

## AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

Volume 71, Number 8

September 3, 2021



### Co-Presidents' Message



Hello All,

Let's welcome the AAUW "new year"! We have great programs, laughter and even personal encounters planned for 2021-2022! In spite of COVID, the Falls Church Branch has been engaged and busy. For example, in an article below, you will read that since just before the 2020 elections, Falls Church AAUW members and friends have been very busy and motivated, writing over 10,500 postcards to voters in Virginia and around the country urging them to exercise their voting rights in state and federal elections. Looking forward, in our quest to enjoy life and stay healthy during the current COVID outbreak, Susan Conklin and Becky Gaul have planned a great September 13th program, involving much joy and laughter, stretching and yoga. Join us (via Zoom) on Sept 13, 7:30 p.m. More details below. **Your Zoom invitation to the September 13 meeting will be sent to you a week before and a reminder will be sent to you on Sept. 13 by 10 am.**

The Board reconsidered participating in this year's Fall Festival due to safety concerns around the current COVID virus - delta variant. Prioritizing health issues among members and families, the Board decided that we would not participate in the Falls Church Fall Festival in September. Focusing on what we can do, rather than what we cannot, is most important. Read more about our invitation from the League of Women Voters to help register voters this year before the November election at all Fairfax County libraries, get certified/trained and sign up, join the Book Group call on September 21, 7:30 p.m. to discuss *The Woman Warrior*, by Maxine Hong Kingston, join the Movie Group call on September 8, 7:00 p.m. to discuss *Cousins* (Netflix), watch the Jada Pinkett Smith video, *Red Table Talk*, on October 9, 10 am, and join the discussion afterwards. Finally, join us in person in late September to celebrate the life of Kitty Richardson and enjoy some fellowship. Details on all of these events and programs are within.

We look forward to seeing you via Zoom on September 13. Take care,

Sharon Zackula  
Elizabeth Kessel

### Next Branch Zoom Meeting

Laughter Yoga will be our program for the 13 Sept FC Branch meeting at 7:30 pm. Laughter Yoga is intentional laughter in a group (even on Zoom). Our 13 Sept meeting will be via Zoom so you can experience group laughter. Group laughter builds our sense of connection, reduces stress and even boosts our immune systems—what we all need in these times. Join health coach Patricia Linderman for a session at our Sept meeting. Come laugh with us.

## Public Policy

### Opportunities to Register Voters

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) is registering voters and has offered AAUW members the opportunity to join in that effort. State law requires that anyone who registers voters be credentialed each year. The credentialing process is easy and involves watching a 40-minute video and filling out an affidavit stating that you have completed the training. When completing the affidavit, list AAUW-VA as your affiliation. Links for the video and affidavit follow:

2021 training link

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/voter-registration-training-video/>

Affidavit link

<https://fs28.formsite.com/vaelect/3rdpartyvoterreg/index.html>

On September 28 LWVFA will be holding Voter Registration events at all Fairfax County Public Libraries. Check out their Sign-Up Genius below to see if there are any venues/times at which you are able to participate in this important activity.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d48afa82fa7f94-national1>

The League is also sponsoring voter registration events at farmers markets and food distribution sites. Here is the Sign-Up Genius link for those events:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d48afa82fa7f94-farmers>

2021 Election Calendar

AAUW's public policy agenda describes expanding and protecting the right to vote as **foundational** because having the right to vote is a prerequisite to establishing all other policies that AAUW advocates.

To help our members and others exercise their right to vote, AAUW-VA has prepared a flyer with key dates and deadlines for the November election. A copy of that flyer follows this article. Virginia has led the Nation in expanding voter rights, so we can now vote by going to the polls in person on November 2 or by using one of the expanded voting opportunities Virginia offers. The flyer has live links to the Virginia Department of Elections website to help voters find more information and enable them to make their voting plan now.

You are encouraged to share these important dates with family, friends, and neighbors in Virginia. A copy of the flyer can be downloaded from the AAUW-VA website: [aauw-va.aauw.net](http://aauw-va.aauw.net) and printed.



# Important Dates for the November 2, 2021 Election



Ongoing (See deadline below)	<a href="#">Register to vote</a>
Ongoing	<a href="#">Check and, if necessary, update registration information</a>
Ongoing (see deadline below)	<a href="#">Apply to vote absentee by mail</a>
September 17	Requested absentee ballots begin to be mailed from registrar
September 17	<a href="#">Early in-person voting begins</a>
ASAP (see deadlines below)	Mail or hand deliver completed absentee ballot to registrar
October 12, 5 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote or update registration (in person or receipt by mail)
October 12, 11:59 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote or update registration (online)
October 22, 5 p.m.	Deadline to apply to vote absentee by mail
October 30, 5 p.m.	Deadline for early in-person voting at <a href="#">your local registrar</a>
November 2	Deadline for postmark on absentee ballot submitted by mail
November 2, 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.	<a href="#">Election Day Voting at assigned polling places</a>
November 2, 7 p.m.	Deadline for receipt of absentee ballot delivered in person
November 5, 12 p.m.	Deadline for receipt of absentee ballot mailed to registrar

## AAUW-VA Public Policy Meeting

The AAUW-VA Public Policy Co-Vice Presidents have asked that the following information be disseminated to Branch members.

Mark **Wednesday, September 22 at 5 p.m.** on your calendar to Zoom with AAUW-VA Public Policy Co-Vice Presidents as we ***kick off the 2021 Election Season in Virginia***. All AAUW-VA members interested in public policy are encouraged to attend.

We will take a look at Get Out the Vote and other election season activities and look ahead to AAUW-VA's plans for the 2022 Virginia legislative session. We also hope to identify members to form public policy interest groups that follow specific issues in more depth than your Co-VPs can do alone. We discussed the idea at our June 23 Zoom meeting, and there seemed to be some interest.

We appreciate everyone's great response to our request for active advocacy over the past year and hope to get even more members involved. We hope to see many of you on September 22!

The Zoom link follows:

Denise Murden is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: AAUW-VA Public Policy Meeting

Time: Sep 22, 2021 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87078233820?pwd=UE9SM3BUTXIsRU9KTmZ1SzJaYzhadz09>

Meeting ID: 870 7823 3820

Passcode: 699285

Meeting ID: 870 7823 3820

Passcode: 699285

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kerrX71ps4>

## Falls Church Area Branch of AAUW Urges Voter Participation in the Reclaim Our Vote Campaign

The Reclaim Our Vote ("ROV") campaign of writing postcards began for the Falls Church Area Branch of AAUW ("AAUW FC Branch"), and friends of the branch, in the months leading up to the November 2020 elections. The AAUW FC Branch then continued working with the ROV campaign prior to the special Senatorial races held in early 2021, and since March 2021, has been working directly with the ROV campaign urging Virginia residents to vote in Virginia's November 2021 state-wide elections. During this time, AAUW FC Branch has distributed 10,585 ROV postcards to members. AAUW FC Branch members and friends completed and mailed the ROV postcards to residents and voters in several states with messages that encouraged voter registration, participation in their state and national elections and early voting. The chart below shows the scope of the branch's ROV efforts.

Specifically to encourage Virginia residents to vote in the November 2021 Virginia state elections, AAUW FC Branch restarted our participation in ROV in March and April 2021, mailing 1900 ROV postcards to encourage persons purged from the Virginia voter rolls to re-register, if appropriate, and vote. In August 2021, a second set of 1000 addresses and ROV postcards were distributed to the branch with messaging to encourage Virginia voters to turn out in November 2021. Most of these 1000 ROV postcards are already in the mail.



The branch's ROV postcard writing campaign has been organized and spearheaded by Mollie Jewell, AAUW FC Branch Secretary, with much assistance from Mary Youman, AAUW FC Scholarship Committee Chair. The branch's ROV campaign is in honor and memory of Kitty Richardson, an active civil rights supporter and our former diversity chair, who passed away in early 2021. The branch has worked directly with the Reclaim Our Vote campaign, which is a project of the Center for Common Ground of Virginia, a registered non-partisan 501 (c)3 organization. National partners include NAACP, Black Voters Matter, Mi Familia Vote, VoteRiders and DemLabs.

Round	Number
1. North Carolina - Pledge to vote	390
2. Florida - Hillsboro (Tampa) and Orange (Orlando) - vote in primary and fill out your census	1300
3. Texas - Hidalgo (Ft Worth/El Paso) - vote early	1170
4. Texas - Laredo - vote early	450
5. Georgia - Inactive voters, activate and get absentee ballot.	1000
6. Florida – Seminole - Vote early, in person/absentee drop or mail	750
7. Georgia - Cobb County - Vote early, in person/absentee drop or mail	375
8. Georgia runoff	1500
9. Georgia runoff #2	200
10. Virginia - re-register purged voters - March & April 2021	1900
11. Arizona - anti-voter suppression issues	550
12. Virginia – voter turnout message	1000
<b>Total</b>	<b>10585</b>

THANK YOU to all of you, and your friends and family, who have participated in the ROV campaign!

## Alexandria and Mount Vernon Branches

The Alexandria and Mount Vernon branches are co-sponsoring a Voting Rights Forum / Save the Vote panel discussion. It will be held at Saturday September 18, 10:30 am in the meeting room, Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306. Sue Worden of the League of Women Voters will speak on LWV's greatest concern regarding voting rights and how to fix it. Voting Rights are a major issue this year. At this point, it is an in-person meeting.

## Arlington Branch

Join us Monday, September 20th at 7 pm on Zoom



The Arlington branch of AAUW is excited to connect with a local non-profit, **Rosie Riveters**, whose goal, as stated on their website, is “to **provide meaningful engagement with STEM before the drop-off point** rather than during it. Children can enroll in Rosie Riveters beginning at age 4 and programs currently extend through middle

school; this structure is designed to get young women excited about and interested in STEM well before they encounter barriers discouraging their participation.”

## McLean Area Branch

Sunday, September 19, 2021 2-4 pm Via ZOOM -At our first AAUW McLean Branch meeting of the year, we will welcome our newly elected officers and celebrate the outstanding young women awardees and scholarship winners supported by our Branch. These will include the high school junior STEM winners and Trinity and Marymount universities scholarship recipients. An email notification from Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales with the Zoom link, meeting ID and Password, will be sent a few days prior to the meeting.

## Reston Reston-Herndon Branch

AAUW Reston-Herndon Friendsgiving Picnic The Pony Barn, Steeplechase & Triple Crown, Reston September 11, 2021 11:30 AM Deadline to Register Friday, September 3 at Noon Our lunch will be catered by Cameron's. A local restaurant and chocolate shop providing work and training opportunities for young adults with intellectual challenges.

## Springfield-Annandale Branch

September Women's Suffrage Field Trip, September 18, meet at 1:00pm

The September 18th General Meeting will be a trip to the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial in Occoquan Regional Park to honor our sisters who fought so valiantly for 70 years to earn the right to vote for women in the USA. Now, more than ever, we recognize what a precious gift the right to vote is!

## Vienna Branch

Fighting Climate Change in Fairfax County Tuesday, October 19, 2021 6:30 PM doors open, 7 PM program Patrick Henry Library Forest fires...droughts...floods...melting ice caps...even the basic movement of the oceans is changing. The bad news of climate change is in our daily newspapers, and we can feel helpless to do anything. Our October program features two speakers—one from our county

government, one from a community activist group—to tell us what is being done on the local level and how we can help.

## Movies, anyone?



"No movie I've seen this year has hit me harder than *Cousins*."  
(Roger Moore Film Review)

In September, the film group will be discussing the 2021 New Zealand film *Cousins*. The film is about the enduring but frayed bonds that connect three Maori women from the 1940s to the present. *Cousins* bigger concerns though, are those common to indigenous peoples—the pride and priority of family and the sacred nature of the land. *Cousins* can be seen

on Netflix streaming. The group will meet virtually over zoom to discuss the film on Wednesday, September 8th at 7:00 PM.

The movie group will continue to meet virtually October 13th and November 10th. Film suggestions have been made but more nominations are always welcome. Selections will be made and announced after September 8th.

All are invited to join us. No ticket required. For more details, call or text Aida Loomis at 703 966 8050.

## Book Club News

NEXT ZOOM MEETING: TUESDAY September 21, 7:30PM.

A Zoom meeting announcement will be sent out the day before. We will discuss *The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston. Everyone is welcome to come.

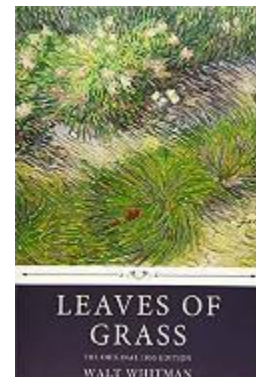
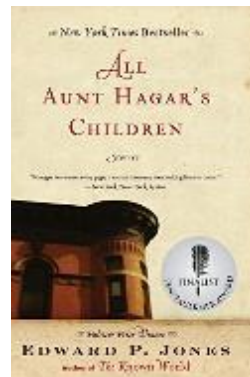
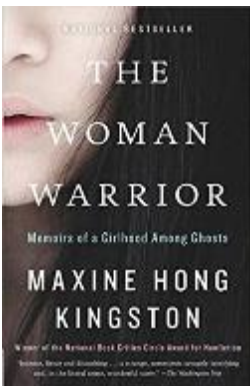
Here is our fall schedule:

9/21 BIO/MEMOIR: *The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston, 204 pages

10/19 BOOK BY A FOREIGN AUTHOR: *Strange Weather in Tokyo* by Hiromi Kawakami, 176 pages

11/16 BOOK BY A D.C. WRITER: *All Aunt Hagar's Children: Stories* by Edgar P. Jones, 399 pages

12/21 POETRY: *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman, 624 pages



For our August meeting we discussed what we have been reading and would like to share with the group. Here are the group's recommendations:

Susan Conklin: *Death at the Chateau Bremond* by M.L. Longworth, mystery and French culture

Peggy Howard: *Mercury Rising: John Glenn, John Kennedy and the New Battleground of the Cold War* by Jeff Shesol, history  
*Wolves at the Door: The True Story of America's Greatest Female Spy* by Judith L. Pearson, history  
*We Have Always Lived in the Castle* by Shirley Jackson, horror

Martha Trunk: *Hell of a Book* by Jason Mott, thriller  
*The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho, classic

Anne Baxter: *All the Devils Are Here* by Louise Penny, mystery  
*Disappearing Earth* by Julia Phillips, mystery  
*The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig, fantasy  
*The Story of a New Name* by Elena Ferrante, historical fiction, Italian culture  
*Memoirs from the Women's Prison* by Nawal El Saadawe, feminism

Aida Loomis: *The Four Tendencies: The Indispensable Personality Profiles That Reveal How to Make Your Life Better (And Other People's Lives Better Too)* by Gretchen Rubin, self Help

Polly Rosenstein: *Twilight of Democracy: The Seductive Lure of Authoritarianism* by Anne Applebaum, politics

Nadyne Rosin: *Jackal: The Complete Story of the Legendary Terrorist, Carlos the Jackal* by John Follain, biography

Thank you all for your recommendations.  
Polly Rosenstein for FC AAUW Book Group

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Falls Church Area Branch

September 8	7:00pm	Movie Group Zoom Meeting- <i>Cousins</i>
September 13	7:30pm	Falls Church Branch Meeting via Zoom- Laughter Yoga
September 21	7:30pm	Book Club Zoom Meeting- <i>The Woman Warrior</i> by Maxine Kingston
September 22	5:00pm	AAUW-VA Public Policy meeting on Zoom
September 28		LWVFC Voter Registration event
October 9	10am-Noon	Northern District Zoom Meeting



## Other Branch Meetings

September 11	11:30am	Reston-Herndon Branch- Friendsgiving Picnic
September 18	10:30am	Alexandria Branch / Mount Vernon Branch joint meeting- Voting Rights Forum
September 18	1:00pm	Springfield-Annandale- Fieldtrip to Turning Points Suffragists Memorial
September 19	2:00pm	McLean Branch- Scholarship Recipients
September 20	7:00pm	Arlington Branch meeting- Rosie Riveters
October 19	7:00pm	Vienna Branch- Fighting Climate Change in Fairfax County

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.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**October 9, 10 am-12 noon**

**Northern District Meeting**



We once again will have a virtual Northern District meeting.

**Program:** **Meg Tuccillo** of the Arlington Branch will present a video from **Jada Pinkett Smith's "Red Table Talk" program** on relations between women of color and white women.. After the video, we will have a facilitated discussion using break-out rooms and then come back together to discuss.

**Business meeting:**

After the program we will have updates from some State Board members. We will also learn about the revised "Shape the Future" membership discount and how your branch can use it to increase membership.

We also would like a person from your branch give a short update on upcoming branch activities and announce any special programs to which others are invited.

More information on registration and zoom link to follow.

Sandy & Sara