



EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881

THE ALEXANDRIA SCHOONER

September 2021

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SAVE THESE DATES:

- 9/2/21, 7:00p, Board Meeting
- 9/9/21, 7p, Great Decisions
- 9/13/21, 7p: WBCCF: Diversity Book Group,
- 9/18/21, 10:30a Program: Voting Rights Forum
- 9/19/21, 2-4 Meet and Greet
- 9/28/21, 7p, Mystery book group,
- 9/29/21, Christ House Dinner

Dear Friends,

Sylvia and I would like to welcome everyone back to an exciting new AAUW year. Slowly a new normal is evolving. There are many things that we can't predict about this year; however, our branch is equipped with a membership that is strong and caring. At this point, many of our meetings will be hybrid, with zoom and in person if possible. That may change, but I feel many of us are hungry to actually see each other.

September will be a busy month. Danielle Beach graciously agreed to host Our Meet and Greet Potluck. It will be in person on Sept. 19th, 2p.

This is an important meeting as we make some necessary decisions, as the branch will be voting on incorporation. There are positive reasons for incorporation. As a nonstock corporation, all members are protected from liability from individual lawsuits based on accidents occurring due to scheduled meetings or activities. The organization can be sued, but we can't and our individual assets can't be touched. Many nonprofit groups are doing this. It is also required for our human trafficking app to be loaded onto the Apple Orchard.

On Sept. 18th, we are co-sponsoring a Voting Rights Forum with the Mt Vernon Branch, 10:30 a.m. Sue Worden is speaking, and Solveig Eggerz is one of the organizers. Voting Rights are a major issue this year. At this point, it is an in-person meeting.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Stay healthy.

Sylvia and Diane
AAUW-Alexandria Co-presidents

BRANCH NOTES

MEET AND GREET

WELCOME TO AAUW's ANNUAL MEET AND GREET POTLUCK
SAY GOODBY TO SUMMER
HELLO TO CURRENT MEMBERS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021
2:00 P.M.- 4:00 P.M.

DANIELLE BEACH-OSWALD'S HOME
5621 GLENWOOD DRIVE
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

OPEN TO ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS
GUESTS ARE WELCOME
RSVP or QUESTIONS: DIANE.SCHRIER@GMAIL.COM

MEMBERSHIP

We are several months into the July 2021-June 2022 year. More than half our members have renewed. And we have several new members as well. However, we are well below last year's 62 members. We have so much planned for the upcoming year and their success depends on all of our members. I realize it's been a very difficult year, physically, emotionally, financially. We have all become physically distant from friends and family. Many of us are "zoomed" out. We are all reassessing what is important, where we want to put our time, effort, and money.

Recently I was thinking about my membership in AAUW and our Branch while riding my bike.

I am a first-generation college graduate. My mother attended one year of college and dropped out in the late 1940's to get married. Having a child go to college was very important to her and to my father who got his GED after dropping out of high school to serve in WWII. Many of my cousins also attended college after I did. And one of my aunts got her degree many years after I did. Getting a degree is very important in my family. This is a milestone worth celebrating and that is part of the purpose of AAUW.

I joined our Branch because of the Mystery Book group. It's still my main reason for membership. I also enjoy Great Decisions and I try to read all the books the Diversity Book club reads. While I have never attended Gourmet Out, I am always tempted. After all, food is obviously one of my passions (all you have to do is see me). I try to attend a lot of programs. I've made a number of friends with whom I share interests outside of AAUW.

If you have renewed, thank you. If you haven't, may I ask why? I'd appreciate it if you'd send me an email (margaretwb@verizon.net) explaining why. It won't be shared; it won't become a subject of gossip. As Membership VP, I am curious about why people no longer want to be members.

Submitted by Margaret Batko, VP for Membership

A Note from the Treasurer:

It is dues time again! You will notice that when you pay your dues, the amount has increased by \$3, making a total of \$93. This is the result of an increase in national dues from \$59 to \$62. Statements has been emailed to all current branch members. The Branch had 60 members this year, 7 of whom are life members, with an 8th (belatedly) identified as a life member this month. As of April 30, 17 members have renewed their Branch membership – over 20%! - and 43 members have yet to renew. You can pay by check as always, but a more convenient and efficient way is to pay with a credit card. Once you pay, you will not get another statement, but if you haven't, you will get a statement about once a month until September. Last year we received recognition for our retention rate. Let's do it again!

Anne Simpson,
Treasurer



AUTUMN LEAVES 2021

The Alexandria Branch extends its heartfelt thanks to those who have already donated to the Autumn Leaves 2021 fundraising drive. Several “early bird” prizes have been given out, including the two gift cards from the Glam A Unisex Mini Day Spa.

In our Autumn Leaves 2021 drive, the funds raised will be divided equally between the Alexandria Branch and AAUW National’s Greatest Needs Fund. Fifty percent of your donation will be tax-deductible. The portion retained by the Alexandria Branch will be used for the Branch’s support of the Christ House meals program. At the December holiday luncheon, we will again have a drawing for prizes, including candy, wine, and sparkling water.

To contribute to Autumn Leaves 2021, please mail a check (in the amount of your choice), payable to AAUW-Alexandria, with Autumn Leaves on the memo line, to Susan Cash, 8402 West Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308.

Susan Cash
AAUW Funds Chair



Mt. Vernon and Alexandria AAUW Branches

SAVE THE VOTE

September 18, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

Meeting Room Sherwood Regional Library

2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria

PANEL MEMBERS:

BETTINA LAWTON, Vice Chair, Fairfax County Electoral Board

CHRIS DEROSA, Arlington/Falls Church Chapter Leader, Spread the Vote

SUE WORDEN, Alexandria League of Women Voters

The meeting is free and open to the public.

For more information contact

AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Gail Kalin and Monique Miles, Representatives

We now have dates for the webinars being held by AAUW-National. Each will be recorded, but there is a bit of a lag between when the webinar is held and when it is posted on AAUW-National website. Here is the information:

23 Sept - Understanding implicit/unconscious bias - what is it, how does it manifest, recognizing your biases and how to interrupt them

2 Dec (due to Thanksgiving) - Creating inclusive spaces - activities to get to know your membership, what has shaped you? When have you felt included, when have you felt excluded, create as a group more inclusive practices that become standard at meetings?

27 Jan - Allyship - what is it, getting past performative allyship, how to be an ally

24 Mar - Intersectionality – definitions, how intersectionality may affect individuals; overall purpose

26 May - Social Justice – how other topics play into social justice; definition (with Robin from AAUW Policy team)

Cyndi Shanahan, AAUW-VA, Diversity, equity and inclusion chair

BRANCH ACTIVITIES



MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The next Mystery Book Discussion Group meeting will be on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 7 PM. We will continue to meet via Zoom. (Thank you, Lane.) Our mystery is Hard Row by Margaret Maron. This selection is in memory of Margaret Maron who passed away this past February. She was a founding member of Sisters in Crime and was a past president of the organization. Margaret also was a director on the national board for Mystery Writers of America. We are reading one of her mysteries in the series about North Carolina judge Deborah Knott. The Deborah Knott mysteries address some of the social issues of the region. For further information about the Mystery Book Discussion Group contact Susan Werner: susan.werner1@verizon.net. All are welcome. Suggestions for future books are also welcome. Enjoy!!

CHRIST HOUSE

The 2021-2022 Christ House suppers our branch will supply will be on:
Wednesday, September 29th 2021
Wednesday, December 29th, 2021
Wednesday, March 30th 2022
Wednesday, June 29th, 2022

Christ House opened up on August 1st for organizations to bring their regular food donations, but we don't know yet when/if we will be serving inside. With the Delta Variant on the rise, we will have to see what Christ House plans to do. We will send an email out in September, once we know. Since the start of Covid, we have provided bag meal suppers for 60 guests, six times, each time at a cost of \$450 plus a \$50 tip. We would like to go back to serving pizza and salads but we will have to wait to hear what the arrangements are going to be.

The Glam Day Spa cards are still available and the \$45 goes to support our Christ House meals.

Thanks for your continuing support,
Jan Jaynes and Margaret Zebrowski
Christ House Chairs



FRANCOPHILE GROUP DISCUSSION

Susan Cash

At our next meeting, to be held in October (probably virtually, date TBD), we will discuss the book (*not quite*) *Mastering the Art of French Living* by Mark Greenside. This book is the sequel to the book we discussed in April: *I'll Never Be French (no matter what I do)*. As with the previous book, the material for this book is drawn heavily from the author's experiences living in Brittany. In a review quoted on the book's back cover, Aileen Bordman (*Monet's Palate Cookbook*) writes, "Each page of (*not quite*) *Mastering the Art of French Living*, reveals the everyday passion, appreciation and humor Mark Greenside has enjoyed. You cannot read this book, without thinking about spending a slice of life in France."

In our subsequent meetings, we hope to have discussions of exhibits at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Contact Susan Cash, (scash5002@email.vccs.edu)



GREAT DECISIONS 2021

Lynn O'Connell

Great Decisions – September 9, 7 pm, via Zoom

All members and their guests are invited to join us for our upcoming Great Decisions evening – September 9, 7 pm, via Zoom. Our topic is **The Korean Peninsula**, and the session will be facilitated by **Diane Schrier**. Larry Korb will be an additional speaker.

The Korean Peninsula

The Korean Peninsula is facing a defining era. Attempts to repair the rift between North and South have lost any momentum as Pyongyang continues to test long-range missiles for its nuclear weapons program. As the rift between the U.S. and China grows further, South Korea may end up in the middle of the two superpowers. What does the future hold for the U.S. relationship with the Korean Peninsula?

If you would like to attend and are not part of the email group, please let Lynn O'Connell know, lynnocConnellva@gmail.com, and she will send you the Zoom information. We meet the second Thursday of each month at 7 pm.



DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

A Summer of Diverse Reading
Bonnie Hershberg

The Diversity Book Group continued to meet virtually and welcome a number of new members, several of whom joined us from outside Alexandria.

After a lively discussion of Tara Westover's memoir, Educated, the Group turned its attention to a biography of the famous American war correspondent, Marie Colvin. The title, In Extremis: The Life and Death of Marie Colvin by Lindsey Hilsum, was not as popular with members as other books we have read over the last 18 months. Ms. Colvin did, in fact, live a life 'in extremis' as the title suggests, making it a disturbing read with a most unhappy ending for many discussants.

The July selection offered a taste of something quite different: Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid. Ms. Reid's debut novel deals with a variety of themes of interest to the Group—specifically race and class. While the plot is relatively straight forward and even amusing at times, the themes and sub themes are serious and complex. Ms. Reid, herself a young African American woman, shines a light on a 25-year old African American college grad who takes a job babysitting for an affluent and not much older White mother. The tale features many of the issues that the previous year brought to the forefront of discussion, including—what does it mean to enjoy privilege, what does it mean to be an independent woman, what does it mean to have good intentions, what does it mean to succeed—particularly for women—and what does it mean to be in inter-racial relationships?

For September, members have chosen to read yet another very different novel, The Mountains Sing by Vietnamese poetess, Nguyen Phan Que Mai. A family saga that lays bare the all the tragedy of Viet Nam's history going back to the invasion of the Japanese. The book—not published in Viet Nam because of the negative treatment of its sensitive history—reveals the author's facility in English, where the poetic prose shines through. If you would like to join the discussion on Monday, September 13, 2021 on Zoom from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., please email hersh3b@gmail.com by September 7.

From AAUW-VA and Other Items of Interest

From our Northern District Reps

SAVE THE DATE!
October 9, 10 am-12 noon
Northern District Meeting



We once again will have a virtual Northern District meeting.

Program: **Meg Tuccillo** of the Arlington Branch will present a video from **Jada Pinkett Smith's "Red Table Talk" program** on relations between women of color and white women.. After the video, we will have a facilitated discussion using break-out rooms and then come back together to discuss.

Business meeting:

After the program we will have updates from some State Board members. We will also learn about the revised "Shape the Future" membership discount and how your branch can use it to increase membership.

More information on registration and zoom link to follow.

Sandy & Sara

Host A Student

Have you ever wanted to experience another country and not leave home? Host a foreign student! By investing a little of your time, you can get to know someone who is attending NOVA for the fall/spring semesters. I did it, and it was fun, despite the pandemic. What the people at NOVA are looking for is someone to be a social host, someone to show their students a little bit of the area and a little bit of the people every two or three weeks. The students that I had came from Indonesia, the Dominican Republic and Ghana, places that I had never been to. I found out about it from Patricia Steelman. Talk to Sara Mohamed at NOVA, samohamed@nvcc.edu to find out more about it.

Anne Simpson

The Situation In Afghanistan Continues To Worsen (Information from the Stimson Center)

Civilians are struggling to find refuge and many who worked with or supported the U.S., our allies, NGOs, or the Afghan government are trying to escape the country. Given the broad interest in helping the people of Afghanistan, we have collected a list of some of the organizations, charities, and other efforts you might consider supporting.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHANS

[International Rescue Committee](#)

Make a donation to the relief efforts for people displaced inside Afghanistan, providing them with safe shelter, clean water, sanitation, education, cash assistance, and more.

[Women For Women International](#)

Take up a challenge with your community and have your donation matched up to \$500,000 for this emergency campaign in Afghanistan to aid female Afghan survivors of war and conflict.

[Afghan Journalist Safety Committee](#)

Donate to keep American and Afghan media workers and their families safe. 100% of your donation will go towards shelters and safehouses; food, clothing, and other utilities; and the support needed to keep independent media outlets operating.

And this one from Margaret Bakko:

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COLLECTION DRIVE FOR WINTER CLOTHING FOR REFUGEES -

Annabelle Hammer (R) writes; "I just want to pass along that Catholic Charities is holding a collection drive for winter clothing/necessities for migrants and refugees.

Among the needs are blankets, or as in the case of our guild--quilts. As the Project Linus Fairfax County Chapter Coordinator, I will be delivering about 100 afghans, quilts and fleece blankets to the Manassas location at 8247 Shoppers Square. If other quilters are interested in helping Catholic Charities Migrant and Refugees Services, they can also donate at that location or in Arlington at 80 N. Glebe Road. The contact at the charity is Jessica Estrada at Jessica.estrada@ccda.net Donations are requested before September 24, 2021.

I imagine many of these people will be Afghan refugees. There are some specialized prohibitions on images depicted on items used by Muslims. I will not donate blankets which have images of people or animals."

KVELL AND KUDOS

On July 10, 2021, Margaret Batko and Lane Stone ran in the Great Buffalo Stampede in Wyoming, DE. Margaret placed in her age group.



On July 25, both completed the Ladies Choice Triathlon, wearing AAUW caps.



In August, Mary Ann Bier, Danielle Beach and Scott Campbell at Fort Belvoir to hear 1812 Overture.

2021- 2022 CALENDAR – ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE (CHECK BACK OFTEN)

9/2/21, 7:00p, Board Meeting
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
9/18/21, 10:30a Voting Rights Forum, Sherwood Regional Library. Co-sponsored w/ Mt Vernon
9/19/21 2-4 p.m. Meet and Greet at Danielle’s House, 5621 Glenwood Dr., Alexandria, VA
9/28/21, 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net.
9/29/21, Christ House Dinner. Contact: Margaret Zebrowski, (Mmzebrow@aol.com) & Jan Jaynes (janjjoek@verizon.net)
10/7/21, 7:00p, Board Meeting
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 lynnocConnellva@gmail.com
10/17/21 2-4 p.m. Immigration and the Housing problems
10/26/21, 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net.
11/4/21, 7:00p, Board Meeting
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 lynnocConnellva@gmail.com
11/14/21 2-4 p.m. Program meeting Women in the military and issues
11/23/21, 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net.
12/2/21, 7:00p, Board Meeting
12/5/21, 11:30-1:30, Holiday party, Belle Haven Country Club
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: Sylvia Linke (SFLaauw@gmail.com) & Diane Schrier (diane.schrier@gmail.com)
VP Membership: Margaret Batko (margaretwb@verizon.net)
VP Program: Committee
Secretary: Susan Werner (susan.werner1@verizon.net)
AAUW Funds: Susan Cash (scash5002@email.vccs.edu)

Diversity and Inclusion Reps: Dr. Gail Kalin (gailkalin@yahoo.com) and Monique Miles (moniquemiles08@gmail.com)

Public Policy Chair: Virginia Kress (vmvkress@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Anne Simpson (aseyedoc@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Lane Stone (info@LaneStoneBooks.com)

Special Interest Group Leaders:

Campus Outreach: 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 (lynnoconnellva@gmail.com)

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