



Alexandria (VA) Branch
THE SCHOONER - December 2021

Dear Friends,

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SAVE THESE DATES:

12/5/21, 11:30 Holiday party
12/13/21, 7p: Diversity Book
Group
12/28/21, 7p, Mystery book
group
12/29/21 Christ House
Dinner

The holiday season is upon us and we all have reasons to be grateful! All of our lives have changed, some have lost family members, others have faced economic hardships, and others have had to completely readjust their lives. We have all been changed in some way, but as lives slowly begin to readjust to the future and seeing friends and loved ones again, (even though there may be more shutdowns and problems), we are still here and the season of love, peace and at least partial victory over the enemy of Covid is here.

On January 14th, we will be having our fundraiser at the Little Theater of Alexandria. Susan Werner has the tickets. The ticket price is \$35 and the name of the play is Bright Star. It should be a lovely evening.

We have several interesting programs coming up: On February 13th, we will have an Author's Forum and on March 20th, the Curator of the Freedom House will talk to us via zoom on the history and accomplishments of African-American women in Alexandria.

In the spring, we will co-sponsor a forum on the school-prison pipeline, along with the Mt. Vernon branch.

We hope everyone has a very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Diane and Sylvia
Co-Presidents

BRANCH NOTES

Holiday Lunch

Belle Haven County Club

**6023 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, VA**

**Sunday, December 5, 2021
11:30 AM to 1:30 PM**

**Lunch Cost - \$48 per person
Wine available by the Glass - \$10 per glass**

Additional: Donations for Alexandria Domestic Violence Program – Please bring unwrapped toys for girls and boys, age 2 to 17, gift cards from local grocery, retail and pharmacy stores or donations like Target, Walmart, Kohl’s, Marshall’s, TJ Maxx, etc.

PLEASE BRING YOUR VACCINATION CARD IN CASE THE VENUE ASKS FOR IT.



FROM THE BOARD-

When we think of December, we generally celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanza. Omisoka is the second most important day in the Japanese tradition, as it is the final day of the old year and the eve of New Year's Day. Many countries celebrate Boxing Day. An African feast is call Karamu. Rohatsu is the day that Buddha attained enlightenment. Posadas Navidenas is a Hispanic tradition that reenacts Mary and Joseph seeking shelter. Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Catholic tradition and Yule is a pagan holiday that acknowledges the winter solstice, the longest night of the year.

PUBLIC POLICY

Virginia Kress
Public Policy Chair

At the December 1st AAUW Virginia Public Policy Zoom meeting the policy group discussed their legislative priorities for the coming 2022 session of the Virginia General Assembly, which starts on January 12, 2022. They have two major legislative priorities for the 2022 session - paid family and medical leave and paid sick leave.

State Lobby Day will be held in person in Richmond on January 19, 2022. The Richmond branch will host a Women Legislators reception on January 18, 2022.

MEMBERSHIP

Margaret Batko
Membership VP

Currently we have 57 members, down from 61 in May 2021. Twelve members did not renew, a very significant membership loss. We have undertaken multiple initiatives to encourage membership renewal during this continuing pandemic crisis that has disrupted all our lives. These initiatives have not been as successful as we would like. Although October 31, 2021 was the final date for reinstating memberships that expired June 30, 2021, we encourage everyone who has not yet renewed their membership to consider rejoining. Every member is important and we miss those who have not renewed. The next decade could be very challenging for women and together we are more powerful than individually.

Eight new members have joined. We are looking forward to their active participation. In talking to some of them, they seem to very excited about a number of our activities. Although some of the activities have been on a hiatus because of the pandemic, we expect that they will gradually be returning. Some have continued throughout the pandemic via Zoom. And work is continuing on the human trafficking app, an activity that may interest some of the new members.

After November 30th National AAUW will drop the all non-renewed members (2021 expires) from its Member Data Base. This means members will no longer be able to renew on their own using the personalized e-renewal link that Anne Simpson has sent out. They will have to send a check to Anne Simpson in order to renew after 11/30.



AUTUMN LEAVES 2021

Susan Cash
AAUW Funds Chair

The Alexandria Branch extends its heartfelt thanks to those who have donated to the Autumn Leaves 2021 fundraising drive.

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 event, we will again have a drawing for prizes, including candy, wine, and sparkling water. The drawing will be open to all whose donations are received by Thursday, December 2. We will continue to accept donations after the luncheon.

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.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES



MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Susan Werner

HAPPY HOLIDAYS. The mystery for December 2021 is local author Donna Andrews' book Owl be Home for Christmas. Donna's books are always amusing so please join us on December 28th with our usual time of 7 PM. We will continue to meet via Zoom. Hopefully the spring will provide not only warmer weather, but lower COVID rates. All are welcome at the mystery group meetings. If you have questions and/or mystery suggestions, please contact Susan Werner at susan.werner1@verizon.net. Stay safe and warm and enjoy the Holidays.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT – JANUARY 14, 2022
“BRIGHT STAR”
at
LITTLE THEATER OF ALEXANDRIA
600 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA

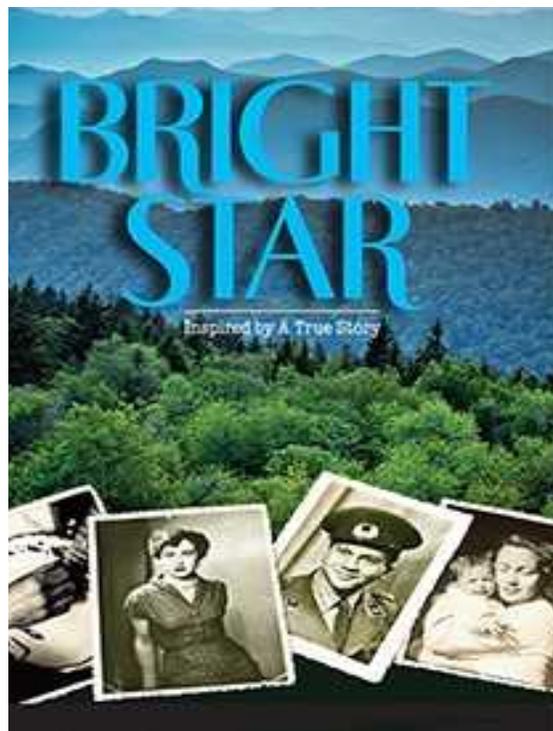
Together with the Mt Vernon Branch, the Alexandria Branch AAUW will hold its annual fundraising event at the Little Theater of Alexander (LTA). The music, book, and story for “Bright Star” were written by Steve Martin, acclaimed actor, comedian and musician, and Edie Bricknell.

Tickets for this entertaining play will make great Christmas or Hanukkah gifts. Contact Susan Werner for tickets: Susan.werner1@verizon.net, or 703-270-5378 to let her know how many tickets you want. Tickets are \$35.00 each. (A check made out to Alexandria Branch AAUW or exact amount of cash required.) Mail check to Susan Werner, 7444 Spring Village Dr, #318, Springfield, VA 22150. All sales are final.

When she receives your order, Susan can either mail you your tickets, or hold them at the box office for the night of the play. Let her know your preference. Tickets will also be available at the Branch’s Holiday Party Dec 5, 2021.

Due to COVID restrictions, there will be no reception this year. Masks and proof of vaccination are required by LTA.

There will be raffle baskets/tickets available provided by both Branches. Care to give a little more? All donations above the price of the tickets will earn recognition in the Branch newsletter as a **Sponsor**.



FRANCOPHILE GROUP DISCUSSION

Susan Cash

Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 22 at 3 p.m, via Zoom. Past co-President Lane Stone will give a presentation on her recent trip to France. The title of her talk is *Two Fascinating Women I Met on Vacation – Joan of Arc and Josephine Bonaparte*.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83906284415?pwd=UVJ6Zmc1YUgvYm9xY0VLaW1tL3hMQT09>

Meeting ID: 839 0628 4415

Passcode: 333629

Dial by your location +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)



Projected topics in future months include the books *A Man in France* by Philip Ogley and *The French Girl* by Lexie Elliott, as well as discussions of exhibitions at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

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



GREAT DECISIONS 2022

Lynn O'Connell

The group is gearing up for 2022. Please let me know if you'd like to be added to the mailing list at lynnconnellva@gmail.com. We meet the second Thursday of each month at 7 pm.





DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

Bonnie Hershberg

To honor the history of Native Americans, the Diversity Book Group discussed Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann. The group found the little known story of the real life “Reign of Terror” in Oklahoma during the 1920s in which at least two dozen member of the Osage Indian tribe were murdered. The story reads like the best of the true crime genre, the journalist author having meticulously researched his subject. The account, soon to be released as a Martin Scorsese/Leonardo di Caprio collaboration, is packed with all the details necessary to make the people, places, and times come alive. While Grann covers the early history of the FBI, that story pivots on the personality and motivations of J. Edgar Hoover, who defined the institution and brought to it its highly idiosyncratic organizational culture. While a disturbing who done it, all 12 participants thought it was a “must read” for all Americans. We hope the movie does it justice in the same way that Grann is devoted to illuminating the tragedy in this chapter of our history.

FROM AAUW-NATIONAL



We are on the verge of enacting transformational policy change.

The unrelenting pressure from advocates like you achieved a big win when the House of Representatives passed the Build Back Better Act with provisions for paid leave and child care on November 19. Investing in this care-related infrastructure will create jobs, make workforce participation possible, and support the entire U.S. economy as we all work to recover from the pandemic. Now, we must make sure that these important policies stay in the bill when the U.S. Senate considers it!

The closer we get to a final vote, the more crucial your voice is.

While the final vote is still likely a few weeks away, the threats to cutting paid leave are mounting. Please, contact your Senators [today](#) to get this important legislation across the finish line with AAUW priorities intact. Studies show when members of Congress repeatedly hear from their constituents it makes a difference. Keep contacting them every day until victory.

1. Call (switchboard information and call script included)
2. Send a letter
3. Urge your family and friends to join you (especially if they are in New York, Arizona or West Virginia – states with Senators who are particularly important for this vote!)

We have a once-in-a-generation chance to change the future for all workers. This is the time to make history — [act now!](#)

Take Action



No matter how invested managers are in equity—or how often employees ask for the salaries they deserve—they cannot create a culture of fairness without a commitment from the top. **Join AAUW next Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 12 p.m.** for a discussion about how senior leaders can prioritize pay equity as they build their businesses, featuring ...



Angela Scott, founder and CEO of The Office of Angela Scott footwear company, and



Cheryl Brannan, executive director, Sister to Sister, International, Inc., a nonprofit linking women of African descent to resources that connect, advance and strengthen them.

Register Now

The webinar is the third in our three-part series, [Equal Pay Every Day](#), which is intended to get employees, managers and senior leaders talking about pay equity. It focuses on employers in the New York area but offers lessons applicable to all workplaces.

Our engaging and informative session will speak to the responsibility employers have to compensate all employees fairly, and explain why doing so enables companies to recruit and retain the best and brightest workers.

We'll also provide a forum for participants to share their own questions, experiences and solutions. It's a great opportunity to hear from visionary leaders who put women—and equity—at the very heart of their operations.

Don't miss this critical and candid conversation. [Register today!](#)

Hope to see you there,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Nielson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kate Nielson,
Senior Director of Public Policy, Legal Advocacy and Research

2021 CALENDAR – ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

(CHECK BACK OFTEN)

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.

12/29/21 Christ House Dinner, Contact: Margaret Zebrowski, (Mmzebrow@aol.com) & Jan Jaynes (janjjoek@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)