

Suffrage at 100: A Visual History

Presented by Kitty Lou Smith

Wednesday, September 16, 7:00 p.m.

Zoom meeting

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m. A reminder with the Zoom info will be sent out before the meeting. There will be a short business meeting and this special presentation by Kitty Lou Smith: *Suffrage at 100: A Visual History*, followed by a discussion.

From Kitty Lou about her power-point presentation:

The *New York Times* invites you to meet the women, including women of color, who fought the battle for their vote in its power point, *Suffrage at 100*. The women were heroes, but not always moral paragons, and their movement reflected the nativism, racism, and other prejudices of American society.

In its 18th and 19th Century editorials the *Times* warned that the perils of suffrage would be “real and hard to bear.” To counter these harsh words the suffragettes used a variety of weapons: parades, speeches, petitions, demonstrations, and the new medium of photography. They were keenly aware of the need for careful branding of their cause.

The suffrage movement became active in every part of the country, including new territories, and enlisted all colors, ethnic groups, and classes. Their fight changed democracy and spanned several generations. With the passage of the 19th Amendment voting rights were not guaranteed for all women until the civil rights legislation of the 1950’s and 60’s. Today the fight for women’s rights continues with the effort to eliminate voter suppression and to enact equal rights legislation. The suffrage legislation has produced great gains in voting and in women’s leadership as governors of states and territories (11), Senators (26), Representatives (101), and a Presidential candidate in 2016 and Vice-Presidential candidate in 2020.

We hope you all can join us.

From the Book & Author Event Co-Chairs

We have exciting news. The Book and Author Luncheon is going virtual! Current restrictions on gatherings and caution on the part of many of our members and guests has made this a necessary adaptation. While we won’t be sharing lunch this year, the new format will be on Zoom, AND it will be free to all who register for it!

As you probably know, the Book and Author Luncheon is more than just an opportunity to learn about authors and their works and experience a lovely social event. It is, and has been for 27 years, the primary fundraiser for the Fairfax City AAUW Branch by which we create undergraduate scholarships for deserving women who are returning to George Mason University after a break in their education. In this year of the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote, this year's event would have been an extra special celebration of women supporting women. Since we are not charging for the Book and Author Zoom event, we hope you will join us in making a contribution to the Scholarship Fund by going to our website at <https://fairfaxcity-va.aauw.net> and then click on the Go Fund Me link (when posted). Any amount will be appreciated, and all donations will go to our scholarship winner at George Mason University.

Now, for the details on the Book and Author Zoom. Fortunately, the four wonderful women authors who were scheduled to present at this year's luncheon have all enthusiastically offered to join us in a virtual Book and Author gathering on November 14, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We are so very grateful to them, and we would like to extend an invitation to you to join us. The details are still being worked out, but if you would like to receive an invitation, please RSVP to the letter (or to Anita Light, anita.light95@gmail.com) with an email address that we can use to send you the Zoom link.

Here is the line-up of authors:

Mary Jo Binker, Editor, If You Ask Me: Essential Advice from Eleanor Roosevelt. Experience the timeless wit, warmth, and wisdom of Eleanor Roosevelt in this annotated collection of candid advice columns that she wrote for more than twenty years.

Angie Kim, Miracle Creek: A Novel. In a Virginia small town, a group of people are part of a special treatment center with a hyperbaric chamber that may cure a range of conditions. But when the chamber explodes, two people die, and it's clear the explosion was no accident.

Aimee Hix, What Doesn't Kill You. A favor for a friend turns into a murder investigation, drawing our heroine, apprentice PI Willa Pennington, into a labyrinth of lies and deception in the shadows of Washington, D.C.

Cindi Gueli, The Lipstick Brigade: The Untold True Story of Washington's World War II Government Girls. Thousands of women came to the capital to staff government offices during World War II. Their skills earned them a wide variety of jobs, while their personalities enlivened the city and provided life-changing adventures.

We hope you are all well and safe and that you will join us in November for what we know will be a very different but an even more intimate and interactive Book and Author event.

Sincerely,
Paulette Miller and Anita Light
Book and Author Event Co-Chairs

Interest Groups

Due to the pandemic, Night Owls meets on Zoom, and the other interest group meetings have been suspended.

Night Owls Book Selections (meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 via Zoom)

September	8	The Alice Network	Kate Quinn
October	13	Thirteen Moons: a Novel	Charles Frazier
November	10	Unorthodox	Deborah Feldman
December	8	Giver of Stars	Jojo Moyes
January	9/12	An American Marriage	Tayari Jones
February	9	The Dutch House	Ann Patchett
March	9	Moonglow	Michael Chabon
April	13	The Island of Sea Women	Lisa See
May	11	A children's Bible: a novel	Lydia Millet
June	8	Planning Meeting	
July	13	Olive, Again	Elizabeth Strout

Membership Memo

The Fairfax City Branch begins the year with 35 members. We'll miss those who moved away: Joan Dimengo (settled in Strongsville, OH, for over a year), Sonja Hancke (Ashby Ponds), David Kravitz (retired from GMU), and Jean Golightly (Martinsville, VA).

Jean Golightly wrote: "We moved to Martinsville July 15 - finally. We are all settled and everything organized. Everything we brought fits. Love the house. Everything's so convenient. Nice place to walk. An old mill run goes behind the house for 1/2 mile through the woods. Streets on the campus are pleasant to walk on. Meet people walking but not allowed in anyone's house because of virus. They're being very cautious here."

Thank you, Padmini Chilappagari, for assuming the position of Communications Chair. We appreciate your being Webmaster and in charge of our social media sites. Padmini is one of our newer members. We encourage other members to volunteer!

Keep our branch strong by inviting your friends and acquaintances to join. Tell them why AAUW is important to you. Pass along information about our scholarship and the virtual Book and Author Luncheon. Together we'll support AAUW's mission—to advance equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Please give the names of prospects and their contact information to Dottie Joslin, or direct them to our website: fairfaxcity-va.aauw.net.

New Member

We want to welcome Elizabeth Lonoff to our branch. She transferred from the Mt. Vernon AAUW branch. Elizabeth has written many environmental articles for the League of Women Voters. Please add her to your Fairfax City AAUW roster:

Elizabeth Lonoff
7000 Polins Court
Alexandria, VA 22306

703-765-2634
elonoff@verizon.net

Support Democracy: Vote!

To avoid coronavirus contagion, many voters avoid crowded indoor spaces and seek an alternative to voting at their polling place on November 3. In-person No Excuse Absentee Voting begins September 18 at the General Registrar's office and ends on October 31. Voting at Fairfax County satellite centers will begin on October 14. Or, you can apply for a mail-in ballot now or by October 23. The Registrar will mail ballots beginning on September 18. Secure drop boxes for ballots will be available. The deadline for voter registration is October 13. Go to Vote411.org for details and links.

As you know, the offices on the ballot are Electors for US President and Vice President; US Senate, and US House of Representatives. What are the ballot questions?

All Virginia ballots: *Virginia Redistricting Commission Constitutional Amendment, Amendment 1*

AAUW of Virginia and the League of Women Voters of Virginia support a "Yes" vote on *Amendment 1*. One of our branch meetings featured a speaker from OneVirginia2021, which has worked tirelessly for a decade to end partisan gerrymandering in Virginia. New districts will be drawn in 2021, based on the 2020 census, with the process determined by the outcome of this vote.

A "yes" vote will make a bipartisan commission responsible for the initial drawing of election districts. A "no" vote will leave the sole responsibility for drawing the districts with the General Assembly and the Governor.

For more information, go to <https://fairmapsva.org/>.

Fairfax County ballots

Four bond issues are on the ballot:

Public Library Bond, Parks Bond, Transportation Bond, and Human Services Bond.

(See <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond/bond-ballot-question>)

Exercise your right to vote! Our democracy depends on voter engagement.

The Deadline for the 2020 US Census Is Near

Do you or anyone you know still need to take the 2020 US Census? The September 30 deadline is fast approaching. Remind acquaintances not yet counted to go to <https://2020census.gov> to complete this short census, which does *not* include a question on citizenship.

The 2020 Census counts every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. The count provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community.

The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

The 2020 Census will mark the 24th time that the country has counted its population since 1790.

AAUW of Northern Virginia District Meeting

The district meeting for all **Northern Virginia branches** planned for October 17 at 10 a.m. will focus on diversity and AAUW. A guest speaker will address the zoom meeting on the topic, **What is my privilege?**

Other Branches' News

Arlington

Arlington Branch AAUW, September Monthly Meeting on Monday, **September 21 at 7 p.m.**

Redistricting in Virginia

Brian Cannon, Executive Director, FairMapsVa, will provide background on redistricting and gerrymandering in Virginia and information on the proposed amendment to the Virginia Constitution, which will be on the ballot in November. That amendment would establish a redistricting commission composed of 8 members from the General Assembly and 8 citizens. His presentation will be followed by a Question and Answer session.

You are invited to this Zoom meeting. Please share this with friends who may be interested.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUuc-qrpzljHNcxkKw5bqu0PtzWEDhNf5vc>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Springfield / Annandale Branch

Let me (Dianne Blais) know if you'd like to attend one of the Springfield/Annandale meetings listed below, and I'll send you the Zoom info to join. Of course, you could be a dual member like I am and would get all their info sent to you. You can easily join by going on-line and paying only their branch dues.

Sept.17, 2020, Thursday, 7 p.m. Zoom. Speaker: **Dr. Jane Censer**, Retired History Professor from George Mason U. **Black and White Women of the Civil War Era**

Oct. 17, 2020, Saturday, 10 a.m. Zoom. Northern District Meeting: **Challenges of Racism**

Nov. 19, 2020, Thursday, 7 p.m. Zoom. Speaker: **Sean Perryman**, President of Fairfax County NAACP, **Addressing Inclusion and Diversity in Fairfax County**

Jan. 2020, Date and time TBD, Speaker: **Dr. Gloria Addo-Ajensu, Director of Fairfax County Health Department**, speaking on Covid impact on women and families and other health challenges to minorities in our communities.

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

Officers:

Co-Presidents: Dianne Blais

dianneblais@aol.com

Kitty Lou Smith

kittysmith@cox.net

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

Communications: Padmini Chilappagari

padmini89@gmail.com

Branch Event Chairs:

Book & Author Luncheon: Paulette Miller

psmiller10847@verizon.net

Anita Light

anita.light95@gmail.com

Interest Group Chairs:

Night Owls: Paulette Miller

psmiller10847@verizon.net

Musical Notes: Olga Burns

rubato12@aol.com

Salon: Olga Burns

rubato12@aol.com