

Summer Party: In Person!
Celebration and Send-off for Olga Burns
Saturday, July 10, 2-5 PM
RSVP by July 5 to Kelly Espy

Won't it be wonderful to gather again in person, after more than a year of missing each other and meeting on Zoom? While we are sad that Olga and Bob Burns are moving to Pennsylvania this summer, we celebrate our friendships with Olga and the vital contributions she has made to the branch for more than two decades. We'll meet our two scholarship recipients for 2021-2022, Nicole La Fragola and Alanna Young. Certificates will be presented to this year's named gift honorees. (See the February 21 *Focus*.) If weather permits, we'll gather outdoors. If you are not fully vaccinated against the covid-19, please wear a mask when you are not eating. If you are fully vaccinated, mask wearing is optional.

Please RSVP by Monday, July 5, to Kelly Espy: Kellyespy@aol.com; 703-403-0263. Food and beverage will be provided. It is not necessary to bring food. However, if you would like to contribute an item, please contact our coordinator, Kelly.



Honoring Olga Burns

Olga Burns joined the Fairfax City Branch in 1989, after moving here from New Jersey, where she had been an AAUW member. It didn't take long for her to become active in our branch and assume leadership roles. She served as co-president for two years beginning in 1994. Next, she became membership vice president and headed Night Owls. About a decade ago this music lover and retired piano teacher took over as chair of Musical Notes, hosting us at her home for the monthly meetings in recent years. She also revived the Salon discussion group a few years ago.

Olga is most admired for originating and chairing or co-chairing for two decades the Fairfax City Branch's popular STEM career initiative called *Technology: Futures Unlimited*, or TFU. At TFU, middle school girls were encouraged to explore a STEM career (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) by attending three hands-on workshops presented by women professionals working in STEM fields. Olga's "baby" morphed into STEMtastics (2014–2017), when we partnered with other branches and the Northern Virginia Community College to continue inspiring middle school girls.

But wait, there's more! For decades, Olga and Bob have been generous and gracious hosts, as they opened their beautiful home and wooded grounds for the branch's annual summer pool party and picnic. Playing pool volleyball or relaxing in the pool, chatting in the gazebo while snacking on hors d'oeuvres, partaking of the planned picnic potluck while engaging in interesting discussions: just the right ingredients for an enjoyable, friendly occasion.

Anyone who has sampled Olga's delicious holiday cookies or scrumptious pies at meetings know that Olga's baked goods would make any bakery proud.

Please join us on July 10 to wish Olga well as she and Bob look forward to new adventures when they settle into their new home in a Pennsylvania retirement community.



Scholarship Recipients

The Scholarship Committee is very pleased to announce the recipients of the 2021-22 Beverly Anderson Scholarships of the AAUW Fairfax City Branch. Each student will receive a \$3,000 award for the coming semester at George Mason University.

Alanna Young overcame many difficulties and followed many paths on her journey from her high school graduation in 2009 to finding her way to GMU's BIS program designed especially for adult students. She will graduate from Mason in 2023 with a major in Individualized Studies that she has designed to touch all her passions in history, sociology, writing and social media marketing.

Nicole La Fragola started out after high school intending to major in finance, earning an associate degree and finding work in the non-profit sector. Eventually realizing something was missing, she worked her way back into higher education and discovered a love of astronomy, which is based on not just study but also on an internship with the U.S. Geological Survey. She is on track to graduate from GMU in Spring 2022 with a degree in Astronomy /GIS.

Both of these very impressive women will join us at our Branch gathering on July 10. It will be wonderful to meet them and hear from them more about their stories.

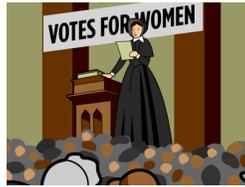
My personal thanks to Scholarship Committee members Kelly Espy and Hong Wang for volunteering and for their thoughtful insights as we deliberated.

The Year in Review

The pandemic restrictions brought challenges, which the Fairfax City Branch navigated successfully. Our Virtual Book and Author Event, chaired by Paulette Miller and Anita Light (Zoom host), raised more than \$3,000 for scholarships, exceeding our expectations! Our new GoFundMe page, set up by webmaster Padmini Chilappagari, brought in about half the donations. This success allows us to continue our 27-year tradition of providing scholarships for deserving undergraduate women who are returning to George Mason University after a break in their education. We look forward to another Virtual Book and Author Event in November.

Our holiday party, usually held at a member's home, became a lively Zoom event, with contributions from many members on a variety of topics. During our informative virtual branch meetings, coordinated by Kitty Lou Smith and Anita Light, we viewed and discussed the videos "Suffrage at 100: A Visual History" and "The Difference Between Us," which is first program in the PBS series "Race: The Power of an Illusion." Night Owls (evening literature) met virtually, attracting readers who do not drive at night.

Branch leadership and membership recruitment and retention continue to be challenging, as members age, move away, encounter health and care issues, and lose spouses. Participation in our Book and Author event and evening literature group are strong. Participation in branch programming is variable. We value our friendships, and we look forward to meeting again in person.



Election results: Fairfax City Branch

About half of branch members voted in our online election and unanimously elected our officer nominees: President, Dianne Blais; and treasurer, Dottie Joslin.

Election results: AAUW National

The four candidates for AAUW's board were elected, including Julia Brown for Board Chair. AAUW's public policy priorities were approved by 92% of voters. The board-recommended ballot initiative to remove the college-degree membership requirement did not receive the two-thirds, or 66.6%, vote required to enact the bylaws change. However, 63% voted in favor of making this change, indicating a momentum shift toward a more inclusive membership. We thank all of our members who voted in the national election. No matter how you voted, you are a valued part of the AAUW community.



Night Owls Interest Group

Night Owls will meet for our final time this year on Zoom (fingers crossed) **on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

We will discuss *Olive, Again* by Elizabeth Strout. Our leader for the evening is Jan Humphrey.

Please RSVP to Paulette Miller psmiller10847@verizon.net if you would like to attend, and I will send you the Zoom link.

The AAUW Mission Statement

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

Memoir-Writing Workshop

The Fairfax City Branch was recently contacted by author Jan Fishler about her Zoom memoir-writing course, for which she is offering a discount for AAUW members. Here is what she wrote:

Many AAUW members are interested in doing this [memoir-writing], so I've set up a live Zoom course, *Your Memoir: Just Write It!* on Thursdays during the month of August, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time [2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern Time].

If you've had an amazing life and want to make sure future generations read all about it or if you've been legendary and those stories and experiences need to be shared with the masses, *Your Memoir: Just Write It!* is for you.

In four 2-hour sessions, I'll show you how to tap into your subconscious and make memoir-writing easy and fun. You'll also:

- ♣ Discover the parts of your story that need to be told.
- ♣ Collect and organize content.
- ♣ Bring your characters to life.
- ♣ Write scenes and dialogue like a pro—all in the comfort of your own home or office.

The course content is divided into four sessions each focusing on a specific topic.

- ♣ Week one: Strategies for Collecting and Formatting Content; Finding the Story – How much do your readers need to know?
- ♣ Week two: Scene and Summary—What to show, what to tell.
- ♣ Week three: Characters and Dialogue—Making it real.
- ♣ Week four: Putting it all together.

At the end of the month, you will know exactly what to include in your memoir, how to write realistic dialogue, how to craft compelling scenes and much more—all in the company of other university women.

To help you through the process, there will be examples and worksheets as well as time for questions and answers. Sharing is encouraged but optional. You will also have access to recorded Zoom calls for a full

week following each class.

After the course, you'll be invited to join a private Facebook group where you will receive answers to your questions and get feedback on your writing. There will also be a weekly Live Zoom call the following month to talk about your memoir and to provide encouragement and support to help you get it done!

Your Memoir: Just Write It! 10+ hour course typically costs \$199 but I'm offering it to AAUW members for \$99.

If family and friends have been encouraging you to write about your life or if you've been thinking about recording your family's history, there has never been a better time to start.

If you're sure this is for you, register now. <https://www.janfishler.net/product/just-write-it-workshop/>

If you need to know more, schedule a free call. <https://www.janfishler.net/calendar/>

I look forward to hearing from you soon,

Jan Fishler,

janfishler@gmail.com,

(530) 264-5105



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 > 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 \$90 dues, \$59 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

AAUW Fairfax City Branch

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

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dianneblais@aol.com

Kitty Lou Smith

kittysmith@cox.net

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Program Vice President: Vacant

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Virtual Book & Author Event:

Paulette Miller

psmiller10847@verizon.net

Anita Light

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Interest Group Chair:

Night Owls: Paulette Miller

psmiller10847@verizon.net