

## AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

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### Co- Presidents' Message



Dear Members:

Thanks to Becky Gaul and Susan Conklin for hosting a December holiday party. Via Zoom, about 20 members of the Branch celebrated, dressed in holiday colors with their holiday cheer and treats in hand. Several faces popped up on the screen that we had not viewed recently and they provided some new spice. Everyone shared a favorite holiday story. They were varied and sometimes touching remembrances of past holidays, family traditions, and ranged from tender moments to vignettes of wildly unexpected or comical events or relatives. We learned a little more about each other that December afternoon.

Throughout 2020, we have learned much about ourselves. We learned that we are resilient. We are more flexible and patient than we ever imagined. We saw that even in the enforced solitude created by COVID 19, we could entertain and stimulate ourselves with great books and movies, old favorites and newly released. We stayed connected via Facetime and Zoom encounters with family and friends, including our local Falls Church branch friends and those more distant. In the process, we mastered some new technology! For the first time, performances of music, dance and theater, and exhibitions and museum salons from around the world were opened to us digitally. We developed some new skills, and for many of us, brushed up on an old one—cooking. We saw our neighbors and neighborhood with greater clarity and renewed interest as all of us circled the block daily to stay in COVID-fighting form.

We welcome the arrival of 2021. We will be asked to exhibit more patience and will. We will meet by Zoom until our vaccines are given and it is deemed safe to reduce the physical barriers between us. We are hopeful of renewing old connections with friends and family, in person, with hugs, smiles, handshakes and shared food and drink across a café perch or the family table. Beyond our desire for touch and physical reconnection, there are many reasons that we want to and must resume in-person interactions. One interesting theory about how to drive social change says we need to “mix it up” with people from different groups to change people’s attitudes. “People change when they are put in new environments, in permanent relationships with diverse groups of people.” (David Brooks, NYTimes, 1/1/2020, p. A19.) Brooks reflects on “the contact hypothesis,” raised by social psychologist Gordon Allport, that “doing life together with people of other groups can reduce prejudice and change minds. It’s how new emotional bonds are formed, how new conceptions of who is ‘us’ and who is ‘them’ come into being.” (ID.) After witnessing, again and again, the wrenching, harsh, and disparate treatment that people of color may receive from the police and the impact of discrimination on economic survival, health and life-span, we believe 2021 is a time for us to exhibit impatience with the status quo of inequality and discrimination, and develop, through connection across our communities, a new conception of who is ‘us’ and who is ‘them’.

Join us for the many interesting programs this year, starting on Sunday January 10, 2:00 pm, to discuss the mechanics of the electoral college and the transfer of presidential power. Kristan McMahon, former

Branch President, now President, Robert Jackson Center, Jamestown, NY, will join us, sharing a pre-recorded discussion (see YouTube link below) with Professor Edward Foley, Ohio State University School of Law.

We look forward to seeing you, and wish you a 2021 of patience, vaccinations, health, freedom, family and friends, and connections and transformation.

Stay safe, be well and keep in touch,

Sharon Zackula and Elizabeth Kessel

Co-Presidents

## Branch Meeting: Election Update & the Electoral College, Sunday, January 10th, 2 pm

Former FCAAUW President Kristan McMahon will join our Zoom meeting to discuss the Electoral College and the Presidential Election. Kristan is now President of the Robert Jackson Center in Jamestown, NY (<https://www.roberthjackson.org/about/>) which works to advance public awareness and principles of justice as embodied by former Supreme Court Justice Jackson.

We'll listen to portions of a Center webinar by Ohio State University electoral college expert Professor Edward Foley to hear how the Electoral College functioned in our recent election, plus updates and arguments for and against electoral college reform.



You can listen to the recorded webinar on your own via Youtube

at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?blm\\_aid=124447745&v=r02KaQGxaWo&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?blm_aid=124447745&v=r02KaQGxaWo&feature=youtu.be). You may want to scroll to 40 minutes into the webinar when Professor Foley discusses Congressional what if scenarios.

We hope you will join us to learn about this timely issue.

## Public Policy: Virtual State Lobbying in 2021

In this time of social distancing, AAUW-VA will not have in-person Lobby Days during the Virginia General Assembly's 2021 legislative session, which begins January 13. We will, however, continue our efforts to advocate for legislation of interest to women and girls, but do so virtually. **Paid sick**

**leave** and **prohibiting inquiries about wage/salary history as a condition of employment** will be our focus. AAUW-VA has joined the **Coalition for Paid Sick Leave** led by the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. We will be coordinating our lobbying efforts with the Coalition to amplify our message. A salary history bill was passed by the House of Delegates during the 2020 session. The Senate decided to "continue" the bill to 2021. We hope to find Senate sponsors willing to take up this issue and see that it is enacted into law. Please plan to support our virtual lobbying this year with emails and phone calls. Details about key legislators we will be contacting, as well as draft letters and points to use, will be forthcoming very soon.



## Northern District of Virginia

The Northern District of AAUW of Virginia is hosting a Zoom program on **January 9, 2021**, at **10 a.m.**

The topic is “**Local Governments’ Efforts on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.**” The goal of the program is to help our members in Northern Virginia to better understand what our local governments are doing related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Currently we have two confirmed panelists: **Karla Bruce**, Chief Equity Officer of Fairfax County; and **Samia Byrd**, Chief Race and Equity Officer for Arlington County. We have also asked someone from Alexandria City to participate.

**Please review this link, [Fairfax County’s plan](#)** by Karla Bruce, prior to the program

Time: Jan 9, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83969009579?pwd=TTBLdnViUWwhMKytEaTJacENtYzJqZz09>

Meeting ID: 839 6900 9579

Passcode: 034127

Questions? Contact Sandy at [Sandyaaaw at juno.com](mailto:Sandyaaaw@juno.com)

Hope to see you then

Sara & Sandy

## Movies, anyone?

Let's Go To The Movies Virtually!

In January the film group will be transported to Israel. We will be watching and discussing Israel's number #1 film of the year, **The Women's Balcony**. “An accident during a bar mitzvah celebration leads to a gender rift in a devout Orthodox community in Jerusalem, in this rousing, good-hearted tale about women speaking truth to patriarchal power. With Jerusalem's distinctive glow, **The Women's Balcony** is a warm, poignant portrait of a modern community struggling to balance protocol with practical, progressive values - at once rebellious and respectful in spirit.”

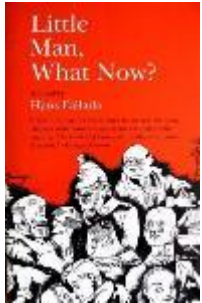
**The Women's Balcony** can be watched through Kanopy. Please check out November FLASH on how to access Kanopy. The group will meet virtually to discuss the film on Wednesday, January 13th at 7:00 PM. All are invited to join us. **No ticket required.** For more details, call or text Aida Loomis at 703 966 8050.



The film group will be discussing **What the Constitution Means to Me** February 10<sup>th</sup> so **SAVE THE DATE**. It can be watched on Amazon Prime.

## 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.

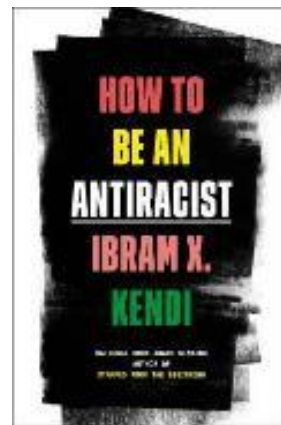
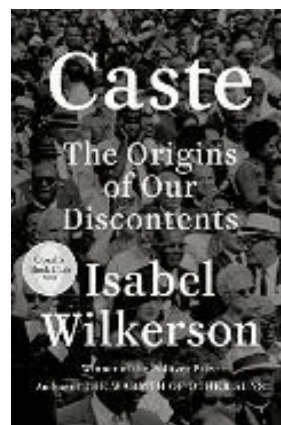
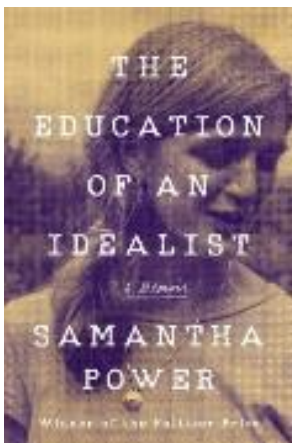


Here is a description of our Jan. Selection: **Little Man, What Now?** by Hans Fallada

Since its first publication in 1933, this novel has become a world classic. It provides a vivid, poignant picture of life in Germany just before Hitler's takeover and focuses on a young married couple struggling to survive in the country's nightmarish inflation.

JAN. 19, 2021: Classic by a Foreign Author: "Little Man, What Now?" by Hans Fallada, 384 pages

- FEB. 16, 2021: Memoir: "The Education of An Idealist: A Memoir by Samantha Power, 592 pages  
MAR. 16, 2021: Diversity: "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents" by Isabel Wilkerson, 496 pages  
APR. 20, 2021: Diversity: "How to Be an Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi, 305 pages  
MAY 18, 2021: Contemporary Fiction: "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett, 343 pages



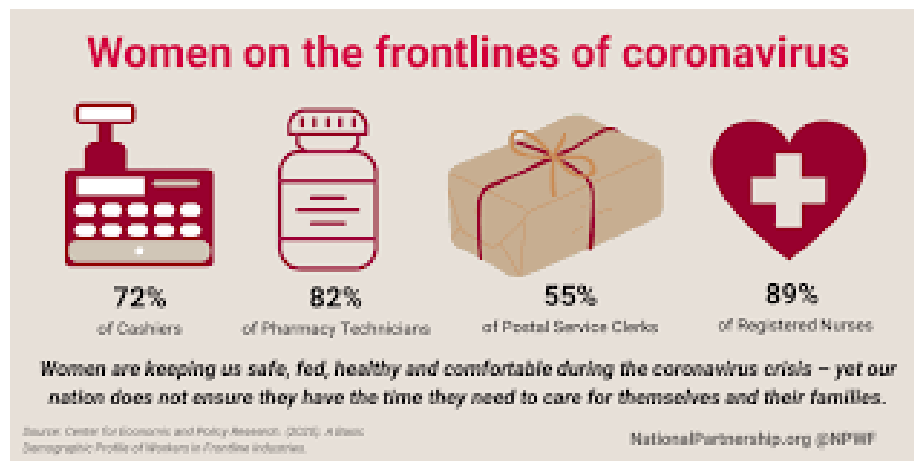
Please join us for great discussions, whether or not you've read the book.  
Polly Rosenstein for FC AAUW book Group

## Thank you from Marybeth Connelly

We received a thank you letter from Marybeth for our contribution for the funding of the Women's History Walk signs. Our contribution is helping to make permanent signs a reality. The 2020 Walk was postponed until May, 2021 and we hope to see the sign honoring Leah Porzel then!



## Women and Coronavirus



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 9	10:00am	Northern District of VA. Meeting via Zoom
January 10	2:00pm	Branch meeting via Zoom
January 13	7:00pm	Movie Group via Zoom
January 19	7:30pm	Book Club via Zoom
February 10	7:00pm	Movie Group via Zoom
February 16	7:30pm	Book Club via Zoom

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.

