

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

Volume 72, Number 5

May, 2022



Co- Presidents' Message



Dear Members,

We made it! The Falls Church Area AAUW Used Book Sale is over and we killed it! (And it didn't kill us!!) We made great gross and net profits! (You must attend the meeting to find out more...)

Put more formally, we had the best book sale the Branch has ever had, collecting and sorting a record number of books, with less space, less time, and less flexibility and control than we had previously. We deferred the book sale for more than two years, trying to duck and dodge the pandemic, and while we waited, some of us got a little older. Bench pressing the bricks of books became an even greater challenge. BUT, WE DID IT!

Our first thanks must go to the staff of the Willston Multicultural Center, who worked with us so kindly and let us use part of their facility through the two year delay and the final months leading up to April 29, 2022. We thank you for your generosity and flexibility!

There are also so many members and friends of the Branch to thank for their remarkable skills of organization and endless volunteer hours, especially our two Chairwomen, Dianne Bodeen and Sarah John. Virgil Bodeen also should be recognized as Deputy Chair, Operations and "Bigs Overflow." There are too many others who also stepped up and worked so tirelessly on the many book sale tasks to thank personally here. However, we would like to recognize the role each of you played in making the book sale a success and emphasize that our perseverance and teamwork are the bases for our achievements not only at the book sale, but also in our many other activities.

Before Elizabeth ends her term as Co-President, she wants to thank all of you for allowing her to serve in a leadership role among so many competent and committed women. It was especially gratifying to see the Branch hold together through the worst of the pandemic and then overcome so many challenges to put on a truly massive and successful book sale. As Rosie the Riveter said, "We Can Do It!"

Thank you and see you on May 9, 2022, at 7:00 (**earlier than usual!**) for the presentation of college scholarships to eleven very deserving young women from the Falls Church area!

Sharon Zackula and Elizabeth Kessel
Co-Presidents

Next Branch Meeting

Members, Please mark your calendars for one of our happiest occasions!!

AAUW Falls Church Area Scholarship Award Presentations

Monday, May 9, 2022

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

In Person Meeting at Falls Church Community Center (Art Room)
223 Little Falls Street,
Falls Church, VA



Presentation of Awards Begins at 7:30 p.m.



The Scholarship Committee is providing cookies and beverages.

Masks Encouraged

Falls Church Guidelines:

Group participants should be asked to remain home if they have recently tested positive for COVID-19 or are experiencing symptoms of Covid-19. Follow CDC guidance for ending isolation and quarantine. Failure to adhere to required health and safety measures may result in the cancellation of the permit by either the Recreation and Parks Department or Police Department.

Book Sale

“Book Sale a Success!” say exhausted book sellers

Yes, it was tiring, and fun, and profitable, and evidence that many of us are entirely too old to get involved in such a demanding endeavor again. That being said, it will be missed in the future, as so many of our regular customers told us.

We know that there were some of you who just didn't see a role for yourself in the sale in these times. But almost everyone put in at least a little time, looking back on the beginning of this sale several years ago. Then in addition to the visible leaders, there were those who helped in other ways, some by seeing that publicity really got out there, or being part of our good cashier crew who kept their cool when the thundering herds hit Friday morning. But as in the past, it was a real team effort, including several of the husbands who were indispensable.



Many of you will remember how quiet it would get the last two hours of the sale, with a few people still checking out what they might have missed earlier. Well, this year we offered buyers a shopping bag at

2:00 that they could fill for \$10. They came and came and they filled those bags. Many checked out with very big smiles on their faces.



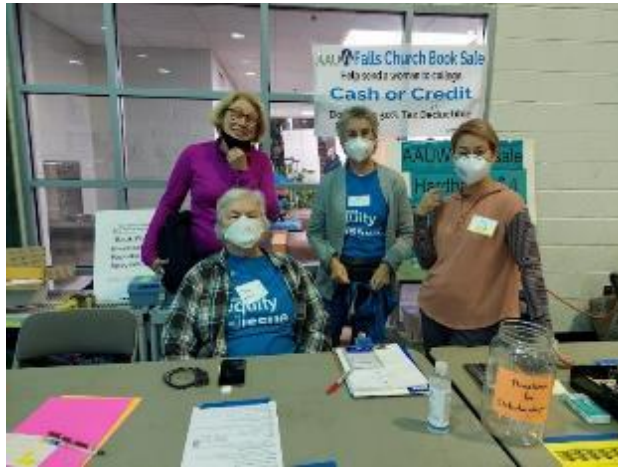
That not only brought in a little extra revenue, but it meant that we had fewer books to get rid of at the end of the sale. And that was good news, as the truck that came from Wonder Books was just large enough to get all the books in, then just small enough to return a short time later to drop off some boxes after they discovered that their truck was “dragging bottom.” In a return trip Sunday morning they picked up the boxes left on the porch of the Community Center!

We owe such a vote of gratitude to Elisa Velasco and her staff at the Willston Multi-Cultural Center for their generosity as our initial period of using their downstairs room for “just a short time” wound up in years. And for the many teens who helped out along the way, especially at the move-out time.

We look forward to seeing you at the awards meeting next Monday...and at the 2023 one where we will spend the money we earned this year!

Scenes from a VERY profitable book sale!

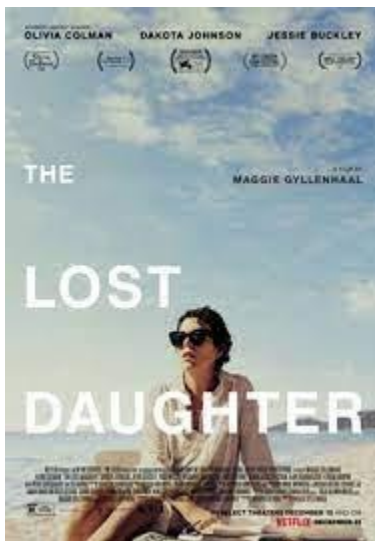




Movies, anyone?

Let's Go to the Movies Virtually!

Wednesday May 25 at 7:00 PM



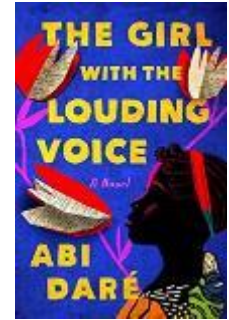
All Mothers, daughters, mothers and daughters and our memories of them are key themes of the May film, *The Lost Daughter*. The movie stars Oscar and Emmy award winner Olivia Colman as Leda, a college professor with two adult daughters. While on a working holiday Leda watches a young mother and her daughter playing. This triggers Leda back to when she was a young mother with her own daughters. Maggie Gyllenhaal directed and wrote the screenplay for *The Lost Daughter*. Memories, if we are lucky, can be part of the lives of granddaughters too. At the book sale I met a young mother with her own daughter. She glowed with pride as she shared stories about the legacy of her grandmother, Leah Porzel. As a 2006 scholarship recipient, Jessica was keenly aware of the work of her grandmother and her contributions to our AAUW branch. Leah Porzel's legacy lives on and continues today in her great granddaughter.

Watch **The Lost Daughter** on Netflix Streaming. Join the group on zoom on Wednesday, May 25th 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!

Book Club News

May 17 7:30pm
The Girl with the Louding Voice
Abi Dare

The unforgettable, inspiring story of a teenage girl growing up in a rural Nigerian village who longs to get an education so that she can find her “louding voice” and speak up for herself, *The Girl with the Louding Voice* is a simultaneously heartbreaking and triumphant tale about the power of fighting for your dreams.



AAUW: Where We Stand: Reproductive Rights

AAUW trusts that everyone can make their own informed choices about their reproductive lives within the dictates of their own moral and religious beliefs. Further, we believe that these deeply personal decisions should be made without government interference. Family planning fosters self-sufficiency, promotes preventive health care, and teaches people how to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).



- The U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 ruling in *Roe v. Wade* legalized abortion for all people who can become pregnant and found abortion to be a Constitutionally protected, fundamental right. Unfortunately, lawmakers have limited peoples’ fundamental power to control their own reproductive lives. The lack of comprehensive protections and support for reproductive health has resulted in dire outcomes. With many schools exclusively providing abstinence-only sex education and contraceptive care historically expensive to access, Americans’ reproductive health has suffered. For instance, half

of all pregnancies in the United States are unintended, and the U.S. continues to have one of the highest rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the industrialized world.

ATTACKS ON REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS Reproductive rights have been under attack for decades—even before *Roe v. Wade*—and advocates are facing grave challenges at the federal and state levels.

- **Enacting abortion bans.** Bills to ban abortion after 6 or 20 weeks are a part of a dangerous and coordinated effort to chip away at abortion access. Not only are they unconstitutional and contrary to medical recommendations, these bills diminish the important role that doctors play in helping pregnant people make decisions about their reproductive health.
- **Imposing burdensome and unnecessary regulations on abortion access.** Many harmful bills inflict medically unnecessary regulations on abortion access—including medically inaccurate patient counseling, mandated waiting periods before procedures, and requiring parental consent or notification for minors—that place undue burden on those seeking those services.

- **Cutting access to reproductive health care centers.** For years, many state legislatures have tried to shut down and prevent access to health care centers that provide abortion, and those efforts continue today. Those most impacted by such closures—Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), transgender and non-binary people, people working to make ends meet, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, people with disabilities, immigrants, people who are incarcerated, and young people—are also those who most often encounter additional barriers to obtaining health services.
- **Limiting abortion coverage.** Efforts to permanently restrict federal funds for abortion care and create burdensome regulations for medical insurers to cover abortion services will ultimately mean people who can get pregnant lose access to the care they need.



The wave of anti-abortion legislation continues in state legislatures. More abortion restrictions have been enacted in 2021 than any other year since *Roe v. Wade*. Surpassing the 89 restrictions enacted a decade earlier in 2011, this legislation is part of an ongoing campaign to weaken abortion rights at the state and ultimately federal level. Abortion rights are protected under only nine states' constitutions, while legislatures in Tennessee, Alabama, West Virginia and Louisiana have passed explicitly [anti-abortion amendments](#) to their own. Currently, more than half of U.S. women of reproductive age live in states that are hostile or extremely hostile to abortion rights.



The Supreme Court is chipping away at the Constitutional right to abortion. In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* affirmed the Constitutional right to an abortion. Since then, the Court has weighed in numerous times to uphold that ruling, including in *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* in 1992 and *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt* in 2016.

Unfortunately, in the past 10 years, the Supreme Court also created roadblocks to contraception access, allowing certain corporations to deny birth control coverage on the grounds of religious freedom (*Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*) and creating ambiguity over contraceptive coverage in religious nonprofit organizations (*Zubik v. Burwell*). Most recently, the Supreme Court refused to block a Texas law that banned abortions as early as six weeks into pregnancy. Now the Court is preparing to hear a case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, that directly challenges people's Constitutional right to decide whether to continue a pre-viability pregnancy. With an anti-abortion majority of justices now on the bench, AAUW supports efforts asking Congress to enact broader protections for pregnant people through legislation.

Federal law continues to restrict funding for reproductive health care—in the United States and abroad. The 1976 Hyde Amendment is a legislative provision barring the use of federal funds to pay for abortion (except in cases of rape, incest or as a lifesaving measure). The 1973 Helms Amendment applies to foreign aid, barring federal funds from being distributed to organizations that provide abortion care. In addition, the Global Gag Rule—an executive order that changes with each administration (also known as the Mexico City Policy)—has limited access to abortion care globally. This executive action prohibits organizations using international family planning funds from providing abortion-related services, even with their private money. AAUW supports removing all barriers to abortion access.

OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Though we face many potential threats to reproductive rights, AAUW will keep fighting to improve access to care by working with Congress and federal agencies to take the following actions.



Pass the Women's Health Protection Act (H.R. 3755/S. 1975). This bill will address the ceaseless attacks on reproductive rights by finally codifying the rights of pregnant people to access, and health care professionals to provide, abortion care. Read more about this legislation and tell your members of Congress to support [here](#).

Improve public funding for reproductive health. Congress must support legislation that expands funding for reproductive services for low-income individuals. The Hyde and Helms Amendments continue to block federal funding from family planning services in domestic and international realms, limiting peoples' fundamental power to control their own reproductive lives. AAUW opposes any attempt to limit access to Title X programs and supports increased public funding.

Put prevention first. The Affordable Care Act (ACA), which has made a positive impact on reproductive health, is currently the law of the land. When unintended pregnancies dropped for the first time in decades in 2011, that reduction was due in part to improved contraceptive coverage under the ACA. We must uphold effective health care laws that empower individuals to make their own positive health care decisions. In addition, AAUW supports a comprehensive legislative package of preventive health and education measures designed to help reduce unintended pregnancy and to support reproductive health. These proposals would ensure that all people have access to comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services.



Ensure access to legally prescribed or available contraception. Currently, [six states permit pharmacists to refuse to fill prescriptions for emergency contraception and all forms of birth control](#) without giving critical protections for patients, such as requiring pharmacies to transfer prescriptions or provide referrals. AAUW believes pharmacies should be required to fill all prescriptions for contraception and sell legal emergency contraception.

AAUW believes that access to a full range of reproductive health services enhances an individual's reproductive choices—which leads to improvements in women's health care and economic security in the United States and around the world. Extremists who oppose contraception and choice continue to erode access to reproductive health services. We must ensure that government policies reflect and address the needs and priorities of a diverse range of individuals, families and communities, especially those who face barriers to access. We will also work to ensure that appointees, nominees and elected officials uphold our nation's laws, affirm protections for individuals, and work to improve overall health and well-being in the United States and around the world. AAUW's advocacy for the right to safe, accessible and comprehensive reproductive health care is critical to achieving equity and justice for all.

From: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/position-repro/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 9	7:00pm	Branch Scholarship meeting-in person at the FC Community Center (Gather at 7pm, Program at 7:30pm)
May 17	7:30pm	Book Club via Zoom- <i>The Girl with the Louding Voice</i>
May 25	7:00pm	Movie Group via Zoom- <i>The Lost Daugher</i>
May 23	7:30pm	Board Meeting

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.

