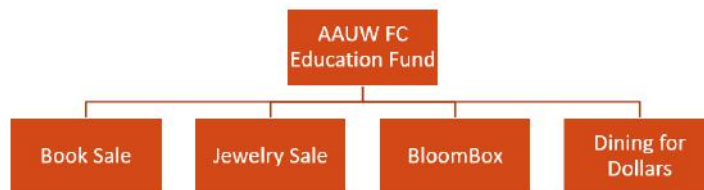


**PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

May Madness: Pick your Bracket



Last month's President's letter was about bricks and walls. This month my thoughts go to brackets—like in basketball's March Madness. We are not selecting our favorite team or our alma mater but experiencing our own May Madness. From fundraising to scholarship awards, we have been crazy busy. Along the way, we have made tough decisions. In our case, our bracket ends with our branch's success.

May Madness begins on May 3rd and May 4th, as we host a Book and Jewelry Fundraiser at the Falls Church Community Center. Thank you for donating books and jewelry, getting the word out about the sale, and working before and during the sale. Sign up to help via [this link](#). Then, on May 5th you decide WHERE (La Taverna Westover or Market), WHAT (check the menu), WHEN (open hours), WHO (members, family, friends) and HOW (eat in or take out or gift card) to support our fundraising. And, if that is not enough to keep you busy in May, you can choose to participate in the branch's BloomBox fundraiser between May 1st and May 15th. Proceeds from books, jewelry, dining, and flowers go to the branch education fund. The WHY is for scholarships and grants.

Most of the May mania is behind us after May 5th. The tough decisions have been made as to who will be awarded scholarships, grants and receive special branch recognition, so we turn to honoring and celebrating them on May 13th at 7:00 PM in the Falls Church Community Center. Our branch will recognize eighteen young women, nine branch honorees, and two Falls Church organizations. Their recognition is the result of our branch's group efforts.

On Saturday, May 11th, you have the opportunity to participate in the "Falls Church Women's History Walk." Between 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM take a self-guided tour through Cherry Hill Park and visit 67 "Her Story" stations. Each station represents the Falls Church Women's History "All-Stars", showcasing their stellar contributions to our community from the 1600s through today.

The AAUW National election continues through May 15th at 12:00 PM. If you have already cast your vote, thank you for participating. If you have not yet voted, check your emails for your electronic ballot from [vote@simplyvoting.com](mailto:vote@simplyvoting.com). (Look for reminder emails sent April 8 and April 15.) If you are unable to locate

your ballot, email [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) with your name and email. Help us champion gender equity by voting yes to open membership. Our standing as a leading voice for women's rights demands we practice the inclusion we fight for.

As we enter May Madness, plans are underway for March Madness 2025. On March 29, AAUW-VA Northern District branches will be hosting the AAUW-VA 2025 Conference. Join us in Old Town Alexandria as the AAUW-VA Centennial Celebration begins, and we jubilantly begin our second century. Keep an eye out for details and how we can help host this special event.

I once heard someone say sometimes you make the right decision, sometimes you make the decision right. Being part of AAUW FC, we got it right and right!

***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 MAY 13 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.*

## HONORING OUR MEMBERS

The Board would like to recognize and salute ALL our members who volunteer for the branch's activities, advocate for positive policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels, and work in many ways to positively affect the Falls Church community.

We are also recognizing some of our branch members based on our total donations to AAUW. More specifically, AAUW annually tracks the donations from the Falls Church Area branch of AAUW and members of the branch to various AAUW funds (such as the "Greatest Needs Fund"). For every \$500 donated to AAUW funds, the branch is allowed to name one person to be honored at the AAUW Virginia spring conference. This year nine members were honored based upon our donations to the various AAUW funds. Those honorees, whose names are also printed in the AAUW – VA 2024 Spring Conference Program book, are:

Marilyn Falksen – for multiple years as our engaged and persistent Public Policy representative, and for multiple years of dedicated work as a member of the Scholarship Committee.

Mary Ellen Gannon – for her volunteerism to serve on various committees, including the fundraising committee, for spearheading the Jewelry Sale fundraiser, and for agreeing to serve as Co-VP Programs for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.

Marion Jarrett – for her years as President, her volunteerism to serve on various committees, including several turns with the Nominating Committee, for spearheading the Jewelry Sale fundraiser, and for agreeing to serve as Co-VP Programs for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.

Mollie Jewell – for her multiple years of service as Secretary, holding nearly every office in the branch, her creativity during the pandemic in identifying and spearheading the Reclaim Our Vote initiative, and her more than 30 years as co-chair of the book sale, (resulting in the branch's ability to support many young women scholars annually).

Sarah John – for multiple years as co-chair of the ever-evolving book sale and for her persistence in locating free space the past two years.

Bradley Loomis – for the many wonderful hours he dedicated every weekend freely to the branch’s book sales for multiple years.

Pam Martinov – for multiple years as a member of the Scholarship Committee, her years of dedicated work to publish THE FLASH monthly, and her volunteerism over decades of membership.

Clare O’Sheel – for her dedicated work to publish THE FLASH monthly, her fundraising dedication in heading the Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS)-sponsored holiday tree event, identifying and leading our branch’s fundraising through Bloombox, and 3 years of dedicated identification, pricing, and guarding of our “special books” for the book sale.

Mary Youman – for multiple years as Chair of the Scholarship Committee, more than 30 years as co-chair of the book sale, more than 30 years during which she generously lent her garage and house as the “free” book sale prep site (resulting in the branch’s ability to support many young women scholars annually), and agreeing to lead us as co-president in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.

## ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION PROGRAM FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY CENTER MONDAY, MAY 11, 7 PM

After the many fundraising activities of the past year, we get to the reward—presenting scholarships for higher education to deserving seniors from our local high schools to help them achieve their goals and dreams! This year we will present awards to 18 young women—1 from Falls church High School, 2 from Meridian High School, and 15 from Justice High School for a total of \$13,000 in scholarships for 2024. You’ve worked hard to support the fundraising, join us to celebrate the results!

In addition to the scholarships, we are pleased this year to honor two organizations with the award of grants: \$500 to the Literacy Program at Welcoming Falls Church, and \$700 for the AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) Program at Justice High School.

You have done a great job of supporting and participating in our fundraising for scholarships, join us on May 11 to celebrate the rewards!

## SAVE THE DATE

**Annual Planning Picnic**, Tuesday, June 11, 6:00-8:00 pm, Falls Church Community Center.

We are breaking all the rules: indoors, AC, and indoor plumbing and the date. The picnic will be 11 June— that is a Tuesday at 6pm in the Falls Church Community Center. The picnic will be potluck with our members contributing those delightful dishes they are so proud of. That would be appetizers, salads, and main courses. Aida is bringing dessert for all of us as a thank you for our support during Brad’s illness. If your potato salad skills are not up to par, volunteer for drinks or picnic supplies (paper plates, cups, forks, knives, spoons). I am requesting you let me know the second week of May if you are coming and what you want to

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bring. Duplicates and missing items, I will coordinate. Food, drink and Mary Ellen and Bunny leading the program think tank will make for a good time. Let's start the ball rolling by emailing me:

Susan Conklin

## PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

### Virginia General Assembly



Last month's newsletter reported that AAUW-VA's public policy agenda fared well in the General Assembly (GA), which passed and forwarded to the Governor many of the bills we supported. However, only a few of them were signed by the Governor and enacted into law, including expanding the use of electronic meetings, privacy for menstrual tracker apps, expansion of Maternal Health Review teams, support for higher education students reporting bullying, same sex marriage protections, and ending legacy admissions at state colleges and universities. Additionally, two measures AAUW-VA did not actively support but are of interest to many AAUW members -- legislation combating labor trafficking and ending child marriage

which was often a path to sex trafficking -- were signed into law.

When the General Assembly (GA) returned to the Capitol on April 17 to act on the Governor's vetoes and on his proposed amendments to the bills and budget the GA had passed, the legislators were unable to garner the 2/3 majority needed to override the vetoes. Thus, Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance and a ban on employers requiring past salary history from prospective employees (two bills AAUW has long championed) failed to become law. Also failing to become law due to a veto were bills increasing the minimum wage, banning disciplinary action against doctors for providing abortion care, banning extradition based upon providing abortion care or related services, requiring employers to give employees notice of deadlines to file discrimination claims, and allowing a voter-approved local sales tax to support school construction and renovation.

Additionally, the legislators had proposed to the GA-passed bills. Bills of importance to AAUW in this category include measures to enshrine in Virginia law the right to obtain contraception, require health insurance companies to cover contraceptive drugs and devices, require unconscious bias and cultural competency training for medical professionals, expand the STEM Education Advisory Board's duties to include encouraging participation in STEM by underrepresented students, establish a Community School Office in the Department of Education, and develop Title IX and sexual harassment training modules for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders. The Governor now must either sign or veto them by May 17; if he does nothing, the bills will automatically become law.

The legislators and the Governor reached an agreement on the budget to which the Governor had proposed over 200 amendments. Rather than dealing with the amendments, the parties agreed to create a new two-year spending plan, based on the GA's budget but taking the Governor's priorities into account. Negotiations are currently underway to develop a new budget, with the plan to have it finished by May 13. Currently, the GA is scheduled to vote on the new budget on May 15. Many of AAUW-VA's legislative priorities pertaining to education are in the budget, so their fate won't be known until the budget is passed by the GA and signed by the Governor.

## Invitation to AAUW Lobby Corps Virtual Training

Want to make your voice heard with Congress? Join AAUW Lobby Corps!

For more than fifty years, Lobby Corps has put a face to AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls, and you're invited to join this dynamic group of committed women! Lobby Corps gives you the tools and resources to amplify your voice and your impact. And, you get to do it with other gender equity advocates in your community.

A virtual training is scheduled for **June 4 at 5:00pm ET**. [Register on Zoom](#), by clicking on the underlined words.

Lobby Corps members have made tens of thousands of in-person visits to congressional offices on issues including Title IX, pay equity, reproductive rights, and the Equal Rights Amendment. Lobby Corps is only a two-hour commitment once a month and generally meets on Capitol Hill on the third Thursday of each month when Congress is in session. Volunteers receive in-depth information about the issues and are paired with experienced Lobby Corps members for office visits.

Lobby Corps is AAUW in action!

If you have any questions, please reach out to [policy@aauw.org](mailto:policy@aauw.org) or Lobby Corps Coordinator, Becky Gaul at [beckygaul@verizon.net](mailto:beckygaul@verizon.net).

## VOTING ON OPEN AAUW MEMBERSHIP & GENERAL ELECTION

If you have already cast your vote in the AAUW national election, we would like to thank you for participating.

As members of AAUW-VA, we take pride in being active, engaged, and invested in our organization. Let's show our commitment with a high voter turnout in Virginia.

Voting commenced on April 3rd, with an email sent from SimplyVoting, and will conclude on May 15th at 12 p.m. Didn't receive yours? Email [connect at aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).



**Reminder to Vote on Open AAUW Membership**

## AAUW National Election Closes May 15, at 12 p.m. ET

Members who have not yet voted should check their emails for their electronic ballot with their unique voting credentials from [vote@simplyvoting.com](mailto:vote@simplyvoting.com). If you can't locate the electronic ballot, email [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) with your name and email address.

Help us champion gender equity by voting yes to open membership. Our standing as a leading voice for women's rights demands we practice the inclusion we fight for.

## RECLAIM OUR VOTE POSTCARD WRITING CONTINUES

2024 GOTV postcard writing for primaries continues.



Falls Church AAU continues our 2024 nonpartisan, get-out-the-vote efforts by writing postcards for VIRGINIA primaries. As usual, we are joining Reclaim Our Vote's [ROV](#) campaign to increase Black voter participation. **How can you participate?** Just respond to this email and send an email ("postcard" in the title) to [MollieJewell2@gmail.com](mailto:MollieJewell2@gmail.com) with:

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 \(3715 Tollgate Terr, Bailey's Crossroads\)](#) or [Mary Youman's \(4419 N. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, near Ballston\)](#);

**What are we doing?** We will be writing to Black voters in Chesterfield VA. Remember, as a non-partisan, we aren't telling people for whom to vote, but we will let them know that a primary is happening and encouraging them to vote. Voting in the primary increases the chances that a person will vote in the general election -- our ultimate goal.

Mailing window: April 26-June 3.

**Why is this so important?** In voter suppression states, legislators have passed laws making it harder for people to vote, especially voters of color. With personalized postcards, we are giving voters of color the information they need to cast their ballots despite barriers to voting (and phone calls and text messages). ROV contacts 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!

### Bloombox, May 1-15

Happy Spring!

**AAUW Falls Church** is pleased to announce our 2024 Spring Fundraiser in Partnership with BloomBox! BloomBox is a local online garden center that sells perennials, planted containers, shrubs, trees, bagged soil and mulch, herbs and veggies, hanging baskets, and more. You will order these things online via their website and they will deliver them by hand, right to your home!

When you order your plants from BloomBox, they will donate 15% of your purchase amount directly to us, which we will use for scholarships. We are so excited about this fundraiser because it's an easy way for us to earn money, and all of you have the opportunity to purchase, have them delivered, and support a local business at the same time. It's a win-win for everyone!



**Our 2024 Spring Fundraising Event begins TODAY! You can now order anything from the website to be counted towards our fundraiser.**

**[Please read the instructions below about how to participate in the fundraiser](#)**

1: Visit [www.getblooming.com](http://www.getblooming.com) on your computer or cell phone

2: Shop for perennials, hanging baskets, herbs, and more, add them to your shopping cart and head to the checkout page

3: In the checkout page, you need to enter our unique code **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 within 3 to 5 business days. *It's really that easy!* Our fundraising event runs from today through May 15th. During this time, you can order as many times as you like.

Head over to [www.getblooming.com](http://www.getblooming.com) to see what they have and place your order!



## Book and Jewelry/Accessory Sales, May 3-4

**Counting down to the big day. Only two more days before work on the 2024 AAUW Falls Church Used Book, Jewelry and Accessory Sale begins.**

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we need all hands on deck! Check the SignUp Genius link below for opportunities to help in the

following areas:

**Set-up** We will have day laborers/volunteers to move the boxes and set them on the tables in the Community Center gym on Thursday, May 18 in the afternoon. We need helpers to direct the boxes and set-up the signage.

**Signs** Directional real estate signs need to be set-up the Sunday before sale and taken down Sunday, the day after the sale.

**Sale Day Workers** We are setting up a schedule of 3-hour shifts both days of the sale. In addition to sellers at both the jewelry and book areas, we need cashiers and membership table representatives. \*If you have a square, which will be used in checkouts, please turn it in to Linda Lawrence. She will be holding a training session with them for the checkout team prior to the sale.

**Clean-up** Promptly at 3:00 pm the sale ends, and we begin the take-down. Again, there will be volunteers or paid laborers to do the moving of boxes, tables, and anything else heavy. We need people to take down and store signs, assure there is no rubbish on the floors.

Sign up to help here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090444A9A62CA5FF2-48965905-bookjewelry>

Of course, don't forget to **SHOP** great buys in books as well as fine and vintage jewelry, silk scarves and small purses!!! And visit the Attic Treasures Sale sponsored by our partner in sales, the Falls Church Village Improvement and Preservation Society.





## Lebanese Taverna Dining for Dollars, May 5

**Lebanese Taverna Fundraiser**  
**May 5 – 20% to AAUW scholarships**  
**Hours SUN - THR 12:00 - 9:00 PM**

**AAUW**  
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

**LEBANESE TAVERNA** Good Food Enjoyed in Good Company  
WWW.LEBANESETAVERNA.COM

Scholarship fund raising continues after the book and jewelry sale.

**May 5 Lebanese Taverna (Westover), Market, and online gift cards – 20% to AAUW scholarships. Code AAUW,**

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 vary.

Present the flyer 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 (10:30 am-6:00 pm).

*\*For your local online bulletin board,*

*NextDoor, etc. ....*

*Enjoy delicious Lebanese Taverna food on May 5 and 20% goes to scholarships for young women. In partnership with Lebanese Tavern (Westover), the 20% donation also applies to sales at the Market or Westover location or even gift cards (code AAUW) purchased on May 5<sup>th</sup> goes to scholarships. The Falls Church AAUW scholarship fund benefits women high school students from the local area.*

*So, remember May 5, Noon to 9pm, Lebanese taverna Westover, Market or gift cards online. Bring the flier, show your phone or use the code AAUW. [Link to flyer.](#)*



## DUES NEWS

### The FY25 National Dues Year is Open!

April 1 kicked off the 2025 Fiscal Year (FY25) membership dues collection process for AAUW branches. FY25 National dues remain the same: Annual National (\$72), Students (\$18.81), and Lifetime (\$1,440). As of January 2024, all National dues are **fully** tax deductible. Linda will begin processing memberships for FY25 now.

### The latest annual membership renewal information direct from National

Here is the latest information from National AAUW about renewing your membership under the new renewal policy.

It explains when reminder emails are sent from National each month and who should receive them.

Members of FCAAUW who expire on **4/30/2024, 5/31/2024 and 6/30/2024** will receive the reminder email between 4/24/2024 and 4/27/2024. The email will come from [infosf@aauw.org](mailto:infosf@aauw.org) and the member will be asked to renew by **5/6/2024**. Please note, renewing now or early does not change your current expiration month. It will remain the same.

Please look for the email and self-renew online! **NEW:** National embedded a [video clip in the email to help members with self-renewal](#). Here's the monthly schedule and sample email. Emails will be sent around the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Expire Group	Reminder #1	Reminder #2	Reminder #3
04/2024	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024
05/2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024
06/2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024
07/2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024
08/2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024	Aug 2024
09/2024	Jul 2024	Aug 2024	Sep 2024
10/2024	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024
11/2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024
12/2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024

## MOVIES & BOOKS

### *May Movie and Book Group*

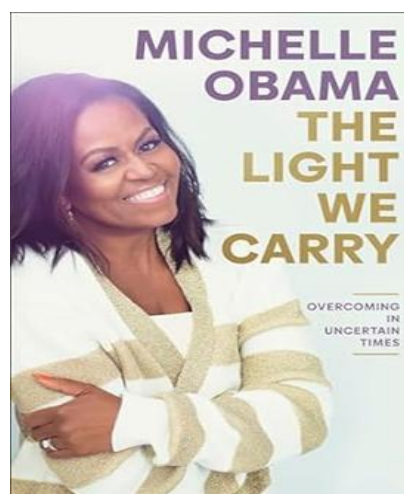
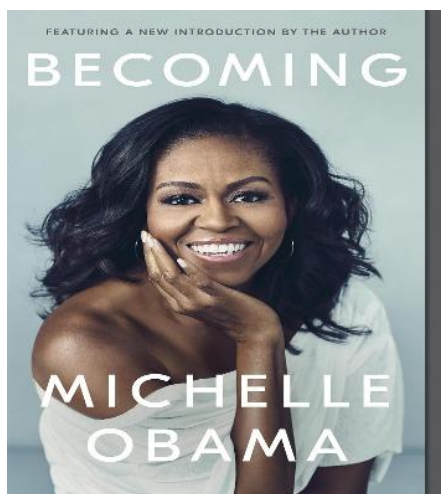
Join us for lunch and the last movie/book group discussion of this program year! We'll be discussing memoirs/documentaries by and about Michele Obama. Pick one to read and/or watch for the meeting.

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The meeting will be both virtual and in person on May 21 at 12 noon. The group will meet at Mary Styles Riley library (FYI we are allowed to have food and drink in the meeting room downstairs). A zoom link will be sent for those who want to join us from home.

Obama's memoir, *Becoming*, was released in November 2018. By November 2019, it had sold 11.5 million copies.<sup>[298]</sup> A documentary titled *Becoming*, which chronicles Obama's book tour promoting the memoir, was released on Netflix in May 2022. She received the Grammy Award for Best Audio Book, Narration & Storytelling Recording in 2020 for the audio book.<sup>[301]</sup>

Obama's next book, *The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times*, was published in November 2022. In 2023, Obama received Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Hosted Nonfiction Series or Special nomination at the 75th Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Awards for the Netflix documentary film *The Light We Carry: Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey*.



## MEMBERSHIP

### Introducing Co-Secretary Kate Aubert

Kate's story is another of those happy coincidences—yet another Foreign Service wife, as is her co-secretary, Bonnie Krajeski. Friends who are joining AAUW together.

Kate is from New York City, but headed off to Indiana for college: St Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN. With a BA in Humanities, she headed back to New York and worked as a social worker at the Foundling Hospital—yes there are still abandoned babies. She earned an MSW from Columbia University.

But soon after graduate school, she married her husband, and they were off on a career that included postings in Haiti, Finland, Brussels, Paris, and Morocco, and the arrival of four children. She did the usual useful things that Foreign Service wives do--serving on a school board, running a commissary, working in Personnel and Consular Affairs and as a Community Liaison Officer.

Once they stopped moving around every few years, Kate was able to put her MSW degree to work. First, she worked as a geriatric social worker in Reston, working with low-income seniors and then as a social work consultant to the Senior Living Foundation of the American Foreign Service.

The Auberts have four children and five grandchildren, with several living locally. Besides keeping up with her larger family here, Kate is a member of several book clubs and is an "intentional" walker.

## CALENDAR

**May 1-15: Bloombox fundraiser (online).**

**May 3-4: AAUW-FC Used Book, Jewelry and Accessory Sale. Friday, May 3, 9:00 am-8:00 pm, Saturday, 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Falls Church Community Center.**

**May 4: AAUW-VA Business Meeting, 10:00 am (Zoom).**

**May 5: Dining for Dollars, 10:30 am – 6:00 pm, Lebanese Taverna, Westover or Market.**

**May 13: Annual Branch Scholarship Program: 7:00 pm, Falls Church Community Center.**

**May 20: AAUW-FC Board meeting, 7 pm (Zoom).**



## STATE CONFERENCE AND BEYOND



## State Conference 2024



Keynote Speaker, Dr Alison Morrison-Shepard, President of The University of Lynchburg pictured center with AAUW-FC co-president Sharon Zackula. Pictured left: Conference attendees Tammie Mullins-Rice, Hampton Branch, who was Conference Chair 2023, with VA AAUW President Lane Stone, and on the right: AAUW-FC treasurer Linda Lawrence.

### Conference Notes from Sharon

Dr. Alison Morrison-Shepard, University of Lynchburg's first woman president, spoke on "Courageous Leaders", which included styles of leadership. Styles of leadership include leading from the front, the side, and from behind. Leading from behind is being a mentor, or providing resources for another or a group to bring their expertise and skills to the table and giving full credit to those who led.

She discussed service leadership.

- Women are and have always been in the business of changing lives.
- Women are strong leaders and need to be strong mentors.

A leader has to be committed to doing the right thing for the right reason and "be confident" (at least, exhibit confidence), even when feeling like a "hot mess" inside. Ex: assuming leadership of the university as Covid began and trying to make the right decisions as federal policies developed and changed about how universities should respond to the disease to protect their faculty, staff, and students. You must make decisions as a leader even when those decisions make you a target.

What to tell young people when they ask you why they should go to college or get more education: Education takes you to your imagination and allows you to fulfill your wildest dreams.

"I believe in pathways, and there are many pathways to achieve your wildest dreams."



Have you registered for the AAUW-VA 2024 Annual Business Meeting?

Think of this as Part 2 of the State Conference. It will be held via Zoom webinar on May 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. You must register in advance for the webinar and to receive the login information. Register [HERE](#).

At our Business Meeting, we will award the prestigious 2024 AAUW Woman of Achievement Award to Anne Holton, the former Virginia Secretary of Education.

## PLANNING AHEAD TO 2025....



MARK THIS DOWN ON YOUR CALENDAR!  
2025 AAUW-VA STATE CONFERENCE  
MARCH 29, 2025

On March 28, 2025, join us in Alexandria as the AAUW-VA centennial celebration begins, and we jubilantly begin our second century.

The conference is being hosted by the AAUW-VA Northern District branches at the Sheraton Suites Old Town Alexandria, 801 N St. Asaph Street, Alexandria 22314 on Saturday, March 29, 2025, with preconference activities on March 28, 2025.

Great news. It's not too early to reserve a room. Guest rooms will be available for March 28 & 29 (king/sofa bed or double/double) for \$159 per night plus tax, including a full hot breakfast for up to 2 persons. Use this QR code to make a reservation:



or [use this link](#). You can also call 1 (888) 236-2427; use code AAUW Of Virginia Mar2025 to reserve a room. The rate is also available for 3 days before/after Mar 28 & 29 on a space available basis. First make a reservation for conference days & then for extra days email [jrasolofoson@sheratonalexandria.com](mailto:jrasolofoson@sheratonalexandria.com).

The earlier you book a room the better because the 2025 Conference will take place on the eve of Cherry Blossom season and rooms in the hotel will book up early. Once our block is sold out, we might be able to add more rooms, but that will only be possible if the hotel is not already sold out.



*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.*

