

How Well Do You Know Your Community?

Diane Alejandro, People Power

Thursday, April 11, at 7 p.m.

Kings Park Library

9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke

Did you know that the Fairfax County population includes many immigrants (30 percent, both documented and otherwise) and one of the highest rates of deportations and family separations in the U.S.? At our next meeting, you will have an opportunity to learn more about immigration issues and policy in Fairfax County. Our speaker, Diane Alejandro, is a public lawyer and advocate for People Power, an affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union. A grassroots effort, People Power works to limit cooperation by Fairfax County law enforcement to that mandated by immigration laws and reviews its current policies of picking up immigrants at churches and homeless shelters, separating families, and rapid deportations. Ms. Alejandro will explain current immigration law and policies and bring a documented immigrant to tell her story.

We hope our AAUW members will take this opportunity to learn more about issues in our neighborhoods. Members of our community are invited to attend this event, cosponsored by Kings Park Library, and we hope you will encourage your friends and neighbors to become better informed on this local issue.



Spring Luncheon
Thursday, May 30
Country Club of Fairfax

We'll have more details down the road at bit, but we hope all of our members can gather for this occasion to mark the end of this year, and the beginning of our future! We'll spell out the menu options, announce a time and a cost (in the neighborhood of \$35), and tell you about the program. Watch for this information in a Focus Blast!

From the President

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, on July 1 the terms of the President, Treasurer and Membership Chair expire. We have been unable to find a person to serve as Membership Chair for the upcoming term. And our current Program Chair is unable to continue after the Spring Luncheon. Thus, for the moment we have no one to arrange program meetings for next year.

We urgently need members willing to serve on the Board for next year. Please consider stepping up (maybe with a friend?).

—Gale Rogers

AAUW of Virginia News and Elections

Please vote in the state AAUW election beginning on **April 13** and ending May 4 at 11:59 p.m. **Even though candidates are running unopposed, it is critical that you vote; we need a quorum of seven percent of our membership to vote** in the election.

We are voting to fill three officer positions on the board for two-year terms beginning July 1, 2019. Candidates are

- Vice President for Finance: Marsha Melkonian, Smith Mountain
- Vice President for Membership and Branch Development: Cheryl Spohnholtz, Mt. Vernon
- Recording Secretary: Deborah Dodd, Springfield-Annandale

The 2019 Voter Guide contains information on the candidates running, the voting process, and timeline. See the Winter/Spring issue of the *Vision* or go to https://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2019/03/2019_Voter-Guide.pdf.

Do not ignore emails from AAUW of Virginia in March, April, and May! These will contain instructions and reminders about voting. This year is the first year that we will be using software from an outside vendor, ElectionBuddy, to conduct our election and to tally the results. Therefore, individual votes cannot be seen by AAUW of Virginia members. We will let you know when the link to the electronic ballot is emailed to members so that, in case you do not receive the email, you can check your email "Junk" or "Spam" files.

The **Northern District spring meeting** will take place on **Saturday, April 13**, at the Fairfax Regional Branch of the Fairfax County Library. The meeting will begin at 1:00 pm. This gathering is for branch presidents and program and membership VPs. It will be a workshop/discussion of what's been working well in your branch, and a chance to share ideas with other branches. Please mark your calendars now. More information will be coming as the date gets closer.

Save the Pool Party Date

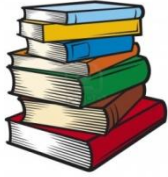


Calling all optimistic persons! Considering that nothing could be as wet as last year's pool party, and having consulted all the meteorologists on local television, Olga and Bob Burns have invited us to their home on a date with great and wondrous possibilities: **July 20**. Even if the humidity drives us inside, or the rain shows up uninvited, the food is always first rate, and the conversations stimulating. So put the date on your calendar and expect to hear from Kelly Espy, our event planner par excellence. Details to come.

Save the Date for the Book & Author Luncheon

Saturday, November 2, 2019

Our major fundraiser may seem months and months away, but much is yet to be done and many hands are needed to make the event happen, both between now and November and on the day of the luncheon.



Put the date on your calendar and start spreading the word to your friends and neighbors.

Look for silent auction items, especially from businesses you frequent.

Can you help with centerpieces?

Would you like to host an author at your table and/or introduce one at the luncheon?

Do you have ideas for publicity? How about putting posters up around your neighborhood?

Will you help assemble silent auction baskets the week before?

Would you be willing to help with reservations?

Call me, e-mail me, stop me in the street, flag down my car, or ring my doorbell, and ask me about how you can be part of the fun! Let's all pitch in and make this another wonderful Book & Author Luncheon. Keep foremost in your mind that we have this fundraiser to help college-age women complete their education and achieve another milestone toward a fulfilling career.

Paulette Miller

703-250-0876; psmiller10847@verizon.net

Get Five Women You Know to Do Work Smart Online!

Let's make salary inequity a thing of the past. Do you have a friend or family member who is applying for a new job or promotion and worried about how to ask for fair pay? Join AAUW in getting five women you know to sign up for **Work Smart Online**, our free salary negotiation course that teaches women how to ask for the salary and benefits they deserve. And encourage them to tell five women they know, too! Visit salary.aauw.org to get started and show us how you're spreading the word by using the hashtag [#5WomenYouKnow](https://twitter.com/5WomenYouKnow) on social media.



Fairfax City Branch Honored Members

The generous contributions from Fairfax City Branch members in calendar year 2018 allowed us to nominate four Named Honorees in recognition of their dedication and service to our branch.

These gifts to AAUW provide support for the fellowships and grants program, groundbreaking research, and other vital activities that expand educational and career opportunities for the next generation of women. AAUW gratefully acknowledges all donors for their dedication and commitment.

Fairfax City Branch honors:

- Gail Rogers
- Sonja Palomaki
- Sonia Esteve
- Dianne Blais

These members were recognized at the State Convention in Roanoke on April 6. We are proud to have them represent the Fairfax City Branch.

Thank you to these women for all they do for our branch and to all our members whose contributions to the AAUW fund made this possible.

Renew Your Membership in May

Before long, it will be time to renew your membership in the Fairfax City Branch. In early May you will receive an invoice from AAUW for renewing your membership. It's easy to renew online with a credit card by following the link in the e-mail. Renewal is direct; you do not log in. If you are renewing online, renew from the AAUW email, not from the website.

If you prefer to renew by check, please wait until you receive AAUW's invoice in May. You'll find the dues amount (\$87) and Dottie Joslin's address in the invoice. The check should be payable to AAUW Fairfax City Branch. I'll also send an email with the information you need when I generate the invoices from AAUW.



Be ready to enjoy another year of activities with the AAUW Fairfax City Branch.

Mark your calendar for the Book & Author Luncheon on Saturday, November 2. Together we support AAUW's mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

—Dottie Joslin, Treasurer

Dianne Blais's Wonderful Adventure

Dianne Blais recently returned from a trip to Nicaragua, where she served as a staff member on a Medical Missions for Christ project.

She had an outstanding partner in her work—an English teacher who translated for her when she ran into problems doing registration. Registrars saw more than 300 people each of the four days they worked. They listened to their problems, wrote up registration sheets summarizing their problems, and then sent them on to doctors, dentists, or eye specialists.

Now that she's home, Dianne says: "I'm happy to have nice toilet paper, and that I don't have to throw toilet paper into garbage can. I'm happy to be able to use the water out of the tap to brush my teeth and drink. I'm happy to drive a quiet car on wide streets. Our old school bus was loud, and miraculously navigated the narrow streets without an accident."

This sounds like very satisfying work on many different levels. Thank you, Dianne.

A Not-Very-Remarkable Proposal

As a 30-year member of this branch, I would greatly regret its slipping into a state of drowsiness. We have accomplished many worthwhile goals. Just consider all the Book & Author Luncheons that earned scholarship funds for women. Then there were the career days, when we showed girls that women were

active in STEM fields and acquainted them with many fascinating careers. Through these projects, our meetings, social activities, and interest groups we made friends who enriched our lives.

One of these groups was called Salon, and in it we examined many issues of interest to us. When it started, participants discussed topics that were covered in the newspapers or magazines. This took no preparation; a newspaper article just served as a catalyst for conversations with friends. Think of the wealth of topics to talk about:

- Education - charter schools, universal pre-K, federal grants to private schools
- College admissions - affirmative action, the latest admission scandals, admission of legacy students
- Environmental Issues - so many issues, both local and national
- Criminal justice issues – the death penalty, length of sentences for drug offenses, school-to-prison pipeline for black males
- Marijuana - who should be able to buy it
- Gun control
- Voting rights
- Immigration

Plenty of other issues that we care about are ripe for discussion among friends.

Interested members could meet monthly, perhaps at a restaurant such as Giardino's at Kings Park in Burke. Discussion leaders would not need to do any time-consuming research, but once they identify a topic they're interested in, they could go online and find a discussion of the issue. This could serve as raw material to start the conversation.

—Olga Burns

AAUW Diversity Statement

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 on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

McLean AAUW Used Book Sale

The used book sale will be at the McLean Community Center on Sept. 13–15. It's their 50th year!

2019 BOOK COLLECTION DATES:

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

May 4, June 1, June 22,

July 13, and August 3

SUN TRUST BANK, 515 Maple Ave. East, Vienna



Paycheck Fairness Act

The House of Representatives recently passed the Paycheck Fairness Act by a vote of 242 to 187 with bipartisan support.

You've heard the statistics: women working full time in the United States are typically paid just **80 percent** of what men are paid, and the gap is even wider for many women of color. Despite federal and state equal pay laws, the gender pay gap persists. Now it's up to the Senate to act. The Paycheck Fairness Act would take meaningful steps to update and strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to help close the gender pay gap, including:

- Requiring employers to prove that pay disparities between men and women are a business necessity and job-related.
- Banning the use of salary history, which has been shown to negatively impact women.
- Protecting workers from being penalized for discussing their salaries.
- Helping employers implement fair-pay practices.

CALENDAR

April 2: Equal Pay Day

April 11: Branch meeting: How Well Do You Know Your Community?

April 13: Voting begins for AAUW of Virginia officers

May 30: Spring Luncheon

July 20: Pool Party

November 2: Book & Author Luncheon

From the Editor

This is the last issue of the *Focus* for this year. Look for occasional news with important information about the Spring Luncheon, Pool Party, Book & Author Luncheon, and fall plans. We'll be back with a regular issue on September 1. Enjoy your summer!

Interest Groups

Afternoon Lit

Wednesday, April 17, at 1 p.m.

Home of Prativa Prasad

9030 Scott Street, Springfield

balramprasad@gmail.com; 703-866-4038



Please let Prativa know by Sunday, April 14, if you plan to attend. The group will discuss *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*, by Atul Gawande.

Wednesday, May 15, at 1 p.m.

Home of Jean Arnold

14611 Algretus Drive, Centreville

arnoldjh52@aol.com; 703-830-8189

Please let Jean A. know by Sunday, May 12, if you plan to attend. The group will discuss *The Last Painting of Sara DeVos: A Novel*, by Dominic Smith. Bring your suggestions for book selections and when you can hostess next year.

Musical Notes

Wednesday, April 3, at 1 p.m.
Home of Olga Burns
10623 Timberidge Road, Fairfax Station
rubato12@aol.com; 703-239-2876

The group will watch Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*. This light-hearted opera is sure to lift our spirits as we enjoy the superb music. Let Olga know if you can make it. Newcomers are always welcome.

Night Owls

Tuesday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m.
Home of Sonja Palomaki
7014 Ebbtide Lane, Burke
spalomaki@dspalomaki.com; 703-455-9262

A light supper will be served, followed by our discussion of *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger. Paulette Miller will lead our discussion. Please let Sonja know if you will be attending.

Tuesday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m.
Home of Judy Weltz
10522 Rosehaven Street, # 311, Fairfax
jolegp@msn.com; 703-272-8242

Please carpool, and remember that parking is on the street only. A light supper will be followed by our discussion of *Sing Unburied Sing*, by Jesmyn Ward, led by Jan Humphrey. Please let Judy know if you will be attending.

Tuesday, June 11, at 6:30 p.m.
Home of Ida Portland
10810 Glen Mist Lane, Fairfax
idaport@verizon.net; 703-352-0125

Our planning meeting will follow a light supper. Bring your recommendations for next year's book choices. Please let Ida know if you plan to attend.

Tuesday, July 9, at 6 p.m.
Home of Olga Burns
10623 Timberidge Road, Fairfax Station
rubato12@aol.com; 703-239-2876

Come at the earlier hour for a swim before supper. We'll discuss *The Great Alone*, by Kristin Hannah, led by Joyce Grimes. Please let Olga know if you plan to attend.

Our Mission:
**AAUW advances equity for women and girls through research, education,
 and advocacy.**

**AAUW—FAIRFAX CITY BRANCH
 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Membership is open to all graduates who have a two-year or a more advanced degree from an accredited institution. AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

See the article on p. 4 of this issue about renewing your membership for 2019–20. You can join *online* at aauw.org. Click on *Join (or Membership)*. Under Branch Member, click on the *Join/Renew* button. Follow the prompts. We are “VA3042 Fairfax City.”

Or, Complete the application below and mail it with your check to the treasurer.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

E-Mail: _____

Degree: _____ College: _____ Field: _____

Degree: _____ College: _____ Field: _____

DUES: \$87 (\$59 national, \$15 state, \$13 branch) for membership through June 30, 2019.

Note: \$56 of the national dues is tax deductible.

TRANSFERS: If transferring from National Membership (MAL) or another branch, the dues you owe may differ. To learn the correct amount of dues, contact:

Sue Manganiello, Membership V.P., smango54@yahoo.com, 703/764-1453, or

Dottie Joslin, Treasurer, j.joslin3@verizon.net; 703/591-9035.

Membership expiration date: _____ AAUW ID #, if known: _____

How did you hear about the Fairfax City Branch of AAUW? _____

PAYMENT: Make check payable to *AAUW—Fairfax City Branch*.

Please send this form and your check to the treasurer:

Dottie Joslin
 11110 Del Rio Dr
 Fairfax, VA 22030-5339

Branch Website: <http://fairfaxcity-va.aauw.net/>

Officers:


- President: Gale Rogers
gale.rogers63@gmail.com
- Program Vice President:
Dianne Blais
dianneblais@aol.com
Kitty Lou Smith
kittysmith@cox.net
- Membership Vice President:
Sue Manganiello
smango54@yahoo.com
- Secretary: Anita Light
anita.light95@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Dottie Joslin
j.joslin3@verizon.net
- AAUW Funds and Scholarship:
Paulette Miller
psmiller10847@verizon.net
- Newsletter Editor: Jan Humphrey
dandjhumph@aol.com

Branch Event Chair:

Book & Author Luncheon:
Paulette Miller
psmiller10847@verizon.net

Interest Group Chairs:

- Afternoon Literature: Jean Arnold
arnoldjh52@aol.com
- Night Owls: Paulette Miller
psmiller10847@verizon.net
- Musical Notes: Olga Burns
rubato12@aol.com



Penny C. Welke
ATTORNEY AT LAW

<p>Crickenberger & Welke Fairfax Commons, Suite 71B 3921 Old Lee Highway Fairfax, Virginia 22030</p>	<p>Area Code: 703 Telephone: 691-8900 Fax: 691-1088 3921Law@vacoxmail.com</p>
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