

## **AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH**

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### **Co- Presidents' Message**

Dear All,

We hope you are well and holding up okay in these strange times.

As we acted in April, so we will in May. 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. Book sorting, book collection and the book sale are deferred. The May branch meeting will not be held. At this time, the June meeting/picnic is tentatively on hold, and is likely to be held online, perhaps as a series of meetings to get your ideas for programs.

We continue those activities we can. We welcome a new member! Members volunteer to make our programs fun, thoughtful, relevant and informative. Becky Gaul and Susan Conklin have volunteered to serve as Co-Program Vice Presidents. The Board met in late April 2020 and gratefully nominated them for the office. We will seek your vote on the matter by phone or email. A very big thank you to both Becky and Susan.

The Scholarship Committee ("Committee") met and awarded several scholarships. Winners and the professional school staff involved are being notified. The Committee wants to hold a branch meeting in late July or early August, if possible, to recognize the winners in person. The Book Group continues to meet via ZOOM, next meeting on May 19.

**VOTE.** We also want to remind you to vote in the AAUW of Virginia 2020 Election. You should have received an email on April 26, 2020, titled "Vote Now: AAUW of Virginia 2020 Election." The email contains a link, which you use to vote. Voting ends MAY 16, 202, at 11:45 pm, so please find the email and cast your vote. (Once you click on the link, voting takes about one minute. Do not plan your afternoon around it.) If you cannot find the email, check your Junk mail. If you still cannot find the email or have questions, contact Sandra Lawrence at [sandyaauw@juno.com](mailto:sandyaauw@juno.com).

**Pay Your Dues.** AAUW's membership year begins on July 1, 2020 and ends on June 30, 2021. Please look for the emails you have received. 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!

At the national level, AAUW has recently produced several webcasts. Look for the webcasts on the AAUW national website.

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



**FOR YOUR EARLY DUES PAYMENT!!!**

Many members have already paid their dues for 2020-2021, due June 30, 2020. It's easy to pay on-line. You should have recently received a link to pay on-line. 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, 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).

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

## Public Policy

### Upcoming Elections

Although Virginia will not hold elections for State office holders or the General Assembly this year, there will be some city and county elections as well as the very important national election for President, U.S. Representative, and one of our Senators. The COVID-19 outbreak is requiring major changes in the way the elections will proceed; it is important that we all vote as well as share information about the upcoming elections with our fellow citizens, encouraging them to register (if they have not already done so) and to vote. Outreach to others can be done through social media, email and/or telephone calls that will still meet social distancing guidelines.

The Virginia Department of Elections is strongly encouraging voters to protect their health during the current COVID-19 crisis by voting absentee in the upcoming May and June elections. Voters are instructed to use reason "2A My disability or illness" when requesting an absentee ballot and may apply for an absentee ballot online or in person. The Virginia Department of Elections website <https://www.elections.virginia.gov> and the City of Falls Church Voter Registration and Elections Office website <http://www.fallschurchva.gov/135/Voter-Registration-Elections> both

contain helpful information about registering to vote and voting in-person or absentee as well as deadlines for registering to vote and requesting and submitting absentee ballots.

## Lobby Corps

You may be wondering what has happened to AAUW Lobby Corps. As was explained in the FLASH last September, budgetary constraints and changes in personnel resulted in Lobby Corps limiting the number of its visits to Congressional offices. Additionally, due to the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lobby Corps' last visit to the Hill was on February 26, 2020. AAUW is now looking at the important role Lobby Corps members play as advocates for legislation affecting women and girls. Becky Gaul, who is the volunteer coordinator for Lobby Corps, will be "meeting" via telephone with Kate Nielson, Director of Public Policy and Legal Advocacy; Letty Bustillos, Federal Policy Manager, and several long-time Lobby Corps members to discuss what this dynamic group of women will be doing in the future. Stay tuned for updates.

## Scholarship Committee

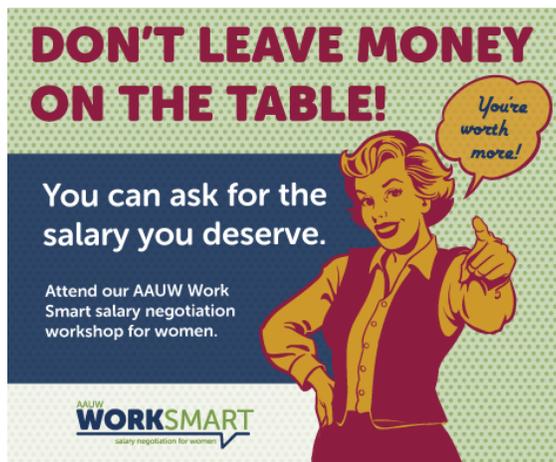
The Scholarship Committee has been hard at work this spring. Under the guidance of chairperson, Mary Youman, young women at Falls Church HS, George Mason HS and Justice HS were notified of the FC AAUW Scholarship opportunity. The committee received 10 completed applications by April 20, all from Justice High School seniors. Committee members along with Mary, Marilyn Falksen and Pam Martinov, and Shannon LaBarbera (shadow member), rated each application on the basis of academics, community and other activities, recommendations, college plans, financial need and personal statements. The committee would also like to thank Justice HS Social Studies teacher and AVID coordinator, Eric Welch for promoting our scholarships, encouraging the students on their journey to college and writing excellent recommendation letters!

The committee is pleased to announce that it has awarded scholarships to the following ten graduating seniors: Alaa Al Jariri, Maricris De Castro, Yonelle Kankam, Ariel Mahase, Samantha Mamani, Lizzany Mayta, Yamila Merida, Lesly Garay-Reyes, Maria Rivera-Domiao, and Zula Solis. These accomplished young women have been notified of their awards. Allow me to share with you some of their e mailed comments after learning of their awards:

- Thank you so much! You do not understand how greatly I appreciate this opportunity. This will really help me given the unfortunate time we've been having. ***I am more than honored.***
- First off I would like to thank you for this generous scholarship which the AAUW has given to me. ***I truly appreciate this reward and will work hard*** during my years in college to be able to make this scholarship worthwhile.
- I also want to say thank you for awarding me the scholarship, ***it means the world to me*** and it is such an amazing opportunity!
- Thank you so much for this amazing opportunity, ***I am so grateful for the scholarship and the entire committee for believing in me.*** I hope to make everyone proud as I embark on my college journey.

We hope to have an event to honor them this summer before they begin their post-secondary studies. Congratulations to all of them!

## SMARTSTART/ WORK SMART



As you are probably aware, AAUW challenged itself to train 100,000 people in StartSmart/WorkSmart salary negotiations by August 22, 2019. AAUW also encouraged all members to take the training and spread the word. The training is still available and the ability to negotiate on one's own behalf is always important.

AAUW writer Beth Haynes, a member of the Board of Directors said: "I thought I didn't need the training. I've been out of the workforce for more than 20 years. But then I started thinking about all of the ways that training in negotiations could have helped me in the last couple of years. I bought a new car. I helped my 93- year-old friend secure an apartment in an assisted living

facility. I'm a certified parliamentarian and I have to negotiate contracts with groups who need parliamentary services. So, the negotiating training really is designed for me." And, she said, "It's probably designed for all of your members as well, regardless of whether they are in the workforce."

We encourage you to sign up at <https://salary.aauw.org/> . It doesn't take very long and it will pay off—personally for you and your friends and family who take the training.

## Movies, anyone?

Let's go to the movies.....virtually

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gsv3Hnl2bvc>

That was the 1930's...

For the 2020's, any interest in going to the movies virtually? Having a movie discussion group virtually? And supporting a local independently owned theater?



Cinema Arts, an independent local movie theater located in Fairfax, is offering offline streaming| of films, curbside popcorn and gift cards as a way to survive and to provide a paycheck to their employees. The films offered would normally have been showing and include foreign, documentary and indie films. The cost is \$10.00, of which a portion is paid back to Cinema Arts. Check it out at <https://www.cinemaartstheatre.com/> Like the book group, we can select a movie and a date to discuss. And just like the book group you don't have to watch the movie to join the conversation. Just come!

If interested or if you have any feedback, please call Aida Loomis at 703 966 8050 or text by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

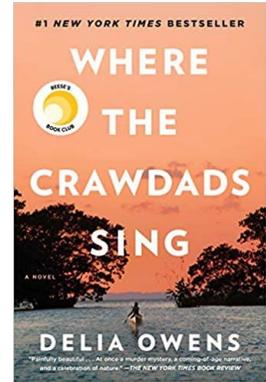
Bring your popcorn and let's go the movies!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeERupuicHE>

## Book Club News

FC AAUW Book Club Our next meeting will be a virtual Zoom meeting, and I will send the details to log in to the meeting in an email to the entire chapter. Our meeting is Tuesday May 19th at 7:30 P.M. We will be discussing Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. This is contemporary fiction published in 2018. Everyone is invited to attend.

We are also accepting nominations for book selections for the fall. You may nominate one book per category. Everyone is welcome to nominate books. Send your nominations to me at [prosenstein@hotmail.com](mailto:prosenstein@hotmail.com) or reply to the email I sent requesting nominations. Nominations close at midnight Sunday May 10th. The categories are History, Contemporary Fiction by a Foreign Author, and Classic. We hope you'll join us for our discussion on May 19th!  
Polly Rosenstein for FC AAUW Book Club



### Mission

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

### Vision

Equity for all.

### Values

Non partisan.  
Fact-based.  
Integrity.  
Inclusion and intersectionality

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 16	11:45pm	Deadline to vote in AAUW elections
May 19	7:30pm	Book Club 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.

