



Falls Church Area (VA) Branch

## AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

VOLUME 74, NUMBER 8

OCTOBER 6, 2023

### PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



Dear Members,

Welcome to fall and a full year of programs and fellowship.

“Change is in the air,” but the changes VA Public policy desire (pay equity, better childcare, bodily autonomy, access to appropriate medical care, passage of the ERA, for example) will be won only through activism, and attention to the upcoming election in Virginia, and subsequent local, and federal elections. VA Public policy must speak out. There are many ways to do this. Find the one that works for you. (If you are able, knocking on doors is good exercise, too.)

We look forward to seeing you at our October 9, 2023 meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Falls Church Community Center. Our speaker is Arina van Breda from The League of Women Voters.

And, again, thank you to our dedicated newsletter editors, Pam Martinov and Clare O’Sheel, for providing us such a great newsletter every month.

Aida Loomis and Sharon Zackula, Co-Presidents



## BRANCH MEETING

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.

Program Calendar Dates:

13 November—Still in development

2 December: Holiday Party at Pistone's Italian Inn

14 January (2pm): Christopher Baruschak and Susanne La Pierre of Fairfax County Public Library and co-authors of the book *Desegregation in Northern Virginia Libraries* will talk on their book

11 February (2pm): Mala Persaud will talk on Women Owned Businesses and lessons learned

11 March: Annual Business Meeting

8 April: Still In Planning

13 May: Awarding Scholarships

10 June: Annual Program Planning Picnic

## BUY A PLANT, HELP A GIRL TO BLOOM!

Buy a Plant, Help a Girl to Bloom

Our spur-of-the-moment mini-fundraiser with BloominBox netted \$130.27 with 11 orders. The funds will go towards our 2024 scholarship fund.

Thank you to all who participated! It was a first-time event, but those who purchased fall plants or décor were pleased and asked that we perhaps participate in a spring plant event with the same organization. I have added it to my planning list!

Clare O'Sheel

## PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

2023 Elections in Virginia

Although Election Day is November 7, early voting in Virginia has already begun. As mentioned in last month's *Flash*, every seat in the Virginia General Assembly is on the ballot, so this is a crucial election. It is vital that AAUW members vote for individuals that support AAUW-VA's public policy goals and encourage their friends, family and neighbors to do likewise.

**Vote. Every Voice Matters**



Because of redistricting and an unusually high number of retirements this year, many candidates on the ballot in November may not be familiar to voters. To assist voters, AAUW-VA has prepared voter guides for all contested Senate races which show how the positions of the candidates in each Senate district stack up against AAUW-VA public policy priorities. These guides can be shared with voters in your community, are provided as a public service, and are not intended to be an endorsement of any candidate or political party. To access

these guides, go to [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cSSWPBTYJfXME1F4a8EIGo0BKpulp\\_F](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cSSWPBTYJfXME1F4a8EIGo0BKpulp_F) and click on your Senate District.

If you are not sure which Senate District is yours, go to <https://whosmy.viriniageneralassembly.gov>, fill in your address, and you will see your current State Senator and district number. Since most of the districts have been renumbered even if the current legislator is running, you will need to click on “new in ...” to see your new district number.

And remember, Be Sure to Vote and encourage your friends, neighbors and relatives in Virginia to do likewise. Every Vote Counts!

Please note that a list of important dates related to the November 7 election is included in this newsletter.

### **Summary of State Public Policy Meeting**

On September 28, the AAUW-VA Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy, Janine Greenwood and Denise Murden, held a Zoom meeting for all interested AAUW-VA members. The following is a summary of the meeting: Get Out the Vote activities, are critically important during this upcoming election when the entire General Assembly will be newly elected. AAUW-VA has prepared voter guides for the contested Senate races. (See previous article for more information on the guides.)

Members were asked to save the following dates relating to the 2024 Virginia General Assembly:



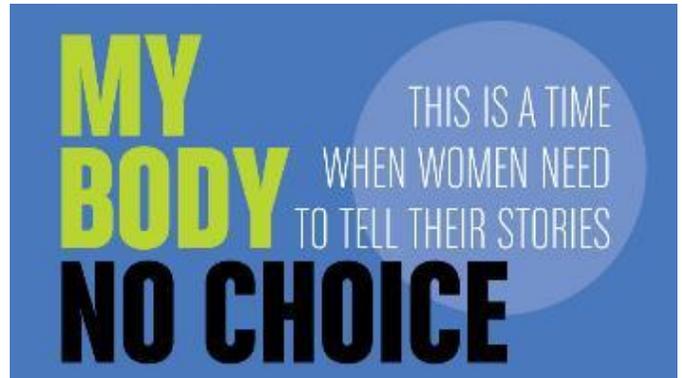
- **January 4, 2024:** Pre-General Assembly AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom Meeting
- **January 30, 2024, 5 p.m.:** Women Legislators’ reception (Richmond)
- **January 31, 2024:** AAUW-VA Lobby Day (Richmond)
- **February 28, 2024:** AAUW-VA Lobby Day (Virtual)

Denise and Janine are seeking volunteers to serve on the Women Legislators’ Reception planning committee. We have a venue but assistance with planning for refreshments, a program, and other details is needed. Please send an email to [aauwvpublicpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:aauwvpublicpolicy@gmail.com) if you can help.

Virtual lobby day plans are still in development. Denise and Janine will supply contact information, scripts, and background information for AAUW-VA members to contact their representatives by phone, email or Zoom meeting during Virtual Lobby Day.

Members were reminded they can find up-to-date public policy information on the [AAUW-VA Public Policy Google drive](#). Information will be updated as we head into the 2024 General Assembly session. More information can be found on the [AAUW-VA Public Policy webpage](#). Please email [aauwvpublicpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:aauwvpublicpolicy@gmail.com) if you have questions or suggestions to improve these resources.

**Reproductive rights is front and center in this upcoming election!!** Some alarming attempts to restrict access to reproductive health care and even to criminalize certain activities relating to reproductive health care have occurred in Grayson County and Bristol, VA. There will be a **special AAUW-VA Zoom presentation on abortion issues in Virginia on October 26 at 6 p.m.** If you want more information about what is happening in Southwestern Virginia, please email the Branch Public Policy Chair at [fcaauwpublicpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:fcaauwpublicpolicy@gmail.com).



If you have any questions, please reach out to Marilyn Falksen, Falls Church Public Policy Chair ([fcaauwpublicpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:fcaauwpublicpolicy@gmail.com)).

Denise and Janine are trying to determine the preferred time for Public Policy meetings and ask that you respond to a poll at: <https://forms.gle/tSk8B2eaCBEGkCN1A>

### Lobby Corps

As mentioned in last month's Flash, Lobby Corps was formed in 1972; in the subsequent 50 years, Lobby Corps volunteers have made tens of thousands of in-person visits to congressional offices in support of AAUW's nonpartisan public policy priorities. Lobby Corps is AAUW in action!



**Want to learn more? Attend the in-person training in Washington, DC on November 2, 9:30-11:30am. RSVP here: [bit.ly/JoinLobbyCorps](https://bit.ly/JoinLobbyCorps)**

AAUW members and college students in the Washington, DC area are welcome to join Lobby Corps. No experience is necessary, and Lobby Corps volunteers receive training on how to effectively advocate for AAUW's priority issues with elected officials. Lobby Corps meets on Capitol Hill on the third Thursday of each month (approximately two-hour commitment) when Congress is in session.

Lobby Corps is an essential source of accurate, timely information on issues impacting equity for women and girls.

Volunteers have talked to congressional offices on issues such as:

- Advancing gender equity in **education**
- Supporting measures to improve **women's economic security**
- Curbing attacks on **reproductive rights**
- Advocating for the affirmation of the **Equal Rights Amendment**

If you have any questions, please reach out to Kalina Majercak, AAUW Policy Associate ([majercakk@aauw.org](mailto:majercakk@aauw.org)); Becky Gaul, Lobby Corps Coordinator and Falls Church Branch member ([beckygaul@verizon.net](mailto:beckygaul@verizon.net)); or Marilyn Falksen, Falls Church Public Policy Chair ([fcaauwpublicpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:fcaauwpublicpolicy@gmail.com)).

## NORTHERN DISTRICT SUMMARY

### “AAUW’s Public Policy and Advocacy Agenda: Get Informed and Be Engaged”

AAUW-VA’s Northern District (ND) held its second meeting of the year on September 23, 2023. A total of 27 members representing 8 of the ND’s 11 branches participated. The focus was on AAUW and AAUW-VA’s public policy agendas and advocacy opportunities.

The meeting began with a video message from Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan. McClellan underlined her long support for and engagement with AAUW-VA as a Virginia state delegate and senator. She described her efforts since her election to Congress earlier this year to draft and/or sponsor legislation focused on AAUW’s public policy priorities, including the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, several childcare bills and the Paycheck Fairness Act. She spoke of her efforts to promote voting rights as well as to advance the ERA, noting that Virginia was the 38<sup>th</sup> and final state to ratify the ERA. She co-chairs the ERA Caucus on the Hill.

The Northern District had the honor to hear from Meghan Kissell, AAUW’s Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy. She assumed her position in March 2023 and is already making a difference, including by regularly engaging State Public Policy Chairs and Branch Public Policy Chairs. While Meghan continues to focus on national level priorities in Congress, she also is working to engage branches working with state legislatures. She noted the recent passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, the introduction of the John Lewis Voting Act, and the Paycheck Fairness Act. While the latter has little prospect of passage in the current Congress, she urged us to continue to communicate its importance to our Members of Congress. This reinforces the “champions” of the bill and keeps it in the forefront. In this connection, she encouraged members to take advantage of AAUW’s opportunities to convey views to legislators, e.g., Two-Minute Activist. Lobby Corps has also resumed on a monthly basis to advocate for these issues. Anyone interested in joining Lobby Corps should contact Kalina Majercak, AAUW Policy Associate ([majercakk@aauw.org](mailto:majercakk@aauw.org))

Title IX is another issue with a long AAUW history of action and advocacy. Stressing the importance of AAUW’s nonpartisanship, she emphasized the importance of holding every U.S. Administration’s “feet to the fire” and noted that the current Administration has been sitting on new Title IX rules.



There is new census data related to pay equity and ---- there is still a pay gap! Worse, Latina women have actually gone backward with their pay gap growing. In Virginia, overall women make 80 percent of what White men make. Women without a college degree are making only 59 percent. Meghan noted that there has been some good momentum at the state level (nationally) on salary transparency and salary history. (Note: We have work to do in Virginia!)

Finally, she said there is more momentum on the ERA now than ever before. There is an ERA Caucus on the Hill.

Our second speaker was Janine Greenwood, Reston-Herndon Area Branch, and Co-Vice President for Public Policy, AAUW-VA. Janine stressed the importance of the upcoming Virginia legislative elections in November

and the confusion that has arisen as a result of redistricting and legislator retirements. She described the work she and her member helpers have done to produce voter guides for the contested Virginia Senate seats that will be on the ballot. These guides address several key public policy priorities that have come up in the VA General Assembly. Incumbent voting records were used where available. Election websites and other sources were used for information for new, first-time candidates. The guides are for information only and do not constitute endorsements or opposition. The guides are posted on the AAUW-VA website. Attached to this report is a list of "Save the Dates" for the 2024 legislative year.

Both speakers entertained a number of questions and discussion.

The meeting ended with branches providing information on their upcoming programs, especially those open to other ND branch members.

Finally, thanks to those who brought diapers and baby wipes to donate to Generation Hope and Women Giving Back. These items are much needed and will make a difference in the lives of the mothers who receive them.

Susan Burk and Leslie Tourigny  
Co-Representatives, Northern District

## BRANCH NEWS AROUND THE NORTHERN DISTRICT

### SPRINGFIELD-ANNANDALE BRANCH



The Springfield-Annandale Branch, AAUW-VA is selling White House Christmas Ornaments again this year as a fundraiser. The 2023 Official White House Christmas Ornament is a festive holiday wreath, adorned on the front with decorations inspired by the handcrafted Christmas ornaments used in the White House during the Gerald R. Ford, Jr., administration. Dozens of dolls, cherubs, doves, stars, gingerbread men, candles, and pentagon balls, in bright, cheery colors are featured with red ribbons at the bottom bearing the words "Christmas 2023" and "The White House."

We will be selling the ornaments for \$24.00 each. This is a dollar less than Amazon :-). Many organizations sell these beautiful ornaments for fundraising, but all proceeds for this fundraiser will go to AAUW Funds. Our branch has been associated with this ornament sale for many years and we're excited to be offering them again this year. Given the heat we have been enduring this summer, purchase an ornament for yourself or a gift and dream about cooler temperatures! Please let Susan Burk (571-236-0426, burksu@aol.com) know how many you would like now, and she'll get them to you.

Thanks in adVance for your help raising funds for AAUW

Tour of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial

The Springfield-Annandale Branch is issuing you and your members an invitation. We are allowed up to 35 persons; guests are certainly welcome. We can meet at the Springfield Metro Blue line to caravan or you can choose to form your own carpools. SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2023 @ 1P.M. Please respond to me (Irene

McGhee via email or phone) by October 15th. This tour is especially being led by Sandy Lawrence who understands and has lived the life of a woman in the military. Thank you, and feel free to contact me with questions. Irene McGhee (email is [ibmcghee@verizon.net](mailto:ibmcghee@verizon.net) or phone 703 628-4048). I will try to make this work for anyone interested. Our tour and visit there should last about an hour or so. We will need to check in at the Visitor's Center first, and then proceed to the building. Walking is required, but I will check up on special handicap access.



If you are arriving by vehicle, park in the Arlington National Cemetery Parking Garage. Parking is \$3 per hour with a daily maximum of \$12. You will go through security screening at the cemetery welcome center. The Guide will meet us in the Lobby by the Gift Shop.

For more complete information, read our October Updates online which also includes a biography of Sandy Lawrence.

Irene McGhee (via Co-President Cathie Boivin)

Please see the flyers at the end of the newsletter for other events.

## RESTON-HERNDON BRANCH

The Reston-Herndon Branch invites all AAUW-VA members to join them Wednesday, **October 11, at 4 p.m.** for a special Zoom program with **Senator Janet Howell and Delegate Ken Plum** Link for the Meeting follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83103869092?pwd=enJHQ0JHL3p5TVljeDM1dkw1VEILZz09>

## MOVIE GROUP

 **Let's Go To The Movies Virtually**   
**Wednesday October 25th at 7:00 PM**  
***WOMEN WHO DIRECT***



Much of our focus in AAUW is on gender equity. What is the pay differential between men and women? What is the participation level of women in high paying jobs? How many women are majoring in STEM fields? Little attention however has been on women and their participation in the arts, specifically in directing. Last month we focused on Greta Gerwig, a woman who does it all, act, write and direct. In October we will watch films directed by women. What do women directors bring to their films?

Watch any film directed by a woman. ***Your choice of film, streaming service or current theater releases.*** Join the group on zoom on Wednesday October 25th 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 GROUP

The Book Group formulated some plans for this season. We'd like to alternate monthly between a typical book club meeting, where we discuss a selected book and a book recommendation meeting to exchange ideas about books that are fun, and/or timely. On **October 17** we'll have a book recommendation meeting. Join us and help select a book for November along with your recommendations for future discussion. In November we'll discuss the book that we've selected and read. After this experiment, we can discuss how the group might continue. Contact Anne Baxter ([vabaxter@verizon.net](mailto:vabaxter@verizon.net)) if you have any questions

Here are some of the books already recommended:

<i>Until I Am Free: Fannie Lou Hammer's Enduring Message to America</i>	Fannie Lou Hammer	Biography
<i>The Codebreakers: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing and the Future of the Human Race</i>	Walter Isaacson	Non Fiction
<i>Bruno, Chief of Police</i>	Martin Walker	Mystery Series
<i>From Scratch: Love in Sicily and Finding Home</i>	Tembi Locke	Memoir
<i>Good Night Irene</i>	Luis Alberton Urrea	Novel
<i>My Murder</i>	Katy Williams	Mystery
<i>A World of Curiosities</i>	Louise Penny	Mystery
<i>The Year of No Clutter</i>	Eve Schwab	Memoir
<i>Tom Lake</i>	Anne Patchett	Novel
<i>Lessons From the Edge</i>	Marie Yovanovitch	Memoir
<i>Three Fires</i>	Denise Mina	Novel

## CALENDAR

- **October 9, 7:30 pm:** Branch Meeting (in person), Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church, VA.
- **October 11, 7pm:** Candidate Forum for Soil and Water Conservation District Board, Fairfax County (see flyer at end of newsletter)
- **October 16, 8pm:** Candidate Forum for Sheriff and Clerk of the Court, Fairfax County (see flyer at end of newsletter)

- **October 17, 7:00pm:** Book Club (Zoom)
- **October 30, 7:30pm:** Board Meeting (Zoom)
- **October 25, 1pm:** Tour of Tour of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial with Springfield-Annandale Branch
- **October 25, 7:00pm:** Virtual Movie Group (Zoom)
- **October 26, 6:00pm:** Zoom Meeting on Abortion Issues in Virginia
- **November 2, 9:30-11:30am:** In-person training for Lobby Corps
- **November 4, 5-7pm:** McLean Branch Wine and Cheese Pairing Event
- **November 7, 6am-7pm:** Election Day (See important election dates in chart at end of newsletter)
- **November 11, 3pm:** *Wednesdays in Mississippi* (see flyer at end of newsletter)
- **November 18, 2pm:** VA Tech Innovation Campus Zoom Meeting (see flyer at end of newsletter)



*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.*



Important Dates for the November 7, 2023, Election

Ongoing (See deadlines below)	<a href="#">Register to vote</a>
Ongoing	<a href="#">Check and, if necessary, update registration information</a>
Ongoing (see deadline below)	<a href="#">Apply to vote absentee by mail</a>
September 22	<a href="#">Early in-person voting begins</a>
October 16, 5 p.m.	Deadline to register/update registration (in person or receipt by mail) to vote by regular ballot. Voters may register at <a href="#">local registrar's office</a> through November 7 to vote with a provisional ballot.
October 16, 11:59 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote or update registration (online)
October 27, 5 p.m.	Deadline to apply to vote absentee by mail
November 4, 5 p.m.	Deadline to request replacement absentee ballot or vote early inperson at <a href="#">your local registrar</a>
November 4, 2 p.m.	Deadline to request emergency absentee ballot
November 7	Deadline for postmark on absentee ballot submitted by mail
November 7, 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.	<a href="#">Election Day Voting at assigned polling places.</a> Non-registered voters may register and submit a provisional ballot.
November 7, 7 p.m.	Deadline for receipt of absentee ballot delivered in person
November 10, 12 p.m.	Deadline for receipt of absentee ballot mailed to registrar
November 13, 12 p.m.	Deadline for provisional No ID voter to provide acceptable photo ID via fax, email, mail, or in person to local registrar.

# CANDIDATE FORUM

HEAR FROM THE CANDIDATES

Soil & Water Conservation District Board, Fairfax County  
October 11, 2023 at 7 p.m. EST

Register to attend this forum on Zoom by using this link: <https://bit.ly/3PqOwFU>  
or this QR code.



**Submit questions and receive a Zoom link to view the forum.**

**The certified candidates who have agreed to attend are:**

Dana H. Barakat  
Rhonda J. Bitterli  
Christopher E. Koerner  
Debra O. Maddrell  
Mary E. Strayhorne

## **Sponsor**

- **League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area**

## **Co-Sponsors**

- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Lambda Kappa Omega Chapter
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Alpha Beta Alpha Omega Chapter
- Alexandria-Fairfax (VA) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.
- American Association of University Women of Virginia
- Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
- Fairfax County NAACP
- REV UP Virginia
- Sully District Council of Citizens Associations
- The Arc of Northern Virginia
- Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

**LWVFA is sponsoring additional forums....visit [LWV-Fairfax.org](http://LWV-Fairfax.org)**

# CANDIDATE FORUM

HEAR FROM THE CANDIDATES

**Sheriff and Clerk of the Circuit Court, Fairfax County  
October 16, 2023 at 8 p.m. EST**

**View the forum live on Fairfax Public Access TV, channel 10, or by live streaming.**

**During the live broadcast, viewers can call-in with questions at the number provided.**

**The certified candidates for sheriff who have agreed to attend are:**

Stacey Ann Kincaid (D)

Jerry L. McMillian (I)

**The certified candidates for clerk of the circuit court who have agreed to attend are:**

Gerarda Marie Culipher (R)

Christopher J. Falcon (D)

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- American Association of University Women of Virginia
- Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
- Fairfax County NAACP
- Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- REV UP Virginia
- Sully District Council of Citizens Associations
- The Arc of Northern Virginia
- Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

**LWVFA is sponsoring additional forums....visit [LWV-Fairfax.org](http://LWV-Fairfax.org)**



Have you ever heard of the \$1billion Virginia Tech Innovation Campus?

Would you be surprised to learn that it is not located in Blacksburg, VA, but in Alexandria?

Would you be equally surprised that a major focus of its mission is a K-12 Initiative?

Come join us via Zoom on Saturday, November 18, 2:00-3:15 p.m., to hear from Dr. Pamela Gilchrist, Director, K12 Programs, at the Innovation Campus.

“The Virginia Tech Innovation Campus is committed to inspiring young people to pursue technology careers within the computational sciences. We will focus our attention initially on the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), with whom we have a signed memorandum of agreement, recognizing it is a diverse school district in close proximity to the Innovation Campus. We will partner with ACPS to develop programming within the elementary, middle, and high schools that will first motivate and inspire and then prepare students to major in STEM disciplines at a four-year college like Virginia Tech and pursue technology careers.”

Join Zoom Meeting

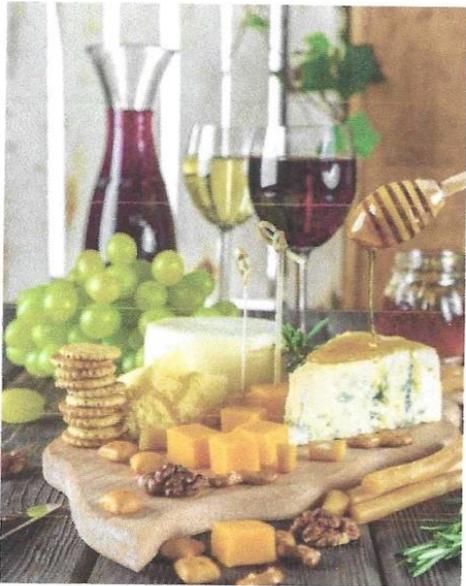
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82571470490>

Meeting ID: 825 7147 0490

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

# JOIN US FOR A WINE AND CHEESE PAIRING EVENT



**Sponsored by:**

The American Association of  
University Women (AAUW)  
McLean Branch

**WHEN:** November 4<sup>th</sup> 5-7PM

**WHERE:** Total Wine & More, McLean

*Enjoy fine wines paired with exotic  
cheeses to help raise funds for  
women's scholarships*



Free Parking

For questions: Taylor6840@gmail.com

**TICKETS: \$40** (checks only)

Checks should be received by Nov 1st

Make checks payable to: AAUW McLean Branch

Mail to: AAUW Fundraiser, PO Box 1002, McLean, Virginia 22101

Name and Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) Names: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



# Wednesdays In Mississippi

Proper Ladies Working for Radical Change

**Saturday, November 11, 3 pm in-person performance, followed by post-show discussion,  
at Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Road, Mt. Ranier, Maryland**

**[Order your tickets today!](#)**

## **AAUW members faced violence to fight for civil rights in 1964 Freedom Summer in Mississippi!**

They were called “communists” by segregation supporters.

A new play *Wednesdays in Mississippi* dramatizes the little-known activism of an inter-racial alliance of women who fought for civil rights in the South in 1964. Enraged at the exclusion of women from the 1963 March on Washington, Dorothy Height, director of The National Council of Negro Women, invited Northern women to join Mississippi women to struggle for voting rights, to support the Freedom Schools, and to aid the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

The "Wednesdays in Mississippi" coalition, which included the **AAUW** and the League of Women Voters, formed the only women's civil rights project led by a national organization.

Written by Nicole Burton, *Wednesdays in Mississippi* is produced by Pipeline

Playwrights. Burton adapted the play for the stage from Debbie Z. Harwell's award-winning book by the same title. The November 11 performance will include a post-show discussion.

### **Who are the Pipeline Playwrights?**

Pipeline Playwrights strives to break through the glass ceiling women face in the American theater when they try to get their plays produced. The group of five mid-career women playwrights aims to close the theatre gender gap one play, one reading, one production at a time.

Pipeline Playwrights is based in Fairfax County, Virginia, and the digital world.

In 2018, Pipeline Playwrights launched "Our Time, Our Stories," a multi-year project to produce five new full-length plays. After the pandemic hit, Pipeline quickly pivoted to Zoom and presented dozens of online readings and events, including a full production of the first play in the "Our Time, Our Stories" series, Ann Timmons' *A Very Present Presence*. In 2022, Pipeline began producing live plays again (*Heartland* by Patricia Connelly and *Unprotected* by Jean Koppen) but is committed to continuing to serve audience members unable to attend live theater because of disability, caregiving responsibilities, or economics.