

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

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PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Get on your roller skates for a busy September!

On **September 14** there are three events for you to attend. See details about each program later in this newsletter. We hope that will participate in one or more of these events!

1. Falls Church Festival (10:00 am -5:00 pm) Falls Church Community Center (volunteers needed).
2. Northern Virginia District AAUW meeting (10:30 am -1:30 pm) Burke Library, Seminary Rd., Alexandria, VA.
3. Falls Church AAUW Joint Branch Meeting (2:00-3:30) with Welcoming Falls Church and Mary Styles Riley Library, presentation of *Seeking Fortune Elsewhere* by author Sindya Banhaoo .



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As we start our term as branch co-presidents, we know that you will support us in our various branch efforts to enrich the lives of women and girls. This branch has supported local scholarships for high school graduates with a special interest in aiding young women, who are the first member of their family to go on to higher education. We also continued to support ongoing education through our endowed AAUW funds for graduate work (\$100,000) as well as new career development grants (\$75,000). We all sorted, priced, and sold books for about almost 50 years to fund these efforts. **EACH OF YOU MUST TAKE CREDIT FOR THESE ACHIEVEMENTS!**

This spring our branch will be involved along with other Northern Virginia AAUW branches, in hosting the 2025 Virginia AAUW convention. Our own Sharon Zackula is co-chair of the event. The September 14 Northern District Virginia AAUW meeting will provide information on how we can help. **ATTEND & LEARN.**

Mary and I will also be attending the AAUW Eastern Regional Conference, Sept. 27-29 in Glen Allen, VA. It has many workshops with some focused on small branches. This is the first regional conference in many years. If you are interested in also attending, please let us know to include you in carpool planning.

We depend on you for our ongoing involvement in lifelong learning and contributions to our community. For Mary and me, it is a learning curve to deal with the flood of emails from AAUW contacts. We count on your

help and support to do this job. If we contact you for assistance for events, please thoughtfully consider our request. Also, please contact us or other officers if you have any suggestions for branch activities. THANK YOU for your ongoing support of the Falls Church AAUW.

Anne Baxter and Mary Youman

BRANCH MEETING MARY RILEY STILES LIBRARY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2:00 PM



We are excited for another year of AAUW Falls Church events and activities. We are kicking off the year of programs with our September branch meeting, a partnership with Welcoming Falls Church and other local organizations to bring Professor Sindya Bhanoo to Falls Church. Professor Bhanoo will speak about her book, *Seeking Fortune Elsewhere*, in which she shares the journeys of eight women immigrants from South India and their loved ones left behind. We are pleased that this book choice highlights the experiences and strengths of women and families. Copies of Dr. Bhanoo's book will be for sale at the author talk. You can read the chapter "Malliga Homes" from the book at [Malliga Homes](#).

Professor Bhanoo will be speaking twice in Falls Church. We encourage our members to attend the 2:00 – 3:30 presentation at the library that will serve as our branch meeting for September. If that is not possible, you can attend the 9:30 AM presentation at Meridian High School (and get a chance to see the new state-of-the-art school). See registration sites below.

To learn more about Dr. Bhanoo's presentation and to REGISTER for the limited space 2:00 pm talk, click on the MRSPL site below. Registration for the 9:30 talk is at Eventbrite site below.

- Saturday, September 14 at 2:00 pm at Mary Riley Styles Library. To register, click here: [MRSPL](#)
- Saturday, September 14 at 9:30 am at Meridian High School. To register, click here: [Eventbrite](#)

SAVE THE DATES

FUTURE BRANCH MEETINGS

The October 13 branch meeting at 2:00 pm will feature a discussion of the documentary *"Join or Die"* by local producers Rebecca Davis and Peter Davis, brother and sister. Some of you may have seen this presentation earlier in the year at Meridian High School. Rebecca will share the link to the documentary 72 hours before the discussion, and we will send out link to membership.

The November 10 branch meeting at 2:00 pm will have a presentation by **Homestretch**. The mission of Homestretch is helping families experiencing homelessness in Virginia to become self-sufficient by giving them the skills, knowledge and hope they need to become productive participants in the community. Members will have the opportunity to volunteer with Homestretch as well as to bring donations for Homestretch to our Holiday Party in January.

December Branch Meeting: Our Falls Church branch has accepted the invitation of the McLean branch to join with them and other area branches for a Zoom presentation by Representative Gerry Connolly on **Monday, December 2** (time to be determined). Rep. Connolly will speak about the results of the November election. This program should be of great interest to our members, as well as our friends and families.

Holiday Party: The Holiday Party, traditionally held during the busy month of December, will be held on our regularly scheduled meeting date, **January 12 at 2:00**. We plan an afternoon Open House at a member's house with drinks, appetizers and desserts for branch members and their significant others.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our branch meetings. Remember, you are encouraged to spread the word about our meetings and, as our ROV postcards say, "Bring a friend!"

Bunny Jarrett and Mary Ellen Gannon, Co-Vice Presidents for Programs

PUBLIC POLICY NOTES



State Public Policy News As of the date this article is being written, AAUW-VA Public Policy Vice President Diane Schrier is planning to hold a Zoom meeting on Thursday, August 29, for all AAUW members interested in working on AAUW's public policy priorities. *Details of the meeting will be covered in the October Flash.*

Lobby Corps Lobby Corps is a commitment of only one morning a month. Participants generally meet on Capitol Hill on the third Thursday of each month when Congress is in session. These volunteers receive in-depth information about AAUW's issues and are paired with experienced Lobby Corps members for visits to Congressional Offices. **Lobby Corps is AAUW in action!** The next Lobby Corps Day will be **Thursday, September 19**. For more information, contact Lobby Corps coordinator Becky Gaul at beckygaul@verizon.net.

RECLAIM OUR VOTE



GOTV postcards next opportunity – Georgia!

We are ready for the next round of non-partisan postcards for Get Out the Vote (GOTV) for the 2024 General Election in November. This time for Georgia. I don't know the details yet, but we will continue to write in conjunction with Reclaim Our Vote's [ROV](#) campaign to increase Black voter participation.

Sign-up for postcards! For the general election, you, Falls Church AAUW, and friends have already written almost 7,000 postcards this year alone, so don't be shy, sign up now. To participate send an email ("postcard" in the title) to 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), Mary Youman's (4419 N. 18th Street, near Ballston).

Thanks for writing postcards in the past.

PS. Statistical breakdown for those who are counting:

| Category | Number |
|--|--------|
| General Election (still counting) | 3,700 |
| Primary | 3,188 |
| Program year 2023-2024 (includes primary and general election) | 6,888 |
| Total since July 2020 | 26,038 |

BLOOMBOX FUNDRAISER



It's that time of the year to clean up the garden, prepare it for spring, and "autumnize" your front porch. What better way than to do so than with a nursery that provides quality plants and décor and **gives back 15% of sales to our scholarship fund!** **AAUW Falls Church** is pleased to announce our 2024 Fall Fundraiser in Partnership with BloomBox! BloomBox is a local online garden center that sells fall plants, mums, planters, pumpkins, fall décor and more. You will order these things online on their website and they will deliver them by hand, right to your home!

When you order your fall mums, flowers & décor from BloomBox, they will donate 15% of your purchase amount directly to us. 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 beautiful plants & décor, have it delivered, and support a local business at the same time. It's a win-win for everyone!

Please read the instructions below about how to participate in the fundraiser:

- 1: Visit www.getblooming.com on your computer or cell phone
- 2: Shop for fall mums, flowers, shrubs, pumpkins, planters, and porch décor. Add them to your shopping cart and head to the checkout page.
- 3: In the checkout page, you need to enter our unique code **AAUW 15** 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 in 3-5 business days or less. *It's really that easy!*

Our fundraising event runs from **September 1st through September 30th**. During this time, you can order as many times as you like, as BloomBox releases new plants & décor each week. Mark your calendar now for September 1st to head over to www.getblooming.com to see what they have and place your first order! Or, **if you prefer, you can call the customer service line and place the order using the AAUW 15 fundraiser code. The phone number to call is 717-716-7110 and can also be found on the BloomBox website.**



CLUB NEWS



Book Club

The **Book Group** is still in summer mode. We'll be back in October! This month we'll read the book *SEEKING FORTUNE ELSEWHERE*, by Sindhi Bhanoo, our speaker at the September 14 meeting at Mary Riley Stiles Library.

Register for the meeting on the library website, buy the book, and join the book group discussion via **Zoom on October 22**.

Also, we hope you book lovers will share their favorite books with the group. We can each run one meeting either monthly or every other month. Send your input on how to organize the group to Anne Baxter at vabaxter@verizon.net.

Let's Go to the Movies

The **Real-time Movie Group** is on temporary hiatus while Susan Conklin seeks feedback about the type of scheduling that works best for you—mornings, afternoons, days of the week, etc.... Please contact Susan at sconklin00@gmail.com to help revitalize this fun group!



The **Virtual Movie Group** will meet via **Zoom** to discuss:

How Women Rise

Wednesday, September 25, 7:00 PM

So, what were you reading this summer? For my 40-something-year-old daughters it was the book *How Women Rise: Break the 12 Habits Holding You Back*, by Sally Helgesen and Marshall Goldsmith. They learned that the behaviors and habits they develop today will impact their opportunities, income, and future outcomes. While there is no made-for-TV movie of *How Women Rise*, there are several YouTube -Ted Talk Videos worth watching and discussing. Here are a few suggestions that you can google and view:

- 1, How Women Rise...Utah Women & Leadership Project (1:12:29 length) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTo3ZDYr7Js>
2. How Women Rise: Sally Helgesen with Franklin Covey...(34:36 length) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbZQQUdrJ7Y>
3. Masters Speak How Women Rise with Sally Helgesen (55:58 length) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSSNdfj3ToU>
4. Your choice

What did you learn? What would you tell your younger self? What can you use today? Let's discuss! Join the group on Zoom on Wednesday, September 25th at 7:00 PM. Please **call or text Aida at 703 966 8050** if you are interested in joining our film/video discussion evening. All are welcome!

MEMBERSHIP



On September 14 we will participate in the Falls Church Fall Festival on the grounds of the Community Center and Cherry Hill Park with a booth promoting the library event taking place that same day, and showcasing FC AAUW's active participation in the community at the same time!

We are looking for a minimum of eight fun, fearless, friendly faces as volunteers to promote our branch and recruit new members. It's no stress, relaxed conversation with new city residents or familiar neighborhood families and friends to introduce them to FC AAUW.

Based upon the number of new members gained following the book sale, we know women support and are excited about the AAUW mission. Our booth at the Falls Church Festival is the perfect opportunity to provide information, boast about our scholarship success and offer a special reduced rate membership.

All we need is YOU!

Please consider spending approximately two hours in the great outdoors at the AAUW booth on Saturday, Sept. 14th. Listed below are the shifts with start and end times. The first shift involves setting up the provided table and display materials. The last shift is the tear-down and site clean-up. (Note: the "site" is only a small 6' x 10' space, so not much to clean-up.) Each shift needs a minimum team of 2.

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. - 11 a.m. (Incl. set-up 9 a.m.-10 a.m.)- | 2 branch volunteers |
| 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | 2 branch volunteers |
| 1:30 p.m.-3:30p.m. | 1 branch volunteer |
| 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. (incl. take-down 4 p.m.- 5 p.m.) | 2 branch volunteers |

Volunteering at the Festival will NOT interfere with attending the branch event at Mary Riley Styles Library that afternoon, which begins at 2:00 p.m.

Donations of paperback books in good condition are welcomed! (Think 'beach reads'.) More details to come.

Please respond with an email to Dianne Bodeen at bodeendv@verizon.net to volunteer for a shift or if you want additional information.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14...

- 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Falls Church Festival membership booth. Falls Church Community Center grounds.
- 10:30 am – 1:30 pm, AAUW Northern Virginia District meeting. Burke Library, Alexandria, VA.
- 2:00 – 3:30 pm, Falls Church AAUW branch meeting. Mary Riley Stiles Library, Falls Church, VA.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23: 7:30 pm, Falls Church AAUW branch Board meeting via Zoom.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 7:00 PM, Virtual Movie Group via Zoom.

SEPTEMBER 27- 29: AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference. Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference Center 1000 Virginia Center Pkwy, Glen Allen, VA 23059. **REGISTER NOW! Detailed information is at the Conference Link**

<https://aauwatlanticregionalconference.com/>



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.

