

## **AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH**

Volume 66, Number 7      October 6, 2017



### **October Meeting**

**When:**      October 9, 2017    7:30 pm

**Where:**      Left Senior Center Room, Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Road

**What:**      All About Aurora House with Aurora House representatives

### **President's Letter**

Happy Autumn Y'all,

I hope that you enjoyed our local history lesson in September. There is so much of our area we still need to explore to become better informed citizens. This month, we are continuing this theme with a program from an organization our branch has been supporting through our Special Projects grants (as well as individual member contributions.)

We're already looking forward to prepare for the branch Book Sale this Spring. A sorting day is planned for Saturday, October 21. This is the same day as the Northern District meeting, but rest easy, you have time to participate in both! (Please see the calendar section at the end of the newsletter for the times and locations of both the book sorting and the Northern District meeting.) We have been asked to contribute savory foods for the Northern District meeting. For those of you attending book sorting that morning, Kitty Richardson has kindly offered to marshal the forces for the Northern District meeting. If you are able to contribute a savory snack, but can't attend the Northern District meeting, Kitty will happily collect your food during book sorting to bring it to the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all at our events this month.

Kristan  
President, Falls Church Branch

## Looking Ahead...

### October Meeting

Please also note that our Fall programs are presented with our Special Projects in mind. We will be looking at the Special Projects guidelines at the October meeting. You are reminded the deadline for application is March 1, but it's a first come, first serve process and our funds are limited. As you hear from various speakers—and receive requests for donations from various groups in which you are involved or promulgate—remember the Special Projects awards which allow each member to be a minor philanthropist on behalf of her branch!

Application forms are found on our splendid Web site.

### November Meeting

13 November: Why Gender Studies? With Katherine White of the Springfield branch

**Please note that the November meeting will be in the parlor of The Falls Church Episcopal Church;** park in the Broad Street parking lot (you can walk straight from your car to the parlor, no steps). Meeting begins at 7:30; there will be refreshments if you bring them.

### September meeting- Recap!



The September season starter saw a good turnout of both members and folks from the community. The speaker was Nikki Graves Henderson, the History Program Director of the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation. With the collaboration of her husband, Edwin Henderson, she has explored deeply the history of the African-American community in Falls Church. In her talk to us, she introduced us to some of the lesser-known, but still extraordinary, woman who played roles in early Falls Church. She came also with numerous photos, articles, and other memorabilia of these women and their families, and made

connections for us between some of these early families—largely free blacks --and names and places familiar to most in Falls Church. It was clear that the African-American and white communities were often closely interlinked; time was the only constraint to a further sharing of this history, and we hope to continue to participate with this organization.

A visit to the Tinner Hill website, with a click on “Our History” will add considerably to your knowledge of this fascinating subject.



## Dues are coming due

THANKS to the many members, who have already paid their Fiscal Year 2017-2018 AAUW dues! Annual dues should be paid by November

1. 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 dues reminder that you received in late August. 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Anne Baxter at [vabaxter@verizon.net](mailto:vabaxter@verizon.net) or [703-256-6567](tel:703-256-6567).

## AAUW Lobby Corps Fall Training



Nine Falls Church Branch members participated in the AAUW Lobby Corps Fall Training on September 7, 2017: Kim Weirick, Susan Conklin, Aida Loomis, Kari Kelley, Anne Baxter, Kitty Richardson, Marilyn Falksen, Sally Brett, and Bunny Jarrett. Anne Hedgepeth, Interim Vice President of Public Policy and Government Relations, explained that AAUW staff use the public policy priorities adopted by the

membership at the biennial convention as a guide when determining what issues and legislation staff and Lobby Corps will work on. Currently, these issues include eliminating pay

discrimination against women, opposing federal dollars going to private schools, legislating a fix for immigrants currently covered by DACA which includes a path to permanent status, and ensuring access to health care for all Americans. The group also received step-by-step guidance on how to prepare for a visit with a member of Congress and effectively communicate AAUW's position on a particular issue or piece of legislation.

## Two-Minute Activist

Become a two-minute activist and let your voice be heard on issues important to you and

AAUW! It's easy. Just sign up by going to <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/> and click on the "sign up" button in the middle of the page.

This will bring you to a form to complete with your name, zip code, and email. Once signed up, you will receive email notices when your advocacy is needed. AAUW will provide you with the tools you need to send

messages to your Senators and Representative in Congress and to administration officials. You will receive a prepared letter which you are able to modify to personalize, if you wish. Then, with a push of a button, it's on it's way. If time is of the essence, you may receive a request to make telephone calls and will be provided with talking points.



## Candidate Forum

The Falls Church Citizens for a Better City and the Community Issues Forum (which includes the Falls Church Branch of AAUW) are sponsoring a Candidate Forum for the local school board election on Wednesday, October 25. The event begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at the American Legion Hall Post 130, 400 North Oak Street, Falls Church, Virginia 22046. The following candidates have agreed to participate: Greg Anderson, Richard Crespin, Alison Kutchma, Shannon Litton, Shawna Russell, and Lawrence Webb. Questions for the candidates may be submitted in advance by mailing them to:

Harry Shovlin/Attn: Community Forum  
The Falls Church American Legion Post 130  
400 North Oak Street  
Falls Church, VA 22046

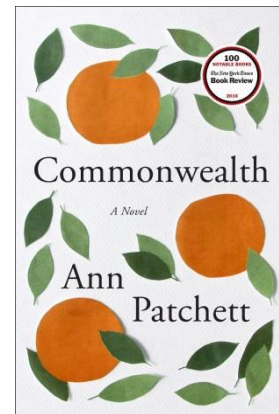
Attendees will also be able to submit written questions at the forum. If you have questions, please contact Sally Ekfelt at [Ekfelt@gmail.com](mailto:Ekfelt@gmail.com). If you plan attend, please email Marilyn Falksen at [fcaauwpublicpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:fcaauwpublicpolicy@gmail.com) as she is looking for someone to represent the Branch at the event

## Book Club

Our October book club meeting will be Tuesday 10/19/17 at the home of Kitty Richardson, [3008 Rosemary Lane, Falls Church, VA 22042](#) at 7:30 PM. Please join us whether or not you're read the book. Drop in monthly or whenever you feel like it

OCTOBER selection: COMMONWEALTH by Ann Patchett

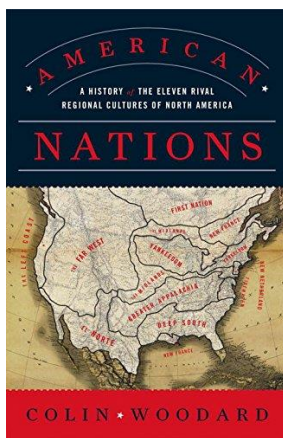
One Sunday afternoon in Southern California, Bert Cousins shows up at Franny Keating's christening party uninvited. Before evening falls, he has kissed Franny's mother, Beverly—thus setting in motion the dissolution of their marriages and the joining of two families. Spanning five decades, *Commonwealth* 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 international 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.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |             |          |                                                                                                        |
|-------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 9   | 7:30 pm  | Branch meeting at the Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Road                             |
| October 17  | 7:30 pm  | Book Club- home of Kitty Richardson, 3008 Rosemary Lane, Falls Church, VA 22042                        |
| October 21  | 10am-4pm | Book Sorting, Mary Youman's house, 4419 18 <sup>th</sup> Street North, Arlington                       |
| October 21  | 1:30 pm  | Northern District Meeting, George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale        |
| October 25  | 7:30 pm  | Candidate Forum, American Legion Hall Post 130, 400 North Oak Street, Falls Church, Virginia 22046     |
| November 13 | 7:30 pm  | Branch meeting, Parlor of The Falls Church Episcopal Church, 115 E. Fairfax St, Falls Church, VA 22046 |
| November 21 | 7:30 pm  | Book Club- Location TBD                                                                                |



**empowering women since 1881**

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>