

## AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

Volume 71, Number 4

April 2, 2021



### Co-Presidents' Message

Dear Members:

Welcome to Spring! The flowers are blooming and vaccinations are being administered everywhere. We are looking forward to meeting in person in a few months. What a great thing it will be to see each other! I think when we do, we should each bring a list of the best books we have read during the lockdown and a second list of VA, MD or WDC field trips we are interested in making. For now, however, enjoy the flowers, cherry blossoms and redbuds in bloom and plan to join the April meeting on Zoom.



On March 8, we elected Shannon LaBarbera as Vice President-Membership and Linda Lawrence as Treasurer. Please reach out to them and express your gratitude for their taking on these responsibilities. The organization will not function without our efforts and contributions as volunteers. **We are still looking for a member to serve as webmaster.** We would very much like to hear from one of you willing to give it a try. Please consider volunteering and learning a new skill. Its good for the brain, ya' know.

Women Make the Difference! The AAUW of Virginia state officers took advantage of our inability to meet in person and recruited speakers from across the state and beyond for the state conference, Women Make the Difference! It was very interesting. (I gained at least two ideas for "field trips" from listening to the conference presentations!)

AAUW Proposed Bylaw Change. This spring, AAUW members will vote on proposed changes recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee that would eliminate the degree requirement for membership.



The rationale for this major change can be found at AAUW's website. The AAUW Board feels very strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, it now is counter to AAUW's mission. The long-standing requirement creates a barrier to women who attended college but did not receive a degree, and it limits AAUW's ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization. By eliminating this requirement, AAUW can become a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with the needs of women today, who may attend college to obtain professional certifications rather than a degree. Further, AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity; but if AAUW excludes those without a college degree, it is denying membership to many of the women who most need its help. Voting will open on April 7 and will close on May 17 at 5:00 PM ET. More information is contained in a separate article within.

We look forward to seeing you at the April 2021 meeting. Stay tuned for additional details via email.

Sharon Zackula and Elizabeth Kessel  
Co-Presidents

## Next Branch Zoom Meeting

April Program - Hear from our recent National AAUW Award Winners

We will join McLean Branch members via Zoom **on Tuesday, April 13, at 7 PM (Note non-standard day & time!)** to hear from 2020-2021 AAUW National Fellowship and Grant Recipients who received funding from Falls Church and McLean Branches. Look for your Zoom invitation a few days prior to this meeting.

Falls Church Branch funds one American fellowship & one Research & Projects/Career Development grant annually, though endowments we built over many years of fundraising. The McLean Area Branch awards two fellowships and two grants, through their own similar endowments. AAUW National manages the application and award process for women demonstrating exceptional projects or work in their designated fields. In recent years, individual recipients have been funded using multiple endowments to reach appropriate funding levels, explaining why multiple branches are funding the women we will hear from.

2020-2021 endowed fellowship and grant recipients Tesneem Aikiek and Heather Chidarara, will speak via Zoom. The third recipient, Rhian O'Rourke, while unable to join us, will send an account of her work and goals to be read at the meeting. We look forward to hearing about the valuable work of these recipients, briefly described below:



American Fellowship recipient Tesneem Aikiek, Ph.D., in Islamic Law at Georgetown University, is researching how Muslim jurists identify multiple forms of harm in marriage and divorce, focusing on emotional and sexual harm. After completing her doctoral program, she looks forward to teaching and contributing to nonprofit community research and engagement.

International Fellowship recipient Heather Chidarara, L.L.M., Master of Law, at Georgetown University, focuses her studies on international women's rights. (Falls Church funds are not involved in her award.) Previously, she practiced as an attorney in South Africa, with experience in property law, commercial and civil litigation. Her goal is to advance the cause of women in Africa.



Research & Projects/Career Development Grant recipient Rhian O'Rourke, M.B.A., for support in her pursuit of an M.B.A./M.A. in Government at Johns Hopkins University. Her work focuses on healthcare, studying the intersection of public policy, health-care legislation, and health-care management, with emphasis on public-policy reforms that increase access to health care for people experiencing disability and marginalization. After graduation, she aspires to serve as a health-care public-policy researcher and advocate.



Cindi Shanahan, AAUW Virginia Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) Chair will speak after them about Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity: The Status and Goals of AAUW. It will be great to hear from all of them!

Please join us to hear from these exciting women **on Tuesday, April 13th.**

## In Memory of Jean Zapple

Jean Zapple, long-time member of FC AAUW died recently at age 100 years, 7.5 months in Brewster MA. Jean was a faithful supporter of AAUW who was been deeply involved in the book sale from the very start. Jean's daughter in-law Robbie Zapple (rzapple@cox.net) notified us of her death on March 19.

Jean joined FC AAUW in the 1950s after serving in the SPARS, the women's Coast Guard, during WWII and later moved to Falls Church with her husband, Nick, where they raised a family. A supporter of the book sale since Day-1, Jean reminisced that members unsatisfied with previous fund-raising efforts, decided to try selling books. Jean remembers the huge success – the first year raising at least \$3000; and the sale took off from there.

Jean was deeply involved in the sale from the very start. In fact, the first time the branch priced special books was around 1980 when the branch held a special sale at Jean's house for a donation of books about Massachusetts, Salem, and the witch trials. We immediately recognized they might be valuable and even checked with the donor that he really meant to give them to us (and, yes, he knew the value and wanted the proceeds to go to our good cause). So, Jean researched their value (not so easy before the Internet) and raised a sizable sum from that one lot alone.

To learn more about Jean's amazing life and accomplishments, We are sharing Jean's obituary, [Jean Zapple Obituary - West Harwich, MA \(dignitymemorial.com\)](http://dignitymemorial.com).

FC AAUW, and especially the book sorting crew, will miss Jean's deep knowledge and wonderful stories about books.

## Renew Your Dues for 2021-2022



**Now is the time to renew!!** We need your voice and energy. Membership dues should be paid by June 30, 2021. Membership dues are \$95--national \$62, state \$15, and local \$18. National AAUW dues increased \$3 this year, as approved by membership at a previous convention.

**THE EASIEST WAY IS TO PAY ON-LINE after you receive a dues notice from AAUW around April 10.** Once you receive the email to renew from AAUW, click on the link, enter your credit card number, and your membership is renewed in less than 30 seconds. Look for that email and renew that day! Over 90% of our branch used this method to pay their dues last year.

However, if you prefer to renew by check, please send your check for \$95, made payable to Falls Church AAUW to: Anne Baxter, FC AAUW Treasurer, 3440 S. Jefferson St., Apt. 527, Falls Church, VA 22041-3124.



**PLEASE DO NOT SEND** your dues payment directly to National AAUW. You will not be listed as a Falls Church branch member.

Linda Lawrence, our new branch Treasurer, will take office on July 1, 2021. She and I will work together to ensure a seamless transition. Linda looks forward to working with the branch Board and members.

Thanks for your prompt action on paying your 2021-2022 dues!

Linda Lawrence, Incoming Treasurer  
Anne Baxter, Outgoing Treasurer (2017-2021)

## Voting on AAUW By-Laws

**Voting Period: April 7 – May 17, 2021**

**How to vote: All eligible voters are encouraged to vote online.**

**A link to voting (as well as many reminders) will be sent via email to all eligible voters beginning on April 7, 2021. All voters without a valid email on file with the national office will be sent a reminder via snail mail. Paper ballots can be requested from connect at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) on or before April 16, 2021. Paper ballots must be postmarked by April 30, 2021.**

See: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/open-membership-toolkit/>.

See webinar site: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>

## From the AAUW Board of Directors

The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW's bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. While AAUW is fiercely committed to the educational attainment of all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do.

Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership to vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission, and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

...Voting will open on April 7, 2021 and close May 17, 2021 5:00 PM ET.

We encourage respectful debate that has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community.

— AAUW Board of Directors

Four AAUW members explain why it is time to finally eliminate the membership degree requirement and make AAUW a more inclusive and welcoming community for all who believe in our mission.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/open-membership-toolkit/>

## Specific Changes to By-Laws

### ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

**Section 1.** Composition. The members (“Members”) of AAUW shall consist of individual members (“Individual Members”) and college/university members (“College/University Members”).

**Section 2.** Basis of Membership.

1. Individual Members.

1. Eligibility. An individual holding an associate (or equivalent, e.g., RN), bachelor’s, or higher degree from a higher education institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (an “Accredited Higher Education Institution”) or other qualified educational institution located outside of the United States, as determined by the Board of Directors, shall be eligible to receive admission to AAUW membership; such membership shall be granted upon payment of AAUW dues. The provisions set forth in this section are the sole requirement for eligibility and admissibility to AAUW membership except that the Board of Directors may establish a process to assess credentials that are submitted based on degree equivalence.



**An individual who supports the AAUW mission and pays annual AAUW dues shall be eligible to be an individual member with all rights and responsibilities of AAUW membership.**

~~B. Saving Clause. No Individual Member shall lose membership due to any change in the status of the higher education institution upon which original qualification for membership was based.~~

2. ~~(C.)~~ Life Membership.

1. Paid. An Individual Member may become a life member (a “Life Member”) upon a one-time payment of twenty years’ annual AAUW national dues, based on the amount of annual AAUW dues the year the Member elects to become a Life Member but without credit for AAUW dues paid in prior years. Thereafter, the Life Member shall be exempt from the payment of AAUW national dues.

2. Fifty-Year Honorary. An Individual Member who has paid AAUW dues for 50 years shall become a Life Member and shall thereafter be exempt from the payment of AAUW national dues.

2. College/University Members. Any Accredited Higher Education Institution or other qualified higher educational institutions located outside the United States, as determined by the Board of Directors, that pays annual dues to AAUW shall be eligible to be a College/University Member. Each College/University Member shall appoint one or two representatives who are eligible to be Individual Members and who shall each have the membership ~~benefits~~ **rights and responsibilities** of an Individual Member and any other benefits that accrue to representatives of College/University Members, as determined by the Board of Directors.

3. Other Organizational Members. The Board of Directors may set forth criteria for other organizations (“Organizational Members”) to join AAUW.

4. Appeals of Refusals of Admission to Membership. Any potential Individual Member or College/University Member that has been refused admission to membership may appeal to the Board of Directors for review. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final.

~~**Section 3.** Student Associates. The Board of Directors may permit undergraduate students enrolled in Accredited Higher Education Institutions or in other qualified educational institutions located outside of the United States, as determined by the Board of Directors, to associate with AAUW, with fees (if any) and benefits as determined by the Board of Directors.~~

## ~~Section 4.~~ **Section 3.** Dues.

1. Amount. The annual dues and member benefits for any category of member shall be established by a two-thirds vote of the AAUW Board of Directors. **Annual dues may be set at lower amounts, or may be waived entirely, for certain Individual Members based on objective criteria including but not limited to the Individual Member's status as a student and the Individual Member's current enrollment at an institution that is a College/University Member.** Members shall be notified of the intent to consider a change in the dues, the proposed amount, and the rationale for the change at least 60 days prior to the vote.
2. Payment. Member dues shall be payable in accordance with procedures established by the Board of Directors.

~~Section 5.~~ **Section 4.** Severance of Membership. Any Member may be suspended or removed from membership for any conduct that tends to injure AAUW or to adversely affect its reputation or that is contrary to or destructive of its mission according to these Bylaws, with action taken following policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors. In addition, a College/University Member that is no longer eligible for membership shall be removed from members.

## Public Policy

### Equal Pay Day



On Wednesday, March 24, AAUW “celebrated” equal pay day, the date to which women have to work into 2021 to finally make the same amount of money men did in 2020. Typically, women earn 82 cents for every dollar men earn, and this discrepancy is worse for women of color. Earnings lost to the gender gap have been exacerbated by the financial effects of COVID-19. Overall, the gender pay gap exists for every age group, in nearly every profession, and widens over a woman’s lifetime. It even follows women into retirement due to lower retirement savings and pension benefits.

At the request of our AAUW Branch, City of Falls Church Mayor David Tarter issued a proclamation making Wednesday, March 24, 2021, Equal Pay Day in the City of Falls Church, urging the community to recognize the value of women’s contributions to the labor force and encouraging businesses to ensure that women are paid fairly. A copy of the proclamation can be found at the end of this newsletter.

### Legislative News

**Paycheck Fairness.** On March 24 (Equal Pay Day) the House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor took a step toward alleviating the gender pay gap by reporting H.R. 7, the Paycheck Fairness Act, to the House for consideration. A vote on the measure by the full House is expected in April. An identical measure, S. 205, was introduced in the Senate and has 49 cosponsors.

**Equality Act.** H.R. 5, which was introduced in the House of Representatives on February 18, would amend the civil rights laws to provide protection against discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation and gender identity. The bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives with bipartisan support on February 25 and is now under consideration by the Senate. The Senate Judiciary Committee held hearings on H.R. 5 on March 17.



**ERA.** In January, legislation to remove the certification deadline for the ratification of the ERA (H.J. Res. 17) was introduced in the House. On March 17, the House passed the bill with bipartisan support and sent it to the Senate for its consideration. An identical bill was also introduced in January in the Senate (S.J. Res. 1), where it is awaiting consideration by the Judiciary Committee.

**The For the People Act.** This measure (H.R. 1) would make it easier for people to vote in federal elections, end congressional gerrymandering, overhaul federal campaign finance laws, increase safeguards against foreign interference, and strengthen government ethics rules. The bill passed the House of Representatives on March 3 and was sent to the Senate. Additionally, a similar bill (S. 1) was introduced in the Senate on March 17 with 48 cosponsors. The Senate Rules Committee held a hearing on S. 1 on March 24.



**The Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization.** H.R. 1620 was introduced in the House of Representatives on March 8 and passed on March 17 with a bipartisan vote. This important legislation, which was last authorized in 2013, protects and provides resources for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence. A related measure, S. 119, was introduced in the Senate by Senators Klobuchar (D-MN) and Cornyn (R-TX) on January 28 and is currently awaiting action by the Senate Judiciary Committee.



AAUW supports all of these measures and encourages you to contact your U.S. Representative and/or Senators as appropriate to let them know of AAUW's support for these important measures.

### Two-Minute Activist

An easy way to make your views known about issues before Congress is to become a Two-Minute Activist. Just go to <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist> and sign up. You will find the information you need to send emails or call your Senators and Representative, including sample messages you can personalize. Additionally, you will receive alerts so that you can take timely action on legislation that is important to women and their families.

### Women's History Walk

The annual Falls Church Women's History Walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with May 16 as the rain date. As in past years, stations will be set up along the walk honoring Falls Church women of note. Each station will contain a sign with information about one of the women. Last year, our Branch donated the sign which honors Leah Porzel, a long-time Branch member. More information about the Walk can be found on the Walk website: <https://sites.google.com/view/fc-womens-history-walk/home>.

## Mount Vernon / Springfield-Annandale Branch News

This is a reminder of the Mt. Vernon/Springfield-Annandale Program, April 17, 10:30 am. All are invited to attend.

Bob Levey, formerly of the Washington Post will speak to us about his book and his time at the Washington Post. The flyer has the link to register for this event. Or you can click here: [Author Talk: Bob Levey - Fairfax Library Calendar - Library Home \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#) Mr. Levey has suggested that participants may want to read his book before the event, and if ordered through him, he will autograph and ship books himself. <https://www.bobleveypublishing.com/larry-felder-candidate> Otherwise, they are available on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Larry-Felder-Candidate-Bob-Levey/dp/1720030901>

Patsy Quick, President, Mt. Vernon Branch

### Movies, anyone?



In April, the film group will be discussing the 2020 film **Ma Rainey's Black Bottom**. The film focuses on Ma Rainey, an influential blues singer, and a turbulent recording session. The film has received five Academy Award Nominations including Best Actress for Viola Davis and Best Actor for Chadwick Boseman. **Ma Rainey's Black Bottom** can be viewed through Netflix Streaming. The group will meet virtually to discuss the film on Wednesday, April 14th at 7:00 PM. All are invited to join us. **No ticket required**. For more details, call or text Aida Loomis at 703 966 8050.

Coming Soon: The Social Dilemma Netflix Streaming May 12th

June: **Let's Go To The Movies?**

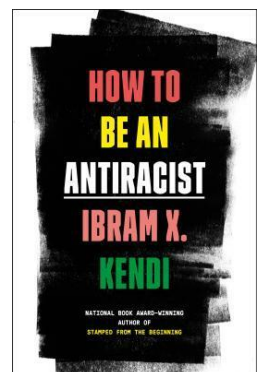
### Book Club News

The book group meets virtually for the foreseeable future on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 P.M. You can find the schedule of upcoming meetings in the newsletter, on the events calendar on our branch website as well as an email sent out to the branch. All are welcome to attend whether or not you've read the book. A Zoom meeting invitation is sent out to all members the day before the meeting. Below is our schedule for Winter/Spring 2021.

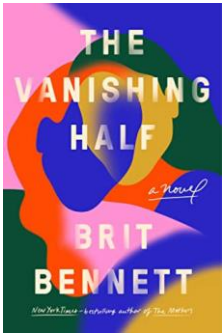
NEXT UP: April 20, 2021:

Diversity Selection: **How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi**

Ibram X. Kendi's concept of antiracism reenergizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America--but even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. In *How to be an Antiracist*, Kendi asks us to think about what an antiracist society might look like, and how we can play an active role in building it. 305 pages







Coming in May: Contemporary Fiction:

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 7		Voting on AAUW By-Laws Changes opens
April 10		Around this date look for AAUW dues notice
<b>April 13</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Falls Church Branch Meeting via Zoom (joint with McLean)</b>
April 14	7:00pm	Movie Group Zoom Meeting
April 17	10:30am	Mount Vernon / Springfield-Annandale Branch meeting- with Bob Levey
April 20	7:30pm	Book Club Zoom Meeting
April 26	7:30pm	FC AAUW Board Meeting
May 2	10:00am	Falls Church Women's History Walk
May 17		Last day to vote on AAUW By-Laws Changes

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.



## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, 58 years after the passage of the Equal Pay Act, women, especially women of color, continue to suffer the consequences of unequal pay; and
- WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, women working full time, year round in 2019 typically earned 82 percent of what men earned, indicating little change or progress in pay equity; and
- WHEREAS, according to *Graduating to a Pay Gap*, a 2012 research report by the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the gender pay gap is evident one year after college graduation, even after controlling for factors known to affect earnings, such as occupation, hours worked, and college major; and
- WHEREAS, according to one estimate, college-educated women working full time earn half a million dollars less than their male peers do over the course of a lifetime; and
- WHEREAS, many mothers are primary breadwinners or significant earners in their households, making pay equity critical to families' economic security; and
- WHEREAS, a lifetime of lower pay means women have less income to save for retirement and less income counted in a Social Security or pension benefit formula; and
- WHEREAS, according to the American Association of University Women's *State Road Map*, Virginia ranks 27<sup>th</sup> out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia with a pay gap of 20 percent; and
- WHEREAS, fair pay equity policies can be implemented simply and without undue costs or hardship in both the public and private sectors; and
- WHEREAS, fair pay strengthens the security of families today and eases future retirement costs while enhancing the American economy; and
- WHEREAS, Wednesday, March 24, symbolizes the time in 2021 when the wages paid to American women catch up to the wages paid to men from the previous year;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David Tarter, Mayor of the City of Falls Church, Virginia, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, March 24, 2021 as

## EQUAL PAY DAY

in the City of Falls Church and urge the community to recognize the full value of women's skills and significant contributions to the labor force and further encourage businesses to conduct an internal pay evaluation to ensure women are being paid fairly.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Falls Church, Virginia to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2021.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Tarter", is written over a horizontal line.

David Tarter, Mayor



**Mt. Vernon & Springfield-Annandale AAUW  
Branches and Sherwood Regional Library**

**Present**

**Saturday, April 17, 10:30 a.m.**

	<p><b>Bob Levey</b> Prize-Winning Journalist</p> <p>Covered Presidential Politics, Congress, Local News, and Sports</p> <p>Seven times, named one of the most popular columnists in Washington by <i>Washinatonian</i> magazine for his <i>Washinaton Post</i> column.</p>
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**Register:** <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/7510819>

For 23 years, Mr. Levey wrote a daily column, "Bob Levey's Washington," for *The Washington Post*. The column looked at all aspects of life in the nation's capital. It won major awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and the *Washington Journalism Review*. Currently he writes a monthly column for *Senior Beacon Newspapers*.

Now retired from the *Post*, Bob Levey has written a novel: Larry Felder, Candidate. He will talk about his book and about his time at the Post.

**Mr. Levey's books may be purchased here:**

<https://www.bobleveypublishing.com/larry-felder-candidate>

<https://www.amazon.com/Larry-Felder-Candidate-BobLevey/dp/1720030901>

