

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

Volume 72, Number 6

June 1, 2021



Co-Presidents' Message

Dear Members,

Our fiscal year ends on June 30, so this is time for a few goodbyes and many thanks. The thanks go especially to all of you who have participated in so many of our activities, to the officers and others who have provided leadership and stewardship, and to our members who have mentored and assisted new leaders in our branch or reached out to recruit and welcome new members.

I (Sharon) want especially to recognize and thank Elizabeth Kessel, Co-President, whose term ends on June 30. Elizabeth has been the inspiration for many of our programs, never flagged in her commitment to our AAUW goals and to our branch during the pandemic, and has always given us wise counsel. Before being Co-President, Elizabeth served the branch in several capacities, including as Secretary and a member of the Scholarship Committee. During her tenure as Secretary, she recognized the importance of the branch's contribution to Falls Church history and established an archive for retaining Falls Church AAUW branch records at Mary Riley Styles Library. As Elizabeth steps down, Aida Loomis steps up and will be Co-President (with me) beginning July 1. I look forward to partnering with such a warm, energetic, thoughtful and hard-working advocate.



Elizabeth and I both want to thank Becky Gaul, who is stepping down as Co-Vice President, Programs. Becky serves the membership in so many ways, and during her term as Co-Vice President, she and Susan Conklin planned several interesting programs, both remote and, when safe, in person. Our trip to the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial in Lorton was a particular highlight, our tour led by a woman who had thoroughly studied the history of the suffragist movement and made a little history herself in getting the Memorial funded and built. Becky also kept all of us informed of important programs and content on AAUW's national website. Special thanks go to Susan Conklin, who has agreed to serve again as Co-Vice President, Programs, and to Sally Brett, who has agreed to assist Susan in programming next year.

The branch is grateful to the Scholarship Committee for their important work. Mary Youman (Chair), Pam Martinov, Shannon LaBarbera and Marilyn Falksen dedicated many hours to reviewing scholarship applications and determining who would receive the Falls Church AAUW branch awards. Thank you for volunteering, for your dedication and for a great in-person awards meeting in May.

There are many members to thank for their tireless work during the “season of the booksale” and the sale itself. Of course, our two Chairs, Dianne Bodeen and Sarah John, are first. Close behind is Mollie Jewell, who mentored both chairs and volunteered many hours to organize publicity for the sale, recruited volunteers to work at the pre-sale and sale, loaded books all day Thursday, and worked much of Friday and Saturday. Others assisted Mollie, including Becky Gaul, Martha Trunk, Linda Lawrence, Bunny Jarrett, Susan Conklin. Becky also volunteered long hours prior to and during the book sale, taking charge of credit card sales, organizing the Thursday pre-sale setup at the Community Center, and distributing our booksale “real estate” signs for publicity all over Falls Church City and parts of Arlington. Linda was there from beginning to end to take care of the money! Aida Loomis worked countless volunteer hours, and one of our newest members, Clare O’Sheel, took on major responsibilities in identifying and pricing books of special value and interest. Many of you worked up to or beyond your physical capacities and we are grateful to all of you!



Pam Martinov has been our newsletter editor for several years and we cannot say thank you enough for keeping us in touch and informed, especially during the months of remote meetings. A hearty thank you goes to Clare O’Sheel, who has agreed to become co-editor of the newsletter and share the responsibilities with Pam. We also want to thank Clare for agreeing to maintain our website and Facebook page, gradually taking over such responsibilities from Aida Loomis, our new Co-President.

Other officers who will continue in their current positions, to whom we extend special thanks for their service and stewardship, are:

- Shannon LaBarbera, Vice President, Membership
- Linda Lawrence, Treasurer
- Mollie Jewell, Secretary
- Marilyn Falksen, Public Policy



See you on Monday, June 20, at the Picnic Shelter in Cherry Hill Park, at 6:00 p.m. Bring your own food and drink, in accordance with the COVID regulations currently applicable to groups using the shelter. **MOST IMPORTANTLY, BRING YOUR IDEAS!** What do you want to do next year? What do you want us to accomplish as a branch? If you were a new member, what would you wish other members would do to make you feel a part of the branch?

Sharon Zackula and Elizabeth Kessel
Co-Presidents

Next Branch Meeting

Program Planning Picnic



Get your thinking caps on and help us plan our AAUW Falls Church Branch programs for the coming year. The picnic will be 20 June at the Cherry Hill Shelter in Falls Church (223 Little Falls Street) from 6 to 8 pm. It will be once again bring your own food and drink as require by the park administration. Lots of catching up with our members and buckling down to the business of program planning. Sally and I promise to make it fun. Start thinking of field trips that might be fun and educational; programs that meet AAUW goals and mission and things that are just plain fun. Any questions: call me at 703 869 7131

or sconklin00@gmail.com. See you there.

From the Treasurer

Please renew NOW! Current membership year ends June 30, 2022

Renewing your AAUW membership is easy to do on-line. No special links are required to access the AAUW.org website and sign-in with your own user name and password. There is a "Renew" button on the Personal Snapshot page or go to the "My Memberships" category, and click "Renew". Follow the prompts to update personal information and to provide dues/payment method details .A confirmation receipt is provided via email. Please email Linda Lawrence, redheaded at msn.com if you have questions regarding the process.

Please note that the 3-year increase in dues approved by the Board of Directors in 2020 brings dues for July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023 to \$100.00. (National increased to \$67, both Branch and State dues remain the same at \$18 and \$15, respectively). "Thank you" to the 11 members that have already renewed membership.

2022 Scholarship awards will be mailed to Universities and Colleges July 1, 2022 for students that have provided the necessary payment information.

May Meeting- Meet the Scholarship Recipients!

We met in person on May 9, at the FC Community Center to honor our scholarship recipients for 2022. Co-President, Elizabeth Kessel, began the meeting with congratulations to the talented young women. Scholarship Chairperson, Mary Youman introduced the other members of the committee- Shannon Barbera, Marilyn Falksen and Pam Martinov. Mary explained the committee's process which involved reading applications, transcripts, recommendations and personal statements. Eric Welch and Matt Cope, AVID Coordinators at Justice and Falls Church High Schools were introduced as they are influential in spreading the word of our scholarships to their students. Bill Richardson, Kitty's husband,



was also recognized for his very generous donation to the scholarship fund in Kitty's memory. Each young woman was invited to the front of the room to be recognized with a framed certificate and an AAUW mug. Hearty congratulations, photos and applause followed.

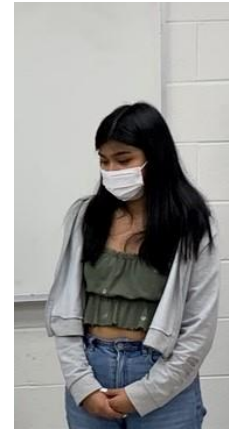
The scholarship recipients were: Sehar Abassi, Kaylen Barrera, Jenifer Beljano, Celia Kelaher, Hiba Laraichi, Maha Noor, Karen Orozco-Villarroel, Giesha Perez, Dianna Rocha-Merida, Sikhavi Raymondo, Erika Sorto Villedo.



Front row from left to right: Geisha Perez, Matt Cope, Dianna Rocha-Merida, Karen Orozco-Villarroel, Erika Sorto Villedo, Kaylen Barrera, Sehar Abassi, Maha Noor, Celia Kelaher, Hiba Laraichi, Jenifer Beljano and Sikhavi Raymondo.

Back row: Mary Youman, Shannon LaBarbera and Marilyn Falksen.





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From left to right:

(1)Co-President Elizabeth Kessel, (2) Scholarship Committee Chairperson Mary Youman, (3) Mollie Jewell, Elizabeth and Bill Richardson.

Public Policy

AAUW-VA Public Policy Meeting June 15

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, June 15, at 5 p.m. when the next AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom meeting will be held. The featured speaker will be Greater Richmond Branch member Tess Evans, who will address the student debt crisis, a recent focus of AAUW National public policy efforts.

Plans for the next General Assembly session and GOTV (Get Out the Vote) efforts for the mid-term elections on November 8 will also be discussed. Please be sure to attend for an informative hour!



The invitation and Zoom link follow. Just click on the link to join the meeting on June 15. You may also join via telephone as shown below.

Denise Murden is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: AAUW-VA Public Policy Meeting

Time: Jun 15, 2022 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88557551017?pwd=WG5lQTg5VWpySyszRUtxejkxNEYvQT09>

Meeting ID: 885 5755 1017

Passcode: 022107

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbWlVZPHHx>

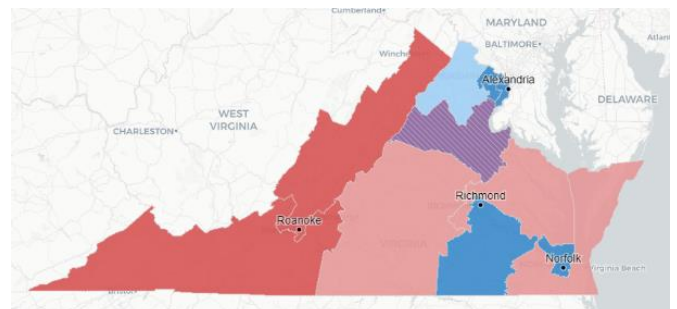
Primary Elections – June 21



Primary elections for the U.S. House of Representatives will be held by the Republican and Democratic parties in Virginia on June 21. While primary elections don't elicit the same excitement that general elections do, as AAUW members, we recognize that every election is important. Our votes are foundational to securing equity for women and girls and economic security for everyone, so it is important that we get the word out to our friends, neighbors and family members who are

eligible to vote.

As a result of redistricting, many Virginia voters will find themselves in new Congressional and State House and Senate Districts. Get acquainted with if and how your district has changed by typing in your address at <https://www.vpap.org/redistricting/>. The June 21 primary is the first election that reflects redistricting changes in Congressional races. Republican primaries will be held in new Districts 2, 3, 6, and 7, and a Democratic primary will be held in District 8. In Districts 1, 4, 5, 9, 10, and 11 candidates are unopposed, so there will be no primary election. If your political party is holding a



Book Club News

The book group will meet via Zoom on Tuesday 6/21 at 7:30 PM to discuss what books we have read that we would recommend to others to read. We always get lots of good suggestions for our reading enjoyment.

It's also time for nominations for book selections for the fall 2022. Here is the criteria for nominating:

Every member in the Falls Church AAUW chapter may nominate books regardless of whether or not you've ever attended a book group discussion.

You may nominate one book per category

You don't have to nominate a book in every category if you don't want to do so.

Check the local libraries Falls Church, Fairfax County and Arlington to make sure the book is available and doesn't have a super long waiting list.

Books should be 500 pages or less.

Nominations will close at midnight June 3rd. Email your nominations to me prosenstein@hotmail.com

Here are the categories:

1. Banned Books
2. Women Literary Pioneers (for suggestions see <https://authoradventures.org/national-literary-road-trips/pioneering-women-writers/>) Women who pioneered new ways of living and writing. This list is just a suggestion (your nom doesn't have to be on this list or be American).
3. A Nobel prize winning author

Thanks in advance for your input. We're so looking forward to your nominations.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 15	5:00pm	Public Policy Zoom Meeting
June 20	6:00pm	Branch meeting –Cherry Hill Park
June 21	6:00am-7:00pm	Primary Elections
June 21	7:30pm	Book Club via Zoom
June 22	7:00pm	Movie Group via Zoom- <i>La Once</i>
June 27	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.

