### ***AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH***

### Volume 73, Number 9

### NOVember 1, 2022

# Presidents’ Messsage



Dear Members,

 We look forward to seeing you on November 14, 2022, 7:30 p.m. for our branch meeting. The number of very competitive races in the mid-term election highlight the importance of voting! Professor Jennifer Ritterhouse, George Mason University, will speak about the long campaign to obtain the vote for women, women activists involved in the fight, and racial factors and differences at play during the fight for women’s suffrage and afterwards. **Vote! Bring 5 Friends!** And, thank Susan Conklin and Sally Brett for bringing Professor Ritterhouse to us.

 We also thank Susan and Sally for inviting Nikki Graves Henderson to speak at our branch meeting on October 10. Henderson’s prominence in and activism on behalf of the Tinner Hill community, and deep knowledge of the history of African Americans in Falls Church are unmatched. She discussed Tinner Hill’s founding families, and shared stories about members of the community who risked their lives to educate slaves and free Black citizens, and Tinner Hill’s courageous fight during the Jim Crow era against residential segregation. She later also graciously led members on a walking tour of Tinner Hill landmarks and historic houses.

*We Need Your Input and Vote!* FC AAUW is identifying new fundraising ideas and rethinking how the funds we raise will be allocated for local scholarships, local projects, and AAUW national. At the November 11 meeting, the Funds Allocation Committee will present recommendations to the membership and request a vote. The recommendations provide for: (1) spending a certain portion of the Education Fund (to award local scholarships in April 2023, to donate funds to AAUW national in support of its many programs in December 2022, and to reserve funds for any identified local Special Projects); and (2) retaining a designated amount of the Education Fund to give the branch flexibility this year and next as the branch transitions from a spring booksale fundraiser to other fundraising activities. The amount retained would provide the branch with funds to award scholarships in April 2024, and continue to support AAUW’s national programs and local Special Projects. Money would also be retained to pre-fund expenses incurred as the FC AAUW tests new fundraising ideas.

 The Fundraising Task Force also is forming and needs your input. The Fundraising Task Force Kick Off meeting was held on October 31, 2022, 2 p.m. (Zoom).  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 by the branch continued through October 20, 2022. Thanks to everyone who came to the postcard party on October 6, 2022 for the last communal round of writing! FC AAUW can be proud of our “Get Out The Vote” efforts for the November elections. Since 2020, when the branch began writing postcards to urge voters to participate in their elections, FC AAUW has contacted over 16,000 voters by postcard, urging them to register, vote and “**bring 5 friends**!”

 Looking forward to seeing all of you on Monday evening, November 14, 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, Professor Ritterhouse, begins speaking at 7:40 p.m. and **BRING 5 FRIENDS!**

Aida Loomis, Co-President

Sharon K. Zackula, Co-President

# branch meeting

# PROFESSOR JENNIFER RITTERHOUSE to speak on Women’s Activism

# MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 7:30 PM

A person wearing glasses

Description automatically generated with low confidenceWe are pleased and honored to host Professor Jennifer Ritterhouse of George Mason University as our November speaker. Professor Ritterhouse will focus her program on the suffrage movement and women’s activism in general, with some comparison/contrast of how white and black women fought for suffrage differently and how the more inclusive goals of black women needed to become the goals of women’s activism more generally—a point that ties into her current work on the 1970s ACLU Southern Women’s Rights Project.

Dr. Ritterhouse earned her B.A at Harvard University and her M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is the author of *Discovering the South: One Man's Travels Through a Changing America in the 1930s* (UNC Press, 2017) and *Growing Up Jim Crow: How Black and White Southern Children Learned Race*(UNC Press, 2006), as well as several articles. She is the editor of a reprint edition of Sarah Patton Boyle’s autobiography, *The Desegregated Heart: A Virginian’s Stand in Time of Transition* (UVA Press, 2001), and one of several co-editors of *Remembering Jim Crow: African Americans Tell About Life in the Segregated South* (New Press, 2001). She teaches classes on the 20th-century U.S., the U.S. South, research methods, and other topics.

Her recent book, *Discovering the South: One Man's Travels through a Changing America in the 1930s* (UNC Press, 2017), explores the politics and culture of a crucial period in United States history by following North Carolina newspaper editor Jonathan Daniels on a sweeping tour of the southern states in 1937. Written in an engaging, narrative style, *Discovering the South*examines several interrelated topics, from the New Deal's impact on the South, to the literary and intellectual history of the Southern Renaissance, to the race, class and gender dynamics evident in the tragic Scottsboro case and planters' and industrialists' violent responses to labor organizing.

We hope you will be able to join us on Monday, November 14, 7:30 pm, in person at the Falls Church Community Center for this educational and enlightening program.

# save the date

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**Time To Party!**

**Saturday, 10 December at 12:30 pm**

**The Italian Cafe**

Get your calendars out and mark the date to join us for our annual Branch Holiday Party on Saturday, **December 10 at 12:30 pm** at The Italian Café, 7161 Lee Highway; Falls Church,VA.

Fun activities are being planned to accompany your three-course meal, along, of course, with the opportunity to socialize with fellow members and introduce yourself to new members.

The menu will include;

**First Course**

House salad with mixed greens

**Second Course**

Choice of one:

Rigatoni Matshonia

Pollo “Mona Lisa”

Sautéed Tilapia

**Third Course**

Tiramisu with chocolate sauce and whipped cream



Breadbasket, and coffee, tea or soft drinks are included, as are tip and tax.  Alcohol will be available at the cash bar to be paid separately.**All this for $33.50 per person!**

A change from last year, **members may bring a guest to join in the fun**.  There will be a variety of activities in keeping with the holiday spirit.  Starting on 14 November you can reserve a spot by emailing:  [sconklin00@gmail.com](mailto:sconklin00@gmail.com) or at the 14 Nov branch meeting.

# Public policy updates

**2022 Election**

We are currently in the midst of an election, the outcome of which will have a significant impact on women and their families -- from pay equity to paid sick leave and family medical leave, from access to reproductive health care to access to education.  Every vote will count.  If you are not one of the several million American who have already voted, be sure to make your voice heard by voting in person early by November 5, the last day early voting is allowed, or on Election Day, November 8; encourage your friends, neighbors and relatives to do likewise.  For further information about locations and hours for early voting and voting on November 8, contact your local Registrar’s Office.

**Virginia General Assembly 2023**

The Virginia General Assembly will convene at noon on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, and is scheduled to adjourn on Friday, February 24, 2023.  In preparation for this short legislative session, Branch Public Policy Chairs and interested members will meet with the AAUW-VA Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy via Zoom on **Thursday, January 5, 2023, at 5 p.m**.  A link for the meeting will be sent in December.

AAUW-VA’s legislative and policy agenda for the session includes:

* Protect access to abortion and women’s right to make personal reproductive decisions with their medical care providers
* Eliminate systemic racism and sexism, which includes transgender individuals, through changes to Virginia law and regulations
* Make childcare affordable and readily available for all families (This issue is now  
  supported by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, so we may see movement on it.)
* Protect full access to voting, including restoration of rights to felons who have served their  
  sentences
* Ensure full public-school funding and protect teachers from harassment and liability claims.
* This year AAUW-VA is planning an in-person Lobby Day on Thursday, January 19, 2023, in Richmond where we will meet with Senators and/or Delegates to share AAUW-VA’s public policy agenda and ask for their support for legislation pertaining to these and other issues of importance to women and their families.  The prior evening, January 18, 2023, AAUW-VA will hold a reception for women legislators.  More information about Lobby Day and the reception will be provide as plans are finalized.
* Finally, there will be another Public Policy Zoom meeting on March 30, 2023, at 5 pm to review the accomplishments and disappointments of the 2023 General Assembly and to begin planning for the 2024 session.

**AAUW-VA Comments on Transgender Students Policy**

On October 3, the AAUW-VA Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy submitted the following comment in response to the Virginia Department of Education’s Proposed Model Policies concerning transgender students issued in September:

**Re: AAUW-VA Comment on the Proposed 2022 Model Policies on the Privacy, Dignity, and Respect for All Students in Virginia’s Public Schools**

When the Virginia legislature adopted legislation in 2020 that required the Department of Education to provide school boards with model policies to support young students as they navigate the complex path to establishing their personal identity, AAUW of VA and its members applauded the protection of transgendered students’ rights. Model policies issued in 2021 after the legislation provided clear guidelines for local school boards to follow in establishing local policy.

The new model policies issued by the Virginia Department of Education clearly contradict the intention of the legislature in passing the original bill, which will only serve to confuse both school districts and individual educators. In addition, many legal scholars have stated that the proposed policy would require districts and teachers to violate Federal and Virginia law. Both the divergence from the original statutory intent of the legislature and the conflict with existing legal principles will lead to ongoing litigation, the cost of which will divert critically needed education dollars from the classroom.

From preschool through high school, most children encounter some degree of “gender tracking”—stereotypes and expectations that can set them on a lifelong path. Gender tracking in early education explains why so many professions continue to be highly gendered, with women disproportionately in lower-paying fields.

While these stereotypes inhibit all students from being their authentic self, transgender and gender-nonconforming students suffer even more, as many schools are ill-equipped to accommodate students outside the gender binary.

AAUW supports public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity, including vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education and the enforcement of such laws. Therefore, we urge the Department of Education to revise the proposed guidelines to conform with the original intent of the legislature and to comply with Federal law.

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Greenwood and Denise Murden, Co-VP for Public Policy AAUW-VA

*NOTE:  The comment period is closed, and the Department of Education is currently reviewing the comments it received and may make recommendations based on those comments, according the Department spokesman.  A final policy will not be issued until after November 26.*

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**GET OUT THE VOTE POSTCARDS 2022**

Thanks to the many members and friends who have written to voters urging them to vote on November 8.  With the mailing of the last batch of Get-out-the Vote (GOTV) cards on Oct 25, we have completed our postcards for the November 8th election.  Now after all that, **REMEMBER to VOTE**.

The statistics are that we wrote **4,020 postcards for the 2022 election**, bring out total postcards since July 2020 to 16, 590!  Woo, that’s some hand cramps.

Text

Description automatically generatedFor 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.

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

**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

# Logo, company name Description automatically generatedOur FUNDRAISING FUTURE

*Fundraising for scholarships has been a primary focus of AAUW, nationally, regionally and locally since its inception in 1881. The Falls Church branch, for almost 40 years, has exceled in this arena chiefly through our annual book sale, which, sadly we can no longer manage. The issue of storage space and accompanying fees added to the sheer physical labor of sorting, moving and setting up almost 20,000 books this past April is no longer reasonable. We are not alone. Reston-Herndon, McLean and others have also suspended their book sales and are seeking new ways to keep the scholarship funds rich in order to support young women seeking to advance their educations. It was a central discussion at October’s Northern District meeting.*

In addition to raising funds for scholarships, the branch contributes annually to AAUW National to help fund important initiatives that advance the growing scope of the organization’s mission—initiatives such as Work Smart, which trains women to get paid for their true value; and legislative lobbying to advance gender equity. At last month's All-District VA Meeting there were some words that really resonated with me.  AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell talked about **sustainability** and **impact**.Cheryl Spohnholtz, VP of Membership spoke about **discoverability.**And Co-VP of DEI, Meg Tucillo said that DEI should also include a**B for Belonging,**Fundraising is a way to maintain the present and secure our future. Fundraising is a way for our friends and neighbors to discover our organization and the positive effect we have on the community. And fundraising reinforces why we belong to the Falls Church Branch of AAUW, our desire to promote the mission of gender equity through education, research and advocacy.

I wanted to give a big shout out to members Mary Beth Gannon, Bunny Jarrett,Clare O'Sheel, Sarah Flores Shannon, Mollie Jewell,Susan Conklin and Dianne Bodeen for their willingness to identify fundraising opportunities for our branch. We are early in navigating the process so the what, when, where, and how have not been mapped out. Luckily, the why is clear and that provides direction. If you would like to join this team or participate on an as needed basis let us know. Your help would be greatly appreciated. We hope to have an initial update for the branch by the November 14th Branch meeting.

**The Fundraising Task Team wants to hear from you!** Join us on **Monday November 14th** at 7:00 PM prior to our branch program. Share your ideas, questions, and prior success fundraising stories.

So, let's get started and turn FUNDRAI$ING into **FUNRAI$ING**!

Aida Loomis

# Branch news Around the Northern District

**November Events:**

* Saturday, November 19th, 1 pm – Tour of the Women’s Military Memorial, guided by **Sandy Lawrence, past president of Virginia State AAUW and Retired Navy Commander**.  Come join us for this unique opportunity to learn about the history (herstory!) of women in our country’s military.  The Women’s Military Memorial is located at Memorial Ave and Schley Dr, Arlington 22203 with parking available at the Arlington National Cemetery visitor lot located on Military Ave.(picture ID such as driver’s license required)



* Please join Springfield/Annandale Branch on Saturday, November 19 at 10:00 am-noon at the Pohick Regional Branch Library to hear **Justice Thomas Mann, Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court**.
* The Springfield-Annandale Branch is again selling White House ornaments as a fundraiser.  The ornament is the White House gingerbread house first displayed by First Lady Pat Nixon.  Each ornament is $24.00.  Please make checks payable to Springfield-Annandale AAUW.   If you are interested, contact Ann Sauberman, [absauberman@aol.com](mailto:absauberman@aol.com).

**Together We Bake—**

**Empowering Women Since 2012**

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**Come join the AAUW Alexandria Branch on a visit to  Together We Bake (TWB) at 212 S. Washington St.,  Alexandria, on Fri., November 18, 2022, 10-11:30 a.m.**

Together We Bake is a job training program to help women within the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area in need - women involved in the criminal justice system, facing long-term unemployment, and/or experiencing homelessness. Together We Bake’s mission is to help women gain self-confidence, transferable workforce skills, and invaluable hands-on experience which will allow them to find sustainable employment and move toward self-sufficiency.

Thanks to TWB Co-Founder/Executive Director Stephanie Wright and some alumni of the program for hosting us on-site to learn about the job training program and how it empowers women.

Because space is limited, advance sign up is required no later than November 16.

Sign Up Here: https://www.signupgenius.com/

*• Free 2-hr. on-street parking is available on adjoining streets. • Masks are required when not eating or drinking.*

**Upcoming in December:**

**Del. Ken Plum “The State of the Commonwealth of Virginia” December 8, 2022, at 3:00 pm by Zoom.**  Del. Plum is in his 42nd year of service representing the 36th District in the Virginia House of Delegates. He is a retired teacher and school administrator, having been employed by the Fairfax County Public Schools for nearly 30 years.  His many years as a delegate and as a member of the community always provide very valuable insights as we move into the new legislative year in January.  Many of you will remember these presentations which were an annual part of our Branch calendar in the “before time” and we happy to continue this tradition by Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88542791643?pwd=Q3JHS3g0R2hUNG9sRDhUZ1JYQUQyZz09>

# movie and book groups

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**Let’s Go to the Movies**

**Virtual Movie Club**

The Virtual Movie Club will be discussing **Persuasion**, our last movie of 2022, on **Wednesday, November 30** at 7:00 pm**.** 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? The movie, as with all movies chosen by the group, can be viewed on Netflix Streaming.

Please call or text Aida at 703 966 8050 if you are interested in joining any of our film discussion evenings. All are welcome!

The virtual film group will be taking a brief intermission in December, so we are now requesting suggestions for films that would trigger interesting discussions. Nominations will be accepted up to Sunday November 13th.

The virtual movie dates for winter are: Jan. 25; Feb. 27 and March 22.



***If you love movies on the big screen, there is often a group going to a local theater to catch the latest on Wednesdays. Contact Susan Conklin at sconklin00@gmail.com if you would like to join in the fun!***



**Let’s Talk About Books!**

**Book Club** will be discussing ***Gravel Heart*** by 2021 Nobel Prize Winner Abdulrazak Gurnah on Zoom, Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00 pm.

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Description automatically generatedFrom Kirkus: *A boy searches for answers, home, his identity, and his destiny after mysterious family circumstances transplant him from his native Zanzibar to London.* *A veteran novelist who was born in Zanzibar and has long been a professor of literature in England, Gurnah (The Last Gift, 2014, etc.) offers a first-person narrative involving rites of passage for a character whose circumstances are similar to his own. At a pivotal point the narrator says, “I felt like a character at the end of a novel on his way to adventure and fulfilment.” Not so fast, for the protagonist has barely made his way through a third of this tale, and fulfillment might not be a realistic expectation. What little he’s learned about the world has come from reading novels, a passion he inherited from his father, who has abandoned the household in something resembling disgrace, with the son sent to England to study business under the patronage of his more worldly, glamorous uncle. “Something broke in my father’s life a long time ago and I was the debris of [my parents’] disordered lives,” says Salim, as he has belatedly introduced himself. The source of this disorder remains a mystery to Salim even after the birth of a sister whose father could not possibly be his. He angers his uncle by rejecting business for the study of literature and finds a measure of independence as he experiences a sexual awakening. Yet his mother’s death brings him back to a very different Zanzibar, post-revolutionary and now teeming with tourists. His father, who had been all but silent throughout his son’s narration, now feels himself compelled to illuminate the dark secrets that have split his family, and he does so through a series of chapters that function almost like soliloquies, letting Salim know what his mother did and why.*

The Zoom Invitation will be sent out the day before.

In December the group will discuss books they have read or are reading that others might enjoy. No assignment, just a lively discussion of the books you love and the opportunity to develop your 2023 reading list!

# Calendar

* **November 14, 7:30 pm:** Branch Meeting (in person) with speaker Professor Jennifer Ritterhouse, Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church, VA.
* **November 15, 7:00 pm:** Book Club (Zoom)
* **November 28, 7:30 pm:** Board Meeting (Zoom)
* **November 30, 7:00 pm:** Virtual Movie Group (Zoom)
* **December 10, 12:30-2:30 pm:** Holiday Party/Branch Meeting, Italian Café, 7161 Lee Highway, Falls Church, VA.



# share your professional expertise with students

Marybeth Connelly, a member of AAUWFC, and Director, Strategic Planning and Community Engagement for the Falls Church City Schools reminds us that the **Meridian HS Career Chat Program** is back in person and is excited to welcome professionals from many careers to chat with their students. The opportunity for students to meet real people and learn about different career choices and achievements is invaluable as they begin to think about life beyond high school. All professions and career paths are welcome!

There will be four sessions for students throughout this year. They will all be in person from 9:30-11:30 am at the high school.

* Monday, November 14
* Monday, February 6
* Monday, March 20
* Monday, May 15

Please complete this [form](https://forms.gle/cnJKKn5ZBvBK44XG8) if you are interested or reach out to Regan at [davisr@fccps.org](mailto:davisr@fccps.org)

There is nothing more rewarding than having your life experiences become inspiration for a young person, we hope you will share yours!

# Around the town with AAUW FALLS CHURCH

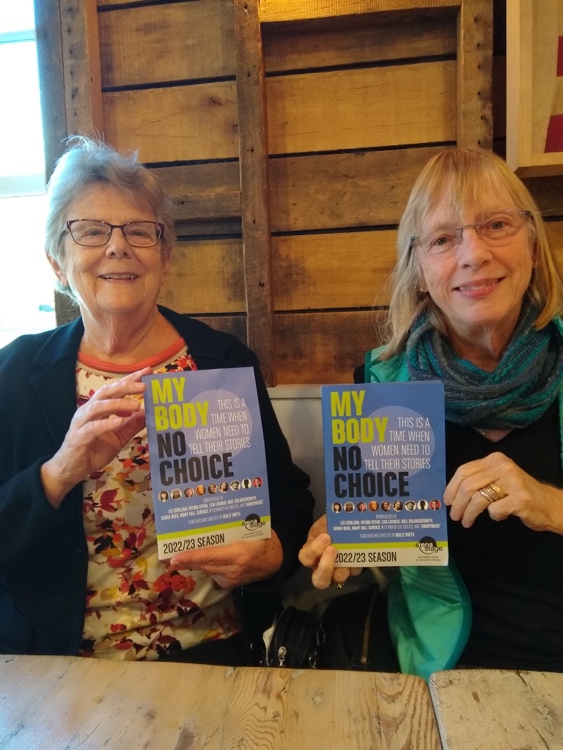
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Tinner Hill Tour

*Following her presentation at the October branch meeting historian and co-founder of the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation Nikki Graves Henderson offered to give us a personal tour of the historic Tinner Hill neighborhood in the City of Falls Church. On a beautiful fall afternoon, the group heard the stories of the bricks made by slaves for The Falls Church, the courageous white family that educated slaves, and the founding of the first rural branch of the NAACP right here on Tinner Hill. We are most grateful to Dr. Hill for the gift of her time and her knowledge.*

A sign on a brick wall

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**Saturday at Arena Stage**

*Six members of FC AAUW attended “My Body No Choice” at Arena Stage on October 22nd.  If you have the chance, the group highly recommends this production, which runs through November 6.*

*Arena’s describes the play … “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.”*

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***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 based on age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.***