

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

Volume 66, Number 6



September Branch Meeting

When: Monday, September 11, 7:30 pm

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

What: Guest Speaker Nikki Graves Henderson: *Everyday Women Step Outside the "Norm": Examining the Uncommon Actions of Early Falls Church Women*

We invite you to get our 2017-2018 season off to a great start on September 11 with guest speaker Nikki Graves Henderson from the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation. Her topic will be *Everyday Women Step Outside the "Norm": Examining the Uncommon Actions of Early Falls Church Women*. This look at a different aspect of Falls Church history promises to be of great interest to all of us who relate to this community. Joining us also will be Mrs. Henderson's husband, Edwin, whose family has played an important part in the history of the black community both here and in the District. Mrs. Henderson says she will be including women of other ethnicities in her talk—other lesser-known women.

You are encouraged to invite family and friends to this meeting; we are inviting the Falls Church community to join us also, so an overflow crowd would be great!

Happy Labor Day!

President's Note

Hello Friends,

We're entering another exciting season of learning and opportunities to make our community stronger. I'm excited that we're starting this one off with an exploration of our area's lesser-known history and interesting people. I suspect there will be much that will inform our thoughts on our more recent history and how we can help in the community and world at large. Please do bring friends and neighbors. There is so much for us to learn about our own history.

See you next Monday,

Kristan



DUES

THANKS to the many members, who have already paid their Fiscal Year 2017-2018 AAUW dues! If you have not yet renewed your dues, national dues are \$49, state dues are \$15 and our local dues are \$13 for a total of \$77.

There are two options for paying: online or by check.

1. To pay online click on the link in the email you recently received. It will link to your account in the Member Data Base. Put in your credit card number and you're done.

If 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.

2. If you'd like to pay by check, please make it payable to AAUW and mail to Anne Baxter, Treasurer, at 6337 Hillcrest Drive, Alexandria, VA or bring your check to the September 11 branch meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Anne Baxter at vabaxter@verizon.net or 703-256-6567.

Northern District Meeting – Saturday, October 21, 1:30 pm

The Northern District Meeting will be held Oct. 21 at 1:30 p.m., at George Mason Regional Library (7001 Little River Turnpike.) We are anticipating a good crowd to hear AAUW's new CEO, Kim Churches, talk about her vision for AAUW's present and future. This will be an interactive meeting, with most of the time with Kim spent in conversation and question time. There is a conflict between this and our planned book sorting.

Fall Book Sorting Starts Saturday Oct 21

The storage facility (AKA Mary Youman's garage) is starting to fill. We haven't received as many big donations as last year, so we have scheduled only one fall sorting session: Saturday, Oct. 21. Getting as many books sorted as we can now will really help if we have bad weather in March. Come any time between 10 and 3pm. Stay as long as you want. No sign-up needed.

Sorting basics. We sort outdoors (in the driveway) in the Youman's driveway (4419 N. 18th Street, Arlington), so dress for the weather. We suggest layers and/or sunscreen. Call ahead if the weather looks poor - Mary's phone is [703-528-8993](tel:703-528-8993). Saturday we start at 10, and go until we finish (but no later than 4pm). Come when you can, for as long as you want.

Never sorted before? Don't worry. No experience is necessary; we offer on-the-job training. And we have uploaded our "How to sort books" onto Google, so you can see it. Just follow this

link: [<Book sort fact sheet>](#). We invite all book sorters to share in a simple lunch each week, so you don't have to worry about getting hungry. And, remember, book sorters get first crack at purchasing the books!

Want to bring a friend? Good! The more the merrier, and the more we accomplish. Just be sure to tell them to dress for the outdoors.

Recap

Place: 4419 N. 18th Street, Arlington

Dates: October 21 Saturday: 10am to 4pm (or until we finish)

Volunteers needed for Fall Festival - Saturday 9/16

FC AAUW is again participating in the Fall Festival on Sat. 9/17 on the City Hall grounds, and we need your help to staff our booth.

The festival features live entertainment, pony rides, children's amusements, crafters, businesses and civic organizations (including AAUW), and cuisine from city kitchens. The children's activity tent offers face painting and craft projects. The festival is an excellent opportunity to publicize both AAUW and our book sale to the Falls Church community at large.

To help us maintain our identity as the "book ladies," we will be distributing paperbacks and bookmarks to people inquiring about book donations and the sale itself. And, of course, we'll be talking to people about AAUW membership and FC branch activities. Volunteer to help for a 2-hour shift and help us spread the word. It's also a chance to ensure you attend the festival and Taste of Falls Church, too. Here's the link to [Fall Festival and Taste of Falls Church](#).

To volunteer, contact Mollie Jewell ([703-941-5643](tel:703-941-5643), molliejewell2@gmail.com) with your preferred time slot: 7:30, 10:00, noon, or 2:00; I need two volunteers for each time period.

AAUW Public Policy

Federal Lobby Day

Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 5, the date for this year's Federal Lobby Day, which is a collaboration between AAUW of Virginia and the AAUW Lobby Corps. Interested AAUW members will be matched with experienced Lobby Corps members and assigned Congressional offices in Washington DC to visit that day to discuss legislation important to AAUW members. If you are interested in participating, please send your name and email address to AAUW of Virginia's Public Policy Vice President, Leslie Tourigny by September 14, 2017. Leslie's email address is ltourigny@gmail.com

Marilyn Falksen, Public Policy Chair, Falls Church Branch

Results from Public Policy Survey:

As you may recall, earlier this year AAUW of Virginia members were asked to complete a survey

to determine what public policy priorities we should focus on at the State level during 2017-2018. In the survey, members were also asked whether they individually wanted to take a more active role in public policy activities. Thanks to those who completed the survey and to those who indicated that they want to take a more active role in public policy.

The top public policy priorities identified for focus by survey respondents were:

1. Pay equity and fairness in compensation (85 votes)
2. Access to quality, affordable health care (79 votes)
3. Implementation of fair, nonpartisan legislative redistricting tied with adequate funding for public education (70 votes each)

In response to those members interested in becoming more active in public policy activities, we are activating the AAUW of Virginia Public Policy Committee. This standing committee is already authorized by the AAUW of Virginia by-laws: [AAUW-of-Virginia-Bylaws-2016-Nov-6.pdf](#). Initially, we will be focusing on pay equity (legislation prohibiting employers from asking job candidates their salary histories during the hiring process) and fair, nonpartisan legislative redistricting. Examples of the types of assignments committee members may work on are:

1. Pay Equity (Salary History)

- Researching State and local successes in passing pay equity salary history legislation (i.e., Massachusetts, California, Philadelphia and New York City)
- Contacting AAUW State and local branches in Massachusetts, California, Philadelphia and New York City to discuss their successful strategies, including overcoming arguments from the opposition and eliciting support from the business community
- Identifying/contacting Virginia Delegate(s) and Senator(s) to champion pay equity legislation
- Building support in the business community

2. Fair, Nonpartisan Legislative Redistricting

- Coordinating the showing of the OneVirginia2021 Foundation's documentary *GerryRIGGED: Turning Democracy on its Head* by our branches around the state, in collaboration with other community groups (NOTE: AAUW of Virginia will work with OneVirginia2021 and the OneVirginia2021 Foundation on efforts to educate the public on the need for fair, nonpartisan legislative redistricting. However, AAUW is nonpartisan and we do not endorse candidates or engage in other partisan activities. OneVirginia2021 has endorsed candidates for public office and we will not collaborate with them on any partisan activities.)
- Working with local governments on resolutions in support of redistricting reform
- Contacting/meeting with State lawmakers, as appropriate

- Researching efforts in other states to pass redistricting reform bills
- Contacting other AAUW State branches (especially Pennsylvania) on their successes, strategies, and their redistricting website information

Any members who want to serve on the Public Policy Committee should reach out to Leslie Tourigny (AAUW of VA Public Policy VP) at ltourigny@gmail.com, and include in their email whether they want to work on pay equity or redistricting. Conference calls will begin in September to get started.

Book Club News

Our first Fall meeting: Tuesday 9/19/17 at La Madeleine, 5861 Crossroads Center Way, Baileys Crossroads, VA 22041 (Leesburg Pike) at 7:30 PM. Please join us whether or not you've read the book. We'll be discussing *The Refugees* (see below for the descriptions of the Fall selections). Drop in monthly or whenever you feel like it!

SEPTEMBER selection: THE REFUGEES by Viet Thanh Nguyen

With the coruscating gaze that informed *The Sympathizer*, in *The Refugees* Viet Thanh Nguyen gives voice to lives led between two worlds, the adopted homeland and the country of birth. From a young Vietnamese refugee who suffers profound culture shock when he comes to live with two gay men in San Francisco, to a woman whose husband is suffering from dementia and starts to confuse her for a former lover, to a girl living in Ho Chi Minh City whose older half-sister comes back from America having seemingly accomplished everything she never will, the stories are a captivating testament to the dreams and hardships of immigration.

This second piece of fiction by a major new voice in American letters, *The Refugees* is a beautifully written and sharply observed book about the aspirations of those who leave one country for another, and the relationships and desires for self-fulfillment that define our lives.

OCTOBER selection: COMMONWEALTH by Ann Patchett

One Sunday afternoon in Southern California, Bert Cousins shows up at Franny Keating's christening party uninvited. Before evening falls, he has kissed Franny's mother, Beverly—thus setting in motion the dissolution of their marriages and the joining of two families. Spanning five decades, *Commonwealth* explores how this chance encounter reverberates through the lives of the four parents and six children involved. Spending summers together in Virginia, the Keating and Cousins children forge a lasting bond that is based on a shared disillusionment with their parents and the strange and genuine affection that grows up between them. When, in her twenties, Franny begins an affair with the legendary author Leon Posen and tells him about her family, the story of her siblings is no longer hers to control. Their childhood becomes the basis for his wildly successful book, ultimately forcing them to come to terms with their losses, their guilt, and the deeply loyal connection they feel for one another.

Told with equal measures of humor and heartbreak, *Commonwealth* is a meditation on inspiration, interpretation, and the ownership of stories. It is a brilliant and tender tale of the far-reaching ties of love and responsibility that bind us together.

NOVEMBER Selection: AMERICAN NATIONS: A HISTORY OF THE ELEVEN REGIONAL CULTURES OF NORTH AMERICA by Colin Woodard

An illuminating history of North America's eleven rival cultural regions that explodes the red state-blue state myth. North America was settled by people with distinct religious, political, and ethnographic characteristics, creating regional cultures that have been at odds with one another ever since. Subsequent immigrants didn't confront or assimilate into an "American" or "Canadian" culture, but rather into one of the eleven distinct regional ones that spread over the continent each staking out mutually exclusive territory.

In *American Nations*, Colin Woodard leads us on a journey through the history of our fractured continent, and the rivalries and alliances between its component nations, which conform to neither state nor international boundaries. He illustrates and explains why "American" values vary sharply from one region to another. Woodard reveals how intranational differences have played a pivotal role at every point in the continent's history, from the American Revolution and the Civil War to the tumultuous sixties and the "blue county/red county" maps of recent presidential elections. *American Nations* is a revolutionary and revelatory take on America's myriad identities and how the conflicts between them have shaped our past and are molding our future.

We meet the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Our meeting dates will be 9/19, 10/17 and 11/21. Please join us any time, Polly Rosenstein and Kathleen Gerrity

Wine Tasting to Raise Funds for Haiti Medical Mission

Please save the date for a wine tasting at Chainbridge Cellars, Sunday October 15 from 2:00 -4:00. There are limited numbers of tickets, which will be \$35. 100 % will support our medical mission in Chantal!! They will do a tasting of 10 wines. Evite will follow but if you think you'd be interested, please email me!! Sarah John: sarahjohn2857@gmail.com



Membership News:

Shannon is the proud mother of baby boy Edison born on August 7th. She will be focusing her energies on the First Son and will be peripherally involved in membership activities for the coming months.

Kim Weirick who joined our branch in February has agreed to help Kitty with membership tasks for the coming year.

Membership is everyone's concern. Two members who deserve special mention for referring friends and acquaintances to Kitty are Millie Schreiber and Susan Hesser. Thank you!

Women and Gender Studies at George Mason University

Sally Brett, Kitty Richardson and Sandy Lawrence, AAUW-VA co-president, attended an open house given by Angie Hattery, Director of the Women and Gender Studies at George Mason University, and her partner. The Aug. 24th event was the fifth annual kick-off to the academic year. Angie, the consummate collaborator and networker, brings faculty, students and community representatives together to meet at the start of the school year. The food was phenomenal and the company was very interesting.

Dr. Fariba Parsa, Director of the WELL Program our branch supported with a Special Projects Grant last year, attended. Both Angie and Fariba plan to keep us informed of activities in the coming year that could involve AAUW.

GMU website has information about Dr. Hattery and Dr. Parsa at:

<https://wmst.gmu.edu/people/ahattery> and <https://wmst.gmu.edu/people/fparsa>

Sandy Lawrence mentioned when we went to the GMU party that she had attended the wake for Martha Ann Miller. Here is information on the AAUW of VA website:

[Thanks to branch member, **Karen Darnier** for reporting that their church, Clarendon UMC, honored **Martha Ann Miller** on August 6 on her **106th birthday** by bringing **106+ boxes of cereal** to church to donate to Arlington Food Assistance Center in her honor. "Pretty cool", as Karen said.]

"We are sad to report that Martha Ann Miller (Riggs), age 106 of Arlington, VA, passed away on Wednesday, August 16, 2017. She was a long time member of AAUW and the Arlington branch. Her obituary is at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?fhid=3060&n=martha-miller&pid=186455526>]

McLean AAUW Announces 48th Annual Used Book Sale New Location!

The McLean Area AAUW Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will host its annual Used Book Sale on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, October 6-8 at the Spring Hill Recreation Center, 1239 Spring Hill Road, McLean, VA.

Friday October 6 9 am - 7 pm

Saturday October 7 10 am – 6 pm

Sunday October 8 12 pm - 4 pm

Books, CD's, DVD's and Records for adults and children

An added feature this year will be the raffle of a signed Washington National Max Scherzer jersey and cap.

For 48 years with Book Sale proceeds, the McLean Area AAUW Branch has raised more than \$550,000 for fellowships, scholarships, and grants and has endowed an American Fellowship, an International Fellowship, and two Research & Projects Grants.

Nationally AAUW is one of the largest sources of funding for graduate women. For the 2017-2018 academic year AAUW provided more than \$3.7 million for 250 fellowships and grants to outstanding women and nonprofit organizations.

GMU Events

GMU Visiting Filmmakers Series: *Almost Sunrise* + Michael Collins and Marty Syjuco

9/11 Monday 6pm Johnson Center Cinema

Moderator: Patricia Maulden, GMU Associate Professor in Conflict Analysis and Resolution

<http://fams.gmu.edu/events/6702>

GMU Visiting Filmmakers Series: *Cameraperson* + Kirsten Johnson

9/28 Thursday 4:30pm Johnson Center Cinema

Moderator: Hans Charles, Cinematographer and GMU Assistant Professor in Film and Video Studies

<http://fams.gmu.edu/events/6703>

Calendar of Branch Events

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| September 11 | Branch Meeting: Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Street-
In the Community Room at 7:30 PM |
| September 17 | Book Club Meeting: La Madeleine, 5861 Crossroads Center Way, Baileys
Crossroads, VA 22041 (Leesburg Pike) at 7:30 PM |
| September 27 | Branch Dinner - details to be announced |
| October 5 | Federal Lobby Day: Send an email for information on location to
ltourigny@gmail.com |



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>