

EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881

THE ALEXANDRIA SCHOONER

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Save these dates:

10/4, 2p, Program: Alexandria City Council Women Members: Bennett-Parker and Jackson (Zoom) 10/5,7p, Diversity Book Group, (Zoom) 10/8, 7p, Great Decisions, (Zoom) 10/17, 2p, Northern District meeting (Zoom) **10/27,** 7p, Mystery book group (Zoom)

October 2020

Dear Friends,

Thanks to all of you who attended our first virtual Meet and Greet. For several years this yearly kick-off meeting (and outrageous potluck feast) has been hosted by Danielle and Scott. Next year!

We passed our 2020-2021 budget. (See page 2.) We also voted on our branch's response to the upcoming National dues increase. Our concerns include increasing dues during a pandemic, the unknown amount of the proposed increase - somewhere between \$3 and \$30 over the next three years, and the amount of our dues when National, State and branch dues are added together. That email has been sent and we'll let you know when we have a response.

Our branch has a blog and we need content for it! We have members doing so many interesting things. Let Eugenia Burkes hear from you at eugeniaburkes@mac.com.

We hope you are all well and look forward to seeing you at the October program – see page 4 - and at the Northern District meeting on October 17.

Sincerely. Lane Stone and Gail Kalin

AAUW Alexandria Branch Budget 2021

Balance on 7/1/2020	\$21,906.94	Beg balance as of 7/1/20	\$21,906.94
		Beginning available	

OPERATING BUDGET Actual 2019-2020 Budget for 2020/2021

\$17,995.06 bal.

\$15,995.06

65 Members	65 Members	
\$1,040.00	\$1,040.00	
-\$7.07		
00 \$1,022,02	\$1,040,00	
.00 \$1,052.95	\$1,040.00	
		directory now
\$75.32	\$100.00	online
\$55.82	\$300.00	
	\$10.00	
\$10.00	\$10.00	
		no national
\$123.00	\$75.00	convention
	\$120.00	
\$34.00	\$100.00	
\$118.71	\$100.00	
	\$200.00	
.00 \$416.85	\$1,015.00	
.00 \$616.08	\$25.00	
	\$1,040.00 -\$7.07 .00 \$1,032.93 \$75.32 \$555.82 \$10.00 \$123.00 \$34.00 \$118.71 .00 \$416.85	\$1,040.00 \$1,040.00 -\$7.07 .00 \$1,032.93 \$1,040.00 \$75.32 \$100.00 \$55.82 \$300.00 \$10.00 \$10.00 \$123.00 \$75.00 \$120.00 \$34.00 \$100.00 \$118.71 \$100.00 \$200.00 .00 \$416.85 \$1,015.00

MONTHLY

REPORT ON SPECIAL PROJECTS AND FUNDS

Available bank balance as of 7/1/20

Educational Foundation ("EF"). Beginning balance \$997.50 Little theater of Alexandria income \$0.00 Little theatre of Alexandria raffle Little Theatre of Alexandria expenses \$0.00 Net LTA 2019-2020 proceeds plus balance \$997.50 EOF contribution made Net \$997.50

Autumn leaves program	
Balance as of 7/1/2020	\$0.00
Receipts 2020-2021	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00
Branch grant expense made	\$0.00
National contribution made	\$0.00

2

Current Balance	\$0.00
Christ House Balance from 07/01/2020	\$2,312.43
Donations Proceeds of Spa Card Sales - 2019-2020	\$0.00 \$0.00
Total Disbursements 2019-2020	\$2,312.43
Current Balance Alexandria Scholarship Fund	\$2,312.43
Christmas Luncheon donations Donation	\$0.00
Donated to scholarship fund Total	\$0.00 \$0.00
Holiday lunch	
Christmas Luncheon charge	\$0.00
Drinks Christmas Luncheon bill	\$0.00 \$0.00
Christmas Luncheon net	\$0.00
Transfer from/to general fund Net	\$0.00 \$0.00
Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative	
Grant income	\$601.95
Expenses Net	\$0.00 \$601.95
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE OBLIGATED FUNDS IN CHECKING ACCOUNT OPERATIONAL BALANCE	\$21,906.94 \$3,911.88 \$17,995.06

OCTOBER PROGRAM





Join us on **Sunday, October 4th, 2p,** for a Zoom panel discussion with Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker and Councilwoman Amy Jackson from the City of Alexandria. We'll be discussing Alexandria's current situation and future concerns.

Here's the Zoom link: (Remember, you can phone in if you prefer.)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81068466530?pwd=ODJRY2JpRDR3aGV0K0ZoaDN5UTBWZz09

Meeting ID: 810 6846 6530

Passcode: 567413 One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81068466530#,,,,,0#,,567413# US (Chicago) +16468769923,,81068466530#,,,,,0#,,567413# US (New York)

BRANCH BUSINESS:

Branch Response to Possible National Dues Increase

13 September 2020

Dear Chairwoman Brown, Board members and AAUW Staff,

The Alexandria, Virginia Branch finds the timing of this announcement puzzling. A dues increase while so many people face eviction, food insecurity, and disappearing jobs seems insensitive. It would foster good will if you issued a statement that dues would not be increased during the pandemic. This would also show that you are aware of the problems women across the nation face.

In the interest of clarity and transparency, we request a new email with more exact language on the proposed amount of the increase, rather than a range of between \$3 and \$30. In this new email, we request that you inform members of the exact reasons for the increase and how the additional dues money will be used.

Currently, our Branch dues is \$16, Virginia state dues is \$15, while National dues is \$59, totaling \$90. We're extremely close to what seems to be the cutoff of \$100. That is the level that makes members think twice about renewing and prospects wonder whether the organization is worth that amount of money.

Finally, National has repeatedly stated that members' dues only cover 15 - 20% of the budget, but the *contributions* members make should also be taken into account. There are so many members working hard on theater nights, book sales, plant sales, and other fundraisers, and tendering those proceeds to National, as well as donating money. This should be disclosed and recognized.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Members and Board of AAUW-Alexandria, Virginia



AAUW WORK SMART ONLINE IS HERE!

Learn to negotiate your salary NOW! LEARN MORE HERE!

Why does it matter?

The pay gap has lifelong financial effects that grow over time, from the ability to pay for education and childcare to saving for retirement, impacting women in nearly every profession. The Work Smart program teaches women at all stages of their career how to negotiate their pay, resulting in improved financial futures for themselves and their families.

CHRIST HOUSE

The spa cards for Christ House are again available for purchase for \$45.00 and the proceeds all go to the Christ House fund. The Glam Day Spa web site will give you all the information about the services they offer for your enjoyment. I went down to check out the protocol they use for their clients during this pandemic and they provide masks, temperature checks and careful sanitizing. The spa still provides a quiet and peaceful atmosphere in which to enjoy a little pampering during this stressful time. If you would like to purchase one, contact **Rita Rutsohn** at rita.rutsohn@verizon.net and send a check made out to AAUW Alexandria for \$45, with Christ House on the memo line to **Anne Simpson at 1604 Old Drummer Boy Lane**, **Ft Washington**, **MD 20744**.



AUTUMN LEAVES 2020

Thank you to all who have already made a contribution to our Autumn Leaves fundraising drive. The Alexandria Branch of AAUW was founded May 12, 1945, making 2020 our 75th anniversary year. The Branch board has decided that the 75th Anniversary will be the theme for this year's Autumn Leaves fundraising drive. We would like to suggest making donations in that spirit: \$7.50, \$15 (\$7.50 for the first 75 years/\$7.50 for the next 75 years), \$75 and so on. Of course, feel free to contribute any amount of your liking. In May, the Branch board voted that 100% of 2020 Autumn Leaves receipts will be reserved for the Alexandria Branch for the 2020-2021 year. (Therefore, these contributions will not be tax deductible.) Please send your checks, made payable to Alexandria Branch AAUW (with Autumn Leaves on the memo line) to Susan Cash, 8402 West Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308. Everyone who makes a donation received by December 4, 2020 will be eligible for entry into a drawing.

Membership Reminder

Friendly Reminder: Thank you for everyone who has renewed their membership for July 2020 - June 2021. If you haven't yet renewed, we hope that you will renew. Each and every one of you is a valuable member of the Branch. Please contact Margaret Werts Batko for information on renewal.



SPITFIRE CLUB SEEKS "CREATIVITY" DONATIONS by Sylvia Linke

AAUW Alexandria has is partnering with Spitfire Club to expand girl's interest in reading and build a strong self-image in these girls through learning about women who have accomplished noteworthy things in their lives. The Spitfire Club seeks to create a world in which every girl feels empowered to be the strong and capable protagonist of her own story. We're an extracurricular book club for girls, structured around curriculum based on a carefully selected collection of children's books featuring strong, diverse, female protagonists. We believe that, by creating demand for and building community around diverse, girl-positive books, we can help girls nurture their love of reading and their love of self.

Would you like to do something to help Spitfire Club prepare for its fall session, but you do not have time lead a class? Here is something quick and easy that you can do - donate supplies for its upcoming "creativity unit" which is scheduled for this fall. The Spitfire Club is seeking an odd assortment of:

- rubber bands
- paper clips
- toilet paper rolls and paper towel rolls
- broken toys especially wheel-like things
- school glue no glue sticks
- rulers
- coffee cans and similarly shaped cans
- ribbon

- tempera paint and/or watercolor paint
- paint brushes
- paper plates
- scrap fabric
- string, yarn, and wire
- duct tape and painter's tape
- sidewalk or school chalk
- sequins, glitter, and other shiny things

You can minimize effort by donating things that are laying around the house.

Spitfire Club is going to equip its girls with a creator's box. No two boxes will be the same, so an odd assortment of "found" things is ideal.

Spitfire Club is also seeking artist or creatives who might want to advise on projects and instruction.

If you would like to donate something or advise on projects you may contact Sylvia Linke at SFLaauw@gmail.com or by phone at 571.329.5953 to make arrangements for delivering your donation or advising on a project.

TUTORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS FALL WITH THE ALEXANDRIA TUTORING CONSORTIUM by Sylvia Linke

Alexandria Tutoring Consortium Seeks Tutors

Do you have an hour a week to help a child learn to read? The Alexandria Tutoring Consortium (ATC) is tutoring Alexandria City Public Schools children virtually, October through May. ATC will provide training and support and match you with a student. Tutors work with a child in first grade or kindergarten who needs special assistance to learn to read. The objective is to have the child reading at grade level or above by the end of first grade.

Volunteers teach children to read by using a special curriculum developed by the University of Virginia. Sessions are held on Zoom or a videoconference platform mutually agreeable to the student and the volunteer. Training is conducted during the month of October.

For more information, write to <u>ljacobs@opmh.org</u> or sign up here:

https://alexandriatutors.org/tutors/sign-up-to-become-a-tutor/

BRANCH ACTIVITIES



MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Mystery Book Discussion Group will again be meeting via Zoom. We will meet on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 7 PM. Our mystery will be <u>Flower Net</u> by Lisa See. If you are new to the group, please let Susan Werner (<u>susan.wernerl@verizon.net</u>) and Lane Stone (info@lanestonebooks.com) know that you plan to attend to make sure that you receive the Zoom link. Mystery book recommendations are always welcome as are new members. If you have questions about the Mystery Group, please contact Susan Werner. Stay safe and keep on reading.



FRANCOPHILE GROUP DISCUSSION

Tentative Date: Wednesday, November 11, 3 p.m.

Discussion on French-themed book, along with a salute to veterans. The discussion will probably take place on the Alexandria Branch's Zoom account. Please contact Susan Cash for additional information about the book. POC: Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com



GREAT DECISIONS FALL 2020

You are invited: Climate Change and the Global Order (Open to AAUW members and other interested community members)

AAUW-Foreign Policy Association Great Decisions Thursday, October 8, 2020 7 – 8:30 pm, via Zoom (from the comfort of your home)

This month's topic is "Climate Change and the Global Order." We have short presentations by two guest speakers and then plenty of time for group discussion.

Scott Neese, Ph.D., Senior Scientific Advisor

Scott founded 3D EnviroLogics in 2002. His professional expertise includes sustainable development employing pollution prevention and environmental management systems; product and process research and development (R&D); and the design and implementation of environmentally sound technologies. He has led projects in greening healthcare facilities and decontaminating old research laboratories and industrial sites for future renovations or demolition thereby averting environmental releases and exposure concerns.

Betsy Teutsch, Author & Activist

Betsy is an author, a community activist, and an environmentalist. As Communications Director of Green Microfinance, she promoted affordable, sustainable paths out of rural poverty. She serves on the board of directors of Dining for Women, a philanthropic network focused on global gender equality. She is also a founding board member of Shining Hope for Communities and the

Kibera School for Girls. One of her several books is "100 Under \$100: One Hundred Tools for Empowering Global Women."

Our Great Decisions group will continue meeting on the second Thursday of each month through December to discuss the monthly topic. Below is the schedule:

November 12: The Philippines and the U.S. – Lynn O'Connell December 10: Artificial Intelligence and Data – Sylvia Linke

We welcome newcomers - AAUW or not, men also welcome. Please let Lynn O'Connell know if you would like to be added to the distribution list - lynnoconnellva@gmail.com.

For the 2021 year, we will soon know the nine topics, and Lynn will begin taking 2021 book orders then



DIVERSITY BOOK CLUB

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) Efforts Here and Around the State by Bonnie Hershberg

The Diversity Book Group discussed Lisa See's, *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*, at our September meeting. Eighteen women joined an increasingly diverse group to explore several of this rich novel's themes: race and ethnic identity, cross-cultural adoption, motherhood, and the clash between tradition and modernity. We started our meeting by asking each participant to identify an amazing book she had read any time in the recent or distant past and share what made it amazing for her. The responses included non-fiction such as *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racism in America* and fiction, such as *The Great Gadsby*, which was mentioned several times. One member noted a poem by T.S. Elliott that she had experienced as amazing. Some of the selections were very recent reads and some were read at middle school age; some lead to a life-long interest in a topic or life philosophy. So many great books out there and so little time!

Earlier this month, I participated in a state-wide call with many of the DE&I points of contact and some of the co-presidents of various branches. Thanks primarily to Lane, the Board, other members, and most recently and particularly, Sylvia Linke for her work partnering with two Alexandria groups to promote learning and reading among students of all ages, our report was commended repeatedly by many on the call for our success in making our efforts—many and varied—an integral part of the Branch's focus.

Other initiatives of note include a planned program by the Arlington Branch in October in conjunction with the Northern District meeting on October 17, called *Challenging Racism*, about which you will be hearing more. Several branches noted that they continue to partner with the public libraries to leverage the libraries 'resources, particularly in attracting speakers. Other branches have also used their book clubs or are creating new ones to explore issues related to

racism and social justice. With the new availability of relevant movies, a number of branches held movie "watch parties" and discussions. In Harrisonburg, the Branch has had an effort to make hand sanitizers and masks available in their immigrant communities. Partnering with other local groups, such as Black sororities and women in the Muslim community, has also been a way for some branches to extend their outreach and explore topics of race and ethnicity.

The Roanoke Valley Branch has partnered with a local group, "Points of Diversity," which provides several community programs in the area, including one that is focused on interracial communication and understanding. Several Branch members have completed the facilitator training that the organization hosts with the goal of building an internal capacity to elevate the public conversation on race and to develop interracial friendships in their local community.

Several participants noted that their local communities—from which they draw their membership—are not racially diverse and are trying to meet their members where they are in terms of their understanding of this complex topic and its implications. Several are reading books on their own and using their Branch newsletters to provide information about what they are learning from their own study. Others have been trying to draw speakers from a larger, more diverse population to address their members. One participant suggested that rather than forwarding emails to members from the multiplicity of good sources—the Smithsonian, Kennedy Center, New York Times, etc—on DE&I topics include them in the Branch monthly newsletter so that members can access what is of interest to them in particular.

All were reminded of the many resources also available on the AAUW-VA website and on the national AAUW website. Moreover, different branch websites regularly advertise their activities (as do we) and the public libraries in each jurisdiction are an excellent source of information. For many of us, it is more a question of making a commitment to educate ourselves because clearly there is a plethora of informative, interesting, and accessible material to help us get smarter and create the kind of diverse, inclusive, and equitable communities we all want to live in.

The next meeting of the Diversity Book Club will Monday, October 5th, and the book is Sabrina and Covina by Kali Fajardo-Anstine.



KVELL & KUDOS

Book Published:

An author to be proud of — Catherine Hughes. Catherine has a new book out this September: <u>Little Kids First Big Book of Reptiles and Amphibians</u>, published through National Geographic. It is a children's book. And now Catherine is starting work on a new book.

Kudos to Bonnie Hershberg for her letter to the editor on fair and sensible redistricting reform. It was published in both the Alexandria Gazette and the Arlington Connection.

As a volunteer over the last four years advocating to end gerrymandering and reform the way our legislative districts are drawn, I wanted to let you know that we have a chance to approve a state constitutional amendment to create the Commonwealth's first ever redistricting commission. By joining me in voting yes on Amendment 1, you can help end the long-time practice of allowing politicians to pick their voters instead of the voters electing the politicians.

We redraw electoral districts every ten years, and in Virginia, we've left this critical responsibility up to members of our state General Assembly. As a result, our "elected" officials have drawn maps to protect their own interests and keep themselves in power.

If we pass Amendment 1, we can create a transparent, bipartisan, citizen-led commission to draw legislative districts. This means that instead of shady backroom deals, the new system will be completely open to the watchful eyes of all citizens. Public meetings will be held across Virginia, with all the proceedings available for public scrutiny for the first time.

The amendment also adds the minority protections of the federal Voting Rights Act into the Virginia Constitution to protect against lapses in federal-level safeguards. For decades, Virginia has depended on federal protections for minority voting rights, but those have been steadily eroded. Amendment 1 ensures that "districts shall provide, where practicable, opportunities for racial and ethnic communities to elect candidates of their choice" no matter what.

Amendment 1 has support from a bipartisan list of Virginia-based advocacy groups, nationally recognized anti-gerrymandering organizations, major Virginia newspapers, and over 70% of

registered voters in the Commonwealth. Join me and so many other Virginians in taking the pledge to VOTE YES ON AMENDMENT 1 and transform Virginia into a state whose redistricting process is finally fair.

Bonnie Hershberg Alexandria

Eugenia Burkes Quoted in Washington Post article That's A Wrap about movies shot in Washington DC:

Eugenia Burkes wants us to remember the positive financial impact moviemaking can have on Washington. She should know. In 1996 she was the business manager of an organization near Lafayette Square.

"Somehow, the advance team for **Sinbad's** movie 'First Kid' knew we had a full commercial kitchen and large dining hall in our basement," wrote Eugenia, of Alexandria, Va. "They showed up in my office wanting to rent the space for a week or more to use as catering support for the film crew. I said I'd check with my boss."

Eugenia went over the rate sheet with her supervisor and suggested a four-figure number that she considered already rather high.

"He took one look and said it was an okay number but it needed another zero," Eugenia wrote. "Fearing being laughed at, I showed the [studio] representative the much larger number and, without even blinking an eye, he said 'Sure' and signed the contract. Windfall for us and they were terrific tenants."

And to further quote Eugenia, The cost went from \$8,200 to \$82,000. Just added that zero!

Athletic Endeavors

Margaret Werts Batko participated in the Virginia Virtual Road Trip, cycling 338.9 from June 15 through September 7. She was second of 7 finishers.



Sister Branch Fundraising

Springfield/Annandale Branch usually offers White House ornaments for sale at the Fall Northern District meeting. That isn't possible this year but you still can order your 2020 ornament, which is a tribute to President John F. Kennedy and features a memorable photo of the 35th President.

The price for each ornament is \$22. All you have to do is use the attached order form. Send your check to Sharon Draper. You can pick up your order at the home of Marguerite Mars, Sharon Draper or Ann Sauberman. Addresses, phone numbers and email addresses are included on the order form. You can also request delivery to your home.

These unique ornaments make wonderful gifts for friends and family. This is our fall fundraiser and will help us contribute to the National AAUW Find. These funds provide scholarships and money for legal advocacy.

In order to accommodate an interest in contact free transactions, this year we are offering two options: 1) pick up at either an Annandale/Fairfax or Springfield location or 2) delivery to your home.

Please complete the following form:	
Name	
Email address	phone
Number of ornaments x \$22 Total:	<u> </u>
Make check payable to: Springfield-Annandale A	AUW
Send payment to:	
Sharon Draper, Treasurer	
6913 Pacific Lane, Annandale VA 22003	
Indicate one of the following options:	
Pick up ornaments in <u>Annandale/Fairfax</u> :	
a) Sharon D.: 6913 Pacific Lane, Annandale	
b) Ann S.: 8810 Sandy Ridge Ct., Fairfax	
Pick up ornaments in Springfield	
Marguerite: 8227 Crestmont Circle, Springfield	
(off Southrun Rd. between Pohick and Silverbrook)	
OR	
Deliver to my home at the following address:	
Deriver to my nome at the following address.	
After a payment has been received by Sharon, you wi	11 he contacted to confirm nick un/delivery
	if be contacted to commit pick up/defivery
arrangements.	7702 625 6192
Marguerite <u>marguerite.ellen402@gmail.com</u> (c)	
Ann <u>Absauberman@aol.comcom</u> (c) 703 599-7	1070
Sharon emeldamom@gmail. (c) 703 336-7855	

We were saddened by the death of a remarkable woman, **Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.** Sylvia Linke wrote <u>a tribute</u> for the branch. It, along with a bouquet of flowers, was left at the Supreme Court.

"If all you are going to do with your law degree is turn over a buck for a paying client, then you will be very much like a plumber. You have a skill that you can do. But if you are a true professional, you will use your degree to make things a little better for other people." ---RBG





Figure 1 Flowers and letter from our branch



Figure 2 Outpouring at the Supreme Court



Figure 3 Margaret Zebrowski's granddaughter makes a private memorial.

2020-2021 Branch Officers:

Co-presidents: Lane Stone (<u>info@LaneStoneBooks.com</u>) & Dr. Gail Kalin

(gailkalin@yahoo.com)

Co-VP's Membership: Margaret Batko (<u>margaretwb@verizon.net</u>)

Co-VP's Program: Virginia Kress (vmvkress@gmail.com)

Co-Chairs, Public Policy: Sylvia Linke (<u>SFLaauw@gmail.com</u>) & Diane Schrier

(diane.schrier@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Anne Simpson (<u>aseyedoc@gmail.com</u>)
Secretary: Susan Werner (<u>susan.werner1@verizon.net</u>)
AAUW Funds: Susan Cash (<u>scash5002@email.vccs.edu</u>)

Special Interest Group Leaders:

Campus Outreach: Lane Stone (info@LaneStoneBooks.com) & Danielle Beach

(danielleaauw@gmail.com)

Christ House Dinners: Margaret Zebrowski (Mmzebrow@aol.com) & Jan Jaynes

(janjjoek@verizon.net)

Diversity Book Group: Bonnie Hershberg (hershb@gmail.com) Great Decisions: Lynn O'Connell (lynnoconnellva@gmail.com) Mystery Book Group: Susan Werner (susan.wernerl@verizon.net)