



Falls Church Area (VA) Branch

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

VOLUME 74, NUMBER 2

APRIL 2, 2023

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

“Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.”
Frederick Douglass



Dear Members,

AAUW VA Public Policy held a “Post-General Assembly” review on March 30th to discuss what happened in Richmond. We hope you were able to join the call. Many of the “victories” in this year’s session are more properly characterized as successful resistance to proposed legislation. For example, the proposed legislation that was defeated on a vote or procedural actions would have restricted women’s access to appropriate medical care, prohibited abortion, funneled public school funding to private educational institutions, provided tax subsidies for private school-related spending, and restricted education professionals in our public schools from maintaining libraries with diverse materials, and developing and teaching certain curricula. AAUW clearly communicated to VA legislators their views on such legislation. A demand civilly communicated is still a demand. Let’s keep making them.

A Call to Action: Helping the Community! No Fundraising Involved!

With the McLean AAUW branch, Falls Church AAUW is collaborating on a program: **A Call to Action: Together Making a Difference in our Community, on Tuesday April 18, 6:45 pm, at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean.** We hope that this collaboration will allow us to make a greater impact on our community, spread the name and reputation of AAUW to potential members, 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.

The joint program will begin at 6:45 for members to gather and socialize. At 7:00 p.m., a panel will discuss community engagement in the context of two initiatives:

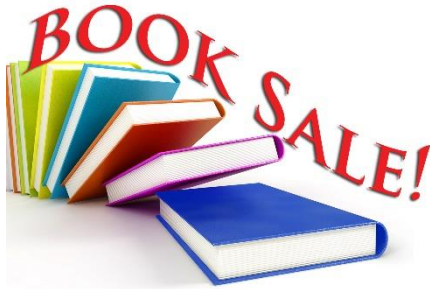
- **Graham Road Elementary School** - A Title 1 Public Elementary School in Our Community
- **Rebecca Shaw, Coordinator, Welcoming Falls Church** – Fostering an Inclusive Community for Refugee Families.

We will follow the joint program with a brief, separate branch meeting.

We are also engaged in discussions with McLean regarding additional, longer term collaborative efforts. If this “Call to Action” stimulates participation and collaboration between the branches and allows us to

address important needs in the community, we will consider extending collaborative programming with the McLean branch.

Fundraising The New-Fashioned Way: The May 19-20 Book Sale. As you review the proposed budget for the next two years at an upcoming branch meeting, you will see that the May 19-20 limited Book Sale plays a very important role in our ability to continue to award scholarships locally, provide special local grants and support AAUW's national programming.



*We will continue collecting books that are in very good shape every Saturday at the former Beyer Volvo Showroom at Gordon Street/Route 7 (just across the street from the Giant at Haycock/Route 7). Receiving donations and sorting them is done from 10:30 to 1:00 p.m. **The last day of book collection will be Saturday, May 13, 2023.** Sorting is faster and much easier because there are limited categories to sort.*

MAY 19 - 20 IS THE BOOK SALE! There are many jobs that must be done during the sale that do not require heavy lifting and carrying.

Please sign up for at least a 3–4 hour period to help with the sale and the promotion of AAUW Falls Church as a place to be a member! We will have a membership table, and we need enthusiastic people to staff it. Our Treasurer will need assistance. Cashiers are needed to count books and collect money from the happy buyers. (We need several people to sign up to use the SQUARE device to allow people to charge books. Linda will be running a training session.) More details below.

Thank you, everyone for making our annual meeting a success. And a special thank you to Dianne Bodeen and Peggy Howard for agreeing to become Co-VPs for Membership and Linda Lawrence for agreeing to serve another 2 years as our Treasurer. Please express your appreciation to them personally.

We hope to see you on Tuesday, April 18, at 6:45 p.m., for our joint program with the McLean branch, followed by a very short branch meeting, both held at the McLean Community Center. We also hope to see you at the Beyer showroom book collection on Broad Street on April 8, 15, 22 and 29! And just for some **FUNRAISING** join us at Pizzeria Orso on Wednesday April 26th between 4:00 and 9:00 PM.

Co-Presidents

Aida Loomis and Sharon K. Zackula

We are only as strong as our membership. If we want to make a difference and have an impact on policies that are important to us, we cannot let up on building our branch. Please help by inviting a friend to come to the April 18 program, another program or an AAUW movie or book group. Consider asking a friend to join AAUW. Explain to your friends the many aspects of AAUW and the positive contributions of AAUW to the community, the state and the nation.

BRANCH MEETING

SAVE THE DATE

A Call to Action!

AAUW Falls Church and McLean Joint Program
Together Making a Difference in our Community

April 18 at 6:45 PM – 9 PM
McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean

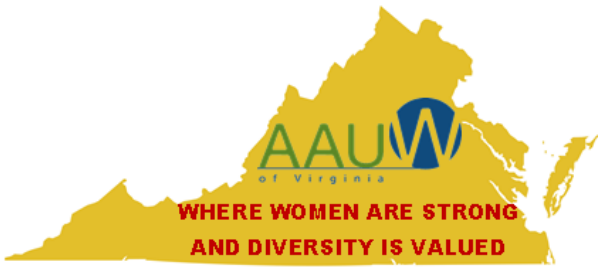
Joint Program: A panel to discuss community engagement featuring:

- Graham Road Elementary School - A Title 1 Public Elementary School in Our Community
- Rebecca Shaw, Coordinator, Welcoming Falls Church – Fostering an Inclusive Community for Refugee Families.

WHY FUNDRAISE? OUR WHY!



Asking for volunteers, donations, and money is never easy. Nevertheless it is a necessity for organizations like Falls Church AAUW if we are to continue our mission of equity through providing scholarships and grants. Undoubtedly fundraising is hard but it should and can be fun and exciting. It is also an experience that should be shared with our members, community and the organizations and individuals we want to serve. It is hard to believe that we kicked off our first fundraising task meeting early fall and that we participated in our first fundraiser, the Holiday Tree Fest, back in December. And having our holiday tree selected as the tree most represented of the organization was just the topper on the tree.



So what does our Falls Church Area Branch of AAUW represent? There are probably dozens of words that come to mind. Education, Scholarship, Equity, Research, Advocacy, Book Sale, For me what comes to mind is opportunity, service and generosity. We have consistently ranked high in fundraising for scholarships and fellowships and have expanded our philanthropy to include organizations serving underserved members of our

community. Our members have over the years graciously given their time, talent and treasure so that these efforts can continue.

The purpose of the fundraising task force was to identify new ways of fundraising. On April 26th join us at Pizzeria Orso for great food and some Funrai\$ing. On May 19th and 20th Falls Church AAUW Book Sale joins VPIS Attic Treasure for a combined Book Sale/Attic Treasure. This year we are filling half of the gym with high quality books in very good to excellent condition. Your help on Saturdays and on the days of the sale would be greatly appreciated. In the fall of 2023 we are planning a jewelry sale and a direct request for financial donations. Of course we will do the 2023 Holiday Tree Fest. Other ideas continue to be considered but additional research and planning are still needed. Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 5th at 5:30. Let Aida know if you are interested in joining.



With all of this in the works, it will likely not raise the amount of money we have come to expect from our large signature book sale. The Scholarship Committee has reported they have received 21 applications for scholarships with a budget of \$10,000 to be allocated. All of these girls are deserving. When asked, please consider making a donation so that the class of 2023 can have an easier path toward college. No amount is too small.



Choices regarding fundraising and how we allocate the funds will need to be made. The scholarships to local girls, branch donations to AAUW, and our mini grants for local programs are going to be impacted. Look at the logos and pictures on the previous page. Which program do you want to eliminate because we don't have the financial resources to help? Look at the picture of the 2022 scholarship winners below. Who gets crossed out? And that is WHY we fundraise.

FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



We have been proud over the past four and more decades to have contributed through scholarships to the educational furtherment of young women in our community. We have funded these scholarships through annual book sales, but unfortunately for a variety of reasons are unable to manage these large-scale events any longer. Although we are sponsoring several smaller more manageable fundraising activities, they do not produce the dollars necessary to

support the scholarship program as we have in the past. We need your help.

This year we have received a record 21 scholarship applications from seniors in our three local high schools. Each and every one of these students has achieved outstanding grades and performed at the highest level academically and in other school activities. It is especially impressive that for the majority English is a second language, and many did not even speak it when they arrived here as children. It is also impressive that for most they are the first in their families to aspire to college. Each of these young women are deserving of higher education, and we want to help them.

Please consider supporting the scholarship fund, and these young women, with a donation to AAUW-Falls Church Education Fund, which you can send to Linda Lawrence, 410 S. Maple Ave., Apt. 444, Falls Church, VA 22046. We are making the final decisions on the scholarships now and will notify the students in April. How many are awarded is up to you. The award ceremony, which is attended by the students and their families, will take place at the May branch meeting. We hope you will be there to witness in person the impact your donation has made.

Sincerely,
Mary Youman
Chair, AAUW-Falls Church Scholarship Committee

PIZZERIA ORSO



AAUW Scholarship Fundraiser

Pizzeria Orso

(Dine in only)

Wednesday

April 26, 2023

The fundraising committee would like to kick off its effort in sponsoring women's scholarships. Please join us at Pizzeria Orso, anytime from **4:00 PM to 9:00 PM**, and sample a variety of delicious offerings. Bring family and friends, and mention that you are supporting AAUW.

The restaurant will donate 15% of proceeds to the scholarship fund

Address: 400 S. Maple Ave., Falls Church

Parking: Free on Street or in garage next to restaurant

BOOK SALE

Please share the information below with your friends, family, neighbors, and your social networks (FB, FB interest groups, Instagram, Neighborhood newsletter, Nextdoor, Patch, etc).

Book Donations for Falls Church AAUW's Scholarship Book Sale. Donations wanted: Books in excellent condition only, all types of fiction, biography, history, politics, and children's books. (Not accepting textbooks, reference books, or books on business, economics, religion, philosophy, computer science, travel.)

Donations accepted all Saturdays through May 13, 2023, from 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at

1231 Broad Street, Falls Church (the corner of Gordon Rd at Broad where the pig statue is) in the old Beyer Auto showroom). For more information, please contact: Sarah John at Sarahjohn2857@gmail.com or Aida Loomis at: a7211@aol.com . Sale is May 19-20, 2023 at the FC Community Center. Follow Falls Church AAUW on Facebook!

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

On March 30, Denise Murden and Janine Greenwood, AAUW-VA Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy, held a meeting for all AAUW-VA members to review the Virginia General Assembly's 2023 Session and to plan for future action. Bills opposed by AAUW-VA that would have put onerous requirements on already strained public schools and diverted education funds from public schools to private institutions were stopped by the Senate as were bills limiting women's rights to reproductive health care. On the other hand, bills supported by AAUW requiring employers to provide sick leave for workers and establishing a self-funding paid Family and Medical Leave program for workers passed the Senate but were defeated in the House. A more complete discussion of the Session was included in the March 2023 issue of the *Flash*. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the General Assembly adjourned without passing amendments to the budget established in the 2022 Session, but negotiations are ongoing in the Budget Conference Committee made up of a limited number of Delegates and Senators. The General Assembly is scheduled to reconvene on April 12 to vote on any actions the Governor has taken on legislation passed by the General Assembly and on budget amendments if the Budget Conference Committee has completed its work.

The 2023 Session showed the importance of electing Delegates and Senators that support AAUW-VA's public policy priorities. This year, all Senate and Delegate seats are up for election. With a number of individuals leaving both bodies through retirement or seeking a new job, along with redistricting, many Virginians may see candidates that they do not know. Thus, learning about candidates' positions on issues of importance to AAUW-VA is a must if we want to have a General Assembly that supports AAUW's priorities. Since all Virginia Delegate and Senate Districts have been renumbered, the first step is to determine your Senate and Delegate Districts and who is running for office in them. To find this information, go to

<https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov>. After entering your address, you will see boxes for State Delegate and State Senator with the words "NEW IN" in red. Click on those words to see your new districts. Information for the upcoming primary election, including the names of candidates running in the election, if there is one, can be found at the Virginia Public Access Project website <https://www.vpap.org/elections>.



Important election dates for June 20 Primary Election

May 5 – Early voting for the primary election begins

May 30 – Deadline to register to vote in the primary

June 9 – Last day to apply for mail-in ballot for the primary

June 17 – Last Day to vote early in the primary

JUNE 20 – PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

ERA Update

Although we celebrated when Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the ERA in early 2020, our work is not done. The Amendment as passed by Congress included a time limit within which the amendment was to be ratified in the preamble. Citing a 2020 Justice Department memorandum stating the time limit had been reached before the necessary 38 states had ratified it, the Archivist refused to publish the Amendment; thus, the ERA is not part of the US Constitution. On January 31, 2023 the House of Representatives and Senate introduced joint resolutions affirming the validity of the Equal Rights Amendment and removing the time limit from its preamble. The Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the Senate bill on February 28.



AAUW is a part of the ERA Coalition whose goal is to amend the Constitution to ensure that one cannot be discriminated against because of one's sex. If you are interested in joining in this effort, there are ways in which you can help. Write letters to your Senators and Congressman urging them to support the Congressional resolutions. Ask President Biden to direct the Archivist to publish the ERA. Sign up for the ERA Coalition's email newsletter and

action alerts. The ERA Coalition's website is <https://www.eracoalition.org/> and has a wealth of information. Additionally AAUW resources about the ERA can be found at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/position-era/>

Two-Minute Activist

Take a moment to sign up to be an AAUW Action Network Two-Minute Activist today and make your views heard about important issues facing women and girls. Just click on the following link: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/> and fill out the form. Even if you have signed up in the past, do so again today. AAUW headquarters has had technology and staffing changes, so make sure you're still on the list by signing up today!



As a Two-Minute Activist you will receive e-mail notices when your advocacy is most needed. You'll be provided with sample letters and talking points that you can use to call or send messages to Members of Congress, your state legislators and other government officials or to write a Letter to the Editor of your local newspaper. With your help, the Action Network can continue to boost AAUW's influence on Capitol Hill and in statehouses across the nation.

MOVIE GROUP

 Let's Go To The Movies Virtually 

Thursday April 27th at 7:00 PM

(Note different day)

A historical documentary about the 72-year battle that women fought to achieve the right to vote in the United States, **HOW LONG MUST WE WAIT** focuses on the events in 1917 that led to the imprisonment and brutal treatment of suffragists in a prison in Lorton, Virginia. This was considered a

turning point in the suffrage campaign, which helped turn public tide and ultimately led to the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920. While that was a huge victory, the film also focuses on the fact that there is still much work left to be done in the fight for women's equal rights. The film was directed by Jaclyn O'Laughlin, an Arlington, VA resident.

Watch **How Long Must We Wait** (YouTube) using the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrwqUPYlp28>.



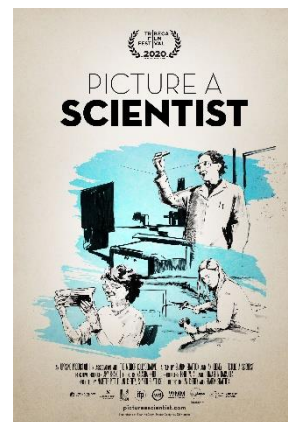
Join the group on zoom on Thursday April 27th at 7:00 PM. This is not our standard date as on Wednesday many of us will be at Pizzeria Orso on April 26th for a FunRai\$er for scholarships. Please call or text Aida at 703 966 8050 if you are interested in joining any of our film discussion evenings. All are

welcome!

Upcoming attraction:

May: **Picture a Scientist** (Netflix) but open to suggestions

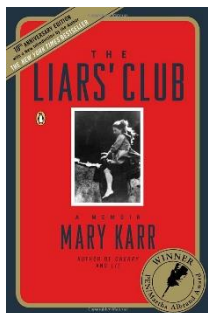
Summer Intermission



BOOK GROUP

You voted and here are your selections for April and May. The first selection has the least amount of holds in the libraries Fairfax County, Arlington County, Falls Church City and Alexandria.

APRIL 25: BIO/MEMOIR



The Liars' Club by Mary Karr

Mary Karr grew up in a swampy East Texas refinery town in a volatile and defiantly loving family. In this funny, devastating, haunting memoir and with a raw and often painful honesty, she looks back at life with a painter mother, seven times married, whose outlaw spirit could tip over into psychosis, and a hard-drinking, fist-swinging father who liked nothing better than to spin tales with his cronies at the Liars' Club.

MAY 16: NONFICTION

The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel by Kati Marton

The “captivating” (The New York Times), definitive biography of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, detailing the extraordinary rise and political brilliance of the most powerful—and elusive—woman in the world.



CALENDAR

- **April 5, 5:30pm** Fundraising Task Force Meeting (**Zoom**)- contact Aida
- **April 8,15,22,29,May 6 and 13, 10:30am-1:00pm** Book Collection at former Don Beyer Volvo Showroom
- **April 18, 6:45 pm:** Joint Branch Meeting at the Mclean Community Center (in person)
- **April 24, 7:30 pm:** Board Meeting (Zoom)
- **April 25, 7:30 pm:** Book Club (Zoom)- *The Liars' Club*
- **April 26, 4:00-9:00pm** Fundraiser at Pizzeria Orso
- **April 27, 7:00 pm:** Virtual Movie Group (Zoom) *How Long Must We Wait?*
- **May 19 & 20 Book Sale**, Falls Church Community Center



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