



EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881

THE ALEXANDRIA SCHOONER October 2021

Dear Friends,

We are having a very busy September. We co-sponsored a forum with Mt. Vernon Voting Rights. Some of the most important facts that came out of the forum are:

1. If you mail-in your ballot, who must have a witness signature on the envelope. Last year, it was eliminated because of covid restrictions. It is reinstated this year.
2. Virginia has moved from #40 nationally to #12 nationally in the ease of voting over the last few years. This is a major achievement, but we still need to work on ex-felons regain their voting rights.
3. "It Can Happen Here". The very recent situation in Pennsylvania where the Senate has subpoenaed an extreme amount of voter information, including driver's licenses and social security numbers from all voters to hand over to an undisclosed and not yet chosen third person party for auditing is scary and designed to create a distrust of our election season. Your vote matters. Please vote. Early voting has started.

Our Meet and Greet, hosted by Danielle Beach, was very well attended. The food, as always, was excellent and we were all happy to see each other again and to welcome new members. The vote to incorporate our branch as a Virginia Non-Stock Corporation was passed.

Thank you to everyone who donated gift cards. They will be very welcomed by our new Afghanistan refugee residents.

Thank you for all of your participation and assistance in our group. Stay healthy.

Diane and Sylvia
AAUW-Alexandria Co-Presidents

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SAVE THESE DATES:

10/7/21, 7:00p, Board Mtg
 10/9/21, 10a, District Meeting, Virtual
 10/11/21, 7p: Diversity Book Group,
 10/14/21, 7p, Great Decisions
 10/17/21 2-4 Program: Immigration and Housing
 10/26/21, 7p, Mystery book group

BRANCH NOTES

PROGRAM

Immigration and Housing

On October 17, 2021, 2p, we will have an exciting discussion, led by Danielle Beach and Dawn Watkins. It will probably be on zoom, although hopefully the situation will soon change. Look for an email with details.

PUBLIC POLICY

Virginia Kress

Virginia AAUW Public Policy Group held their ZOOM meeting on September 22nd. Here are a few bullet points on their policy priorities.

Get out the vote.

- Eligible Virginia voters must register or update their registration by October 12th.
- Absentee and early voting are currently in process. You must request an absentee ballot no later than October 22nd. Be sure to bring identification with your name and address on it or your voter registration card. If voting by mail, make sure you have a witness signature on your envelope.

Legislative priorities for Virginia AAUW

- Paid sick leave.
- Paid family and medical leave.
- Sexual harassment in the workplace.

CEDAW - United Nations Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Brief Background on CEDAW: The CEDAW, adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. It defines discrimination against women as “...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or another field.”

The Convention provides the basis for realizing equality between women and men through ensuring women’s equal access to, and equal opportunities in political and public life – including the right to vote and to stand for election – as well as education, health and employment. States parties agree to take all appropriate measures, including legislation and temporary special measures, so that women can enjoy all their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The United States has **not** ratified CEDAW. Other non-parties include Afghanistan, Iran, Saudia Arabia and North Korea. For more information and other links go to:

<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/history.htm>

Please note at our next Board meeting we will be discussing presenting a resolution for the Alexandria City Council to support a CEDAW human rights resolution.

MEMBERSHIP

Margaret Batko
Membership VP

We recently sent 11 cards to non-renewing members reminding them their membership expired June 30 and encouraging them to renew. In addition, we have several new members who are excited about a number of our programs. We look forward to their participation in Branch activities. If you have renewed, thank you. You recently received a “draft” directory. If you haven’t yet, please check your information and send any changes to me at margaretwb@verizon.net.



AUTUMN LEAVES 2021

Susan Cash
AAUW Funds Chair

The Alexandria Branch extends its heartfelt thanks to those who have already donated to the Autumn Leaves 2021 fundraising drive. All of our “early bird” prizes have been given out, including 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.

**The Alexandria and Mt. Vernon branches
will once again co-sponsor a performance at the
Little Theater of Alexandria!**

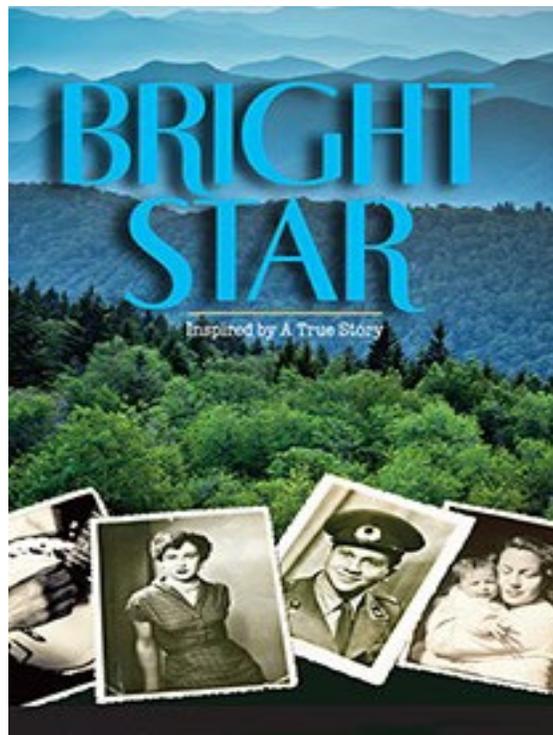
Save the date – January 14th, 2022

Tickets will be on sale very soon.

BRIGHT STAR

MUSIC, BOOK AND STORY BY **STEVE MARTIN AND EDIE BRICKELL**

Synopsis: Bright Star is the story of one woman at two different points in her life: the first, when she is a wild young thing growing up barefoot and carefree in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina; the second, when she is a well-to-do magazine editor in Asheville, 22 years later. Her story is inevitably woven with that of an idealistic young man named Billy, with whom she shares a mysterious connection. As a young teen in Zebulon, NC, Alice Murphy is hopelessly in love with small town heartthrob Jimmy Ray, the mayor's son. Although their love was pure, it falls victim to the interference of ambitious parents, and their infant son is whisked away before their happy ending could ever begin. Despite this tragedy, Alice strives on and follows her dreams. More than two decades later, Alice is the successful editor of the Asheville Southern Journal, and meets a promising young writer named Billy. Eventually they realize that they share a hometown, and when Alice sees the handmade sweater she knitted for her baby twenty years before in his personal belongings, she realizes that he is the son she lost so long ago.



BRANCH ACTIVITIES



MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Susan Werner

Happy Fall/Happy Halloween Mystery Lovers. Our October mystery is Children of the Revolution by Peter Robinson. The Mystery Book Discussion Group continues to meet via Zoom. We will meet on October 26th at 7 PM. If you have any questions about the Mystery Group, or suggestions for a favorite mystery, please contact Susan Werner – susan.werner1@verizon.net. All are welcome. Please join us.



FRANCOPHILE GROUP DISCUSSION

Susan Cash

At our next meeting, to be held Saturday, October 23 at 3 p.m. via 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."

For any interested members who cannot attend on October 23, a link on Free Conference Call will be made available on Tuesday, October 19 at 7 p.m.

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.

POC: Susan Cash, 703/587-4790, scash5558@gmail.com



GOURMET OUT

Susan Cash

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Gourmet Out interest group has taken a sabbatical. For this autumn season, we would like to propose a get together. A suggestion in keeping with this time of year is a German restaurant, Village Brauhaus, located at 710 King Street, Alexandria. This restaurant's hours are very flexible. It is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. until 2 a.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 2 a.m. If you are interested in visiting Village Brauhaus, please contact Susan Cash, 703/587-4790 with times and dates that would work for you. We could do a dinner or a lunch.



GREAT DECISIONS 2021

Lynn O'Connell

Great Decisions – October 14, 7 pm, via Zoom

All members and their guests are invited to join us for our upcoming Great Decisions evening – October 14, 7 pm, via Zoom. Our topic is **Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic**, and the session will be facilitated by **Lynn O'Connell**.

Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrust the World Health Organization (WHO) into the limelight, for better and for worse. What is the WHO's role in responding to international pandemics? What can be done to improve the WHO's response to future global health crises? What other organizations are and/or should be involved? What are the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls as we look at the global gender inequality and access to health care and education?

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



DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

Bonnie Hershberg

The Diversity Book Group met virtually in September to discuss The Mountains Sing by Nguyen Phan Que Mai, who created, as NPR described it, “a luminous, complex family narrative that spans nearly a century of Vietnamese history.” Most of the dozen plus members who attended found this work of historical fiction to be beautifully written if disturbing to read. Most also noted that it was their first opportunity to hear the story of the “Vietnam War” through the eyes of a Vietnamese author and from the particular perspective of someone from the North. A prolific poet and writer in her native Vietnamese language, Que Mai wrote this novel only in English. It has yet to be published in her homeland because the current Communist regime is unlikely to be sympathetic to her critical view of her country’s more recent history. The Mountains Sing is replete with universal themes—loss being a primary one as well as motherhood, family and obligation, war, commitment, compassion, forgiveness, and morality, to identify only a few. The Group will be meeting via Zoom from 7:00 - 8:30 pm on October 4 to talk about the controversial novel, American Dirt, by Jeanine Cummings. If you would like to join us, please email Bonnie Hershberg at hersh3b@gmail.com.

From AAUW-VA and Other Items of Interest

Northern District Zoom Meeting

October 9, 10 am-12 noon

“How to make Diversity an Action and not just a Thought”

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. Cyndi Shanahan will give an update on Diversity, Inclusion and Equity.

Business meeting:

State Updates:

Co-Presidents

VPs of Public Policy

AAUW Funds Chair

Revised “Shape the Future” membership discount

Branch Updates: Short update on upcoming branch activities and announce any special programs to which others are invited.

Zoom Information:

1. Please contact Suzanne at suzanne@suzannerothwell.com if you wish to request closed captioning.
2. Once the meeting starts, ensure your audio is muted.
3. Use Q&A to submit questions to the speaker.
4. Use Chat to let Suzanne know of a technical problem—in many cases, signing on a second time will resolve problems.

Pay inequality Webinar

Pay inequality thrives on silence—among legislators, leaders, and even the employees most directly affected by it, who often have good reason for caution. That’s why AAUW, a leader in the fight for fair pay, is committed to creating safe opportunities for **all** of us to start talking.

Join AAUW on Tuesday, October 5, at 12:00 p.m. ET for a FREE one-hour virtual event that will bring together professional women for a candid conversation about how to create workplaces that make fair pay a reality. The webinar is the first in a three-part series, Equal Pay Every Day, that focuses on employers in the New York area. It is designed to get employees, managers and senior leaders talking about pay equity.

Register Now

This engaging and informative session features three expert panelists:

Angela DeGeorge, 2017-18 AAUW Selected Professions Fellow and architectural designer in New York.

Helen S. Jarrett, Mobilization Coordinator & Executive Board Member, CWA (Communications Workers of America) Local 1180.

Rosario "Rosie" Roman, Administrative Manager Level II, CWA Local 1180.

Participants will also have the chance to share their own experiences and solutions. Don't miss this critical kick-off conversation. [Register today!](#)

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

10/7/21, 7:00p, Board Meeting
10/9/21, 10a, Northern District 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 (lynnocConnellva@gmail.com)
Mystery Book Group: Susan Werner (susan.werner1@verizon.net)