



COMPLETING THIS PROGRAM YEAR

Here's how we're handling our events thru June 30th:

April 27 Membership Meeting focusing on STEM has been cancelled. We plan to hold a meeting focused on STEM next year, probably honoring exceptional projects by girls at the regional science fair, as was planned for this year. The funds donated by the Board of Directors for these prizes will be held to use next year.

May 13, 7:00 pm, AAUW Arlington Board of Director's meeting. This is the originally scheduled date, but we will meet virtually on Zoom. If you are not a member of the BoD but wish to attend the meeting (which is always allowed), please contact Carol Dabbs at presarlvaaauw@gmail.org so that she can share the handouts for the meeting for you to review in advance.

May 18 Membership Meeting, which was to have been our Awards Celebration, has been cancelled. We have raised sufficient funds for, and selected one Elizabeth Campbell Scholarship for the Arts winner, one Lunch Bunch Scholarship winner, and a Teacher of the Year Award. These will be awarded now, so that the scholarships can be sent to the winner's schools over the summer. Please see the separate articles in this newsletter announcing the awardees. We plan to honor these winners at our December 2020 Luncheon, date to be determined.

May 30, 10:30 am, AAUW Arlington, Virginia Annual Meeting will take place virtually, using Zoom software. Our Bylaws require an annual meeting, but state law exonerates us from the requirement that it take place in March based on the emergency situation. There are 3 pieces of essential business: to approve last year's minutes, vote on the nominations committee's slate of officers, and vote on bylaws changes.

At least 20 days in advance, branch members will be sent notification of this meeting, which will include the same documents as sent with the March 1 notice of the cancelled March 21 annual meeting: last year's minutes, the nominating committee report, the proposed bylaws changes, and the financial statement for the last completed fiscal year, 2018-19. Members will also be sent instructions for using Zoom.

June, date tbd (at the May 13th BoD meeting), we will hold our usual program planning meeting, to which all current year and incoming BoD members are invited. Our objective will be to discuss and develop a list of topics which we recommend that the Program Co-VPs pursue when planning our 2020-21 meetings.

--Carol Dabbs

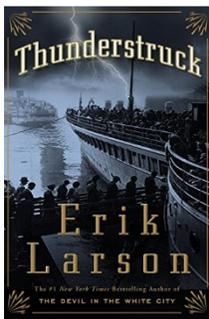


The AAUW/THIS International Coffee group will not be meeting again this spring or summer. We hope to pick up again in the Fall.

For further information please contact Priscilla Becker.

Let's Talk About Books

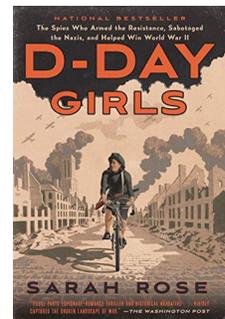
During the shelter-in-place conditions we are attempting to have our book club meetings via ZOOM. Also, we will only be having one meeting per month and that will be at 2pm on the fourth Tuesday. Please mark your calendars and be alert for an invitation to the meeting five or 10 minutes before the scheduled meeting time.



We are reading **Thunderstruck** by Erik Larson for our May 26 meeting at 2 PM which will be conducted from the comfort of your computer screen.

On June 23 at 2 PM we will be discussing **D-Day Girls** by Sarah Rose. Same location.

So read the books and come join the fun.



AAUW Virginia's First Zoom Business Meeting

Because it was not possible to hold the AAUW Virginia Annual Meeting in Alexandria as planned April 17-19, the annual business meeting was conducted using Zoom software on April 18. The rest of the excellent program that had been developed for the Annual Meeting is planned to be used at next year's annual meeting at the same hotel in Alexandria, March 12-14, 2021, so please mark your calendars.

The meeting went well—the officers had obviously practiced using Zoom in advance—and we conducted all of the required business including the following:

- Approved the minutes from Annual Business meetings in 2018 and 2019;
- Received reports from Officers, Committees, and District Representatives;
- Reviewed a Bylaws amendment, to eliminate the half price state dues during January 1-March 15, to conform to national's new practice;
- Reviewed the nominations for state officers; and
- Announced the Summer Leadership Meeting for July 28th, which may be different from prior years.

Both the nominations for state officers and the bylaws change will be part of the online ballot to be sent to all AAUW Virginia members by email from ElectionBuddy. Voting will take place between April 26th and May 16th.

--Carol Dabbs

AAUW National

Several members participated in the webcast from AAUW National on March 24 in which Kim Churches and the other headquarters staff briefed us on how AAUW is forwarding its mission in these difficult times. Headquarters will be rolling on several webinars and on-line offerings including a special webinar on how we can help Get Out the Vote. It's important to stay connected with National right now because many current issues have a particular impact on women and girls who are already economically vulnerable. And something to look forward to: the new AAUW website rolled out in April! If you missed the launching of the new AAUW website on April 10, the webinar is posted at this link:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/2020-convening/>

Mrs. America: Women's Rights, Family Values and Politics with Marjorie Spruill

April 30, 2020, 5:00 pm E.T.

Join us for a Conversation with AAUW American Fellowship alumna Marjorie Spruill, Professor Emerita, University of South Carolina and author, *Divided We Stand: The Battle Over Women's Rights & Family Values that Polarized American Politics*.

Heard about the new Hulu series Mrs. America and the fight for women's rights in the 1970's?

"Marjorie Spruill describes a polarized America that will be recognizable to any consumer of today's news ... A story crucial to understanding American politics over the past 40 years ... The question raised by the battle of 1977 — who speaks for women? — still bedevils American politics." —*Wall Street Journal*

[Register Now](#)

AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

As a result of the ongoing concerns regarding COVID-19, the impact from travel restrictions and need for physical distancing, AAUW's *National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) 2020*, scheduled to take place May 27-30, 2020, at the University of Maryland, College Park, has been CANCELLED. This difficult decision is in response to the advice of health authorities and the World Health Organization (WHO) who have declared a global pandemic. The association looks forward to seeing everyone next year at *NCCWSL 2021*.

ABOUT NCCWSL (pronounced "nick-whistle"): This unique conference had its beginnings in 1983 when representatives from national gender equity organizations recognized the need for a leadership space dedicated to empowering collegiate women. Since AAUW took over the conference in 1987, NCCWSL has been transformed into an essential experience for any woman serious about creating a meaningful impact on her campus, mobilizing her community, and preparing for her personal and professional success after graduation. NCCWSL has been the place to become educated about today's most pressing issues, to expand and develop new leadership skills and to make lifelong **connections** with peers across the country.

AAUW-VA Voting Begins on April 26!

Kim Churches, AAUW CEO AAUW of Virginia Branch

Members: Because it's been several weeks now since you received the 2020 [Voter Guide](#) in the 2020 Winter/Spring Vision, we want to refresh your memory on the highlights of the upcoming election and voting process:

1. All AAUW of Virginia members as of April 1 are eligible to vote in the 2020 election.
2. We are voting on the following four officer positions for two-year terms beginning July 1, 2020: Co-Presidents, Vice President for Communications, Vice President for Program, and Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy, as well as on a proposed AAUW-VA bylaws amendment and the proposed AAUW-VA 2020-2022 Public Policy Priorities. The [2020 Voter Guide](#) contains information on the candidates running, the bylaws amendment and public policy priorities, as well as on the voting process and timeline.
3. Even though candidates are running unopposed, it is critical that you vote because we need a quorum of seven percent of our membership voting in the election so that the newly elected state officers can take office on July 1, 2020.
4. Because we are voting online and a link to the online ballot will be emailed to your email address of record in the AAUW Member Services Database, please go to the Member Services Database by March 22 and make sure your email address is current. The 2020 Voter Guide contains information on updating your email address.
5. The **online voting will open on April 26 and close on May 16 at 11:45 p.m.** This is the second year we will be using software from ElectionBuddy, an outside vendor, for the election so carefully monitor your incoming emails. We'll let you know when the link to the online ballot has been emailed so in case you do not receive it, you can check your email "Junk" or "Spam" files.
6. Any questions concerning the election can be directed to Leslie Tourigny (ltourigny@gmail.com) or Sandy Lawrence (sandyaauw@juno.com) Thanks to the candidates who are running for the AAUW of Virginia state board, and thanks to all of our members for the extraordinary job they are doing. You've put us on the map!!

- Leslie Tourigny and Carol Stephens AAUW of Virginia Co-Presidents

Virginia News

The closing days of the legislative session in Richmond used such words as frenzied and 'barreling toward the end.'" Some of the results include Gerrymandering: The Commonwealth is moving to amend the state constitution to create a first-ever redistricting commission that will include citizens, enshrine protections of the Voting Rights Act, and require full transparency of the commission's meetings. Voters will have the final say on November's ballot when they vote on the proposal which will amend the Commonwealth's constitution.

Other Virginia Assembly session results include: a raise for public school teachers; in-state tuition freeze at public colleges; an increase in in-state financial aid; gun violence prevention and intervention; investment in and modernization of Virginia's transportation system; an expansion of early childhood education; allowing early voting for any reason; and raising Virginia's minimum wage.

2020 Arlington AAUW Educator of the Year Award



While our school buildings may have closed down for the year, school goes on and we are delighted to have a winner for our 2020 Educator of the Year Award. Requests for nominations went out before school buildings closed and we are happy to announce that Chris Willmore, Principal at Wakefield High School, provided us with a wonderful teacher to recognize as our Educator of the Year.

Wendy Maitland, Wakefield's Gifted Services Coordinator is widely recognized at school as a role model and mentor for many of its female students. She serves

as sponsor of the Girls Who Code Club, Robotics for Girls and the STEM Club at Wakefield. She is also co-sponsor of the United Minority Girls Club and has provided field trips for female minority students to attend events such as "A Day with the American College of Surgeons" and the SADIE Collective Conference for Economics and Related Fields. She has organized a number of college trips to Mary Washington and other campuses to expose students to possibilities for their future. Wendy is highly regarded by her colleagues and students as a teacher who truly cares about the well-being of students and works tirelessly to particularly open new doors of opportunity for young women at Wakefield.

While we will not be able to recognize Ms. Maitland at our May meeting, she will be notified of her award this spring and we will look forward to inviting her to our December Holiday Luncheon to hear more about her impressive work.

Arlington Branch AAUW Elizabeth Campbell Scholarship Winner

For the past few years, our branch has awarded the Elizabeth Campbell Scholarship for an Arlington high school senior who has exhibited particular talent in the arts and plans to continue her studies in college in a related field. The \$1000 scholarship honors the legacy of Elizabeth Campbell, a long-time AAUW member, founder of WETA, school board member and lover of the arts. This year has certainly proved to be unique for a number of reasons but we were able to put out the request for nominations for this award before school sessions were closed and received a worthy nominee from Washington-Liberty High School.

According to Hiromi Isobe, the chair of W-L's Visual Arts Department, **Jamileth Picavia-Salazar** is a 2020 graduating senior who became a very serious art student in her IB Visual Arts class. Jamileth was awarded a Gold Key at the Scholastic Regional Art competition and an American Vision Medal, the highest National Medal award, for her painting last year. She represented her school at the National Society of Arts and Letters, DC Chapter, last year. She had gained leadership skills through participation in the Latin American Student Association, UNICEF and National Honors Society. She is involved in the GMU Early Identification Program to prepare students for college and beyond and she will be the first in her family to attend college. Jamileth is interested in using her artistic talents to work in pursuing a career in the field of architecture.

We are delighted to award this scholarship to Jamileth and while we will provide the scholarship now, we look forward to inviting her to our December Holiday Luncheon to hear more from this impressive young woman.

Arlington AAUW STEM Initiative

At the beginning of the 2019-2020 Arlington AAUW calendar year, a proposal was made to the Executive Board to initiate a STEM program in conjunction with the annual Regional Science Fair, held every year at Wakefield High School. The initiative was to identify outstanding Science Fair Projects by both high school and middle school young women in the Arlington Public Schools. AAUW was to join other society judges in evaluating projects at the March fair. We were to identify the most outstanding high school and middle school projects, as well as identifying three runners-up in each category. The outstanding young women's projects were to be awarded \$100 and the runners-up, a gift card to One More Page Books. Each young woman also was to be invited to our April monthly meeting, along with their families, to receive their awards and to present a five minute summary of their work to the attendees. Dr. Argie Kavaada, a NASA Earth-Space Scientist, also was to present a program to the attendees about the effects of climate change on earth processes (the incidence of cholera) which is determined by the data collected from her research. Dr. Kavaada had already presented this program to the 25 young women who attend the Lunch Bunch Program at Arlington Community High School in November.

Alas, all was not to be. All science projects were judged virtually within their particular science categories, but it would have been impossible for Sara Anderson, Mary Beth Pelosky and myself to determine the awardees based solely on the abstracts and associated documents. The project simply is postponed until next year. We look very much forward to the outcome of our efforts.

Susan Senn

Lunch Bunch Update



See Photo: L to R: Patricia Sanguinetti (from Arlington Community High School), Meg Tuccillo Mary Ann Ullrich, Ms. Carmen Hackett, and Susan Senn from Arlington Branch AAUW.

The Lunch Bunch held its last program for the school year on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at the Arlington Community High School. Our guest speaker was Carmen Hackett, a 53 year old firefighter/paramedic with DC Fire and EMS and was featured this past summer on the local ABC and NBC news for her career accomplishments. Ms. hackett

is a single mother with a 14 year- old son. Her rise to fame began with an AA degree in Culinary Arts. At the age of 20, she moved to DC and worked for G

SA. Wanting more excitement in her life, she earned her Emergency Medical Technician Certification and began work with DC Fire and EMS. After 10+ years, once again she challenged herself and earned an Intermediate Paramedic Certification. That effort required 3 separate 6-month long training courses, 11 attempts to pass the qualifying exams, and 5 years total effort. Then, not content yet, she earned her full Firefighter designation in the Spring of 2019. Throughout her career, she has continued to challenge herself and has risen to the status of her current job. Her presentation was quite humorous and really impressed upon the girls the notion of "Never give up!" She is the perfect example of "Make It Possible".

The Lunch Bunch young women, listened intently to her story over lunch and asked several questions about what it took to keep her going forward. They enjoyed her presentation very much.

Hanufa Begum is the 2020 Lunch Bunch Scholarship recipient of \$1,000. She is planning to attend George Mason University and study computer science. Hanufa participated in the AAUW Lunch Bunch Program until January 2020, when she graduated from Arlington Community High School. We will have her bio and photo available in the next newsletter.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out this year by their attendance and contributions. We look forward to seeing more Arlington Branch AAUW volunteers next fall at Arlington Community High School starting in October, 2020. Until then stay safe and well.

- Michele Mildren and Mary Ann Ullrich, Lunch Bunch Co-Chairs

Information for Voters – June 23, 2020 Primary

Because of the current Covid crisis, voters should strongly consider voting absentee by mail. Excuse based voting will still be in effect for this election, but excuse 2A can be used for illness avoidance. To vote in the June 23, 2020 county primary you must be registered by May 18, 2020.

Applications for an absentee ballot for mail in must be received by the registrar by 5 pm on June 2, 2020.

Voters will need to designate if they want a Democratic or a Republican ballot. Democrats will vote in a county board primary between Libby Garvey and Chanda Choun. Republicans will choose for a candidate for U.S. Senate among Daniel Gade, Thomas Speciale and Alissa Baldwin.

To register to vote and update your address go to:

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/thirdparty/lwv/Arlington>

Remember, you must update your registration if you have moved – even if you have moved across the hall. There is no special form to update your registration, you just do it via the link above. To get an absentee ballot application mailed to your home go to:

<https://vote.arlingtonva.us/absentee/absentee-voting-ballot-application/>

For more voter information visit:

<https://www.vote411.org/>

If you have any questions about voting in the June 23 primary please email us at LwvArlingtonva@gmail.com (Many thanks to the League of Women Voters)

Now is the time to renew!!



We need your energy and support for issues impacting on women and girls.

Membership dues should be paid by **June 30, 2020**. Membership dues are \$90--national \$59, state \$15, and local \$16. Of the \$59 for national dues, \$56 is tax deductible. Your emailed receipt will show this information.

THE EASIEST WAY IS TO PAY ON-LINE after you receive a dues notice from memberinfo@aauw.org (AAUW National) around April 30.

The subject line will be: AAUW Membership Renewal for Fiscal Year 2021.

Once you receive the email to renew from AAUW, click on the link, enter your credit card number, and your membership is renewed in less than 30 seconds. Look for that email and renew that day!

However, if you prefer to renew by check, please send your check for \$90, made payable to AAUW-Arlington Branch to: Chris White, Treasurer, AAUW-Arlington, (see membership directory for address) Please mail your check so it is received well in advance of June 30.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND your dues payment directly to National AAUW. DO NOT RENEW through National's web site. You will not be listed as a Arlington branch member.

Arlington AAUW Board of Directors, 2019-20

President: Carol Dabbs (continuing, term expires 2021)

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

VP for Membership: Michele Milden (2019-21) and Virginia Sorkin (2019-20)

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: newsarlvaauw@gmail.com with the SUBJECT line: Newsletter by June 15, 2020*

MISSION OF AAUW

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