



Falls Church Area (VA) Branch

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

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PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear Members:

Welcome! What did you do on your summer vacation? Pictures? Let's talk about the future.

*Tell me, what is it you plan to do
With your one wild and precious life?*



Excerpted from Poem 133: The Summer Day, Mary Oliver (1935-2019), Pulitzer Prize winning poet.

We have several new members who are joining us for a first or second meeting. All of us are really looking forward to meeting you on **Monday, September 11 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Falls Church Community Center! We will also look to the future: new plans, new projects, new budget, new fundraisers as well as tried-and-true endeavors to address recurring and high stakes issues.

What is our focus? What are our goals? In 1881, AAUW was founded to open the doors for women's career advancement and to encourage more women to pursue higher education. Today, our mission is much broader: **"advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy."** This broad mission includes, but is not limited to, goals regarding:

EDUCATION and TRAINING (equal access in education, emphasizing STEM, ensuring education at every level is free from sex discrimination)

ECONOMIC SECURITY (shrinking the gender pay gaps, bolstering inclusive career pathways for women in skills and training)

LEADERSHIP (expanding the number of women in leadership, particularly in STEM)

GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY (implementing continuous improvement and best practices in governance, inclusion, embodying the goals and spirit of equity, diversity, and intersectionality across all AAUW activities, prioritizing women of color)

ENHANCE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY (see AAUW's Strategic Plan 2.0 (www.aauw.org))

We have much to accomplish this year to meet our goals as well as have some fun!

On September 11, 2023, we will discuss two fundraisers. First, the Jewelry Sale. **The Jewelry Sale** is spearheaded by Marion (Bunny) Jarrett and Mary Ellen Gannon, and will occur on Saturday, September 23.

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Bunny and Mary Ellen will be seeking volunteers to help prepare the donated merchandise and sell it—jewelry, scarfs, and small purses/evening bags.

A second fundraiser, **BloomBox.com**, will occur from September 1 through September 30, and is an online plant sale. The branch gets a percentage on each order that includes our “code.” We hope all members participate by sharing the marketing materials we will send you (which include the “code” AAUW15) provided by Bloombox with friends, neighbors, and local groups, and maybe buying a chrysanthemum or two.

Why do we raise these funds? Because our most thrilling annual activity is giving away the money we raise annually to a group of stellar high school seniors, many of whom are first generation immigrants, and who want and deserve to go to college and need much financial assistance. It’s the “feel good” meeting of the year and all of us want to continue the scholarship tradition.

We are also facing **Virginia Elections**, which will occur on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. Continuing a great tradition, Falls Church Area branch is again participating in the Reclaim Our Vote post-card writing campaign organized by The Center for Common Ground. Our branch continues to break records! This set of ROV cards urge VA voters to consider where the candidates in their jurisdiction stand on important issues: reproductive rights and freedoms, voting rights, access to jobs, and education. This is an August and September activity, designed to reach voters as early voting begins in Virginia. Sign up for some postcards! See Mollie Jewell at the meeting.

AAUW – VA has also been busy helping our members to prepare for the November VA elections. Jeanine Greenwood and Denise Murden, Co-VPs for Public Policy, AAUW-VA, asked members to assist in preparing guides on candidate positions on reproductive rights, the ERA, workforce and paid leave issues, voting rights, and education. There may still be time to participate regarding candidates running for the Virginia Senate or the Virginia House of Delegates.

We are looking forward to seeing you and planning for a fun and impactful future.

***Aida Loomis and Sharon Zackula**
Co-Presidents
AAUW Falls Church Area Branch*

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 September 11 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**

NEW MEMBER WELCOME MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023



On September 11th come to meet and greet our new and current members. We will gather at 7:30 PM at the Falls Church Community Center. Program VPs will give status reports of their programs and a preview of the upcoming year highlights. This social event (with a bit of planning business) will give you the opportunity to meet new members and catch-up with returning members.

As Program VP, I am looking forward to this coming year which promises awesome speakers and fun events! Meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Falls Church Community Center (unless scheduling dictates otherwise). A peek at proposed upcoming programs includes: a meeting with the McLean group in a shared program; a holiday party at Pistone's Italian Inn; a talk by Fairfax County Librarian/Archivist, Christopher Barbuschak, the author of *Desegregation in Northern Virginia Libraries*; a panel of women entrepreneurs; and of course, the scholarship presentation and the annual "picnic".

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on the 11th!

Susan Conklin
Vice President, Programs

SAVE THE DATE

October 9, 7:30 pm at the Falls Church Community Center, **Arina van Breda from The League Of Women Voters** will share her experiences with registering voters after naturalization ceremonies. In addition to her stories of these events, she will provide information on how you, too, can be certified to register these new citizens to vote, and to share in the joy as they take the first steps to becoming fully involved in their new status as citizens.



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES



November 7 is Election Day in Virginia!

Every seat in the Virginia General Assembly is on the ballot this year, and AAUW-VA is working hard to ensure that Senators and Delegates who support our public policy priorities are elected. Due to the large number of retirements at the end of the 2023 Session and the redistricting that has taken place, many Virginians are not familiar with the candidates running in their districts. Thus, several AAUW-VA members are working on voter guides for the Virginia Senate races so that voters will be aware of how the candidates on their ballot stack up against AAUW-VA public policy priorities. The voter guides should be available in mid-September.

If you are not sure which Senate and House of Delegate districts you are in after redistricting, just go to <https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov> and put in your address. You will then see your current legislators and district numbers. Since most of the districts have been renumbered, even if you legislators have not changed, you will need to click on “new in ...” to see your new district numbers.

See the list of important dates and deadlines that follows relating to the election with links you may find useful.

Lobby Corps

After a three-plus-year hiatus, Lobby Corps is back! On July 27, fourteen Lobby Corps members visited Members of Congress, asking them to sign the discharge petition to ensure a House vote on House Joint Resolution 25 in support of the Equal Rights Amendment. After their visit, 15 additional Members of the House signed the petition! Future Lobby Corps visits are scheduled for September 21, October 19, and November 16.

For AAUW members that are unfamiliar with Lobby Corps, here is a brief summary of the group and an invitation to learn more about joining.

Since its formation in 1972, AAUW Action Fund Lobby Corps volunteers have made tens of thousands of in-person visits to congressional offices on behalf of AAUW members and supporters in their respective congressional districts, placing a name and a face to our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. Lobby Corps volunteers are trained in how to effectively advocate for AAUW’s priority issues with members of Congress and their staff. Volunteers receive briefings on each issue before going on visits, and new Lobby Corps volunteers are paired with experienced members. Capitol Hill Lobby Days are typically held once a month when Congress is in session.

AAUW members and college students in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area are welcome to join Lobby Corps. No experience or expertise is necessary—only a commitment to promoting AAUW’s nonpartisan public policy priorities. If you’re interested in learning more, please join one of our open interest Zoom calls to ask questions and hear from experienced Lobby Corps members. Register here:

- September 14, 9:30am: bit.ly/459QcJj
- September 21, 7:00pm: bit.ly/45w3TSt

If you have any further questions, please reach out to Becky Gaul, Lobby Corps Coordinator and Falls Church Branch member (beckygaul@verizon.net), or Marilyn Falksen, Falls Church Branch Public Policy Chair (falksen@yahoo.com).

Update on Court Case Regard Mifepristone

On July 16, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals limited access to the drug mifepristone, which is used for abortions in place of surgery, by ruling that the FDA had overstepped its authority when it made the drug mifepristone easier to obtain by allowing prescriptions without a doctor's visit and the drug to be dispensed through the mail. The Court's ruling, however, will have no immediate effect on access to the drug as an earlier Supreme Court decision said that the drug could continue to be available until the case is heard and decided by the Supreme Court, which could occur during the Court's next term beginning in October.



Important AAUW-VA Public Policy Dates

Please mark your calendars for the following events:

- September 28, 2023, 6-7 p.m.: Pre-Election AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom meeting
- January 4, 2024, 6-7 p.m.: Pre-General Assembly AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom meeting
- January 10, 2024: The 2024 General Assembly Session begins
- January 30, 2024, 5-8 p.m.: Women Legislator's reception (Richmond)
- January 31, 2024, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.: AAUW-VA Lobby Day (Richmond)
- February 28, 2024, time TBD: AAUW-VA Lobby Day (Virtual)
- April 4, 2024, time TBD: Post-General Assembly AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom meeting



GET OUT THE VOTE POSTCARDS 2023

Postcard writing for the fall elections has started! Signup now.

On Sept 9, I'll order more addresses for postcards for the Virginia general elections. We have already written cards to 500 voters in Stafford County, new addresses will be in a different area in Virginia. A typical sample is below. The due dates are between September 8th - October 30th. So, very doable.

If you want to write postcards, tell me how many postcards (multiples of 20) and if you want stamps. These should be ready at the Sept meeting, and afterwards at my house.

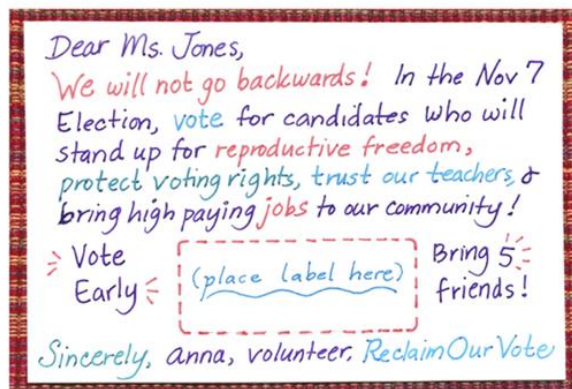
Remember, we are writing to registered BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) voters to alert them to this crucial election. 100 House of Delegates and 40 Senate seats are up for election. Once the seat of the Confederacy, Virginia became a stronghold of voting rights in 2021, which is now under threat, along with
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education that includes Black history, and restoration of rights to returning citizens. For now, VA has the least restrictive abortion laws in the South (26-28 weeks). We can help safeguard and expand hard-won civil rights by increasing BIPOC participation in elections. Postcards inform voters of where and when to vote, and key issues at stake.

“As goes Virginia in 2023, so goes the nation in 2024!” ~ Andrea Miller, Founder/Director, Center for Common Ground.

If you have questions or comments, contact Mollie Jewell, MollieJewell2@gmail.com, or 703-941-5643.

Reclaim Our Vote/Center for Common Ground
Sample Postcard: Virginia General 2023
All completed cards **SEPT 8-OCT 25** (Oct 30 if in Virginia)*



An Invitation...

The Citizens for a Better City and the Village Preservation and Improvement Society have invited AAUW-Falls Church members to a **Candidate Meet & Greet on Thursday, September 14th from 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the home of Ms. Nancy Brandon, 207 Tyson Drive, Falls Church, VA 22046.**

This meeting will be an informal reception – giving you the opportunity to interact with the Falls Church City Council and School Board Candidates in person. The candidates will be asked to introduce themselves and say a sentence or two, but no speeches and no debates, just collegiality!

The Candidates running for election in November are:

For City Council:

Ms. Letty Hardi (incumbent), Ms. Erin Flynn, Mr. Tim Stevens, and Ms. Justine Underhill

For School Board:

Mr. Jerrod Anderson (incumbent), Ms. Bethany Henderson, and Ms. Amie Murphy

ACCESSORIZE, GLAMORIZE AND RAISE SCHOLARSHIP \$\$ TOO!

Exciting news! We are offering two opportunities to glamorize your life this month with a jewelry and accessories sale...and a sale of all things Fall for your garden and home décor, with both sales profiting our scholarship program.

Our AAUW Branch **Used Jewelry and Accessories Sale** is scheduled for **Saturday, September 23, 2023, at the Falls Church Festival at the Falls Church Community Center**. Your donations to date have been terrific, and now we need to recruit volunteers to man our booth for two-hour shifts.

Accessorize with AAUW



Check out the donated accessories— vintage, costume, and precious jewelry as well as scarves and small purses—at the Falls Church City Fall Festival on Saturday, September 23, on the grounds of City Hall and the Community Center from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Look for the AAUW tent, bring your neighbors, your friends and children. All proceeds will support our 2024 scholarship program for young women in our area.

Please contact Bunny Jarrett or Mary Ellen Gannon if you can assist that day. We will organize a SignUpGenius.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Look for an email to sign up to work at the sale. We need help sorting donations, setting up the day of the sale, and volunteer sellers during the sale. Note that volunteers get first choice to purchase items!

Buy a Flower Help a Girl Bloom



Greetings & Happy Fall!

We are pleased to announce our 2023 Fall Fundraiser in partnership with BloomBox! BloomBox is a local online garden center that sells **fall plants, mums, planters, pumpkins, fall décor and more**. You will order these things online on their website and they will deliver them by hand, right to your home!

When you order your fall mums, flowers & décor from BloomBox, they will donate 15% of your purchase amount directly to us and the 2024 Scholarship Fund. We are excited about this fundraiser because it's an easy way for us to earn money, and all of you have the opportunity to purchase beautiful plants & décor, have it delivered, and support a local business at the same time. It's a win-win for everyone!



FALL FUNDRAISER

PRESENTED BY  BLOOMBOX



Enter Code
AAUW 15
At Check Out

September 1st-30th

Help us raise money by ordering fall plants & décor from BloomBox!

- Place your orders online in September.
- BloomBox will donate 15% of your purchase directly to us.
- Orders will be delivered to your home within 5 days of ordering.

SHOP AT **Getblooming.com**

Our 2023 Fall Fundraising Event begins TODAY! You can now order fall plants & décor to be counted towards our fundraiser.

Please read the instructions below about how to participate in the fundraiser:

1: Visit www.getblooming.com on your computer or cell phone.

2: Shop for fall mums, flowers, shrubs, pumpkins, planters and porch décor. Add them to your shopping cart and head to the checkout page.

3: In the checkout page, you need to enter our unique **AAUW15** into the 'fundraising code' box. Attached to this email are screenshots of where to enter this code.

4: After you order, BloomBox will hand-deliver your purchase directly to your home in 3 business days or less. *It's really that easy!*

Our fundraising event runs from today through September 30th. During this time, you can order as many times as you like, as BloomBox releases new plants & décor each week.

Head over to www.getblooming.com to see what they have and place your first order or call BloomBox at 717-970-5446 to order using the **AAUW15** code.

INTRODUCING...

NEW MEMBERS!

Since January 2023 Falls Church AAUW has added **8 new members!!**

Please welcome--

- **Anne Camper**
- **Mary Catherine Chase**
- **Manuela Costescu**
- **Diana S P Johnson**
- **Ann Korzeniewski**
- **Bonnie Krajeski**
- **Suman Minnick**
- **Sonya Smith-Valentine**



Let's warmly welcome them at our September 11th meeting. Make sure you greet a new member and find out something interesting about them!

The branch is trying out a new strategy to a welcome and retain new members. We assign a current member as their Buddy. If you are interested in helping to welcome a new member, please contact Dianne Bodeen at bodeendv@verizon.net or (703) 536-2235. We'll feature profiles of our new members in future FLASH

issues. We encourage all members to suggest new issue and projects that the branch may be interested in undertaking. That's AAUW-lifelong learning for women and girls.

Dianne Bodeen and Ann Baxter
Membership co-chairs

MOVIE AND BOOK GROUPS

Virtual Movie Club



Wednesday September 27th at 7:00 PM
Actress-Writer-Director-*Greta Gerwig*-Your choice!



Who has not been following the summer blockbuster, **Barbie**? Co-written by Greta Gerwig and her partner Noah Baumbach and directed by Greta, Barbie is the first film solo directed by a woman to cross the \$1 billion mark worldwide. The question is are you familiar with some of her earlier work? Rather than selecting a specific film to watch and discuss, the film group will view any work of Greta Gerwig and share with the group their thoughts, impressions, and recommendations.

Watch any film **Greta Gerwig** has starred in, written or directed. **Your choice of streaming service or current theater releases.** Join the group on zoom on Wednesday September 27th 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!



Book Club

First, many thanks to Polly Rosenstein for her years as chair of the Book Group. **Great Job, Polly!!** We invite members, who are interested in the branch Book Group to attend a **ZOOM planning session on Tuesday, September 19, at 7:30 pm.** Please let Anne Baxter (vabaxter@Verizon.net) know if you'd like to attend. She will send you a ZOOM invitation.

Plan to tell us about one interesting book-fiction or non-fiction that you read this summer. Also, we might consider using selections from the AAUW 2023 Summer Book Groups as a starting point for our 2023-2024 reading.

Check out these selections at:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/fellowships-grants/summer-reading-recent-books-by-aauw-fellows-grantees/>

PS: In the past the book group met on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (Sept.-Nov. & Jan.-June).

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- **Friday, September 1-Saturday, September 30**, Buy A Flowers, Help a Girl to Bloom Fall Fundraiser
- **Monday, September 11 at 7:30 p.m.**, Branch meeting and New Member Welcome, Falls Church Community Center
- **Thursday, September 14th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm**, Candidate Meet & Greet at the home of Ms. Nancy Brandon, 207 Tyson Drive, Falls Church, VA 22046
- **Tuesday, September 19, at 7:30 pm**, Book Club planning meeting on Zoom
- **Saturday, September 23, 10:00 am-4:00 pm**, AAUW Used Jewelry and Accessories Sale, Fall Festival, Falls Church Community Center; Northern District meeting
- **Wednesday, September 27, 7:00 pm**, Virtual Movie Club on Zoom
- **Thursday, September 28, 2023, 6-7 p.m.**, Pre-Election AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom Meeting

AROUND THE TOWN WITH AAUW FALLS CHURCH

The Falls Church branch of AAUW was proudly represented at the August 26th March on Washington: A Continuation, sponsored by the National Action Network and supported by AAUW National. It was day to join with a multitude of organizations advocating for equal rights with many in the AAUW contingent sporting signs

related to gender equity. Our group was led by branch co-president Sharon Zackula and branch treasurer Linda Lawrence.



Left to right: Suzanne Rothwell (Vienna branch), Sharon Zackula (FC branch), Linda Lawrence (FC branch), Nadine James (Vienna branch), Janine Greenwood (Vienna and (Reston-Herndon branches)



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.

