



EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881

## THE ALEXANDRIA SCHOONER

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### Save these dates:

1/9, 10a District Mtg  
1/11, 7p, Diversity Book  
Group, (Zoom)  
1/26, 7p: Mystery book  
group, Zoom  
1/30, 10a, NW Dist Mtg  
1/30, 3p, Francophile Group

January 2021

Dear Friends,

2021, where have you been all my life? We thought you'd never get here! We're happy to ring in the New Year and look forward to enjoying it with you - our friends.

2020 was an emotional roller coaster and a year of challenges and changes. Of course, the biggest change was using Zoom for our meetings. We'd like to hear from you on this. Are there any meetings you'd like to see continue as virtual gatherings? Let us know.

COVID isn't through with us yet. Please stay vigilant a little longer.

Lane and Gail  
Co-presidents



## AROUND THE STATE

### NORTHERN DISTRICT MEETING

The Northern District of AAUW of Virginia is hosting a Zoom program on **January 9, 2021**, at **10 a.m.** The topic is “**Local Governments’ Efforts on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.**” The goal of the program is to help our members in Northern Virginia to better understand what our local governments are doing related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Currently we have two confirmed panelists: **Karla Bruce**, Chief Equity Officer of Fairfax County; and **Samia Byrd**, Chief Race and Equity Officer for Arlington County. We have also asked someone from Alexandria City to participate.

**Please review this link, [Fairfax County’s plan](#)** by Karla Bruce, prior to the program.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83969009579?pwd=TTBLdnViUWhMKytEaTJacENtYzJqZz09>

Meeting ID: 839 6900 9579

Passcode: 034127

Questions? Contact Sandy at [Sandyaaauw@juno.com](mailto:Sandyaaauw@juno.com)

Hope to see you then,

Sara & Sandy



### PREPARING FOR MARCH 2021 AAUW-VA STATE CONFERENCE

Do you own a business or know of a business that wants to be known by AAUW members? Considering advertising in the AAUW-VA annual conference program book. One of the highlights of our previous in-person conferences has been the basket raffle fundraiser for AAUW Funds. Unfortunately, a virtual conference does not lend itself to this activity so we will be using instead the paid advertisements in the program book as our fundraiser. By purchasing an ad you’ll be supporting AAUW Funds.

**Format:** Please save ad text and artwork in JPEG format only (do NOT save ads as Word documents). To save a file in JPEG, click on “File,” then click on “Save As.” From here, select

JPEG in the menu for “Save as Type.” The good news is that this year all ads can be in color, at no extra cost!

**Ad rates:** Full-page - \$75; Half-page - \$55; Quarter-page - \$35

**Ad submission:** Please submit your final, digital JPEG ad to Tammie Mullins-Rice by email at [tammieaauw@gmail.com](mailto:tammieaauw@gmail.com). Mail your payment check, made payable to AAUW of Virginia State Conference, to Tammie Mullins-Rice, 1010 Barnacle Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. Both the ad and payment are **due NLT February 1, 2021**.

**AAUW VA Sponsored Zoom presentations:  
2021 Session Legislation on Criminal Justice in VA – 1/30/21  
and AAUW VA Resources on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – 2/13/21**

AAUW Virginia is sponsoring two different presentations during late January and mid-February which may interest the Alexandria Branch’s members. The presentation on January 30, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. features Dr. Sally Hudson who will speak on the issue of criminal justice in Virginia and relevant legislation that will address this problem during the 2021 Session of the Virginia legislature. Dr. Hudson is the VA House Representative from District 57 (Albemarle County and Charlottesville). She is also an Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Education, and Economics at the Frank Batton School of Management and Leadership at UVA. She received her Ph.D. in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2016.

The presentation on February 13, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. features Cyndi Shanahan, the AAUW of Virginia Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair. She will lead an open discussion on AAUW Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Resources.

Although the presentation on January 30 targets Northwest District members and the presentation on February 13 targets Southeast District members, members of other branches may request a link to either one or both of these presentations by e-mailing [AAUWVAcontactus@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWVAcontactus@gmail.com). The announcement for these two presentations may be found on the Home Page of AAUW Virginia (<https://aauw-va.aauw.net/>).

Submitted by Sylvia Linke, Co-chair for Public Policy, AAUW Alexandria.

## **PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES**

Most of the oxygen recently has been absorbed by the election and ensuing controversy. Sylvia Linke and Sudha Sundar are discussing the procedures for the app. After the election discussions are finalized, I will be contacting Charniele Herring to request that a Courts of Justice or Crime Commission study the need to get arrested human trafficking victims’ convictions off the records, so that they can start over.

Issues are somewhat stalled on the Federal level due to elections and vacations. The most serious is the effort to pass legislation for Coronavirus relief. By the end of the year, most of the relief packages will have ended and there is an expectation that evictions, homelessness and

child hunger will increase. Congress passed a stimulus bill and President Trump signed it on December 27 addressing some of the needs.

National AAUW will be releasing a research package soon dealing with the issues facing Latina girls and women, especially in regard to student debt. Due to the COVID-19 recession, it is estimated that women have lost the last 10 years of economic growth due to the necessity of making a choice between caring for their children and work. Minority women, who are on average paid less, face serious challenges as some of their work cannot be done at home.

Diane Schrier

### BRANCH WINS GRANT

AAUW Alexandria won a AAUW-VA mini-grant for \$200 for the plaque honoring the suffragettes that were arrested and tried in Alexandria. The plaque is presently being made and it is being done under the auspices of Alexandria Celebrates Women, of which our branch is a member.



### JANUARY IS LOBBY STATE LEGISLATORS MONTH

**Virtual State Lobbying in 2021. Paid sick leave and prohibiting inquiries about wage/salary history as a condition of employment** will be our focus during the 2021 Virginia General Assembly. AAUW-VA has joined the *Coalition for Paid Sick Leave* led by the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. We will be coordinating our lobbying efforts with the Coalition to amplify our message. A salary history bill was passed by the House of Delegates during the 2020 session. The Senate decided to “continue” the bill to 2021. We hope to find Senate sponsors willing to take this issue up and close it out. Please plan to support our virtual lobbying this year with emails and phone calls. Details about key legislators we will be contacting, as well as draft letters and points to use will be forthcoming very soon.



## BRANCH NOTES

### Membership

We welcome a new member who joined in December: Anjana Dayal De Prewitt.

We thank every member who renewed during this year of struggle. Each one of you is a valuable member of the Branch.



### Holiday Program Charity Collections

Once again, members of the Alexandria Branch came forward with generous donations of gift cards for the City of Alexandria Domestic Violence Program and for the Friends of Guest House holidays. Donations totaled \$975.00 divided between the two groups who will distribute just the gift cards this year rather than have the usual family parties.

Thanks to all for your generosity. May 2021 be a better year for all of us!  
Mary Ann Bier



### AUTUMN LEAVES 2020 FUNDRAISER FOR 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Alexandria Branch sends its heartfelt appreciation to all who have supported the Autumn Leaves fundraising campaign for our 75th anniversary. We greatly appreciate the strong response. If you would still like to donate, please mail your check (in any amount of your choice) to Susan Cash, 8402 West Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308.  
Susan Cash, AAUW Funds Chair

## BRANCH ACTIVITIES

### PROGRAMS

For our January program we hope to have a Zoom presentation by John Chapman, founder of The Manumission Company. He'll give us a presentation of one of their tours. As soon as I have a date and time we will let everyone know.

Looking ahead to February, we hope to have a panel discussion with the Alexandria School Board.

Virginia Kress, Program VP



### MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The first mystery for year 2021 will be Martin Walker's book The Crowded Grave. Walker's mysteries are set in the French countryside. We will meet on 7PM, on 26 January 2021. We will continue to meet via Zoom until it is again safe to meet in person. Please let Susan Werner and Lane Stone know if you plan to attend the meeting so that Lane can include you on the Zoom invitation. All Branch members are welcome. Mystery book recommendations are always welcome. If you have questions, please contact Susan Werner at [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net). Happy reading.

#### Christ House

The next Christ House supper is on Wednesday, March 31, 2021. We will again purchase the bag suppers from The Italian Place as we did for the April, July, and December 2020 suppers. They include a sub, chips, fruit, and a cookie. We provide and deliver personal bottles of water. We welcome donations to cover the increased cost. Checks can be sent to Anne Simpson, Treasurer, with notation that the contribution is for the Christ House soup kitchen. There are also still spa gift cards available for purchase. The money from the sale of the gift cards also helps us provide meals for those who are most in need in our community, especially during these difficult times.





## FRANCOPHILE GROUP DISCUSSION

Our next meeting will take place via the Alexandria Branch's Zoom account on Saturday, January 30, at 3 p.m. with a discussion of the novel The Little French Bistro by Nina George. I think you will enjoy this story set in Brittany. Unless otherwise noted, all of our meetings are in English. POC: Susan Cash, [scash5558@gmail.com](mailto:scash5558@gmail.com). Please RSVP to Susan to receive the Zoom link.

Susan Cash, Francophile Group Chair



## GREAT DECISIONS 2021

A big thanks to Great Decisions participants who led and/or coordinated a monthly meeting topic during 2020: **Ruth Bennett, Lane Stone, Larry Korb, Sylvia Linke** (\*\*two months!), **Diane Schrier & Danielle Beach**.

In 2021, we will continue to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 pm. We'll continue on Zoom at least through the first half of 2021. Below are dates and topics:

Thurs, Feb 11 – Global Supply Chains & National Security

Thurs, Mar 11 – Persian Gulf Security Issues

Thurs, Apr 8 – Brexit & the European Union

Thurs, May 13 – Struggles Over the Melting Arctic

Thurs, Jun 10 – China's Role in Africa

Thurs, Sep 9 – The Korean Peninsula, to be arranged by **Diane Schrier**

Thurs, Oct 14 – Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic

Thurs, Nov 11 – The End of Globalization?

We welcome new participants in 2021. Contact Lynn O'Connell at [lynnoconnellva@gmail.com](mailto:lynnoconnellva@gmail.com) or 703/867-4942 for more information.

For those who purchased advance books/DVDs, I will connect with each of you in January to deliver. If you did not yet purchase materials, here is the link: [https://www.fpa.org/great\\_decisions/?act=gd\\_materials](https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_materials). In December/January, electronic materials will be available (Kindle, Nook, and Vimeo), and those will be less expensive than the hard copy book and DVD.



One good thing to come out of the pandemic is people finding time to submit a blog post. I hope these new postings will inspire others. All posts can be found on the right-hand side of the home page under our newsletters. Here's what's been posted since November.

American Family in Pakistan

Her Story - AAUW and Rachel Carson

Self Care, Alexandria Library Post

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. I'm sure they would love to hear from you.

Eugenia Burkes

## **KUDOS AND KVELLS**

### **Susan Cash Inducted into National Society of Leadership and Success**

On December 4, 2020, Susan Cash was inducted into the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS/Sigma Alpha Pi) at Northern Virginia Community College. NSLS "helps students achieve personal growth, career success and empowers them to have a positive impact on their communities." As part of the induction process, Susan participated in a Success Networking Team with NOVA students and wrote reports on her takeaways from leadership talks by Tanya Akers, Neil Patrick Harris, and Matthew McConaughey. The NSLS organization currently has 728 chapters nationwide.



## ITEMS OF INTEREST DURING THE PANDEMIC

### New Smithsonian Museums Approved

The omnibus bill signed by President Trump on December 27 authorizes the Smithsonian to begin the lengthy process of creating the National Museum of the American Latino and the American Women's History Museum by giving the quasi-federal institution permission to hire staff members, collect objects and present programs aimed at telling the stories unique to the groups.

The proposed museums would be the first new Smithsonian facilities since the National Museum of African American History and Culture opened in 2016. Like that \$540 million project, the new museums would be financed with 50 percent federal funding and 50 percent private donations.

### The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria

The need for scholarship support in Alexandria has never been greater in our 34-year history than right now.

COVID-19 and COVID economics are hitting local families with financial need the hardest. These are the very same students and families we serve. You can see the crisis that is building. There is great need in our community, but there is also great promise.

This fall alone, the Scholarship Fund sent more than 400 Alexandria kids to college, but each year hard-working students are left behind because they run out of funds. The students of the COVID-generation will be particularly vulnerable as the pandemic continues to have a devastating effect on their ability to afford college.

Your gift can mean a college degree and a brighter future for an Alexandria student and their family...for generations to come.

We have already seen an unprecedented 25% increase in scholarship applications since the pandemic began. Our projections show that this increase in need will continue to grow over the next several years. Please make a gift this holiday season to create a brighter future and a happy ending for an Alexandria student this year.

With our sincere thanks,  
Beth Lovain, Executive Director  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF ALEXANDRIA  
3330 King St  
Alexandria, VA 22302

**2021 CALENDAR – ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**  
**(CHECK BACK OFTEN)**

1/7/21, 6:45p: Board Mtg  
1/9/21, 10a: Northern District Mtg. – Guest: Karla Bruce, Fairfax County, Chief Equity Officer  
1/11/21, 7p, WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com)  
1/26/21, 7p: Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net).  
1/30/21, 10:00a, NW District Zoom, To register, email [AAUWVAcontactus@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWVAcontactus@gmail.com)  
1/30/21, 3p: Francophile Group reads The Little French Bistro, Contact: Susan Cash, [scash5002@email.vccs.edu](mailto:scash5002@email.vccs.edu)  
2/4/21, 6:45p: Board Mtg  
2/8/21, 7p: WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com)  
2/11/21, 7p: Great Decisions – Global Supply Chains & National Security, Contact Lynn O’Connell at [lynnoconnellva@gmail.com](mailto:lynnoconnellva@gmail.com)  
2/13/21, 11a: SE District Mtg. To register, email [AAUWVAcontactus@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWVAcontactus@gmail.com)  
2/23/21, 7p: Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net).  
3/4/21, 6:45p: Board Mtg  
3/8/21, 7p: WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com)  
3/11/21, 7p: Great Decisions – Persian Gulf Security Issues, Contact Lynn O’Connell at [lynnoconnellva@gmail.com](mailto:lynnoconnellva@gmail.com)  
3/13-15/21, AAUW-VA conference, Virtual, 3/13: 10-12:30 & 3-5:30; 3/14 &/15: 3-5:30  
3/23/21, 7p: Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net).  
4/1/21, 6:45p: Board Mtg.  
4/8/21 7p: Great Decisions – Brexit & the European Union, Contact Lynn O’Connell at [lynnoconnellva@gmail.com](mailto:lynnoconnellva@gmail.com)  
4/12/21, 7p: WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com)  
4/27/21, 7p: Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net).  
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5/13/21, 7p: Great Decisions – Struggles Over the Melting Arctic, Contact Lynn O’Connell at [lynnoconnellva@gmail.com](mailto:lynnoconnellva@gmail.com)  
5/25/21, 7p: Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net).  
6/10/21, 7p: Great Decisions – China’s Role in Africa, Contact Lynn O’Connell at [lynnoconnellva@gmail.com](mailto:lynnoconnellva@gmail.com)  
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7/12/21, 7p: WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com)  
7/27/21, 7p: Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net).  
7/31/21, Summer Leadership Mtg, Sweet Briar, VA.

8/9/21, 7p: WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com)  
8/24/21, 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net).  
9/9/21, 7p, Great Decisions – The Korean Peninsula, to be arranged by **Diane Schrier**, Contact Lynn O’Connell at [lynnococonnellva@gmail.com](mailto:lynnococonnellva@gmail.com)  
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10/14/21, 7p, Great Decisions – Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic, Contact Lynn O’Connell at [lynnococonnellva@gmail.com](mailto:lynnococonnellva@gmail.com)  
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12/28/21, 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net).

## 2020-2021 Branch Officers:

Co-presidents: Lane Stone ([info@LaneStoneBooks.com](mailto:info@LaneStoneBooks.com)) & Dr. Gail Kalin ([gaikalin@yahoo.com](mailto:gaikalin@yahoo.com))  
Co-VP’s Membership: Margaret Batko ([margaretwb@verizon.net](mailto:margaretwb@verizon.net))  
Co-VP’s Program: Virginia Kress ([vmvkress@gmail.com](mailto:vmvkress@gmail.com))  
Co-Chairs, Public Policy: Sylvia Linke ([SFLaauw@gmail.com](mailto:SFLaauw@gmail.com)) & Diane Schrier ([diane.schrier@gmail.com](mailto:diane.schrier@gmail.com))  
Treasurer: Anne Simpson ([aseyedoc@gmail.com](mailto:aseyedoc@gmail.com))  
Secretary: Susan Werner ([susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net))  
AAUW Funds: Susan Cash ([scash5002@email.vccs.edu](mailto:scash5002@email.vccs.edu))  
Special Interest Group Leaders:  
Campus Outreach: Lane Stone ([info@LaneStoneBooks.com](mailto:info@LaneStoneBooks.com)) & Danielle Beach ([danielleaauw@gmail.com](mailto:danielleaauw@gmail.com))  
Christ House Dinners: Margaret Zebrowski ([Mmzebrow@aol.com](mailto:Mmzebrow@aol.com)) & Jan Jaynes ([janjjoek@verizon.net](mailto:janjjoek@verizon.net))  
Diversity Book Group: Bonnie Hershberg ([hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com))  
Great Decisions: Lynn O’Connell ([lynnococonnellva@gmail.com](mailto:lynnococonnellva@gmail.com))  
Mystery Book Group: Susan Werner ([susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net))