

**A Virtual Book & Author Event**

**Saturday, November 14, 2020, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Registration must be made by October 31, 2020**

The AAUW Fairfax City Branch's virtual Book and Author Event on November 14, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. is drawing closer.

Registration for this event is free, but the RSVP deadline is October 31, 2020.

**To receive an invitation with a link to the Zoom meeting, just RSVP to Paulette Miller, [Psmiller10847@verizon.net](mailto:Psmiller10847@verizon.net), by October 31, 2020.**

Please be sure to include an email address that you would like us to use. You will receive a reply from Anita Light with information on how to connect to the Virtual Book and Author Event.

To see the original flyer you can go to our website at <https://fairfaxcity-va.aauw.net>.

To **contribute to our scholarship** fund you can go to our GoFundMe link <https://gf.me/u/y2yjz2>.

Or, you may donate by check made payable to *AAUW Fairfax City Branch*. The note on the check should specify that this donation is for the Scholarship Fund. Mail it to:

**Dottie Joslin, 11110 Del Rio Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030-5339.**

You may enjoy checking out our authors' websites to learn about them and their work before we meet them on November 14:

*Mary Jo Binker, Editor, If You Ask Me: Essential Advice from Eleanor Roosevelt,*  
<https://maryjobinker.com/>

*Angie Kim, Miracle Creek: A Novel.* <https://angiekimbooks.com/>

*Aimee Hix, What Doesn't Kill You.* <https://www.aimeehix.com/>

*Cindi Gueli, The Lipstick Brigade: The Untold True Story of Washington's World War II Government Girls.* <https://cindygueli.com/about/>

Their books are available from Barnes and Noble. Aimee Hix's book is available from Amazon.

We are so excited to host this inaugural event and hope you will join us for what we know will be an informative and entertaining experience!

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

## **Remember the Scholarships!**

By Paulette Miller

The authors are ready and everyone is gearing up for **our big fund raising event**. All we need to make it all perfect is you! That's right, every one of our members and all your friends and neighbors and families coming together on November 14.

We all know this is going to be an informative and stimulating event for all of us book lovers, but it is important to never forget what the **purpose** is. So I want to share with you something about the amazing women we have helped with our scholarships from **the personal statement** of one of last year's recipients:

*"My name is Susan Chen and I am an undergraduate seeking an accelerated BSN nursing degree at George Mason University. As I am a first-generation immigrant, along with my family, I have worked since I was 16 to support me and my family through school. I am the first in my family to attend post-secondary education and earn a degree. I have worked in the medical field as a medical and surgical assistant, as well as research assistant. I care deeply about providing the care for underserved communities and empowering them to take care of themselves and their loved ones. My parents are not native English speakers so I must translate for them as well as take care of their legal matters including immigration documents. I admit that it was a struggle for me, as I had to face many challenges that were not typical to an average child or student. However, I've overcome those challenges and I'm here today to finish what I've started."*

**The other three recipients also faced obstacles and challenges but persevered and returned to college:**

Julia is a Theater major following her dream to be "the first person in my immediate family to earn a Bachelor's degree once I graduate from George Mason and the first one to be a performing artist as well."

Jony transferred from Thomas Nelson Community College and is pursuing a degree in Cybersecurity Engineering.

Twelve years after graduating from high school, Sophie is an accounting major, with plans to enter the accelerated Master's program to earn an MBA.

Last year was a particularly hard one for students, with college campuses closing down in March and returning virtually. Pandemic closures left many students without part-time or even full time jobs that they depended on to pay bills and rents they still had to pay. The need for financial help was great, and AAUW Fairfax stepped up to help four of these students with tuition.

The pandemic continues, classes have started, some virtual and some in person, but the challenges for students remain. Our response is so important.

This also is a challenging time for many of us and our families. Any amount you are able to donate is appreciated. Please consider what you might have spent to attend an in-person Book and Author Luncheon/Silent Auction and the value of the volunteer time you would have contributed toward its success.

You should all be very proud to have contributed to helping these amazing women continue their journey. The 2019 Book and Author Luncheon raised \$6000. Let's keep up the good work so we can share more of these stories of female empowerment!

Whether you are able to join us on November 14 or not, you can still help us reach our **scholarship goal of \$6000** by mailing a check made out to *AAUW Fairfax City Branch* to Dottie Joslin, 11110 Del Rio Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030-5339, or by going to our GoFundMe page <https://gf.me/u/y2yjz2>.

And remember that you will also be supporting local authors. Every one of our presenters is part of our community.

As they say, it takes a village, and our village is full of so many amazing women. Together we can reach our goals!

### **The Northern District Meeting: A Conversation on Privilege**

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Many local AAUW Branches are holding activities to raise social consciousness. On October 17th, the AAUW of Virginia's Northern District virtual meeting featured *A Conversation on Privilege*, presented by Challenging Racism, based in Arlington. To help us recognize systemic inequities, we watched a video about what life is like for left-handers. That inspired discussions about healthcare, housing, access to services like supermarkets and banks, pollution, and income inequities and the importance of early childhood development. The facilitators asked us to consider our individual and group circles of influence and what we might change.

Challenging Racism defines structural racism as different facets of racism working interactively (in individuals, institutions, laws and habits) to reinforce a system that racializes outcomes even in the absence of obvious racial intent. Racialization refers to the dynamic interconnected process that creates cumulative and durable inequities based on race. For resources or to volunteer, visit <https://www.challengingracism.org/>.

### **Bragging on the Fairfax City Branch**

The Fairfax City Branch recently achieved One Star in AAUW's Five-Star National Recognition Program. We earned the star in Advancement for the branch's significant contribution to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund in calendar year 2019.

The AAUW National office sent the branch a congratulatory email in September:

*Dear AAUW Fairfax City (VA) Branch,*

*I hope this finds you all safe and well!*

*I'm happy to share that your branch earned a star for Advancement in the Five-Star Recognition Program and will be celebrated in our September Membership Matters news hub. We greatly appreciate your generous contributions to Greatest Needs and unwavering commitment to the future of your branch. Your support will go a long way to ensure AAUW's mission well into the future.*

*We thank you for your participation in Five-Star and look forward to your continued success in the program.*

Congratulations!

All the best,

**Nichia P. McFarlane**

**Engagement Associate, Advancement & Partnerships**

**AAUW, 1310 L Street NW, Washington, DC 20005-4113**

**202.728.7633. | [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)**

We are delighted to receive this recognition from AAUW. In addition to our branch donation to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund from proceeds of our Book and Author Luncheon/Silent Auction (\$1300) and individual member's contributions, last fall the branch donated \$2,000 (almost all) of the money returned from the STEMtastics reserve fund, after it was decided that the event would not be held again. Our branch board felt that since the goals of the STEMtastics program are aligned with AAUW's mission, contributing to the Greatest Needs Fund would be the best use of the funds previously designated for the STEMtastics program.

When you donate to AAUW, please select the Greatest Needs Fund, as requested by AAUW, to allow for flexibility. Specify the Fairfax City (VA) Branch so that our branch receives credit for your donation.

Be proud! Thank you for your support for our branch efforts and for AAUW's mission!

## Condolences

We extend our condolences to Kay Corbett, an active long-time branch member, on the loss of her husband Chuck on October 3 at the age of 91. Kay and Chuck were married for 40 years. Last year they moved from their lovely home in Clifton to the Westminster retirement community, where their address is: 12198 Cathedral Drive, Lake Ridge, VA 22192. Her phone number is 703-910-4331. You may read Chuck's obituary at: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/charles-corbett-obituary?pid=196915527>.

## Interest Groups

### Night Owls

Night Owls is an evening Book Discussion Group that meets on the second Tuesday of the month from September through July. This year we will be meeting virtually via Zoom at 7:00 pm.

Our next meeting will be on **November 10**. We will discuss *Unorthodox* by Deborah Feldman.

An email invitation to join the Zoom meeting will be sent by Anita Light a few days before the meeting, so please RSVP to Anita, [anita.light95@gmail.com](mailto:anita.light95@gmail.com), by November 8.

New attendees are always welcome. Please contact Paulette Miller if you have any questions at [psmiller10847@verizon.net](mailto:psmiller10847@verizon.net) or 703-250-0876.

For your planning purposes our December book is *Giver of Stars* by JoJo Moyes. See the September *Focus* for the selections for the rest of the year.

## New to Zoom? Learn Now, and Expand Your Experiences

If you haven't tried using Zoom, you're missing out on many events and webinars that have moved to this virtual platform. The Fairfax City Branch is using Zoom to host the Book & Author event, virtual Night Owls, and board meetings. Many other branches are presenting programs via Zoom, and National AAUW is presenting mission-focused webinars each week.

The first requirement is to register for the Zoom event. Look for the RSVP link or email address in the invitation. The deadline may be several days before the event is held.

If you are new Zoom, download the Zoom Cloud Meetings app to your device.

Here are tips excerpted from AAUW of Virginia's *Zoom Quick Tips* and Denise M's *Zoom Basic Instructions*:

### Zoom Basic Instructions

You will receive the invitation to a Zoom meeting via email. **Click on the link in the email** if you want to join the meeting on your computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Click **Allow** or **Run Zoom** or **Open Zoom Meetings** when prompted. You may then be asked if you want to join the meeting With Video or Without Video; **please choose With Video** if you are able, so that everyone can see your smiling face! You may also be asked which type of audio you would like to use: Computer Audio or Phone Call; **choose Computer Audio** if you have that capability. Turn up the **volume on your computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone** and make sure that **your camera is not obstructed**.

Alternatively, **you may choose to join the meeting on your phone** (landline, cell phone, or smartphone); this option is **AUDIO-ONLY**. To join the meeting on your phone, you will **call the phone number listed in the email** (if there is more than one phone number listed in the email, then **choose the phone number of the closest-to-you city**). You will be asked to **enter the Meeting ID**, which is **in the invitation email**. Follow any other instructions.

Once you have joined the meeting, **you may be placed in a virtual waiting room**. The host is notified that you are in the waiting room, and **the host will admit you to the meeting**. Please **be in the waiting room a few minutes before the start time of the meeting**.

It is possible to use a hybrid system. For example, I (Dottie) have a desktop computer without a video cam or computer audio. To enter a Zoom meeting on my computer, I click on the link provided in the invitation email and continue without computer audio. I can view the participants, but I can't hear them. To receive audio, I phone into the meeting. When I hear the prompt, I enter the meeting ID followed by #. After the second prompt, I either enter the passcode or just # again. Then, I am connected to the meeting. I can turn on my smartphone's speaker. With the phone on the computer desk, it sounds as though the audio is coming from the computer. Sometimes I just phone in and skip the video.

Using Zoom provides a way to keep in touch with friends and participate in stimulating meetings. If you're new to Zoom don't be intimidated. There is a bit of a learning curve, but it all is very manageable, and there are people and videos to help.

### 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.

### Membership Discount for New Members

If you know anyone who attends our virtual Book and Author Event and wants to join the branch, please give Dottie Joslin, [j.joslin3@verizon.net](mailto:j.joslin3@verizon.net), their names and contact information. Prospects who are new to AAUW or are rejoining after a lapse in membership of at least two years qualify for AAUW's Shape the Future discount. That's half off national dues, a saving of \$29.50. I must send them an AAUW email with a special link to use when joining to receive the discount. The expiration date, about 10 days after B&A, will be given in the email.

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

#### Officers:

Co-Presidents: Dianne Blais

[dianneblais@aol.com](mailto:dianneblais@aol.com)

Kitty Lou Smith

[kittysmith@cox.net](mailto:kittysmith@cox.net)

Secretary: Anita Light

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

Treasurer: Dottie Joslin

[j.joslin3@verizon.net](mailto:j.joslin3@verizon.net)

AAUW Funds and Scholarship:

Paulette Miller

[psmiller10847@verizon.net](mailto:psmiller10847@verizon.net)

Newsletter Editor: Jan Humphrey

[dandjhumph@aol.com](mailto:dandjhumph@aol.com)

Communications: Padmini Chilappagari

[padmini89@gmail.com](mailto:padmini89@gmail.com)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

Kitty Lou Smith

[kittysmith@cox.net](mailto:kittysmith@cox.net)

#### Branch Event Chairs:

Book & Author Luncheon: Paulette Miller

[psmiller10847@verizon.net](mailto:psmiller10847@verizon.net)

Anita Light

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

#### Interest Group Chairs:

Night Owls: Paulette Miller

[psmiller10847@verizon.net](mailto:psmiller10847@verizon.net)

The other interest groups currently are not meeting due to the pandemic.