



# AAUW FALLS CHURCH NEWS

Falls Church Area (VA) Branch

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## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Hello Members!

We are looking forward to a great year and are starting the fall with a fantastic program!

How many of you read the book or saw the movie, *Hidden Figures*? Wasn't it a revelation? Didn't you enjoy it! On September 12, 2022, we will have revealed to us another intriguing and similarly unknown story about several pioneering women in science. We will be fortunate to hear the tale from scholar, law school professor and author of *Proving Ground*, Kathie Kleiman. She found clues of the story of these women in a group of old photographs while an undergraduate student at Harvard University, and has recently published her book, setting out their accomplishments for all to discover. She will speak, be available to answer questions and sign books after her presentation. (Barnes and Noble will make the book available for purchase.) You simply cannot miss this opportunity to hear their stories and to learn about Kleiman's personal journey from her undergraduate discovery to writing this book.

We also look forward to creating a new normal with this meeting. The meeting will be in person, and we are happily anticipating seeing everyone and reconnecting! At this time, we plan to hold *all* 2022-2023 branch meetings in person and all Board meetings via Zoom. (Any member who wishes to attend a Board meeting may attend. Just let us know that you are interested.) Of course, we will be flexible and make alternative plans if necessary.

Our 2022-2023 goal to find a new normal for FC AAUW includes identifying and implementing new fundraising ideas. After two years of not having any fundraising, in April 2022 we had a fantastic (and likely final) booksale, raising a record amount of money for scholarships and donations. We want to build on that success, maintain the momentum and identify alternative fundraising ideas! We have formed an Alternative Fundraising Committee, chaired by Susan Conklin, has been formed and we are looking for new people with new ideas to brainstorm. Would you please consider joining the Committee? Lets see what we can come up with.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on Monday evening, September 12! Come a few minutes early and have a chance to say hello and catch up before Kathy Kleiman begins speaking at 7:40 p.m.

Aida Loomis, Co-President

Sharon K. Zackula, Co-President

BRANCH MEETING  
AUTHOR AND SCHOLAR KATHY KLEIMAN, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12



Kathy Kleiman, founder of the ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer) Programmers Project, historian, law professor and author of *Proving Ground: The Untold Story of the Six Women Who Programmed the World's First Modern Computer*, will be the featured speaker at the Falls Church Area September branch meeting. The program and meeting will be in person at the Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls St., Falls Church, VA.

*Proving Ground* had its beginnings with the research Kleiman undertook as a Harvard undergraduate and a female programmer in search of role models. She discovered old photos from 1945 of several women who appeared to be programming what is heralded as the first general-purpose computer. She found little information about those women, and was told the women were most probably models. Her passion for finding the truth about these unrecognized pioneers eventually led to the founding of the ENIAC Programmers Project, a 2016 award-winning documentary about the women, and the book, released in July of this year.

“In *Proving Ground*,” explains Kleiman, “I tell the ENIAC Programmers story in its full detail — from the ENIAC Programmers’ education and attending college during the Depression, their recruitment by the Army during WWII to calculate ballistics trajectories to aim cannons and programming the enormous ENIAC computer for these trajectory equations without the security clearance to see the machine! These inspiring stories belong not just to me, but to everyone.”

“We are thrilled to have author and scholar Kathy Kleiman as our featured speaker in September,” said co-president Aida Loomis. “In addition to having a fascinating story to tell about the women who were the unsung developers and programmers of modern-day computers, Kathy Kleiman’s work to remove barriers, reverse stereotypes and open doors for everyone to explore computing and STEM careers is inspirational. We hope that those who attend will bring their daughters, nieces, granddaughters, neighbors and friends – anyone who may need their eyes opened to the opportunities available in to them in this and other STEM fields.”

Kathy Kleiman is a leader in Internet Law and Policy, and currently teaches at American University Washington College of Law.

The public is invited to attend this illuminating and inspirational program about the historic contribution of the women of *Proving Ground*.

**Barnes & Noble will be on site to sell copies of the book at 7 pm, 30-minutes prior to the program. Professor Kleiman will sign books following the program.**

## A CORRECTION

### I Was Wrong....

In our June newsletter, in recognizing and thanking Elizabeth Kessel, then Falls Church AAUW Co-President, as she stepped down, I (Sharon Zackula) lauded her for many contributions and her dedication to AAUW's public policy goals.

However, I wrongly stated that Elizabeth, in one of her prior roles as Secretary, established an archive for retaining Falls Church AAUW branch records at Mary Styles Riley Library. That credit goes to Sally Brett!

Sally initiated the retention of Falls Church AAUW records at the Mary Styles Riley Library (MSRL) at the time she served as President of the branch. Sally gave the AAUW papers to MRSL's "Virginia Room" because the AAUW was an important presence in the community, thanks to the work of many branch members. A little background: Sally was a professor of English at both East Carolina and Duke and her specialty was introducing students of writing to the university archives. She also was one of 12 faculty members nationally chosen for the Teaching Women's Literature from a Regional Perspective in 1979. She served as a Regional Coordinator thereafter. According to Sally, the "women's literature" that they accessed were diaries and letters in the university archives. Her ECU students produced a book. Her Duke students went on to work at advanced levels with manuscripts. Sally said that she loved introducing students to primary sources and came to understand that indeed the truth of history resides in the humble correspondence or diary of the ordinary person. And, that the truth about an organization can be found in its archives.

As a historian, Elizabeth also recognized the value of continuing the collection and retention of branch records for historic purposes, and was instrumental in building on the work Sally so thoughtfully began.

These records are available for review by anyone. Let us make sure that we continue to add to the archives at the Mary Styles Riley Library to include records of the many ways in which Falls Church AAUW has contributed positively to the Falls Church community!

Sharon K. Zackula,  
Co-President

## SAVE THE DATE



**October 22, 2022, 10:00 am.12:00 pm**

**AAUW Chief Executive Officer Gloria Blackwell** will be the featured speaker at the first district meeting of the 2022-23 program year. This is an all-district meeting with the four AAUW chapters of Virginia districts collaborating by Zoom so all members can attend. Gloria's presentation will be followed by some short presentations, and then each of the districts will hold their own district meeting in a Zoom breakout room. Stay tuned for further information, including information on how to register for the All-District Meeting.

## PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

### AAUW-VA Public Policy Meeting September 28 (Zoom)

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 28, at **5 pm** for the next AAUW-VA Public Policy meeting via Zoom. The meeting will feature a presentation on nonpartisanship. Any AAUW member interested in public policy issues is encouraged to attend. Watch for the Zoom link which will be sent later this month.



### GET OUT THE VOTE POSTCARD NEWS

Midterm elections are around the corner, and we are on top of it! The FC AAUW Branch has worked on 16 initiatives to write get-out-the-vote postcards aimed at minority voters in the South since the summer of 2020. **Since starting this project, members and friends have written a total of 14, 890 postcards!** That's almost 15,000 postcards, friends!

#### **Prince William postcard writing winding down. Mail now.**

If you are one of the 19 members and friends writing GOTV postcards for Prince William County (Manassas/Woodbridge/Gainesville, etc.), THANK YOU!! You should be about ready to mail them in September, starting Labor Day (Mailing date Sept 5-Oct 1).

If you are having trouble completing them, no worries. Email me and we'll find help. Or bring them to the post card writing party at Mary Riley Styles library on Thurs. afternoon (Sept. 8).

One final note, the postcard folks are no longer using those pesky QR codes to mark completion, so just put your cards in the mail – DONE and dusted.

Questions? Contact Mollie Jewell, [MollieJewell2@gmail.com](mailto:MollieJewell2@gmail.com), 703-941-5643.

#### **Next: GOTV postcards for Georgia. Mail Oct 10-20**

Given our past enthusiasm, I think we are ready to write at least 1000 more postcards before the election. How about Georgia! The cards are to registered, but infrequent voters -- and we have plenty of addresses! Mail dates are October 10 - 20. So, we have the time!

**To write postcards...**If you want to be included in the campaign (sample card to the right), just RSVP to me ([MollieJewell2@gmail.com](mailto:MollieJewell2@gmail.com)) with the number of postcards you will write (20, 40, 60, 80, 100, etc. Addresses

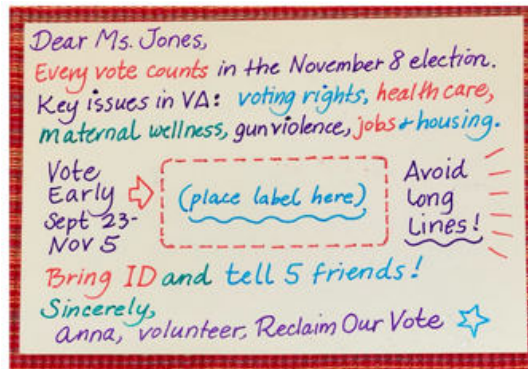
come in multiples of 20). Also tell me where you will pick them up: two choices: Mollie/Lake Barcroft or Mary Youman/N. Arlington near Glebe Rd)

And tell me if you want stamps. We'll provide the rest: instructions, postcards, etc. So just tell me:

- number of postcards
- pickup point
- number of stamps, if any.

**More information:** For the general elections, these postcards prioritize infrequent voters who are likely not contacted by other groups, prioritizing areas with hotly contested races that could impact voting rights.

**Join us for the next **Postcard Party** at the Mary Riley Stiles Library on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm!**



### **Postcard Writing Party – Thurs afternoon Sept. 8, Mary Riley Stiles Library**

To kick off the Georgia GOTV postcards campaign, we'll get together for a postcard writing party at **Mary Riley Stiles Library, 120 N. Virginia Ave. Falls Church, VA** on Thursday afternoon September 8<sup>th</sup> from **1 to 3pm**. Just bring a pen, we'll provide the rest: cards, markers, script, instructions, addresses, etc. If you have questions or just want to learn more about this project, come on over.

Questions? Contact Mollie Jewell, [MollieJewell2@gmail.com](mailto:MollieJewell2@gmail.com), 703-941-5643.

## **GET OUT THE VOTES POSTCARDS PROGRESS REPORT**

So far this calendar year (2022) alone, FC AAUW members have written 5,855 postcards for primaries in Texas, Alabama, and Florida and the election in VA. This number included the 1,020 cards we are writing for the Virginia general election to infrequent voters in neighboring Prince William County

**Why write postcards?** We write in honor of Kitty Richardson and to further AAUW's public policy priority to "support open and fair elections that are broadly accessible to all voters." We have written nonpartisan cards to minority voters in collaboration with Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) and Center for Common Ground, 501c(3) nonpartisan organizations.

ROV is leading an ongoing campaign to engage an increasing number of voters and is concerned about the numerous attempts across the country to roll back state laws that provided voters greater flexibility to vote in 2020. This year many campaigns have focused on infrequent voters.

If you have questions or comments, contact Mollie Jewell, [MollieJewell2@gmail.com](mailto:MollieJewell2@gmail.com), 703-941-5643.

## REGISTERING VOTERS

Registering voters is another important GOTV activity. On September 20, National Voter Registration Day, the Fairfax League of Women Voters will be registering voters at the Fairfax County Public Libraries from 1 to 4:30 pm and is looking for volunteers to assist in this important effort. If you are interested, you can volunteer for a two-hour shift by going to [Sign-Up Genius Link](#) to register. The LWV will provide volunteers with the materials needed and a pre-event orientation via Zoom. Volunteers will also be asked to complete a short online training prior to the event to ensure that they know just what to do. The link to the video is on the Sign-Up Genius website. If you have additional questions, you may contact Amy Leeson at [raineday7@yahoo.com](mailto:raineday7@yahoo.com).

The Falls Church League of Women Voters is also looking for volunteers to assist with voter registration and voter information events this Fall, such as distributing election information at community events and registering students at the high school. To volunteer, contact Kitty O'Hara at [kjohara@verizon.net](mailto:kjohara@verizon.net).

**\*IMPORTANT: Before participating in any voter registration event members must complete training,** using this link:

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/voter-registration-training-video/>. It's quick to complete the training and get added to the State Department of Elections' list of individuals who can participate in third-party voter registration drives. Individuals who completed training in previous years need to retake training for 2022.

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### Two-Minute Activist

Become a two-minute activist and let your voice be heard on issues important to you and AAUW! It's easy. Just go to <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/> and click on the "sign up" button. This will bring you to a form to complete with your name, address, and email. Once you've signed up, you will receive email notices when your advocacy is most needed. AAUW will provide you with the tools you need to share your views with your Senators and Representative in Congress, your state legislators and other government officials. You will receive a prepared letter which you are able to modify to personalize, if you wish. Then, with a push of a button, it's on its way. If time is of the essence, you may receive a request to make telephone calls and will be provided with talking points. With your help, the Action Network can continue to boost AAUW's influence on Capitol Hill and in statehouses across the nation

## BRANCH NEWS AROUND THE NORTHERN DISTRICT

**McLean Area Branch** will hold the first of its new fundraising activities with a sale of gently used jewelry, on Saturday, September 17, from 9:00-1:00 in the McLean Community Center's parking lot. Items on offer will include vintage, contemporary, ethnic, and one-of-a-kind pieces. Other upcoming fundraisers will include wine tastings and a holiday cooking class.

**Reston Reston-Herndon Branch:** Special September Membership Program (Zoom)

*Unconscious Bias* Thursday, Sept 29, 7:00 pm to be presented by the Reston-Herndon DEI Committee with facilitator Patty Hagan DEI Committee: Stephanie Abbott, Ilene Banker, and Carol Ann Bradley.

**Vienna Branch** will hold an Open House, Saturday, September 10, 10 am to noon, Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue E., Vienna.



**Springfield-Annandale Branch** will kick-off the year with a program featuring author Elisabeth Griffith on Saturday, September 17, 1 pm at the Pohick Regional Library, [6450 Sydenstricker Rd., Burke, VA. 22015](#). Ms. Griffith will discuss her new book, *Formidable 1920-2020, American Women and the Fight for Equality*. She also will have books for sale that she will sign after the meeting. *The Washington Post* recently gave the following review: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2022/08/12/an-inclusive-look-womens-history-beyond-white-activists/>

## MOVIE AND BOOK GROUPS



### Let's Go to the Movies

#### **Wednesday (when a good movie is playing) Movie Club**

Join in the fun of an (almost-)weekly movie theater outing with AAUW friends. Lately we have been to see **Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris; My Donkey, My Lover and I; and Three Thousand Years of Longing**. Outings are on Wednesdays for the first showing, and emails about the movie choices go out a week in advance. To get on the list for movie emails contact Susan Conkin at [sconklin00@gmail.com](mailto:sconklin00@gmail.com).

#### **Virtual Movie Club**

##### **Fourth Wednesday of the month, 7:00 pm**

For more than 24 months and even more films the Virtual Film Group continues to connect through film, especially those highlighting women. Fall 2022 is no different as we learn about the challenges women face in the film industry, their contributions as spies in World War II, and the historic challenges they bucked to follow their own paths.

Join us to view the following films this fall:

**This Changes Everything** – September 28, 7:00 pm

**A Call to Spy** – October 26, 7:00 pm

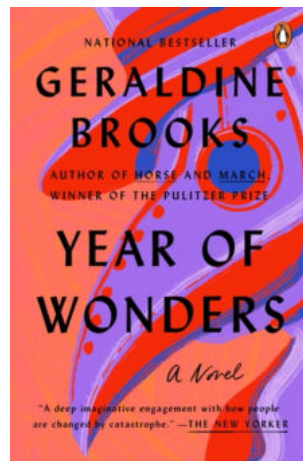
**Persuasion** – November 23 (or 30), 7:00 pm

**This Changes Everything** is a 2018 documentary created in association with The Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media that examines sexism in the film industry through interviews with a variety of female actors and filmmakers.

**A Call to Spy** is a 2019 historical drama written, produced and directed by women inspired by the true stories of three women spies during World War II.

**Persuasion** is our last film for 2022. It is the newest remake of Jane Austen's final novel. In the film we find Anne Elliot still regretting an earlier decision. But will a wiser, more confident and independent Anne choose her own future when given a second chance?

All the films can be watched on [Netflix Streaming](#). Join the group on Zoom the fourth Wednesday of the month 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** will be discussing Geraldine Brooks' *The Year of Wonders*, the first of their Banned Books picks for the year, on **Zoom, Tuesday, September 20, 7:30 pm.**

Abstracted from Goodreads: *When an infected bolt of cloth carries plague from London to an isolated village, a housemaid named Anna Frith emerges as an unlikely heroine and healer. Through Anna's eyes we follow the story of the fateful year of 1666, as she and her fellow villagers confront the spread of disease and superstition. As death reaches into every household and villagers turn from prayers to murderous witch-hunting, Anna must find the strength to confront the disintegration of her community and the lure of illicit love. As she struggles to survive and grow, a year of catastrophe becomes instead annus mirabilis, a "year of wonders."*

The Zoom invitation will be sent out the day before.

The October book for discussion is Tina Fey's *Bossy Pants*.

Abstracted from Goodreads: *Before Liz Lemon, before "Weekend Update," before "Sarah Palin," Tina Fey was just a young girl with a dream: a recurring stress dream that she was being chased through a local airport by her middle-school gym teacher. She also had a dream that one day she would be a comedian on TV. She has seen both these dreams come true.*



## CALENDAR

**September 8, 1:00 pm:** Falls Church Branch ROV postcard party at Mary Riley Stiles Library, 120 N. Virginia Ave. Falls Church, VA

**September 12, 7:30 pm:** Branch meeting **in person** with speaker Kathy Kleiman. Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church VA

**September 20, 7:30 pm:** Book Club on Zoom

**September 28, 5:00 pm:** AAUW-VA Public Policy meeting via Zoom

**September 28, 7:00 pm:** Virtual Movie Club on Zoom

## A HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY FOR MILLIE SCHREIBER



*An August gathering of Falls Church AAUW branch members paraded in decorated cars to celebrate long-time member Millie Schreiber's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday! Those who could not attend in person sent cards and emails to show their love and appreciation for Millie's ongoing commitment to chapter goals and activities. You are an inspiration, Millie!*



*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.*