

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

VOLUME 75, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Summer is over and we are heading into a very important year for AAUW and for our nation. One thing is the Virginia elections are this fall and there are many activities in this newsletter to keep you up to date and involved (voter registration, candidate forums, postcards, the list goes on!).



The membership survey results of last spring combined with a lively discussion at the June branch meeting provided Bunny and Mary Ellen with what they needed to plan this year's programs. You can look forward to a vibrant and dynamic program schedule ahead, addressing your interests from elections to thorny social issues. You will find more information about these plans throughout this the newsletter, but we would like to thank Bunny and Mary Ellen in advance for the time spent over the summer months identifying experts and scheduling them to share their expertise with us over the coming months.

We also have the Fall Festival on **September 13th**. The branch has participated in the event for many years to promote the work of the branch and encourage people to join us. It should be a fun event. Will you sign up to volunteer for an hour or 2?

The next day, the **14th** is our September meeting at the Mary Riley Styles Library at 2:30 pm. We will be finding out more about Rank Choice Voting. There is another important thing we need to do at this meeting. Marty Behr has agreed to fill the Treasurer slot and we need to officially elect her! Hope to see you there and elsewhere.

Mary Youman and Anne Baxter
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 our 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 BUSINESS MEETING MARY RILEY STYLES LIBRARY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2:30 PM

IT'S TIME FOR ELECTIONS!

The first meeting of the year of our FCAAUW branch will be held on Sunday, September 14 at 2:30 at Mary Riley Styles Library lower-level Conference Room. In response to the expressed interest of our members at our June planning meeting, we will start the year with a focus on elections and governance.

To expand our knowledge of election options, we are pleased to have a presentation on **ranked choice voting (RCV)** by two members of the LWV of Arlington who are affiliated with the democracy reform organization UpVote Virginia. Chris DeRosa and Janice Morris will explain how RCV works and lead us in an activity to demonstrate the voting process. The Virginia General Assembly passed a bill to amend the Code of Virginia § 24.2- 673.1 in July 2020 to allow localities to implement ranked choice voting in elections of members of a county board of supervisors or a city council. RCV has been used in primary and general elections in Arlington.

We next will focus on our recently established **partnership with the LWV-FC** to support the League's voter registration events and candidate information forums this Fall. League and AAUW member Linda Lawrence has volunteered to be the liaison between LWV and AAUW. Linda will offer specific opportunities for our members to be involved in non-partisan election work. Several of our members have completed the voter registration certification program and are ready to volunteer!

Many of our members participate regularly in volunteer lobbying at the national level through the AAUW National **Lobby Corps**, chaired by our own Becky Gaul. Bonnie Krajeski and Aida Loomis, two of our members who are Lobby Corps volunteers will describe the process of joining Lobby Corps and take us through a typical day lobbying on Capitol Hill.

Our lobbying activities also encompass the Virginia legislature. Marilyn Falksen, AAUWFC Policy Chair will review the legislative and policy issues AAUW-VA will be following this year. She will invite us to join AAUW members from all over the state for the annual **Lobby Day** in Richmond.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the September 14th meeting!

Bunny Jarrett and Mary Ellen Gannon
Co-VPs for Program

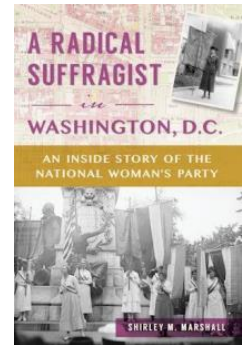


SAVE THE DATE

AAUW-VA Northern District Meeting
November 1, 12:00 p.m.
Pohick Regional Library
6450 Sydenstricker Rd, Burke, VA

Shirley Marshall will be talking about her book, *A Radical Suffragist in Washington D.C.*

The book features letters from Elizabeth Kalb Green who worked and lived at the National Woman's Party Headquarters from 1918 to 1921. Her book will be available for purchase.



After Shirley's talk, we will have a short break and then a business meeting where branches can talk about upcoming events. Set up/Meet and Greet: 12-12:30 p.m. Program starts at 12:30 p.m.

Open to the public. Bring your family and friends!

Healing the Gender Divide: a Community Forum

Moderated by: American Association of University Women, Falls Church Branch
November 6, 2025: 7 to 9 pm, location TBD



A Two-part Community Forum: Healing the Gender Divide What's Going on and How Do We Address It?

A spring survey of our member's programming interests identified a concern regarding what was perceived as a growing animosity with regard to women in our culture, and a desire to learn more about root causes and possible working solutions to address the issues. The result of the survey is a two-part public forum moderated by our Falls Church branch and sponsored by American Association of University Women of Northern Virginia: Falls Church, Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Manassas, McLean, Mount Vernon, Reston/Herndon, Springfield/Annadale, and Vienna. We also hope to obtain sponsorships from the American League of Women Voters and other Falls Church organizations, as well as secure an AAUW Virginia mini grant.

The first forum will take place on **November 6, 7:00-9:00 pm**, venue to be determined. Experts from Equipundo: Center for Masculinities and Social Justice <https://www.equipundo.org/>, and the Center for American Progress, Women's Initiative <https://www.americanprogress.org/> will present the research on root causes and discuss the role of social media as a causal influence. Feedback from local educators and counselors will then laser-focus the global problem home, discussing what's happening in our own schools, and neighborhoods.

The second forum will be held next spring and will address solutions and means to become engaged.

Northern Virginia Women's Conference
November 15, 8 :00 am -3:00 pm



AAUW will once again have a table at the Virginia Women's Conference. Email AAUW-VA Public Policy VP, Diane Schrier, [if you can help out, Diane.schrier@gmail.com](mailto:Diane.schrier@gmail.com)

November 15, 8 :00 am -3:00 pm

The Johnson Center, George Mason University, 4400 University Dr, Fairfax, VA 22030

Click [here](#) for information on registration.

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Putting the *fun* in Fundraising
“Little French Market”



Save the date **Saturday, November 22**, Falls Church Community Center, for the “Little French Market” which takes inspiration from the fabulous flea markets in France. Exact hours TBD.

Our branch is offering upscale, gently used items that make lovely holiday and hostess gifts, such as tabletop/linens/crystal/glassware, art, curated gift books, ethnic crafts, holiday, jewelry/scarf, kids, etc. Feel free to “name your own” categories. **We'll provide more details and seek volunteers at the September General Meeting.**

Meanwhile, get in your Marie Kondo groove. Tidy up, express gratitude for possessions that no longer bring you joy while supporting Branch philanthropy. Questions? Contact Anita Booth (snitasbooth@gmail.com).

Pop Up Book Sale

Saturday, November 8, 8:00 am to noon

Falls Church Community Center Portico



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES



The CBC (Citizens for a Better City) Candidate Meet & Greet
Friday, September 5, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
The Falls Church Arts Gallery,
700 Broad West Broad Street.

This event is a cocktail reception providing an opportunity for you to meet the candidates running for local election in a relaxed, informal, and social setting. The candidates will be asked to introduce themselves and say a word or two, but no speeches and no debates, just collegiality!

Candidates running for election in November:

For City Council

Hon. Laura Downs, Hon. David Snyder, Hon. Marybeth Connelly, Mr. Arthur Agin, Mr. Brian Pendleton, Mr. James Thompson

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For School Board

Hon. Lori Silverman, Ms. Sharon Mergler, Hon. Anne Sherwood, Ms. MaryKate Hughes, Hon. Kathleen Tysse,

CBC will also co-host, with the local PTAs, a public forum for School Board candidates on **October 16th** and another forum, co-hosted with Falls Church Forward, for City Council candidates on **October 22nd**. Look for detailed information coming to you in a September email.

POSTCARDS

Ready for another round of Get out the Vote postcards?

In our first round of postcards for the VA general elections, we wrote to 1,620 black voters in VA. Are you ready for another round? If so, please send me the usual information:

To participate in this round, email to MollieJewell2@gmail.com with “Postcard” in the subject:

- number of postcards you will write (multiples of 20)
- number of stamps you want to buy, and
- pickup location you prefer:
 - Mollie Jewell (3715 Tollgate Terr, 22041, near Bailey’s Crossroads)
 - Mary Youman (4419 N 18 St. Arlington, near Ballston)
- Email request to MollieJewell2@gmail.com, subject “Postcard.”

Early voting starts Friday, September 19 to Saturday, November 1.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4.

Postcarding Fundraiser Sunday 9/14

The Center for Common Ground (parent of the ROV postcards) is holding a Zoom Gala on Sept. 14, from 7 to 9pm. The event features speakers pertinent to our postcarding effort. Information at this [Link](#)

The Virtual Fundraising Gala will bring together a diverse group of changemakers, including:

- **Senator Richard Blumenthal**, Connecticut
- **Delegate Dan Helmer**, VA State House
- **Celina Stewart**, Executive Director, League of Women Voters
- **Ray McClendon**, Georgia Communities United for Justice
- **Brandon Rivers**, Charlotte Democracy Center
- **Maritri Garrett**, Singer/Songwriter/Poet
- **Rev. Rodney Sadler**, CFCG Board Co-Chair
- **Bishop Ray Johnson**, Alliance of Churches

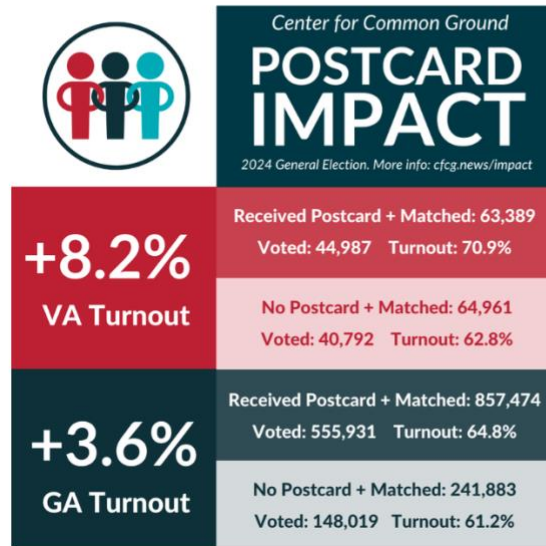
[Mark your calendars for September 14th](#)

[SIGN UP for Gala HERE](#)

[MAKE A GIFT to CCG/ROV HERE](#)

Are Reclaim Our Vote postcards effective?

Yes! Postcarding increases voter engagement. Check out our impact in 2024:



FC AAUW effort

Background

Virginia will likely be the only campaign for the rest of the year. And, as you know, 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.

Early voting starts Friday, September 19 to Saturday, November 1.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4.

Why is FC AAUW 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.

HELP NEEDED

Falls Church Festival Volunteers



The annual 49th **FALLS CHURCH FALL FESTIVAL** will be held on SEPTEMBER 13, from 9-4 on the grounds of the City Hall and Community Center. The branch has participated in the event for many years to promote the work of the branch and encourage people to join us. It is one of the major ways to attract new members. Please give a couple of hours to staff our booth at the Festival.

You will receive an email on Labor Day asking you to **SIGN UP** for a slot. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Contact Manuela Costescu (manuela.costescu@gmail.com) or Aida Loomis (aul7211@gmail.com) if you have questions.

Pop-Up Book Sale Volunteers



As we move away from the labor-intensive large book sales of the past, we will be holding quarterly smaller “pop-ups” at the Falls Church Farmers Market in the hopes of both maintaining our “book” brand and replenishing the education fund. The next one is Saturday, November 8, 8:30-noon. To be successful we need help, so what can you do to ensure the health of the education fund and keep AAUA-FC out there in the community?

BOOKS - 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 collection/sort site located at 7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA between the hours of 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM on the following Saturdays: September 6th and 27th, October 4, 11, and 25, November 1. Books can also be dropped off at our September and October program meetings and by appointment, (No collections on September 13 (Falls Church Festival) September 20 (Taste of Annandale) and October 18.)

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 for SALE - If you are available on Saturday, November 8 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.

VOLUNTEERS for SATURDAY Collections - We hope to recruit a few high school students and some non-member volunteers to help. If you have a couple of hours to spare on Saturdays, we would love to see you.

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

Candidate Forums Volunteers

Candidate Forums for VA House of Delegate Elections. The League of Women Voters-Fairfax ("LWV") is sponsoring candidate forums for candidates running for the Virginia House of Delegates in our area. AAUW-VA is a co-sponsor of these events, which occur in September and early October. The LWV and AAUW urge you to tune in and hear the candidates explain their positions. Some of the events are virtual (via Zoom), and others are televised and will be viewable on Fairfax Public Access Television Channel 10.

AAUW volunteers are sought for the televised forums on Sept. 22, Sept. 29, and October 6 (*See Calendar for specific times*). The LWV would like one volunteer/per candidate forum from our organization.

Location of volunteer activity and arrival time: The arrival time is 7 p.m. for a televised forum starting at 8:00 p.m. The location is Fairfax Public Access Television Channel 10 Station, 2929-S Eskridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22031. Parking is available in front of the studio.

Attire and identifying organization badges: Business casual with comfortable shoes is recommended. Organization name badges are permitted. Do not wear paraphernalia or campaign gear and buttons. Individuals without a name badge will be provided one.

Assignment(s) description. The LWV will let you know specific tasks when the LWV sends out volunteers' instructions before the event. Possible assignments include: (1) Telephone Room: Record call-in questions with a League representative; (2) Conference room: Monitor campaign representatives and personal belongings. Also, can watch the forum on a TV screen.

To Volunteer, please contact Lyn Johnson Lister, Director of Voter Services, LWV of the Fairfax Area lyn.lister@lwv-fairfax.org, 703-309-4667



Voter Registration Volunteers

AAUW -FC Volunteers for Voter Outreach & Registration

To help our fellow citizens prepare for the critical elections this fall, the Falls Church AAUW is joining the Falls Church League of Women Voters (LWV) to register voters, distribute information on the election at community events.

The LWV is currently planning registration outreach events that will provide opportunities for FC AAUW to get involved. Interested members were previously asked to complete the Virginia Dept. of Elections required on-line training to be certified to register voters at an organized registration drive. The certification must be renewed every year in order to be valid.

If you have completed the online training and certification process, please email Linda Lawrence (redheadred@msn.com) to add your name to our list of certified Partner Voter Volunteers.

There is still time to complete the training and join the team! The on-line training is easy to follow and takes approx. 30-45 min. You can access the training course with this link:

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/voter-registration-training/>

Once you complete the training, please be sure to follow the instructions to complete the online affidavit for certification. This will verify that you have completed the training and can be added to the Certified Partner Voter Volunteers List.

Email Linda Lawrence with any questions: redheadred@msn.com

Current Voter Registration volunteer opportunities:

- **Volunteer to Register Voters on National Voter Registration Day:**

To celebrate National Voters Registration Day, **September 16**, the FCLWV will be registering voters all day at Mary Riley Styles Library. Certified FCAAUW volunteers may sign-up for any available shifts. In addition to encouraging voters to register and check their registration status, volunteers will also be providing nonpartisan information on the upcoming election. Certification required.

Sign Up for a Shift Here: [Library Voter Drive](#)

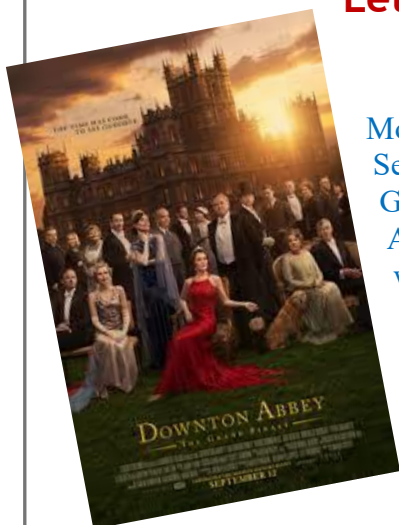
- **Volunteer to Distribute Voter Information on Back-to-School Nights:**

Once again, LWVFC will be greeting parents attending Back-to-School nights at the Falls Church City Public Schools and reminding them to register to vote or update their voter registration. (*Anyone who has moved since the last time they voted needs to update their registration with their new address.*) FCAAUW volunteers can join this effort will be outside each of the city schools on their respective Back-to-School nights and we will be handing out a post-card size flyer that has a QR code and a website address that members of the public can use to check their voter registration status or to register to vote. Join us for one or more of these evenings. *Each shift is just one hour long.*

Sign Up for a Shift here: [Back-to-School Night](#)

MOVIES & BOOKS

Let's Go to the Movies



Movie opportunities are beginning to blossom as the fall season gets underway in September. Among the upcoming movies to look forward to are Downton Abbey: the Grand Finale (who didn't love this series?), The Roses, A Little Prayer, Jaws: 50th Anniversary (on my list!), and The Baltimoreans (looks charming). Highest 2 Lowest with Denzel Washington is playing now at Cinema Arts in Fairfax. If any of these appeal to you, let Susan Conklin (sconklin00@gmail.com) know and she will organize a group meet-up with the possibility of lunch following the movie.

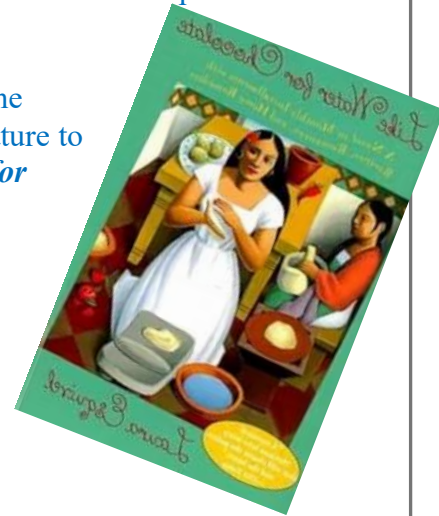
Virtual Book and Movie Club

Virtual Book and Movie Groups
Let's Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month
Tuesday, October 21
7:00 pm via ZOOM

Diversity is something our branch celebrates. We neither ignore nor cancel differences. We learn about different cultures through books and films. In October the movie and book groups will meet virtually to discuss the novel and film *Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel. The book and film follow the story of young Tita who lives on a ranch in Northern Mexico at the beginning of the twentieth century, during the Mexican Revolution. She longs to marry a neighbor, Pedro but her stern mother refuses to give her permission and insists that as the youngest, Tita must care for her until her death. Tita's forbidden love for Pedro blossoms and is expressed through the meals she makes. And there the magic begins.

On a side note, I am hoping to have my friend Georgia Mae Oates join us and lead the discussion. Prior to leaving the area she taught a class called English Through Literature to non native English speakers at Northern Virginia Community College. *Like Water for Chocolate* was part of the curriculum. Your attendance and appreciation would be greatly appreciated.

So come with your cup of Mexican hot chocolate and your pan de dulce and be part of the joint group via Zoom on Tuesday, October 21, 7:00 PM. Please call or text Aida at 703 966 8050 if you are interested in joining our book/film discussion evening. All are welcome!



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Friday, September 5: CBC Candidate Meet & Greet, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, The Falls Church Arts Gallery, 700 Broad West Broad Street, Falls Church

Saturday, September 9: McLean Area AAUW 51st Use Book Sale, 9:30am – 6:30 pm, McLean Community Center, [1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia](#)

Sunday, September 14: AAUW-FC branch meeting, 2:30 pm, Mary Riley Styles Library

Sunday, September 14: Center for Common Ground (parent of the ROV postcards), Zoom Gala 7:00- 9:00 pm.

September 9-October 6: League of Women Voters televised and Virginia House of Delegates Candidate Forums:

Sept 9, 7:00–8:00 pm, Zoom, Districts 9 and 10

September 16, 7:00-8:00 pm, Zoom, District 14

September 22, 8:00-9:00 pm, Televised (**Fairfax Public Access channel 10**), Districts 7 and 15
September 25, 7:00-8:00 pm, Zoom, District 16
September 29, 8:00-9:00 pm, televised, District 18
October 6, 8:00-9:00 pm, televised, Districts 6 and 8

IN OTHER NEWS....

Branch Award

Dear Mary,

Thank you once again for taking part in the **FY25 Annual Branch Survey**. Your responses not only help AAUW understand and support the work happening at the branch level, but also ensure your efforts are recognized through the **Five Star Program**.



I'm delighted to share that the **Falls Church Area (VA) Branch** has earned a **Public Policy & Advocacy, Programming, and Communications & External Relations Star** in the Five Star Program for FY25! **This achievement reflects your branch's commitment to advancing gender equity and aligning your programs, advocacy, and sustainability efforts with AAUW's strategic priorities.**

We are so grateful for the time and energy you and your fellow leaders devote to this work. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition and we look forward to celebrating your success further in the months ahead, including through future highlights in *Membership Matters* and on the AAUW website.
With appreciation,

Tremayne A. Parquet ([he/him/his](#))
Deputy Director of Advancement
AAUW, 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005



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.

