

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH



Volume 66, Number 9

December 4, 2017



Annual Holiday Party is December 9th!

December Branch Meeting

When: Saturday, December 9 from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Where: Susan Conklin's house (2013 North Nottingham in Arlington directly off Lee Highway)

What: **AAUW Falls Church Annual Holiday Party**

We hope you have received and, ahem, replied to your Evite for the branch's annual holiday party. Please bring an appetizer to share. If you do not drink coffee, tea, water, or cider, then please BYOB.

In keeping with previous practice, we will have donation baskets for two charities: Britepaths (<https://britepaths.org/>) and BRAWS (<http://www.braws.org/>). Both LOVE gift cards but BRAWS also takes packaged, new items per their Web site list. Donation to either or both is entirely optional.

President's Message

Dear fellow members,

Happy Holidays! As we progress through Thanksgiving, the December holidays, and start into the New Year, I want you to know how thankful I am for all of you. Thank you for high attendance at branch events. We continuously have a strong membership presence at each of

our monthly branch meetings. Thank you for spreading the word about AAUW-Falls Church by bringing community members to our meetings and advocating for the work we do in Falls Church. Thank you for donating your time and talents to ensure the success of our endeavors. I look forward to sharing some holiday cheer with you this weekend and wish you all a warm and fun-filled transition into 2018.

Warmly,
Kristan



Upcoming Programs

VERY IMPORTANT: We are moving our meeting site for January, February and March meetings as well as the May Scholarship Awards meeting to the American Legion Hall.

In November, we began our migration of meeting sites, necessitated by the lack of meeting space available in the Community Center (due to City Hall renovations). This migration will continue as we meet for January, February, March and May in the American Legion Post 130 Hall located in Falls Church at 400 North Oak Street. Many thanks to the Post leaders for offering us this space.

Undaunted by all this change of place, a group of about 25 met in the Falls Church Episcopal Church parlor on November to hear Katherine White explain the history and *raison d'etre* for Women and

Gender Studies. A member of the Springfield branch, Katherine is a dynamic and informed speaker with a clear grasp of political realities for women. A lively discussion followed.



Dinner Party – one of the gender studies icons Katherine discussed during her slide show.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! BRING FRIENDS!

GerryRIGGED

A documentary produced by WCVB in Richmond about gerrymandering in Virginia and around the country.

Presented by Brian Cannon, the executive director of the redistricting reform group, OneVirginia2021.

American Legion Post 130 Hall
400 North Oak Street
Falls Church
Sunday 14 January
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Sponsored by the Falls Church branch of the
American Association of University Women

open to the public at no charge

Nominating Committee

In preparation for our March business meeting, it is time to start planning for nominations and elections for three offices: President, Vice President-Programs, and Secretary. Each position

serves a two-year term and can be shared with a partner. Are you interested in continuing or expanding your support of our branch? Do you have ideas you'd like to share or enact at the executive level? Then one of these positions would be great for you! Please contact Shannon LaBarbera or Kitty Richardson to share your interest.

Public Policy

League of Women Voters of Virginia PRE-SESSION Legislative Roundtable December 6

It's almost time for the annual League of Women Voters of Virginia's annual Pre-Session Legislative Roundtable in Richmond on **December 6, 2017 (9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)** The event is free and features representatives from a variety of organizations, including AAUW of Virginia, who present short summaries of their legislative priorities for the upcoming General Assembly Session. It's always an informative session and allows us to see other organizations we can work with on our legislative priorities. It will be followed by an optional luncheon. Complete information follows below. **Please be sure to register even if you are not attending the luncheon session because seating is limited.**

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Credit Union House of Virginia, [108 N. 8th St.](#), [Richmond, VA 23219-2306](#)

Construction has created the need to find a new meeting place. We believe you will be happy with these new accommodations. It also means that not everything (i.e., speakers) has been finalized. A special webpage has been set up on the [lww-va.org](#) website to keep you informed as new information arises. You can see the webpage at <http://lww-va.org/pre-session-december-6-2017> or just use the link on the home page <http://lww-va.org>.

There is an online registration form on the page as well as a link to pay for lunch via PayPal. You can register online and then mail in your check if you prefer. Or, you can print and fill out the registration form and mail it in with your check. Please remember the deadline for luncheon registration is November 30th!

Again, the web page to register, pay, or print is <http://lww-va.org/pre-session-december-6-2017>

It is going to be an exciting year, so come hear from the experts on what to expect for the 2018 Legislative Session.

Leslie Tourigny, AAUW of VA Public Policy VP

[571 970-1782](tel:5719701782) cellphone: [703 307-8227](tel:7033078227)

Book Club News

Our book club will not meet in December, but we are currently in the process of voting on selections for the book selections for January through May, which we will announce in the

January newsletter. We are choosing a classic, a history book, and a biography among other selections.

It was pointed out in our board meeting that 25% of our branch attends book club. Quite impressive!

Contacts: Pauline Rosenstein and Kathleen Gerrity

40 Years of Activism for Women: The 1977 National Women's Conference in Houston, TX



AAUW First Vice President Dr. Nancy Joyner (left) and AAUW President Dr. Marjorie Bell Chambers (right) at the National Women's Conference in Houston, TX, November 1977. Image from AAUW Archives.

You know how far we've come. You know how far we have left to go. [Donate today](#) to help AAUW continue to advance our mission of achieving women's equity.

This November marked the 40th anniversary of the National Women's Conference (NWC) held in Houston, Texas in 1977. The conference was an outgrowth of the [International Women's Year](#) conferences and a presidential commission to explore barriers "that [prevented] women from participating fully and equally in all aspects of life." The gathering, chaired by [Rep. Bella](#)

[Abzug](#) (D-NY), was authorized by public law during the Carter administration and was the first women's conference supported by Congress.

While [much of the conference has been documented](#), it is important to turn our focus to the significance of this event in AAUW's history. Many of our members worked on the state organizing conferences that preceded the NWC. AAUW counted 115 members in Houston representing 37 states as delegates among the total 2,000 in attendance. The conference was a huge event, and, according to the *AAUW Journal*, also included an estimated 17,000 observers, many of whom were AAUW members. Such well-known figures as activists [Gloria Steinem](#) and [Coretta Scott King](#), actor Alan Alda, author [Maya Angelou](#), and athlete Billie Jean King also attended the 1977 NWC.

Although the conference was meant to be a unifying starting point to larger discussions about the status of women, it quickly became polarized over the issue of the [Equal Rights Amendment](#) (ERA), which AAUW supported at the time. AAUW was among a number of women's organizations that [organized a caucus in support of the ERA](#). A smaller anti-ERA group was also in attendance and held a counter-rally organized by spokesperson Phyllis Schlafly.

Despite the hot debate surrounding the ERA, the 1977 NWC gave rise to the expansive National Plan of Action, which dealt with 26 areas of interest to women, including child care, [employment](#), the ERA, [reproductive freedom](#), and diversity.

To this day many of the recommendations found in the National Plan of Action are still at the forefront of [AAUW's legislative agenda](#). Though women have made social progress within the last four decades, we still have a long way to go before we achieve equity. One thing is certain: Just as in Houston, AAUW will continue to rely on the power of organized women to advance our mission.

Calendar of Branch Events

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| December 6: | League of Women Voters of Virginia PRE-SESSION Legislative Roundtable Credit Union House of Virginia, 108 N. 8 th St, Richmond, VA 23219-2306 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. |
| December 9: | Branch Holiday Party, Susan Conklin's Home, Arlington, 2 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. |
| January 14: | Branch Meeting, American Legion Post 130 Hall, 400 North Oak Street, Falls Church 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. |



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>