

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

VOLUME 75, NUMBER 10
OCTOBER 1, 2025

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

What a wonderful September meeting, "It's Time for Election!". Kudos to Bunny/Mary Ellen and our speakers. I think I finally understand how ranked choice voting works and its goals.



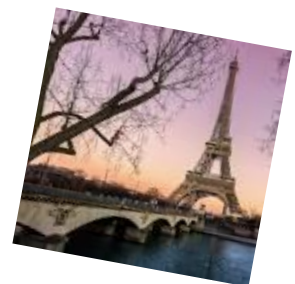
Thank you to the members, who volunteered to help with the French Market sale on November 22 to be held in the Falls Church Community Center. We still need more members as sales captains for particular types of goods. Contact Anita (anitasbooth@gmail.com) about volunteering. Anita Booth and Sue Christie will work with you on the details of the sale.

If you look ahead, there are many branch and Northern Virginia AAUW programs planned after October. So, we've decided to change our normal October meeting into a VA Postcard Writing Finale! Drop into our get together on October 8 at the Mary Styles Riley from 2-4 pm. Bring your stack of postcards or help us fill out the remaining 100 cards that must be mailed by October 20. Snacks are provided. Come for part or all of our gathering! In total the branch will have sent 2020 postcards to VA voters!! Loud cheers for members, family, and friends, who wrote postcards for this campaign.

AAUW Falls Church is testing a new fundraising activity on Saturday, November 22: "Little French Market" at the Falls Church Community Center. This is an opportunity for members to donate pre-loved items to support our scholarship program. We are already generating buzz in the community and hope to have a robust turnout of shoppers. Who knows? Members may find great hostess or holiday gifts too! Don't forget the Little French Market Swap from 1-2 before the meeting (see the article in this newsletter about it).

Finally plan to come to the many November events listed in this FLASH.

Mary Youman and Anne Baxter
Co-Presidents
AAUW Falls Church Area Branch



SAVE THE DATES

Healing the Gender Divide in the Era of Pervasive Social Media November 6 Branch Meeting

At our planning meeting in June, our members expressed concern about the impact of social media on the emotional development of young men and women. In response to that concern, a Program Committee of Mary Ellen Gannon, Bunny Jarrett, Anita Booth, Sue Christie, and Clare O'Sheel have developed a two-part community forum: Healing the Gender Divide in the Era of Pervasive Social Media.

The first forum will address the state of boys/men and the state of girls/women in our society, particularly how misogyny affects gender equity and the power of social media in reinforcing harmful gender attitudes. A representative of Equimundo <https://www.equimundo.org>, (a research organization which recently published *The State of American Men 2025*) will discuss the complex crisis of boyhood and manhood. A representative of the Center for American Progress, Inclusive Economy, <https://www.americanprogress.org> will focus on the "state of girls and women" and the impact of misogyny and corrosive social media on the lives and livelihoods of girls and women.

The first Community Forum will be held **November 6, 2025, 7:00 - 9:00 PM at Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School, Falls Church.**

A second forum to be scheduled in spring 2026 will address solutions and means to become engaged. Feedback from local educators and counselors will laser-focus the global problem, discussing what's happening in our own schools and communities.

If you want to do some background reading before the forum, go to the Equimundo website and read *The State of American Men 2025*

We have attached a flyer about the Community Forum, and we encourage you to invite your friends and family to attend. We will ask you to post flyers in neighborhood businesses, community centers, and libraries in October. If you can help with flyer distribution in your area, please contact Bunny Jarrett. Because this is such a relevant topic, we are working to attract young men and women, parents, school counselors and social workers, AAUW-VA branch members, and other interested community members.

Bunny Jarrett, marianjarrett84@gmail.com
Mary Ellen Gannon, maryegann@aol.com
Co-VPs for Program

**Healing the Gender Divide
in the Age of Pervasive Social Media**

A Two-Part Series

November 6, 2025, 7 to 9 pm

Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School, 105 Mustang Alley, FC



A Community Forum

***Moderated by the American Association of University Women,
Falls Church Branch***

Part I...What Do We Know?

The Not So Good State of Men and Women

Facts, Findings and Effects including the Role of Social Media

Panel

Equimundo Center for Masculinities and Social Justice
and

Center for American Progress, Inclusive Economy

Part II...Spring 2026: What Can We Do?

How Do We Heal?

Research Recommendations, Community Responses and Strategies

Date and time to be determined.

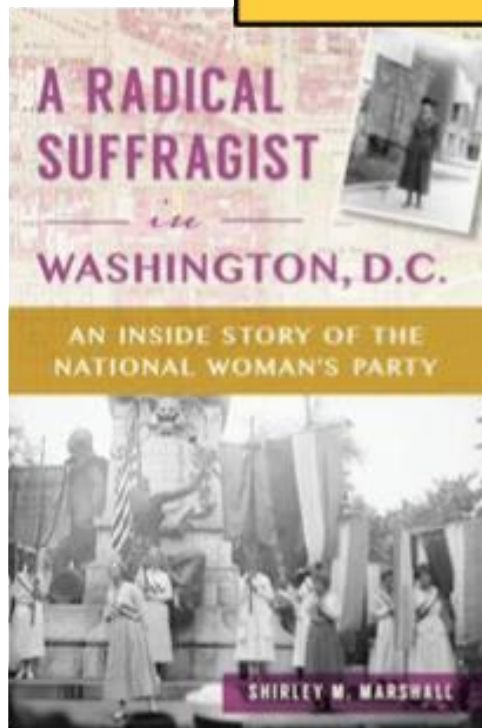
C0-Sponsors:



Pohick Regional Library

AAUW-VA Northern District Meeting
November 1, 2025, 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!

Little French Market Donation Drop-off
Wednesday, October 8, 1-2 pm
Community Center Lower Parking Lot

AAUW Falls Church is testing a new fundraising activity on Saturday, November 22: "Little French Market" at the Falls Church Community Center. To raise money for scholarships, we are asking member to donate quality items that they no longer wish to keep or need to reclaim storage space at home. Items might include: tabletop (linens, china, silver, etc.), art, gift books, Christmas decorations and stocking stuffers, jewelry, scarves and pocketbooks, ethnic arts and crafts and other items. We also need cashiers and floaters.

Items may be dropped off at the lower parking lot of the Falls Church Community Center on Wednesday, October 8, between 1 and 2 pm (Just prior to post card writing).

We need volunteers on Friday November 21 to help set up between 4:30 and 6:30 pm, and work at the sale on Saturday November 22 from 8 am to 4 pm. If you have not already signed up on SignUpGenius, please do so.

If you have additional questions or wish to arrange for a pickup//drop off of donations, please contact Anita Booth

AAUW Falls Church invites you to shop at

A Little French Market
For the Holidays

Saturday, November 22

8 am to 4 pm

Falls Church Community Center

223 Little Falls St, Falls Church, VA



Vintage items from around the world,
including
china, silver, crystal, glass, textiles, holiday
décor,
ethnic arts and crafts, and much more!

**Proceeds provide need-based scholarships
to college-bound students in our community**

Candidate Forum

Virginia House of Delegates

District 6

October 6, 2025 at 8:00 p.m.

View the forum live on Fairfax Public Access TV, channel 10, or by live streaming. During the live event, viewers may call in with questions using the number displayed.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/InsideScoopTVShow>

The certified candidates who agreed to attend are:

District 6

Richard Sullivan, Jr.(D)
Kristin Hoffman(R)



Sponsor

League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

Co-Sponsors

- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Lambda Kappa Omega Chapter
- American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Virginia
- Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
- Fairfax County Council PTA
- Iota Epsilon Sigma Chapter Northern VA of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
- NoVA Section of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.
- REV UP Virginia
- The Arc of Northern Virginia



Go to [LWV-Fairfax.org](https://www.LWV-Fairfax.org) for voting information.

FC AAUW/ FC LWV Partnership – Reminder!

Sign-up for the required State Dept. of Elections Voter Registration Drive Training
Get Certified - Here's How!

1. Complete Training (choose one):

A. The Online Training link is a self-paced, online course, available any time, at your convenience!

Please [click here](#) for the online training option.

B. Training Workshop:

Date for the 2025 live, virtual, instructor-led training session is:

Tuesday, October 7 at 11 AM: [CLICK HERE TO ATTEND](#)

No pre-registration is required!

2. Submit Affidavit (online, after training):

Click here: [Voter Registration Drive Sworn Affidavit & Application Request](#)

Please note: *Current certifications expired on June 30th. You can renew your certification by completing training annually, on or after July 1.*

3. Confirm Your Certification Status:

[List of Certified Individuals and Organizations](#) (last modified: 09/12/2025)

To find a name: Use "CTRL F" or "Command F" (Please allow 24 hours for names to post).

Virginia All District Zoom Meeting Tuesday, October 14, 7 pm

On Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 7 pm, the first virtual All-District meeting for this year will be presented: One Person, One Vote: The National Popular Vote vs. The Electoral College. This program will be presented by Jane D. Newell, Greater Richmond Branch (GRAAUW) AAUW Funds Chair, as well as Director of Transformation for the League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWVVA). “Five times in our history, the presidential candidate with the most popular votes wasn’t elected. That’s because the people do not elect presidents-- the Electoral College does.” Jane will provide a fascinating program on the current system and the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact to abolish the Electoral College.

AAUW at Graham Road Elementary School Dates for Volunteers

We're back at the school, helping in the Clothing "Boutique" where students come for necessities. We also assemble the weekend food packets.

Upcoming activities that could use AAUW volunteers:

- **PTA sponsored Fall Festival** on **Sunday October 26** (anyone can participate). Sign up at
 - <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/1252101452072/true#/invitation>
- **PTA sponsored Election Day Bake Sale** on **Tuesday, November 4** (anyone can participate)
 - Baked goods donations
 - Assisting with bake sales (anytime between 8 am to 5 pm)
- **School Book Fair December 4 through 10** (cleared volunteers)
- School Field Trips to be scheduled (cleared volunteers)

If anyone is interested in providing a donation to support Graham Road, the top priorities are:

- Field trips (make check payable to Graham Road Elementary School PTA)
- Clothing Boutique (make check payable to Graham Road Elementary School)

If you are interested in supporting Graham Road as a volunteer or a donor, please contact Ellie Dasenbrook or Anita Booth.



Pop Up Book Sale
November 8, 2025
8:00 AM to Noon

Falls Church Community Center Portico

How Can You Help?

The first way is to **get the word out** that we would appreciate more books. Ask your family, friends and neighbors if they have books they are willing to donate. Share on social media such as Facebook. Post on private networks such as Nextdoor. Let them know that books can 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, October 4, 11, and 25, November 1. Sarah and I are also willing to pick up books at a more convenient location. And also, if you have the time and inclination join us at the collection site. Let us know.

Of course, get the word out about the November 8th book sale but it really is more than that. Fundraisers such as the Book Sale and the Little French Market (Nov 22) and our November program on Healing the Gender Divide (Nov 6) not only are activities we host but also expressions of what we as AAUW FC members value and believe. Talk about how AAUW FC promotes gender equity through awarding scholarships to local Falls Church seniors and through offering informative programs on current topics.

VOLUNTEER!

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.

How Have You Already Helped?

Thank you to members who have already donated books and offered use of tables. I have not responded to all of you but rest assured, I will.

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

PUBLIC POLICY

VOTE!



Early voting has begun in Virginia for the November election. This is an important election as Virginians will be voting for a new Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General as well as the entire House of Delegates. The success of AAUW-VA's public policy agenda will depend on the outcome of the election, so it is vital that everyone votes and encourages friends, neighbors, and relatives to do likewise. To determine where to vote either on Election Day, November 4, or where and when to vote early, go to this link: [https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-](https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/polling-place-lookup/)

[ballot/polling-place-lookup/](https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/polling-place-lookup/) and enter your address. Early voting ends on November 1; the General Election takes place on November 4. Whether you vote early or on November 4, be sure to make your voice heard by voting!

RECLAIM OUR VOTE POSTCARD FINALE (FOR 2025)!



VA Postcard Writing Finale! In place of our regular branch meeting in October we are holding a final push for getting out the vote with the ROV postcards. Drop into our get together on **October 8 at the Mary Styles Riley Library from 2-4 pm.** Bring your stack of postcards and pens or help us fill out the remaining 100 cards that must be mailed by October 20. Snacks are provided. Come for part or all of our gathering! **In total the branch will have sent 2020 postcards to VA voters!!**

MOVIE AND BOOK CLUBS

Let's Go to the Movies



Last week I went to the movies to see Downton Abbey the Finale, The Washington Post had the wrong time. But I chose to see **A Big Bold Beautiful Journey** instead which I enjoyed. My lesson of the week is to check the theater website for times!

However, the previews got me excited. The movie doldrums are about to end. Many new movies coming out like **Wicked 2**. I will keep my eyes peeled for real winners and inform you. Keep a close eye on your mailboxes for some winning entertainment! As always, I can be reached at sconklin00@aol.com for any questions.

Virtual Book and Movie Club

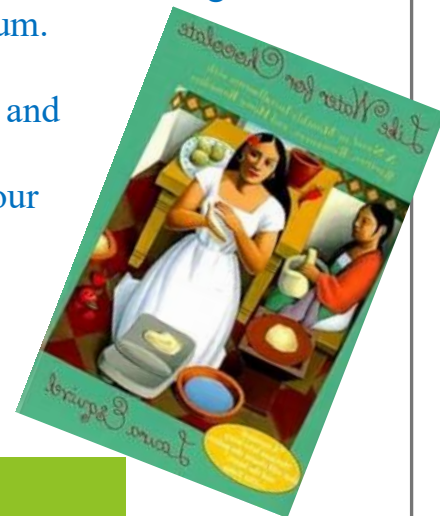
Virtual Book and Movie Groups
Let's Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month
Tuesday, October 21
7:00 pm via ZOOM

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.

While rewatching the film *Like Water for Chocolate* (I have yet to read the book, but I will), I could not help but remember another book that we read several years ago, *American Nations* by Colin Woodward. The book puts forth a view that the US is a federation of 11 nations each defined by shared culture and established by their founders. *Like Water For Chocolate* takes place in one of those nations, El Norte which includes land north and south of the Rio Grande River. And that nation is where my American family story begins. See photos below. Be part of the joint book/movie group via Zoom on Tuesday October 21st at 7:00 PM.

My friend Georgia Mae Oates will lead the discussion. Prior to leaving the area she taught a class called English Through Literature to nonnative English speakers at Northern Virginia Community College. *Like Water for Chocolate* was part of the curriculum.

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!



CALENDAR

Oct 6, 8pm	Candidate Forum, VA House of Delegates
Oct 8, 1-2pm	Swap for Little French Market, Community Center lower parking lot
Oct 8, 2-4	Postcard writing gathering, Mary Styles Riley Library

Oct 13, 7:30	Board Meeting, Zoom
Oct 14, 7pm	Virginia All-District Program, “Direct Popular Vote vs. the Electoral College, Zoom
Oct 21, 7pm	Virtual Book & Movie Group <i>Like Water for Chocolate</i> , Zoom
Nov 1, 12pm	Northern District Meeting, Pohick Regional Library,
Nov 6, 7-9	Branch Meeting – Healing the Gender Divide in the Era of Pervasive Social Media, Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School Cafeteria
Nov 8, 8-12	Pop Up Book Sale, Community Center Portico



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.

