

**Holiday Party**  
**Sunday, December 15 at 1 p.m.**  
**Home of Dianne and Gerard Blais**  
**5211 Gunpowder Road, Fairfax**

Hurry, scurry! Get on the holiday bus and make a reservation today for our holiday party, which is coming up faster than reindeer can fly! Here's how: Mail a check to arrive **by December 11** for \$20 per person, made out to Kelly Espy to her at 5814 Spruce Grove Court, Haymarket 20169. Then, get in a holiday mood and plan to enjoy yourselves by showing up at the time and place above. Simple, isn't it?

Kelly is planning a scrumptious feast in her usual elegant style. Appetizers will include cooked shrimp, a vegetable-fruit-cheese tray, hot crab dip, and meatballs; entrées of roast turkey, baked spiral ham, and freshly baked salmon; sides of mashed potatoes, pasta, and salad; and dessert with coffee and tea. Wine, beer, and soft drinks will also be provided. This is always a festive social occasion for us, so plan to be part of it. Spouses and friends are welcome!

So, don't delay; make your reservation **today** and start your holiday! (Jingle those bells.)



**Book & Author Round-Up**

The 2019 Book & Author Luncheon is now a wrap. By all measures it was once again a huge success. We received many compliments on the delicious lunch menu that Springfield Country Club created. The Silent Auction items were beautifully displayed, as always. The result was that we will again be able to offer a very generous scholarship to a deserving George Mason student this spring, and that is the reason for all the hard work. Our net profits are close to \$5,500. We will reserve \$5,000 for the Beverly Anderson scholarships and donate the rest and other unspent funds for a branch donation of \$1,300 to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund.

Thank you to each and every one of you for helping make this year's 28th annual Book & Author Luncheon such a lovely, spirited event. It is a real testament to this branch's commitment to our scholarship goals that this event has continued for over a quarter of a century!

It is hard to name all the hard-working members who helped in exceptional ways for fear of leaving someone out, but please know that if you came, brought a guest, bought a book, won a silent auction item, collected or contributed a silent auction item, bought a raffle ticket, helped to prepare and wrap baskets, answered my call for volunteers, or pitched in at the last minute in any way at all, I am so very grateful to you!

Special thanks to Sonia Esteve, our unflappable reservations chair; to Sonja Palomaki, tireless and dedicated Silent Auction guru and her loyal group; to Joyce Grimes and Barbara Klementz, the artistic "design team"; to Ida Portland for hosting the work team; to Kelly Espy for the soup and the \$100 Raffle; to our eloquent MC Jan Humphrey; to author presenter-hosts Penny Welke Crickenberg, Bonnie Nelson, and Jan Humphrey; to our co-presidents for their welcome; and of course to the authors who shared their stories with us and who made the whole thing possible.

A round of applause and pat on the back to the "village" that it took to make such a special event.

Sincerely,

Paulette Miller  
Book & Author Chair

### News from the Branch Board

Board members had an important meeting on November 26, during which they made a number of major decisions about the rest of the 2019—2020 year and into the following one. Kitty Lou Smith agreed to be our liaison on diversity. New member Hong Wang will join Paulette Miller and Anita Light on the Scholarship Committee.

The branch received thanks from national AAUW for last year's \$2,000 donation to the Greatest Needs Fund. This year the board decided to award \$5,000 in scholarships and donate \$1,300 to the same fund.



Anita Light bravely volunteered to assist Paulette as Co-Chair of the Book & Author Luncheon. The group agreed that it would be useful break down the many jobs that go into organizing and carrying out the event and to have a calendar that specifies when certain tasks need to be accomplished.

The board discussed having a Facebook page for the branch. This is the subject of AAUW of Virginia guidelines that the board needs to review. Many have to do with maintaining members' privacy.

Kitty Lou would like to develop program ideas on diversity, perhaps using the 1619 Project, published recently in *The New York Times*, as a major resource.

### Be Proud of Our Donations to AAUW Greatest Needs Fund!

Every year for decades the Fairfax City Branch has donated to the AAUW national organization. Proceeds from our annual Book & Author Luncheon and its Silent Auction fund both these donations and our local scholarships. AAUW is well known for its international fellowships, research, the Legal Advocacy Fund, and other initiatives endowed by restricted funds. Those restricted funds are "full." This means that income earned on assets held in the restricted funds are sufficient to fund those programs and cannot be used for any other purpose. Consequently, AAUW requests that all donations be made to the unrestricted AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. Those donations help AAUW expand successful programs,

such as the Start Smart and Work Smart salary negotiation training and the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. In addition, the Greatest Needs Fund supports operations. Programs we value rely on expertise from the national office and its staff.

In 2019 the Fairfax City Branch made two donations to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. Our annual spring donation was \$1,300. By the end of summer it was clear that the funds we had set aside for our former STEM career initiative could be used for another purpose. For close to three decades, the Fairfax City Branch by itself, and then in conjunction with other branches, offered a half-day STEM career initiative to middle school girls and their parents. We are proud that we inspired girls to consider careers in fields that might not have occurred to them. Unfortunately, presenting this event became no longer possible.



How did the branch use the \$2,430 set aside for STEM programs? The board decided that the best use would be to donate \$2,000 to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund and use the remaining \$430 for our scholarship fund. The \$3,300 our branch gave to AAUW this year may be the largest amount we have donated in any one year. This would not have been possible without the many branch members who, over the years, donated toward our STEM initiative and participated in our Book & Author Luncheon and Silent Auction. Thank you all! Pat yourselves on the back!

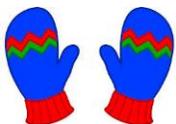
—Dottie Joslin

### Our Path Forward to Gender Equity

On October 22, Kim Churches presented a webinar to branch and state presidents called “Our Path Forward to Gender Equity.” It is highly informative and should be viewed by everyone. It has now been posted at [AAUW.org. https://www.aauw.org/event/2019/10/our-path-forward/](https://www.aauw.org/event/2019/10/our-path-forward/)

—Patsy Quick, AAUW of VA VP for Communications

### 2020 State Conference



Next year’s state conference will be held at the Holiday Inn & Suites Alexandria-Old Town, 625 First Street in Alexandria, **April 17–19, 2020**. Each branch was asked to sign up for something. Fairfax City will provide banquet entertainment. If you know of some appropriate entertainment, let Dianne Blais know. Consider attending when the meeting is in our back yard! You can even go for a day and avoid the overnight stay.

### News from the Northern District Meeting

The League of Women Voters will hold a pre-legislative session roundtable on December 4 at which AAUW will present on issues and activities. Lobbying days while the legislature is in session will be January 15 and February 12 with a focus on ERA and closing the gender pay gap.

Cindy Shanahan, AAUW of VA Diversity and Inclusion Chair, presented data on membership age and numbers. Only 7.5 percent of members are under age 60. She recommended that each branch seek new ways to work with partners (corporations, businesses, and special groups) with interests in diversity. Each group should have a diversity contact person.

Members of the Alexandria branch discussed their research findings on human trafficking and their collaboration with local police to develop an internet app to send immediate warnings of possible

trafficking to local authorities and the public. They requested that people write letters of support for their grant application to AAUW to achieve their final goal, the AAUW Angel App.

Fairfax City branch should consider

- Designating a contact person for diversity and public policy. Kitty Lou Smith is willing to do this if she has other members to assist her
- Having the board write a letter of support for an AAUW grant to the Alexandria branch on human trafficking and development of an app to report suspected instances of trafficking.
- Developing ways to present information to members on diversity and public policy issues.
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### Falls Church Branch Book Sale

Falls Church AAUW is happy to announce the dates for our 2020 sale: April 17 and 18 at the Falls Church Community Center. We have just completed an agreement for book storage space. This allows us to go forward with our first collection date on January 4 at the Willston Multi-Cultural Center at 6131 Willston Drive, near Seven Corners from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Look for our signs.** Additional collection dates are January 18, February 1 and 15, every Saturday in March, as well as April 4 and 11. The book sale benefits scholarships, research, and programs for women.

Start saving your books now for donation starting January 4!

For more information, visit <https://FallsChurchArea-va.aauw.net/booksale/> or call 703-637-4488 or email us at [FallsChurchArea-VA@aauw.net](mailto:FallsChurchArea-VA@aauw.net).

—Martha Trunk

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Betty Mangler  
May 7, 1920–October 17, 2019

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Long-time branch members will recall Betty Mangler, who belonged to our group for many years, and died recently after a long life including a career as a nurse in the Army Nurse Corps during World War II and later in Fairfax County hospitals and a marriage lasting upwards of sixty years. She was the mother of five, grandmother of four, and great-grandmother of eight. A detailed obituary is at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/fairfax-va/elizabeth-mangler-8895231>.

### Women in Higher Education and the Work Force

The U.S. has experienced a gender turnaround in higher education in the last half century. Fifty years ago, 58 percent of U.S. college students were men. Today, according to Education Department estimates, 56 percent are women. This year, for the first time, the share of college-educated women in the U.S. workforce surpassed the share of college-educated men, according to the Pew Research Center.

It's not just that more women opt for college. It's that fewer men do, affecting their opportunities and lifetime earnings.

The causes for this imbalance emerge in primary and secondary grades, with research showing that girls apply themselves earlier to their studies, whereas boys are more likely to drop out, impatient to begin earning money and unwilling to spend further years in school. U.S. girls score higher than boys by the fourth grade in reading, and more boys than girls drop out of high school.

"The boys want to have a car, but the girls want to think about their future," said one undergraduate.

Source: John Marcus, "The degrees of separation between the genders in college keep growing," *Washington Post*, Oct. 27, 2019.



### CALENDAR

December 12	Kim Church's webinar at 3 p.m.
December 15	Holiday Party
January 8, 2020	Virginia Legislature convenes: ERA consideration?
March 8, 2020	International Women's Day
April 17–19, 2020	AAUW of VA Conference, Alexandria

### Interest Groups

#### Afternoon Lit

Wednesday, **December 18**, at 1 p.m.  
 Home of Jean Arnold  
 14611 Algretus Drive, Centreville  
[arnoldjh52@aol.com](mailto:arnoldjh52@aol.com)  
 703-830-8189

The group will discuss *The Spy and the Traitor: The Greatest Espionage Story of the Cold War*, by Ben Macintyre. Please let Jean know by Sunday, December 15, if you plan to attend.

Wednesday, **January 15**, 2020 at 1 p.m.  
 Coyote Grille  
 10266 Main Street, Fairfax, in the Main Street Marketplace

Please let Dottie Joslin know if you plan to come by Monday, January 13: [j.joslin3@verizon.net](mailto:j.joslin3@verizon.net) or 703-591-9035. The group will discuss *To the Lighthouse*, by Virginia Woolf.

Looking ahead, the February selection is *All the Lives We Ever Lived: Seeking Solace in Virginia Woolf*, by Katherine Smith.

#### Musical Notes

We will not meet in December.

The January date is yet to be set, but as usual, it will likely be late in the month. Give Olga Burns a call if you're interested (703-239-2876).

### Salon

Our December gathering will be at noon on **December 4**. We'll try Villa Bella at 6050 Burke Commons Road in the shopping center with Walmart. It can be reached from Burke Center Parkway as well. We usually stay for two hours. It may be hard to come up with a topic other than the impeachment hearings, but let's give it a try.

### Night Owls

Tuesday, **December 10**, at 6:30 p.m.  
Home of Kitty Lou Smith  
5240 Lonsdale Drive, Springfield  
[Kittysmith@cox.net](mailto:Kittysmith@cox.net)  
703-323-9214

A light supper will be served before our discussion of *There, There*, by Tommy Orange, led by Anita Light. Please let Kitty Lou know if you plan to attend.

Tuesday, **January 14** at 6:30 p.m.  
Home of Paulette Miller  
10847 Split Oak Lane, Burke  
[psmiller10847@verizon.net](mailto:psmiller10847@verizon.net)  
703-250-0876

A light supper will be served at 6:30 followed by the discussion of *Educated*, by Tara Westover, led by Jan Humphrey. Please let Paulette know if you plan to attend.

For planning purposes, below is a list of the books we will be reading through July 2020:

February (Sat. TBA), *The Japanese Lover*, by Isabelle Allende  
March 10, *A Week in Winter*, by Maeve Binchy  
April 14, *Little Fires Everywhere*, by Celeste Ng  
May 12, *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*, by Gail Honeyman  
June 9, Planning Meeting  
July 14, *The Leavers*, by Lisa Ko

New members are always welcome. Please contact Paulette Miller for more information. (703-250-0876; [psmiller10847@verizon.net](mailto:psmiller10847@verizon.net) )

### Improve Your Vocabulary!

Use each of these words three times and they are yours forever!

1. **Giraffiti**: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
2. **Coffee**: The person upon whom one coughs.
3. **Intoxication**: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
4. **Arachnoleptic fit**: The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.
5. **Flabbergasted**: Appalled by discovering how much weight one has gained.
6. **Lymph**: To walk with a lisp.
7. **Frisbeetarianism**: The belief that, after death, the soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.

**Good times to all.**

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

**Officers:**

Co-Presidents: Dianne Blais  
[dianneblais@aol.com](mailto:dianneblais@aol.com)  
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Secretary: Anita Light  
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**Branch Event Chair:**

Book & Author Luncheon:

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Anita Light  
[anita.light95@gmail.com](mailto:anita.light95@gmail.com)

**Interest Group Chairs:**

Afternoon Literature: Jean Arnold  
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Night Owls: Paulette Miller  
[psmiller10847@verizon.net](mailto:psmiller10847@verizon.net)

Musical Notes: Olga Burns  
[rubato12@aol.com](mailto:rubato12@aol.com)

Salon: Olga Burns  
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