

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

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Co-Presidents' Message



Dear Members,

Welcome to April, known in Falls Church AAUW as Book Sale Month, and its many activities!

These activities include: sorting (every Saturday except Easter weekend) and bricking, on 4/2, 4/9 and 4/23. You can also contribute by providing beer boxes, distributing publicity at Falls Church Farmer's Market, on-line publicity (your neighborhood digital information source, such as Nextdoor Falls Church, Arlington and McLean, Arlington and Annandale Patch, Annandale Blog, Craig's List). Please check the SignUp Genius emails that were forwarded to you by Mollie Jewell and sign up and show up. Every little bit helps and we all love seeing the smiles on the faces of our very deserving scholarship recipients.

On Thursday, April 28, it's all hands on deck to sort the "bigs," set up the tables and place the books for sale. Friday, April 29, and Saturday, April 30, are the big sale dates; and to make the sale successful, we all have to WORK the sale. Please sign up and show up and compliment Dianne Bodeen and her husband Virgil, Sarah John, Mollie Jewell, Becky Gaul, Pam Martinov and her husband John, Aida Loomis and her husband Brad, and Elizabeth Kessel's husband Ed Levine for the incredible hard work this core group has done in getting us to the goal.

Conference WrapUp. Sharon attended the 2022 AAUW of VA State Conference on Saturday, March 26, in Harrisonburg. 94 or 95 AAUW members attended. The keynote speaker, Kimberly Jenkins



Robinson, is a professor at the UVA School of Law and the School of Education. Professor Robinson made a data-driven presentation on the progress (and lack thereof) of girls and women pursuing STEM courses of study and STEM undergraduate and graduate degrees, and girls' and women's participation in sports. She also spoke briefly of her personal friendship with Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, her roommate and classmate at Harvard Law School. Robinson is the author of *A Federal Right to Education*. Another speaker, Professor

Stephen J. Farnsworth, spoke about Virginia and federal political development. Farnsworth is a professor of political science and international affairs and Director of the Center for Leadership and Media Studies at the University of Mary Washington. Sharon bought Professor Robinson's book as well as *Presidential Communication and Character*, by Farnsworth, and will be happy to lend them to you.

Honorees. At the conference, AAUW of VA recognized Kitty Richardson posthumously for her many contributions to AAUW at the local, state and national level. She was named an AAUW of VA Honored Person. A special certificate was presented to AAUW Falls Church, which we intend to give to Bill Richardson. In Kitty's memory, Bill has generously donated scholarship funds approximately equivalent to the net proceeds of one of our recent booksales. We thank him for his tremendous generosity. Other members honored as AAUW Named Honorees for their special



contributions to AAUW of Falls Church are Anne Baxter, Rebecca Gaul, Mollie Jewell, Aida U. Loomis and Pam Martinov.

Thank you and see you at the book sorting!

Sharon Zackula and Elizabeth Kessel
Co-Presidents

Book Sale



“Books”? Do I hear “Books”? Oh yes, we have books...and books...and more books. And we need everyone who can help us deal with these books to do so.

The left photo shows the books that have been sorted and bricked. The right photo shows books that came from McLean AAUW that could be sorted in the next few weeks!

Sorting is the first step, but a really central one. We will be sorting on the 9th and again on the 23rd. We may add the 16th, so watch for messages that might

say something like “desperate.” We will be able to deal with all of the donations that have arrived. Please tell any possible donors that we cannot take any more books.

Then be sure to have April 28th on your calendars. Once the books arrive at the Community Center, they have to get to the right place on the tables. One of the big jobs is sorting the “Big” boxes and getting those books to the proper places. We are turning down donations the days of the sale, but there will still be unsorted books to deal with. This is a big job and you all can be helpful there, even if you are not into the “hefting” business. Tables need sorting, mistakes corrected, making the sale as attractive as possible for opening day on Friday.

Then the moment we’ve been waiting for: 9:00 on Friday morning. If you have signed up to help with the checkout process, great! If you want to walk the floor, helping people find things, generally keeping order among the books, that’s also great (it’s my favorite part of the sale.) You will be needed on both Friday and Saturday, with report time 8:30. There are shifts to accommodate your availability; you’re not expected to live there (though you might want to.)

And, I almost forgot. If you can be at the Farmers’ Market on either the 16th or 23rd—passing out bookmarks on those days nets us a lot of customers. You might enjoy it so much you will want to do it the Saturday of the sale!

PLEASE go to the sign up sites that Mollie has created, or sign up on Saturday. We need those slots filled. AND, don’t forget to carry some bookmarks with you to lay on counters at retail outlets you patronize. Those hundreds (thousands?) of books won’t sell themselves! Bookmarks are available at Mary Youman’s or Mollie’s or me, Dianne. WE WILL HAVE FUN AND RAISE A LOT OF MONEY!

Dianne Bodeen

AAUW Dues

Now is the time to renew dues on-line

Current AAUW memberships will expire June 30, 2022. Please log-in to <https://www.AAUW.org> to access the on-line feature to renew membership dues. You may need to create a new password, but it's simple and allows the most efficient method of transacting business with our national organization. The "Renew" button is found in the Membership section of the Personal Snapshot. Click on "Renew", enter the required information with credit card number and follow the steps to complete the process and ... Voilà! You'll be paid through June of 2023!



In the past members received e-invoices via email from the branch treasurer, but that option is not yet available on the new system. Thank you for your help paying dues on time.

Postcards

Next postcarding campaign for North Carolina

Yes, even during book sale season, AAUW Falls Church continues to support get-out-the-vote campaigns. If you have finished your Alabama postcards, join our new campaign for North Carolina with a new script and more formal salutations (sample below).

But first, as you finish, use the QR code to mark the AL postcards done and hold them for mailing on May 1. (or email me and I'll mark them for you).

As you know, this spring the postcarding focuses on getting underrepresented people to "exercise their voting muscles" and become frequent voters.

To join in writing postcards for North Carolina , email me (MollieJewell2@gmail.com).

- number of postcards you can write (multiples of 20 are easiest)
- number of stamps needed, if any
- pick up location (Mollie Jewell near Bailey's Crossroads or Mary Youman near Ballston) or at book sorting).

We write these postcards in partnership with Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) and Center for Common Ground, 501c(3) non-partisan organizations. And we have helped make a difference! Thank you for helping us reach this milestone!

Here's the sample postcard for North Carolina:



Public Policy

Legislative Wrap-Up

On March 30 the AAUW-VA Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy held a Zoom meeting for all interested members. Several Branch members attend the meeting, which reviewed the Virginia Legislative Session that concluded on March 12, 2022. Kim Bobo, Executive Director of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) was the guest speaker. AAUW-VA partnered with VICPP in the effort to pass legislation requiring employers to provide up to 5 days of paid sick leave for health care workers, grocery store employees, and home health care workers who provide services under Medicare. Although the bills passed the Senate, they died in the House Energy and Commerce Committee. A fuller discussion of these bills and the action taken on them was provided in the February and March issues of the *Flash*. In looking toward next year, VICPP is hoping to work with various unions in the effort to provide sick leave to more Virginia workers.



Salary History Ban

Co-Vice President Susan Burk mentioned two additional issues on which AAUW-VA took an active role: banning the use of salary history in determining a prospective employee's salary and paid Family and Medical Leave. The paid Family and Medical Leave bill was carried over to next year. The salary history ban passed the Senate but died in the House. These bills

were also discussed in previous copies of the *Flash*.

Co-Vice President Denise Murden mentioned budget issues concerning education which the General Assembly will need to act on in its Special Session, which begins on April 4

- Additional funding for schools in high poverty areas
- Maintaining a 5% salary increase for school staff and teachers
- Lifting the cap on and providing funding for support workers in the schools.

The House and Senate are suggesting different dollar amounts in these areas, and a Budget Conference Committee is working on reconciling the differences.



Murden also talked about AAUW-VA's Get Out the Vote plans for this year's Virginia elections. All branches will be encouraged to participate in the Reclaim our Vote Campaign, which was successful in Virginia last year. Our branch is already participating in the Reclaim our Vote Campaign nationwide under the leadership of Mollie Jewel.

Women's History Walk

The Annual Falls Church Women's History Walk will be held on Sunday, May 1, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a little ceremony at Big Chimneys at noon for the Grand Marshals. The walk is a 2-mile, self-guided loop through downtown.



As in years past, stations will be set up along the walk honoring Falls Church women of note. Each station will have a sign with information about one of the women. Two years ago, the Branch donated the sign which honors long-time Branch member Leah Porzel. Additional information about the Walk can be accessed at the following website: <https://sites.google.com/view/fc-womens-history-walk/home>

Mary Riley Stiles Library

Mary Stiles Library in Falls Church has many programs that members of our branch might enjoy! Use the following link to check out what is going on!

<http://www.fallschurchva.gov/424/Library>

Movies, anyone?

Let's Go to the Movies Virtually



Follow the Bricked Box Books to the Book Sale



April 29 - April 30

The 2022 Academy Awards are in our rear view mirror, and now our focus shifts to books. Yes it is time for a return to our Falls Church Book Sale. Since the start of the virtual film group some of our best conversations were film choices that were adapted from works of literature. **Passing** (2021) is based on Nella Larsen's 1929 novel of the same name. Many of us read the Bryan Stevenson 2014 memoir. **Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption** and enjoyed the discussion of the 2019 film **Just Mercy**. The movie **Cousins** (2021) introduced us to Pamela Grace's novel of Maori cousins in New Zealand. We all can identify impactful books and films from **To Kill a Mockingbird** to **The Godfather** to more recent books and films like **The Harry Potter** series. What's yours?

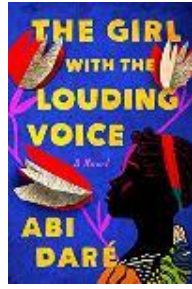
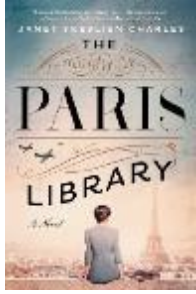


The black and white clip is chaotic and scary. Then the house lands in Munchkinland. Colors emerge. Dorothy and Toto step out. You see the beautiful Good Witch Glinda. Soon you hear the sweet voices and faces of the Munchkins. We would love to see you at the book sorting and the book sale. If you are not ready to venture out we would love to hear from you. You can still help with the book sale. Call and email your friends, family and neighbors to let them know that after a couple of years of turmoil and turbulence the Book Sale has landed in Falls Church. While the gym will not be paved with a yellow brick road, the gym will be paved in something more valuable. BRICKED BOXES of BOOKS!

There will be no "Let's Go to the Movies Virtually" in April as April is all things book sale. The film group will resume on May 25th.

See you at the Book Sale!

Book Club News



Meetings are Tuesday evenings at 7:30 P.M. via Zoom.

Next up: 4/19/22 "The Paris Library: A Novel" by Janet Skeslien Charles, 353 pages, historical fiction

5/17/22 "The Girl with the Louding Voice" by Abi Dare, 371 pages, book by an African writer

The categories for the fall will be banned (both past and present) books, Pioneering Women writers: women who pioneered new ways of living and writing (Google for ideas), and book by a Nobel Prize winner. We'll be asking for your nominations in the near future.

Dates and book selections are also always in the newsletter.

Happy reading!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 9	9am	Book Sorting at Willston Multicultural Center
April 16	TBA	Possible Book Sorting- Check your email!
April 19	7:30pm	Book Club via Zoom
April 23	Noon	Book Sorting at Willston Multicultural Center
April 25	7:30pm	Board Meeting
April 28	2:00pm	Set Up for the Book Sale- FC Community Center
April 29	8:30am-9pm	Book Sale-FC Community Center
April 30	8:30am-4pm	Book Sale-FC Community Center
May 1	11am-2pm	FC Women's History Walk
May 9	7:30pm	Branch Scholarship Meeting- Zoom or Location TBD

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.

