

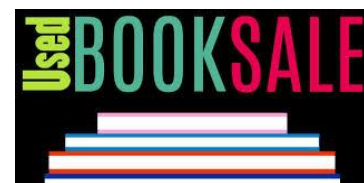
AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

VOLUME 74, NUMBER 5

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PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE,

Thought for the Day: You can skip your weight training for two weeks if you work on the book sale.



Dear Members,

May is the month we celebrate one of our defining achievements as a branch – the awarding of scholarships to Falls Church area graduating senior young women. The AAUW Falls Church scholarships help these outstanding young scholars fulfill their dreams, reach for the stars, contribute to society, and find economic security. This is a pivotal time in their lives, and we are proud to be a part of it. Please be at the **Falls Church Community Center on May 8 at 7:00 p.m.** (a half an hour earlier than usual!) to grab a good seat for this celebration with the branch, our scholars, and their proud families!

No money can be given away, however, unless we earn it as a branch for the Education Fund (or donate it individually to the fund)! We have entered into a new era, in which we must adopt new fundraising methods and execute new events if we want to have money to give away for local scholarships, local special projects and the AAUW organization at the federal and state level. The Fundraising Committee deserves a special thanks for their creative thinking and hard work to date, and they are just getting started. Just 5 days ago, the branch held its first “dining for dollars” event at ORSO Pizzeria in Falls Church. (Did you notice the BIG bear as you entered? ORSO means “bear,” and not those little pieces of pasta....) In less than 3 weeks, the branch will be conducting a scaled down book sale on the same day and in the same space in coordination with the Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS)’s Attic Treasures Sale. Setup is **May 18** (Thursday) and **May 19-20** is the book sale. New event, but our usual location – The Falls Church Community Center gym.

These two fundraisers will earn some money but will not result in the type of profits we became accustomed to during the decades of the “big book sales”. Therefore, we are also looking to other ways to contribute to the community and promote equity and education for girls and women. On April 18, we heard about two significant endeavors in our community that are very reliant on volunteers to make things happen: **Welcoming Falls Church**, offering a panoply of services by volunteers to aid immigrant families resettling, and **Graham Road Elementary School**, a Title One school in Falls Church, seeking to provide a full educational experience and a safe haven for a school population that is almost entirely low income. Graham Road volunteers help the school when parents, often working two jobs, cannot contribute. We collaborated with AAUW McLean in identifying these charities and we hope this collaboration will allow us to make a greater impact on our community. We urge our members to consider joining with other AAUW Falls Church Area and AAUW McLean members in making Graham Road Elementary School and Welcoming Falls Church more successful through your volunteer efforts!

We are also engaged in discussions with the McLean branch regarding additional, longer term collaborative efforts. Our hope is that collaboration between the branches will allow us to address important needs in the community, 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.

Volunteer for Setup on May 18, the Book Sale on May 19 – 20 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 shift 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 to Pam Martinov and Clare O'Sheel, who continue to publish a fabulous newsletter every month in addition to their many other contributions! Thanks to Mary Ellen Gannon for taking the primary role in the Orso fundraiser! A big thank you to all of you who have persuaded friends and family to donate books and then helped sort them!

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 May 8 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 FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY CENTER SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS, MONDAY, MAY 8, 7:00 PM

We can pat ourselves on the back a bit as well as celebrate 17 remarkable young women at this favorite branch meeting where we award scholarships to outstanding graduating high school seniors from local high schools. We have worked diligently during the past year to raise the money to fund these scholarships, so all of us have some skin (or sweat) in the game. In addition to feeling good with the number of scholarships this year, it is always such a pleasure to see the recipients in person. We hope you will be able to join us on Monday, May 8, 7:00 pm, at the Falls Church Community Center for this celebration of 17 promising young women (and the hard-working AAUW members who helped raise the funds).





Our 2017 scholarship recipients!

SAVE THE DATE



Time To Party!

Saturday, May 20, 6:00 PM

Panshir Restaurant

114 East Fairfax Street, Falls Church

BOOK SALE WIND-DOWN! Join your fellow “bookies” for a celebration of the book sale finale. We will celebrate another successful Book Sale on 20 May at Panjshir Restaurant at 6:00 pm. Panjshir is located at 114 East Fairfax Street in Falls Church. AAUW has celebrated many occasions in this restaurant with fine food and great companionship. In order to expedite service, the restaurant has requested that we [pay in cash](#). Looking forward to another memorable Book Sale celebration! Any questions, please contact Susan Conklin at 703-869-7131.

Critter-Free Picnic!



Monday, June 12, 6: 00 PM

Ireland’s Four Provinces

105 West Broad Street, Falls Church



Our Annual Program Planning Picnic will not be held in nature with the bugs and other surprises this year! And you can order your meal from the Irish-inspired menu to be served to you rather than packing a dinner. We will convene on the covered terrace of Ireland's Four Provinces located at 105 W Broad Street in Falls Church at 6:00 pm on Monday, June 12, and only a severe storm will drive us inside! Prior to the picnic, you will be sent a program idea sheet to start our planning for the 2023-24 program year. Feel free to add to the program selections, which are meant to inspire you. We will add and delete choices to ensure another year of stimulating programs, which will be planned over the summer. Contact Susan Conklin at 703 869 7131

with questions or ideas. More information will be in the June newsletter.

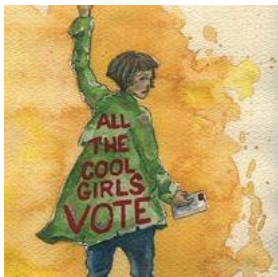
PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

Virginia General Assembly

The Virginia General Assembly reconvened on April 12 to review the Governor's actions on legislation passed during the Session. He vetoed only 3 bills and made amendments to 77 separate bills. The House of Delegates and the Senate upheld his vetoes and most of the amendments, a number of which were technical in nature. None of the Governor's actions affect legislation that was a priority for AAUW-VA. The budget was not discussed as the Budget Conferees have not been able to reach an agreement. Since this is the second year of a two-year budget, the budget agreed upon last year will remain in effect. Any expenditure of funds the Commonwealth has available that have not been allocated by the current budget will be determined by the General Assembly in 2024.

This year's elections for the General Assembly are critical as every seat in the Senate and House of Delegates will be voted on. Because a number of members in both the Senate and the House of Delegates are leaving through retirement or seeking a new job and because major changes were made in the boundaries of the districts through the redistricting process last year, Virginians may see candidates they do not know on the ballot. If we want to have a General Assembly that supports AAUW-VA's public policy priorities, it is important that each member learn about the positions held by the candidates running in their Senate and House districts and vote accordingly. Last month's issue of the FLASH explained how to determine which Senate and Delegate Districts you are in and who is running for those seats. Additionally, many districts will have primaries in June to determine the candidates for the November 7 General Election.

Important election dates for the 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

Status of Court Cases Relating to Mifepristone

Mifepristone, a drug used for abortions rather than surgery, is used in over 50 percent of the abortions performed in the United States. Earlier this year, doctors and medical groups in Texas sued the FDA in a Texas District Court, saying the FDA did not properly approve the use of mifepristone and asked that its use be banned in the United States. On April 7, the District Court Judge suspended the FDA's approval of mifepristone, preventing the drug from being used in the United States. The Biden Administration immediately appealed the ruling to the Fifth Circuit Court; on April 12 a panel of 3 judges ruled that mifepristone could continue to be used until the Circuit Court had an opportunity to consider the case on its merits. The Court also placed several limitations on its use, including limiting its use to the first 7 week of pregnancy rather the current 10 weeks; preventing the sending/receiving of the drug through the mail; and requiring that prescriptions be written by doctors only and no other medical personnel.



The Administration appealed the Circuit Court's decision to the Supreme Court, which ruled in a 7-2 decision that the drug could continue to be available without the restrictions set by the Fifth Circuit until the case was decided by the Fifth Circuit, and if that decision was appealed to the Supreme Court, until that Court makes its final ruling. The Fifth Circuit will begin considering the case on May 17. Any ruling by the Fifth Circuit is expected to be appealed to the Supreme Court, which will make the final decision as to whether mifepristone will be available in the United States.



GET OUT THE VOTE POSTCARDS 2023

As soon as the book sale is over, we'll start writing postcards again! This time for the **Virginia primary**. The cards will go to registered Black women voters in Senate District 18 to alert them to this crucial primary.

In this majority/ minority district, 80% of BIPOC voters do not generally vote in primaries, leaving women underrepresented in the General Election. Primary voting promotes consistent voting habits, and greatly increases the likelihood of voting in the fall. Our postcards inform voters of where and when to vote, and key issues at stake.

Our postcards are non-partisan. But you may be aware that the two SD18 primary candidates have shown distinctly different records, issues, and behaviors. FYI, one of the candidates, Louise Lucas, is the first Black and first female President Pro Tem of the VA State Senate. If elected, she would also be the first Black and first female Chair of Finance and Appropriations in the Commonwealth of Virginia, again making history. If you have questions or comments, contact Mollie Jewell, MollieJewell2@gmail.com, or 703-941-5643.

How to Engage with Elected Officials

COMING SOON! Look for the recently broadcast webinar, "How to Engage with Elected Officials," on AAUW's website (link below). On April 27, 2023, 3:00 pm, AAUW hosted a webinar on how to connect with your elected officials and influence the positions they take on issues important to you. Panelists included our own **Becky Gaul**, AAUW Lobby Corp chair, AAUW Public Policy Committee co-chair Barbara Price, and two

members of the McLean Branch who are also members of the AAUW Lobby Corp. (Another reason to get to know the McLean branch and collaborate with them.) Here is the link to the website where the webinar will appear: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>

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.

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

The branch has been busy with some fundraising and some **FUNrai\$ing**. In early April we kicked off with a direct appeal to our members for additional funds for 2023 scholarships. This year the Scholarship Committee received significantly more applicants for scholarships as compared to recent years. More importantly the candidates were qualified and deserving. Through a direct appeal letter, we asked our members for a donation to



meet the current need of local student applicants. The donations would help going to college possible and more affordable. Because of your generosity, we raised **\$3,500**, which will be added to the \$10,300 already budgeted for the scholarship awards. The AAUW FC Class of 2023 will be the largest both in numbers (17 scholarships) and dollars awarded. Thank you to all who were able to donate. No amount was too small, and no amount is too late to send! If for some reason your donation came in after the scholarship notification date, your donation will be used for our 2024 scholarship winners. And if you want to donate to our Education Fund please contact our Treasurer, Linda

Lawrence.

On April 26th we had our first Dining for Dollars fundraiser at Pizzeria Orso. Mary Ellen Gannon led this effort, The fundraiser raised **\$291.00**. It was fun and easy. Mary Ellen Gannon led this effort, and she wanted to thank the committee and branch for their support by reaching out to friends, family and neighbors. A special shout out went out to Bunny who shared and advertised the event on her neighborhood list. Plans are underway for doing additional Dining for Dollars in 2023-2024. The impact of these fundraisers cannot be underestimated. With just one, we have almost supported one special grant. With a 2 or 3 more we might be able to help a couple of local organizations,

After trying two new fundraisers in April, we move to doing an old fundraiser in a new way i.e., the book sale. This year we will be sharing space and some expenses with another Falls Church Community organization, VPIS (Village Preservation and Improvement Society, which funds cultural events and environmental projects in the City of Falls Church). It will be a smaller, more select and streamlined sale this year with a special \$10 entry fee for Friday, May 19th between 9:00 am and 10:00 am for buyers who want first choice.

As reflected in the time and help the book sale has received these last 2 months, we know how much the branch cares about the mission of AAUW and our work within Falls Church. Volunteers are the heart, soul and brains of organizations such as our branch. Our members/volunteers are our branch Superpower. Sign up to volunteer at the book sale to help at the membership table. assist buyers selecting books and help with checking out. Think about volunteering at one of the organizations we heard about in April. Perhaps set up an AAUW Volunteer Corps for Welcoming Falls Church. Our members/volunteers are our best marketing tool for recruitment and fundraising.

And never, ever forget why we do this!

Aida Loomis

BOOK SALE SIGN-UP

Sign up to help with this year's book sale. This will be a joint event with the VPIS Attic Treasure Bazaar. By now you should have received an email with a link to Signup Genius so you can pick your time for volunteering at the book sale. Or click on the link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044eaaab22abf49-fcaauw/131065936 - />

Remember: **Just half the gym this year! All books good condition. Shorter hours.**

To sign up for the sale, click on the **Orange Sign Up button in the Signup Genius** invitation.

To sign up for membership recruitment at the sale, contact Diane Bodeen (bodeendv@verizon.net). If you can't find the email with the link, contact Mollie Jewell (molliejewell2@gmail.com) and she will generate a new one for you.

Questions? Contact Aida Loomis (a7211@aol.com) or Mollie Jewell (molliejewell2@gmail.com).

Thurs. May 18 Setup, jobs at Beyer Volvo storage and at FC Community Center gym
Friday, May 19 9:00 am – 8:00 pm (9:00 am is paid entry)
Saturday, May 20 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Here's what the message looks like: Click on the orange "Sign Up" button to see the list of jobs/times and select yours. Then scroll all the way down to the bottom to SAVE your selections. And, yes, you can change your selection using the same link. To change, just click on the maroon box "**Change my Signup**" and you can add or remove signups or add comments.



Hello, Mollie Jewell!

You have been invited to sign up for "FC AAUW book sale 2023."
Please click on the orange "Sign Up" button below to view the
online sign up sheet and pick the time and jobs you want.

Sign Up

INTRODUCING...

This is the first of a series of interviews with new members to our branch.

Introducing Suman Minnick

It was a real treat to discover that Suman represents one of the many good things AAUW does: grant Graduate Fellowships. It was also a joy to welcome a new member who has two little children—five and three, to join those of us with “grands” that age.

Raised in Fairfax County, a “TJ” graduate, Suman discovered our AAUW fellowships when deciding to do graduate study in statistics at Columbia University, following her bachelor’s in mathematics and mathematics education at Boston University. Back in our area for the last two years after several years in Connecticut, Suman is a consulting actuary with a large company. Commenting that I’d heard Indians say that they simply live with numbers in their lives, she confirmed that in her own family she happily did mental math problems with her father at bedtime instead of hearing a bedtime story! No Good Night Moon for her!

Prior to graduate school, Suman spent several years as a math teacher, and continuing in that role, she also teaches new hires in her company. She is now ready for some help with her family and hopes to add an au pair to their household. Having explored her husband’s roots in Ireland, maybe she can find an Irish Colleen. We look forward to having Suman—a real AAUW awardee-- with us for our May awards night.

Diane Bodeen
Membership co-chair

MOVIE AND BOOK GROUPS

Virtual Movie Club



It is hard to believe that the virtual film meeting for three years. We have seen all types of genres, comedy, foreign, remakes of classics. You name it we saw it! Films selected starred women, were written by women and the themes of the films often highlighted the challenges and barriers women face. The May selection, **Picture A Scientist**, is no different and focuses on a topic important to AAUW, women in STEM. The 2020 documentary film highlights gender inequality in science. The movie tells the stories of several prominent female researchers and brings to light the barriers they encountered, including discrimination and harassment. The film features MIT's professor of biology Nancy JHopkins, chemist Raychelle Burks and geoscientist Jane Willenbring. group has been adventure, mystery,

Watch **Picture A Scientist** on *Netflix Streaming*. Join the group on zoom on **Wednesday May 24th 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!



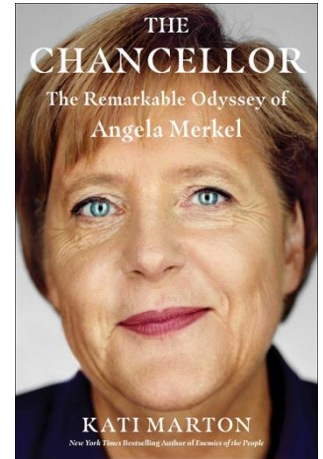
The film group will be on Summer Intermission until September, but if you enjoy sharing movies with friends, watch for news about our trips to local movie theaters to see the latest A-rated releases.

Book Club

The Book Group will discuss *The Chancellor* on Tuesday, May 16, 7:00 pm on Zoom.

From Goodreads:

In this “masterpiece of discernment and insight” (The New York Times Book Review), acclaimed biographer Kati Marton sets out to pierce the mystery of Merkel’s unlikely ascent. With unparalleled access to the chancellor’s inner circle and a trove of records only recently come to light, she teases out the unique political genius that had been the secret to Merkel’s success. No modern leader so ably confronted Russian aggression, enacted daring social policies, and calmly unified an entire continent in an era when countries are becoming more divided. Again and again, she cleverly outmaneuvered strongmen like Putin and Trump, and weathered surprisingly complicated relationships with allies like Obama and Macron.



CALENDAR

- **May 5:** Early voting begins for VA primary election.
- **May 8, 7:00 pm:** Branch Meeting with presentation of 2023 AAUW scholarships. Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church, VA
- **May 16, 7:00 pm:** Book Group on Zoom
- **May 18:** Book Sale set-up 9:00 am until done, Falls Church Community Center
- **May 19, 9:00 am-8:00 pm:** Book sale/VPIS Bazaar! Falls Church Community Center
- **May 20, 9:00 am-3:00 pm:** Book sale/VPIS Bazaar!
- **May 20, 6:00 pm:** Book Sale Wind-down celebration, Panshir Restaurant, 114 East Fairfax Street in Falls Church
- **May 24, 7:00 pm:** Virtual Movie Group on Zoom
- **June 12:** Annual Programming Picnic, 6:00 pm, Ireland’s Four Provinces, 105 W Broad Street, Falls Church
- **June 20:** VA Primary Election Day!

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 is still one session available on Monday, May 15. Please complete this [form](#) if you are interested or reach out to Regan at 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!

DUES UPDATE

Thank-you to those in the Falls Church branch who have already renewed their membership for the coming year!

The “standard” membership year for AAUW runs on the fiscal year July 1 to June 30. The first-round of automatic renewal notices from National have been emailed, with a second round forth-coming. If you did not receive a renewal email from National AAUW, it could mean that the organization needs to correct their data base to reflect your current email address. Please email Linda Lawrence at redheadred@msn.com if you have not received a reminder to renew. The information will be forwarded to National, and a renewal notice will be sent to the email address you provide.

If you have experienced difficulty with accessing your account for on-line renewal, it could again mean the data base has the wrong email address on file. Please verify/correct your email address on your [Personal Snapshot](#) page of the National website (aauw.org). If you receive an error message indicating you do not have an account, or “no account found”, but you know you are a current member, the main data base may contain an old email address. If you have changed your email address since you originally joined AAUW, please send an email to Linda with specifics, so a follow-up can be sent to the National’s membership staff to follow-up. Please **do not** create a new account.

If you access your account but still have difficulty with renewing on-line, please email Linda with specifics to forward the information to National. Their staff will address each scenario individually and corrections will be made if needed. They will provide a follow-up response/solution to members.

AROUND THE TOWN WITH AAUW FALLS CHURCH

Check-out our new QR code for a quick trip to our website!





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.

