



*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  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023**



**NOVEMBER 13, 7:30 pm**

Think Camino De Santiago! Eileen Grant our November 13th guest will take us on a trip to that ancient pilgrimage route. Eileen is a native Virginian with a major dose of travel fever. In her early teens she lived in Israel for four years and never has been cured of world travel. She worked for the CIA for 10 years and was fortunate to visit Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia. Spain beckoned with the thought of hiking the Camino De Santiago, an ancient pilgrimage route that starts in the south of France, crosses the Pyrenees and heads straight across Spain to the city of Santiago. Eileen will share the "how-tos" of her five-week hike across Spain with pictures and stories of her adventures.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on the 13<sup>th</sup>!

*Susan Conklin  
Vice President, Programs*

**SAVE THE DATES**

**HOLIDAY  
PARTY**

*Holiday Party* time, **December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12 pm** when we meet at Pistone's Italian Inn. Susan Conklin has been working with Chef/owner Telemaco Bonaduce on a menu of entrees, salads and desserts that showcase the restaurant. She will pass on the menu and prices soon in a separate email. We will have a separate space to enjoy our time there, changing seats between courses so you can expand your ability to socialize with more members. There will also be a collection box for donations to Graham Road Elementary School (see article on page 11).

**THE JEWELRY and ACCESSORIES SALE IS BAAAACK!**  
**Saturday, December 16, 9 am-noon**  
**Falls Church Farmers' Market**



Do you remember that rainy, windy day in October when our AAUW branch scheduled our Jewelry and Accessories Sale at the Fall Festival? If you do, you also will remember that we wisely canceled the sale. Our goal was to reschedule the sale before the holidays, but it was too late to register for already-scheduled sales and festivals. We are fortunate that Mary Ellen has been able to persuade the powers that be to give us a space at the **Falls Church Farmers Market** during their usual Saturday morning hours.

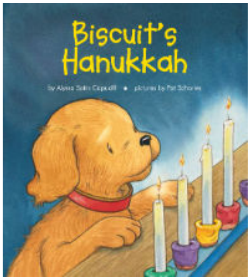
The new and improved **Used Jewelry and Accessories Sale** will be held Saturday morning, **December 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM** at the Farmers Market in front of City Hall. All of the jewelry, small purses, and scarves are priced and packed and ready for the sale. We will **need your help** the day of the sale.

Bunny will bring a sign-up sheet for two-hour shifts from 8:00 to 10:00 for Set Up and Sell and 10:00 to 12:00 for Sell and Pack Up to the Branch meeting on November 13. Mary Ellen will send out a Sign-Up Genius following the meeting to ensure we have a full complement of salespersons.

Your job now is to make your holiday list, so you are ready to purchase items at the sale. Additionally, we need you to persuade the weather gods to provide a seasonally warm, dry day for the sale.

*Bunny Jarrett and Mary Ellen Gannon, Co-Chairs*

## POP-UP HOLIDAY BOOK SALE!



Who does not love to receive a book for a gift? With that in mind, we held back several cartons of holiday books at the end of the April book sale and will set-up a pop-up **Holiday Book Sale** in the portico area in front of the Falls Church Community Center during the Farmers' Market on **Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.**

We too are hoping to recruit some **volunteers** and will have a sign-up sheet at the November 13 branch meeting for those who would like to help us sell, set-up or break-down. If you cannot attend the meeting, but would like to help, please contact Clare O'Sheel at [cosheel45@gmail.com](mailto:cosheel45@gmail.com). There are some truly beautiful books in this collection, so even if you can't volunteer, please stop by, and pick out a book for someone special on your holiday shopping list.

## VPIS TREEFEST 2023!

**Friday December 1 and Saturday, December 2** for the annual Christmas tree auction sponsored by the Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS). This is an auction of decorated trees provided by local nonprofits that will be on display in the outdoor patio of Ireland's Four Provinces restaurant. All proceeds go directly to the participating organizations and we're hoping to add a few more \$\$ to our scholarship funds.

Last year we decorated our tree with handmade book-themed ornaments. If you would like to contribute to the ornaments this year, we will have a workshop (all materials provided), **Monday, November 20, 10:00 am-12:00 pm** at the West Broad Residences, 301 West Broad Street, Falls Church. Let Clare O'Sheel know if you would like to participate: [cosheel45@gmail.com](mailto:cosheel45@gmail.com).





## November 7th is Election Day in Virginia!

As explained in previous issues of the Flash, this is a critical election for Virginia. If you have not already done so, be sure to vote on November 7 and encourage your friends, neighbors, and relatives to do likewise!

### **AAUW-VA Public Policy Meeting re: Reproductive Rights**

On October 26, AAUW-VA Public Policy Co-Vice President Denise Murden convened a Zoom meeting with 3 panelists to update interested members on attempts in southwestern Virginia to restrict abortion. These efforts have been led by groups from outside of Virginia including the Federalist Society and Texas Right to Life.

*Kimberly Smith, Founding Board Member, State Line Abortion Access Partners (SLAAP)*, spoke about attempts in Bristol, Virginia, to pass a zoning ordinance that would prohibit abortion clinics in that city. She also described strategies used by pro-choice advocates to prevent such an ordinance from being enacted. Although a resolution in support of such an ordinance was passed, the City Council never enacted a zoning ordinance prohibiting the building of abortion clinics within the city limits.

*Rev. Laura M. George, J.D., Executive Director, The Oracle Institute* talked about the efforts in Grayson County to establish an ordinance that would criminalize both the providers and recipients of abortion. Specifically, the proposed ordinance declares Grayson County a “Sanctuary County for the Unborn”. The ordinance would criminalize the sale, delivery, or receipt through the mail of items or tools used for abortion, including medications and would penalize with fines and/or jail time anyone who assists with such abortion care. The Grayson County Board is holding a public hearing on the ordinance on December 14, 2023. Rev. George urged individuals to sign a [moveon.org](https://www.moveon.org/petitions/oppose-grayson-county-s-anti-abortion-ordinance) petition in opposition to this ordinance. A link to the petition follows:

<https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/oppose-grayson-county-s-anti-abortion-ordinance>

### *Kenda Sutton-El, Executive Director, Birth in Color RVA*

Kenda, a reproductive justice and maternal health advocate, explained why efforts to restrict abortion have a particularly adverse impact on women of color, who often already have limited access to good health care.

If you're interested in more detail, the recording of the meeting can be accessed at:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EBX14Yza0cCK\\_cH7wEjBtb6eKYnCOx83?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EBX14Yza0cCK_cH7wEjBtb6eKYnCOx83?usp=sharing). The recording is the third item on the page dated October 26, 2023. The site also includes copies of Smith's and Sutton-El's presentations (the fourth and sixth Items dated October 30, 2023).

AAUW-VA is supporting the advocates for reproductive rights in Bristol and Grayson County; Co-Vice President Murden plans to speak in opposition to the ordinance on behalf of AAUW-VA at the Grayson County Board of Supervisors public hearing on December 14.

### **Preparations for 2024 Virginia General Assembly**

AAUW-VA will again participate in the **League of Women Voters Pre-session** event on **December 6** to highlight the AAUW-VA Public Policy agenda.

**In-person Lobby Day is scheduled for January 31, 2024.** The night before, a **Women Legislator's reception will be held at 5:00 pm** at the Episcopal Church in Richmond (address to be provided later). The Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy will be working with Greater Richmond AAUW Branch members on this event. A block of 18 rooms has been reserved at the Hampton Inn in Richmond at a group rate of \$149 each for the night of January 30. Details for virtual lobbying on February 28 are being worked out. Issues for lobbying will depend on what is introduced by the newly elected members of the legislature after the election but will reflect our policy priorities. More information about these events will be forthcoming.

### **Miscellaneous AAUW-VA Public Policy Activities**

Voter Guides for the 37 contested Virginia Senate Races were completed, shared with individual candidates, and posted on the AAUW-VA website prior to the start of early voting. AAUW National recognized Virginia for this effort.

After a summer break, AAUW National restarted its monthly State Public Policy Chair (SPPC) Zoom meetings. We have been introduced to and given access to a new legislative tracking system, BillTrack50, which we will use in the upcoming General Assembly session. AAUW National Lobby Corps has also resumed with many Virginia members, including Janine Greenwood. Lobby Corps training for both existing and new members will be held on November 2 in the National AAUW office in D.C.

AAUW National sent out two GOTV emails to all AAUW-VA members after working on the details and wording with us. The first encouraged registration and the second encouraged voting. National is using Virginia as a 'beta test' of new ways they can support state public policy activities.

Along with many in the AAUW-VA leadership, Denise Murden and Janine Greenwood attended Senator Warner's annual non-partisan Virginia Women's Conference in Norfolk on September 30. They attended AAUW's Salary Negotiation Workshop and received applause when they were able to comment that we have been pursuing salary history ban legislation in Virginia for several years.

Denise Murden attended Social Justice University on October 1 in Virginia Beach. This annual event, organized by the Hampton Roads Legislative Collaborative Table (LCT), provides advocates with information on the common agenda of the 27 participating groups, including AAUW-VA, that was developed in June.

More than 3,000 postcards were distributed to our branches for the Reclaim Our Vote campaign, and we know that some Branches were supplying their own cards to write. Cards were mailed through October 25, so we will provide a complete report on participation in January.

### **Important AAUW-VA Public Policy Dates**

Please mark your calendars for the following events:

- 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 Legislators' 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

For this year's impactful VA general election, Falls Church AAUW members and friends turned out to write 2,198 non-partisan postcards to get out the vote (GOTV). With the entire VA legislature up for election after redistricting, the GOTV message aligned closely with the AAUW public policy priorities, urging voters to consider candidate positions on reproductive rights, voting rights, and trust in teachers.

For this year's elections in VA, we wrote the 2,189 postcards to urge voters to participate in the primaries and the fall general election, directing our effort to voters in Stafford County (Manassas), Chesapeake City, and Fairfax County. This brought our total cards written since Sept. 2022 to 5,698 (last fall we wrote GOTV postcards to Georgic, North Carolina, and our own VA for a special election).

And **the grand total since July 2020 is now 20,588!**

Here's a quick look at our statistics:

VA fall election (primary and General)	2,198
Since Sept 2022 (1 year total)	5,698
Grand total (July 2020 to date)	20,588

## INTRODUCING...

### NEW MEMBERS!



### Introducing Mary Catherine Chase

If we don't see Mary Catherine on a regular basis, it could be because of her 5-year-old daughter or 8-year-old son. Or it might be a watercolor class she is taking. Or maybe her work as GW's business school's director of marketing and communications. Or, quite possibly the undergrad career course she is taking on as its teacher.

In other words, this is one busy lady! But she is almost the definition of an AAUW member: championing women in higher education (GW's MBA program was #1 in the US for the percentage of women enrolled in the full-time program); a passion for institutions, NGOs and government work that empowers diversity, equity and inclusion through higher education; her appreciation for scholarships and fellowships and the impact they have on possibilities for people; and best of all, her admiration for what *our* chapter has done in these matters.

You might want to ask her about how they are challenging the gap in business education in the media as an issue in finding women in the “chief/chairman suite,” or The Alliance—a leader in international education, policy and advocacy. Or, you might want to know how she does all of this with 5- and 8-year-olds.

## Introducing Bonnie Krajeski

I enjoyed talking to Bonnie, whose life story was not too unlike mine, as a wife of a Foreign Service officer. That meant a lot of traveling and living in a lot of interesting places over 30 years: Kathmandu, Madras, Warsaw, Tunis, Cairo, Dubai, Yemen and Bahrain—twice in the role of Ambassador's wife (never easy as I observed it).

Bonnie's hometown is Boston, and she did her undergraduate degree at UMA Amherst. She since then has earned two MED's in Virginia, one for Special Ed. While working for USAID in Yemen, she became involved with education for women. Her teaching in Virginia has found her with her special love, interestingly enough, as a certified math coach.

You would think she had traveled enough, but she hasn't had her fill yet, as she and her husband travel whenever possible—most recently in Sicily, which included a cooking course. Bonnie enjoys biking, quilting, and books!

Now back in our area in retirement, she is keen to get involved, do volunteer work, and generally to feel at home. She and her husband have four grandchildren from three children, one of whom, as a lawyer, has written the gun policy for the Massachusetts's House. Another is a writer in NYC, and a tech son lives in Montreal.



*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 welcome a new member, please contact Dianne Bodeen at [bodeendv@verizon.net](mailto: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-chair*



## Let's Go to the Movies

Join Susan Conklin and other AAUW friends (and husbands) **Wednesday, November 8, 10:45** am for *The Holdovers* at the Angelika theater in the Mosaic District. Lunch afterwards for those who are interested.



## Virtual Movie Club

**Wednesday November 29th at 7:00 PM** (5th Wednesday of the month)  
**“Tell It Like a Woman”**

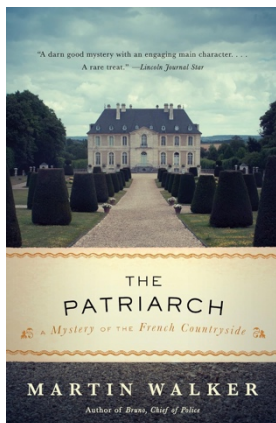


The virtual film group continues with the theme of women directors. This time there are seven women directors in one film. **Tell It Like a Woman** is a 2022 film with seven segments from seven female directors from different parts of the world. Each segment is an inspiring and empowering story about women, by women, for everyone. The common denominator is the representation of women protagonists. Each of these very different women faces a particular challenge with determination and courage. Some of these inspirational and empowering stories are influenced by true events.

Watch **Tell It Like a Woman** on Kanopy. Free access to Kanopy streaming is available through many of the local public libraries including Fairfax, Arlington, Loudoun and DC. Join the group on zoom on Wednesday November 29th at 7:00 PM. Please take note that this is the fifth Wednesday of the month versus our normal fourth Wednesday of the month. 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 Virtual Movie Group will be taking an intermission in the month of December.

## Book Club



For November we selected a mystery, **The Patriarch** by Martin Walker. This book is part of a series of mysteries starring Bruno. He is the town policeman and a master chef. He settles town disputes, mediates family quarrels, and tracks down lawbreakers in his adored village of St Denis and its environs. There are also descriptions of the many special meals he cooks. If you can't find **The Patriarch**, read another book in the series. Thanks to Susan Conklin for recommending this author and the selected book.

If you have any questions, please email Anne Baxter at [vabaxter@verizon.net](mailto:vabaxter@verizon.net).

Hope you can attend the AAUW Book Group discussion, **NOVEMBER 21 AT 7:30 PM.**

Anne Baxter is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Topic: Anne Baxter's Zoom Meeting AAUW Book Group**

**Time: Nov 21, 2023 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5840467896?pwd=VGF2d1NVTDVicUFBdmJTWExSNkJFUT09>

**Meeting ID: 584 046 7896**

**Passcode: kzXam2**

## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- **Tuesday, November 7, ELECTION DAY!**
- **Monday, November 8, 10:45 am**, “The Holdovers” at Angelika theater, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax
- **Monday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m.**, Branch meeting, **Art Room** at the Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church
- **Monday, November 20, 10:00 am-noon**, Treefest ornament workshop
- **Tuesday, November 21, Book Club** on Zoom
- **Wednesday, November 29, 7:00 pm**, **Virtual Movie Club** on Zoom
- **Friday, December 1 & 2, Treefest** at Ireland’s Four Provinces, 105 West Broad Street, Falls Church
- **Saturday, December 2, Holiday Luncheon, noon**, Pistone’s Italian Inn, 6320 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church
- **Saturday, December 9, Pop-Up Holiday Book sale, 9:00 am-noon**, Portico, Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church
- **Saturday, December 16, Holiday Jewelry and Accessories sale**, Falls Church Farmers Market, 300 Park Ave., Falls Church

## GRAHAM ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INITIATIVE

### AAUW Falls Church and McLean Community Outreach How We Can Help Graham Road Elementary School

Graham Road Elementary School (GRES) is a Fairfax County public school (Title 1). Just 5 miles from downtown McLean and 1.5 miles from Falls Church, students at GRES and their families face significant socio-economic challenges. Students are bright, polite and hard-working, but many lack the basic necessities our own families take for granted. The dedicated faculty often pay for resources from their own pockets. Working with the School Principal, Guidance Counselor, Social Worker, and Science Resource Teacher, we have identified ways our members can give back to our community.

- \***Donate** new or gently used/clean clothing articles (see list below);
- \***Provide** financial support for snacks for the three autism classes. (Autistic children often have challenges with eating due to sensitivity to textures, tastes and smells.);
- \***Assist** with packing weekend food bags with food kits on Thursday mornings;
- \***Share** your knowledge/background in a STEM-related field with students in the classroom;
- \***Be a mentor** to a student who needs extra encouragement and attention;
- \***Make a financial contribution** designated as you wish: for example, winter clothing for needy students; books for students to keep or for the library to lend; tactile/sensory items for students with autism or anxiety, science resource materials, field trips, etc.

**Checks are payable to Graham Road Elementary School PTA, a 501c3 organization. Checks can be dropped off or mailed to Sharon Zackula or Anita Booth (see addresses below). Anita Booth will deliver them to the GRES PTA.**

For more information, please contact Sharon Zackula (FC), Anita Booth (McLean) or Sue Christie (McLean). **Falls Church will collect checks and clothing donations at its Dec. 2 holiday party.** All three contacts will have drop off containers for clothes in front of our houses. (See below for dates).

#### **Sharon Zackula**

[Sharon.zackula@gmail.com](mailto:Sharon.zackula@gmail.com)

1433 Pathfinder Lane, McLean

(drop off clothing Nov. 1 – Dec. 3, 2023 &  
Dec. 2 at the holiday luncheon)

#### **Anita Booth**

[anitasbooth@gmail.com](mailto:anitasbooth@gmail.com)

6754 Darrells Grant Place, Falls Church

(drop off clothing Nov. 16 -- Dec. 15)

#### **Sue Christie**

[Suechristie@gmail.com](mailto:Suechristie@gmail.com)

6638 Midland Pl, Falls Church

(drop off clothing Oct. 20 – Dec. 15)

**New or Gently Used Clean Clothing for Girls and Boys:** GRES welcomes children's sizes (age 4 – 12), petite women's size small or extra small; and men's size small.

\*Children's tennis shoes/sneakers age 4/5 and up. Women up to size 8-9; Men up to size 11. Neutral colors preferred.

\*New underwear and socks

\*Slacks and pants, especially sweatpants

\*Jackets, sweaters, fleece tops, winter hats, and gloves.



*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.*

