

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

VOLUME 75, NUMBER 3

MARCH 2, 2024

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear Members:

Spring approaches and we are full of ideas, plans and business!

It is time for our annual business meeting at which we elect officers—President or Co-Presidents; Vice President-Programs (or Co-VPs) and Secretary. Please attend on March 11, 2023, at 7:30 so we can accomplish these important tasks with the required quorum present. (The Agenda, and other documents will be sent @ 24 hours before the meeting.)



The Nominating Committee -- Dianne Bodeen, Mary Ellen Gannon, and Marion (Bunny) Jarrett -- deserve our appreciation for finding next year's leaders. Six members have stepped up, and, if elected, have agreed to serve as follows: Mary Youman and Anne Baxter, as Co-Presidents; Bunny Jarrett and Mary Ellen Gannon, as Co-Vice Presidents of Programs; and Bonnie Krajeski and Kate Aubert, as Co-Secretaries. These members have agreed to keep the branch running! Let us honor them by showing up to vote!

An important decision was made recently to hold a small book sale and a used jewelry/accessory sale in collaboration with VPIS Treasure Attic Sale. *WE WILL BEGIN COLLECTING BOOKS ON SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024, and every Saturday in March and April from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM.* Our free sorting and storage facility is lent to us by the Beyer Auto Group and is in the former Beyer Volvo Showroom at Gordon Street/Route 7 (just across the street from the Giant at Haycock/Route 7). The last day of book collection will be Saturday, April 27, 2024. **MAY 3 - 4 IS THE BOOK SALE!** More details below.

Thank you, to Aida and Clare for finding such great speakers for our February program on women entrepreneurs. We had a big turnout for them. Thank you for the newsletter, Pam, and Clare. We hope to see you at our annual business meeting on *Monday, March 11, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.*, at the Falls Church Community Center.

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 MARCH 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 BUSINESS MEETING FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY CENTER MONDAY, 7:30 PM

This is our annual branch business meeting where we elect new officers to our board. We will be voting for those selected by the nominating committee to serve as president, secretary, and program chairman. The slate of nominees includes:

- Co-Presidents: Anne Baxter and Mary Youman
- Co-Secretaries: Bonnie Krazinski and Kate Aubert
- Co- Program Chairs: Bunny Jarrett and Mary Ellen Gannon

We will also be discussing the National AAUW Board of Directors' support for the proposal to open AAUW's membership (i.e., remove the degree requirement).

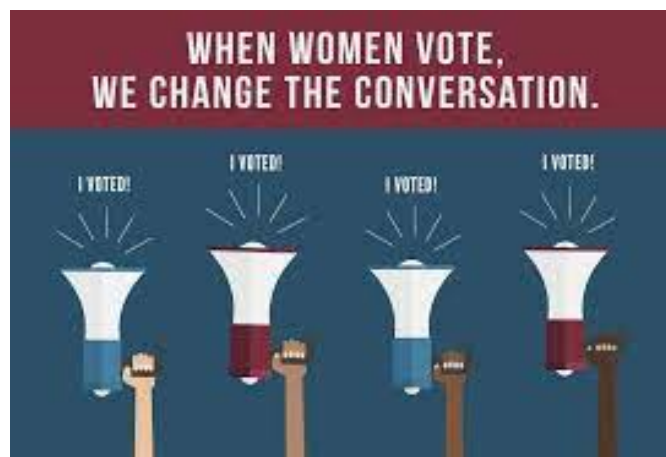
Preparing for AAUW National Elections 2024

What: This spring all AAUW members nationwide will be asked to vote on an amendment to the national bylaws that would open membership to any individual who supports AAUW's important mission of advancing equity for women and girls.

When: Voting will open April 3 and close May 15. Each member will receive email from vote@simplyvoting.com with their unique ID and Password to vote.

For our Branch: To help decide this important issue, before voting begins, we're planning a discussion during our March Business meeting. The proposed bylaws changes, background, and FAQs are available using the <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/open-membership-toolkit/>. We'll refer to this resource during our March meeting discussion. Please join us or review the information on your own.

Actual member voting will take place online between April 3 and May 15. Each member will receive email from vote@simplyvoting.com with their unique ID and Password to vote.



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

Lobby Day

This year's AAUW-VA Lobby Day in Richmond was a huge success. Over 30 members from across Virginia reached out to nearly 80 legislators on Wednesday, January 31. The day started with a briefing by the AAUW-VA Co-VP's on the status of legislation pertaining to the organization's public policy priorities -- reproductive rights, maternal health, electronic meetings, paid family and medical leave, paid sick days, salary history ban, workplace discrimination and harassment, and public school funding. After the briefing, members visited the offices of two or three assigned legislators to share information about these priorities and to ask that the legislators support or oppose specific bills. After these meetings, AAUW-VA members were introduced to the General Assembly from the visitor galleries on both the Senate and House sides of the historic Capitol Building. The Falls Church Area Branch was ably represented at Lobby Day by Sharon Zackula, Becky Gaul, Marilyn Falksen, Bonnie Krajeski, and Kate Aubert.

The evening prior, the Falls Church contingent joined other AAUW-VA members at a Women Legislators Reception which gave them an opportunity to meet legislators, aides, and some of AAUW-VA's public policy partners in a more relaxed setting.



Falls Church Branch contingent in the House Gallery (right) and in the State Capitol (left)



Virtual Lobby Day

AAUW-VA also scheduled a Virtual Lobby Day for February 28. The event, with AAUW-VA Co-VP's for Public Policy Denise Murden and Janine Greenwood, provided legislative updates and answered questions. As part of the day's activities, participants were asked to contact both their Virginia State Senator and Delegate by phone or email, post about our issues on social media, and/or write a letter to the editor of their local newspaper about one or more of our public policy priorities. Murden and Greenwood provided the messages participants need to send to their legislators on the key issues that must be dealt with before the Session ends on March 9.

General Assembly Action

This article is written on February 27, and less than two weeks remain until the 2024 General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn. However, there is still much to be accomplished. The Senate and House have passed versions of the 2024-2026 budget, both of which include much-needed additional funding for schools. The two bills must now be reconciled, and the resulting budget language sent to the Governor for his consideration.

Several items on AAUW-VA's public policy priority list have passed or are expected to pass the General Assembly and be sent to the Governor for his signature or veto, including salary history ban, paid family and medical leave, raising the minimum wage, menstrual data privacy, right to contraception, allowing certain non-elected public bodies to hold additional virtual meetings, requiring employers to inform workers of their rights to file a charge of discrimination within 300 days after an alleged unlawful discriminatory practice occurred, and allowing local communities to raise revenue for the purpose of building or repairing a local school.

Lobby Corps

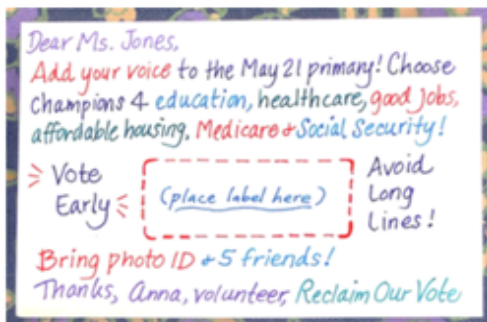
AAUW Lobby Corps is an active group of women who go to Capitol Hill once a month – typically the third Thursday of the month – for two hours to advocate for legislation that advances equity for women and girls. If you would like to become part of that dynamic group or just learn more about it, contact Becky Gaul at beckygaul@verizon.net.

RECLAIM OUR VOTE REACTIVATED!

Falls Church AAUW is now launching 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. In past years, we have written THOUSANDS of postcards, so don't be shy, sign up now.

Sample Postcard: Georgia Primary 5-21-2024

****Mail completed cards April 22 to May 9****



How can you participate? Just respond to this email or send an email ("postcard" in the title) to MollieJewell2@gmail.com with the:

1. number of cards you want to write (multiple of 20, please)
2. number of stamps you need, if any
3. pickup location. Mollie Jewell (3715 Tollgate Terr, Bailey's Crossroads), Mary Youman's (4419 N. 18th Street, near Ballston), or Book sorting at Don Beyer's old showroom on Sat. mornings.

What are we doing? For these cards, we will be writing to Black voters in GA. As a nonpartisan organization, we aren't telling people whom to vote for, but we can let them know that a primary is happening, and we can encourage them to vote. Voting in the primary increases the chances that a person will vote in the general election -- and that is our ultimate goal.

- Mailing window: April 22 - May 9. Please do not mail Georgia postcards until **April 22**.
- Early voting in GA: April 29-May 17
- GA Primary on May 21, 2024.

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!

BOOK SALE-JEWELRY/ACCESSORY SALE COMBO WITH VPIS



It's that time of year again...the famous annual Falls Church AAUW Book Sale! (May 3-4) Which means it's time to start collecting books!!! And volunteers.... Here is everything you need to know:

There are nine donation and sorting dates: MARCH 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and APRIL 6, 13, 20, and 27.

Volunteers Needed: 3 - 5 per week (expect week 1 to be slow but ramping up by the second or third week).

Time: 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

Location: 1231 W Broad St in the Old Beyer Showroom.

Jobs: ***Cull-Categorize-Brick**

I hope to have outside volunteers to help with donations and lifting.

***Cull:** We will no longer accept reference materials, textbooks, sociology, religion, self-help, philosophy, or magazines and books that are damaged, moldy and in poor condition. Books that are not used for the sale will be donated to VPIS and they will haul away. Only want books in prime condition and are marketable.

***Identify Potential Specials:** These are hardbacks that can sell for more than \$4 or paperbacks for more than \$3. Generally, these are books in excellent condition such as coffee table books, best sellers, recent editions (2020 or newer), first editions of bestsellers, rare or old books. Put them in Clare's Corner for individual pricing.

***Sort by Category and Brick Accepting in the following categories:**

- FICTION
- NON-FICTION
- CHILDREN'S
- COOKBOOKS



In exciting news, the Book Sale will be combined not only with the VPIS Spring Market but with our own AAUW Jewelry and Accessory Sale!

We will be scheduling volunteers for two-hour shifts on Friday, May 3rd and Saturday, May 4th. Look for the Sign-up Genius closer to the time of the sale.

We have a large amount of merchandise on hand since we were only able to have a two-hour sale at the Farmers Market earlier in the year. We do not need you to search your dresser drawers and boxes stored on your closet shelves for donations. However, if you have items of jewelry or small purses that you think would sell, please donate them. We have found that matched sets of jewelry and items in attractive jewelry boxes sell well. We have several boxes of scarves but can use any that are particularly attractive and in pristine condition. If you can bring them ironed and folded, it will save us much prep time.

Please bring donations to the branch meeting on March 11 or April 8 or drop them off on Bunny's screened porch or Mary Ellen's back porch beginning Wednesday, March 20th. There will be a box marked "AAUW" for the items. Add your name to your donation so we know who has brought the items.

We are looking forward to the sale. Those of you who worked the Farmer's Market know how much fun we had. We will be perfecting on our sales pitch for Mother's Day for the May sale!



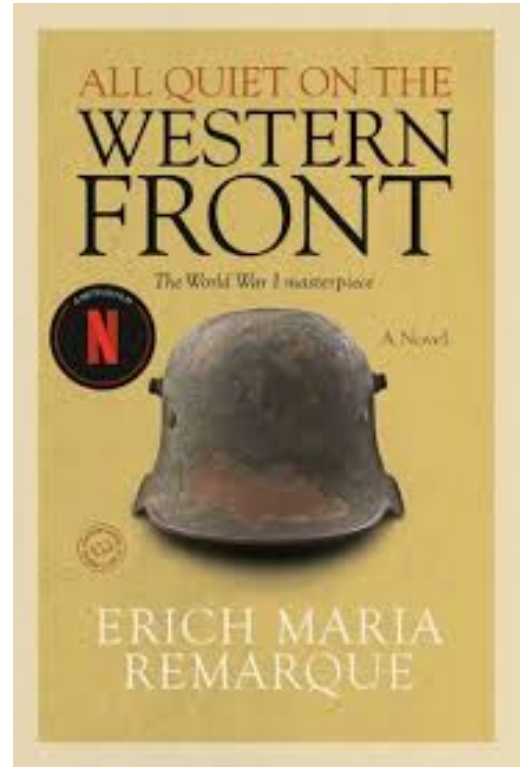
MOVIES & BOOKS

*Let's Read a Book and Let's Watch a Movie
Let's Get Together! Hybrid!
Mary Riley Styles Library and Zoom
Wednesday March 20th at 6:30 PM*



Brad used to have a rule in the house when our daughters were young. Read the book and then we will go see the movie. It worked wonders for Daniele, Coleen, and Julie but after a while it worked less with me. Yes, my face was on the imaginary book hall of shame in our house.

The month of March is going to be different for me. The Book and Film Groups will be doing something different too! Next month we are joining forces and we are going hybrid. This gives us the opportunity to really be with each other but also have the option to participate from home.



The book selection is the 1929 publication of **ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT** by Erich Maria Remarque. The film of the same name is the 2022 German movie which won the Academy Award for the Best International Feature Film. Both describe the German soldiers' extreme physical and mental hardship during and after the war. Since the publication of the book there have been three film versions, including the one we are focused on. The 1930 American adaptation won two Academy Awards. The 1979 British-American adaptation, a television film, won a Golden Globe and an Emmy. Feel free to watch those as well. The book is also available as a graphic novel if that is your preference.

We will be meeting in one of the study rooms at the Mary Riley Styles Library on March 20th at 6:30 PM. Please make note of the different dates and times. The library closes at 8 so we should be done relatively early. We will also send a Zoom link. Hybrid is new to many of us but will be a great opportunity to learn what is available to us as a group.

As always, all are welcome whether or not you read the book or watched the film. There is no AAUW Hall of Shame in Falls Church. Please call or text Aida at 703 966 8050 if you are interested!

CALENDAR

EVERY SATURDAY until April 27, 10:30-1 pm: Book collection and sorting, Beyer Volvo showroom, 1231 West Broad Street, Falls Church

Saturday, March 9



Northern District Meeting

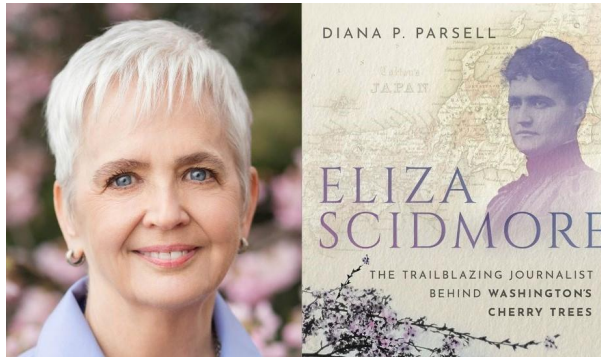
Saturday, March 9, 2024

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library

4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria

Just in time for Cherry Blossom Season in Washington, DC.!



- Diana Parsell, author and member of the AAUW McLean Area Branch, will introduce us to *Eliza Scidmore, the Early AAUW Member Behind Washington's Cherry Blossoms*.

As Diana's book reveals, Scidmore was an extraordinary journalist and travel writer who got her start as a newspaper correspondent in Gilded Age Washington in the 1870s. She wrote authoritative books on Alaska, Japan, Java, China and India; was an activist in the burgeoning U.S. conservation movement, in association with major figures like John Muir; and was the most influential female at the early National Geographic, as the first woman elected to the board (in 1892) and to publish photographs in the magazine. In 1920, Scidmore became an AAUW member. Copies of the book will be available for sale.

- A business meeting will follow.

Monday, March 11, 27:30 pm: Annual Branch business meeting, Falls Church Community Center.

Wednesday, March 20, 6:30 pm: All Quiet on the Western Front book and movie discussion, Mary Riley Styles Library.

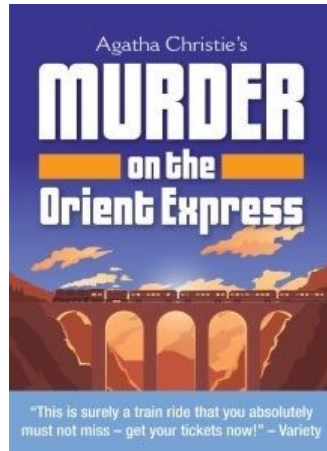
Friday and Saturday, May 3 & 4: FCAAUW BOOK, JEWELRY AND ACCESSORY SALE, Falls Church Community Center.

Friday, March 22

Mt Vernon Branch



Alexandria Branch



It's 1934, just after midnight, and a snow-storm has stopped the opulent sleeper train in its tracks. A wealthy American businessman is discovered dead, and the brilliant and beautifully mustachioed Hucule Poirot must solve the mystery before the murderer strikes again. Christie's plot-twisting masterpiece takes audiences on a suspenseful thrill ride that Broadway World calls "Everything you could want – broadly drawn characters, exotic settings, and a spectacular murder."

"This is surely a train ride that you absolutely must not miss – get your tickets now!" – Variety

Alexandria and Mt. Vernon AAUW Branches

Invite You to Attend a Fundraising Event

LITTLE THEATRE OF ALEXANDRIA

600 Wolf Street, Alexandria

March 22, 2024: 7 PM RECEPTION 8 PM PERFORMANCE

Tickets \$40

Please join us in supporting AAUW's goals to help women and girls.

Checks made to Mt. Vernon AAUW

Mail to: Patsy Quick, 5508 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309



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.

