

## **AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH**

VOLUME 75, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 1, 2024

### **PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

Thanks to our program VP's Bunny Jarrett & Mary Ellen Gannon, we have a lot of great programs coming up!

The meeting on **October 13, (Sunday) at 2:30 pm** will feature a discussion of the documentary "*Join or Die*" by local producers Rebecca Davis and Peter Davis, a brother and sister. Rebecca will share the link to the documentary 72 hours before the discussion, and we will send out the link to membership. As AAUW members, we know that joining organizations is important, but there are more reasons than you might think. Also, the membership has not voted on the budget for this year, and we need to do it at this meeting. You will find a copy of it elsewhere in this newsletter.



The **November 10** branch meeting at 2:30 pm (Sunday) will have a presentation by Homestretch. Their mission 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. We hope you will 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 at 5 pm** 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 2:30**. 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!"

Speaking of ROV, early voting has started in Virginia, and you are encouraged to vote early. If you are unsure what is on your ballot, you can go to [www.VAvoter.net/ActiVote](http://www.VAvoter.net/ActiVote), fill in your address and find out.

The Falls Church Fall Festival was very successful – thanks to all who helped out. We got visibility in our community, and we got names and email addresses for 12 people interested in finding out more about us. If you see someone you don't know at a meeting, go up and talk to them!

We are getting a paid Zoom account for the branch to use for Board Meetings and any other events we want to hold online. This way those meetings can last as long as we need rather than the 40 minutes we had for the basic account. Let us know if you need to use it!

*Anne Baxter & Mary Youman  
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 MEETING PROGRAM AND BUDGET VOTE FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY CENTER SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2:30 PM

On Sunday, October 13, our program speaker will be Rebecca Davis, who, with her brother, Peter Davis, produced the documentary: "**Join or Die**". Both Rebecca and Peter grew up in Falls Church, attending schools here in the city. We hope that you will **join** us, pun definitely intended.

The film derives some of its focus from a book, published almost 25 years ago, **Bowling Alone by Robert Putnam**. It seems like a timely topic, not only for our membership, but for our community at large; we have also invited the McLean AAUW to attend.

From the New York Times Review:

*In the wake of the 2016 election, a new type of film briefly emerged: the liberal "how did we get here" documentary. It doled out insights and visited with "ordinary" folks across the country to take the temperature of the political divide.*

*"Join or Die," directed by the siblings Rebecca Davis and Pete Davis, recalls those postelection films. Narrated by Pete and essentially framed as a plea to save the United States, it centers on the work of Robert Putnam, an academic who has dedicated his life to arguing that American civic engagement is in decline. Putnam articulated his thesis in "Bowling Alone," first published as an article, and then in 2000 as a book.*

The film, which is longer than our meeting time will allow, will be available via link, 72 hours before October 13 meeting. **In order to provide that link to you, we will need to know if you are attending. Please send us an email to register for this event. The link will be sent to [marvegan@aol.com](mailto:marvegan@aol.com) or [marianjarrett84@gmail.com](mailto:marianjarrett84@gmail.com).**

Our normal business meeting will follow after the presentation.

Happy Fall!

Bunny and Mary Ellen



Please review the proposed 2024-2025 General Fund and Education Budgets below for discussion and voting at the Sunday, October 13 Branch Meeting. It will be held at the Falls Church Community Center at 2:30 pm.

**PROPOSED AAUW FALLS CHURCH GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2024-2025**

PROPOSED AAUW FALLS CHURCH GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2024-2025					
<b>Board copy draft budget GF 2024-2025</b>					
	2024-2025 Est Budget	2023-2024 Actual Budget	2023-2024 Est. Budget	2022-2023 Actual Budget	
	7/1/24-6/30/25	7/1/23-6/30/24	7/1/23-6/30/24	7/1/22-6/30/23	
Beginning Bank Balance July 1	\$ 2,104.62	\$ 2,073.50	\$ 2,073.50	\$ 1,962.00	
<b>INCOME</b>					
Dues (paid members)	(45 mbrs) \$810.00	(45 mbrs.) \$ 810.00	(40 mbrs.) \$720.00	(38 mbrs.) \$684.00	
less gift memberships					
Other Income					
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 810.00</b>	<b>\$ 810.00</b>	<b>\$ 720.00</b>	<b>\$ 684.00</b>	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 2,914.62</b>	<b>\$ 2,883.50</b>	<b>\$ 2,793.50</b>	<b>\$ 2,646.00</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Administration	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 192.00	\$ -	
Hospitality	\$ 75.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00	
Membership/supplies	\$ 100.00	\$ 77.00	\$ 60.00		
Room rental (6 in-person FCCC mtgs.)	\$ 250.00	\$ 262.50	\$ 180.00	\$ 157.50	
State Convention ad	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	
State/National Convention Regist.	\$ 100.00				
Scholarship	\$ 175.00	\$ 124.38	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	
Insurance	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	
Miscellaneous				\$ 50.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,025.00</b>	<b>\$ 778.88</b>	<b>\$ 797.00</b>	<b>\$ 572.50</b>	
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,889.62</b>	<b>\$ 2,104.62</b>	<b>\$ 1,996.50</b>	<b>\$ 2,073.50</b>	
6/21/2024					

**2024-2025 SHARED DRAFT BUDGET AAUW FALLS CHURCH  
EDUCATION/SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**PROPOSED 2024-2025 BUDGET FOR BOARD REVIEW**

	<b>Estimate 2024-2025</b>	<b>Current FY</b>	<b>Actual 2022-2023</b>
	7/1/24- 6/30/25	7/1/23-6/30/24	7/1/22-6/30/23
<b>Beginning Balance July 1</b>	\$ 35,951.70	\$ 31,414.79	\$ 33,946.67
<b>EST. INCOME</b>			
Annual Book Sale Gross Receipts			\$0.00
Modified combo book/jewel sale		\$ 16,604.95	\$ 14,990.12
Pop-up Booksale Dec.	\$ -	\$ 814.27	\$0.00
Pop-up Jewelry Sale Dec.	\$ -	\$ 1,421.00	\$0.00
McKays, WonderBooks, Dealers	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,525.00
Educ. Fund/ Memorial Donations	\$ -	\$ 2,015.00	\$ 700.00
Dining for dollars	\$ 500.00	\$ 335.00	\$ 291.00
Holiday tree	\$ 100.00	\$ 121.00	\$ 166.00
Direct appeal	\$ -		\$3,450.00
Bloom Box	\$ 50.00	\$ 192.85	
<b>Annual New Income</b>	\$ 650.00	\$ 21,504.07	\$ 21,122.12
<b>Est. Expense Total</b>			
AAUW Contribution	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
*Local Scholarships	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,750.00
Special Projects	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Fundraising Expense	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,530.50	\$ 2,704.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ 16,200.00	\$ 17,730.50	\$ 23,654.00
Difference income and expenses	\$ (15,550.00)	\$ 3,296.9	\$ (2,531.88)
<b>Educ. Acct. Bal. June 30</b>	\$ 20,451.70	\$ 35,951.7	\$ 31,414.79

6/21/2024

D11 combo book +jewelry sale  
D15 Brad Memorial donations \$1940.00; Bill Richardson \$75  
D19 Bloom Box - 130.27 Oct.; 62.58 June  
D28 includes reimburse of - \$357 from VPIS for shared expenses.

## SAVE THE DATE

**November 5: Election Day! Or vote early. See link below for Virginia voter information. Voting began on September 20 in Virginia, so check out your polling place below and vote as soon as you like.**

<https://www.thevirginiavoterguide.com>

**November 10th at 2:30 pm** Julie Crane, Volunteer Coordinator of Homestretch, will join us for our regularly scheduled branch meeting at the Community Center. Homestretch is a non-profit organization in Falls Church City that addresses the root causes of homelessness. Many of the families they serve are fleeing for their lives from domestic abuse. Many are trapped in the cycle of poverty. All have children under the age of 18. Come learn about the programs for women and children provided by Homestretch.

We have chosen Homestretch as the recipient of our individual member support this year. Members are encouraged to volunteer, make monetary donations, or bring items from the Homestretch Wish List to our January Holiday Party.

## PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES



### Report from Diane Schrier

AAUW-VA's VP for Public Policy, Diane Schrier, has prepared a report about the importance of the upcoming elections in November. It also includes a discussion of the education accountability standards initiated by the Virginia Board of Education, and the serious consequences these new standards will have for public education in Virginia. **She has asked that every Branch member read her report, which follows:**

*Early voting has started in Virginia. Election Day is Nov. 5 and there is Saturday voting. It is very important this year to either register early or doublecheck your registration. This can be done by going to [elections.virginia.gov](http://elections.virginia.gov). Over 6,000 voters have been removed in Virginia this year and as always, mistakes can be made. The last day to request an absentee ballot is Oct. 25th. However, any ballots mailed in during the last two weeks of October stand a chance of not arriving on time. This is due to the reorganization of the postal system in Virginia.*

*The Virginia Board of Education recently initiated new education accountability standards, known as the School Performance and Support Framework. To be diplomatic, they are a disaster to all Virginia schools, especially to Northern Virginia, where there is a large influx of pupils speaking different languages. In Alexandria alone, 127 languages are spoken in school.*

*Among the ill-advised actions is the forcing of foreign students, not speaking English, to take the SOL after only 3 semesters or 1 ½ years and to have it count in the school's ratings. All the very best educational research shows it takes approximately 3 years to develop social fluency and 7 years to develop academic fluency. That is 6 and 14 semesters respectively.*

*School work courses have been advanced and accelerated and while this works for some students, all students develop at different speeds. To force students to fail would again reduce school ratings, and more importantly*

*cause students to become disheartened and leave school. It also requires additional course certification for teachers, but without any additional recompense. Virginia teachers are already being paid far below average. Last year the General Assembly attempted to rectify the situation, but unfortunately the bill did not become law. Additionally, there is no additional funding that would help the schools fulfill the new requirements.*

*According to the Board, it is expected that due to these provisions 50-70% of Virginia schools would fail. That would open up a very wide door to have the government step in, and as has happened in other states, close public schools and turn them over to charter institutions. These institutions have no accountability in other states, for they are owned by corporations, as one State Senator said on television. Additionally, as they take money from public education, they would force special needs, low-achieving and students that don't benefit their image to have an inferior education. They have in other states raised the tuition costs higher than the state vouchers, also forcing students into underfunded public schools.*

*Also, if any district has one-quarter of its schools failing under these new VDOE regulations, the government can step in and take over the whole district.*

*It is imperative this year that everyone be aware that how you vote in the National Elections will be important in what occurs in Virginia next year.*

### **General Assembly Looking at Changing School Funding Formula**

Virginia currently uses a complicated formula for school funding that was first adopted in the 1970s and has not been changed. According to a study done by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC), which conducts program evaluation, policy analysis, and oversight of state agencies on behalf of the Virginia General Assembly, this formula has left school districts severely underfunded. The Joint Subcommittee to Study Elementary & Secondary Education Funding, a bipartisan group of legislators under the leadership of Senator Mamie Locke are looking at ways to update and simplify the formula, which could take several years to accomplish. Senator Locke has indicated she is looking to roll back some 2008-recession era changes such as the cap on how much support staff a school district can hire now that the state is no longer in a recession. It appears that both Democrats and Republicans are open to changes in the formula as long as they don't adversely affect the schools their districts. The Subcommittee will next meet on October 31. Senator Locke has promised statewide comment sessions as the proposals begin to take shape.

### **Lobby Corps**

Because Congress will not be in session, Lobby Corps will not meet in October. Check your November *Flash* for information about when Lobby Corps will resume.

### **Candidate Forum for Congressional Candidates**

**On October 7 at 6 pm** The Arc of Northern Virginia will be hosting a candidate forum for the candidates for the seats in the US House of Representatives in districts 7, 8, 10 and 11. This will be a live online forum held via Zoom. For more information and to register click [Congressional Forum](#). This is a nonpartisan event. In line with the mission of the Arc, the event will focus on disability rights issues and policies.

**BE SURE TO VOTE IN THIS YEAR'S CRITICAL ELECTIONS!**



<https://www.thevirginiavoterguide.com/>

## RECLAIM OUR VOTE

Since 2020, FC AAUW branch members and friends have been supporting the AAUW public policy priority to get out the vote in a big way – writing more than 8,788 postcards this year alone.

We have been writing these GOTV postcards in conjunction with Reclaim Our Vote's [ROV](#) campaign to increase Black voter participation. Postcard writing is contagious! With only 46 members, we can't do it alone. Members have recruited family and friends and friends of friends to reach this achievement.

In fact we have written so many postcards that I've had to borrow some from another postcarding group. But don't worry, I have ordered more!

**PS. Statistics (Rev 9/30).** Here's a breakdown of recent FC AAUW post carding for those who are counting:

5,700 General Election (still counting)

3,188 Primary

**8,888** Program year 2023-2024 (includes primary and general election)

**28,038** Total since July 2020



*We discovered that many hands make light work in achieving these numbers. Like many of you, Clare's family joined our effort, writing postcards to registered voters in North Carolina. This was the beginning of political activism for Fiona (13) and Isla (11)! Our neighbors helped as well. Ten residents of the West Broad Residences in Falls Church also made it possible for Clare to mail 300 postcards to North Carolina, Florida, and Georgia in September.*

# MOVIES & BOOKS

## *Let's Go to the Movies*

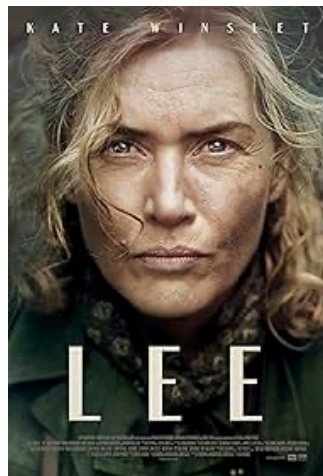
Our intrepid film buff, Susan Conklin has put together a list of movies that are currently in local theaters with Wednesday times and locations. See if any appeal to your cinema loving hearts and let Susan know. [Sconklin00@gmail.com](mailto:Sconklin00@gmail.com). These are all playing this Wednesday, so hurry and let Susan know if you want to see one!

### **REAGAN**

From dusty small town roots, to the glitter of Hollywood, and then commanding the world stage, Reagan is a cinematic journey of overcoming the odds. The movie is a documentary of Ronald Reagan. It stars Denis Quaid, Penelope Ann Miller and Jon Voight. The movie runs 2 hours and 15 minutes. History buffs can judge the facts. I won't step into that arena. **Cinema Arts Theater, 1:00 pm, Wednesday, October 2.**

### **LEE**

LEE, the directorial feature from award-winning Cinematographer Ellen Kuras, portrays a pivotal decade in the life of American war correspondent and photographer, Lee Miller (Kate Winslet). Miller's singular talent and unbridled tenacity resulted in some of the 20th century's most indelible images of war, including an iconic photo of Miller herself, posing defiantly in Hitler's private bathtub. Miller had a profound understanding and empathy for women and the voiceless victims of war. Her images display both the fragility and ferocity of the human experience. Above all, the film shows how Miller lived her life at full throttle in pursuit of truth, for which she paid a huge personal price, forcing her to confront a traumatic and deeply buried secret from her childhood. **Cinema Arts Theater, 9:40 am; 12:00 pm, Wednesday, October 2; Angelika Mosaic, 12:00 pm.**



### **BEETLEJUICE BEETLEJUICE**

Beetlejuice is back! Oscar-nominated, singular creative visionary Tim Burton and Oscar nominee and star Michael Keaton reunite for Beetlejuice Beetlejuice, the long-awaited sequel to Burton's award-winning Beetlejuice. After an unexpected family tragedy, three generations of the Deetz family return home to Winter River. Still haunted by Beetlejuice, Lydia's life is turned upside down when her rebellious teenage daughter,



Astrid, discovers the mysterious model of the town in the attic and the portal to the Afterlife is accidentally opened. With trouble brewing in both realms, it's only a matter of time until someone says Beetlejuice's name three times and the mischievous demon returns to unleash his very own brand of mayhem. **Angelika Mosaic, Wednesday, October 2, 12:00 pm**

### THE COWBOY AND THE QUEEN

The Cowboy and the Queen is an award-winning documentary about the life of Monty Roberts, a California horse trainer nearing 90 and showing no signs of slowing down and Queen Elizabeth II. Roberts was a non-violent trainer who rejected traditional breaking methods, who forms an unlikely friendship with Queen Elizabeth II. The movie will be coming to **Netflix**. It runs 1 hour and 24 minutes.

The above are movies currently playing but take a look at what's up next!

- White Bird, starring Helen Mirren and Gillian Anderson
- The Outrun, starring Saoirse Ronan
- There is also a thriller festival at Angelika during the month of October with **4:00 pm Wednesday** showings (and the possibility of dinner afterwards). Some of the oldies that look appealing include those by **Alfred Hitchcock: North by Northwest** with Cary Grant; **The Trouble with Harry** with John Forsyth; **Strangers on a Train** with Farley Granger and Robert Walker; and **Psycho** with Tony Perkins, Janet Leigh, and Vera Miles



## Virtual Movie Club



*No Meeting in October*  
**See you Oct 13th for Join or Die**

Since our October branch program is watching the documentary **Join or Die** and then discussing, our virtual film group will not meet this month. If you are interested in learning more about the conversations around the documentary, consider watching Join or Die with Rober D. Putnam and Shaylyn Romney Garrett: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ck5SvTqcKRc> or Bowling Alone: The Search for Community in the United States: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpBOgh2zxtE>

## Book Club

To follow up on our speaker's presentation in September we'll read stories from *Seeking Fortune Elsewhere* by Sindya Bhanoo. Pick a story that particularly represented *separation and connection* to you from her book. Falls Church and Fairfax County libraries have her book.

You can also read another author, who talks about the immigrant experience. Many years ago, I read *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri and loved her writing, even though the short story is not my favorite literary format.



Email (vabaxter@ Verizon.net) or call me (703-969-6743) if you have questions or would like to borrow my copy of *Seeking Fortune Elsewhere*.

Join us on Zoom on **Tuesday, October 22 at 7:30pm**.  
Anne Baxter is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Anne Baxter's Zoom Meeting FC AAUW Book Group  
Time: Oct 22, 2024 07:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5840467896?pwd=VGF2d1NVTDVicUFBdmJTWExSNkJFUT09&omn=77630265407>

Meeting ID: 584 046 7896  
Passcode: kzXam2

## CALENDAR

**October 7, 6:00-7:00 pm: House Congressional Forum, Zoom.** Hear from Congressional House of Representatives Districts covering Districts 7, 8,10 and 11. Register here: <https://thearcofnova.org/>

**October 13: branch meeting at 2:30 pm** will feature a discussion of the documentary "*Join or Die*" by local producers Rebecca Davis and Peter Davis, brother and sister.

**November 5: Election Day**

**November 10: branch meeting at 2:30 pm** will have a presentation by **Homestretch**.

**Monday, December 2** (time to be determined): **December Branch Meeting** Zoom presentation by Representative Gerry Connolly on Rep. Connolly.

**January 12 at 2:30 pm: Holiday Party**

## MEMBERSHIP

### Introducing New Members Sarita Gopal and Fatema Dadgar

**Sarita Gopal** may be the only AAUW member in whistlin' distance of us who lives on a boat. While she is a resident of Falls Church, when Roe was brought down, she realized that contraceptive options might be next and an offshore floating contraception clinic might become necessary. Her immediate project is learning how to manage a boat! She is a daughter of Pittsburgh (BS from Pitt, and her MD (OB/GYN) from the Medical College of PA.

Her family is indeed from India, and when she did not marry an Indian, there were some repercussions! Her husband at the time was a lawyer, which is why they came to the DC area. She raised her two kids in Falls Church and has been on staff at Fair Oaks Hospital for generations of patients. Her kids have miraculously come back to settle in the area. Sarita is a traveler in spades: 107 countries and counting. She's been to places that you've never heard of before and might not be able to find on a map. She came to us as a friend of Leah Porzel's daughter-in-law and signed up with us at the Book Sale. Her comments in the midst of all that is going on is "*protect what is important to us.*"

**Fatema Dadgar** is a 20-year resident of Falls Church, who grew up in Alameda, CA. where she really loved the Pacific Ocean. She attended the small Catholic college, Holy Names, which unfortunately succumbed to the COVID pandemic. With her sister here in the east with a new baby, she visited her and took her sister's suggestion that she stay here—which she did. She married and worked in a photo lab, which was her dream come true. Then came digital photography! So, she turned to raising her daughter, now at JMU.

We laughed that with degrees in philosophy and art, she might seem unemployable in two fields! She has been working in FC schools, currently at Meridian High, but she has her ears open for something more interesting. Anyone have any ideas?



*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.*



