



AAUW of Virginia Conference Schedule and Registration Information

Please join us virtually for the annual AAUW of Virginia State Conference, which also includes our 96th Annual Business Meeting. In addition to conducting important business of our organization, over the course of three days, you'll hear from and be able to question an exciting variety of speakers on the AAUW mission-related topics described below.

On Saturday, March 13, there will be morning and afternoon sessions, while on Sunday, March 14, and Monday, March 15, there will only be afternoon programs.

The conference and business meeting are free, but **please register in advance for each day you want to attend by using the registration links below.** You will be sent Zoom links for each day. Even though there will be two sessions on March 13, there will only be one Zoom link for that day.

CONFERENCE BROCHURE:

<https://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2021/02/Conference-Brochure-Vision-Final-Revised-002.pdf>

REGISTER FOR DAY 1:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TveFAYLQROO_WQuBgfzSgQ

REGISTER FOR DAY 2:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nreRC7-HQ--eVNndZzz58w

REGISTER FOR DAY 3:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_69wqwPnSQDy67ks-yacJfg

Contact us at AAUWofVA@gmail.com if you have any questions or problems with the registration links.

Scholarship Committee Members Needed

It is time again to begin the process of selecting the recipients of our Beverly Anderson Scholarship funds. The application will be posted on our Branch Website and on the George Mason University Financial Aid site. Last year we awarded 4 scholarships to help students at a very difficult time.

The timeline is as follows: The deadline for application is April 15, 2021. Once all applications are received, I will compile packets for each applicant and distribute them electronically to the committee members for review along with an evaluation matrix. The committee will then meet once to discuss the applications and select the recipients. Selection will be made in time to invite the recipients to join us at the May luncheon.

Please contact me if you would like to serve on this very important committee. Remember, this is the reason we hold the Book and Author Luncheon each year. It is very rewarding to be part of helping another woman fulfill her dream of returning to school.

Paulette Miller

Psmiller10847@verizon.net



Fairfax City Branch Names Honored

Through contributions from individual members and branches to the AAUW Fund, AAUW is able to continue its important mission to advance education and equity for all women and girls. These gifts provide support for groundbreaking research, Work Smart and STEM programs, leadership development, advocacy for fair pay and economic security, operations, 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.

The generous contributions from Fairfax City Branch members in calendar year 2020 allowed our branch to nominate four Named Honorees in recognition of their dedication and service to our Branch.

They are:

Anita Light – Anita served the branch as secretary from 2017 and later as our Webmaster. In 2020 as Branch activities moved to the virtual format, Anita took on the responsibility of connecting us via Zoom, patiently and skillfully guiding us into new skills. Anita also co-chaired the 2020 Book and Author Event, taking on the responsibility of running the technology of our successful, first ever Virtual event.

Padmini Chilappagari – As a new member of the branch Padmini volunteered her Social Media skills to set up a Go-Fund me page for the Book and Author Event. She took over the responsibility of Webmaster and improved our Facebook presence. Her steady guidance and hard work was invaluable to the success of Book and Author, which raised \$3,000 for scholarships.

Jan Humphrey – Jan has been a part of the foundation and heart of Fairfax City Branch for many years. Among her many contributions to the Branch are four years as Treasurer and editing our newsletter, the Focus for many years until the fall of 2020. She has been an invaluable member of the Book and Author

Committee for many years, creating, updating, publishing and distributing the excellent B&A Flyer, our most important means of publicizing our event.

Paulette Miller – has served as Scholarship Chair and AAUW Funds Chair since 2014 and as Book and Author Luncheon Chair since 2018. She has been Night Owls Coordinator since 2011.

These Honorees will be recognized at the State Convention this March. We are proud to have them represent the Fairfax City Branch.

When you contribute to AAUW, please select the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (as AAUW requests) and designate the Fairfax City (VA) Branch, so our branch is credited with your donation. Write the branch name on the memo line of your check. If you contribute online, enter your AAUW Member ID number. Find your ID at aauw.org > Membership tab > Member Services Database in menu > Forgot Member ID?

Thank you all!

Paulette Miller



Opportunities for Service to the Fairfax City Branch

The two co-presidents of the Fairfax City Branch, Dianne Blais and Kitty Lou Smith, are retiring on June 30 at the end of their terms for 2019-2021. Consequently, *the branch will need a new president or co-presidents for the next two-year term*. The job involves general oversight of the branch and transmission of information from the national and state organizations to the branch members and vice versa. Current members of the branch who have served in leadership positions are willing to offer assistance to the new officers, as well as the board that advises the president(s).

The positions of membership vice president and program vice president also need to be filled, but *our branch cannot operate without a president*. The position of treasurer also expires in June, but Dottie Joslin is willing to continue for another term.

Since its founding in 1881, AAUW has focused on the education of women and expanded its program to include issues of career and work training, economic security, and leadership. Please consider assuming the officer responsibilities needed for the continuation of the AAUW Fairfax City branch. A nominating committee will be set up shortly by the Board; in the meantime, you can contact the two co-presidents (for information and to indicate your interest). If you accept a leadership position, you will be continuing an effort that is even more significant than it was 140 years ago!

Co-presidents:

Kitty Lou Smith, kittysmith@cox.net

Dianne Blais, dianneblais@aol.com



In Memory of Gary Grimes

Our Fairfax Branch members were saddened to hear of the death of Gary Grimes, husband of our dear friend Joyce Grimes. Those of us who were fortunate enough to know Gary will remember him as a kind and lovely man. Volunteering with the National Symphony Orchestra volunteers he could be found happily showing children how to blow a trumpet at Instrument Petting Zoos or greeting classes arriving for Young People's Converts at the Kennedy Center. For several years Gary not only served tirelessly as Volunteer Coordinator for the Friends of the Center of the Arts at George Mason but was an always cheerful presence at the volunteer table greeting all who came through the door. Gary met one and all with a smile that lit up the room. Gary's volunteer career followed a long and distinguished one as a Naval Officer serving on submarines and surface ships. He remained involved with his former submariner shipmates and enjoyed gathering with them at their reunions. He was an accomplished artist whose painting was exhibited in galleries and graced the walls of the Grimes home. I count myself lucky to have known him. I will miss him.

Paulette Miller

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/brentwood-md/gary-grimes-10007716>

Remembering Denis Brown

The Fairfax City branch of AAUW lost a long-time friend with the death of Denis Brown in January. He was the husband of our former member, Myrna Brown, and was a major supporter of her activities with the branch and at the national level. We didn't see much of them in the past decade or so after their move to Wilmington, NC, but they often turned up for a summer pool party or other occasion, such as the Book & Author Luncheon. During their many years in Fairfax, Denis was an eager pool volleyball player, contributing a trophy one year, and always seeming to be on the winning team. He grilled the steaks another year and enjoyed talking with all, while keeping the conversation lively and entertaining. In the 1980s Denis and Myrna volunteered their garage to store books for our book sale. Their home was often the elegant site of a party, a meeting, or other get-together.

Denis was a kind and generous person with a great sense of humor. He was knowledgeable about many subjects, particularly government and international affairs. He avidly devoured books in his retirement years. His personality made him the most unlikely Air Force brigadier general you could imagine! His Air Force career began in 1960 and ended with his retirement in 1988, after numerous foreign postings and a stint at the Pentagon as a Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff. He went on to hold several senior positions in the defense industry.

In his quiet way, Denis made many valuable contributions to our branch. He will be greatly missed by those who knew him.

Jan Humphrey

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/starnewsonline/obituary.aspx?n=denis-m-brown&pid=197524761>

The AAUW Mission Statement

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

AAUW Open Membership is Supported Unanimously by Branch Board

AAUW's National Election this spring will include proposed changes to the Bylaws and Public Policy Priorities. AAUW members will vote on a long-standing membership requirement, which creates a barrier to women who do not hold a college degree. By eliminating this requirement, AAUW can become a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with the needs of women today.

The Fairfax City Branch board voted unanimously at its recent meeting to support open membership.

Regardless of your view on the merits of requiring a two-year degree for membership, an important reason to vote to drop the requirement is funding. Corporations and foundations prefer to work with and/or fund organizations that adhere to their diversity, inclusion, and equity policies and practices. We lose out on dollars that could help us move forward with our mission and vision, which puts a bigger burden on our members to contribute to AAUW.

AAUW needs to include members with diverse backgrounds and perspectives to meet our mission of advancing gender equity and society's needs today. Those who do not have degrees can be strong advocates for our mission. This is about inclusion. AAUW's vision is Equity for All. Our membership practices should align with this vision.

The Bylaws change needs to be approved by a two-thirds majority of those voting. In a recent election, a majority of the votes favored dropping the membership requirement, but the two-thirds hurdle was not met. Remember to vote after the election opens. Look for an email with your personal link from AAUW before April 7.

More information about the election, which also includes public policy priorities and election of officers is at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/>.

Reasons for open membership and FAQ's are at

<https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2021/01/Membership-Requirement-full-talking-points.pdf>



Elfriede Dustin's new book: Artima's Travels

Many of you will remember our member Elfriede's presentation of her novel *Save Me Twice: Based on a True Story* at our 2019 Book and Author Luncheon. Elfriede's newest novel *Artima's Travels* is now available on Amazon Prime or other online book resellers.

Enjoy a distraction from the current events by reading about Artima's "Arty's" journey as she applies her leading software expertise to track down the culprit of a missile misfire in the Pacific. Her technical prowess is only hampered by unexpected but bigger obstacles than any misfire: people closest to her.

[Artima's Travels \(Part I\): Dustin, E. A.: 9798636199632: Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B089863619)

Climate Change in Virginia

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Thanks to the Vienna Area Branch for hosting GMU Professor Jim Kinter's timely and informative January 5 presentation on "Climate Change in the Commonwealth of Virginia." Dr. Kinter showed how scientists know that human-induced climate change is causing serious consequences, often referring to a Congressionally-mandated periodic report* on greenhouse gas emissions issued by the Trump Administration in 2017. He pointed out how Virginia has practically stopped burning coal for electricity, since natural gas from hydraulic fracturing and solar power cost less. Instead, we export our coal for dirty burning abroad.

Virginians can look forward to more coastal flooding during clear weather, as well as to droughts. And there's no budget to complete the seawall to protect against flooding for the District's Blue Plains wastewater treatment plant, just up the Potomac River from the City of Alexandria, which also faces threats from flooding. That's a vulnerability for Fairfax Water.

In urging preparation for living with the growing impacts of climate change, Dr. Kinter suggested viewing the many solutions listed at drawdown.org. In answer to an audience question, he noted that airlines now offer ways to offset the carbon emissions from your flight, such as planting trees.

* <https://science2017.globalchange.gov/>



Enter the CCWC's C.A.R.E.S. Competition Fundraiser

In past years the Fairfax City Branch placed an ad for our Book and Author Luncheon in the Clifton Community Woman's Club's (CCWC's) program book for their Homes Tour, their charity fundraiser. Because of the pandemic, this year the fundraiser is virtual. CCWC is noted locally for its generous donations to scholarships, food banks, veterans, women and children in need, and others.

To enter the C.A.R.E.S. (Creative, Arts, Recording, Education, and Service) Competition, participants will enter a photo or three-minute video of their project with an entrance fee of \$25. The five entry categories are:

CREATIVE: Crafts, Fiber, Paper, Wood

ARTS: Painting, Sculpture (all mediums), Poetry, Creative Writing, Photography

RECORDING: Video submission only of Music, Dance, Stories, Dramatic Reading, Acting

EDUCATION: Video or PDF submission of any type of Class, Teaching, or Instructional Material

SERVICE: Photos and written submission of person serving as a volunteer with materials being created and/or donated. Any gift of service or volunteerism counts.

Submission dates are February 1 through March 31. Open to all age groups. Garden club flower arranging classes, craft guilds, Eagle Scout projects, food bank volunteers, museum docents are a few suggestions. The winners in each category will be recognized on ZOOM on April 17. First place winners in each category will receive \$100, and second place winners will receive \$50.

For more information and to enter, please visit the competition website: <https://cliftoncwc.org/cares>.

Calendar

February 22, until ??: General Assembly is in session. Keep lobbying for AAUW policy priorities!

February 25 (Thursday), 4 p.m.: Zoom program by Mt. Vernon Branch to celebrate Black History Month. Guests: The directors of the Alexandria Black History Museum and the Gum Springs Museum in Mt. Vernon. Register by Feb. 24, 4 p.m.: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/7314837>

March 3: Voting closes in the AAUW Art Contest.
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/art-contest/>

March 9 (Tuesday) 7 p.m.: **Night Owls**

March 13-15 (Saturday –Monday): **AAUW of Virginia Virtual Conference**. ZOOM in! Brochure is attached to the email with this *Focus*.

March 24: All Women’s Equal Pay Day. Women working full time and year round are paid 82 cents for every dollar paid to a man who works full time and year round.

April 7: **AAUW National annual election** voting opens. Online voting is encouraged.

April 12: **AAUW of Virginia state election** online voting opens. Watch for emails from AAUW of Virginia during March, April, and May! Information is in the Winter/Spring 2021 edition of the *Virginia Vision* at <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/newsletter/>

April 13 (Tuesday): **Night Owls**

April 17: **AAUW National annual election** online voting ends. Your voice counts!

May 3: **2021 AAUW of Virginia state election** online voting ends. We need a quorum. Vote!

Night Owls Interest Group

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. New members are always welcome.

Our next meeting will be on **March 9**. We will discuss *Moonglow* by Michael Chabon. Our discussion leader will be Olga Burns.

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 March 6 at anita.light95@gmail.com. Please contact Paulette Miller if you have any questions at psmiller10847@verizon.net.

For your planning purposes the Night Owls calendar and selections for the rest of the year are:

April 13, *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See

May 11, *A Children’s Bible: a novel* by Lydia Millet

June 8, Planning Meeting

July 13, *Olive, Again* by Elizabeth Strout



**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 > Find a Branch Near You*. 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: \$90 (\$62 national, \$15 state, \$13 branch) for membership through June 30, 2022.

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

If MAL expiration date is in 2021, pay National, state, & branch dues. Dues are \$90.

If MAL expiration date is in 2022, 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 \$90, \$59 of the national dues are deductible.

Branch membership expires on June 30 in all cases.

Contact: Dottie Joslin, Treasurer, j.joslin3@verizon.net

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

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.

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

Officers:

Co-Presidents: Dianne Blais
dianneblais@aol.com
Kitty Lou Smith
kittysmith@cox.net

Membership Vice President: Vacant

Program Vice President: Vacant

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 Chair:

Night Owls: Paulette Miller
psmiller10847@verizon.net