



AAUW Fairfax City Branch

Virtual Holiday Party on Zoom

Thursday, December 17, 7:00 p.m.

Let's have some holiday fun and togetherness! Join us for a Virtual Holiday Party on Zoom on Thursday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m.

For a festive occasion, we need You to participate. Here are some ideas for entertainment and enlightenment, but, of course you can come up with your own.

Can you contribute a poem, story, or music? Would you tell us about a good TV series, a book or an article you've read, a new hobby or collection, or experiences prompted by the pandemic? How about sharing reflections on holidays past or your family's traditions? A favorite recipe?

Kitty Lou Smith will phone members after Thanksgiving to line up some volunteers and their contributions. Of course, we want you to attend our party, even if you don't volunteer to participate. This will be a time to give our friends our holiday greetings.

You are welcome to email Kitty Lou, kittysmith@cox.net, if you haven't talked her, if you have an idea for what you'll contribute. She'll add you to her list of participants. Anita Light will email the link for the Zoom meeting to all branch members the Monday preceding the meeting, so you don't need to register.

Come help us spread holiday cheer!

AAUW Fairfax City Branch Board



“The Difference Between Us”

Saturday, January 23, 2021, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting: Video and Discussion

People have been divided into different races ever since humans started exploring different parts of the world and meeting people with different external characteristics, especially skin color. PBS has developed a series, “Race: The Power of an Illusion” which begins with an examination of the differences between us, then turns to the stories we tell about ourselves and the culture we live in today.

On January 23 we will see, via Zoom, the first program in the PBS series, “The Difference Between Us.” We follow a diverse group of high school students, including valedictorians, athletes, and musicians, who hypothesize which group members will be most similar to each other. They collect and sequence their DNA and then compare their experimental results with their original predictions. The results surprise the students (and most members of the audience) and lead to further discussion on the concept of difference races – its origin and purpose and the scientific discoveries leading to current understanding of genetic differences. The theories and investigation by the students provides an engaging format, and the explanation of the results provides an opportunity to increase our scientific knowledge and historical perspective. Viewers will have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the program at its end.



Book and Author Wrap-up 2020

“The Zoom Book & Author Luncheon was excellent. So glad I could view it!”

“Thank you for a wonderful Book & Author Zoom meeting. I really enjoyed it. You all did a great job, and your authors were wonderful.”

“It was so interesting that I was disappointed when it ended. Thank you for sharing your busy lives to save this event.”

“Thank you so much for asking me to participate. I enjoyed everyone's presentation and I'm looking forward to reading the books. A special thanks to Anita and her husband. They made everything very easy. Best, Mary Jo”

“Thank you so much again. It was so fun to participate! Loved hearing about your wonderful books, Mary Jo, Cindy, and Aimee! Warmly, Angie”

These were just a few of the lovely comments we received at the conclusion of this year’s unique Book and Author Event. Even the authors themselves enjoyed it!

For the two of us it was a very satisfying end to many months of planning. Wading into unfamiliar waters of a virtual event, we could never have pulled it off without the tireless help, support, and expertise of Dottie Joslin, Padmini Chilappagari, Dianne Blais, and Mark Light.

The four participating authors were a delight to work with, and their presentations as well as their books were all unique and so well done. Please help us thank them by checking out their websites and purchasing their books.

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/>

To those of you who were among the 67 who registered to attend, thank you so much for helping us keep this very special event alive. We appreciate those of you who passed the information on to friends and neighbors, which really extended our outreach. And to put a cherry on top of it all, we raised \$3,000 for the AAUW Fairfax City Branch's Beverly Anderson Scholarship Fund.

We certainly hope that by next November our lives will begin to become more like we remember them. But whether as a luncheon at the Country Club or once again virtually, you can be sure that The Book and Author Event will return next fall. We have all proved in our own small way that AAUW really does empower women.

Gratefully,

Paulette Miller and Anita Light

Co-chairs, Book and Author 2020



We Did It!

Thanks to our members who spread the word about our branch's Virtual Book and Author Event and Scholarship Fundraiser, we succeeded in raising \$3,000 for our Beverly Anderson Scholarship Fund. Donors included members and former members of the Fairfax City Branch, other branches, and AAUW National Members, attendees of prior Book and Author Luncheons, and other friends. Twenty-one donated by check, and 20 through GoFundMe. Thanks to all our donors, we'll be able to offer a scholarship in the spring to at least one woman continuing her studies at George Mason University next year.

We are still accepting donations. To contribute by credit card, please use our GoFundMe link: <https://gf.me/u/y2y2jz2>. To contribute by check, make it payable to AAUW Fairfax City Branch, write *Scholarship* on the memo line, and mail it to: Dottie Joslin, 11110 Del Rio Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030-5339. This information is also available on our website, <https://fairfaxcity-va.aauw.net/>.

Power in Numbers! Thank You, Donors!

We whole-heartedly thank the donors to our scholarship fund:

Helen Albanese
Susan Alford
Jean Arnold
Judy Baldwin
Roni Briese
Olga Burns
Jeannie Carruth
Padmini Chilappagari
Diana DeLano
Joan Dimengo
Jo Domingues
Kelly Espy
Helena Ferret
Kay Gilbert

Joyce Grimes
Kathleen Heincer
Kathleen Henry
Jan Humphrey
Barbara Jacksier
Dottie Joslin
Naomi Kassabian
Elizabeth Kessel
Barbara Klementz
Anita Light
Suzanne Mahoney
Pat Makos
Sue Manganiello
Sandra Mathews

Sue Mayo
Paulette Miller
Bonnie Nelson
Sonja Palomaki
Caroline Pickens
Ida Portland
Kay W Rice
Ann Sauberman
Lynne Smaldone
Kitty Lou Smith
Barbara Spiller
Leslie Tourigny
Hong Wang



Now is the Time to Give

Many, many of us make personal donations to AAUW Funds, but this year it is even more important. With branches having to cancel their traditional fundraisers, AAUW is more dependent than ever on individual contributions. This year, for example, contributions from Virginia branches and members are \$39,583.04 through October 31, which is a long way from the 2019 total of \$86,455.81.

Consider all the programs and activities that are supported by our contributions that affect women and girls: NCCWSL (Nat'l Conference for College Women Leaders), WorkSmart/StartSmart (salary and benefits awareness and training for women entering or in the workforce), economic security actions aimed at women's lifelong security, involvement and collaboration with like-minded organizations, Title IX support, action directed at girls' and women's equal educational opportunities—the list goes on and on. Our contributions enable all of that to happen.

So please contribute generously this year—and be sure to indicate your branch so it gets credit. Checks should be made out to AAUW Funds (and preferably to AAUW Greatest Needs Fund). To meet the December 31 receipt deadline, it's best to mail it by Dec. 17. Or use your credit card by going to aauw.org any time up to December 31. Your contribution is 100% tax deductible—and just think how it is helping women and girls.

Thanks so much,

Caroline Pickens, State AAUW Funds Chair

Credit our Branch when you Give to the AAUW Fund

When you donate to the AAUW Fund, please indicate your membership in the Fairfax City Branch so that the branch is credited. AAUW is offering a 1:1 match for donations received by December 31, up to the donation total of \$42,500. You'll receive a tax donation and double your donation.

Ordinarily, the Fairfax City Branch donates uses part of the funds raised at our Book and Author Luncheon/Silent Auction for our branch donation to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. This fall, all contributions will fund our scholarships, so our branch's donation to AAUW will be much smaller. We'd like AAUW to include individual member donations in our branch total. For your donation to be included, you must identify our branch or enter your member ID number when you donate.

To donate by check, please see details in Caroline Pickens's article above. On the memo line please write AAUW Fairfax City (VA) Branch, or our branch code: VA3042. If you don't use a pre-addressed, postage paid envelope received in the mail with a solicitation from AAUW, please mail your check to this different address: AAUW DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, PO BOX 98045, WASHINGTON, DC 20090-8045.

To contribute online, click on Donate in the email you may have received, or go to aauw.org and click on the Donate button. Where indicated, enter your member number. If you don't know your member number, you may contact Dottie (j.joslin3@verizon.net; 703-591-9035), or you can find it yourself. On the AAUW home page, click on *Membership* in the right corner of the task bar. In the Membership menu, select *Membership Service Database (MSD)*. Below the login box, select "Forgot Member ID?" and complete the form. You will receive an immediate web response with your ID number. If you don't have an AAUW account, this is a good time to create one. Click on "Create Account," fill out the form and enter a password. You'll receive your member ID. With the account you can login to your MSD record to view the branch roster (also on our branch website), your membership and donation history, and other information.

Thank you for supporting both the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund and our scholarship fund!

Dottie Joslin, Treasurer



Ending Violence Against Women

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, emerging data and reports from those on the front lines have shown that all types of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, has intensified. In some countries, calls to helplines have increased five-fold.

The United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women was on November 25 and was the kickoff to the 16 days of activism ("**Orange the World**") to prevent violence against women and girls. One in every three women will have experienced violence at some point in her life as per UN Women studies. We all can help end violence against women and girls by speaking up and out, as well as teaching our sons and daughters that misogyny is not a joke and shouldn't be tolerated. Let's remember that harassment-->threats-->violence when allowed to go unanswered.

For more information go to <https://www.un.org/en/observances/ending-violence-against-women-day>.

Amendment 1 Passed! Redistricting Commission is Being Formed

The Virginia Redistricting Commission Constitutional Amendment (Amendment 1) to form Virginia's first citizen-led redistricting commission was approved on November 3 by 65.69% of votes. Voters want a seat at the table when district lines are drawn next year and beyond. Voters want transparency throughout the entire process. Voters want civil rights protections added to the state constitution for the very first time. Voters want to end partisan gerrymandering in Virginia.

The 16 member committee will include eight citizens and eight legislators. The General Assembly passed enabling legislation that elaborates on how the commission will operate, who will be eligible to serve, and the diversity requirements. The citizen members must reflect the racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity of the Commonwealth. Lobbyists are excluded.

Applications for the eight citizens became available on November 30. The citizen selection process will be politically balanced, and the final determination of who serves will be made by a panel of five retired circuit court judges. Those judges already have been selected.

The enabling legislation also set the rules by which the Supreme Court of Virginia must abide should they end up needing to establish the maps.

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 meet virtually via Zoom at 7:00 pm.

Our next meeting will be on **December 8**. We will discuss *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes. Our discussion leader will be Kelly Espy.

An email invitation to join the Zoom meeting will be sent by Anita Light a few days before the meeting, so RSVP's to the meeting should be sent to Anita by December 6 at anita.light95@gmail.com.

New members are always welcome. Please contact Paulette Miller if you have any questions at psmiller10847@verizon.net or 703-250-0876.

For your planning purposes our January book is *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones.

Calendar

December 8, Tuesday, Night Owls, 7 p.m. on Zoom

December 10, Thursday, U.N. International Human Rights Day

December 17, Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Branch Virtual Holiday Party

January 1, 2021, Friday, Happy New Year!

January 12, Tuesday, Night Owls, 7 p.m. on Zoom

January 20, Wednesday, Inauguration Day

January 23, Saturday, 11:00 a.m., Branch Virtual Meeting, "The Difference Between Us"

The AAUW Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

The 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.

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.

You can join *online* at aauw.org. Click on *Membership*. Scroll down to Branch Member and click on the +. Click on *Find Your Branch*. Follow the prompts. Find "VA3042 Fairfax City." Click on the green *Join* button and complete the process.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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

E-Mail: _____

Degree: _____ College: _____ Field: _____ Year: _____

Degree: _____ College: _____ Field: _____ Year: _____

DUES: \$87 (\$59 national, \$15 state, \$13 branch) for membership through June 30, 2021.

TRANSFERS from National Membership (Member-At-Large): The dues you owe may differ.

If MAL expiration date is in 2020, pay National, state, & branch dues. Dues are \$87.

If MAL expiration date is in 2021, pay only State & branch dues. Dues are \$28.

If known: MAL Membership expiration date: _____ AAUW ID #: _____

Tax deductible portions of the National dues: For dues of \$87, \$56 of the national dues are deductible.

Branch membership expires on June 30 in all cases.

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

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:

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:

Dottie Joslin

j.joslin3@verizon.net

Communications:

Padmini Chilappagari

padmini89@gmail.com

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

Kitty Lou Smith

kittysmith@cox.net

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

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

