



# ARLINGTON BRANCH REPORT AAUW OF VIRGINIA

Jan/Feb 2020 Newsletter

Volume 76, issue 1

<http://arlington-va.aauw.net/>

## ARLINGTON BRANCH EVENTS

We have had a number of interesting programs for our Arlington AAUW members so far this year: a training on WorkSmart in September, a session on finding your passion in October, information sharing on Project PEACE (Partnering to End Abuse in the Community) about sexual assault awareness and prevention and December's Holiday Luncheon with an update on the status of Title IX in Arlington Public Schools.

The beginning of 2020 brings a continuation of our monthly programs to support the goals of AAUW and to be involved in our community. The schedule for our meetings from January through May will include:

January 25<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 10:30 am Arlington Career Center, 816 S. Walter Reed Dr. We will have a presentation on **The Importance of the 2020 Census** with Bryna Helfer, Co-Director of Arlington Complete Count Committee, Stephanie Smith, Leader of the Baltimore Census Committee and our own Carol Dabbs.

*Note that we will have a make-up date for this event in case of inclement weather. The make-up date is February 22 – same time and place.*

March 21<sup>st</sup>, Saturday, 10:30 am, **Annual Meeting** (tentative location, Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St) Our guest speaker on Women's Financial Security will be Ann Summerson, CFP, CDFA, Director, The Wise Investor Group.

April 25<sup>th</sup>, Monday, 7 pm, Arlington Career Center, 816 S. Walter Reed Dr. – **Recognition of female APS Science Fair** Winners and presentation by NASA speaker.

May 18<sup>th</sup>, Monday, 7 pm, Woman's Club of Arlington, 700 S. Buchanan St. – **Annual Spring Celebration** – Scholarship Awards in the Arts for female high school seniors and Educator of the Year Award.

## Other Events

**January 15 State Lobby Day Richmond.** To participate in the State Lobby Day and the reception, contact Susan Burk (burksu at aol.com) or Sylvia Rogers (srogers1nm at aol.com) no later than January 8, 2020. A block of rooms is reserved at the Omni Hotel in Richmond for \$144 plus tax but must be secured by December 31, 2019. Richmond area AAUW members are offering their homes for the overnight stay, if you prefer.

**April 17-19 The 2020 AAUW VA Conference** celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage will be held in Alexandria at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites. It promises to be an excellent remembrance and celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19 Amendment.

The conference is being hosted by the AAUW Virginia Northern District Branches. Each branch in the district has been asked to sign up for specific responsibilities in order to make the conference happen. We (Arlington) have agreed to staff the registration table, in addition to the Registrar of the conference, Tammie Mullins-Rice of the Virginia Beach Branch. We estimate volunteer shift times will be 2-3 hours, covering the intake desk on Friday afternoon and evening, and again on Saturday. As the conference approaches we will send out a call for people willing to volunteer for a shift at the registration table. It will require only a modest time commitment for each volunteer, be an excellent way to be involved in the Conference, and enable us to meet many of the conference participants from across the state.

Each branch will also be asked to donate a basket to be raffled off at the event. These can be themed any way that branches deem appropriate; it has been observed that those with wine included seem quite popular.

The conference schedule is still under development by the Local Arrangements Committee. Gail McGinn, with support from Carol Dabbs, represents AAUW Arlington branch on that committee.

## Coffee Group

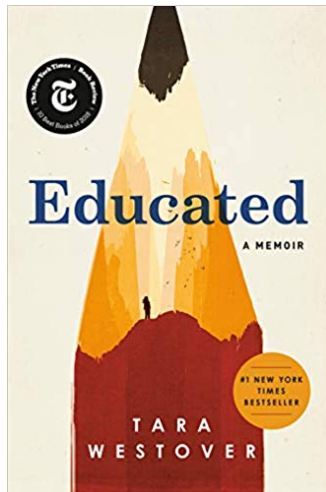


The **THIS/AAUW International Coffee** Group will hold its first coffee of the new year on **Wednesday, January 8** from 10:30 to 12:30 at the home of Sheila Switzer who lives in Springfield.

The February coffee will be hosted by Michaele Battles on **February 12** at her home in McLean.

Arlington Branch members are welcome to join the group. For further information please contact Priscilla Becker (See membership directory for contact info)

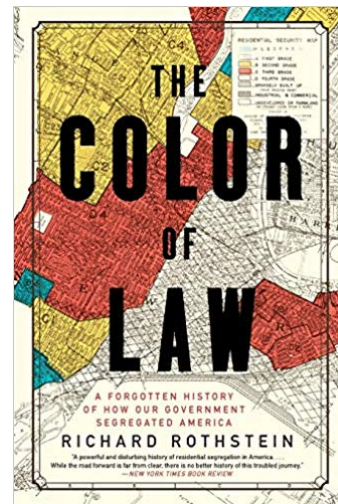
## Let's Talk About Books



Tuesday, Jan 28, 2PM at the home of Barbara Gallagher. Our book selection is ***Educated*** by Tara Westover.

Wednesday, Feb 19, 2pm at the home of Kathryn Scruggs. Our book selection is ***The Color of Law*** by Richard Rothstein.

Be sure to let the hostess know if you will be attending the session at her home.



## Meet our newest member: SICHU MALI



Sichu Mali is a former AAUW Fellowship recipient and a proud National Geographic member. She works as a management consultant specializing in communications and business operations. A lifelong lover of learning, she is currently learning about data science, digital tools, and wildlife conservation outside of work. She holds a Master's in International Relations with concentrations in Economics and Security Studies from Syracuse University, NY. Originally from Nepal, she came to the U.S. alone at the age of 17 to pursue her goals. Her interests include reading, writing, academic mentoring, public speaking, stargazing, camping outdoors, viewing art, travel, learning about different culture, visiting gardens, being around horses and elephants, and being supportive of other women.

## Project Peace

On Saturday, November 16, 2019, AAUW members and guests spent the morning in an information session learning about Project Peace-*Partnering to End Abuse in the Community for Everyone*. Presenters Abby Raphael and Candice Lopez described Project Peace's mission to end domestic and sexual abuse by coordinating a variety of community agencies to provide an array of educational, preventive, and support services for our community.

Project Peace, part of Arlington County Department of Human Resources, treats domestic violence as a public health issue. In existence for 13 years, it strives to treat domestic abuse survivors with respect while offering an array of services. When asked about how individuals in the community can help abuse victims, the presenters advised the workshop attendees to listen to and believe what the victims have to say, validate what the victims are saying by acknowledging how difficult this is to talk about, encourage the victims by telling them they not alone, reflect by telling the victim you can understand, and by paraphrasing back what the victims have been relating.

On May 16, 2020, a *Consent Summit* will be held at Wakefield High School. It will be a full day event open to all community members created by and for young people in Arlington with sessions for teens, parents, and educators.

For more information on Project Peace, check out its website on <https://health.arlingtonva.us>

## Lunch Bunch



This is Argyro Kavvada, NASA earth scientist who was our guest speaker at the November 21 Lunch Bunch at Arlington Community High school. She literally held the young women's rapt attention as she described her work at taking earth science data from many technological sources ( satellites, in particular) and using that data to determine their effect on events on earth. The incidence of cholera was used as an example of the impact of climate change which causes flooding in some parts of the world, thereby increasing the incidence of cholera in those affected populations. The young women were so interested in her presentation that they forgot to eat and ended up taking their lunches to their next classes. They were very participatory as well, asking Argie detailed questions and contributing some examples of climate change in their home countries. Argie is from Greece and is an immigrant herself. Her presentation, her demeanor, her success simply

said to the girls that really, anything is possible!

The next Lunch Bunch will be held on Thursday, January 9. For more information or to sign up, contact Michele Milden.

## Kick Off for 2020 Annual Spring Awards

Our goal this year Annual Spring Awards is **\$4,000**: \$3,000 for Elizabeth Campbell high school senior scholarship awards; \$1,000 for the Educator of the Year award.

As of mid-December we have received a total of **\$1,910** including many donations made during the Holiday Luncheon: **\$1,020** designated for Educator of the Year; **\$890** for Elizabeth Campbell scholarships.

Any extra funds, after we meet our goal, will be applied to prior years, when we fell short of our goal.

In addition, we are contributing the proceeds from the Kicker Starter project of donating your loose change in your purse at the Holiday Lunch. That resulted in an extra \$50, to be split between the two scholarships.

LET'S KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM. Would you consider making a Valentine's contribution, if you have not already donated? We'd like to meet this year's scholarship goal of \$3000.

Make checks payable to "AAUW-Arlington" and designate on the check "Elizabeth Campbell Scholarship" or "Educator of the Year." IF you wish to donate to both funds, please issue separate checks. Mail your checks to Chris White, Treasurer, (See membership directory for contact info).

On behalf of our wonderful teachers and future scholarship recipients, thank you.

## President's Column<sup>1</sup>: AAUW Arlington, Va Branch and the 2020 Census

The census is a critical function of the US government, required to be conducted every 10 years by Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. (The first census was in 1790.)

Why is this an issue of concern to AAUW? Here's a very short primer on the subject.

The collected data helps to determine things like representation in U.S. and state legislatures, and how to distribute approximately \$675 billion annually in federal funds to local communities. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs. This means that the census is inherent to assuring equality among residents in the U. S.

---

<sup>1</sup> The bulk of this information was covered in the Complete Count Committee training I attended on October 15<sup>th</sup>, and I have used text from the website for much of this language, in some cases paraphrased.

The Census has traditionally been a paper form sent to your house. In spring of 2020, households can expect an invitation from the U.S. Census Bureau to either fill out the form online, over the phone, or by requesting a paper form.

It is imperative that *everyone* be counted at the right place, at the right time, and only once. 2020 being an election year adds some confusion to the process. Where people vote is determined by their permanent address, but where people get counted is dependent on where they are physically present on Census Day, April 1, 2020.

Responses to the 2020 Census are protected by federal law (**Title 13 of the U.S. Code**). All Census Bureau staff take a lifetime oath to protect your personal information. You can learn more about **what will be asked** and **Census 2020 confidentiality** on the Arlington County census webpage. <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/census-2020>. These topics have been controversial in the run up to this census, and will be discussed at our meeting on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> (snowdate is Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>—we follow Arlington Public Schools decisions for closures.)

AAUW Arlington, Virginia Branch is a member of the Arlington Complete Count Committee (CCC), which is a volunteer group established by the County Manager made up of community leaders to increase awareness and motivate residents to respond to the 2020 Census. Member organizations serve as 2020 Census Ambassadors by increasing awareness and motivating residents to respond to the 2020 Census. Our representative on the CCC is Debby Churchman, whom I want to thank for her time, energy, and dedication to do this on our behalf. A list of all member organizations is available online at: <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/arlington-census-2020-partners/>.

A couple of specific parts of the Arlington County census webpage may be of interest to AAUW members: <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/census-2020/partner-tool-kit/>, and <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/census-2020/resources/>.

--Carol J. Dabbs, President

## Board of Directors, 2019-20

President: Carol Dabbs (continuing, term expires 2020)

VP for Programs: Chioma Eni and Meg Tuccillo to co-chair position (2019-21)

VP for Membership: Michele Milden (2019-21)

Treasurer: Chris White (continuing, term expires 2020)

Assistant Treasurer: Teri Doxsee (2019-21)

Secretary: Terry Bratt (continuing, term expires 2020)

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

*Any articles for publication should be emailed to Editor, **Debby Churchman** using: [newsarlvaaauw@gmail.com](mailto:newsarlvaaauw@gmail.com) with the SUBJECT line: Newsletter by February 15, 2020*

*Thanks to each person who has submitted pieces in the past. Your care in writing and promptness in sending are greatly appreciated.*

### MISSION OF AAUW

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.