



Falls Church Area (VA) Branch

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

VOLUME 73, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2, 2023

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

“The heyday of woman’s life is the shady side of fifty.” Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Dear Members,

Happy February! The days are getting longer. As we look at 2023, as a dynamic organization we want to engage and feel purposeful and proud of our organization and its achievements. We can and we will if we plan together and advocate with purpose and sustained focus.



We have three thoughtful members working and planning together to create a slate of officers for next year. Anne Baxter, Becky Gaul and Dianne Bodeen are serving as the Nominating Committee, identifying candidates for two offices that will be voted on at our March annual business meeting. On March 13, 2023, we will elect a VP-Membership and a Treasurer. If you are asked by the Nominating Committee to be nominated to serve as one of these officers, please take a moment to consider how much your contribution would mean to the branch as an officer. And, say yes, if you can.

We are also engaged in preliminary discussions with another branch – McLean – to determine if by coordination and cooperation regarding a limited number of programs and activities, we could increase our impact in the community, program more effectively to further AAUW-aligned policies and goals, and be more persuasive as we try to influence policy, law and regulation in our community.

Do more than belong: participate.

Do more than care: help.

Do more than believe: practice.

Do more than be fair: be kind.

Do more than forgive: forget.

Do more than dream: work. ---- William Arthur Ward

We hope to see you on Sunday, February 12 at 2:00 p.m. Come a few minutes early to share stories with old and new friends. Then listen to our dynamic speaker discuss what’s been happening recently at school board meetings and in school libraries and hallways. Holly Hazard will speak about “A Clear and Present Danger; the Strategy to Take Down Public Education in America.” Hazard co-founded **4 Public Education**, a grass-roots advocacy group. It was formed in response to the charged criticism of public schools curriculum, and teachers and administrators and the disruptive behaviors exhibited at school board meetings. 4 Public Education’s goal: to protect public education and promote the values and ideals of public

Aida Loomis and Sharon Zackula
Co-Presidents

BRANCH MEETING

Come to the February Meeting. Feb. 12, 2023 (Sunday afternoon) meeting, 2:00 p.m., Falls Church Community Center to hear Holly Hazzard talk about her perspective on “A Clear and Present Danger; the Strategy to Take Down Public Education in America.”.

Holly Hazzard co-founded “4 Public Education”, a grass-roots advocacy group, formed in response to the sometimes harsh and emotionally charged criticism and disruptive antics at school board meetings, to promote the values and ideals of public education in America. Exceptional public education is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy. Yet, hardly a day goes by, at least in Virginia, without a headline related to an attack on our public schools. 4 Public Education aims to protect public education.

Through education, research, media attention and organizing, 4 Public Education is building a base of advocates to stand up against this existential threat to public education. Holly will explain the threat, the strategy and what each of us can do to stop this assault on our schools and our future.

Holly Hazard is an education, animal protection, and women’s rights advocate. In 1986 she co-founded the first animal rights law firm in the country. Along with Doris Day, she founded the Doris Day Animal League and was Senior Vice President at The Humane Society of the United States and continues to serve on various animal rights organizations. She has long advocated for children’s issues, serving as PTA president in the 3 Fairfax County public schools her children attended. Recently she co-founded 4 Public Education, to promote and protect public education.



AAUW STATE CONVENTION 2023

PART 1- MARCH 18 IN WILLIAMSBURG

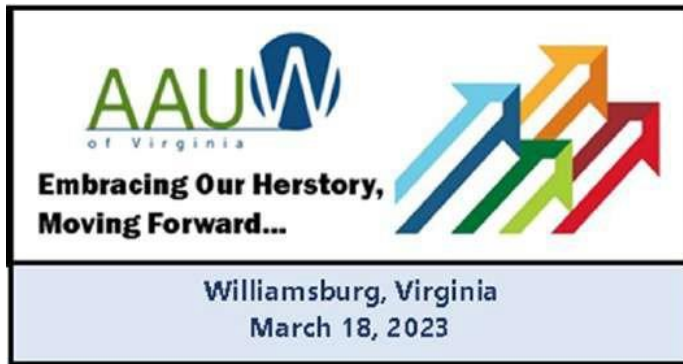
**AAUW of Virginia invites you to join us in Williamsburg,
the city of our founding, for Conference 2023!**

The Conference will be held in two parts. PART 1 of the Conference will be held on March 18 at the Holiday Inn & Suites Williamsburg – Historic Gateway in Williamsburg, VA from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

For those who arrive on Friday, March 17, there will be an opportunity to socialize with friends from around the state or participate in an AAUW trivia night.



Historic Williamsburg is a wonderful location for an extended mini-vacation. Find lots to do from self-guided tours of Colonial Williamsburg, to shopping at premium outlets, or trying one of the twelve spots on the Williamsburg Tasting Trail, with wineries, breweries, distilleries, and even a meadery for a taste of mead, one of the world’s most ancient drinks.



Breakfast & Fellowship

9:00 A.M. to 9:45 A.M.

Morning Sessions

9:50 A.M. to 12:15 P.M.

Lunch

12:30 P.M. to 1:30 P.M.

Afternoon Sessions

1:45 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

African American Women: The Long History of Advocacy and Their Quest to Safeguard Their Families and Communities



Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander is the Endowed Professor of Virginia Black History and Culture, Director of the Joseph Jenkins Roberts Center for the Study of the African Diaspora, and former Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Norfolk State University in Virginia.

African American women were the leaders and builders in their communities, whose intricate network of supporters enabled the successful coordination of efforts that unlocked some of the most severe forms of discrimination and prejudice. Cassandra Newby-Alexander will discuss the long history of advocacy among African American women over the past 400 years, providing a few examples of how so many defied “the great man leadership model” through their bravery, agency, and determination.

INSPIRING AND RETAINING YOUNG WOMEN IN STEM FIELDS



Dr. Marissa A. Rice, Postdoctoral Associate, Behavioral and Evolutionary Neuroscience, Department of Human Development at Cornell University and a member of the Virginia Beach Branch.

Young women and girls continue to be vastly under-represented in STEM fields. However, research has shown that girls are more than capable of succeeding in STEM domains. Dr. Rice will share evidence-based behavior science techniques as well as insights from her own journey in the sciences.

PUBLIC POLICY PRESENTATION

AAUW's deep roots in advocating for quality public education for all goes back to our national founding in 1881 and to March 1925, when a group of women, most of whom were educators, came together in Williamsburg to form the Virginia Division. By 1933, AAUW-VA members were advocating for better public education for "mountain children" in Madison County and by 1954 had completed an exhaustive study of state taxation policies and the financing of public schools. In 1954, and until Massive Resistance fell to court challenges, AAUW-VA annually adopted a resolution opposing the laws that kept it in place. Throughout the period, our members taught unschooled children in their homes and repeatedly testified to the General Assembly, arguing against the use of tuition vouchers and establishment of "segregation academies" that kept out all but privileged white students. Today there are multiple visions of the roles of the Commonwealth, school districts, educators, and parents in public education. Our speaker will discuss some of these dynamics that will determine the future of K-12 education in Virginia.

THE UNKNOWN GLORIOUS HERSTORY OF AAUW



Did you know AAUW issued its first pay equity report in 1913? Why does AAUW have a letter from Albert Einstein? When and why did the United Nations give AAUW permanent observer status? What was the African Educators Program? **Caroline Pickens**, past state president and a co-founder of the AAUW Archives Corps, will take us back for a look into AAUW's herstory and some of the remarkable work we've done to promote the education and protect the rights of women and girls.

PART 2- ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10:00 A.M. ON ZOOM, MARCH 25, 2023.

Attendance is free. Registration instructions will be sent to members in early March. **Please mark your calendars in order to hear state board members' reports, comments from the nominees for elected state officer positions, and the awarding of the 2022 AAUW of Virginia Named Honorees.**



MORE POSTCARDS FOR VA 4TH DISTRICT SPECIAL ELECTION

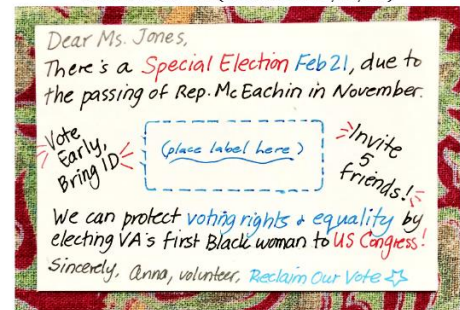
We are plunging into a 2nd round of postcards for the special election in the VA 4th District. With just over 2,000 addresses to go, we could help put a dent in the remaining postcards.

If you can write some more cards, please reply to Mollie ([molliejewell2 at gmail.com](mailto:molliejewell2@gmail.com)) with the number of cards (multiples of 20), number of stamps, and where you want to pick up (Mollie's or Mary's). Please reply ASAP so she can get addresses in time.

These are cards for the special election (2/28) following the death of U.S. Representative Don McEachin in Virginia's 4th Congressional District. Early voting ends Feb 18.

Reclaim Our Vote/Center for Common Ground Sample Postcard: VA 2-21-23 Special Election

Last Mail Date Feb 7 (or Feb 12 for VA/DC/MD)



The mailing deadline is Feb 12. Picture below.

- Feb 12 is mailing deadline
- 2,000 postcards go to Black voters in Petersburg.
- Addresses selected because they are largely rural, and reliable phone numbers for voters in these areas are not available, so we will not be phonebanking or texting them.

LOBBY DAY, 2023

Virginia Lobby Day 2023



On Thursday, January 19, Sharon Zackula and Becky Gaul represented FCAAUW in Richmond for Lobby Day 2023. Sharing work among 30 members from Branches across the state, altogether AAUW visited almost 50 Senate and Representative's offices. We urged support or opposition to legislation in accord with our public policy priorities including education vouchers and tuition tax credits; reproductive rights; paid family and medical leave; a salary history ban; workplace harassment; and electronic meetings.

After our lobbying meetings, AAUW members were introduced from the visitor galleries on both the Senate and House sides of the historic Capitol Building. It was an interesting and fun day seeing how Virginia State government works in person. We appreciate the continuing work of Denise Murden and Janine Greenwood, AAUWVA Public Policy cochairs, as they track progress on our issues and collaborate with like-minded organizations.



PUBLIC POLICY

Virginia General Assembly Update

The Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy have provided the following information about key dates for the General Assembly and the status of bills of interest to AAUW-VA.

AAUW-VA has been busy since Lobby Day last week. Our group testified live on three bills and reviewed our public policy priorities for the League of Women Voters at the kick-off meeting for their lobby day. We also had a presence in Richmond for the Virginia Law Audit Project roll out this week. This is a project initiated by NOW which is reviewing Virginia law for incidences of sexism or racism after which we will make proposals for legislative change. You can read more about the project here: <https://vanow.org/virginia-law-audit-project>. VLAP needs volunteers to help and, if you are interested, contact Janine: janinegrnwd@hotmail.com

So far, the Senate has been blocking any abortion bills in that chamber and will probably continue to do the same when any passed House bills on the subject cross over to the Senate in February. The Washington Post had a great analysis on January 27 showing the current situation in Richmond. Virginia's Republican-controlled House of Delegates and Democratic-controlled Senate are cancelling out one another in considering controversial issues. <https://wapo.st/3kDyJGA>

Key Dates for the remainder of the General Assembly Session:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Sunday, February 5 | House Appropriations and Senate Finance & Appropriations Committees to complete action on Budget Bills (UVA report will follow) |
| Tuesday, February 7 | Crossover (last day for each house to act on its own legislation, except Budget Bills) Amendments to Budget Bills available |
| Thursday, February 9 | Houses of origin to complete action on Budget Bills |
| Wednesday, February 15 | Last day to act on Budget Bills and revenue bills of other chamber and appoint conferees |
| Monday, February 20 | Last day for committee action on remaining bills |
| Thursday, February 23 | Last day to act on remaining bills and appoint conferees |
| Saturday, February 25 | Session adjourns sine die |
| Monday, March 27 | Last day for Governor's action on legislation |

Note that "crossover" is the day that the two houses exchange bills.

Table showing status of bills of interest to AAUW-VA

| | | |
|--|------|--------------------------------------|
| ABORTION | | |
| SB 1243 Extradition Prohibited | S | Referred to Judiciary |
| HJ 519/SJ 255 Reproductive Rights Constitutional Amendment | S # | Senate subcommittee approved |
| SB 852 Privacy of Menstrual Health Data | S # | Referred to Judiciary |
| HB 1395 Rights at Conception | O # | |
| HB 1488 Prohibit Use of Public Funds | O | |
| HB 1736 Family Life Education w/Ultrasound | O | Assigned to Education |
| HB 1795 "Born Alive" | O # | |
| HB 1865 Ban Abortion based on disability/sex | O | |
| SB 1284 Abortion prohibited | O # | Defeated in committee |
| SB 1385 Abortion ban after 15 weeks | O # | Defeated in committee |
| SB 87 Life Begins at Conception | O # | |
| SB 1112 Contraceptive Equity Act | S | Senate passed |
| HB 2089 Contraceptive Equity Act | S | |
| EDUCATION | | |
| SB 823 Education "Savings Accounts" | O # | Defeated in Committee |
| HB 1371 Education "Savings Accounts" | O # | Early Childhood/Innovation Committee |
| SB892 Education Scholarship Tax Credits | O # | Referred to Finance Committee |
| SB893 Education Scholarship Transfers | O | Referred to Finance Committee |
| HB 1396 Education "Savings Accounts" | O # | |
| HB1508 Education "Success Accounts" | O # | In multiple committees |
| SB 787 Libraries | O | Defeated in Committee |
| SB 1199 Parental Rights Education Transparency | O | Defeated in Committee |
| HB 1379 Parent permission to check out books | O | Passed in House |
| WORKPLACE | | |
| HB 1895 Silence No More NDAs | S*# | Subcommittee approved |
| HB 2148 Know Your [EEOC] Rights | S # | Tabled |
| HB 2003 Workplace Harassment Training | S* # | Tabled |
| SB 1136 Salary History Ban | S # | Referred to Commerce & Labor |
| SB 1101 Paid Family Leave | S # | Referred to Commerce & Labor |
| HB 2035 Paid Family Leave | S # | Tabled |
| HB 1988 Paid Sick Leave | S | Tabled in Subcommittee |
| HB 2087 Paid Sick leave | S | Subcommittee #4 |
| SB 886 Paid Sick Leave | S | Referred to Commerce & Labor |
| ELECTRONIC MEETINGS | | |
| HB 2050 Extending Electronic Meetings | S* # | Tabled |
| VOTING | | |
| HB1693 Eliminate ballot Drop Boxes | O | Passed House |
| HB 1877 Shorten absentee voting to 14 days | O | Passed House |

O= AAUW VA opposes

#= AAUW-VA has briefing paper, actively distributed materials or took other written action. You can access these materials by going to

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1t0LQU80E0C5y_eroidKw_SZxicPYziPR?usp=sharing

*= AAUW VA representative testified

S= AAUW-VA support



MOVIE GROUP



Let's Go To The Movies Virtually



Wednesday February 22nd at 7:00 PM

The Good Nurse



From mid 20th century marshlands North Carolina, our branch film watchers travel to a 21st century New Jersey hospital. The virtual film group will be watching the 2022 American drama film, *The Good Nurse*. The film is based on the 2013 true crime book of the same name and stars Academy Award Winners Jessica Chastain and Eddie Redmayne. The thriller tells the story of how an ICU nurse Amy Loughren contributed to the arrest of her colleague Charles Cullen, the man believed to be America's most prolific serial killer.

Watch **The Good Nurse** on Netflix Streaming. Join the group on zoom on Wednesday, February 22nd 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!

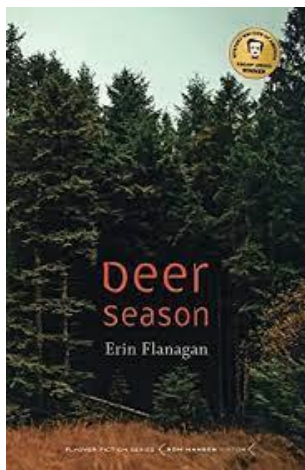
Upcoming attractions are:

March 22 *The Wonder*

April and May: TBD

BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, February 21, 7:30pm: *Deer Season* by Erin Flanagan
2022 Edgar Award for the Best First Novel



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 21st: *The Years* by Annie Ernaux, Alison L. Strayer (Translator)
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 six decades of diaries.



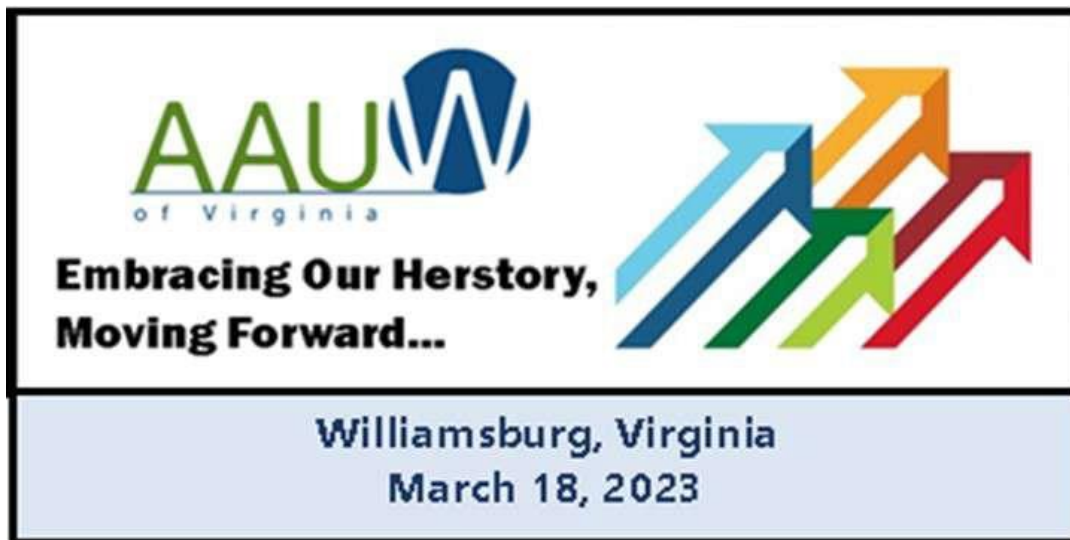
CALENDAR

- **February 12, 2:00 pm:** Branch Meeting (in person)
- **February 21, 7:30 pm:** Book Club (Zoom)- *Deer Season*
- **February 22 , 7:00 pm:** Virtual Movie Group (Zoom) *The Good Nurse*
- **February 27, 7:30 pm:** Board Meeting (Zoom)
- **March 18, All Day:** AAUW State Conference in Williamsburg
- **March 25, 10am:** Annual Business Meeting on Zoom



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.

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PART 2, the Annual Business Meeting will be held virtually on March 25.