

## **AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH**

VOLUME 76, NUMBER 4

APRIL 1, 2025

### **PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

We want to thank and congratulate Fatema Dadger our newly elected Treasurer and Manuela Costescu Membership Chair. They will start in July. We appreciate you both stepping up to do this and look forward to working with you both!

April 15 is not only the day income tax returns are due to the IRS, it is also our fund raiser at the Lebanese Taverna. On April 15<sup>th</sup> you can dine at the Westover location, order food on the website or get a gift certificate. See the flyer in this newsletter for more details. Bring a copy of the flyer with you to the restaurant or store to get the discount. Some of us are going to dine in, and hope you can join us!



I took a look at the State website (<https://aauw-va.aauw.net/>) the other day. My, what a lot of useful information. There is a Reference Library that has everything from an Elevator Pitch (How to explain what AAUW is about in 30 seconds or less) to a new member orientation and video. Hope you can check it out, too.

Finally, many Falls Church AAUW members attended the VA AAUW state convention Ma. We'll update you on happenings later including the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for the state AAUW on March 29.

**Anne Baxter and 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 a 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  
LEBANESE TAVERNA  
5900 WASHINGTON BLVD, ARLINGTON  
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 5:30 PM**


March was a busy month with our FCAAUW Branch business meeting and the AAUWVA Conference in Alexandria on March 28-29. The conference offered many informative programs and the opportunity to meet members from all over Virginia and learn about their branch activities. Kudos to Sharon Zackula who was one of the organizers of the conference!

**LEBANESE TAVERNA FUNDRAISER.** On **April 15**, we will combine a social and a fundraising event at the Lebanese Taverna in Westover. Please bring your family and invite friends to dine in, take out, or purchase from the market. If April 15 doesn't work for you, you can purchase gift certificates to use at a later date. Several of our members plan to have dinner at "the Leb" between 5:30 and 6:30. Join them or bring your own crew. We will send out a reminder with the flyer attached in early April. **Please post the flyer on local listservs and in businesses near you and send it to friends and community groups.** We look forward to seeing you there!

Bunny and Mary Ellen



**LEBANESE TAVERNA PUTS THE FUN IN FUNDRAISER**




**LEBANESE TAVERNA** is partnering with  
**AAUW APRIL 15th**  
**20%** of sales goes to your 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 **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](http://WWW.LEBANESETAVERNA.COM)



All fundraisers must be pre-approved by Lebanese Taverna.

## SAVE THE DATE

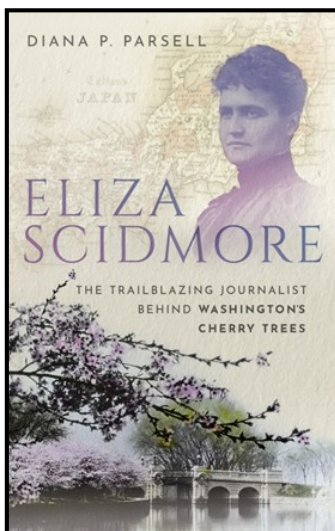


Alexandria & Mt Vernon Branches



Sherwood Regional Library

**AUTHOR TALK Thursday, April 17, 2025, 1:30 pm**  
**Sherwood Regional Library**



### **How Gilded Age Journalist Eliza Scidmore Gave Washington Its Famous Cherry Blossoms**

Born just before the Civil War, Eliza Scidmore broke gender barriers as a prolific newspaper correspondent, a globe-trotting travel writer from Alaska to Asia, and the National Geographic's first female photographer and board member.

Local author Diana Parsell will describe how she uncovered Scidmore's long-overlooked story and her legacy as the visionary behind Washington's beloved Japanese cherry blossoms.

#### **About the author, Diana Parsell**

Diana Parsell is a writer, editor and former journalist, and the author of *Eliza Scidmore: The Trailblazing Journalist Behind Washington's Cherry Trees*. In a 40-year editorial career she worked for many publications, including National Geographic and The Washington Post, and for several major science organizations in Washington and Southeast Asia. A resident of Falls Church, she did much of her research at the Library of Congress and now volunteers there as a docent for public tours.

Visit her website at [www.dianaparsell.com](http://www.dianaparsell.com).



The meeting is free and open to the public.

For more information: [AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com](mailto:AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com)



### **Building A Stronger AAUW**

**April 1 | 7:00 p.m. ET**

Strong fundraising fuels AAUW's impact. This session, led by AAUW National's Advancement Committee, will provide strategies for successful branch fundraising. Learn about AAUW's budget, the Greatest Needs Fund, and hear directly from branches with proven fundraising success. Walk away with tools and resources to help your branch grow its financial support. [Register here](#)

### **AAUW Advocacy Strategies for In-District Meetings**

**April 8 | 7:00 p.m. ET**

Face-to-face advocacy can drive real change. This session will guide members on how to set up in-district meetings with members of Congress, maximize town hall participation, and effectively use key talking points during the upcoming April congressional recess. Learn how to make your voice heard. [Register Here](#)

### **Funding Futures: Understanding Changes to Sex and Gender-Based Scholarship Programs**

**April 15 | 7:00 p.m. ET**

Navigating legal changes to sex-based scholarships can be complex. This interactive session will provide information to AAUW branches on funding scholarships amid evolving regulations while staying true to our mission of advancing education for women and girls. Space is limited. [Register Here](#)

**May 18, 2:30** Scholarship Awards Meeting, Mary Riley Styles Library

**June 8, 2:30** Branch Planning Meeting, TBD



## PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES



### General Assembly

Last month's *Flash* mentioned that this Session of the General Assembly passed several bills support by AAUW and sent them to the Governor for his review. Unfortunately, most did not survive the Governor's veto pen.

He vetoed bills establishing a paid Medical and Family Leave insurance program; paid sick leave for all public and private employees in Virginia; raising the minimum wage to \$13.50 in 2026 and \$15 in 2027 and eliminating the exemption from the minimum wage for farm employees and temporary foreign workers.

He also made amendments to the bills requiring cultural competency and unconscious bias training for renewal of a medical license and providing a right to obtain and use contraception, which significantly change the effect of the legislation. With the current make-up of the General Assembly, it is unlikely the members will be able to override any vetoes, so the bills will not become law. Also, the General Assembly is likely to make changes to his amendments, which the Governor will not accept, and these bills, too, will not become law.

Although this was not one of the bills that AAUW-VA actively supported, one positive measure of interest to women in Virginia signed into law amends the Virginia Consumer Protection Data Act to prohibit the collection, disclosure, sale, or dissemination of consumer reproductive or sexual health data without consent. The legislators return to Richmond on April 2 to consider the Governor's action on bills they passed and to work with him on a budget. The Governor made 205 amendments in the budget proposed by the General Assembly, and these changes will need to be negotiated to obtain a final budget.

## RECLAIM OUR VOTE POSTCARDS

Thank you to the 22 branch members who have signed up to write GOTV postcards to Black voters in Prince William County. Wow, we are off to a great start! And I will be ordering more cards for some late entries. Meanwhile, ROV analysis show that our postcards increase voter turnout by 7%!

Rationale for postcards: Our audience is registered Black voters who did not vote in 2023 elections, to urge voting in VA's primaries for Lt. Gov, AG, and (for some), House of Delegates. Primary voters are much more likely to vote in General Elections. Our script must remain nonpartisan, as we are a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

**To sign up by April 2.** Send an email to [MollieJewell2@gmail.com](mailto:MollieJewell2@gmail.com) with the number of cards, and stamps (\$.56 each), and pickup location:

- Mollie Jewell's (3715 Tollgate Terr, 22041. Off Columbia Pike between Bailey's crossroads and Annandale
- Mary Youman's (4419 N 18 St. Arlington, near Ballston)

**For more background,** I recommend this short (1:32) clip from The View about the impactful work of the Center for Common Ground (aka get-out-the-vote postcarding) and celebrating Andrea Miller, Founding Board Member of the Center for Common Ground. The link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Uatj428Krk>.

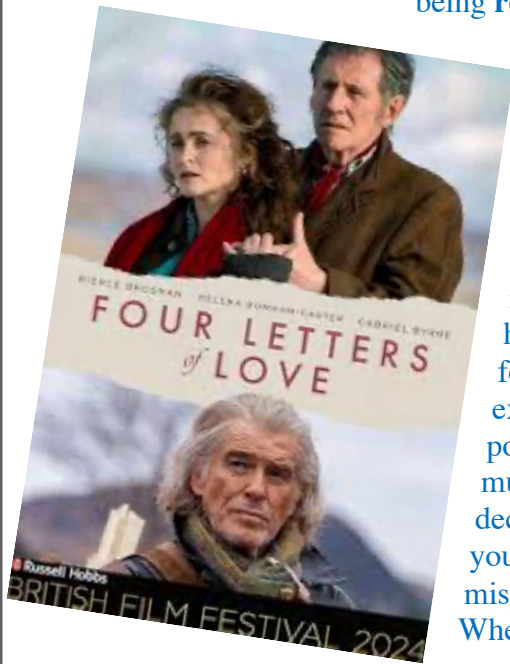
**Questions?** Contact Mollie Jewell, [MollieJewell2@gmail.com](mailto:MollieJewell2@gmail.com)

**Will there be more?** Yes, expect upcoming postcarding opportunities for Virginia primaries and general elections. Meanwhile, the Center for Common Ground/ROV postcards is urging action at the state and local levels.

## MOVIES & BOOKS

### Let's Go to the Movies

Susan is on vacation this month, but there is one good soon-to-be-released movie you may want to check out: **"Four Letters of Love"**, based on the best-selling novel of the same name by Irish author Niall Williams. It is being **released on April 25 to movie theaters** in the US.

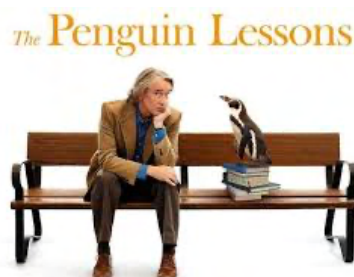


Nicholas (Fionn O'Shea) and Isabel (Ann Skelly) are made for each other, but fate does not always choose the easiest path to true love. As destiny pulls them together, so do family, passion, and faith drive them apart. Nicholas' father, William (Pierce Brosnan), comes home one day to shatter his family's quiet, modest life. He tells them that in a moment of divine intervention, God has instructed him to dedicate his life to painting. He quits his job and sets off for the coast, leaving his shell-shocked wife and son to fend for themselves. Meanwhile Isabel and her family live a charmed existence on a nearby small neighboring island, their house full of music and poetry. When tragedy strikes and her brother suffers a terrible accident, the music stops, and Isabel's parents (Helena Bonham Carter, Gabriel Byrne) decide in their grief to send Isabel to a convent school on the mainland. The young lovers embark on their own individual journeys of heartache and misplaced love, before fate contrives to pull the threads of their lives together. When they meet, it will be like a miracle.

Williams is a magnificent writer and has also written the screenplay for the movie. I can't wait!

I've seen and can recommend **Black Bag**, which is still playing at Cinema Arts in Fairfax. It's an old fashioned, "thinking" spy thriller more in the fashion of John LeCarre than James Bond and starring Michael Fassbender and Kate Blanchett. Also, the preview for **The Penguin Lessons** was fun, and it received a 4-star review in Rotten Tomatoes. It's a family-friendly movie set in Argentina in the 1970s and explores themes of aging, cynicism, and the importance of love. It too is playing at Cinema Arts.

Clare



## Virtual Movie Club

March is coming to an end and so is **Women's History Month**. On March 25, we marked Equal Pay Day, the symbolic date dedicated to raise awareness of the US gender pay gap. To continue this theme LobbyCorps went to offices of members of the House of Representatives in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Salary Transparency Act. Legislative staffers, many of them in their first jobs, appreciated learning about AAUW's webinars on salary negotiations along with the PAYDAY candy bar we left behind.

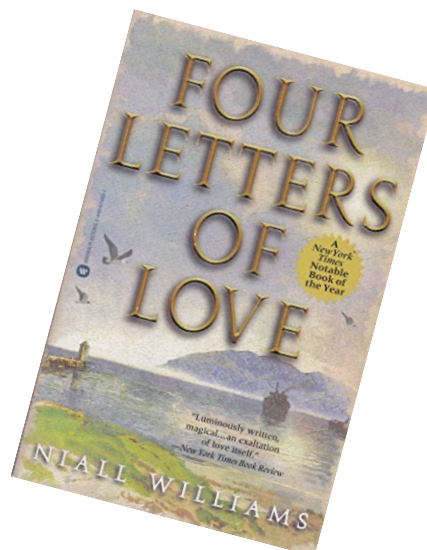
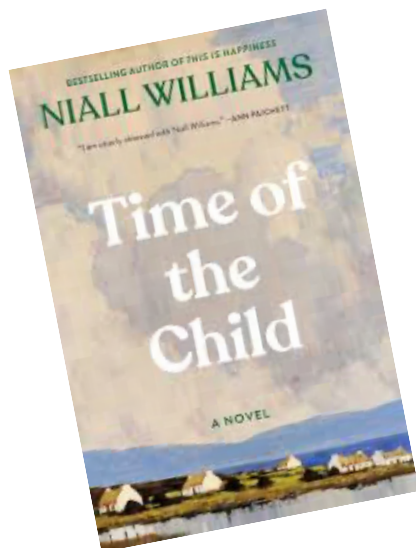
So why stop celebrating women's history and fight for gender pay equity? **Made In Dagenham** is a 2010 British comedy-drama film based on a true story. It dramatizes the Ford sewing strike of 1968 where female workers walk out to protest sexual discrimination, demanding equal pay. The strike drew major attention and led to the UK Equal Pay Act of 1970. **Made In Dagenham** stars Sally Hawkins, Bob Hoskins and Rosamund Pike. Runtime is less than two hours and can be streamed on Kanopy.

Join the group via Zoom on **Wednesday April 23, at 7:00 PM**. Please call or text Aida at 703 966 8050 if you are interested in joining any of our film discussion evenings. All are welcome!



## Book Club

There is no meeting of the Book Club this month, but perhaps you might read **Four Letters of Love** by Niall Williams before going to the movie. This was his debut novel which became a best-seller and now a movie. You might also enjoy his newly released novel, "Time of the Child", which has been described as "incandescent".



## CALENDAR

**Building A Stronger AAUW, April 1 | 7:00 p.m. ET, Zoom**

**AAUW Advocacy Strategies for In-District Meetings, April 8 | 7:00 p.m. ET, Zoom**

**Funding Futures: Understanding Changes to Sex and Gender-Based Scholarship Programs, April 15 | 7:00 p.m. ET, Zoom**

**AAUWFC Branch Meeting, 5:30 PM, Lebanese Taverna, 5900 Washington Blvd., Arlington**

**Mount Vernon Branch Author Talk, April 17, 1:30 PM, Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Ln, Alexandria**

**AAUWFC Board meeting, April 28, 7:00 PM, Zoom**

## MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to announce two new members to our Falls Church branch: Mary Clare Gubbins, and Cynthia Wilson. In this issue of the FLASH you will find brief bios on two of those members.

An Illinois girl, **Mary Clare Gubbins** loves learning and the learning environment. As she says, “Education is a civilizing force” (at least we’d like to believe so). She has a BA, an MA and an MEd-with an emphasis on Children’s Rights. She assisted two economists at MIT, then was an administrator of the Anthropology Department at Harvard. When marriage brought her to Falls Church, she eventually became a facilitator in the education program at the UVA program here. Along the way she raised two children, did some substitute and classroom teaching and volunteered several years at Miriam’s Kitchen in DC. Her husband, Sandy, passed away 15 years ago.

You might recognize her two children: Becky and Pete Davis, directors of “Join or Die.” Their father’s academic field was cultural anthropology, with an interest in indigenous peoples, which might help somewhat to explain the fine film their two kids produced (available on Netflix).

And Mary’s interest in AAUW brought in her friend, **Cynthia Wilson**. A Virginia girl, she is a graduate of William and Mary, where she met her husband. She was a “Nomenclature Analyst” at the US International Trade Commission during two separate periods, helping write the language of tariffs, where her degree in modern languages was probably a plus. In between she did property management, ran a mail order business and a video game and toy store, and taught preschool...and raised three children. Her husband worked for the Interior department, Indian affairs, made perhaps more interesting with his part *nez perce* background. Her daughter has spent time on the Pine Ridge reservation and with Americorps in Navajo country. This summer, Cynthia, who has recently retired, will travel to Alaska to make it the 50<sup>th</sup> state she has visited. Pickle ball, knitting and crocheting will keep her busy in her retirement after this...and her love of dachshunds!







*And last but far from least is this photo of the AAUWFC crew who attended the AAUWVA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in Alexandria on March 28 and 29. We're looking forward to hearing all about the Centennial doings!*

*Special kudos to Sharon Zacula, (second row, left), hardworking branch member and former co-president, who put in numerous hours over the past year helping to organize the historic event.*



***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.***



