

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

Volume 71, Number 6

June 2, 2020



Co- Presidents' Message



Dear Members:

Happy days are here again! On June 14, 2021, we are meeting *in person* at the picnic shelter in Cherry Hill Park, located just next to the Falls Church Community Center. We're looking forward to making eye contact again, aren't you? It will be a pleasure to see all of you. *Please come.*

Everyone will bring their own food and drink and we will observe social distancing in the shelter. Please also bring a mask! Regulations and guidance are changing daily, and we will not know Falls Church's final regulations for June 14 until, perhaps, June 14.

We will discuss ideas for the coming year. We are looking forward to learning everyone's program ideas and interests. Especially for some of you who have not attended recent meetings – what are your interests? Now is the time to let your preferences be heard! Perhaps you can share a list of great books you have read during the lockdown, and a second list of VA, MD or WDC field trips you are interested in making!

Thank You! Many thanks to everyone – especially Pam Martinov and Marilyn Falksen – who presented the scholarship recipients at our May meeting. Despite the challenges of appearing remotely, through Pam's and Marilyn's collection of photos and their PowerPoints, I believe that all of us present became aware of just how special these young women are and their many accomplishments. I believe that they felt honored. Thanks also to our guest speakers from Justice High School.



The branch will not function without our efforts and contributions as volunteers. We are still looking for a person to be our **webmaster**. We would very much like to hear from one of you willing to give it a try. Please consider volunteering and expanding your web skills. (And if you could teach us, you might go on to make money at it!)

Voting. Every year is a political year in Virginia! This year in November we will elect the next Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General of the Commonwealth, and the House of Delegates. Participate! Vote! Take your friends to the Polls! On May 29, early in-person voting for the Democratic primary (there are no Republican primaries in our area) began at thirteen satellite locations in Fairfax County. June 5, 5 pm, is the deadline for early in-person primary voting and June 8 is the primary



Election Day. We will be considering, as part of our programming, opportunities to partner with other local organizations to foster awareness of the November election for our state government. We are lucky to have dedicated AAUW of Virginia Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy, Susan Burk and Denise Murden. Save June 23 at 5:00 p.m. for a public policy discussion (via Zoom) with them. Burk and Murden have invited Kristina Hagen, Director of the Family Friendly Economy Campaign, to speak about this campaign, which AAUW of Virginia is officially supporting. (AAUW will be recognized on the website: <https://familyfriendlyeconomyva.org>.) AAUW National Election Results. The AAUW national election results were based on 28.6 percent of branch members and 8.0 percent of national members voting. AAUW's public policy priorities were approved by 92% of voters. In addition, Julia Brown was re-elected to serve as Chair of the board for a three-year term; Malinda Gaul was re-elected as board vice chair for a three-year term; and Elizabeth Haynes and Joseph Bertolino were re-elected to serve three-year board terms. However, the ballot initiative to eliminate the membership requirement got only 63% of the vote, just below the two-thirds vote needed to change the bylaws. We look forward to seeing you at the June 14, 2021 picnic and meeting, our first meeting in person! We will be safe and social at the same time.

Sharon Zackula and Elizabeth Kessel
Co-Presidents

Next Branch In Person (!) Meeting

June Planning Picnic - Come join us for our annual picnic and planning session, **IN PERSON**, on Monday evening June 14th at 6 PM.

We'll meet at the covered picnic shelter next to the Falls Church Community Center parking lot. In accordance with current Community Center requirements, we'll use social distancing, bring our own individual food & drink and & mask (or at least have one). The shelter is covered and has plenty of room for us to spread out. The Community Center remains closed for events but I've been assured that restrooms will be open to us.

Come catch up with each other and share your ideas for next year's programs. If you can't join us in person, send your ideas to either Becky ([beckygaul at verizon.net](mailto:beckygaul@verizon.net)) or Susan ([sconklin00 at gmail.com](mailto:sconklin00@gmail.com)). HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!!



New Member- April Riser!



I was born while moving from one military base to another, and that more than anything, I think, made me a wanderer. I have moved many times throughout my life. I have taught and/or trained teachers in four states, four countries, and on a Native American Reservation. I double-majored in Communications and English in undergrad, and I minored in Education. I have a Master's in English Education, and I'm working on a PhD in Education with a specialization in Learning, Instruction, & Innovation and a focus on equity. Most summers I like to travel, and try to visit one or two new countries a year when in non-pandemic mode, or experience travel through work (fellowships to train teachers in countries with limited resources like Nepal and Malaysia). Last summer, since travel was not possible, I was the Teacher in Residence for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian. I enjoy volunteering, when I have time (though I tutor as well, so that takes some of

my volunteering time), with organizations like Soldier's Angels and the Salvation Army. My family lives in North Carolina and Florida. I enjoy reading, hiking, being out of doors, and learning. I love animals, enjoy baking, dancing, and love to research. I enjoy visiting museums (I was a Belfer Scholar for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum) and creative writing (I was one of the first eleven teachers selected to begin the SC Governor's School for the Arts – Teacher's Program). I participate in programs like the Scottish American Women's Society; I love to learn about other cultures and attend cultural events (last year, I took the Harriet Tubman/Underground Railroad Tour through A Tour of Her Own, a female owned and operated tour company; it was amazing). I enjoy learning about history and have two states left to visit in the U.S. – a fact I hope to remedy next year when things open up a bit more.

[april.riser at acps.k12.va.us](mailto:april.riser@acps.k12.va.us)

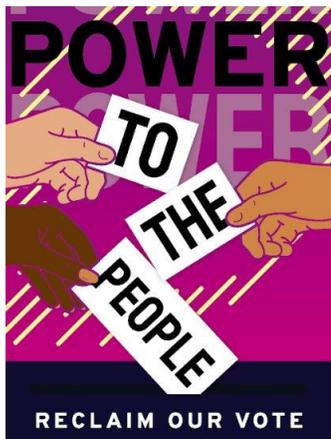
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Member Update

Mary Youman is recovering from knee surgery in early May. After spending one night in the hospital, she is making huge strides, if you will pardon the pun! Here's hoping she is back to driving, etc. soon. Send her a card or give her a call in the meantime.

And Martha Trunk has scheduled her knee surgery for July 13. So, by our Sept. meeting, both Mary and Martha will be walking spritely.

Falls Church AAUW Postcard Campaign Update –



We have wrapped up our postcards for re-registering voters in Virginia. FC AAUW wrote 1, 435 of the total 440,000 postcards written for Virginia Voter Registration. Now we are back at writing postcards to protect voting rights by once again joining a ROV non-partisan postcard campaign. This time we are writing postcards to Arizona voters of color to urge them to contact their Senator Sinema in support of HR1/S1, For The People Act to override the voter suppression bills in various states. Postcards and addresses will be available around June 1, and should be mailed by June 15.

If you are willing to write postcards for mailing before June 15, please indicate the number of postcards you are willing to write in the next few days. I'll prepare the packets and you can pick them up at my house (Mary Youman is temporarily off duty while recovering from knee replacement surgery).

Here's what ROV says about the postcards. "Arizona postcards. You will mail these cards as soon as written, deadline June 15 at the latest HR1/S1 For The People Act must pass to override the voter suppression bills, and protect democracy. A Senate vote will happen in July or August. Our nonpartisan postcarding in partnership with One Arizona will write to less-targeted voters of color to urge them to raise their voices to protect their vote, and contact Senator Sinema by phone or through our online portal where they can easily email, call or tweet to her."

Public Policy

AAUW/VA Public Policy Strategy Meeting

Mark your calendars for 5 p.m. on June 23 when the AAUW/VA's Public Policy Co-Vice Presidents will hold a Zoom meeting to discuss the November elections and Virginia's General Assembly session in 2022. All AAUW/VA members who are interested in public policy work are invited. Although the Virginia General Assembly will not convene until January 2022, it's not too early to beginning planning AAUW/VA's strategy to ensure that legislation important to women and girls is considered in the 2022 legislative session.

The featured speaker will be Kristina Hagen, Director of the Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy, Virginia (<https://familyfriendlyeconomyva.org>). AAUW of VA is a member of this coalition, which works for paid family and medical leave, paid sick days, and quality, affordable childcare. **Watch your email for the Zoom link which will be sent out later this month.**

Useful Information on AAUW Website

On May 4, AAUW held a webinar entitled "Public Policy Talks: Advancing Priorities in the First 100 Days and Beyond", which discussed the progress made in the first 100 days of the Biden Administration and examined the outstanding needs of the country. The webinar was recorded and can be found on the AAUW website. Just go to aauw.org and search for webinars.

The following are helpful links to assist in the work of advancing critical public policy priorities on behalf of women and girls:

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/> Become a two-minute activist to receive updates on legislation important to women and their families and the tools to share your views with your Senators and Representative.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/documents/> Learn about AAUW's positions and advocacy efforts concerning education, civil rights, and economic security by reading these letters, comments, testimony and legal briefs.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/research/deeper-in-debt/> Read AAUW's report on student debt and the 2021 update to learn how women are disproportionately affected by student debt, which often makes it very difficult for them to make ends meet.



Book Club News



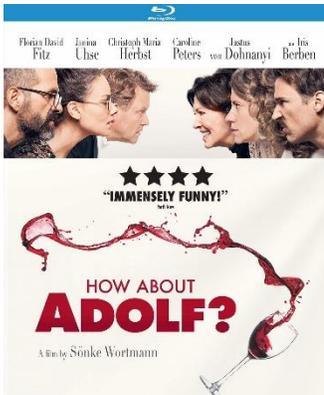
The FC AAUW Book Group will meet via Zoom for the summer on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 P.M. During the summer we'll be discussing what we have enjoyed reading and would recommend to others. We had a great time doing this last summer and many of us received some very good reading suggestions. Please join us for great discussions.

Also, our book selections for the fall will be announced soon, so stay tuned.

Next up: Tuesday June 15th at 7:30 P.M.: What we've been reading.

Movies, anyone?

Twelve films, twelve discussions, one year under the belt. Thank you all for your support, interest and participation in our branch film group. During our last zoom call the consensus was to continue through the summer. Below are the dates and selections. Please feel free to suggest any changes for July and August.



Date: June 9th

Film: How About Adolf?

Description: In this German film, what should have been a fun evening quickly gets out of hand when Thomas announces he and his pregnant girlfriend are planning to name their son Adolf. This scandalous news leads to bitter confrontation, with all kinds of secrets coming out...

Venue: Kanopy

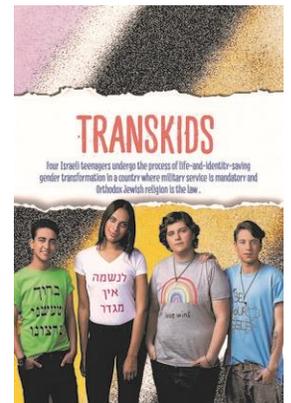
NOTE: As of June 30th Mary Riley will no longer be offering films through Kanopy. Please share any film you have enjoyed watching through Kanopy this past year.

Date: July 14th

Film: Transkids (2019 TV Mini Series)

Description: Four Israeli teenagers undergo the process of life-and-identity-saving gender transformation in a country where military service is mandatory and Orthodox Jewish religion is the law. This is a 5 part 50 minute series in Hebrew with English subtitles

Venue: Link: <https://www.streamisrael.tv/transkids?fbclid=IwAR0lr-5pXlZhi1fiGOQw6Uz4Syy4ybGVaUJwqdPcqT2wha7TFOIXk-faug>



Date: August 11th

Film: The Woman in the Window (2021)

Description: A psychological thriller that follows an agoraphobic woman who begins to spy on her new neighbors and is witness to a crime.

Venue: Netflix Streaming

Again, if you think there is another film out there that may be more interesting and appealing to the group just let me know and I will bring it up on June 9th.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Aida

703 966 8050

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 5		End of Early Voting
June 8		Primary Voting
June 9	7:00pm	Movie Group Zoom Meeting- <i>How About Adolf?</i>
June 14	6:00pm	Falls Church Branch Meeting
June 15	7:30pm	Book Club Zoom Meeting-What We've Been Reading
June 23	5:00pm	VA AAUW Public Policy Zoom Meeting
July 14	7:00pm	Movie Group Zoom Meeting-Transkids
July 20	7:30pm	Book Club Zoom Meeting
August 11	7:00pm	Movie Group Zoom Meeting- The Woman in the Window
August 17	7:30pm	Book Club Zoom Meeting
August 30	7:30pm	FC AAUW Board Meeting

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.

