



# THE ALEXANDRIA SCHOONER



Series 74, #7

May 2020

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## Important Dates

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| Board Meeting             | 5/7  |
| VA Deadline for voting    | 5/16 |
| Nat'l Deadline for voting | 5/18 |

### Presidents Letter Lane & Gail

Dear friends,

We hope you are reading this while sheltering in place, safe and secure.

In April the board voted to allow us to conduct our annual business online. We'll do this with an email. You will receive two: one with a ballot and the annual report booklet attached and another inviting you to a Zoom meeting. We wish we could be together, but this is the best we can do right now. If it seems safe to get together this summer, we would love to!

NCCWSL (AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) has been postponed. Each year we support two NVCC students to attend this large conference. One of our 2020 students was to have been Acsa Lemus-Gonzalez. Acsa is a dreamer and a semi-finalist for the Jack Kent Cook Scholarship. With or without the NCCWSL experience we wish her all the luck in the world and are proud to cheer her on.

We'll close with this plea from Lynn Ungar's poem, Pandemic, "Promise this world your love, for better or worse, in sickness and in health." In these words, can't you just hear a call for steadfastness to the AAUW values of inclusivity and empowerment as we work for gender equity and economic security?

As always, thank you and stay safe,  
Lane & Gail

# PUBLIC POLICY

April 16, 2020

A Report from Richmond #2: Anti-Human Trafficking Legislation

Submitted by: Sylvia Linke

The Governor of Virginia was busy over Easter weekend signing about 800 bills passed by the Virginia legislature during the 2020 legislative session. Among those bills he signed over Easter were the last two unapproved anti-human trafficking bills. The Governor has now signed all six of the anti-human trafficking pieces of legislation which were passed by the state legislature this session.

This does not mean AAUW's legislative efforts on this topic are complete. Among the important pieces of legislation which did NOT make it through the legislature were House Bill (HB) 268 which would have provided for the expungement of convictions and police and court records of victims of human trafficking. Also unsuccessful this legislative session was HB 1614 which would have allowed victims of human trafficking to use their circumstances as victims of this crime as an affirmative defense to prosecution for certain offenses. HB 985 would have made a non-resident student eligible for in-state tuition if such a student is present in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a result of being a victim of human trafficking. It was defeated in the Education Committee of the House of Delegates.

Please see the chart below for a recap of that anti-human trafficking legislation which was enacted in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2020.

| Bill Number        | Description of Bill   | Signed by President of the Senate/Speaker of the House? | Approved by the Governor?     | Comments  |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|---|
| SB 171             | School resource officers and school security officers to be trained in recognizing human trafficking in schools and identifying its victims.  | Signed by Speaker 02/24.<br>Signed by President 02/25.  | Yes. Effective 07/01/2020.    |   |
| SB 706/<br>HB 1006 | Provides for child victims of human trafficking to be interviewed by social services departments w/o the legal guardian present.  | Both signed on 02/27/20                                 | Yes. Effective on 07/01/2020. | This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Crime Commission. |
| HB 744             | Requires a court to consider a juvenile's adverse life experiences when sentencing as an adult. When a juvenile is tried as an adult, a court may depart from any mandatory minimum sentence. | Both signed on 03/05/2020                               | Yes. Effective on 07/01/2020. |   |
| HB 806             | Adds a medical perspective to responding to human trafficking and the treatment of its victims, and to the processing of claims for H.T. compensation   | 03/18 Signed by President.<br>03/19 Signed by Speaker.  | Yes. Effective on 07/01/2020. |   |

|         |   |                            |                               |   |
|---------|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| SB 991  | Establishes the Office of New Americans to implement a statewide strategy to promote immigrants' integration within the Commonwealth. | Both signed on 03/03/30.   | Yes. Effective on 07/01/2020. | Immigrants are vulnerable to human trafficking. Effective integration makes them less vulnerable. |
| HB 1336 | Provides for prevention of human trafficking to be integrated into the family life education offered in grades kindergarten thru 12.  | Both signed on 03/06/2020. | Yes. Effective on 07/01/2020. |   |

## **SPECIAL INITIATIVES**

### **Diversity Book Group Celebrates First Zoom Meeting in April**

By Bonnie Hershberg

Thanks to the prescience of one of our Diversity Book Group members, we discussed the option at our early March meeting of doing our next and “possibly” subsequent ones via Zoom. At that time, few knew how devastating Covid-19 was going to be or in what ways it was going to turn our lives inside out. With gratitude, we accepted her offer to use her account as our platform, which worked well for facilitating our 90-minute get-together.

Our book this month was *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernardine Evaristo, a black, English author who shared the Booker Prize in 2019 with Margaret Atwood. I identified this book as one I wanted to suggest to the Group by finding a reference to it on Noname’s Book Club website. This Club “is an online/irl (in real life) community dedicated to uplifting POC (people of color) voices.” Noname does this by highlighting two books each month written by authors of color.

This extraordinary book features the lives of 12 female protagonists, from octogenarian to late adolescent, and spans 100 years. Evaristo’s

idiosyncratic style, which she describes as “fusion fiction,” is more a reflection of what goes on inside the characters’ heads than a recitation of sequential events. That said, the author, in my view, elegantly weaves a tapestry of their lives and connections, that is decorated with multiple and complex themes. Set in the UK but drawing from a variety of black cultures from around the world, Evaristo looks at race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual expression, identity politics, relationships, inclusivity vs. exclusivity (“othering”), white privilege, intersectionality, violence against women, and ancestry to name some of the most obvious.

While not everyone in the Group enjoyed the book, everyone was enthusiastic about discussing it. The goals of our Group are multiple: to forge friendships among members, learn more about cultures and backgrounds different from our own, and ultimately help amplify the voices of all women in our city (derived from our initiative—“Strangers No More: Women Building Cross-Cultural Friendships”). For this reason, Group members took up questions not

just about the book and their reactions to it but also about their own feelings or experiences that surfaced as they read and discussed it. While we are hoping that the Group will eventually include women of many varying ages, races, and ethnicities, we also recognize that we each bring a different background, culture and experience to each book that we read. In that are jewels that stud each discussion.

Our book for May, selected at our January meeting by a consensus of our members, is *When I Was Puerto Rican* by Esmeralda Santiago. If you would

like to join us for what will most likely be a Zoom meeting, please email me at [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com) or call 703-282-5896. If you have ideas for bringing in additional women of different ages, races, or ethnicities, please also let me know.

Stay healthy and take good care of yourselves. We still have much work to do and fun to have as a community and in our community as we navigate our way through and beyond this health and financial crisis.

## **CHRIST HOUSE UPDATE**

Christ House has stopped serving meals inside the building to its clients and is now giving out carry out bagged suppers. Volunteers are no longer allowed to participate in the preparation or serving of the meals, which is why you haven't received any requests for volunteers or donations. We had considered getting a group together to put the bags together ourselves, but with the social distancing etc. we felt that would be too difficult. So this month we arranged with **The Italian Place** in Old Town to put together 60 bags that include subs of ham and cheese/ turkey and cheese/ veggies and cheese, a cookie, a piece of fruit and a bottle of water. They will deliver the bags to Christ House on that Wednesday and the staff will distribute them.

The cost has been much more than our usual pizza meal but the woman who owns the Italian Place has been very generous with her pricing so because of that we'd like to put in a little plug for her. The Italian Place is a small store/restaurant on 621 Wythe Street, near Trader Joe's on the north end of Old Town. Their web site is [The Italian Place.com](http://TheItalianPlace.com) and you can see what they offer. They have great frozen raviolis !

If you are considering ordering a dinner for delivery from a restaurant, please consider ordering from **The Italian Place** as a way to say thank you for the great service they provided our Branch. Be sure to say you are a member of AAUW.

Our next supper is July 29th and we'll have to see what the situation is by then- whether we have to order out again or go back to our usual pizza, but we'll be in touch before then.

## **MEMBER NEWS**

### **TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

It is time to renew your AAUW membership if you have not yet done so. Your current membership will expire on June 30th. So far, 3 members have renewed their memberships. You may have already received an email asking you to renew your membership on-line. These are trying times, but hopefully, your AAUW friends have been an anchor during this difficult period, and you want to continue your relationship with AAUW. So please,

when you receive your membership renewal email, go ahead and renew. It is surprisingly easy. However, if you do not want to renew on-line, please contact Susan Werner at -- susan.werner1@verizon.net and I will send you a renewal form. Or you can send a check for \$90.00 to Anne Simpson and tell her that you want to renew your membership.

### ***Kvell & Kudos to Our Members***



**Danielle Beach's** first grandson Lawson Barrett Rapp was born on April 24, in Dallas TX. He is a strong healthy baby and mom is doing fine. Grandma had to rush to be with the little one.

**Elizabeth Hendrix** has been promoted to a GS 13 in Debt Management Services in their Cross-Servicing Business Solutions Division. It is inside the United States Department of the Treasury in the Bureau of the Fiscal Service.

## HOW OUR MEMBERS ARE COPING

During this Covid-19 Crisis we will continue to publish items on how our members are coping. Here are some responses:

**Patty Steelman** and her husband, Richard, watch movies in French and Spanish with English subtitles to improve their language skills. This is a substitute for the French Language Group they belong to through Life Long Learning that has suspended meetings for the time being.

**Eugenia Burkes** is coping with a cancelled month-long trip to Great Britain and a case of condo cabin fever with her new virtual reality set. She's explored the Space Station, taken a hot air balloon ride, and hiked down into the Grand Canyon. Because the experience really is 360 degrees, she could hear the guy behind her on the hike. When she turned around she could see him. He was the cameraman.



**Margaret Batko** is taking an Art League on-line tapestry class with her teacher, Tea Okropiridze. She's making a red/blue/purple project. She has several skeins of weaving yarn to turn into usable balls. She recommended stealing a line from Pioneer Woman. "Behold my glimpses of imperfection":



**Jo-Anne LaFon** lives in a townhouse that has a rear deck which is now loaded with flowers. She also has a garden on the side and the front because she's in an end unit. She has been gardening like crazy during this pandemic. She also does crossword puzzles from the Washington Post. She is able to cook because her daughter brings her groceries. Her daughter wants to make sure she stays at home.



Lane Stone and her husband, Larry Korb, have been in Lewes since mid-March. At some point they fell into a routine. She works out and writes every day. At 7:00 p they go outside and clap for health care workers. (In some areas it's 8p.) At dinner they discuss such weighty issues as the cause/effect between how a tank of gas now lasts a month, but they are running the dishwasher every time they turn around.

If you are interested in reading about how societies responded to epidemics in earlier historical periods, you may want to read one or both of the following books, suggested by Diana Warmann.

#### Topical Reading for the Year 2020

I highly recommend *Year of Wonders*, by Geraldine Brooks. It is a novel based on an historical event in a town in Britain. The town quarantined itself to prevent the spread of the bubonic plague in the year 1666. The book is quite readable. It blends superstition, early science, herbal medicine, and religious beliefs of the time to show the conflicts within the town. It also features a woman protagonist/hero in a time of crisis. If you like Brooks' other books, you'll like this too. If you don't know her books, this is a good place to start. It was published in 2002 so you shouldn't have trouble purchasing it. Alexandria Library has one copy on Overdrive.

A more modern story is *The Plague*, by Albert Camus. It takes place in the city of Oran, Algeria. It is probably set in the 1940's and was written in 1947. It is a classic novel on the subject of epidemics. Camus is a Nobel Prize winner in literature. I think it is a little more complex to read. However, it offers a vivid picture of a population living with fear and anxiety and trying to comprehend the incomprehensible. Probably closer to our current environment than *Year of Wonders*. This book is not available from Alexandria Library via Overdrive, but maybe another library has it. It should be easily available for purchase.

## **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

Groups are open to all members.

### **Mystery Book Discussion Group**

Susan Werner



The following is the tentative schedule for the summer for the Mystery Book Discussion Group. Hopefully, we can again start meeting in person in June, but we must all stay safe and well, so the schedule may change. We do not have a meeting scheduled for May. We may have a Zoom get-together. We do not yet have hosts for all of the meetings. When hosts are identified, Mystery Group members will be informed. Here is the schedule for June - September -

June 23rd: *Bad Blood* by Dana Stabenow

July 28th: *The Second Death* by Peter Tremayne. Host - Danielle Beach

Aug 25th: *Dying to Live* by Michael Stanley

Sep 22: *Broken Places* by Tracy Clark

If you cannot find the scheduled title, try reading another book by the same author. If you are not a member of the Mystery Book Discussion Group and would like to receive meeting reminders and schedules, please contact Susan Werner - [susan.werner1@veizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@veizon.net)

## Francophile Group

Susan Cash

We are hoping to hold our annual Bastille Day dinner on or about July 14. If restaurants have not reopened by then, we will aim for August. Our first choice is L'Hermitage Bistro in Occoquan. In the months to come, we also hope to have programs on some other topics, including France and the American Revolution, the Riviera theme at the Philadelphia Flower Show, and art exhibits in DC and Boston. I will keep you posted by email.



## Gourmet Out

Susan Cash



Our primary event for the summer will be the Bastille Day dinner with the francophile group. I hope to be able to also plan some others as restaurants reopen.

## ***NEWS FROM NATIONAL AAUW***

### **STANDING STRONG THROUGH CRISIS**

During this challenging time, AAUW stands together as a caring and connected community. For nearly 140 years, we have been there for one another and fought for the economic security of American women and families. We invite you to access our COVID-19 [Connected Community Initiative](#) to:

- Read CEO Kim Churches' [full commentary](#) on the COVID-19 crisis.
- Watch a [video](#) from board chair Julia Brown and our [webinar](#) on how we're addressing the pandemic.
- Learn how your fellow branch and state leaders are staying connected.
- Take our [short survey](#) to share your own stories.

Our work together to achieve equity has never been more important. Women are particularly vulnerable to financial shocks, since they're paid less than men, shoulder a greater proportion of student debt, and have less saved for retirement. They also hold 54% of low-wage jobs, many of which have been eliminated or lack basic benefits. We'll soon roll out a special match from AAUW's board of directors, national leaders, CEO Kim Churches and several AAUW staff to raise funds that will drive much-needed change, including advancing policies to support paid sick leave and student-loan forgiveness.

## **MAY 18 Last Day to Vote in the AAUW National Election**



## **NEW AND IMPROVED AAUW NATIONAL WEBSITE**

The new website has the same address as the old. ( <https://www.aauw.org/>) Not all aspects of the new site have been completed, so some clicks will take you to the old website, for now.

The website has been streamlined from 15,000 pages to 250 pages, as a result of a year-long analysis of the old site.

It is ADA AA for members with visual disabilities. That means there is high contrast in color, which you will notice.

“Membership” is found on the menu bar at the far right top of the homepage. “Membership” is where you will find all information relevant to branches and members, such as resources and tools, the Five Star Program, benefits, etc.

The Member Services Database (MSD) link is located under “Membership.” Currently the MSD links back to the old website. Nothing about MSD has changed yet. We will be notified in the fall (2020) when MSD has been revamped.

There are 3 other main topics on a menu bar at the top of the homepage that provide information about AAUW: Explore the Issues (Strategies for Education, Workplace & Economic Equity, & Leadership) , Get Empowered (AAUW programs like NCCWSL and Work Smart) and Take Action (2-Minute Activist, Donate)

To “SEARCH,” click on the magnifying glass icon, which is left of the “DONATE” box on every page of the website. Because everything has been streamlined, searching for something on this new site should be much easier than on the old site.

ByPatsy Quick, VA AAUW VP for Communications

## ***NEWS FROM VA AAUW***

### **2020 Election Deadline is May 16, 11:45 pm**

You should have received an e-mail with voting instructions and your unique access code. If you did not receive this message, please contact Sandra Lawrence, [sandyaauw@juno.com](mailto:sandyaauw@juno.com).

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Often the only nutritious meal a child eats during the day is the one provided at school. With schools closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, children are at risk of experiencing hunger. The Alexandria City Public Schools are attempting to continue to meet children's need for free food during the pandemic by distributing "Grab 'n Go" meals.

Volunteers are needed every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to verify orders, count food bags, and bag prepackaged food at T.C. Williams High School. Also, volunteers are needed to distribute meals to families at the following locations: Ramsey Elementary Schools, Cora Kelly Elementary School, Francis Hammond Middle School, and T.C. Williams High School. Applications to assist with distributing "Grab 'n Go Meals" may be made through Volunteer Alexandria, telephone number 703-836-2176, <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/> (click on Care for Community). You may also donate to support Volunteer Alexandria's missions, including providing Grab 'n Go meals, on the same web site.

Submitted by Sylvia Linke, SFLaauw@gmail.com.

### **2019-2020 Officers**

| <b>ELECTED OFFICERS</b>             |                |              | <b>APPOINTED OFFICERS</b>   |                    |              |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| <b>Co-Presidents</b>                | Gail Kalin     | 202-365-5212 | <b>Bylaws/Policy</b>        | Open               |              |
|                                     | Lane Stone     | 703-307-2431 | <b>Christ House</b>         | Jan Jaynes         | 703-765-3203 |
| <b>Co-VP Programs</b>               | Virginia Kress | 703-683-6196 |                             | Margaret Zebrowski | 703-765-3076 |
|                                     | Lynn O'Connell | 703-867-4942 | <b>Directory</b>            | Susan Werner       | 703-764-1773 |
| <b>Co-VP Membership</b>             | Sylvia Linke   | 703-461-6822 | <b>Hospitality</b>          | Open               |              |
|                                     | Susan Werner   | 703-764-1773 | <b>AAUW Funds</b>           | Susan Cash         | 703-780-3902 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                    | Anne Simpson   | 909-921-7111 | <b>Ed. Opportunity Fund</b> | Arlene Shapiro     | 703-719-5467 |
| <b>Corresponding-Recording Sec.</b> | Margaret Batko | 703-941-2217 | <b>Historian</b>            | Arlene Shapiro     | 703-719-5467 |

|                                      |              |              |                        |                                    |  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
|                                      |              |              | <b>Editor</b>          | Eugenia Burkes                     | <a href="mailto:aaunewsltr.ed@gmail.com">aaunewsltr.ed@gmail.com</a> |
| <b>SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS</b>       |              |              | <b>Campus Outreach</b> | Lane Stone<br>Danielle Beach       | 703-307-2431<br>703-751-1691   |
| <b>AAUW On The Go</b>                | Ruth Bennett | 703-765-4536 | <b>Public Policy</b>   | Elizabeth Hendrix<br>Diane Schrier | 816-248-0793<br>352-209-3094   |
| <b>Cultural</b>                      | Open         |              |                        |                                    |  |
| <b>Francophile &amp; Gourmet Out</b> | Susan Cash   | 703-780-3902 |                        |                                    |  |
| <b>Mystery Book</b>                  | Susan Werner | 703-764-1773 |                        |                                    |  |

Send your suggestions/comments about the newsletter to [aaunewsltr.ed@gmail.com](mailto:aaunewsltr.ed@gmail.com).

## AAUW CONTACTS

### **AAUW National Office:**

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[connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org)

800/326-AAUW (2289) 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

202/785-7700 - 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fax: 202/872-1425

TDD: 202/785-7777

### **AAUW of Virginia:**

[aauw-va.aauw.net](http://aauw-va.aauw.net)

### **Virginia General Assembly:**

[viriniageneralassembly.gov](http://viriniageneralassembly.gov)