

## AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

VOLUME 75, NUMBER 6

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### PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



Thank you if you've completed the AAUW Falls Church Membership Survey via Survey Monkey. Whether or not you filled out the survey, please come to our June 8 Program Planning meeting to give us your input on what programs and events you'd like to attend next program year (September 2025-June 2026). With your help and participation, the Falls Church branch will further increase its visibility in the

community with thoughtful and insightful speakers and events that people want to be a part of. Thanks to Mary Ellen Gannon and Bunny Jarrett for designing and executing the survey.

Besides our reputation as the "book ladies" our support for further higher education for women has made us a valued community organization. It's all because of your help and dedication to do the work.

There are several branch volunteer opportunities, listed on a following page, for which we need your help. Please look at what help is needed. Then VOLUNTEER! Contact Mary Youman ([mary.youman@verizon.net](mailto:mary.youman@verizon.net)) or Anne Baxter ([vabaxter@verizon.net](mailto:vabaxter@verizon.net)) and we'll sign you up!.

Hope to see many of you at the Program Planning meeting on June 8 at Mary Styles Riley Library at 2:30 pm. Happy almost summer!

*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 programs 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 & POTLUCK LUNCH

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2:30 PM MARY RILEY STYLES LIBRARY



THANK YOU to all branch members who completed the **AAUW Falls Church Membership Survey**. The Board approved the survey to elicit input from all members about priorities for the coming year. The results of the survey will guide our discussion at the **Planning Meeting, June 8, 2:30 pm** at the Mary Riley Styles Library. We encourage all members of our Falls Church branch to attend this meeting and bring ideas for programs and activities for the coming year. In previous years, this meeting has focused on topics for monthly branch meetings. This year we have expanded the focus to encompass activities outside of our monthly meetings.

In addition to our discussion of priorities for the coming year, we will share food with a **Potluck Lunch** at the June 8 meeting. This is always a fun meeting! Bring your favorite dish to share as we eat and talk together and get to know each other better. Fingers crossed, we will have a wide variety of main dishes, side dishes, salads and desserts for all of us to enjoy.

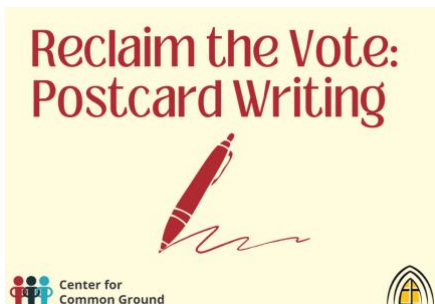
*Bring your ideas and your appetites to this final meeting of the year!*

Mary Ellen and Bunny

Co-Vice Presidents for Programs



## RECLAIM OUR VOTE POSTCARD CAMPAIGN



**Postcard Round-up.**

Now that we have reached the end of the year, you might wonder where we stand with our get-out-the-vote (GOTV) postcards.

First, here are the statistics of postcards written to date:

2025 VA Primary & WI Supreme Court      2,520

Total since July 1, 2024      8,760

Grand Total since 2020      31,098.

This year's count includes postcards that we wrote last summer and fall for the general election to Florida, Georgia, Virginia, and Texas voters. And over the winter into the spring, we wrote postcards for the Wisconsin Supreme Court election and our own Virginia primaries.

## VA general election postcards start in July!

Coming up: a short break before we start **postcarding for Virginia's General Election starts in late July**. The goal is to contact every registered Black voter in the state -- about 900,000 people.

Virginia will likely be our only campaign for the rest of the year, and it is the most consequential election in 2025, with the offices of **Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Attorney General, the entire House of Delegates**, and various municipal and school board seats at stake. All of our writers nationwide will be involved, so demand for addresses will be high.

PS. Remember to mail Virginia postcards!

The mailing window for Virginia primary postcards is open! The last day to mail them is May 30, but please mail your postcards as soon as you can. Early voting runs through June 14, and Primary Day is June 17.

**Why are we postcarding?** FC AAUW started this project to honor the memory of Kitty Richardson, a FC AAUW member and civil rights activist, and in furtherance of AAUW's public policy priority to “support open and fair elections that are broadly accessible to all voters.” We write the cards in cooperation with Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) and Center for Common Ground, 501c(3) nonpartisan organizations. And we have helped make a difference! Thank you for helping us reach this milestone!



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



*We need your energy and ideas to forge ahead and make progress on AAUW goals. But there are also things you can do to keep the branch activities running. Here are some functions for which we need assistance:*

### HOSPITALITY CONTACT

Meetings are more fun if we can gather after a presentation for light refreshments and conversation. This person would contact two members to provide cookies, small hors d'oeuvres, or veggies. Usually about 15-20 members attend a meeting. **A list will be circulated at the June 8 meeting with tentative dates for members to volunteer.** The hospitality contact would remind members to bring snacks on a specific date, buy any supplies (i.e., paper goods) and drinks (usually water). If there is a need to fill a vacancy the hospitality contact person would call other members to pitch in.

### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE ONE MEMBER NEEDED

The three-member Scholarship Committee meets in March and April to select winners for our branch scholarship, which are awarded in May. The committee member reads the applications, rates them according to a scale, and meets with other member to discuss the applications and votes on winners. The member participates in the branch scholarship award meeting as needed.

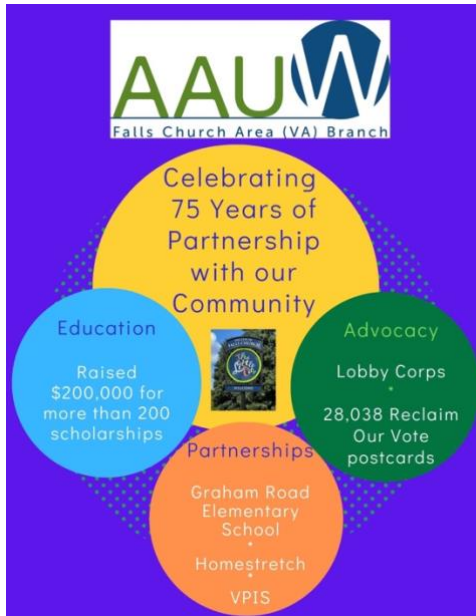
### BOOK GROUP LEAD

With members, select book to read. Send out announcement to all members via Flash with name of book and date to discuss. Give a short description of the book. Before the meeting date send out a reminder to members along with Zoom link for the meeting. Book selection is made by members at each meeting. Keep track of books recommended. The frequency of meetings needs to be reviewed by the group in the fall of 2025.



## WHY DO WE FUNDRAISE?

**Who, what, when, where, how and why?** These are the questions we ask ourselves regarding fundraising.



It goes without saying that it takes a village to execute successful fundraisers. Without our members, family, volunteers, and customers, we could not have awarded the hundreds of scholarships over the years. Five members have stepped up to get the Fundraising Team off the ground. They are Sarah John, Clare O'Sheel, Sarah Shannon, Anita Booth and Sue Christie. This is a great and solid start, but I do think we have a couple of holes. If the Fundraising Team should ask for help, think about how you can get to YES. Share your time and talent. Bu contacting Aida at [a7211@aol.com](mailto:a7211@aol.com)

Years ago, I shared my time and talent with Girl Scouts. Do you remember singing, "Make new friends but keep the old?" In other words, and back to fundraising, be open to old, tested and successful opportunities AND be open to new opportunities and new ways of fundraising. New and different ideas are percolating, and they may provide the bridge for a successful and sustainable fundraising for the future. Regardless, doing something provides opportunities for learning and growing. We look forward to sharing our ideas and progress in the near future.

The when, where, and how of those future fundraising plans are being worked on. Again, our AAUW FC village can help. Many of our members are highly engaged with other local organizations. You volunteer. You donate. You serve on boards. Please let us know if you think there is someone we should be talking to. Networking is a wonderful way to get A.I.R., advice, information, and referrals. It is also a great way to show AAUW FC's generosity.

And I end with WHY we fundraise for AAUW Falls Church because it begins with WHY. We believe in our mission of **gender equity through education, research, and advocacy**. That passion is our motivator to work hard and remain committed to our branch. And when members connect to that shared purpose it helps keep us together and feel that our efforts have made a real impact in the lives of girls and women.

## POP-UP BOOK SALE

**JUNE 21, 8:00 AM-NOON, FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY CENTER**

We had several boxes of books remaining after last year's pop-up book sale and were hoping to have one last chance to earn some funds for the Education Fund.



## How can you help?

**BOOKS** - We have several bricks of books at this point, but we can use more. If you, your family, friends, or neighbors have saleable books that can be donated please call Aida (703 966 8050) or Sarah (703 400 3749). Collected books can also be dropped off at our June Program on June 8th.

**TABLES** - In the past, the Falls Church Community Center has provided the 6-foot tables we used in the portico. According to the community center website this will no longer be the case. If you have a 6-foot table or card tables let Aida know.

**VOLUNTEERS** - If you are available on Saturday, June 21st from approximately 8:00 AM to Noon, your help would be greatly appreciated. No amount of time is too small. Just call or text Aida or email at [a7211@aol.com](mailto:a7211@aol.com)

As always, thank you for your support of the AAUW mission of gender equity through education, research, and advocacy.



## 2025 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



2025 will mark **75 YEARS** of AAUW FALLS CHURCH helping local young women reach for the stars and achieve their dreams of higher education.

During this time, the organization has raised more than \$200,000 in scholarship funds to help more than 200 local graduates achieve their educational dreams. Many former recipients are now AAUW members across the country while the majority of recent recipients are first-generation US citizens embarking on an educational journey that will greatly enrich their lives as well as the future of our nation.

**This year we awarded nine scholarships totaling \$10,000.**

## MOVIE AND BOOK CLUBS

### Let's Go to the Movies

Mission Impossible—The Final Reckoning:

The eighth and last movie in the series is an action film spouses and significant others will enjoy with heart stopping action. I will admit that I love them too. The 2023 Mission Impossible Part One continues in the Final Reckoning. Two months after retrieving the Sevastopol's completed key chamber, Impossible Force agents Ethan Hunt and Grace pursue Gabriel, an agent previously working for the artificial intelligence known as the Entity. Instead, Gabriel captures them and coerces Ethan into retrieving the core module, revealed to be the "Rabbit's Foot", from the sunken Russian submarine Sevastopol for him, which would give him control over the Entity's source code. Confused? Don't be. These movies are written to allow first time viewers to catch on to the plot. The action and stunt shots are worth the thrill. The movie is playing at area theaters like Cinema Arts, Shirlington and Angelica. Tom Cruise stars with Hayley Atwell. The Mission Impossible Part One can be viewed on Prime Video.



The Washington Post's movie section listed the 34 most anticipated movies of the summer. They include new movies, sequels like M3gan 2.0 and throwbacks like "The Naked Gun". I will post them as they come out in June, July, and August. Clare has agreed to this effort. Stay tuned to our "movie flashes" this summer.

### Virtual Movie Club



#### Let's Stream This Summer!

Some of us grew up with PBS watching Julia Child and PBS NewsHour. Some of us grew up with our children watching programs such as Sesame Street, Mister Rogers' Neighborhood and Reading Rainbow. Recently I started exploring

what is available to watch on PBS and PBS Passport that had a theme of women and equity. Let's support the programming we have come to rely on and trust for over 55 years. Whether a series, documentary, or a short clip here are a few suggestions:

**Miss Friman's War** - A Swedish drama series about a suffragette and a group of courageous women who take on the male rulers of the day as they fight for equal rights.



**Unladylike2020** - An innovative multimedia series featuring diverse and little known, trend setting American heroines from the early years of feminism, and the women who follow in their footsteps.

**Women, War & Peace** - Challenges the conventional wisdom that war and peace are men's domain. Watch women's roles in conflict and peacemaking.

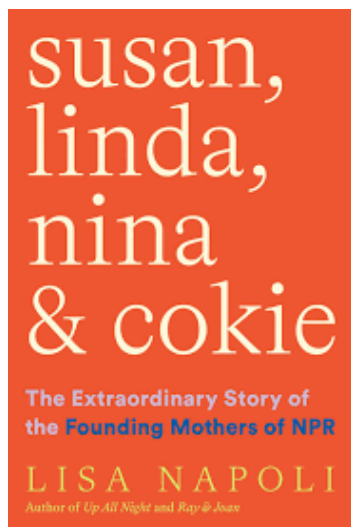
**Hidden from History: Jovita Idar** - The story of Jovita Idar, a journalist and activist who spent her life improving the lives of women and Mexican immigrants at the turn of the 20th century.

Enjoy your summer streaming!



## Book Club

### LAST BOOK GROUP FOR THIS PROGRAM YEAR



We hope you can join us for the last book group of this program year on June 3 on Zoom at 7:30 pm. We are again reading a selection from the Library's Book Club to Go. TEN COPIES ARE AVAILABLE TO USE.

Our selection is *Susan, Linda, Nina, & Cokie, the Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR* by Lisa Napoli. If you would like to join us, contact Anne Baxter at [yabaxter@verizon.net](mailto:yabaxter@verizon.net) or call 703-969-6743.



## CALENDAR

June 3, Book Club, 7:30 pm, on Zoom

June 8, Branch Planning meeting & potluck lunch, 2:30 pm, Mary Riley Styles Library

June 21, Pop-up Book Sale, 8:00 am-noon, Community Center Portico

June 23, Board meeting, 7:30 pm, Zoom

**July and August, summer break. See you in September!**



*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.*

