

SMITH MOUNTAIN
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
Winter 2021 Newsletter

A Note from Fran

Well, here it is 2021. Happy New Year to each of you! My hope is that each of you are managing to stay safe and healthy during this pandemic. We can see a light at the end of this long tunnel. Let's look to the light with positivity and hope!

As I assume the role as your President, I would like to acknowledge the contributions DebraLee made to our branch. The "Can I Join Your Group" outreach to the local schools as well as the "Non Event Event" were two of her ideas that were well received. The Non Event Event was a big success due to the generosity of our membership. Many thanks! The school outreach program was also successful and well received by all the schools that participated in our area.

I look forward to the challenges and inspirations this year will bring. On behalf of the Board and myself, I hope that you will continue to support our endeavors via Zoom for now. See you there!

Fran Cross
President



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AAUW ART CONTEST



Calling all AAUW Artists:

It's that time of year again! AAUW's 12th annual art contest opens January 6, and your work could be among the winning entries.

To enter, submit your photography or a digital photo of your painting, drawing, sculpture, collage or other form of art through the AAUW website. All entries are accepted, but we encourage you to look through your portfolio for works that speak to AAUW's mission.

AAUW members will select their favorite entries via ranked-choice voting. Winning entries will be featured on a collection of notecards sent to members in the spring. The back of the cards will include the winning artist's biography, a fact about AAUW and a highlight of their local branch affiliation when applicable.

This year's winners could include someone from your branch or state, so spread the word through your member communications!

For more information on submitting artwork or to see last year's art gallery, please visit the AAUW Art Contest page .

We hope to see your work in this year's contest!

Best,

Tremayne A. Parquet,

Deputy Director of Advancement & Partnerships



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tremayne A. Parquet".

PROGRAMS



**We will send more reminders
via email closer to the events.**

Saturday, January 16, 10:30 am

Zoom Branch Business Meeting and Program:

“Reinventing Libraries.”

Automation and digitalization have dramatically changed libraries. Remember when we used card catalogs and the Dewey Decimal System to research and write our term papers and then type them on manual typewriters? Times have certainly changed! For starters, computers and the internet have had transformational impact on today’s libraries, forcing them to re-think their purpose and adapt to changing community needs and expectations, in order to survive. Then, right in the middle of this evolving, ongoing process, comes the Covid-19 pandemic, and library personnel have been reinventing their reinventions!

Jennifer Golston, Manager of the Moneta Library, will be our guest speaker. She will share her experiences about the Moneta Library’s continuous transition and also clue us in on future library programs! She is currently working towards a Master’s degree in Computer Sciences which pairs nicely with librarianship! Hope you will Zoom in to meet Jennifer and hear her enthusiastic and very positive presentation.

Saturday, March 20, 10:30 am – Zoom Branch Business Meeting and Program,: Speaker and topic to be announced.

Vice President for Programs

Susan McSlarrow

MEMBERSHIP

Greetings all!

I'm reporting to each of you 65 members that 2021 has arrived (just in case you missed that bit of news!) with colder weather and hopes for a "shot in the arm" in the near future! If you feel like I do, you're ready for the opportunity to be with family and friends in the comfort of your own home, in their homes and/or in public places. I personally am looking to Spring as a chance for us to begin to regroup and live life in a more normal fashion. I hope that will be the case. I have been accused of being Pollyanna-like at times but it sure beats thinking things will never change - they will!

While awaiting that return to normal, please look to our branch as an option for staying connected. Our board continues to work diligently to keep us informed with enjoyable programs and special interest groups. Zoom is our mode of meeting at this time and it works really well. If you have been taking part in our activities, please continue to do so; if you've not, think about using these opportunities in this new year. It's heartwarming for us to see each other on the computer screen and hearing each other's voices reminds us of the many friendships we cherish from being a part of SMAAUW. I miss the hugs we all tend to exchange when in each other's company but smiles and chats via Zoom really go a long way toward enhancing and embracing normalcy.

Best wishes for warm fires and hot toddies, friends. Here's to seeing you one day soon on Zoom!

Big hugs to each of you,
Marsha P,
VP of Membership



INTERNATIONAL STUDIES GROUP

Our Wednesday, February 3rd meeting will be a duo book discussion conducted by Laura Southall and Sherry Brown. The books are *The Caliph's House: A Year in Casablanca* by Tahir Shah and *A House in Fez: Building a Life in the Ancient Heart of Morocco* by Suzanna Clarke.

We hope that each of you will read at least one of the books and join in on the discussion.

As a follow-up to the January meeting, our Spring meetings will center on Architecture, Art and Crafts.

If anyone is interested in joining our group, please contact Pat Bratcher. pbratch2@gmail.com



CLASSICS BOOK GROUP

We have our Classics Book Group's schedule for 2021. Thank you to the members who have volunteered to be discussion leaders. Our meetings will take place on Zoom for the foreseeable future. We have an eclectic selection of 20th century classics, many of which we have heard about, but never gotten around to read. Best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy New Year! Maria

Meetings are at 1:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of alternate months.

February 17, 2021 *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan

April 21, 2021 *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

June 16, 2021 *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison

August 18, 2021 *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey

October 20, 2021 *A Suitable Boy* by Vikram Seth



SCHOLARSHIP

An article about our SMAAUW scholarship was submitted to Barbara Moody on December 10, 2020. Thank you, Barbara for sending it to the local tri-county newspapers.

Our Scholarship 2021 application, criteria and more information was posted on our website in December.

Our webpage is: <http://smithmountain-va.aauw.net>

In January, our new committee member Maxine Edwards brought scholarship flyers and 2021 applications to Bedford and Franklin county libraries. We were unable to post the same information in Pittsylvania county libraries, as they are closed.

Our committee members are anxiously waiting our 2021 applications.

The application deadline is March 15, 2021.

Kris Hill



COVID-19 INFORMATION

Did you know that you can find out what vaccine phase your County is in?

Visit the Virginia Department of Health Covid-19 Vaccine Web Page:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/>

Look for the following two sections for more information on your specific county and eligibility.

[Find Out Which Phase Your County or City is In](#)

[Find Out Which Phase You Are Eligible For](#)

Thank you, Marsha Melkonian, for this information!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The SMAAUW Reading Project that addresses AAUW Public Policy Priority: Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including bullying, hate crimes, sexual harassment, and human trafficking and should heighten awareness to the kinds of activities that promote unconscious bias and promote acceptance of all people has been successful but, because of the pandemic, had to be terminated mid-stream. Since the pandemic has gone on for so long we have decided to deliver the books to each school that has not been covered and let the second grade teachers use the books in their classroom teaching. If you'd like to help with delivery, please contact Ann or Linda.

It is time to begin looking into summer science camps for four young ladies from local elementary schools at Science Museum of The Western Virginia. Each of the girls will receive a \$250 scholarship for summer camp and a \$50 gift card to help with expenses for transportation and lunch. Thanks to Ann Johnson for applying and getting the \$500 scholarship from National again this year to use towards the camp scholarships.

The Community Outreach coordinators have not heard any news from Angie Shirley, Service Unit Manager for Franklin Co. Girl Scouts.

If you are interested in any of these projects

or have questions, please contact:

Ann Johnson asjjah@aol.com or

Linda Walters lindaw@shentel.net

