

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

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Co- Presidents' Message

Voting Rights – Equal Rights -- Pay Equity. It is our February 2020 theme.

Equal Rights. Although it is dark winter day, the sun is shining brightly. After decades of lobbying, the **Equal Rights Amendment was passed by both chambers of Virginia's General Assembly in early January 2020.** Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the constitutional amendment. Let's celebrate!



Voting Rights. We have a fantastic field trip planned for February 9 celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in the U.S. We will visit "Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote" at National Archives. Meet at 2:00 p.m. at the entrance (inside). Afterwards, we gather at Teasm, 400 8th Street, NW, for light refreshments and comments.

Pay Equity Advocacy Activities. Attend the second VA Lobby Day of the 2020 General Session of the Virginia State Assembly. Virginia-AAUW is holding a second State Lobby Day on Wed., Feb. 12, 2020. The session begins at 8 am with a two hour League of Women Voters legislative roundtable, followed by visits to legislators to deliver pay equity messages, updated to reflect the status of any recent votes (**such as the ERA!**), pending legislation and additional arguments/rationale for closing the gender pay gap. This activity is from 1 – 3:00 p.m. Rooms have been reserved for AAUW-VA at Richmond Omni for reduced rates if you wish to travel to Richmond on Feb. 11.

Book Sale. In February we will be sorting and receiving books on two Saturdays – February 1 and a second Saturday, February 22. It's your opportunity to participate in the branch's major fundraising activity—the book sale—and help several talented young women start their college studies. We cannot do it without you!

Who is in charge: Dianne Bodeen and Sarah John

Who is on the committee: ALL OF US!

Where: Willston Multicultural Community Center, 6131 Willston Drive, Falls Church, VA 22044

When: AAUW Members: 9 am– 3:00 pm (public book drop off: 10 am – 2:00 pm)

Finally, AAUW and our Falls Church branch lost a wonderful member, Kitty Richardson, on January 22. Kitty passed away at Virginia Hospital Center after a long, heroic battle against cancer. Kitty will be missed not only by our branch members, but throughout AAUW at the state and national levels. She was known for her tireless and positive activism in support of the aims of the organization. She participated in Lobby Corps, served on committees and boards and did whatever she could. She fought for equality and it is fitting that the ERA was ratified in Virginia shortly before she passed away. On a personal note, she is remembered for her kindness and genuineness. Elizabeth remarks "I don't think she ever missed complimenting me on my

appearance whenever we met. I noticed that I began to do the same to others more often. Kitty made me a better person. She also got me to see a lot more movies!" We all will miss her, but she has woven a vibrant strand into the tapestry of our lives. Heartfelt condolences to her many friends and family.

We look forward to seeing you in February, sorting books, reading books, seeing movies, and celebrating women's rights and achievements.

Elizabeth Kessel and Sharon Zackula
Co-Presidents

Upcoming Meetings



Let's see: Off to the Archives, Sunday February 9th. We will gather at the entrance (inside) of the Archives at 2:00 to see the much lauded exhibit "Rightfully Hers – American Women and the Vote." Afterwards we will adjourn to Teism nearby for refreshments and conversation. The Archives are on the orange line, Federal Triangle if you want a two-block walk east, or orange line to L'Enfant Plaza, then green or yellow line to Archives/Navy Memorial. Come and join us!

For March: This is our annual business meeting, but we hope to add something interesting from one of our members. More on this later! March 9th, 7:30, at the Community Center.

BRANCH ELECTIONS



This year, we will be holding elections in March 2020 for the following board positions for a 2 year term:

President

Vice President for Programs

Secretary

These offices may be held by one member or shared, i.e. Co-President. If you are interested in either one (or both) of these positions and can share your time and talent with the branch, please email Shannon LaBarbera at smodell3@hotmail.com.

Mission

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision

Equity for all.

Values

Non partisan.
Fact-based.
Integrity.
Inclusion and
intersectionality

Welcome to our two newest members, Bertha and Lisa!

Bertha, who previously served with the Peace Corps from 2005-2007, is now a pediatrician at INOVA Cares Clinic, a safety net clinic for underserved populations. She graduated with her BA from Yale, did her Post-Bac at Columbia, Medical School at Harvard, and Residency at Brown.

Lisa is a Labor and Employment Attorney at Kalijarvi, Chuzi, Newman, & Fitch in DC, which is a woman-owned and woman-founded firm.

Bertha and Lisa have been married since 2015 and moved to Falls Church in 2017 to be closer to Bertha's parents (Bertha was born and raised in Vienna). They heard about AAUW when Lisa was invited to speak about the ERA at our September branch meeting. She was impressed and inspired by the cohesiveness and engagement of the members, prompting both of them to join our chapter. They are hoping to gain community and the opportunity to contribute to AAUW's meaningful mission. They are also hoping to contribute to community, assist in AAUW's established goals and help AAUW continue to grow.

Bertha loves to cook (and Lisa loves to eat the delicious food Bertha cooks) and Lisa loves to read. They both love spending time outdoors and being politically active; they both volunteer with multiple political and professional organizations. They are so excited to be a part of AAUW!

AAUW meeting Snacks – we need your help!



Can you bring a sweet snack to the March or May meeting? I am looking for just 2 people to volunteer to bring a sweet munchie to these two meetings. If you can help, please RSVP and tell me which meeting you can help "sweeten up."

Or signup at [AAUW Branch Hospitality 2020](#). Thanks, Mollie Jewell, MollieJewell2@gmail.com.

Mt. Vernon Branch AAUW Meeting

Mt. Vernon Branch AAUW invites all Northern District Member and guests to attend our branch program on February 8, 10:30 AM at Sherwood Regional Library. We will view the documentary *An Ordinary Hero*, about the Freedom Rider, Joan Mulholland. Joan Mulholland, a resident of Arlington, will be there to make comments and answer questions.

Public Policy

ERA Ratified by Virginia General Assembly

After attempts over several years and a heart-breaking defeat by only one vote last year, the Virginia General Assembly has finally ratified the ERA and became the needed 38th state to do so!!! The first steps were taken on January 15 when the House passed HJ1 by a vote of 59-41, and the Senate passed SJ1 by a vote of 28-12. Both were bipartisan votes. Although the two

bills were identical, the rules required the Senate to pass the House resolution and vice versa. This occurred on Monday, January 27.



VA House Approval



VA Senate Approval

AAUW of Virginia Lobby Day – January 15

Activities for Lobby Day began the evening of January 14 with a reception for women legislators. More than a dozen legislators and staff attended the informal gathering for food, drink, and conversation. Then, on the morning of January 15, AAUW members from across Virginia met with Governor Northam, who talked about some of the issues to be considered by the Virginia General Assembly. He was very generous with his time and answered questions posed by the attendees. The group then asked him to proclaim March 31, 2020 Equal Pay Day in Virginia. As you know, that is the symbolic day when women’s earnings finally “catch up” to men’s earnings from the previous year.



Following the meeting with the Governor, AAUW members delivered information on the gender pay gap to nearly 70 lawmakers in the Virginia General Assembly. The Falls Church Branch was ably represented by Becky Gaul, Pam Martinov, Martha Trunk, and Marilyn Falksen. They visited and had photos taken with Delegates Patrick Hope and Kay Kory, met with aides to Senator Saslaw and Delegate Schulyer Van Valkenburg, and delivered packets on the gender pay gap to the offices of five other

Delegates.

The high point of the day for every AAUW member present was the passage of the ERA by the House of Delegates and the Senate. Although the galleries in both chambers were packed with long waiting lines, Becky, Pam, Martha, and Marilyn were able to watch the proceedings on big screens in hearing rooms in the Capitol. And, since the House and Senate debated the issue at slightly different times, they were able to listen to most of the debate and see the actual vote in both chambers. It was truly an historic, exciting event.



Second AAUW of Virginia Lobby Day – February 12

For those who were unable to attend the January Lobby Day or who would like to share AAUW's public policy priorities with our state legislators again, there will be a second Lobby Day on February 12, 2020. During this Lobby Day, you will have the opportunity to join our partners in the League of Women Voters (LWV), as they celebrate the League's 100th anniversary. A draft program for February 12 follows:

8-10 a.m. -- LWV will have a legislative roundtable to prepare for their meetings with lawmakers. Location: Sun Trust Building, 918 East Main Street.

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. -- Visit or revisit legislators with the pay equity message updated to reflect the status of any pending legislation and additional arguments/rationale for closing the gender pay gap.

The State Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy are trying to schedule a meeting for AAUW members with a member of the House or Senate. They are also working on having AAUW members who are in the galleries introduced to the House and Senate.

1-3 p.m. – LWV is sponsoring a luncheon celebrating the 100th anniversary of the League for those who are interested. Location: Delta Hotel by Marriott, 555 East Canal Street. \$65 per person. You can sign up here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-league-of-women-voters-100th-anniversary-luncheon-tickets-78690662891>.

A final program will be provided closer to the date.

If you plan to attend Lobby Day on February 12, please provide your name and email address to Susan Burk (burksu@aol.com) and Sylvia Rogers (srogers1nm@aol.com) by February 7, 2020.

If you have additional questions, contact Marilyn Falksen at fcaauwpublicpolicy@gmail.com or 703-534-8740.

BOOK SALE 2.0

With warnings of dire consequences if members didn't come ☺, many of you did for the third sorting on the 1st. Our shelves are filling up; we are not lacking for books, but at the same time don't discourage donations. We now have TWO weeks off, resuming again on the 22nd. We again ran into school holidays and the closing of the center, which is why we could not sort on the 15th.

NOW: please add to your calendar a pot-luck (light) lunch at Dianne Bodeen's on the 29th of February. Come at noon, and we'll look ahead to the sale and what it will require of all of us. Plenty of chances to sign up for specific jobs. Dianne is at 3439 Skyview Terrace, a cul de sac off of Valley Brook between Sleepy Hollow Rd and Rose Lane. Easy to find. We will sort every Saturday in March, so we'll take this day for a deep breath and planning.

I have to acknowledge the huge role some husbands have played in getting us through these Saturday sorts. Two husbands came when their wives couldn't, and two matched teams have proved invaluable. How about honorary memberships for these men?

Book Club News

Our Book Club meets the third Tuesday evening of the months of Feb., Mar., and May at 7:30 P.M. at Starbucks, 344 W. Broad St., Falls Church, VA.

EXCEPT in February we will meet on Monday night Feb. 17th.

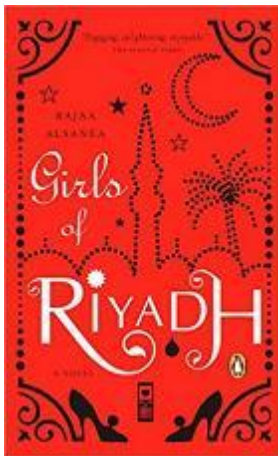
Here are the titles for the months:

Feb. 17th: The Girls of Riyadh by Rajaa Alsanea (book by a foreign author)

Mar. 17: Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive by Stephanie Land (memoir)

May 19: Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens (contemporary fiction)

Girls of Riyadh by Rajaa Alsanea, Marilyn Booth (Translator)



When Rajaa Alsanea boldly chose to open up the hidden world of Saudi women—their private lives and their conflicts with the traditions of their culture—she caused a sensation across the Arab world.

Now in English, Alsanea's tale of the personal struggles of four young upper-class women offers Westerners an unprecedented glimpse into a society often veiled from view. Living in restrictive Riyadh but traveling all over the globe, these modern Saudi women literally and figuratively shed traditional garb as they search for love, fulfillment, and their place somewhere in between Western society and their Islamic home. 320 pages

Our Focus



Education & Training



Economic Security



Leadership

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 8	10:30am	Mt. Vernon Branch meeting, Sherwood Forest Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA
February 9	2:00pm	Falls Church AAUW Branch Meeting- "Rightfully Hers" National Archives, Washington, D.C.
February 12	8am-1pm	Second AAUW of Virginia Lobby Day, State Capital, Richmond, VA
February 17	7:30pm	Book Club, Starbucks, 344 W Broad Street, Falls Church, VA
February 22	10am-3pm	Book Sorting at Willston Multicultural Center, 6131 Willston Dr., Falls Church
February 29	12pm	Potluck (light) lunch at Dianne Bodeen's, 3439 Skyview Terrace, Falls Church
March 9	7:30pm	Annual Falls Church branch business meeting, Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

