculty at Center for Women and Gender Studies
Founder and President of Women's E-Learning in Leadership, (WELL)
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Email: fparsa@gmu.edu

www.wellforpeace.org

AAUW FC BRANCH GOOGLE email address:

Our AAUW FC Google email address at aauw.net is: fallschurcharea-va@aauw.net and the password for the account was emailed to Kristan.

Calendar of Branch Events

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| May 8 | Branch meeting at the Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church, 7:30 pm |
| May 16 | Book Club Meeting at La Madeleine, Baileys Crossroads Center, Baileys Crossroads, 7:30 pm |
| June 6 | Summer Social Dinner Event, Present Restaurant, 6678 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church VA 22042, 6:00 pm |



The American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

<http://aauw---va.aauw.net>