

## **AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH**

Volume 66, Number 8    November 2, 2017



### **November Meeting [NOTE: Change of Venue]**

When:            November 13, 2017 7:30 pm

Where:          Parlor of The Falls Church Episcopal Church, 115 E. Fairfax St, Falls Church, VA 22046

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

### **President's Letter**

Dear Falls Church Branch members,

Happy November. First, I'd like to thank all those who sorted books a couple Saturdays ago. For those of you new to that particular fun, you can see how much preparation goes into our annual Book Sale. I understand it worked like a well-oiled machine with some members arriving just at the time others were leaving for the Northern District meeting. I also hear we broke a record for the number of copies for Hamlet. "To be, or not to be," that certainly was the question.

Two upcoming events for you to keep in mind. The first, naturally, is our November meeting. We will be joined by Katherine White and our discussion will be on the importance of gender and women's studies. Recently, I was reading a book of Nora Ephron's columns from the 1970s, and I was struck by how many of her comments and the challenges she describe resonated with me today. There certainly is a feeling that so much progress has been made, but are we (society at large, that is) losing sight of the road still left to travel.

The second event is our branch holiday party. The Conklins have graciously agreed to host us again this year. A save the date announcement appears later in the Flash. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, December 9, and we're looking for volunteers to help with the planning.

Warmly,  
Kristan

## November Meeting

November 13 meeting: **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN MEETING LOCATION**

We will gather in the parlor of the Falls Church Episcopal Church to hear Katherine White speak on Why Gender and Women's Studies? This topic has affect beyond the academy, as Katherine, who is politically active in Virginia and in AAUW, will explain. In January and February, we will continue this exploration of women's issues in the civic arena.

Please park in the circular drive off Broad Street and enter in the main doors at that entrance. Please do NOT park on East Fairfax as another group meeting in the lower hall parks there in a limited number of slots.

Meeting begins as usual at 7:30 p.m., but we'll see you at the **Falls Church Episcopal Church**.

## October Meeting Recap

October's meeting was a look at one of our longtime Special Projects recipients, Aurora House. As Sheila Frost, administrative assistant for the House, explained, the House provides temporary housing for girls ages 13 to 17 who are experiencing significant difficulties in their family/school lives. All are referred by a court or Department of Human Services in Arlington, City of Alexandria, City of Falls Church or Fairfax County. The residents receive counseling, tutoring, and other assistance as needed so that they can address the problems they face. Ms. Frost emphasized the structured guidance and activities as well as the regular involvement of family members in the Aurora House programs.

Aurora House was dear to the heart of the late Leah Porzel, one of the founders of the House and a longtime AAUW Falls Church branch member; we as a branch have sponsored for several years an annual etiquette class for residents.

Members were reminded of the Special Projects guidelines and of the opportunity, with a March deadline, to apply on behalf of an organization benefitting women and girls for a small grant to be used for a purpose identified in the application. Special Projects have provided NCCWSL fees for selected George Mason women, a college tour bus for AVID students at Stuart High School, support for a math and science workshop for Hispanic middle school girls, and many other efforts or institutions.

Copies of the application and the guidelines are available on our Web site.



## Northern Virginia District Meeting Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>

The eleven branches of AAUW in Northern Virginia met at the George Mason Library to hear a presentation by AAUW's relatively new chief executive officer, Kim Churches, who joined our organization June 1<sup>st</sup>. of this year. Kim came to AAUW from the Brookings Institution, where she strategically guided the public policy organization, provided vision and problem-solving skills, expansive partnerships and external relations, and fundraising as the managing director.

Prior to her Brookings experience Kim was an associate vice chancellor at the University of Denver, and a director of development at the University of North Florida. Kim also has extensive experience working collaboratively on education (K-12 and higher education) as well as capacity building among grassroots groups and national and international nonprofits.

Kim earned her BA at Florida State University in English Education and the Certified Fund Raising Executive affiliation in 2002.

The meeting was well attended and participants were not disappointed in the lively presentation. Kim is an excellent speaker and freely interacts with her audience. One is impressed with her straight forward delivery and willingness to speak her opinion without hesitation.



Kim shared her vision of changes in the organization which seem necessary in order for our association to survive in future years. She sees a leaner organization with more collaboration among departments. Changes will definitely be coming. Kim pledged to keep members involved and informed throughout the process.

Kim has an added incentive for safeguarding the rights of women. She is the single mother of a daughter who will soon be ten years old.

After Kim's presentation with Q&A Caroline Pickens conducted a brief business for the Northern Virginia District before adjourning.

***[Information about Kim Churches was obtained from the AAUW website.]***

## Public Policy News

### VIRGINIA FEDERAL LOBBY DAY

Seven AAUW members from Virginia who had not previously participated in Lobby Corps joined 31 regular Lobby Corps members on Capitol Hill on October 5 to encourage Senators to cosponsor the Patsy T. Mink Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA). The participants were divided into teams of two or three, and each team was tasked with visiting six Senate offices in an effort to garner cosponsors for this important legislation. Each of the 91 Senators who was not a cosponsor received a visit from one of the teams.

The GEEA provides more resources, training and technical assistance to educational entities to encourage and help them to meet the requirements of Title IX. Title IX is the provision of the Education Amendments of 1972 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in federally funded educational programs. This vital law affects all areas of education including: recruitment, admissions and housing; pregnant and parenting students; science, technology, engineering and math; sexual harassment and assault; and athletics. It applies to males as well as females, and its protections apply to staff as well as to students.

### UPCOMING PUBLIC POLICY EVENTS

**Wednesday, December 6, 2017**, the League of Women Voters in Virginia will sponsor a Pre-Session Legislative Roundtable and Luncheon in Richmond. Representatives of nonprofit organizations and legislators will discuss issues of interest to women and their families that are expected to come before the General Assembly during the session which begins in January.

**Wednesday, February 7, 2018**, Virginia AAUW State Lobby Day. AAUW members from across Virginia will converge on Richmond and meet with their State Representatives and Senators to discuss legislative initiatives of importance to women and their families.

Watch for emails with details about and registration information for these two important events.

## Fall Books All Sorted!

I am happy to report that all of the books we had as of Oct 20 are tucked away for the winter! Thanks to the terrific weather and an equally terrific turnout for our fall book sorting (Sat. Oct 20), we sorted most of the books and culled and boxed the rest. Amazing! That really was a big pile when we started.

**Thanks to all who sorted.**

We had a better than expected turnout. Some folks sorted early and then went to the District meeting, but they were replaced by people who came to sort after morning chores. Eating in shifts, I think we served sandwiches to more than a dozen sorters. Martha Trunk is arranging for bulk sale of several boxes of books we thought we not good enough to attract our buyers.



And things are pretty much under control in the Youman's garage/storage area.

#### **Book collection**

Our fall book drive at the Falls Church community center is now done, and all those books plus some other miscellaneous donations are now processed. While we are still accepting books, we won't begin advertising for book collection again until late February. So, if your friends have books, we can take them, call Mary Youman 703-528-8993 to arrange to drop off at 4419 N. 18th Street. But we don't need

the books until sorting season starts up again at the beginning of March.

So, what's the status of the books? Well, as you can see from the picture, the entire back shelving unit is full of SORTED books. The center unit has some sorted books and some consolidated. I think this is on the "normal" track in terms of volume.

# SAVE THE DATE

for

## The AAUW-FC Branch Holiday Party

When: Saturday, December 9, 2017

Where: Susan Conklin's house

(If you'd like to be involved in planning, please reach out to Kristan at [kkcmahon@gmail.com](mailto:kkcmahon@gmail.com) or 703-533-2111)

## Book Club

Change of date for November Book Club Meeting: Tuesday November 28 at 7:30 PM. Location: La Madeleine, Crossroads Center (Leesburg Pike), Baileys Crossroads, VA. We will be discussing American Nations. See description below.

We will also be taking recommendations for book selections for Jan., Feb., Mar., and May of 2018. We are trying something a little different this time. We're choosing four categories and you can nominate ONE book for each category. Here are the categories:

Biography, autobiography

History (fiction or non-fiction)

Classic

Potpourri (any genre)

Come to the meeting with your suggestions. If you can't come to the meeting, email Polly Rosenstein at [prosenstein@hotmail.com](mailto:prosenstein@hotmail.com) or Kathleen Gerrity at [gerrityk@verizon.net](mailto:gerrityk@verizon.net) with your suggestions before the meeting.

American Nations should provoke some lively discussion, which you should be able to enjoy even if you haven't read the book. All are welcome!

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.

**And, for book clubbers who can't get enough...**

Join AAUW and our Webinar [iAdelante! Book of the Month Club](#) on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm ET as we commemorate Native American Heritage Month by talking with Winona LaDuke about her book *The Winona LaDuke Chronicles: Stories from the Front Lines in the Battle for Environmental Justice*.

*The Winona LaDuke Chronicles* is a collection of timely, persuasive, and inspiring stories of indigenous communities — from the Canadian subarctic to the heart of the Navajo Nation. It is an account of LaDuke’s personal journey to recovery, beginning when her home burned down in 2008. The book is also a story of strength and resilience — not just LaDuke’s own but also that of many tribal and First Nations communities in North America who struggle just to survive. [Register now](#) to join us for a great discussion with this inspiring champion of environmental justice.

Please help us make this event a success, enabling us to feature other authors in the future.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you for your membership and volunteerism!

Happy reading,

Hannah Seligman  
Branch Relations Associate

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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|---------------------|---|
| November 9 7:30 pm  | iAdelante! Book of the Month Club commemorating Native American Heritage Month with Winona LaDuke. The Webinar registration can be found at <a href="https://www.aauw.org/event/2017/11/adelante-winona-laduke/">https://www.aauw.org/event/2017/11/adelante-winona-laduke/</a> |
| November 13 7:30 pm | Branch meeting, Parlor of The Falls Church Episcopal Church, 115 E. Fairfax St, Falls Church, VA 22046  |
| November 28 7:30 pm | Book Club- La Madeleine, Crossroads Center, Bailey’s Crossroads, VA   |
| December 9          | AAUW-FC Branch Holiday Party, The Conklin’s House   |



**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>