

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

Volume 71, Number 9

October 4, 2021



Co-Presidents' Message



Dear All,

Well, the days are cooling and more leaves are falling. Fall is definitely in the air. As a Branch, we had an interesting September. At our meeting on the 13th, Patricia Linderman conducted a session of Laughter Yoga via Zoom. She argued convincingly that laughing together builds a sense of connection and helps relieve stress.

We were happy that we finally could hold an in-person memorial luncheon to commemorate the death of a beloved member, Kitty Richardson, who died in January 2020. Thirty women (20 Branch members and 10 other members of AAUW and friends) gathered at Panjshir Restaurant on September 25. This restaurant was where we often celebrated the end of the book sale. There was a board with pictures of Kitty at various AAUW events, and several people shared tributes and memories with the group. Afterward, at our tables, we could continue to reflect on what Kitty meant to us. Kudos to Becky Gaul and Susan Conklin for making this such a successful event.

Thanks also to Linda Lawrence for handling the finances. Money was collected for a scholarship in Kitty's memory. Currently more than \$2,440 has been collected. The drive is still open; if you wish to contribute, send a check made out to FC AAUW to our Treasurer, Linda Lawrence, P.O. Box 7161, Arlington, VA 22207.

So what's up next? The Board decided, in place of our monthly Monday meeting, to invite members to attend the Northern District Meeting (via Zoom) at 10:00 -12:00 on Saturday, October 9. The highlight of the program will be a video with Jada Pinkett Smith, "Red Table Talk," which discusses relations between women of color and white women. For registration details, see page 9 of this newsletter.

Of course, the big story here in Virginia is the election. State elections don't get the attention of presidential ones, but we are choosing people who will make decisions that affect our daily lives. And early voting has already begun. (See details below.)

In our effort to increase turnout, we are again writing postcards for Reclaim Our Vote. The aim is to encourage minority voters in Fairfax and Loudoun counties to vote. Amazingly, thanks to the leadership of Mollie Jewell and Mary Youman, we have written 12,245 cards to date in the various outreach efforts. In closing, we all wish Mollie well in her surgery, a breast lumpectomy, on October 5. Also think of Sarah John, whose mother died on September 16. Their addresses can be found on our website if you wish to send personal messages. On a happier note, Renée Klish, our special collection expert, will spend two months in South Africa on a "save the cheetahs" mission.

Enjoy the remaining evening daylight, since not too long from now, 2:00 a.m. on November 7 instantly becomes 1:00 a.m. Stay safe, be well and keep in touch,

Sharon Zackula
Elizabeth Kessel

Upcoming Program Plans

Please plan to attend the Northern Virginia AAUW District Zoom meeting on Saturday, October 9th, at 10 am, per details on page 9 of this newsletter. The presentation is sure to be thought-provoking.

For November, we are working on a "field trip" to one of several interesting places suggested by members at our spring planning picnic. Depending on their current opening hours, we hope the trip can be either Saturday or Sunday afternoon, November 6 or 7. Details will be shared as soon as possible.



We expect to hold a Holiday Celebration again in December. As with so many events, we can't yet say if we will meet in person or via Zoom. We should be able to provide more info next month.

Your program chairs thank everyone for your patience & flexibility!

ROV Postcards

Update on Virginia Voter Turnout postcards. Mailing deadline is Oct. 18.



The updated number of get-out-the-vote postcards that our branch has sent since the summer of 2020 is ... 11,245. Our current batch is going to Fairfax (1200) and Loudoun (460) counties. These postcards are going to underrepresented and/or infrequent Virginia voters of color who may typically vote only in Presidential elections, urging them to vote in the Virginia elections for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General and Delegate.

Postcard volunteers, remember the deadline for mailing is Oct. 18. If you have finished your postcards, but can't scan the QR codes, just tell me and I'll do it for you. They are using the QR codes to make sure all the addresses have been contacted.

It's not too late to join in the writing fun. To request postcards and addresses, send me (MollieJewell2@gmail.com) the number of postcards/addresses (in multiples of 20) you want, the number of stamps (if any), and just pick them up at my house. The address is Mollie Jewell, 3715 Tollgate Terrace, Bailey's Crossroads).

We are participating with ROV, Reclaim our Vote, a project of the Center for Common Ground of Virginia, a registered non-partisan 501 (c)3 organization. This support the AAUW 2021-2023 Public Policy Priority to promote equitable political participation.

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, affidavit and Sign-Up Genius for registration events at farmers markets and food distribution sites follow:



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

Affidavit link

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

Sign-Up Genius link

<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 and printed.

Important Dates for the November 2, 2021 Election



Ongoing (See deadline below)	Register to vote
Ongoing	Check and, if necessary, update registration information
Ongoing (see deadline below)	Apply to vote absentee by mail
September 17	Requested absentee ballots begin to be mailed from registrar
September 17	Early in-person voting begins
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 your local registrar
November 2	Deadline for postmark on absentee ballot submitted by mail
November 2, 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Election Day Voting at assigned polling places
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

On September 22 the AAUW-VA Public Policy Co-Vice Presidents held a Zoom meeting for AAUW-VA members interested in public policy. A summary of that meeting follows.

Election Activities

Members from every Virginia branch participated in the Reclaim our Vote effort in September, writing 1300 postcards. (This figure does not include the over 11,000 postcards Falls Church Branch members and their friends have written over the past year.)

AAUW members are supporting the voter registration efforts of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area by volunteering to staff registration tables at farmers markets and food distribution centers and on National Voter Registration Day, September 28, at all Fairfax County Libraries.

Legislative Priorities

AAUW-VA will work for the enactment of legislation relating to the following four issues: (1) Paid sick days; (2) Paid Family and Medical Leave; (3) the Gender Pay Gap, focusing on banning employers from requiring prospective employees to divulge their previous salary; (4) Sexual harassment in the workplace. Work on Items 1 and 2 has already begun. AAUW-VA members will be meeting with Sen. Dave Marsden on October 9 and with Senator Richard Saslaw on October 20. Senator Saslaw is Chairman of the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee, and Senator Marsden is a member. Legislation concerning paid sick days and paid Family and Medical Leave must be passed out of this Committee before it can be considered by the full Senate. AAUW-VA is part of the Coalition of Virginians for Paid Sick Leave, a wide-ranging group of Virginians who are working to enact legislation requiring paid sick leave for all workers in Virginia.

The next step is to create “public policy interest groups” made up of AAUW members who are interested in a particular topic. These individuals would follow a specific issue in more depth than the Co-Vice Presidents can do alone. If you are interested in being part of an issue group, please notify Susan Burk (burksu@aol.com) or Denise Murden (denise.m.murden@gmail.com)

CEDAW



The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is an international treaty adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly and instituted on September 3, 1981. Described as an international bill of rights for women, it has been ratified by 189 countries, in some cases subject to certain reservations, declarations and objections. The United States has not ratified the treaty, and some AAUW-VA branches are working with the League of Women Voters to encourage local governments to

adopt a resolution urging that the United States ratify CEDAW.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The League of Women Voters will hold its Legislative Roundtable via Zoom on December 1, 2021. At the Roundtable, various interest groups will talk about the issues they will be advocating during the 2022 General Assembly. The time has not been announced, but in the past, the Roundtable has been scheduled for the morning and early afternoon.

The next AAUW-VA Public Policy meeting will be held via Zoom on December 1, 2021, at 5 p.m.

Lobby Day is scheduled for January 19, 2022. If we are able to lobby in person, AAUW-VA will hold a reception for all women legislators in the General Assembly the prior evening, January 18, at 6 p.m. A second Lobby Day may be held in February, date to be determined.



Arlington Branch

On October 25, a local grass roots organization ArlFib will present a program on *Equitable Internet Access for All Arlingtonians*. While we hope to have in-person meetings this year, the ramifications of the COVID Delta surge require us to be flexible and ready to be back again on Zoom.

Mount Vernon Branch

The October 19 program will be important: Making Laws Equitable in Fairfax County. We will hear from the Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Pia J. Miller on what that process is and how it is going. Be there Tuesday, October 19, at 7:00 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library.

Reston Reston-Herndon Branch

Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 4 pm (Zoom) -Join the branch in a conversation with author Tara Hewan, a Loudoun County parent, about her newly released book, *Dear Maxwell: A Conversation About Race*. Everyone is invited and welcome!

Vienna Area Branch

The October Vienna Branch Program is Fighting Climate Change in Fairfax County on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 7:00 PM at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. The speakers will be The Rev. Dr. Jean Wright, a co-founder of Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions and Dr. Kambiz Agazi, the Director of the Office for Environmental and Energy Coordination in Fairfax County.

Movies, anyone?



How did Cyndi Lauper put it? " 🎵 Oh girls just wanna have fun 🎵 "

Our first AAUW Branch program started with Laughing Yoga. Members were able to lighten up and relax through yoga and laughter. Later in the month, the film group selected their October and November movie selections. Laughter won! In October, the film group will be watching the comedy **POMS**.

The October movie **POMS** follows a group of women from a retirement community who decide to start a cheerleading squad. Was anyone a cheerleader, knew a cheerleader or wanted to be a cheerleader? The ensemble cast includes Oscar winner Diane Keaton and Emmy award winner Rhea Perlman. **POMS** can be seen on Netflix streaming. The group will meet virtually over zoom to discuss the film on Wednesday, October 13th at 7:00 PM.



More laughter coming soon in November with the musical comedy, **The Prom**

December: TBD

🎵 So girls, if you just wanna have fun, just wanna, just wanna have fun, join us. No ticket required. For more details, call or text Aida Loomis at 703 966 8050.

Book Club News

Upcoming Books for Falls Church AAUW Book Group

Tuesday 10/19 Zoom meeting at 7:30 pm. Everyone in the chapter is welcome to join in the discussion. Get some great ideas and new insights. We meet every third Tuesday of the month, and we welcome new faces and ideas. We hope to see you on the 19th.

Polly Rosenstein for FCAAUW Book Group

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

Strange Weather in Tokyo by [Hiromi Kawakami](#), ([Allison Markin Powell](#) Translator)

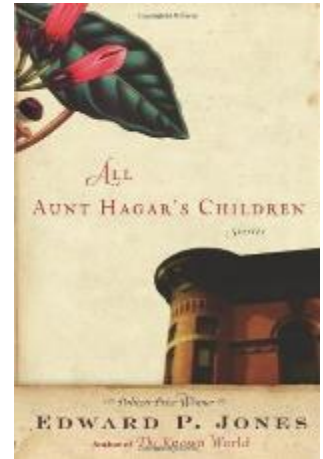


Tsukiko is drinking alone in her local sake bar when by chance she meets one of her old high school teachers and, unable to remember his name, she falls back into her old habit of calling him 'Sensei'. After this first encounter, Tsukiko and Sensei continue to meet. Together, they share edamame beans, bottles of cold beer, and a trip to the mountains to eat wild mushrooms. As their friendship deepens, Tsukiko comes to realize that the solace she has found with Sensei might be something more.

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

All Aunt Hagar's Children: Stories by Edward P. Jones

Edward P. Jones, a prodigy of the short story, returns to the form that first won him praise in this new collection of stories, *All Aunt Hagar's Children*. Here he turns an unflinching eye to the men, women, and children caught between the old ways of the South and the temptations that await them in the city, people who in Jones's masterful hands emerge as fully human and morally complex. With the legacy of slavery just a stone's throw behind them and the future uncertain, Jones's cornucopia of characters will haunt readers for years to come.



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

Leaves of Grass



(Iowa Whitman Series) by [Walt Whitman](#)

A collection of quintessentially American poems, the seminal work of one of the most influential writers of the nineteenth century.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 9	10:00am-Noon	Northern Virginia AAUW District Zoom Meeting
October 13	7:00pm	Movie Group via Zoom- <i>Poms</i>
October 19	7:30pm	Book Club via Zoom- <i>Strange Weather in Tokyo</i>
October 25	7:30pm	Falls Church AAUW Board Meeting
November 2	6am-7pm	Election Day

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.



Northern District Zoom Meeting

October 9, 10 am-12 noon

“How to make Diversity an Action and not just a Thought”

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. Cyndi Shanahan will give an update on Diversity, Inclusion and Equity.

Business meeting:

State Updates:

- Co-Presidents
- VPs of Public Policy
- AAUW Funds Chair
- Revised “Shape the Future” membership discount

Branch Updates: Short update on upcoming branch activities and announce any special programs to which others are invited.

Zoom Information:

1. Please contact Suzanne at suzanne@suzannerothwell.com if you wish to request closed captioning.
2. Once the meeting starts, ensure your audio is muted.
3. Use Q&A to submit questions to the speaker.
4. Use Chat to let Suzanne know of a technical problem—in many cases, signing on a second time will resolve problems.

Topic: AAUW Northern District Meeting Oct 9 / 10 am - 12 noon

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7895050818?pwd=aHNUUkFmanZtVVC4RIM2eU10dFNjZz09>

Meeting ID: 789 505 0818

Passcode: 6DeTjc

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,7895050818#,,,*878211# US (Washington DC)

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 789 505 0818

Passcode: 878211

Branch Program October 19

Join us at Sherwood Regional Library

2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, Virginia

Tuesday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.



MAKING LAWS MORE EQUITABLE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY



SPEAKER PIA J. MILLER

*Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney
Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney's Office*



Pia J. Miller, a graduate of The William and Mary Law School, will discuss progress made in this area, what is currently being worked on, and what challenges she anticipates.

This is a hot topic and **Ms. Miller** will surely have an interesting update on what is going on in our county regarding equitable laws. She is new to the job, having just arrived in July, so her perspective will be fresh. **Join us!**

*The meeting is free and open to the public.
All Fairfax Library safety protocol will be used. Masks are required.*

Pia J. Miller was sworn in as the Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney for **Community Justice**

for **Fairfax County** in July 2021. Over the course of her career, she has demonstrated a proven commitment to public service and community justice. Early in **Pia's** career, she realized a desire to work for underserved populations and focused her solo practice on indigent criminal defense work. Through this work, she realized the positive impact that progressive prosecution could have in the effort to achieve criminal justice reform. In pursuit of such change, **Pia** then went to work as a prosecutor in the City of Portsmouth, where she last served as the **Acting Deputy for the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Team**, prosecuting intimate partner crimes and violent felonies involving juveniles and adults. In her current role, **Pia** serves as the liaison between the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney and the 1.2 million citizens of Fairfax County. **Pia's** primary goals are advancing criminal justice reform and increasing diversity within the legal profession. With these goals in mind, **Pia** is working to develop a conviction integrity review unit to review wrongful convictions and a law student internship pipeline to increase diversity among Virginia's prosecutors. **Pia** attended Northwestern University, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. On Saturdays during football season, you can still find her cheering for her Wildcats. After finishing college, **Pia** returned home to Virginia and obtained her Juris Doctorate from the Marshall Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary in 2007