



AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH Falls Church Area (VA) Branch

Volume 68, Number 7

October 3, 2019

Presidents' Message

It is fitting that we will be meeting on October 14, the federal holiday celebrating the arrival of Columbus to what was to Europeans a New World. This event triggered an age of exploration. Two recent developments may lead to a new world and a period of exploration for our Branch. Firstly, Susan Hesser and Bunny Jarrett met with Anne Baxter recently to complete the forms for **applying for 501(c)(3) status**. They reviewed all outstanding issues and filed the application. So be patient as we wait for approval.

Secondly, **the search for storage space** that would permit holding the Book Sale in 2020 has met with some success; the hard work and persistence of Dianne Bodeen, Sarah John, and Aida Loomis has paid off. On September 19, Dianne received a verbal commitment allowing us to use space at the Willston Community Center, located at 6131 Williston Drive, Falls Church, beginning in January and running through April. They have recommended to the Board that we utilize the space and hold the 2020 Book Sale, with the proviso that after the Sale we will review and make a decision by June 30, 2020, about whether to continue holding the book sale. The Board accepted this recommendation. **Please think about this, as the proposal must be approved by the Branch membership before it can go forward.** The space is tight and will require new ways of doing things. However, the space is indoors and is free of cost.

The Northern District of Virginia AAUW meeting will be held at Thomas Jefferson Library on October 26, at 1 pm. A representative from the national organization will give a presentation. Any member of the Branch is welcome to attend.

Our program for our October 14 meeting is also new. Dianne has reached out to One More Page, an independent bookstore here in Falls Church, and as it stands today, you need to come and be surprised!

Elizabeth participated in a **conference call regarding diversity and inclusion**. There were 13 participants from around the state. The activities of various branches were varied and interesting, and we will discuss them at Board meetings.

Looking forward to our adventures into our New World.

Sharon and Elizabeth

October Meeting



Dianne has been working hard with One More Page bookstore in Falls Church to get a speaker confirmation for the October 14th meeting. Stay tuned for more information!

And, if you so inclined.....

Please join us for dinner before the Branch Meeting!

When: October 14 at 6:00pm

Where: Northside Social

205 Park Avenue

Falls Church



Branch Hospitality Volunteers



Thanks to the members, who have already signed up to bring snacks to meetings. We are asking members to sign up to bring food or drinks to one meeting this year. The time commitment is 2 hours. There are still plenty of openings; you can volunteer now via the [Hospitality Sign-up Sheet](#). Thanks for your help!

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

We hope that you all know that we are emphasizing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) this year as a key support to the AAUW Strategy, and as an under-girding of our membership activities. I have recently been named as the Diversity and Inclusion Chair for AAUW-Va.

In this capacity and with the significant help of Patsy Quick, our AAUW-VA Communications VP, there are a number of resources for your branch on the AAUW-VA website under the the [Diversity and Inclusion tab](#). We will continue to update this tab over the course of the year with additional and current information and resources that may be of assistance to you in your program planning and your thinking about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

In addition to these resources, I am planning **2 to 3 conference calls over the course of the year with individuals from each branch** that is interested in sharing ideas related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion topics and ideas that have worked well within their branch.

Sincerely,
Cyndi Shanahan
Chair DE&I AAUW Va
703-945-9817

From Co-President Sharon: In addition, the branch may wish to consider having a speaker come to discuss diversity, equity and inclusion with our branch.

2020 AAUW OF VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION

Save the Date: April 17-19, 2020

Because 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States, our conference will be themed around this momentous event and what's happened in advancing gender equity for women and girls in the past 100 years. The conference is being hosted by the Northern District at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Alexandria - Old Town, 625 First Street, from April 17-19, 2020. The Winter/Spring 2020 issue of Vision will have the complete conference guide and registration information. However, King or Double Rooms are available for \$129 per night plus tax for April 17 and 18. Also, in case you want to build a mini-vacation around the conference, the hotel will offer the same rate for 2 days before and after these dates. The good news is that it's not too early to reserve a guest room if you plan on staying at the hotel. If you reserve now, you'll help us determine if we have to add additional rooms to our block before the hotel sells out for next spring. To make guest room reservations, use this link: [American Association of University Women of Virginia](#). The group code is AAU. If you want to park in the hotel garage, ignore any references to \$20 per day for parking. The hotel is giving us a special rate of \$8 per night.

Public Policy News

Equal Rights Amendment Ratification



As you may recall, ratification of the ERA easily passed the Virginia Senate with a bipartisan vote in the 2019 legislative session. However, in the House of Delegates the effort to bring the Senate-passed measure to the floor, where it would have passed easily with strong bipartisan support, was defeated by one vote. Thus, VAratifyERA (a grassroots organization of which AAUW of Virginia is a part) is working hard to elect State Delegates who will vote for ratification of the ERA. As part of that effort, postcards are being sent to voters in 20 key legislative districts. To date, 20,000 postcards have been sent, and the goal for October is another 20,000. You, too, can be a part of this important work. Postcards, names and addresses, and a very short script will be available at the October 14 Branch meeting. Write, stamp, and mail a few postcards and become part of the effort to elect candidates who support ratification of the ERA!

Federal Lobby Day

Join the AAUW Lobby Corps on Capitol Hill for AAUW of Virginia's annual Federal Lobby Day on Thursday, October 17. This is an exciting opportunity to visit congressional offices in support of AAUW's public policy priorities. You will be paired with an experienced Lobby Corps member for your visits. We will meet on Capitol Hill at 9:30 a.m. and will be finished with our visits by noon.

If you plan to attend, you need to send your name, branch affiliation and email address to the Lobby Corps Coordinator Marcy Leverenz at marcy.leverenz@gmail.com with copies to Susan Burk (State Co-Vice President for Public Policy) at burksu@aol.com and Marilyn Falksen (Branch Public Policy Chair) at fcaauwpublicpolicy@gmail.com by **October 10. Please use "AAUW Federal Lobby Day as the subject of your email.** If you wish to join other Branch members taking the Metro to Capitol Hill, please email Marilyn.

Virginia Women's Monument

A formal dedication of the seven completed statues in the Virginia Women's Monument located in Capitol Square in Richmond will occur on October 14 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Women's Monument honors women who made significant contributions, often unrecognized, in a variety of ways over Virginia's 400-year history. When completed, the Monument will consist of 12 bronze statues and a Wall of Honor inscribed with the names of 230 women. More information about the Monument can be found at womensmonumentcom.virginia.gov.

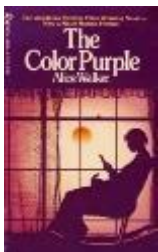


Book Club News

Here are the next two book selection on our fall schedule:

Oct. 15: Classic: *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker)

Nov. 19: History: *The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West* by David McCullough (reserve early at your library)



In 1982, Walker would publish what has become her best-known work, the novel *The Color Purple*. The story of a young black woman fighting her way through not only racist white culture but patriarchal black culture was a resounding commercial success. The book became a bestseller and was subsequently adapted into a critically acclaimed 1985 movie as well as a 2005 Broadway musical.

Her works typically focus on the struggles of African Americans, particularly women, and their struggle against a racist, sexist, and violent society. Her writings also focus on the role of women of color in culture and history. Walker is a respected figure in the liberal political community for her support of unconventional and unpopular views as a matter of principle.

WHAT IS AAUW'S LEGACY CIRCLE?

I've been given an assignment by the state board. To explain AAUW's Legacy Circle to branch members. the Legacy Circle is AAUW's legacy society recognizing a person's intention to make a planned gift to AAUW. Planned gifts such as bequests, beneficiary designations or other deferred gifts are a wonderful way to support AAUW at no cost to you during your lifetime.



Like you, I love AAUW. I hadn't really thought of my estate, but the more I heard about the Legacy Circle the more I knew I wanted to be a part of this group of visionary dedicated supporters who are advancing AAUW's mission long into the future through planned giving. I've always been told that you should never give from the bottom of the pile. You should always give from the top -- give the best, not the least. Those words led me to become a proud member of the Legacy Circle.

I encourage all of you branch members in Virginia to join Virginia's current 40 Legacy Circle members in making this commitment- -- in whatever amount you feel comfortable. Your joining this year could help AAUW Virginia reach its Five Star goal. To receive the program star, we must increase our state Legacy Circle membership by 10% which, you all can see, is four new members by next June. Won't you help us reach that goal?

Please visit: <https://www.aauw.org/resource/legacy-circle-enrollment-form/> to download the enrollment form, or contact me with any questions.

Neola Waller

AAUW Legacy Circle Team Member

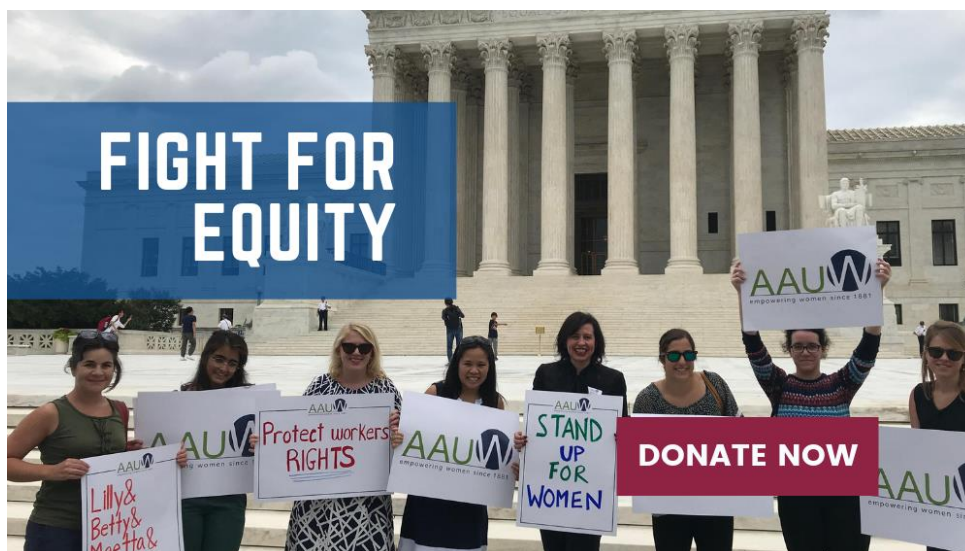
wallerwn1@gmail.com, 757.217.2356

National AAUW- from Kimberly Churches

AAUW has achieved much in the past year. Together, we:

- **Expanded our Start Smart and Work Smart salary-negotiation trainings** to reach more than 100,000 women in a year.
- **Made educational debt a centerpiece issue for policymakers and virtually every candidate in the upcoming presidential election**, as our research showed that women now shoulder nearly two-thirds of student loan debt.
- **Inspired more than 800 women** in June at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, among the most well attended in the conference's 34-year history.
- **Led the passage of the long-overdue Paycheck Fairness Act** in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As proud as I am of these achievements, there is so much more we must do. Consider this one, stunning statistic: The average woman will lose anywhere from \$400,000 to \$1 million over her career due to lower pay than men.



The Fairfax City Branch of AAUW presents
Book & Author Luncheon
Saturday, November 2, 2019, 11 am to 2 pm
Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield

\$45 per person (includes luncheon and silent auction).
Reservation deadline: October 26, 2019

Feast from our smorgasbord of biography, epic family saga, local history, and murder mystery.

- **Joyce Lee Malcolm**, *The Tragedy of Benedict Arnold: An American Life*. This vivid and timely reexamination of one of revolutionary America's most complex figures examines why Benedict Arnold, a highly regarded war hero, was by the end of the war an infamous traitor.
- **Solveig Eggerz**, *Sigga of Reykjavik*. Iceland's drive for independence from Denmark during World War II parallels feisty Sigga's quest for her personal freedom from abusive conditions on an Icelandic farm.
- **Cindy Gueli**, *Lipstick Brigade: The Untold True Story of Washington's World War II Government Girls*. Thousands of women came to the capital to staff government offices during World War II. Their skills earned them a wide variety of jobs, while their personalities enlivened the city and gave them adventures that changed their lives.
- **Laura Ellen Scott**, *The Mean Bone in Her Body*. The combination of characters whose honesty is suspect, a setting in a town with both a college and a prison, and three dead bodies makes this thriller an attention keeper with a dozen possible outcomes.

This annual event is sponsored by the AAUW Fairfax City Branch to raise funds for scholarships for women in our area and for the AAUW Fund. Join us for an event filled with Literature, Food & Fun, plus a Great Silent Auction!

Reservations must be received by October 26, 2019, and are payable in advance.

Please mail your check, payable to AAUW Fairfax City Branch, or Visa or MasterCard information to: Sonia Esteve, 7416 Seabrook Ln, Springfield, VA 22153 – (703) 569-1456 – westeve47@gmail.com

- *Seating requests must be made at the time of the reservation.*
- *Guests with special dietary requirements must make their requests when making reservations.*

An optional Reservation form is attached.

*AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls
through research, education, and advocacy.*

AAUW Fairfax City Branch's **BOOK AND AUTHOR LUNCHEON** Reservation
Form (optional)

Saturday, November 2, 2018, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

_____ NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS AT \$45 EACH. TOTAL AMOUNT: _____

_____ CHECK ENCLOSED

_____ MASTERCARD _____ VISA. CARD NUMBER: _____

NAME: (As it appears on the card) _____

EXPIRATION DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Please bring your credit card to the Book and Author Luncheon if you are charging your reservation.

I am unable to attend; however, please accept my contribution of \$: _____

Reservations must be received by October 26, 2019 and are payable in advance.

Please mail your check, *payable to AAUW Fairfax City Branch*, or MasterCard or Visa information to:

➤ Sonia Esteve, 7416 Seabrook Lane, Springfield, VA 22153-2155.

Specific seating requests and special dietary requirements must be made known at the time of the reservation.

For more information, contact Sonia Esteve at (703) 569-1456 or westeve47@gmail.com.

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.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 14	11:00am	Dedication of the seven completed statutes in the Virginia Women's Monument, Capitol Square in Richmond (11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m)
October 14	6:00pm	Dinner before the Branch Meeting at Northside Social, 205 Park Ave., Falls Church
October 14	7:30pm	Branch Meeting, Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls St, Falls Church
October 15	7:30pm	Book Club, Starbucks, 344 W Broad Street, Falls Church, VA 22046 Please note: this is a change of venue!
October 17	9:30am	Federal Lobby Day (Contact Marilyn Falksen), Capitol Hill
October 26	1:00pm	Northern District meeting, Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church
October 28	7:30pm	Board meeting, Woodrow Wilson Library Conference Room, 6101 Knollwood Drive, Falls Church
November 2	11:00am	AAUW Fairfax City Branch's BOOK AND AUTHOR Luncheon, Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield