

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH



Volume 67, Number 7

September 3, 2018

September Branch Meeting

When: **Monday September 17, at 7:30 pm**

Where: **Falls Church Community Center**

What: **Join us for the kickoff of the 18-19 year!**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WELCOME to the 2018-19 Falls Church AAUW Program Year. Our President, Kristan McMahon, is travelling in Europe this summer and fall. Several members will be filling in for Kristan while she is away. As Kristan would say: "Many projects are underway in the Falls Church AAUW branch at the beginning of our new program year." Here are a few projects to watch:

A wonderful community outreach/ membership activity is happening on September 15-the ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL. **We need you to sign-up** to cover our booth and meet/greet attendees. See more details in this newsletter.

YES, Falls Church AAUW Members, Book Sorting will start soon. Mollie Jewell and Mary Youman have picked dates. Mark them down. Come and help us get ahead of the book deluge! See more details in this newsletter.

Our two Task Forces (Fundraising Task Force and Fund Allotment Task Force) have met this summer. The Fund Allotment Task Force will likely have a recommendation for current year donations later this fall. During this process branch members will be periodically advised about what both Task Forces are considering recommending. **Final Task Force recommendations** will be presented at March 2019 Business Branch Meeting.

Thanks to the many members who renewed their membership promptly this summer. If you haven't renewed yet, please do so by September 30, 2018. Contact Anne Baxter, Treasurer, at vabaxter@verizon.net or 703-256-6567, if you have any questions about how to pay dues.

Anne Baxter for Kristan McMahon

Do We Have Your Opinion?

Our branch is doing some serious thinking about the viability of continuing with our annual book sale. Our book sale task force has met several times and is continuing to gather information. As all those phone messages say, "Your call / opinion is important to us." If you have completed the 10 question survey, "Thank you!" If you haven't yet, here is the web address:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/?sm=ISxKA3fsk7wkjKccw_2B4_2FwQ_3D_3D

Completing the survey will only take a few minutes! This is an important decision for our branch and member input is crucial to the task force's final recommendation. The task force members- Martha, Becky, Sarah, Kitty, Pam, Polly and Kathleen- need to hear from you via the survey, e mail or a chat. Let your voice be heard!

CAN YOU HELP?



Several opportunities are open for volunteers to help with branch activities.

HOSPITALITY CHAIR:

The Chair recruits members (2-4) to supply snacks and drinks at each branch meetings for the program year. Follows up monthly with volunteers to make sure they can still help. She buys supplies as needed. Estimated time commitment is 2 hours monthly.

WEBMASTER

Maintains and updates Branch Website as needed including monthly calendar and newsletters. She consults with national AAUW web staff when changes or updates are needed. Training is provided. Estimated Time commitment is 2 hours monthly.

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome three new members to our branch:

Adrienne Formentos

Joan Hession

Linda Lawrence

We look forward to getting to know you!

Public Policy

Message from State Co-Vice Presidents

The AAUW of Virginia Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy, Sylvia Rogers and Susan Burke, sent the following message for dissemination to all branch members:

SUBJECT: Moving Forward on AAUW of Virginia's Public Policy Priorities

We would like to use this email to introduce ourselves and describe our plans for advancing AAUW of Virginia's public policy priorities in the coming year.

Sylvia Rogers is a 20-year member of AAUW and Co-President of the Harrisonburg branch. She is the outgoing NW District Representative, serving in that capacity on the state board for four years.

Susan Burk is an 11-year member of AAUW and a member of the Springfield-Annandale Branch, where she serves as the Public Policy Chair. She most recently served as the Co-Representative of the Northern District from 2016-18.

We are grateful to you for electing us to serve as your Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy, and we are excited about the opportunities AAUW of Virginia has to make meaningful progress on a number of public policy issues this year. At the same time, we will need and are counting on your active support and involvement to be successful.

Looking Ahead: You can find the 2018-2020 AAUW of Virginia Public Policy Priorities as voted by our members at <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/aauw/directors/publicpolicy/>.

We will be following developments on all of these issues and communicating requests for action by branches and members on the full range of priorities including enforcement of Title IX, STEM programs, efforts to achieve fair, non-partisan redistricting, and halting human trafficking and supporting its victims.

We will be focusing on two priorities, in particular, this year: ratification of the ERA and passage of legislation in Richmond on pay equity, including prohibiting setting salaries based on employees' salary histories.

With Illinois' recent ratification of the ERA, only one more state is necessary to pass the amendment. Virginia should be that 38th state, and we believe the climate in Richmond is better than it has ever been to make this happen. We are mapping our efforts to support that of VAratifyERA: <https://varatifyera.org/august-26th-launch>. We also are working with the League of Women Voters. Note: See ERA message below for more information.

Momentum is also building for equal pay legislation: five bills were offered in Richmond last year and, while all failed in committee, it is clear that support is growing in the Virginia legislature. We will soon be reaching out to last year's bills' sponsors to urge their continuing support of stronger pay equity laws. We already have talked to successful advocates for pay equity in Massachusetts to get advice and lessons learned for our efforts in Virginia.

We want to harness our members' energy to make a strong and focused push on both these issues. Stay tuned for a message from us about specific strategies we can undertake statewide to reach our goals.

If your branch does not currently have a Branch Public Policy Chair, please consider recruiting one for your branch board. We need a "virtual" team of members committed to passage of pay equity legislation and ratification of the ERA in Virginia to make them happen.

SAVE THE DATE: Finally, here are important dates for your AAUW calendars:

Sep. 27, 2018 AAUW Federal Lobby Day, Washington, DC (details TBD)
Oct 13, 2018 Cong. Don Beyer's annual Women's Conference, GMU, Arlington Campus
Nov. 17, 2018 Sen. Mark Warner's annual Women's Conference, Roanoke

Dec. 5, 2018 League of Women Voters' Pre-Session Legislative Round Table, Richmond
Feb. 5, 2019 AAUW of Virginia Reception for Women Legislators, Richmond
Feb. 6, 2019 AAUW of Virginia State Lobby Day, Richmond
Apr. 6, 2019 AAUW of Virginia State Conference hosted by Roanoke Valley

Thank you for everything you are doing to create opportunities and level playing fields for all women and girls. Sylvia and Susan

Lobby Corps Update

After a five-week break, Lobby Corps will resume on Thursday, September 6, and will focus on encouraging Senators to oppose the confirmation of Judge Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. Although no firm date for the fall Lobby Corps training has been set, it is expected to occur later this fall. You will be notified via email and/or the Branch newsletter once a date has been set.

ERA Information

AAUW of Virginia announced at the Summer Leadership Meeting July 28, in Harrisonburg, that there will be two main areas of focus for the state this year: Pay Equity and the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Regarding ERA, only one more state is needed to ratify, and Virginia could be that state! Coalitions have formed, and the campaign is on! AAUW is right in the middle of this push. Many legislators in Richmond believe the votes for ratification are there, if it gets out of committee.

There will be much written and talked about the ERA from now until the General Assembly session convenes January 9, 2019. On the way to being ratified in the 70's, the movement was stymied in part in the 80's by traditionalist's organizations in Illinois, which literally delivered bread, jam and apple pies to Illinois Legislators. They used slogans like "Preserve us from Congressional jams, vote against the ERA sham." And, "I am for mom and apple pie." They had little girls parading with signs saying, "Don't draft me." That was then. This is now: Illinois recently became the 37th state to ratify the ERA!

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Arm yourself with information. Here are 2 great videos to view:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4yHijhForU>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-y4nzjxgwA> (Ruth Bader Ginsburg)
Google ERA and read, read, read.
- Watch for emails asking you to contact your legislators, and respond immediately.
- Write letters-to-the-editors.
- **Wear an ERA button (<https://www.cafepress.com/+era+buttons>) on your lapel or purse, and have some of these talking points on the tip of your tongue:**

1. "Equality of rights under the law shall not be abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." This simple sentence, the **EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (ERA)**, was first proposed in Congress by the National Women's Party in 1923. In 1972 Congress overwhelmingly



passed the ERA and sent it to the states to ratify. It was slammed by a negative campaign in the 80s and ratification came to a halt. It is now one state short of ratification, thanks to Nevada and Illinois who recently brought it to life.

2. It is the will of the people: most polls say that 90+% of Americans believe we need it. In other polls 88% of the people believe it is already in the Constitution and that equality of rights is a given.
3. Since WWII Around the world, every other nation's constitution or charter has been codified to include provisions that state that men and women are citizens of equal stature. Ours does not. Only the Constitution guarantees rights. Currently the only right guaranteed to women is the right to vote.
4. The brave women who serve in the military deserve to be named in the Constitution, as are men. The Constitution is a contract with the people. If you are not named, you are not part of the contract.
5. Without this amendment, the Supreme Court has refused to hear cases of gender discrimination. According to Justice Scalia, the Constitution does not prohibit gender discrimination.
6. Sex discrimination is a way of life, and runs both ways. What happens to one of the sexes, impacts the other. Why not work together for equal treatment by ratifying the ERA?
7. Often the 14th Amendment is referred to in a case against the ERA. This amendment, which addresses citizenship rights and equal protection of the law, was proposed in response to issues related to former slaves following the American Civil War. Although it was revised in 1992, the 14th amendment does not reliably guarantee equal treatment for both sexes. (For example in cases of sex discrimination.) Currently women are forced to persuade courts on a case by case basis that sex distinctions and discrimination matters. Interpretations are left up to states.
8. Current legislation can be amended, repealed, inconsistently enforced, or ignored. A good example is the 1964 Equal Pay Act. Change in equal pay is stuck, or moving too slowly. Equal Pay laws are too few and the ones in place are often ignored. Ratification of the ERA will strengthen laws, statutes, ordinances, and state constitutions that are now overlooked, ignored, or misinterpreted.
9. A nation which represses half of its population, even subtly, does so at major expense of that other half. ERA means equal treatment of men and women by America's institutions of government, banking, insurance, education, medicine, commerce, sports, religion, military, and the law.
10. Ratifying the ERA requires NO FUNDING.
11. The ERA is not a hoax, conspiracy, evil plot or entitlement. It simply guarantees equal treatment for both sexes.
12. ERA does not affect reasonable distinctions related to sex based on sensible concerns for hygiene, safety or modesty in schools, prisons hospitals or private clubs. (Even if bathroom laws are considered, remember the economic harm that came to NC when it created bathroom legislation?)
13. Widows will not lose Social Security. It has been gender inclusive for surviving spouses since 1975.
14. ERA would save taxpayer's money by reducing the number of civil lawsuits in the courts.

15. The ERA will not force women into the military draft. Congress has always had the authority to draft women. The Pentagon has already made the recommendation (Oct. 2017) that women be included in the draft. Congress has never exercised its authority.
16. Virginia would be a shining star for our country if we led on this bipartisan, economic and civil rights issue. Studies show that it would be good for the general welfare of citizens in that a positive sociological effect is noticed wherever sexual equality is the standard.
17. The ERA is good for politics. National attention is focused on women's issues (#MeToo, #Timesup). Women are running for office at higher than ever rates. The ERA is garnering bipartisan support. In Virginia the number of patrons and bills presented for the ERA is on the rise, reflecting constituents' interest. The committees where these bills will be sent are comprised mainly of men. Refusing to hear testimony again this year, and not sending the Equal Rights Amendment to the floor for a vote will put the Commonwealth of Virginia in a bad light in front of the whole nation.

Even though women won the right to vote in **1920**, when the Nineteenth Amendment became law, the Virginia General Assembly shamefully withheld ratification until **1952**!

Who will be the final state to ratify the ERA? Let's work to make sure it will be Virginia!

"Certainly the constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't." --Justice Scalia, 2010, UC Hastings College of Law.

Programs

September Branch Meeting Monday September 17, 2018 at 7:30 pm

Each year we send a representative to National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). At the 2018 NCCWSL Conference, nearly 800 students from around the world gathered to build community and sharpen their leadership skills. Sarah Crossen was our representative to the 2018 NCCWSL Conference for leadership. There will be a video of her discussing the conference and what impact it had on her.

October Branch Meeting, Monday October 8, 2018 7:30 pm

Join us on October 8 for a fascinating story of one woman's journey from traditional life in India to a career as a pediatrician in northern Virginia and all of the barriers she had to overcome to do that. Dr. Urmilla Khama has told of this journey in "Boundaries of the wind: a memoir." Join Urmilla and the rest of us to share in this memorable story.

Book Sale News

Volunteer for Fall Festival (Sat. 9/15)

FC AAUW is again participating in the Fall Festival on Sat. 9/15 on the City Hall grounds, and we need your help to staff our booth. This is our chance to publicize both AAUW and our book sale to the Falls Church community at large. As usual, 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. The event includes live entertainment, pony rides, children's amusements, crafters, businesses and civic organizations, a Beer Garden, and cuisine from city kitchens. Here's the link to [Falls Church Fall Festival and Taste of Falls Church](#).

To volunteer, contact Mollie Jewell (703-941-5643, molliejewell2@gmail.com) with your preferred time slot: 7:30 (setup), 10:00, noon, 2:00 Or 4:00(cleanup) or sign-up up directly at [Fall Festival Signup Sheet](#). You will see that we ask for two volunteers for each time period.



Book sorting season is starting up in September!

The storage facility (AKA Mary Youman's garage) is already filling, and you know what that means...Sorting! This year we are starting with a weekday session (Fri. Sept. 7). And we have scheduled Saturday sessions for Sept 22, Oct 6 and Nov 3. Sorting books now will really help if we have bad weather in March. Come any time between 10 and 2pm. 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 bad - Mary's phone is 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: Sept 7 and 22. Oct 6. Nov 3.

Saturday: 10am to 3pm (or until we finish)



Book Club News

FC AAUW Book Group meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Book selections are chosen by the members, and we welcome your input. Please come and join for lively discussions whether or not you've read the book. Drop in anytime.

Our Book Group will have our first Fall meeting on Tuesday Sept. 18th at 7:30 PM at Starbucks in Harris Teeter, 301 W. Broad St, Falls Church. We will be discussing *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee.



Pachinko by Min Jin Lee

Yeongdo, Korea 1911.

In a small fishing village on the banks of the East Sea, a club-footed, cleft-lipped man marries a fifteen-year-old girl. The couple have one child, their beloved daughter Sunja. When Sunja falls pregnant by a married yakuza, the family face ruin. But then Isak, a Christian minister, offers her a chance of salvation: a new life in Japan as his wife.

Following a man she barely knows to a hostile country in which she has no friends, no home, and whose language she cannot speak, Sunja's salvation is just the beginning of her story.

Through eight decades and four generations, *Pachinko* is an epic tale of family, identity, love, death and survival.

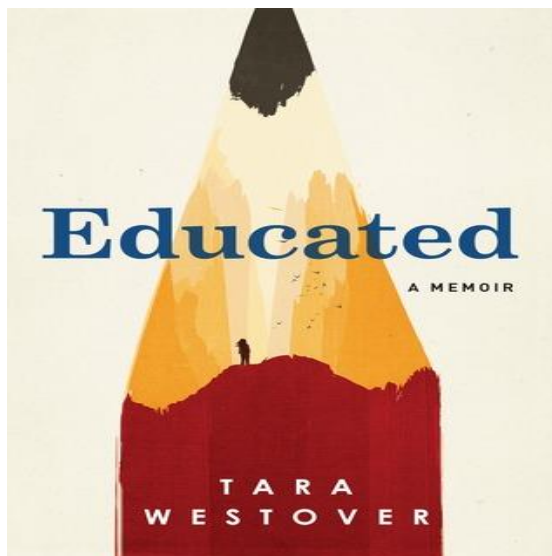
Literary Awards

[National Book Award Finalist for Fiction \(2017\)](#), [Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Historical Fiction \(2017\)](#), [Reading Women Award for Fiction \(2017\)](#), [Litsy Award for Historical Fiction \(2017\)](#)

THE OCTOBER MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY OCTOBER 16th.

THE SELECTION IS *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover.

***Educated: A Memoir* by [Tara Westover](#) (Goodreads Author)**



An unforgettable memoir in the tradition of *The Glass Castle* about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University.

Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag". In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged in her father's junkyard.

Her father forbade hospitals, so Tara never saw a doctor or nurse. Gashes and concussions, even burns from explosions, were all treated at home with herbalism. The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent.

Then, lacking any formal education, Tara began to educate herself. She taught herself enough mathematics and grammar to be admitted to Brigham Young University, where she studied history, learning for the first time about important world events like the Holocaust and the civil rights movement. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

Educated is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty and of the grief that comes with severing the closest of ties. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes and the will to change it.

ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Rep. Don Beyer's Annual Women's Conference will be held at George Mason University's Arlington campus on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2018**. Rep. Beyer will discuss his work in Congress to empower women through legislation, and then convene a panel discussion between community leaders about issues facing women in the workforce. Attendees can also join sessions to receive advice from local business leaders on overcoming challenges to find professional success. Find more information and register at beyer.house.gov.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| September 7 | Book Sorting, Youman's home, 4419 N. 18th Street, Arlington, 10AM-2PM |
| September 15 | Book Club Meeting Starbucks at Harris Teeter, 301 W. Broad St., FC at 7:30 PM. |
| September 17 | Branch Meeting, 7:30 pm, Falls Church Community Center |
| September 22 | Book Sorting, Youman's home, 4419 N. 18th Street, Arlington, 10AM-2PM |
| September 27 | Federal Lobby Day, Washington, details TBA |
| October 6 | Book Sorting, Youman's home, 4419 N. 18th Street, Arlington, 10AM-2PM |
| October 8 | Branch Meeting, 7:30 pm, Falls Church Community Center |
| October 13 | Rep. Beyers Women's Conference, George Mason Univ., Arlington |



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>