



EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881

THE ALEXANDRIA SCHOONER

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November 2020

Dear Friends,

AAUW-Alexandria members are stars – rock stars, that is! We are one of the seven Virginia branches that participated in AAUW National’s Five-Star Program. Our branch and Vienna earned four stars. Reston/Herndon and Woodbridge had five. Examples of what we did to qualify for those stars included having issue-based programming (Thank you, Virginia Kress), communicating with a website and social media (Thank you, Eugenia Burkes), advocating (Thank you, Diane Schrier) and fundraising (Thank you, Susan Cash and Arlene Shapiro). In October, I was a speaker at a special virtual meeting for branches around the country that had been active in the program. It was a great chance to brag on you! My co-presenters were from: Schaumburg (IL), Capital (NV), Northeast Tarrant County (TX), Woodbridge (VA), North Hills Pittsburgh (PA), Seattle (WA) and West Suburban Milwaukee (WI).

Want to know why we didn’t earn that fifth star? We don’t have a succession plan – a bench. When a nominating committee member calls on you to join the board, please consider it. Your skills and time are needed.

We’re thankful for you!
Lane and Gail

Save these dates:
11/9, 7p, WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, (Zoom) Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com
11/12, 7p, Great Decisions, (Zoom) Lynn O’Connell, lynnocConnellva@gmail.com
11/24, 7p: Mystery book group, Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net
12/5/20, Virtual Holiday party.



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

Diane Schrier and Sylvia Linke

Vote. Vote. Vote. Voting in Virginia is now among the easiest in the country. The ID laws will allow someone who forgets their idea to vote a provisional ballot, but they must then quickly produce. Early voting began 45 days ahead, which should prevent long lines on Election Day and hopefully minimize any overbearing behaviors.

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STATE BUDGET: The Special Session of the Virginia Legislature just closed. They met to fix the budget, which started, pre-Covid, with the largest surplus in history and now has the largest deficit in history. Attempts were made to cut with a scalpel, not a saw. Teachers and other government workers will not receive their increases this year.

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EQUAL JUSTICE: No-knock warrants were banned. Work on jury sentencing was discussed. The Good Apples Bill didn't pass, but got a favorable hearing. It requires police to report on misconduct of other officers. Doctors and Lawyers are already required to do this and it is being done in Alexandria. Racial profiling was also added.

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NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE: There is a movement to switch to the National Popular Vote, that 16 states have already signed on to. This requires states to give their electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote. It passed the [VA House](#), but the [Senate](#) said they would take it up right after the election. Please call Senators on the Privileges and Election Commission to urge your support or disagreement of The Senators on the committee are: Janet Howell • Jill Vogel, Chair • Creigh Deeds • Bryce Reeves • John Edwards • Thomas Garrett • Donald McEachin • A. Benton Chafin • John Miller • Bill R. DeSteph, Jr • Adam Ebbin • Amanda Chase • Glen Sturtevant.

Watch this space for more information as it becomes available.

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Paid sick leave passed the VA House, but not the Senate.

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING INITIATIVE: Work on our Human Trafficking initiative is going well. Legally, there is a problem with getting victims to either not be arrested or having their arrests expunged, so they can start new lives. It seems that in the early 1900's the Statute

18.2.347 was passed banning bawdy places as places that endorsed prostitution. (Alexandria was well known for this.) Many members of the VA state legislature don't want to tackle this because they don't want to be called soft on prostitution and lose elections. Charniele Herring, the West Alexandria Delegate, is chair of the Courts of Justice and the Crime Commission. Public Policy Co-chair Diane Schrier wants to meet with her and ask the commission to do a study, as a way of resolving this issue. Is anyone acquainted with her? If so, please contact Diane Schrier (diane.schrier@gmail.com)

IMPORTANT BRANCH NOTES



AUTUMN LEAVES 2020 Susan Cash

Thank you to all who have made contributions 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 of 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

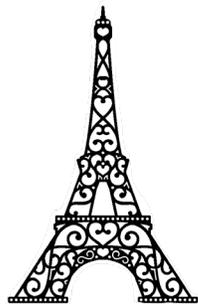
Friendly Reminder: Membership runs from July through June. We know that everyone is under a lot of stress this year and renewing your membership for July 2020 -June 2021 may not be a high priority. We thank for everyone who has renewed their membership. If you haven't yet renewed, we hope that you will renew. Each and every one of you is a valuable member of the Branch. Please contact Margaret Werts Batko for information on renewal.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES



Mystery Book Discussion Group Susan Werner

The November 24th meeting of the Mystery Book Discussion Group will again meet via Zoom – we want to keep all members as safe and well as possible. Our mystery will be Trouble is What I Do by acclaimed writer Walter Mosley. As usual, the meeting will begin at 7 PM. Thank you to Lane Stone for scheduling our Zoom meetings. If you have questions about the Mystery Book Discussion Group or mystery book recommendations, please contact Susan Werner (susan.werner1@verizon.net). All are welcome.



Francophile Group Discussion Susan Cash

Please join us via the Alexandria Branch's Zoom account on Wednesday, November 11, at 3 p.m., as we discuss The Body in the Vestibule by Katherine Hall Page. After discussing this tale set in Lyon, we will have a salute to veterans. Unless otherwise noted, all of our meetings are in English. POC: Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com. Please RSVP to Susan to receive the Zoom link.



Great Decisions Fall 2020 Lynn O'Connell

Please join us on Thursday, November 12, at 7 pm via Zoom for our Great Decisions discussion. Below is information on this month's topic:

The Philippines and the U.S.

The Philippines has had a special relationship with the United States since the islands were ceded by Spain to the United States after the Spanish-American War at the end of the 19th century. However, since the election of Rodrigo Duterte, the country has pivoted more toward China, and away from the U.S. Duterte has also launched a large scale war on drugs that many criticize for its brutality. What does the future hold for the U.S. relations with the Philippines?

Our special guest will be Sonny Busa, a career U.S. diplomat from 1987-2010 (serving in Honduras, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Kuwait and Ethiopia). He attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point where he graduated in 1977 and spent a decade in the military before joining the Foreign Service. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Philippine American Foundation for Charities. He also served on the executive board of the Filipino Veteran Education and Recognition Project (FilVetREP) which gained the Congressional Gold Medal for Filipino veterans of World War II when President Obama signed into legislation the bill authorizing the medal in December 2016.

Our **December** gathering will be on Thursday, December 10, at 7 pm, via Zoom and **Sylvia Linke** will lead the meeting on the topic of "**Artificial Intelligence and Data.**"

If you'd like to be added to the Great Decisions email list for information on topics and the Zoom link, please contact Lynn O'Connell, lynnococonnellva@gmail.com or 703/867-4942.



Diversity Book Club Bonnie Hershberg

The next meeting of the Diversity Book Club will be a virtual meeting on Monday, November 9th, and the book is LOST IN AMERICA by Sherwin Nuland.

Sound Off!
Eugenia Burkes

Our branch is the only one to have a blog and we are lucky to have a membership full of interesting and committed people suited to filling the blog with personal statements. It's also a great way to learn more about individuals in our branch.

This blog is everyone's opportunity to express themselves about any topic that inspires them. These topics could include lessons learned during quarantine, other volunteer endeavors you are passionate about, events in your life that had a life-changing impact, etc. The list could be very long. There are two restrictions: must be non-partisan and no attacks on any individual. There is no length requirement but one to two pages with PHOTOS! is recommended.

Currently these are the topics in our blog and they can be found on the right-hand side of our web site's home page under the links to our newsletters:

BLOG: SOUND OFF

How Popular Culture Reinforces or Neutralizes "Othering"

Be a Hero for Equity: Protect Title IX

A Prayer for Contentious Times

RAM and Me

Fiber Arts

Why I Fight Human Trafficking

Please use this opportunity to "Sound Off" about something you are passionate about and please let those who have submitted posts know your thoughts/reactions to their writings.

KUDOS AND KVELLS

Several members of the Branch participate in book clubs run by the Burke Branch of the Alexandria Library. The leader, Caroline Pak, produces a blog for the library. Her recent post was "Staying Mentally Healthy and Socially Connected Through Your Library." Lane Stone provided comments on how she has been coping during this time. Lane's comments follow. If you would like more information on the topic or want to see what others are doing, the blog can be found at <https://alexandrialibraryva.wordpress.com/2020/10/28/staying-mentally-healthy-and-socially-connected-through-your-library/>.

I also checked in with Lane Stone, author of the Pet Palace Mysteries and the Tiara Investigation Mystery series. She praised the library for continuing to "meet the COVID challenge" by making digital resources and programs available online, especially book groups. She said, "I loved our library before, but it's really come through for us when we needed it most. Thank you, thank you, thank you." I also asked her what she has been reading during the pandemic:

“I’ve mostly limited my fiction reading to books that are soothing or clever or necessary for research. No noir for me right now. I just re-read Death on the Nile by Agatha Christie, because a new movie adaptation comes out in 2020. I also like to read books that are getting a lot of buzz for whatever reason. One source I use is Partners in Crime podcast. Currently I’m reading Eight Perfect Murders by Peter Swanson, which is definitely a buzzy book. A non-crime fiction book I’m reading is Mona Lisa in Camelot: How Jacqueline Kennedy and Da Vinci’s Masterpiece charmed and captivated a nation by Margaret Leslie Davis. For research, I’m reading Stealing the Show by John Barelli, former Chief Security Officer at the Metropolitan Museum. And I’m listening to Fareed Zakaria’s Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World.”

Sister Branch Activities During the Pandemic And Other Events of Interest

Mount Vernon Branch:

The Mt. Vernon Branch (and Sherwood Regional Library) invites you to a Zoom program Thursday, November 19, 4:00 p.m.

The speaker will be Karen Corbett Sanders, Chair of the Fairfax County School Board. She will address the various school issues that resulted as the pandemic took over.

It is important for us to learn what is happening now in our public school system.

Registration Required: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/7024999> **Registration closes November 18.**

***As requested, the link for the YouTube recording for our program on October 15, with Jessica Buchanan, is here: <https://youtu.be/cKo6zOGM>

Fairfax City Branch

[Fairfax City Branch's virtual Book & Author](#) event is on November 14, Zoom, at 11 a.m. - 12:30p.m.

The Fairfax City Branch of AAUW

presents

A Virtual Book & Author Event

Saturday, November 14, 2020 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Registration must be made by November 7!

This year, the Fairfax City Branch of AAUW is excited to announce that the Book and Author Event will be presented in a virtual platform. It is more than just an opportunity to learn about authors and their works. It is, and has been for 27 years, the primary fundraiser for the Fairfax City AAUW Branch by which we create

undergraduate scholarships for deserving women who are returning to George Mason University after a break in their education.

We are also excited to announce that this year, the event is FREE.

While we are not charging for the Book and Author Zoom event, we hope you will join us in making a contribution to the Scholarship Fund by going to our website at <https://fairfaxcity-va.aauw.net/> and then click on the Go Fund Me link: <https://gf.me/u/y2yjz2>. Any amount will be appreciated, and all donations will go to our scholarship winner at George Mason University.

Now for the details of the Virtual Book and Author Event. Women in varying roles are in the spotlight for our program. The following authors will provide an overview of their books and background on what brought their ideas to fruition.

Mary Jo Binker, Editor, *If You Ask Me: Essential Advice from Eleanor Roosevelt*. Experience the timeless wit, warmth, and wisdom of Eleanor Roosevelt in this annotated collection of candid advice columns that she wrote more than twenty years.

Angie Kim, *Miracle Creek: A Novel*. In a Virginia small town, a group of people are part of a special treatment center with a hyperbaric chamber that may cure a range of conditions. But when the chamber explodes, two people die, and it's clear the explosion was no accident.

Aimee Hix, *What Doesn't Kill You*. A favor for a friend turns into a murder investigation, drawing our heroine, apprentice PI Willa Pennington, into a labyrinth of lies and deception in the shadows of Washington, D.C.

Cindi Gueli, *The Lipstick Brigade: The Untold True Story of Washington's World War II Government Girls*. Thousands of women came to the capital to staff government offices during World War II. Their skills earned them a wide variety of jobs, while their personalities enlivened the city and provided life-changing adventures. To register for this event, email Paulette Miller at psmiller10847@verizon.net and provide your full name and email address. You will then receive information on how to connect to the event from Anita Light.

You may also contribute by check made out to AAUW Fairfax City Branch and mail to Dottie Joslin, 11110 Del Rio Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030-5339.



Fairfax County's Sixteenth Annual History Conference

“Votes for Women!” “The Rest of OUR Story” - The Passage of the 19th Amendment

VIRTUAL Webinar Saturday – November 14, 2020

Session I – 10:00am – 12:30pm

Lunch hour: Lucy Burns Museum Videos

Session II 2:00pm – 4:15pm. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable - go to Live Stream option; within Fairfax: Cable 16; or HD Cox 1016

2020-2021 Branch Officers:

Co-presidents: Lane Stone (info@LaneStoneBooks.com) & Dr. Gail Kalin (gailkalin@yahoo.com)

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

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

Co-Chairs, Public Policy: Sylvia Linke (SFLaauw@gmail.com) & Diane Schrier (diane.schrier@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Anne Simpson (aseyedoc@gmail.com)

Secretary: Susan Werner (susan.werner1@verizon.net)

AAUW Funds: Susan Cash (scash5002@email.vccs.edu)

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 (hersh3b@gmail.com)

Great Decisions: Lynn O'Connell (lynnocconnellva@gmail.com)

Mystery Book Group: Susan Werner (susan.werner1@verizon.net)

