



EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881

THE ALEXANDRIA SCHOONER

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February 2021

Dear Friends,

Can someone please explain this phenomenon to us? The first half of January was part of 2020, but the second half was in 2021. How did that happen? We were disgusted by the assault on our nation's Capital on January 6, 2021. Then three weeks later women rocked the inauguration – and not just Vice President Kamala Harris.

Save these dates:

1/30, 3p, (Zoom), Susan Cash
2/8, 7p, WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, (Zoom) Bonnie Hershberg,
2/11, 7- Great Decisions, (Zoom), Lynn O'Connell
2/22, 7p: Mystery book group, Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net

Twenty-two year old, Amanda Gorman recited her poem, "The Hill We Climb," wearing a pair of earrings and a ring depicting a bird in a cage, gifts from Oprah Winfrey. Of course, the jewelry was a nod to previous inauguration poet Maya Angelou's book, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. And Lady Gaga wore an oversize brooch carrying an olive branch. All day women brought wishes for our nation's healing, justice, and unity. May it be so!

Looking forward to being together again,

Lane and Gail



POLICY UPDATE

This has been quite a period in 2021. I'm hoping that by the end of February, life and government start to settle down. The impeachment papers will be delivered on January 25th to the Senate. The new President, Joe Biden, is getting his Cabinet appointees approved and will be sending a relief plan to Congress. Among the provisions are a \$15 per hour minimum wage. The Paycheck Fairness Act passed the House last year but now must be passed in both the House and the Senate.

Title IX was attacked severely under Betsy DeVos. It is important that we tell our legislators and the Secretary of Education that her destructive policies must be rolled back. Among the problems are that sexual harassment must be severe, pervasive and objective, if reported to the wrong person-nullified, presumption at beginning is that nothing happened, religious schools can claim exemption even if they get federal monies and if the act occurs off campus or the student goes to a different school, then it is invalid. Also the accused can confront the victim in person.

The ERA will probably move forward, but this is my guess. A bill has been introduced to remove the ending date.

The Virginia legislature is now in session. Paid Family & Medical Leave (HB 2016) is under consideration. HB 313 and HB 312 would remove the disparities in maternal mortality by ensuring that all expectant mothers have access to prenatal care. SB 1228, the Virginia Equal Pay Act, has been reintroduced. HB 1915 would give public school teachers a raise from the 2022- 2027 school years. HB 1736 says a school nurse is a registered nurse and there should be at least one in each elementary, middle and high school. HB 2184 establishes a 22-member pandemic Remediation Task Force to develop a strategy to help students reduce learning gaps. HB 2081 and HB 2295 would prevent guns from polling places, vote counting centers, Capitol Square and government buildings. SB 1309 will create a subcommittee to study urban and inland flooding.

Diane Schrier

IMPORTANT BRANCH NOTES

Alexandria Branch Named Gift Honorees for 2020

AAUW has a long-standing tradition of recognizing its members by presenting "named gift awards." Here's how it works: For each \$500 a branch and its members have given to AAUW National over the year, the branch can choose a person to honor. Congratulations to the latest group of Alexandria Branch Named Gift Honorees. Thanks to all of you for your hard work!

Lane Stone and Gail Kalin (as a team)
Virginia Kress

Diane Schrier
Sylvia Linke
Susan Cash
Jan Jaynes
Margaret Zebrowski

Membership
Margaret Batko

Gabrielle Hutchins, a new member, joined January 26. Copies of our recent newsletters have been sent to her. We look forward to having her as a member.



AUTUMN LEAVES 2020
Susan Cash

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to Autumn Leaves for the Alexandria Branch's 75th Anniversary. As of December 31, we had raised \$1,746.50. We will continue to accept donations for our 75th anniversary drive through May 31, 2021. Our goal is to increase our 75th anniversary total to \$2,000.00 by May 31.

May 2021 marks the end of our 75th anniversary year. To help celebrate that special occasion, we will hold another drawing for prizes at our annual meeting (to be held in May). All who have donated since June 1, 2020 up until two days before the annual meeting will be eligible.

Once again, 100% of the donations received for our 75th anniversary Autumn Leaves drive (through May 31) will be retained by the Alexandria Branch to support our projects.

Our 2021 Autumn Leaves drive will open on June 1.

Donations to Autumn Leaves should be sent to Susan Cash, 8402 West Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

PROGRAMS VIRGINIA KRESS

For our January program we had a Zoom presentation by John Chapman, founder of The Manumission Company. He presented one of their tours on Sunday, January 24 at 7:00 pm.

Looking ahead to February, we plan to have a panel discussion with the Alexandria School Board. Further information will be forthcoming.



MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP Susan Werner

Our February Mystery Book meeting will take place on Tuesday February 23, 2021. Time: 7 PM. Our book is Margaret Mizushima's Burning Ridge. We will still be meeting via Zoom. If you can't get to Zoom via your computer, consider using the call-in version. If you have questions, please contact Susan Werner at susan.werner1@verizon.net. All are welcome. Happy Valentine's Day.

Christ House

Margaret Zebrowski and Jan Jaynes

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 SUSAN CASH

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. Please RSVP to Susan to receive the Zoom link.

At our next get together we will continue our exploration of Brittany with a discussion of the book I'll Never Be French No Matter What I Do: Living in a Small Village in Brittany by Mark Greenside. Date TBD (after the month of February). We expect to continue with virtual meetings. Discussion is in English. For more information, please contact Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com, 703/587-4790.



GREAT DECISIONS 2021

Lynn O'Connell

Our first meeting of 2021 is coming up. Below is the schedule. We'll meeting via Zoom; if you are not already on the email distribution list, please let Lynn O'Connell, lynnocConnellva@gmail.com, know and she will add you.

Also, I encourage participants to consider leading the discussion for one topic/month and/or helping us find a speaker on a particular topic.

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, facilitated by **Peter Kent** with co-facilitator **Lynn O'Connell**

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

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

Thurs, Nov 11 – The End of Globalization?

Global supply chains and national security

The shutdown of global supply chains due to the Covid-19 pandemic brought to the fore an issue with the high level of global economic interdependence: what happens when one country is the main source for an item, say face masks, and then can no longer supply the item? Countries suddenly unable to meet the demand for certain supplies are faced with growing calls for economic nationalism. What are some of the lasting effects that the pandemic could have on global supply chains and trade? How would this affect national security?

Persian Gulf security issues

The Persian Gulf remains tense as the rivalry between the regional powers of Saudi Arabia and Iran continues. Tensions escalated in early 2020 as the United States began to intervene in the Gulf, launching an airstrike that killed two Iranian military commanders. What are the historical influences that have led to these tensions? What role, if any, should the United States play? Is using military force a viable foreign policy option for 2021 and beyond?



DIVERSITY BOOK CLUB

The Diversity Book Group Welcomes 2021 with An Exciting Agenda Bonnie Hershberg

Thanks to their research, imagination, thoughtfulness, and commitment to exploring the great diversity and inter-connectedness of our humanness, specifically across race, culture, class, gender, ethnicity, religion, ability, and age, our members selected an amazing array of books for the new year, which you can see listed below. They promise to be a rich source for learning and discussion. Our process was simple—each member was asked to recommend up to three books meeting our criteria. With sufficient information to guide them, each member voted—in the comfort of their own home—for their top 13. Then, as a virtual group, we discussed the order in which we'd read them and identified a volunteer facilitator for each. This year, we will also be redoubling our efforts to identify and include books about those with differing abilities, whose presence would enhance our list.

Next month—8 February 2021 from 7 - 8:30 pm—we will be discussing [The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down](#) by Anne Fadiman. It is a non-fiction book our group selected last year to start this one. As the facilitator for this discussion, I've already begun reading it. It's an amazing story of an esoteric culture whose refugees have been in our country since the mid-late 70s and how their culture collides with the one they encounter here.

We continue to welcome new members and hope if you're interested in joining, you will commit to attending regularly. While you are invited to join any one discussion, we are looking to cement relationships in the group for possible follow-up activities in support of women in the community, when we emerge from this pandemic world. We are fortunate to have a relatively diverse membership now of some three dozen women. Most of it is centered on age and lifestyle. We limit our Zoom meetings to 20. We use an RSVP, first-come-first-served system to ensure that the discussion is secure and that every voice can be heard and appreciated. If you have an interest or questions, please email me at hersh3b@gmail.com.

Book Selections for March 2021 through March 2022

March 8	<u>This is How It Always Is</u> by Laurie Frankel
April 12	<u>Negroland</u> by Margo Jefferson
May 10	<u>Educated</u> by Tara Westover
June 14	<u>In Extremis: The Life and Death of Marie Colvin</u> by Lindsey Hilsum
July 12	<u>Such a Fun Age</u> by Kiley Reid
August 9	<u>The Girls of Riyadh</u> by Sani Raja And Allah

September 13	<u>The Mountains Sing</u> by Nguyen Phan Que Mai
October 11	<u>American Dirt</u> by Jeanine Cummings
November 8	<u>Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI</u> by David Grann
December 13	<u>Homegoing</u> by Yea Gyasi
January 10	<u>An American Marriage</u> by Tayari Jones
February 14	<u>The Distance Between Us</u> by Reyna Grande
March 14	<u>The Dressmaker of Khair Khana</u> by Gayle Tzemah Lemmon



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

Violet Protest

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.

KUDOS AND KVILLS

Lynn O'Connell has been named Executive Director of Docs In Progress, a 501c(3) organization whose mission is to help people (emerging filmmakers, nonprofits, and underserved populations) learn tools to tell stories through documentary films to inspire, education and transform our communities and world.

INVITATIONS FROM OTHER BRANCHES

Vienna Branch

Peggy's Picks

Guest Speaker Peggy Berchehas, Fiction Selector, Fairfax Country Public Library

Tuesday, February 9, 7:00 pm

Peggy Bercher, the adult fiction selector for the Fairfax Country Public Library loves adult fiction. With 23 branches that's a lot of books! Find out how she makes her choices and how you can see what's coming soon to the library.

Email AAUW, Vienna-Area Branch for a meeting code if you are interested in attending: vienna@gmail.com. Please put February Program in the subject line.

Reston Herndon Branch

February 26 at 4:00 pm - Dr Sherri Burr, Professor of Law at the University of New Mexico will be our speaker. Dr. Burr has an impressive background. She is the Dickason Chair in Law and Regents Professor Emerita at the University of New Mexico School of Law, received her education at Mount Holyoke College, Princeton University and the Yale Law School. The author of 26 other books, Burr lectures on her research related to Free Blacks and created the art exhibition "400 Years of Freedom, Restriction and Survival." For more information about her you can go to: <https://lawschool.unm.edu/faculty/burr/index.html>

Her talk will focus on the challenges of being a free Black woman in pre civil war Virginia. In addition, she has written a Pulitzer Prize nominated book [Complicated Lives Free Blacks in Virginia 1619-1865](#). She indicated that the discussion would be more engaging if we read her book in advance. This should be a wonderful talk.

**2020-2021 CALENDAR – ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
(CHECK BACK OFTEN)**

2/4/21, 6:45p: Board Mtg
2/8/21, 7p: WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com
2/11/21, 7p: Great Decisions – Global Supply Chains & National Security, Contact Lynn O’Connell at lynnocConnellva@gmail.com
2/13/21, 11a: SE District Mtg. To register, email AAUWVAcontactus@gmail.com
2/23/21, 7p: Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, 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
3/11/21, 7p: Great Decisions – Persian Gulf Security Issues, Contact Lynn O’Connell at lynnocConnellva@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.
4/1/21, 6:45p: Board Mtg.
4/8/21 7p: Great Decisions – Brexit & the European Union, Contact Lynn O’Connell at lynnocConnellva@gmail.com
4/12/21, 7p: WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com
4/27/21, 7p: Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net.
5/6/21, 6:45p: Board Mtg
5/10/21, 7p: WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com
5/13/21, 7p: Great Decisions – Struggles Over the Melting Arctic, Contact Lynn O’Connell at lynnocConnellva@gmail.com
5/25/21, 7p: Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net.
5/25-26/21 – NCCWSL - virtual
6/10/21, 7p: Great Decisions – China’s Role in Africa, Contact Lynn O’Connell at lynnocConnellva@gmail.com
6/14/21, 7p: WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com
6/22/21, 7p: Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net.
7/12/21, 7p: WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com
7/27/21, 7p: Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, 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
8/24/21, 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net.
9/9/21, 7p, Great Decisions – The Korean Peninsula, to be arranged by **Diane Schrier**, Contact Lynn O’Connell at lynnocConnellva@gmail.com
9/13/21, 7p: WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com
9/28/21, 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net.

10/11/21, 7p: WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com
10/14/21, 7p, Great Decisions – Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic, Contact Lynn O’Connell at lynnococonnellva@gmail.com
10/26/21, 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net.
11/8/21, 7p: WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com
11/11/21, 7p, Great Decisions – The End of Globalization?, Contact Lynn O’Connell at lynnococonnellva@gmail.com
11/23/21, 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net.
12/13/21, 7p: WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com
12/28/21, 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net.

2020-2021 Branch Officers:

Co-presidents: Lane Stone (info@LaneStoneBooks.com) & Dr. Gail Kalin (gaikalin@yahoo.com)
Co-VP’s Membership: Margaret Batko (margaretwb@verizon.net)
Co-VP’s Program: Virginia Kress (vmvkress@gmail.com) & Patty Steelman (pattysteelman@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 (lynnococonnellva@gmail.com)
Mystery Book Group: Susan Werner (susan.werner1@verizon.net)