

THE FLASH

FALLS CHURCH AAUW

VOLUME 73, NUMBER 8
OCTOBER 1, 2022



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Hello Members!

As promised, we had a fantastic program on September 12, 2022. Thank you, Aida and Susan, for arranging for Kathie Kleiman, lawyer, professor and author of *Proving Ground*, to speak to us. She's a dynamic speaker, full of life and stories of women who made a difference in World War II and played key roles in the development of the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer (the "ENIAC") – the first programmable, electronic, general-purpose digital computer. I now have several signed copies of Kleiman's book in our Santa bag to give as Christmas gifts.



Last month we spoke of the "new normal," which means in person meetings when possible. On October 10, our speaker, Nikki Graves Henderson, Executive Director at Tinner Hill Foundation, will discuss the founding families and prominent activists from the historically black community of Tinner Hill. For example, Mary Ellen Henderson ("Miss Nelli"), together with her husband, Edwin B Henderson, fought back and defeated the segregation ordinance the town of Falls Church proposed in 1915, which would have confined African Americans to a small section of town, even though they lived beside white neighbors at the time. The group they formed to protest this action was the forerunner to the first rural chapter of the NAACP, located here in Falls Church. Mary Ellen Henderson also taught school and served as the principal in the Colored School. Frustrated with poor conditions, in 1936, she completed a ground-breaking study, which highlighted the disparity between black and white schools, persuading the community to build a new school for African-American students. There is so much more! The October 10 meeting will be at the Falls Church Community Center at 7:30 p.m., and we look forward to seeing everyone.

Our 2022-2023 goal to find a new normal for FC AAUW includes identifying and implementing new fundraising ideas and rethinking how the funds we do raise will be allocated for local scholarships, local projects, and AAUW national. The Funds Allocation Committee will make a recommendation to the Board in October. The recommendation also will be brought to the membership for a vote at the November 14 branch meeting. The Alternative Fundraising Committee is forming and will begin meeting this



year. Would you please consider joining? Please email Aida Loomis and Susan Conklin if you are interested. Join the fun and see what we can come up with!

Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) efforts continue! We are getting out the vote in Georgia! Join the fun on Thursday, October 6, 2022, from 1 to 3 p.m. for a post card writing gathering at the Mary Styles Riley library in Falls Church!

Looking forward to seeing all of you on Monday evening, October 10, 7:30 p.m. at the Falls Church Community Center. Please come a few minutes early, say hello and catch up with old friends before our guest, begins speaking at 7:40 p.m.

Aida Loomis, Co-President
Sharon K. Zackula, Co-President

BRANCH MEETING MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

Tinner Hill Program



On 10 October 2022, Nikki Graves will speak to our branch on the history of Tinner Hill. Tinner Hill has been recognized as being the location where the first rural branch of the National Association for the Protection of Colored People (NAACP) was initiated in the United States. In 1915, a few brave African American citizens—led by E.B. Henderson and Joseph Tinner—fought an ordinance that was proposed that would have segregated housing. They called themselves the Colored Citizens Protective League (CCPL). The group evolved to become the first rural branch of the NAACP in the nation. Tinner Hill Historic Park is home to some of Falls Church's most interesting post-Civil War history. Nikki Graves, a longtime resident, will speak on the sites and historical markers. Please join us for a look at history at 7:30 pm on 10 October at the Falls Church Community Center.

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

On Wednesday, September 28, AAUW-VA Branch Public Policy Chairs and other members interested in public policy met via Zoom with Janine Greenwood and Denise Murden, Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy. Janine gave a presentation on AAUW being nonpartisan and political, which means that the organization and its members advocate for a variety of issues that benefit women and girls but do not endorse party candidates or support a particular party. Members are encouraged to engage with their elected officials to explain AAUW's public policy priorities and to advocate for legislation that would carry out those priorities. During the election cycle, if a Branch holds a candidate forum or issue discussion, all candidates must be given an opportunity to participate. It is also appropriate for AAUW members to encourage others to vote and to register eligible voters, but must do so without considering how they will vote. Of course, these guidelines do not preclude individual members from supporting a specific candidate or party in their personal capacity as long as it is clear they are not doing so as representatives of AAUW.

Denise spoke about AAUW-VA's legislative and public policy priorities for the 2023 General Assembly Session. The biggest issue to be considered by the Assembly will be ensuring access to abortion and a woman's right to make her own personal reproductive decisions with her medical practitioner without outside interference. Also on the agenda are: eliminating systemic racism and sexism which includes transgender individuals; affordable child care (which is now supported by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce so we may see movement on this issue); protecting full access to voting, including restoration of rights to felons who have served their sentences; and ensuring public schools are fully funded and teachers are protected from harassment and liability.

During discussion of the upcoming election in November, Denise mentioned that Virginians, when requesting an absentee ballot, are now able to choose an option to automatically get absentee ballots in the future and encouraged us to share this information with others. Janine is working on voter guides for four Virginia Congressional races: Dist. 2 – Luria vs Kiggans; Dist. 7- Spanberger vs Vega; Dist. 10 - Wexton vs Chao; Dist. 11 - Connolly vs Myles. The guides will compare the candidates' positions on AAUW public policy priorities; Janine will send the guides to the Branches for distribution soon. She will also send out a link to an app that enables a person to report any signs of harassment observed at the polls.

Important dates for your calendar:

January 5, 2023 – Public Policy Zoom meeting at 5 pm

January 18, 2023 – Reception for women legislators in Richmond (evening – in person)

January 19, 2023 – Lobby Day in Richmond (in person)

March 30, 2023 – Public Policy Zoom meeting at 5 pm

More information about Lobby Day and the reception for women legislators will be forthcoming as plans are finalized.



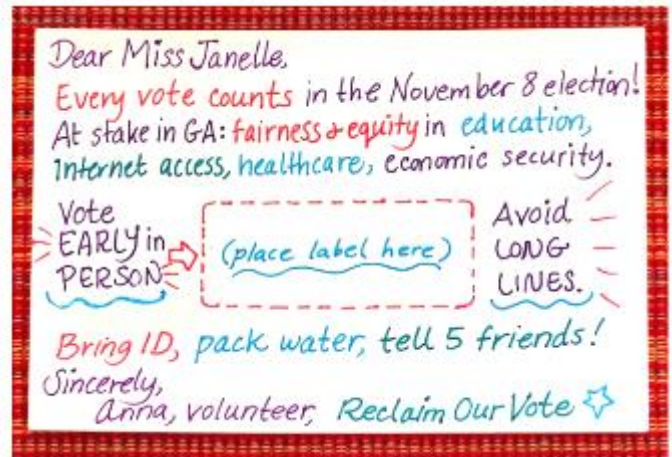
ROV POSTCARDS

GOTV POSTCARD FOR GEORGIA- MAIL OCT 10-20

Thanks to the 19 members and friends who have committed to writing to 1200 Georgia voters, urging them to vote on November 8. We will mail the Get-out-the Vote (GOTV) cards in the window between Oct 10 and 20th. So, there is still time to write more cards.

To write postcards... If you want to be included in the Georgia campaign, there is still time! A sample card is to the right. Just RSVP to me ([MollieJewell2 at 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). You can pick them up at Mollie's, 3715 Tollgate Terrace, 22041 or at the card-writing party on Oct 6. Also 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 Black voters who are likely not contacted by other groups, prioritizing areas with hotly contested races that could impact voting rights. This helps ensure that your work has the maximum impact.

POSTCARD WRITING PARTY- THURSDAY AFTERNOON- OCT 6

To kick off the Georgia GOTV postcards campaign, we'll get together for a postcard writing party on Thursday afternoon October 6th. Just bring a pen, we'll provide the rest: cards, script, instructions, addresses, etc. Check your email for the time and location. Friends and relatives welcome!

Lunch? Plan to join us for lunch beforehand at North Side Social at 11:30. This is nothing formal, just grab a bite and look for us at the restaurant, 205 Park Avenue, Falls Church, near the FC Community Center where we hold many of our meetings.

Mark your calendar now. You (and your friends) are invited to GOTV postcard writing party,

Date/time: Thursday afternoon Oct 6, 1-3:00pm

Place: Mary Riley Stiles Library, 120 N. Virginia Avenue, Falls Church

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

Editors' Note In order to protect our members' email addresses from being hacked, we have removed the "@" in email addresses and substituted the word "at." Whenever an email address appears in our newsletter or our website, it is written as follows: MollieJewell2 at gmail.com. Apparently, it is the "@" sign that enables hackers to access email accounts. Simply copy the phrase into an email "To" line, replace the word "at" with the "@" sign, and remove all spaces to re-construct a usable address

GET OUT THE VOTE POSTCARDS, A PROGRESS REPORT

FC AAUW has worked on 17 initiatives to write get-out-the-vote (GOTV) postcards aimed at minority voters in the South since the summer of 2020. Since then, the total postcards we have written has reached 16,090!

So far this calendar year (2022) alone, FC AAUW members have written 6,500 postcards for primaries in Texas, Alabama, and Florida and the election in VA and Georgia. Gives you something to think about!

Why write postcards? We write in honor of Kitty Richardson, our past Diversity Chairperson, 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 Black voters.

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

INTERESTED IN REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS?

Join a group of FC AAUW members in attending the Arena Stage production of "My Body No Choice" at the Saturday Oct 22, matinee after the AAUW Northern Virginia District meeting. The show is general admission (no assigned seat), so you can just buy your own tickets. The cost for the Oct 22 matinee is \$18, buy tickets online at <https://tickets.arenastage.org/34532#:~:text=In%20My%20Body%20No%20Choice,experience%3B%20theirs%20or%20a%20friend's>. or call the box office at **202-488-3300** (hours Tuesday - Sunday, noon - 8 p.m.).

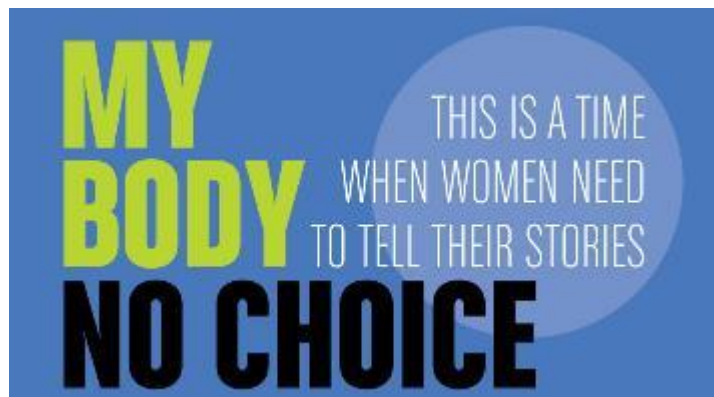
Transportation. If you want to carpool, contact Mollie Jewell, 703-941-5643, [MollieJewell2 at gmail.com](mailto:MollieJewell2@gmail.com) and tell me if you need a ride or if you can drive (and the number of passengers). I will try to ensure transportation for people who contact me.

Meet after. We will meet after the play at Northside Social near the Community Center for beverages and snacks if you want to join us.

Here's information on the play from the Arena Stage website.

Monologues by Lee Cataluna, Fatima Dyfan, Lisa Loomer, Dael Orlandersmith, Sarah Ruhl, Mary Hall Surface, V (formerly Even Ensler), and "Anonymous"

Directed by Molly Smith
Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle
October 20 – November 6, 2022



In June 2022, reproductive rights took a giant leap backwards when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. In the United States, we can drive when we turn 16, and vote when we turn 18. But we no longer have the bodily autonomy to make the choices that will impact us the most. In *My Body No Choice*, Molly Smith's final directorial venture for Arena Stage, eight of America's most exciting female playwrights share what choice means to them, through the telling of fiction and non-fiction stories rooted in personal experience; theirs or a friend's. Because this is a time when women need to tell their stories. Full price \$18. In summary:

Event: My Body, No Choice at Arena Stage followed by a meet-up at North Side Social

Date: Sat. Oct 22, 1:30 pm after Northern VA District Meeting

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

Tickets: Buy your own.

Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights (“GRR!”) is a national group of feisty and bold grandmothers and elders working for a world where all people have access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care, including abortions.



Rebecca Shaw, a Falls Church member, is having a “get to know GRR!” gathering at her home and simultaneously on Zoom on October 19th at 7 pm. The Zoom event will be led by the GRR! Education Outreach Director. Shaw invites AAUW Falls Church Area branch members who might be interested.

GRR! (<http://grandmothersforreproductiverights.org>) has some interesting projects, including local education for university students about anti-abortion centers also known as Crisis Pregnancy Centers. These centers lure vulnerable pregnant people into their centers with free pregnancy tests, limited ultrasounds and free baby products to persuade people not to have abortions. According to Shaw, there are many fake clinics right here in Northern Virginia. Shaw hopes to identify core group to reach out to colleges and universities in our area to expose these centers.

BRANCH NEWS AROUND THE NORTHERN DISTRICT

Arlington Branch- Monday, October 17, 7 -9 pm via zoom (link provided closer to meeting) – Arlington’s Missing Middle Draft Housing Framework with Pat Findikoglu, via zoom. This is an opportunity to learn more about the draft framework, ask questions and engage with each other on this important issue in our community.

Vienna Branch- Tuesday, October 11, 2022 6:30 PM, Doors Open 7 PM, Program Starts Patrick Henry Library, Vienna - Presenting our program on October 11 will be two NAMI-trained volunteers who will share their own personal journeys toward wellness. This will be a chance to hear open and honest perspectives on a highly misunderstood topic.

It Only Takes Two Minutes!

Join AAUW in urging Congress to improve and expand legislation protecting our civil rights, economic security, and access to education

MOVIE GROUP

The opening line in our September film, *This Changes Everything*, was that "the basis of your thinking is determined by the images you see. Whose values are important? Whose stories are important?" The September program speaker Kathy Kleiman's book *Proving Ground* had its origins when she was a computer programming student at Harvard in search of role models in computer programming.



The October film choice, *A Call to Spy* is based on Sarah Purnell's book, *A Woman Of No Importance*. It is about a British "spymistress" who recruits two unimaginable candidates, Virginia Hall, an ambitious American with a wooden leg and Noor Inayat Khan an Indian Muslim pacifist Together, these women helped to undermine the Nazis in France. *A Call To Spy* was a woman written, directed and produced film.

Both Ms. Kleiman's and Ms. Purnell's books have in their complete titles the words, **UNTOLD STORIES**. Why? How do we change that? How do we change untold stories to told and retold stories? To paraphrase the end of *This Changes Everything*, "...when audiences decide to read these books and see these films...It is our job."

Watch *A Call To Spy* on Netflix Streaming. Join the group on zoom on Wednesday, October 26th 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!



Upcoming in November is the new Netflix release of *Persuasion*.

BOOK CLUB

OCTOBER 18: Pioneering Women Authors



Bossy Pants Tina Fey

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.

NOVEMBER 15: Nobel Prize Winning Authors

Gravel Heart Abdulrazak Gurnah

A powerful story of exile, migration, and betrayal, from the Booker Prize shortlisted author of *Paradise*.

Salim has always known that his father does not want him. Living with his parents and his adored Uncle Amir in a house full of secrets, he is a bookish child, a dreamer haunted by night terrors. It is the 1970s and Zanzibar is changing. Tourists arrive, the island's white sands obscuring the memory of recent conflict--the longed-for independence from British colonialism swiftly followed by bloody revolution. When his father moves out, retreating into disheveled introspection, Salim is confused and ashamed. His mother does not discuss the change, nor does she explain her absences with a strange man; silence is layered on silence.



All meetings are at 7:30 P.M. via Zoom; the invitation to the meeting will be sent out the day before the meeting. Everyone in the chapter is invited; we look forward to seeing you!

Polly Rosenstein for Falls Church AAUW book group

CALENDAR

October 6	1-3:00 pm	Postcard Party at Mary Riley Stiles Library, 120 N. Virginia Ave. Falls Church
October 10	7:30 pm	Branch meeting in person with speaker Nikki Graves Henderson, Executive Director at Tinner Hill Foundation- Falls Church Community Center
October 18	7:30 pm	Book Club on Zoom- <i>Bossy Pants</i> by Tina Fey
October 19	7:00pm	GRR! In person and Zoom Meeting
October 22	10:00 am	District Meeting on ZOOM with AAUW Chief Executive Officer Gloria Blackwell
	1:30pm	<i>My Body, No Choice</i> at Arena Stage followed by a meet-up at North Side Social
October 26	7:00 pm	Virtual Movie Club on Zoom- <i>A Call to Spy</i> on Netflix
November 14	7:30pm	Branch Meeting in person- Falls Church Community Center

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender and board of directors. There shall be no barriers identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

