



Falls Church Area (VA) Branch

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

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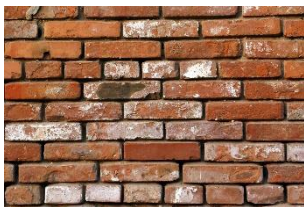
PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Bricks carry special meaning with AAUW FC members. The term is used to describe a block or box of books for our used book sales. The bricks of books are packed to provide structure and stability. Bricks are used in children's books such as *The Three Little Pigs* and *The Wizard of Oz* to demonstrate both strength, stability and challenges. And of course there is the brick wall we all hit or we want to tear down.



Our strength and sustainability comes from what we do. Since 2020, our participation in Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) has resulted in more than 22K postcards being sent for primary and general elections. Monthly branch programs have allowed us to experience our segregation history, welcome new citizens and celebrate women entrepreneurs who pursue their passion. I can hardly wait to hear Anne Simmons Benton on April 8th as she talks about the W20. What are the bricks she is building for gender equity and what gender inequity brick walls is she tearing down?

The scholarships and grants we will announce in May are the result of last year's 2022-2023 fundraisers. 2025 awards are built on the four 2023 autumn fundraisers and "May 2024 (Fundrai\$ing) Madne\$\$." On May 3rd and 4th, we connect the old with the new, our used book sale and jewelry sale. Together we will be joining VPIS's Treasure Attic Sale. "May Madne\$\$" continues with dining for dollars at Lebanese Taverna on May 5th and the Bloombox fundraiser and promotion from May 1- May 15, all in time for Mother's Day and graduations.



The truth is that there are times that we face brick walls, too. What steps do we need to take to gain strength, maintain sustainability and tear down those brick walls? For example, last month Becky spoke about the AAUW National proposal to open membership to non-degree holders. I cannot improve on what Becky said but my takeaways were that the proposed bylaw change supports our value of inclusion and provides us the opportunity to better address the challenges of gender inequity. In our own branch, what steps do we need to take to continue to offer scholarships and grants in the future when the path forward on the fundraising brick road is challenging and unclear.

Let's face it, Dorothy did not reach Oz alone. She had a team with brains, heart and courage. In March we elected 6 new board members, four seasoned and two new. Thank you Mary, Anne, Bunny Mary Ellen, Bonnie and Kate for your willingness to serve in a leadership capacity. On April 12-13, AAUW -VA members will be gathering in Lynchburg, VA. It took a team to make this event possible. Fundraising too requires teamwork. We are grateful to the members who have helped on Saturdays, donated books and jewelry or have communicated to their networks about our sale. We look forward to seeing you during the sale in May.



As we work in April to prepare for May Madne\$\$, I will close with a March madness quote. The strength of a team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team. AAUW Falls Church is lucky to have both.

Sharon and Aida

BRANCH MEETING

A Woman of Substance



That is Anne Simmons-Benton. I know Anne as a member of our branch but she is so much more. She is a senior executive with over thirty years' experience in Strategic Management, Business Development, Entrepreneurship, Early-Stage Investment and Innovation Management with a strong successful track record in designing, winning and implementing international projects for impact. For the last four years, Anne has been the Co-head of the US Delegation to the W20 (think G20), a transnational network that brings together women leaders of civil society, businesses, entrepreneurship ventures and think tanks.

Anne is our keynote speaker on 8 April at the Falls Church Community Center at 7:30 pm. I asked Anne in her words what her talk is about:

I plan to talk about the Women 20 (W20)—The W20 is an official G20 engagement group. The main goal of Women20 is to promote women's economic empowerment as an integral part of the G20 process.

I will share a little bit about the history, the process during each Presidency and share some current information on the current round which is the Brazilian Presidency for the G20 and hence the W20.

I would like to have a discussion with AAUW members on the similarities and differences of the priorities of AAUW and the W20 and see how we can use both a national and multinational fora to advance equity and equality for women.

This is an event not to miss but also the opportunity to talk and discuss priorities.

Virginia General Assembly

The Virginia General Assembly adjourned sine die March 9, 2024. Overall, it was a very positive legislative session for AAUW-VA priorities. Five important bills were approved by the General Assembly and sent to the Governor on a fast-track basis with the following results:

- HB 894 Expanding public meeting electronic access – SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR
- SB35 Requiring unconscious bias training for medical providers – Governor asked for an amendment
- SB238 Mandating insurance coverage of contraceptives – Governor asked for an amendment
- SB101 Marriage equality – SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR
- SB235 Creating controls on school district book bans – Vetoed by the Governor



Those bills passed by the General Assembly and not sent on a fast-track basis to the Governor must be signed into law, amended, or vetoed by the 11:59 pm on April 8. If the Governor does not act on a bill before the deadline, it automatically becomes law. Three bills supported by AAUW-VA and not sent on a fast track have also been **vetoed**:

- HB1 Raising the minimum wage
- SB370 Prohibiting employers from seeking salary or wage history of prospective employees
- HB569 Requiring employers to notify employees of deadlines to file state and federal discrimination complaints

The complete list of AAUW-VA's key bills and their status is available

here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oq85IUGVlwhRQHlnjJ2qkrK82LMovZYf>

The General Assembly will reconvene on April 17 to consider the Governor's amendments and vetoes.

Calls for Action

A bipartisan majority of the General Assembly agreed on a budget before adjournment and sent it to the Governor, who has very different priorities. Budget talks with the Governor are ongoing, and these will have significant impact on K-12 education. An action alert from one of AAUW's allies for easy outreach to delegates and senators to encourage support of public education funding can be found here: <https://www.4publiceducation.org/post/ask-your-virginia-representatives-to-vote-yes-for-education-funding>



Two Human Trafficking bills have been sent to the Governor for his signature. [HB633](#) will prosecute traffickers who have caused or plan to cause harm to individuals if they do not perform labor demands. [HB581](#) requires commonwealth attorneys to establish multidisciplinary human trafficking response teams that meet at least annually to discuss protocols and policies. **AAUW-VA is asking members to contact the Governor to urge him to not veto the bills and to support the victims of human trafficking.** Email him at glenn.youngkin@governor.virginia.gov or call 804-786-2211 and press one to leave a message. If the system is not taking messages, try hitting 2 as this may also work.

AAAUW-VA Public Policy Meeting

This meeting for all AAUW-VA members originally scheduled for April 4 has been rescheduled for **Tuesday, April 9, at 6 p.m.** With this change we will meet after the deadline for the Governor to take action on the bills now on his desk, allowing us to have a fully informed conversation about where everything stands. All AAUW-VA members are encouraged to attend. Watch your email for the link to the meeting.

Title IX

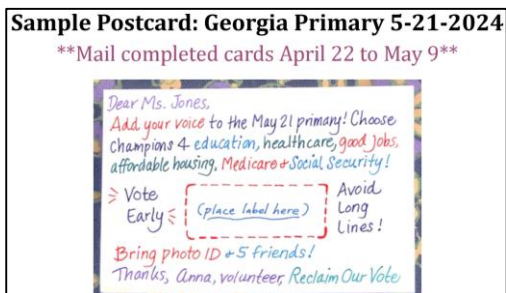
On the National front, the revised **Title IX** regulations that AAUW strongly supports are expected to be released soon. We expect the new rules to reestablish strong protections for students experiencing sexual harassment, strengthen supports for pregnant and parenting students, and clarify that all students, including LGBTQ+ students, have the right to a safe and inclusive learning environment. AAUW's Lobby Corps advocated for these regulations in March.



Congressional challenges are expected when the rule is finalized, so it's important for members of Congress to understand the support for Title IX. Use the following link for more information and to contact your US Senators and Representative. [Please tell your members of Congress that you support a robust Title IX rule that supports and protects ALL students.](#)

2024 GOTV POSTCARDS

2024 GOTV postcards – Mail April 22-May 9



Falls Church AAUW has launched our 2024 nonpartisan, get-out-the-vote efforts by writing postcards for the GEORGIA primaries. As usual, we are joining Reclaim Our Vote's [ROV](#) campaign to increase Black voter participation. If you couldn't write postcards in this round, we'll have another before the primaries. If you are writing some of our 1,040 postcards, remember to hold them for mailing on or after April 22.

What are we doing? Writing to Black voters in Fulton Co. (Atlanta) GA. We are letting them know that a primary is happening. Voting in the primary increases the chances that a person will vote in the general election -- and that is our ultimate goal.

Why is this so important? In voter suppression states, legislators have passed laws making it harder for people to vote, especially voters of color.

ROV gives voters of color the information they need to cast their ballot despite barriers to voting with personalized postcards (and phone calls and text messages).

Redistricting as a result of the 2020 census opens up potential power shifts, which could threaten or protect voting rights, education, women's health, economic equality, and many other issues.

We contact ALL voters of color in the states we work in. By all voters, we mean not just the voters who vote every year but every registered voter who has a chance to cast a ballot because we know every voice deserves to be heard!

FUNDRAISING

ANNUAL BOOK SALE MAY 3 & 4

The books are coming into the Beyer showroom on Broad Street and it's beginning to look a lot like a book sale may be around the corner. Aida and Sarah are hoping you will help publicize the donation hours and location through your social media: Facebook, Instagram, Next Door, etc. Books are being collected on Saturdays, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm at the Beyer Volvo showroom, 1231 West Broad Street, Falls Church. Books can be donated at the site until April 27. The flyer at the end of the newsletter can be copied and pasted into any and all outlets you access. If you need help with this, contact Clare at cosheel45@gmail.com for assistance. Clare also has posters and bookmarks for distribution if you would like some.



Volunteers are invited to join us during those Saturdays to help with sorting. Feel free to call or text Aida at 703 766 8050 to see if help is needed or just show up. For sales days on Friday, May 3, and Saturday May 4, watch for the Sign-up Genius email to schedule your time for the book and the jewelry/accessory sales.

JEWELRY AND ACCESSORY SALE



Co-chairs, Bunny Jarrett and Mary Ellen Gannon, are seeking both donations and volunteers to help with at the VPIS Attic Treasure's sale scheduled for May 3 and May 4. Donations requested include vintage jewelry (even Christmas pins), small purses and decorative scarves. Drop-off can be made at Bunny's or Mary Ellen's home (see April 24 email for addresses) or members can bring items to the AAUW Branch Meeting scheduled for Monday, April 8 at 7:30 PM.

A Sign-Up Genius will be posted next week allowing volunteers a choice of hours.

Thank you.

BLOOMBOX SPRING FUNDRAISER May 1 – 15

As you begin planning your spring and summer gardens, keep a few areas open for beautiful perennials and annuals from BloomBox, the locally sourced nursery that delivers healthy bloomers right to your door. And 15% of your purchase (before tax) goes to our branch scholarship fund! We held a similar fundraiser with BloomBox this past fall with rave reviews about the plants and the process from those who participated. We are sure you will be pleased with the variety and quality of the nurseries' offerings for your spring and summer garden. This AAUW FC fundraiser will run from May 1 through May 15. Watch your email for promotional materials that will include our special code, which you will need to use when ordering your plants. Happy planning and planting!



SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING CONTINUES AFTER THE BOOK SALE

In lieu of our traditional celebration dinner, we have arranged a May 5 gathering at the Lebanese Taverna (Westover) AND the restaurant will donate 20% of all sales (excludes tax and gratuity) to our scholarship fund. This extends beyond meals at the restaurant to carry-out at the market, and even online purchase of gift cards. Spread the word to your friends and neighbors. Remember, any time, all day May 5 – 20% for AAUW scholarships. Sunday hours are 10:30 to 6:00.



Present the flyer (at the end of the newsletter) to the Lebanese Taverna at 5900 Washington Blvd, in nearby Westover or shop at the Lebanese Taverna Market, 4400 Old Dominion Drive. For online purchases type, use the promo code of AAUW. The Lebanese Taverna will donate **20%** of sales on May 5 brought in through the flier campaign. Be sure to present the flyer though!

Join us at Lebanese Taverna on May 5, and bring the Flyer. Many of us are planning to rendezvous at 5:00, but you can come (with flyer) any time (10:30am-6pm).

MOVIE AND BOOK GROUPS



We've all been busy getting ready for our May Book and Jewelry sale. It is time to take a break and just laugh.

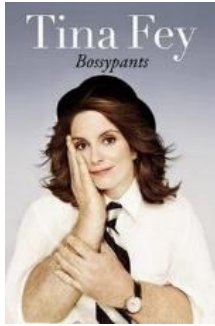
female comedian.

So April is a celebration of **Women's Humor month for FCAAUW!** Watch and or read something about a favorite female comedian. Then share what fun you had listening to /reading about Whoppi Goldberg, Tina Fey, and Ellen DeGeneres, or your favorite

Join us on Wednesday, April 17 at 6:30pm to laugh and learn about women comedians. We'll again offer hybrid meeting- virtual meeting at the Falls Church Library as well as a Zoom meeting. You will receive the Zoom invitation a few days before the meeting.

Below are some suggested movies, books, about some of these women. We encourage hearty laughter!

Whoppi Goldberg)
Sister Act



Tina Fey
Mean Girls 2004 & 2024 (movie)
Bossypants

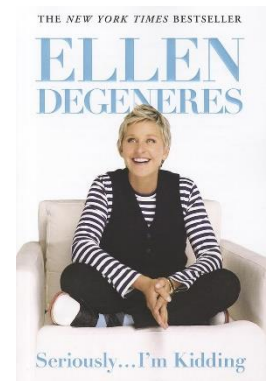
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLc6oA7ZelLyRT_QeElff7RFqbeAqxG64R

Ellen DeGeneres

Ellen's Final Show (Full Episode)

Seriously, I'm Kidding (book)

Mark Twain Award speech : Mark Twain Prize | Ellen DeGeneres: The Kennedy Center Mark Twain Prize | Season 2012 | Episode 1 | PBS



Anne Baxter and Aida Loomis

CALENDAR

- **April 8, 7:30 pm:** Branch Meeting (in person) with speaker Anne Simmons-Benton, Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church, VA.
- **April 9, 6pm:**VA AAUW Public Policy meeting
- **April 12-13,** Virginia AAUW Convention in Lynchburg
- **April 17, 6:30 pm:** Book and Movie Club (In person at the Mary Riley Stiles Library and on Zoom)
- **April 22, 7:30 pm:** Board Meeting (Zoom)
- **April 22- May 9:** Mailing window for GOTV postcards
- **May 1-15,** Bloombox Fundraiser
- **May 3, 9am-8pm and May 4, 9am-3pm,** Jewellery and Accessory Sale, Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church, VA
- **May 5, 6:00pm,** Dinner at Lebanese Taverna, 5900 Washington Blvd.- rendezvous at 5:00pm, but you can come (with flyer) any time (10:30am-6pm)



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.

Falls Church AAUW ANNUAL BOOK

and ACCESSORY SALE

FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

In Partnership with

Falls Church Preservation and Improvement Society's Attic Treasures Sale



For more than 40 years the Falls Church branch of the American Association of University Women has sponsored a used book sale that attracts bibliophiles and book dealers from throughout the region who are looking for the latest in gently read fiction and nonfiction, collectible and antiquarian books as well as children's and cooks' specialties. This year we are excited to add vintage jewelry and accessories (scarves and purses) to our offerings!

**Falls Church Community Center
223 Little Falls Street Falls
Church**

Friday, May 3, *10:00 am – 8:00 pm

Saturday, May 4, 10:30 am – noon

****Early Entry passes for 9 am opening on Friday, May 3: \$10***

Give new life to your library with new books, and to your wardrobe with some stunning new accessories!

***Thank you to Beyer Auto for its generous use of their showroom space to collect donated books.
Collecting books Saturdays, 10:30 am-1 pm at Beyer Volvo showroom, 1231 West Broad Street,
Falls Church until April 27***





Falls Church Area (VA) Branch

LEBANESE TAVERNA PUTS THE FUN IN FUNDRAISER



LEBANESE TAVERNA is partnering with

AAUW **MAY 5th**

20% of sales goes to your school or organization

Tax & gratuity not included. Not valid with other offers. Offer valid throughout the day with online food, online gift card purchase, catering and take out orders. Not applied on Door Dash ordering. See below for specific instructions.



GOT OTHER PLANS THAT NIGHT?

buy a gift card online and use anytime at any location.

DINE AT THESE LOCATION:

WESTOVER: 5900 Washington Blvd Arl

MARKET: 4400 Old Dominion Dr, Arl

When Dining In, present this flier to your server or show on your phone to receive credit.

Online Food Ordering, type your school name, **AAUW** in the notes section

Online Gift Card Purchasing, type **AAUW** in the promo code section

Credit is received on all catering, dine-in, take out and gift cards at the above locations.

NOT APPLIED ON DOORDASH WEBSITE



Good Food Enjoyed in Good Company
WWW.LEBANESETAVERNA.COM



All fundraisers must be pre-approved by Lebanese Taverna.