

## THE FLASH

### FALLS CHURCH AAUW

VOLUME 73, NUMBER 10

DECEMBER 5, 2022



## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

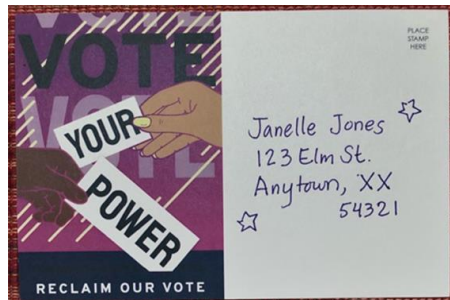
In October, Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO was the keynote speaker for an All District AAUW VA meeting. Her themes focused on visibility, sustainability, impact and belonging. I have thought about all of them but recently I have really been thinking about visibility. The last 2 plus years have been tough on visibility. Distance and time diminish what we can see. So when we were able to break the isolation and the distance, I physically felt the light beginning to shine within me. It started in August 2022 with an email to our branch from a member's daughter who wanted birthday cards sent to celebrate her mother Millie's 90th birthday. Our branch responded in person with spray painted and ballooned cars and beeping horns. Oh girl, we were seen! Ultimately, though, what we saw was a loved mother and dear friend.



Visibility is opportunity. For the first time, our branch participated in the Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS) Tree Fest and Fundraiser, a silent auction of holiday trees! We submitted for auction a lovely and creatively decorated book-themed tree. The decorated tree illustrated the 40 year story of our used book sale and the impact the book sale has had on our Falls Church Community. The tree was on display at Ireland's 4 Provinces ("4Ps") on Friday December 2nd from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM and Saturday from 1:00 PM to 9 PM.! Thank you, Clare O'Sheel, for leading this FUNraiser and thank you, Mollie Jewell, Bunny Jarrett, Becky Gaul for making books and AAUW-themed decorations

Visibility is discovery. At our Fall 2022 programs we saw members we had not seen in over 24 months and, in some cases, met for the very first time. It was great to catch up on the last 2 years or hear your story for the first time up close and personal. Our fall programs were a great way to discover the richness and resources in our Falls Church community. Our thanks to Susan Conklin and Sally Brett for organizing great events.

This election season friends and members discovered what a powerhouse our postcard writing efforts were. Led by Mollie Jewell and Mary Youman, members and friends of the Branch wrote hundreds of postcards alone at a kitchen table, in small get-togethers or at organized card writing events at the Mary Riley Styles Library. Visibility is listening, talking and doing. Thank you to Mary Ellen Gannon and Martha Trunk for your work on the Funds Allocation Team. Thank you to the Fundraising Team of Clare O'Sheel, Susan Conklin, Mollie Jewell, Mary Ellen Gannon, Bunny Jarrett, Dianne Bodeen and Sarah Shannon. Your efforts will ensure that our branch remains sustainable and impactful.



Visibility is food and fun and friends. Join branch members at Italian Café on Saturday December 10th starting at 12:30. Let's discover, catch up and enjoy a moment together before the holidays. For more details and

payment information, call or email Susan Conklin at 703 869 7131 or [sconklin00atgmail.com](mailto:sconklin00atgmail.com). Feel free to invite friends.

Thank you for belonging to our Falls Church Area AAUW and making us feel that we belong too.

Happy Holidays!  
Aida and Sharon

## HOLIDAY PARTY

**Time To Party! Please come!**  
**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.

## TREEFEST AND FUNDRAISER



The decision last spring to discontinue the annual book sale that has been our major fundraising source for almost 40 years, left the organization with the need to discover its creativity, flexibility and resiliency, and identify new sources of funding for our scholarship program.

A committee to explore and recommend alternative fundraising plans was in its nascent stage in early November when an unexpected opportunity presented itself, and we said "why not?". So, with only a few weeks to prepare we came up with a theme and decorated a Christmas tree for the Seventh Annual Tree Fest sponsored by the Falls Church Preservation and Improvement Society on December 2 and 3, and **we have added \$125.00 to the scholarship fund!**

Perhaps more important than the funds raised, we demonstrated AAUWFC's contributions to the community, and we felt their support. We also proved ourselves creative, flexible and resilient! If you would like to join this intrepid group of fundraising planners contact Aida Loomis at [a7211ataol.com](mailto:a7211ataol.com).

Thank you to those who made decorations, and who came out to support our little tree. (Another by-product of this fundraising activity was a fun brunch at Ireland of the Four Provinces, site of Tree Fest, and a festive kick-off to the holiday season.)

## PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

### Virginia General Assembly 2023

As discussed in last month's Flash, the Virginia General Assembly will convene at noon on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, and is scheduled to adjourn on Friday, February 24, 2023. AAUW-VA has an ambitious legislative agenda including protecting women's reproductive rights, making childcare available and affordable to all Virginia families, protecting voting rights, eliminating sexism and racism, and ensuring full public school funding and protecting teachers from harassment and liability claims. For a further discussion see the Public Policy Update in the November Flash. The following provides a list of important dates in preparation for and during the Session:

**January 5, 2023 at 5 p.m.** – Zoom meeting with the Vice Presidents for Public Policy for all interested AAUW/VA members about AAUW-VA's plans for the 2023 Session. A link will be emailed to all Falls Church Branch members as soon it is available.

**January 18, 2023, evening** – In-person reception for women legislators in Richmond

**January 19, 2023, all day** – In-person Lobby Day in Richmond to share AAUW-VA's public policy agenda with Senators and Delegates and ask for their support.

A flyer about the reception, Lobby Day and two other events follows.

**March 30, 2023 at 5 p.m.** – Zoom Public Policy meeting to review the accomplishments and disappointments of the 2023 General Assembly and to begin planning for the 2024 session.

## League of Women Voters Pre-Session Legislative Outlook

Join the LWV for its annual look at what issues might be considered during the upcoming Virginia General Assembly Session. The Virginia LWV will hold an online overview of the 2023 legislative session on **Wednesday, December 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** The State Commissioner of the Department of Elections and the State Secretary of Finance will speak, and several public interest groups such as The Virginia Housing Alliance, Planned Parenthood, LWV, AAUW-VA, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy will discuss their agendas for the Session. A full list of participants is provided on the page where you register. Register on Eventbrite at **Pre-Session Outlook**.

### Reston-Herndon AAUW DECEMBER PROGRAM – THURSDAY DECEMBER 8 at 3PM

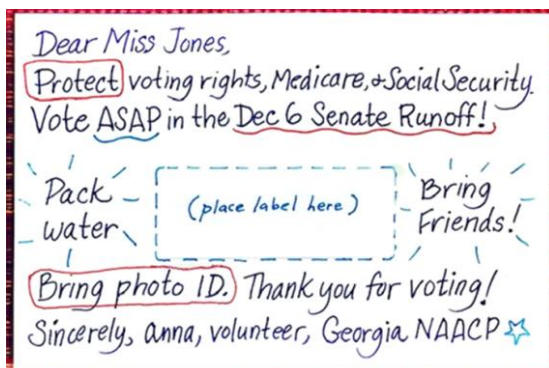
**Del. Ken Plum “The State of the Commonwealth of Virginia” December 8, 2022, at 3PM by Zoom.** Del. Plum is in his 42nd year of service representing the 36th District in the Virginia House of Delegates. He is a retired teacher and school administrator, having been employed by the Fairfax County Public 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 are happy to be able to continue this tradition by Zoom.

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

### Vienna and Reston-Herndon Joint Program

JANUARY 4 AT 7PM: Virginia Senators Boysko and Peterson on the Upcoming General Assembly Session. A joint program with the Vienna and Reston-Herndon branches on Zoom. To register for the Zoom program, please go to: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/9965758>

## HOLIDAY COLLECTION FOR ROV, THE GET OUT THE VOTE POSTCARDING ORGANIZERS



At the Holiday party, we will take up a donation for the organization that sponsored our postcard writing, [Reclaim Our Vote](#), a get out the vote campaign run by the Center for Common Ground. We have just finished the last campaign by writing 1,800 postcards for the Georgia runoff election through ROV which is a project of the Center for Common Ground.

Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) is a volunteer-driven, nonpartisan voter outreach campaign organized by the [Center for Common Ground of Virginia](#), a registered non-partisan 501 (c)3 organization.. In partnership with national organizations like the NAACP, Black

Voters Matter, DemLabs, Mi Familia Vota and VoteRiders. ROV has contacted millions of voters of color in voter suppression states to empower their full participation in elections. Our support will help them continue the work through phone banks and postcards, billboards and radio ads. Checks will be made payable to Center for Common Ground, 18459 Patriot Ln, Ruther Glen, VA 22546

## MOVIE GROUP



Let's Go To The Movies Virtually 2023  
December 2022 Intermission

As is often the case, the film selections for 2023 are based on books. The selected films take us from modern urban times to the mid-20th century South and back farther to 1860's Ireland. The first film selection *Where the Crawdads Sing* follows Kya, a poor Southern girl accused of murder. The

next choice is *The Good Nurse* based on a true story of serial killer Charles Cullen. The last film for the winter season is period piece *The Wonder* the story



of a nurse who is tasked to closely watch a fasting girl who supposedly has not eaten in months. The films will surely engage and generate lively conversation.



The group will continue to meet virtually via zoom on the 4th 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!

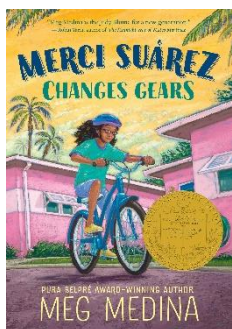
The schedule is as follows and all films can be watched through Netflix Streaming:

January 25<sup>th</sup> *Where the Crawdads Sing*  
February 22<sup>nd</sup> *The Good Nurse*  
March 22<sup>nd</sup> *The Wonder*

## BOOK CLUB

For December we will discuss books we have read that we would recommend to the group so give us your best ideas. Here are the prize winning books that received the most votes for Jan., Feb. And Mar: *Merci Suarez Changes Gears*, *Deer Season* and *The Years*. All meetings are via Zoom on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Everyone in the chapter is welcome to come; a Zoom invitation will be sent the day before the meeting. December 20<sup>th</sup>: best ideas

January 17<sup>th</sup>: *Merci Suarez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina, Newberry Medal 2019, 355 pages



Thoughtful, strong-willed sixth-grader Merci Suarez navigates difficult changes with friends, family, and everyone in between in a resonant new novel from Meg Medina.

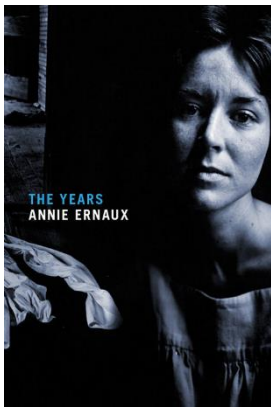
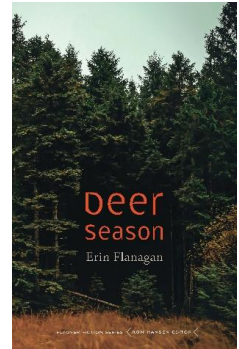
Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. They don't have a big house or a fancy boat, and they have to do extra community service to make up for their free tuition. So when bossy Edna Santos sets her sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci's school-assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edna's jealousy.

Things aren't going well at home, either: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately — forgetting important things, falling from his bike, and getting angry over nothing. No one in her family will tell Merci what's going on, so she's left to her own worries, while also feeling all on her own at school. In a coming-of-age tale full of humor and wisdom, award-winning author Meg Medina gets to the heart of the confusion and constant change that defines middle school — and the steadfast connection that defines family.

February 21<sup>st</sup>: *Deer Season* by Erin Flanagan, Edgar award for best first novel 2022, 320 pages

It's the opening weekend of deer season in Gunthrum, Nebraska, in 1985, and Alma Costagan's intellectually disabled farmhand, Hal Bullard, has gone hunting with some of the locals, leaving her in a huff. That same weekend, a teenage girl goes missing, and Hal returns with a flimsy story about the blood in his truck and a dent near the headlight. When the situation escalates from that of a missing girl to something more sinister, Alma and her husband are forced to confront what Hal might be capable of, as rumors fly and townspeople see Hal's violent past in a new light.

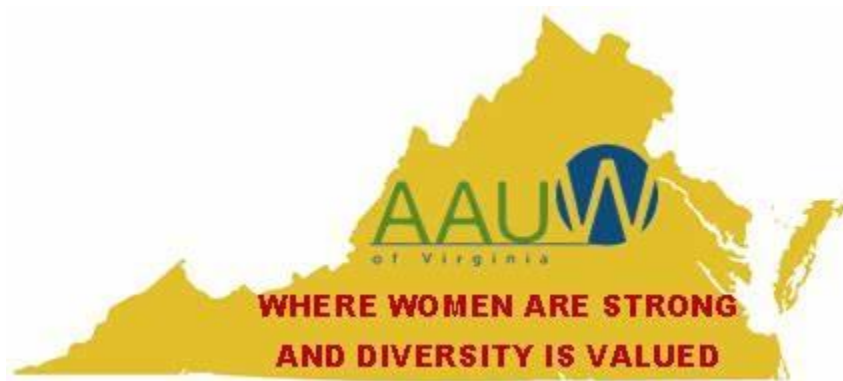
A drama about the complicated relationships connecting the residents of a small-town farming community, *Deer Season* explores troubling questions about how far people will go to safeguard the ones they love and what it means to be a family.



March 21<sup>st</sup>: *The Years* by Annie Ernaux, 256 pages, 2022 Nobel Prize for Literature

Considered by many to be the iconic French memoirist's defining work and a breakout bestseller when published in France in 2008. *The Years* is a personal narrative of the period 1941 to 2006 told through the lens of memory, impressions past and present—even projections into the future—photos, books, songs, radio, television and decades of advertising, headlines, contrasted with intimate conflicts and writing notes from 6 decades of diaries.

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!



## CALENDAR

December 7	9am-2pm	LWV online overview of the 2023 legislative session
December 8	3pm	Herndon-Reston AAUW Program- Del. Ken Plum “The State of the Commonwealth of Virginia
December 10	12:30 pm	Holiday Party at the Italian Café
December 20	7:30pm	Book Club on Zoom-Best Ideas
January 4	7:00pm	Vienna and Hendon-Reston joint program- Virginia Senators Boysko and Peterson
January 5	5pm	Zoom meeting with the AAUW VA Vice Presidents for Public Policy
January 8	2:00pm	Branch Meeting in person- Falls Church Community Center
January 17	7:30 pm	Book Club on Zoom- <i>Merci Suarez Changes Gears</i> by Meg Medina
January 18	evening	In-person reception for women legislators in Richmond
January 19	All Day	In-person Lobby Day in Richmond
January 25	7:00 pm	Virtual Movie Club on Zoom- <i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i>

*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.*



## **Save the Dates**



**AAUW of Virginia**

**Lobby Days in Richmond**

**January 18, 2023**

**Reception for Women Lawmakers**

**Location to be Announced**

**January 19, 2023**

**Lobby Day**

**Make our Voices Heard in Richmond**

**Connect with our Lawmakers**

**Group Hotel Rooms available at the Hampton Inn Downtown**

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=RICEMHX&groupCode=CHHAAU&arrivaldate=2023-01-18&departuredate=2023-01-19&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Limited rooms may be available through members of the Richmond Branch. Contact [aauwvpublicpolicyatgmail.com](mailto:aauwvpublicpolicyatgmail.com)