

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH
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Falls Church AAUW Field Trip to the Turning Point Memorial on November 13, 2021





Co- Presidents' Message

Happy Holidays!

We are looking forward to seeing you at the holiday luncheon on December 11, at 12:30 at La Cote d'Or-www.LCD6876.com. Susan Conklin and Becky have arranged a lunch to celebrate; we will not be having a branch meeting in December.

Also on Dec 11 and again on December 18, we will be setting up a mini book sale at the entrance to the Falls Church Community Center, during the same hours as the Falls Church the Farmers Market. Please contact Dianne Bodeen at bodeendv@verizon.net. She needs your help in making this a success.

While you are celebrating this season and planning for the future, consider AAUW. In February, the nominating committee will be nominating persons for the offices of President, Vice President - Programs, and Secretary. Pam Martinov also needs help publishing the newsletters. (She is publishing the newsletters for 2 organizations right now!) Please say yes if the Nominating Committee gives you a call and asks you to serve as an officer.

Finally, thanks to Becky and Susan for a wonderful program at The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial in Lorton, VA. The program was led by a dynamic docent, Pat Wirth, who worked several years to fundraise and build the Memorial. She treated us to the history and political maneuverings of the last 10-12 years preceding the building of the Memorial, in addition to a lively history of the suffragist movement itself.

Sharon Zackula and Elizabeth Kessel
Co-President

Next Branch Meeting

Holiday Party



Members responding to our survey wanted a restaurant venue for the event. We will have menu choices of four appetizers, five main entrees and four desserts. The price per person will be \$32.00 which includes taxes and gratuities. Members will be responsible for their beverages. For those with food allergies, go to www.LCD6876.com and look at the lunch menu. You will have a choice of the four appetizers and four desserts. Main entrée choices will be: Chicken Sandwich with avocado and bacon, Croque Monsieur, Chicken Salad, Hachis Parmentier or Quiche Lorraine.

If you responded to our survey and indicated yes for the 11th of December, your reservation is made. Others need to reserve with Susan Conklin at sconklin00@aol.com by 3 December. Payment must be received by 6 December by mailing a check to:

Linda Lawrence, Treasurer
P. O. Box 7161
Arlington, VA 22207

Checks just be made out to: FC Branch AAUW. We look forward to seeing you.

Public Policy

News from the State Public Policy Co-Vice Presidents

In early November, Denise Murden and Susan Burk, AAUW of Virginia's Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy, provided the following information to Public Policy Chairs across Virginia.

Election Day Follow-On

Election Day is now behind us, and AAUW-VA members can be proud of our efforts to Get Out the Vote. An historic number of Virginia voters turned out for an "off year" election, i.e., one without any national elections, and elected the first woman to the office of Lieutenant Governor in our 400-year legislative history.

As your Co-VPs for Public Policy, we will be sending emails to every newly elected and re-elected Virginia delegate after the election is certified on November 15. The emails introduce AAUW-VA and our legislative priorities and offer our assistance in research and advocacy. We will share our letter text and encourage Branches and individual members to reach out to your local Delegate(s) to offer your congratulations and support and inform them of the issues you are advocating.

Paid Sick Days and Family & Medical Leave

We continue to collaborate with the [Virginians for Paid Sick Leave \(VPSL\) coalition](#) and the [Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy Virginia](#) as advocates for paid sick days and paid family and medical leave. We encourage you to check out their websites and sign up for their email lists to stay informed of actions and updates on legislation.

Public Policy Interest Groups

At our Public Policy Zoom meetings, we have discussed having members sign up for public policy interest groups to serve as our “go-tos” for the latest information on an issue. With AAUW’s broad public policy agenda and members’ various interests and expertise, it is difficult for your Co-VPs to maintain awareness of all the issues. In the last General Assembly, some delegates approached us for support of issues we had not been focused on. Having members we know we can call on or who have been keeping us all updated on a topic would make us even more effective.

Watch out for a Google survey link that will be coming soon to collect your ideas and thoughts, but always feel free to let us know what you are thinking and planning in the public policy arena.

The Commonwealth Institute to Hold Virtual Summit

Denise Murden, Co-Vice President for Public Policy for AAUW-Virginia, has alerted Virginia AAUW branches that The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis (TCI) plans to hold a series of webinars on Dec. 8-10 in advance of Virginia’s 2022 legislative session. Denise has checked the schedule and determined there are several sessions of interest to AAUW members. There is no charge for these webinars. You can check the schedule and register for the webinars by going to bit.ly/tci-summit-2021.

TCI works to advance racial and economic justice in Virginia by advocating for public policies that are designed in partnership with the people most impacted.

Mini Book Sale



We are hoping to have a successful mini Christmas book sale at the Falls Church Community Center on two Saturdays -- December 11th and 18th, as a kind of adjunct to the Falls Church Farmers Market. To pull this off, we will need the help of those among you who are willing (we’re all able☺) to help.

Six (6) volunteers for Saturday, Dec. 11th. Probably one, or maybe two, would pass out flyers to the shoppers, and you could alternate with whoever is working the selling table. The others would “woman” the table. You will certainly be liberated in time to make the Christmas luncheon.

Ditto **(six (6) volunteers) for Saturday, December 18th.** We will know after the 11th whether this thing is going to fly or not, which might mean changing the need for volunteers.

This could be a lot of fun! We just pray this is not the December for a foot of snow, and of course if the cold is really bad we will make adjustments. Please bring your best retailing skills to the task!! **PLEASE, let me know your availability.** Respond via email to Dianne. Bodeendv@verizon.net or 703.536-2235/240-672-7038. Thank you!

Movies, anyone?

COMING SOON

Let's Go To the Movies Virtually 2022

From June 2020 through November 2021, the Falls Church AAUW film group has watched 18 films. The movies ranged from drama to comedy to limited series to foreign language films. We discussed the life of Maorian cousins in New Zealand and transgender teenagers in Israel and through film we remembered a time when we were or knew a cheerleader or attended a prom. The year 2022 promises to be no less varied. The group selected the films *Stuck Together* which is about the lives of French apartment dwellers in lockdown because of the pandemic, *Passing* which follows the lives of two African-American women in 1929 Harlem and *Cloudburst* where we travel with a septuagenarian lesbian couple who take a road trip to Canada so they can marry.

Starting in January 2022, the group will be meeting virtually via zoom on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Our start time remains the same at 7:00 PM. Please call or text Aida at 703 966 8050 if you are interested in joining any of our film discussion evenings. All are welcome!

The schedule is as follows and all films can be watched through Netflix Streaming:

January 26th
Stuck Together

February 23
Passing
Black History Month

March 23
Cloudburst
Women's History Month



Book Club News

12/21 POETRY

Leaves of Grass
by Walt Whitman

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

Here is the list of poems from "Leaves of Grass" we will be discussing for our Dec. discussion on 12/21. We hope you can join us.



The poems of the first edition, which were given titles in later issues, included:

- "[Song of Myself](#)"
- "A Song for Occupations"
- "To Think of Time"
- "[The Sleepers](#)"
- "[I Sing the Body Electric](#)"
- "Faces"
- "Song of the Answerer"
- "Europe: The 72d and 73d Years of These States"
- "A Boston Ballad"
- "[There Was a Child Went Forth](#)"
- "Who Learns My Lesson Complete?" and
- "Great Are the Myths"

Ten Ways to Give Smarter at the End of 2021

As we embark on the season of giving, consider the following tips on wise donation strategies vetted by a community of estate planners and financial advisors.



1. Deduct \$300 without itemizing.

This year only! You can deduct \$300 of charitable gifts without itemizing. The \$300 limit is one per tax filing unit. (So, married couples filing jointly don't get \$600.) This must be a cash gift paid to an operating nonprofit. (So, not to a donor advised fund.)

2. Deduct up to 100% of your income.

This year only! You can deduct up to 100% of your adjusted gross income using charitable gifts of cash. These gifts must go to an operating nonprofit. (So, not to a donor advised fund.)

3. Combine a Roth conversion with a donation.

A Roth conversion moves money from a standard IRA into a Roth IRA. The benefit: all distributions from the Roth IRA are tax free. (Even distributions of future growth are tax free.) The downside: the money moved into the Roth IRA counts as immediate income.

However, this year only, up to 100% of income can be offset by charitable deductions. This includes income created by a Roth conversion. If you already have a multi-year charitable plan or pledge, donating it all this year and combining with a Roth conversion might make sense.

4. Make IRA gifts @ age 70½ +.

IRA accounts have no required minimum distribution (RMD) in 2020. But those age 70½ or older can still make gifts directly from an IRA to a nonprofit up to \$100,000. This gift donates pre-tax dollars. The earned income is never taxed because it goes directly to the nonprofit.

5. Move your 401k/403b into an IRA rollover now to prepare for future IRA gifts.

RMDs will return next year for those age 72+. A qualified charitable distribution from your IRA or IRA rollover reduces RMD. It's a great way to give!

To do this with a 401(k) or 403(b), you must first convert the account into an IRA rollover. But conversion requires first taking any RMD from the 401(k) or 403(b). You must pay taxes on that distribution.

You can avoid that by making the conversion this year. There are no RMDs in 2020. So, you can convert your 401(k) or 403(b) into an IRA rollover. And you can do it without paying any taxes, even if you are age 72+. Then, you'll be set up to make future donations from your IRA rollover whenever you want.

6. IRA gifts @ age 55 – 70½.

IRA withdrawals during this age create no penalties. But they are taxable. However, this year cash gifts can be deducted up to 100% of income. If you are already itemizing deductions this can help offset the tax impact from an IRA withdrawal.

7. Consider IRA beneficiary vs. gift in a will.

Many people like to include a charitable gift in their will to support a cause that has been important in their lives. One tax smart strategy is to leave part of an IRA, 401(k), or 403(b) account to a nonprofit. (It's easy to change account beneficiaries by contacting the financial institution.)

Why is this smart? Because heirs pay income taxes on this money. Starting this year, heirs (except spouses) must take out all funds (and pay taxes) within 10 years of inheriting. But any part left to a nonprofit avoids these taxes. So, if you're leaving anything to a nonprofit, use these accounts first.



8. Make a charitable swap: Give appreciated investments WITHOUT changing your portfolio.

Donating appreciated assets creates two tax benefits. The tax deduction is the same size as a gift of cash. (The asset must have been owned for a year or more.) Plus, you avoid paying capital gains tax. With a charitable swap, you donate old shares of stock and immediately purchase new shares in the same company. Your portfolio doesn't change. But the capital gain is removed. (There is no waiting period. Why? Because this is gain property not loss property. So, the "wash sale" rule doesn't apply.)

9. Take an immediate deduction for donating inheritance rights to homes or farmland.

Many people like to include a charitable gift in their will. But you can donate the inheritance rights to farmland or a home using a special deed instead. Doing this creates an immediate income tax deduction. Right now, these deductions are large because interest rates are low.

Example: A 55-year-old donor deeds the inheritance rights to \$100,000 of farmland before the end of 2020. The donor gets an immediate income tax deduction of \$90,371. The donor keeps the right to use the property for the rest of his life. It's deductible because, unlike a will, the donor can't change his mind once the gift is made.

10. Bunch gifts with a donor advised fund.

The 2018 tax law created much higher standard deductions. Fewer people can use charitable deductions because they aren't itemizing. One way around that is to "bunch" charitable gifts.

Example: A donor puts five years' worth of donations into a donor advised fund. The donor takes a tax deduction for the entire amount in that year. Because the deduction is so large, the donor itemizes in that year. In later years, the donor makes gifts to charities from the fund. This creates no tax deduction. But in those years the donor takes the standard deduction instead of itemizing.

Remember: These are just a few ideas to discuss with your tax advisor. They may not apply in your situation.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/10-ways-to-give-smarter-at-the-end-of-2020/>

To learn more about how your gifts can make a lasting impact at AAUW, contact: Heather Miller at 202-785-7766 or by email at millerh@aauw.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 6		Deadline to send Linda Lawrence a check for the Holiday Party
December 11	8am-Noon 12:30pm	Mini Book Sale- FC Community Center Holiday Party- Le Cote d' Or
December 18	8am-Noon	Mini Book Sale- FC Community Center
December 21	7:30pm	Book Club via Zoom- <i>Leaves of Grass</i>
December 27	7:30pm	Board Meeting via Zoom
January 26	7:00pm	Movie Group via Zoom- <i>Stuck Together</i>

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.

