

## AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

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June 4, 2020



### Co- Presidents' Message



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Dear Members,

On Monday, June 8, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. we will have a branch meeting using ZOOM. Our June 8 meeting will be our first opportunity for members to check in with each other, say hello, announce activities already planned and discuss program ideas. Please contact Dianne Bodeen if you have program ideas that you wish to share and do not feel comfortable attending the meeting. But first, try joining the **trial run meeting on Sunday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m.**

Instructions for the June 7 trial run meeting and the June 8 meeting will be sent to you via emails. **To use the link that we will send to you to reach the June 7 trial meeting, and, in a second email, the June 8 meeting, and enter the passcode for the specific meeting, YOU MUST FIRST download the ZOOM application (one time) to your computer, your laptop or your phone. You must do so before you attempt to join the meeting. Thus, we highly recommend that you download the free Zoom application before Sunday, June 7 at 7:30 pm so you can participate in the "trial run" meeting.**

The Book Group and a movie group also will meet via ZOOM in June.

Congratulations to our New Co-VPs for Programs! Becky Gaul and Susan Conklin graciously volunteered to be nominated to serve as Co-Vice Presidents for Programs. Members approved their nominations. Congratulations, Becky and Susan, and thank you for stepping up.

Congratulations to our Scholarship Winners! The Scholarship Committee ("Committee") notified ten young women that we had awarded them scholarships. Although the Committee was hopeful that a branch meeting could be held before the awardees started their studies in the fall, the Committee has determined that an in-person branch meeting would not be prudent. To recognize the winners, one or two members of the Committee will present to each awardee, individually, in an outdoor setting, her certificate and an AAUW logo coffee cup to take with her to college. Photos will be taken and shared with the membership.

Please Pay Your Dues. AAUW's membership year begins on July 1, 2020 and ends on June 30, 2021. Please look for the emails you receive regarding dues. They contain instructions and an easy link to use for renewing your membership. Thank you for being a member! We look forward to more interesting times ahead!

**Book Sale Participation Survey.** AAUW activities at the branch level that require person-to-person contact have been cancelled or deferred to whenever the stay-home order and limits on social gatherings are lifted or modified, and collectively, we feel safe gathering. To date, we have deferred book collection and the book sale. **In an email titled Book Sale Participation Survey, we will now ask you to indicate if you will work on book collection and sorting, and at the book sale, setup and cleanup, if the sale is held this fall. Please respond by June 9, 2020.**

We would like to stay in touch and reach out to any member who is looking for conversation, support of any type and a little cheer. Any member that wants to be in communication as part of a call group, or just a one-on-one conversation, should indicate so via email to Elizabeth, Sharon or Shannon. We are here for each other. Reach out to an AAUW Board member or AAUW friend if you need assistance or a little conversation.

Pam Martinov continues to contribute in many ways, including getting out this newsletter each month. Thank you, Pam!

Elizabeth Kessel and Sharon Zackula  
Co-Presidents

## Renew Your Dues for 2020-2021



## YOUR DUES PAYMENT BY JUNE 30!!!

If you've forgotten to pay your dues for 2020-2021, now is the time to act. **It's very easy to pay on-line.** You should have recently received a link to pay on-line recently. It takes less than 1 minute! Click on the link, enter your credit card number, and your membership is renewed. Dues are \$92.

However, if you prefer to renew by check, please send your check for \$92, made payable to Falls Church AAUW to: Anne Baxter, FC AAUW Treasurer, 3440 S. Jefferson St., Apt. 527, Falls Church, VA 22041-3124. If you have any questions, please contact Anne at 703-969-6743 or [vabaxter@verizon.net](mailto:vabaxter@verizon.net).

## Book Sale Participation Survey

**Please respond by June 9, 2020.**

AAUW activities at the branch level that require person-to-person contact have been cancelled or deferred to whenever the stay-home order and limits on social gatherings are lifted or modified, and collectively, we feel safe gathering.

To date, we have deferred book collection and the book sale due to COVID-19. State and federal guidance and regulations provide that large community events are not permitted, social distancing at six feet or more is highly recommended and people must wear masks when shopping and in most other situations when not at home. In addition, a number of our members (or members of their household) fall within the categories of persons the CDC indicates are at a higher risk for severe illness if they contract COVID-19 (e.g., adults 65 and older, people who are immunocompromised). **We are concerned that even if we are able to rent space and are permitted to hold a sale under then-existing Covid-19 VA requirements and guidance, members may not feel comfortable working in a retail setting, dealing with members of the public in large numbers, and using public facilities while at the Community Center.**

Given these issues, even if the branch is able to locate facilities and is legally not barred from holding a sale, and recognizing that no one can fully and accurately predict what the remainder of 2020 will look like, would you feel comfortable and would you volunteer to collect additional books, sort the books, set up for the sale and work 4-8 hours at the sale and sale cleanup if the sale is held this fall? Please be honest and let us know how you feel. Only Sharon Zackula and Elizabeth Kessel will see your responses. Email your response to [Sharon.zackula@gmail.com](mailto:Sharon.zackula@gmail.com) and [elizabethkessel@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethkessel@gmail.com).

YES, I would feel comfortable and would volunteer to collect and sort books, set up the sale and work 4-8 hours at the sale and sale cleanup.

NO, it is unlikely that I would feel comfortable engaging in these booksale-related activities in the remaining six months of 2020, and would not volunteer.

**Please respond by June 9, 2020.**

## Public Policy

### Lobby Corps

Due to the need for social distancing because of the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person visits to House and Senate offices by Lobby Corps have been suspended. Instead, Lobby Corps members are performing research on the candidates in critical House and Senate races. Members are looking for the candidates' positions on seven areas of importance to AAUW: (1) Closing the gender pay gap; (2) Creating a national paid family and medical leave insurance program; (3) Defending and strengthening Title IX protections; (4) Increasing funding for college affordability programs like Pell Grants and student loan forgiveness programs; (5) Ensuring women's access to contraception; (6) Strengthening the Affordable Care Act or expanding Medicaid; and (7) Restoring and expanding voting access. The information Lobby Corps

members glean will be used to prepare Voter Guides. These Guides compare, in an easy to read and understand format, the positions of the two individuals running in each critical race. When completed, the Guides will be put on AAUW's website and will be available for members to provide to voters.

## **Letter from State Public Policy Co-Vice Presidents**

I received the following email from the State Public Policy Co-Vice Presidents Susan Burke and Sylvia Rogers concerning the upcoming elections in Virginia and AAUW of Virginia's related plans. The Co-Vice Presidents asked that the information be disseminated to all Branch members.

*Although we are "staying home" in the midst of this historic pandemic, we are staying connected by phone, through email, and the miracle of "Zoom" technology. Thanks to all who participated in AAUW-VA's State Business Meeting on April 18, 2020. During that very full meeting, we emphasized the importance AAUW-VA would be putting on Getting Out the Vote (GOTV) during the coming months. Your constitutional rights are not paused during a national crisis, but the constraints imposed by the pandemic will be a factor during the upcoming state and national elections. As a result, voter access to the polls is receiving heightened attention.*

***AAUW supports vote by mail; on-line registration; early voting; no excuse absentee voting; and in-person voting with proper health precautions – anything to make voting easier and more accessible.***

*Many AAUW-VA branches have made important contributions to getting out the vote in the past. We are extremely grateful for those efforts, and we hope you will let us know if you plan to continue this work on a branch basis or in coordination with the League of Women Voters of Virginia, as some branches have done. In a recent Public Policy conference call with AAUW National, we received information about producing voter guides for the fall congressional elections – we will have more information on that in a future message.*

*Facilitating Virginia voters' access to the polls was a particular focus of the recently concluded Virginia legislative session. As a result, Virginia's state legislators passed, and Governor Northam signed a number of major legislative measures to expand voter access, measures that look especially prescient in light of the current health crisis. These measures will take effect July 1, 2020 (except where indicated) and include:*

- (1) No-excuse absentee voting ad no-excuse early voting 45 days prior to an election;*
- (2) Elimination of the requirement for a picture ID at the polls;*
- (3) Designating election day as a Virginia state holiday;*
- (4) Implementing automatic voter registration for individuals accessing service at a DMV office or DMV website; and*
- (5) Same day registration (not effective until Oct. 1, 2022).*

**Key 2020 Election Dates (with thanks to Jane Newell, GRAAUW):**

**Congressional Primary Elections in some districts: *June 23, 2020***

**Request absentee ballot (if voting by mail) by: *June 16, 2020.***

Note: Although no-excuse absentee voting is not in effect until July 1, 2020, you can vote absentee in the June primaries because of the COVID-19 situation by checking the "Disability/Illness" box on the application. **See link below for all information on registering to vote, applying for an absentee ballot, and certification training to register voters. N.B. This link has not yet been updated to reflect the legislative changes that will come into effect on 7/1/20.**

**November General Election: *November 3, 2020***

**Early walk-in voting (no excuse) begins\*: *September 19, 2020***

**Deadline to register to vote: *October 13, 2020***

**Deadline to request absentee ballot by mail: *October 27, 2020***

**Early walk-in voting ends: *October 31, 2020***

\*You will need to determine the early voting locations in your district, as they will vary from district to district:

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov>.

We wanted to highlight these key GOTV developments for you now. We will be following up with links you can share and any other information we acquire. As we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which granted so many women the right to vote, let us focus on how we can help educate our community about the changes that have been made in Virginia to increase voting flexibility.

Stay well,

Susan Burk and Sylvia Rogers  
Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy  
AAUW-VA






## Movies, anyone?

Let's go to the movies virtually! Watch the documentary on Pauline Kael. Read about Pauline Kael. Read her film reviews. Or just join us June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM to learn about Pauline Kael. All are welcome

Call Aida Loomis at 703 966 8050 for more details

The link for Cinema Arts is <https://www.cinemaartstheatre.com/>.



### Online Streaming: What She Said: The Art of Pauline Kael

[Click here to stream](#)

#### Synopsis

Pauline Kael (1919-2001) was likely the most powerful, and personal, movie critic of the 20th century. Writing for *The New Yorker* and publishing a dozen best-selling books, she ruthlessly pursued what made a movie or an actor's performance work, or not, and why. Her passion made her both admired and despised amongst her readers and her subjects. Pauline's own story is one of struggle and obsession: the fight to establish her voice and have it heard, and to raise a daughter on her own in a time when the obstacles were high. The latter golden age of movies of the 1960s and 1970s are the focus of this film that pursues the question of what made Pauline Kael's work so individual, so controversial — and so damned good.

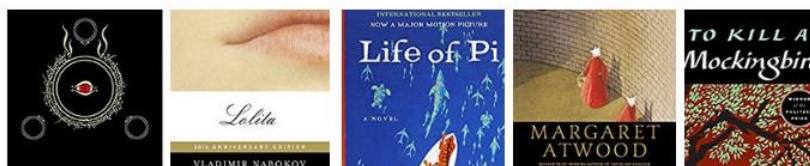
## Book Club News

We will have a June meeting! We will meet virtually on June 16 at 7:30pm. We will be discussing what we're currently reading or have read in the past and would recommend. Talk about your favorite books, plays or poems. Polly will send out instructions closer to the date.

If you want to place holds on books for the fall, we'll be reading *If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin for the Classic selection and *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernadine Evaristo for the Contemporary Fiction by a Foreign Author. We will have to pick a number for History as two selections tied between *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong* by James W. Loewen and *Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster* by Adam Higginbotham.



## Best Books of All Time



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 7	7:30pm	Practice ZOOM Meeting
June 8	7:30pm	Zoom Meeting
June 9		Deadline to return your vote on the Book Sale Survey
June 10	7:00pm	Movie Group meets via ZOOM
June 30		Deadline to pay AAUW dues

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.

