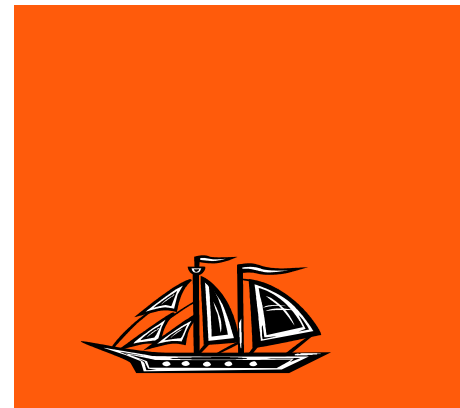


THE ALEXANDRIA SCHOONER



Vol 73, # 4

December 2018 & January 2019

Letter from the Co-Presidents

By Gail and Lane

Dear Friends,

US Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos wrote an [opinion piece](#) in the Washington Post on her proposal changes to Title IX to “balance” the scales of justice. The [new guidelines](#) would have us think that campus sexual assault is over-reported and that the accused were disadvantaged by Obama-era regulations. AAUW disagrees. According to CEO Kim Churches:

“Considering that 89 percent of college campuses disclosed zero reported rapes last year – despite the fact that we know incidents are far more frequent – we should move forward and build on past progress not walk back current protections.”

We hope you will consider commenting on Secretary DeVos’s proposed changes. Instructions can be found in the linked document.

As you’ll see in the coming pages, thanks to you, the membership, we are moving forward on our new initiatives, like our Women Building Cross Cultural Friendships, Great Decisions, ratification of ERA by Virginia and our fight against human trafficking. Thank you!

Bring your wallets to the holiday luncheon on December 16. There will be Little Theater of Alexandria tickets on sale, which supports our Educational Opportunities Fund, and a pass the hat for the Alexandria Scholarship Fund.

Happy holidays,
Lane and Gail



December Holiday Luncheon

December 16

12 pm

Belle Haven Country Club

6023 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria, VA 22307

January Program Meeting

Civil Rights Update

Sunday, January 13

2 pm

Cameron Station Club House

Open to the Public

WE WELCOME PATTY STEELMAN TO THE MEMBERSHIP



Patty Moran Steelman was born in Austin, Texas, but has always led a nomadic life. She lived in upstate New York, St. Clair Shores, Michigan, and Geneva, Switzerland, before graduating from UT Austin in 1967.

She has been a librarian since obtaining her MLS from Simmons in Boston in 1968. While in the Peace Corps in Liberia, West Africa, from 1970-1972, she married another PCV Richard Steelman. They continued to move about committed to humanitarian work. They raised their son, born in Nicaragua, and daughter, born in Ecuador, while

Richard worked for CARE and later USAID. Being a librarian, Patty found work in Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Islamabad, Cairo, and finally at the Library of Congress. Now retired and residing in Cameron Station, Patty enjoys Life Long Learning Institute (LLI) and Beatley Library (and her granddaughter!)

IN MEMORIAM JOANN MILLER

Longtime AAUW member, Joann Miller, died on Tuesday, November 20th at the age of 91, in her apartment at the Greenspring Retirement Community in Springfield, VA. A viewing will be held on Dec. 6th, 5 – 8 PM at the Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302. The funeral mass will be on Dec 7th, 11:00 – 12:00, St. Rita Catholic Church, 3815 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22305.



While working for the United States Information Agency in Bordeaux, France, Joann met her future husband, Ed, and they were married in 1953 in Eastborn, England. They moved to the Alexandria area when Ed, then a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force, was stationed at the Pentagon.

Joann was a past president of our Alexandria AAUW Branch, and was active in many of the Branch's activities, prior to moving to Greenspring. In 2013, Joann was named one of the living Legends of Alexandria. Among Joann's many accomplishments, she was one of the founders of Alexandria's Commission on Women, and in 2010, the Commission honored her with the Marian Van Landingham Legislation and Public Policy Award. Joann also led the Public Safety Committee of Alexandria's Commission on Aging; the Commission on Aging presented her with the Annie B. Rose Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010. She volunteered as a counselor at the Alexandria Battered Women's Shelter and chaired the Substance Abuse Committee for the Alexandria Community Services Board. Joann was preceded in death by her husband Ed. She is mourned by her two daughters, one son, and many friends.

Co-presidents' response to the October 28, Tree of Life Synagogue shooting which left eleven people dead:

Many times in our lives we're compelled to choose not just what we stand for but also who we will stand with. Last week's package bombs and the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue call on us to reaffirm our solidarity with victims of senseless violence. Women and men of good will, like AAUW members around the country, remain united against hate and violence.


Major Events in November

ERA STATEMENT PRESENTED TO CITY COUNCIL



Dr. Elizabeth Hendrick giving presentation

The following is the statement by Dr. Elizabeth Hendrix, Branch Public Policy Chair of the Alexandria Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Representing AAUW of Virginia, at the November 17, 2018, Public Hearing of the Alexandria City Council Concerning the Proposed City Legislative Package for the 2019 Virginia General Assembly Session.



Good morning, Mayor Silberberg, Vice Mayor Wilson, and the other members of the City Council. Thanks for allowing me to speak. I am Dr. Elizabeth Hendrix, Public Policy Chair for the Alexandria Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and I am here representing the 25 branches and 5,680 members and supporters of AAUW of Virginia.

AAUW is the nation’s leading organization promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political. We applaud the City Council for ensuring that the proposed city legislative package reflects support for equal rights for women, and specifically includes support for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution. AAUW is committed to passage and ratification of the ERA.

The majority of Americans mistakenly believe that under the U.S. Constitution women and men have equal rights. Women’s equality has been¹ advanced through legislation and court decisions, which can be changed or revoked. The only way to ensure that all men and women are truly equal under the law is by ratifying the ERA.

The ERA was first introduced in Congress in 1923 and was reintroduced every year until its passage in 1972. However, because it is a constitutional amendment, it also needs ratification by three-fourths of the states, which has not² happened. Ratification currently stands at 37 states—one short of the 38 needed.

Between 2011 and 2016, ERA ratification legislation passed in the Virginia Senate five times, but the House did not take similar action.³ During the 2018 session, there were enough lawmakers signed on in each house as patrons to ensure passage of ERA legislation—if only it had made it out of committee. Let’s not let that happen again. For the 2019 Session, Delegate Jennifer Carroll Foy has introduced House Joint Resolution 579 to ratify ERA.

Thanks to the City Council for joining with AAUW and other organizations and citizens throughout the Commonwealth in letting our lawmakers in Richmond know that Virginia can make history by becoming the 38th, and last state needed, to ratify the ERA. AAUW of Virginia also asks that the City Council join other localities and pass a resolution in support of ERA ratification by the Virginia General Assembly.

¹ ERA Coalition.. (2016). Why We Need an Equal Rights Amendment.

² ERA Task Force of the National Council of Women’s Organizations (2013). “The ERA in the States.”

³ <http://www.equalrightsamendment.org/era-ratification-map>

NOVEMBER PROGRAM



Bonnie Hershberg

The monthly meeting of AAUW - Alexandria Branch met Sunday, November 11, 2018, at the Cameron Station Clubhouse. When the scheduled speaker was unable to attend, Member Bonnie Hershberg ably jumped into the breach and admirably discussed the current state of Title IX.

CULTURAL EVENTS GROUP

On November 12th, Paula Massouh, Cultural Chair, organized a tour of the American Indian History Museum.



Alexandria Branch Special Initiatives

WOMEN BUILDING CROSS-CULTURAL FRIENDSHIPS

Committee members Renee O'Brien, Donna Hayford, Eugenia Burkes, and Chair Bonnie Hershberg met with Katie Dow, Adult Services Manager, Beatley Library on November 16th. This was a productive meeting that focused on the logistics of using the multipurpose room at the library for our initial event scheduled for March 28, 2019, at 7 pm. How to publicize the event to the greater Alexandria community was also discussed.

Additional details will be reported in future newsletters to keep everyone apprized of the committee's progress. If you would like to join this committee, please contact Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com.

CHRIST HOUSE

Keep the dates open for our CHRIST HOUSE SUPPERS for-2019 :

January 31st;
May 29th;
July 31st

Thank you all for your continuing generosity and support.

On the Go with AAUW

By **Ruth Bennett**



On the Go with AAUW is a public access cable TV show started by a member of the Alexandria Branch. We tape one show each month at Fairfax Public Access (FPA) located in the Merrifield area of Fairfax County. Please come watch us tape a show! Or, you can take a class at FPA and help produce shows. If you are interested in participating in producing/taping our public access cable TV show, please call Ruth Bennett at 703-765-4536.

Most recent show:

Danielle Beach interviewed Lane Stone, a local author and our very own co-president, in late October. This show will air in early December. Lane's website is www.lanestonebooks.com if you want to read about the books she has written.

January and February:

We are hoping to do a show about community colleges and about the National Women's Party. On the Go with AAUW now has a YouTube channel. Go to YouTube.com and search for our shows. If you subscribe you will be notified when a new show is uploaded.

Alexandria Branch Interest Groups

All groups are open to all members. For more information, contact the coordinator for each group. Please consult your directory for contact information unless included in the text.

Cultural Events

By Paula Massouh

The tour of Woodlawn Plantation and Pope-Leighey House originally scheduled for December will be rescheduled for sometime next year.

Francophile Group

By Susan Cash

Our next meeting is tentatively planned for February as a visit to Hillwood Museum and Gardens. Watch for the next newsletter as well as email for details.





Gourmet Out

By Susan Cash

Our next event is tentatively planned for late January. Watch for emails for details.

Mystery Book Discussion Group

By Susan Werner

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year, Mystery Lovers. The December meeting of the Mystery Book Discussion Group will be held at the home of Nancy Kula. The date is Dec 18th, a week earlier than usual. Our mystery will be *Away in the Manger* by Rhys Bowen. Nancy's address and phone number: Marina Towers, 501 Slaters Lane, Apt 507, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-664-0505.



Our first meeting of 2019 will be held on Jan 22nd. Our mystery - *Song of the Lion* by Anne Hillerman. Our hostess will be Arlene Shapiro. Arlene's address and phone number: 6216 Driftwood Dr., Alexandria, VA 22310; 703-719-5467. Both meetings start at 7 PM. Please let your hostess know if you plan to attend and if you need directions. Inclement weather decisions will be made the day before the meeting. For additional information about the Mystery Book Discussion Group, contact Susan Werner at alexaauw1@aol.com.

2018 - 2019 Board Members and Committee Chairs Officers

CO-Presidents* Gail Kalin 202-365-5212
Lane Stone 703-307-2431
Co-Vice Presidents-Programs* Virginia Kress 703-683-6196
Lynn O'Connell 703-867-4942
Co-Vice Presidents-Membership* Sylvia Linke 703-461-6822
Susan Werner 703-764-1773
Treasurer* Anne Simpson 909-921-7111
Corresponding-Recording Secretary* Margaret Batko 703-941-2217
Committees
Bylaws/policy Marilyn Zayas 787-366-6977
Christ House Project Jan Jaynes 703-765-3203
Margaret Zebrowski 703-765-3076
Directory Susan Werner 703-764-1773
Educational Equity/Scholarship June Hajjar 703-683-1198
Educational Opportunity Fund* Arlene Shapiro 703-719-5467
Historian Arlene Shapiro 703-719-5467
Hospitality Open
Newsletter Eugenia Burkes 703-328-1307
Campus Outreach Lane Stone 703-307-2431

Public Policy Chair Elizabeth Hendrix 816-248-0793 (C)
LAF Liaison Leslie Tourigny 703-307-8227 (C)
Publicity Eugenia Burkes 703-328-1307
Telephone Tree Jan Jaynes 703-765-3203
Lane Stone 703-307-2431
Web Page Eugenia Burkes 703-328-1307

Special Interest Groups

Cable TV Project, AAUW on the Go Ruth Bennett 703-765-4536
Cultural Paula Massouh 703-256-4541
Francophile Susan Cash 703-780-3902
Gourmet Out Susan Cash 703-780-3902
Movie Night Open

Mystery Book Discussion Group Susan Werner 703-764-1773

Important AAUW Links - Check them out!

**Alexandria Branch homepage: <http://alexandria-va.aauw.net/>
Don't forget to bookmark it.**

Alexandria Branch Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/AAUW-Alexandria-Branch-Alexandria-VA-273402873288585/?modal=admin_todo_tour

Please like, follow, and share this page.

VA AAUW homepage: <http://aauw-va.aauw.net>

FOR SUGGESTIONS RE: NEWSLETTER OR WEB SITE: aauwnewsltr.ed@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

(for dates and times for Special Interest Groups, contact the group's coordinator)

Color Code:

Blue = Branch Board Events

Black = Branch Programs

Green - Great Decisions

Purple = State Events

Red - EOF

Brown = Women Building Cross-Cultural Friendships

Event	Date & Time	Location
Branch Board Meeting	12/16/18, 11:30 am	Belle Haven County Club 6023 Fort Hunt Rd
Holiday Brunch	12/16/18, 12 pm	Belle Haven County Club 6023 Fort Hunt Rd
Branch Board Meeting	1/3/19, 6:45 pm	Beatley Library
Great Decisions	1/10/19, 7 - 8:30 pm	Cameron Station Clubhouse
Civil Rights Update	1/13/19, 2 - 4 pm	Cameron Station Clubhouse
Reception for Women Legislators	2/6/19	Richmond
State Lobby Day	2/7/19	Richmond
EOF Fundraiser	2/22/19, 8 pm performance time	Little Theater of Alexandria
Branch Board Meeting	3/14/19, 6:45 pm	Beatley Library
Great Decisions	3/14/19, 7 - 8:30 pm	Cameron Station Clubhouse
Deeper in Debt: Pay Equity & Student Debt	3/17/19, 2 - 4 pm	Cameron Station Clubhouse
Women Building Cross-Cultural Friendships	3/28/19, 7 pm	Beatley Library
Branch Board Meeting	4/4/19, 6:45 pm	Beatley Library
AAUW-VA State Conference	4/6/19 (all day)	Vinton, VA
Great Decisions	4/11/19, 7 - 8:30 pm	Cameron Station Clubhouse
Branch Board Meeting	5/2/19, 6:45 pm	Beatley Library
Great Decisions	5/9/19, 7 - 8:30 pm	Cameron Station Clubhouse
Great Decisions	6/13/19, 7 - 8:30 pm	Cameron Station Clubhouse