



Dear Friends,

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SAVE THESE DATES:

11/4/21, 7p, Board Meeting
11/8/21, 7p: Diversity Book Group,
11/11/21, 7p, Great Decisions – The End of Globalization?
11/14/21 2-4 p.m. Program: Money Smart
11/23/21, 7p, Mystery Book Group

Autumn is here with warm days, some very warm, and chilly nights. There are a lot of activities taking place everywhere this month as events explode after 18 months of inactivity and people travel, without excessive heat or the upcoming cold.

Our branch just had a brilliant discussion about immigration laws and the social effects of immigration problems. Danielle Beach and Dawn Watson spoke. Those attending felt we could have listened for more hours to the discussion. The intrinsicity of a very convoluted situation became very apparent.

For our November 14th meeting, we have an AAUW National Speaker talking about women's finance. Included in the discussion will be information on the new Money Smart program. This is a very good program about the many different issues of adult finance. After listening to one talk on Money Smart, I found it interesting and informative. We need a strong turnout. Other branches will be invited.

At present, we are still having zoom meetings. We hope that by our December holiday brunch we will start having continuing in-person meetings.

Our incorporation is moving smoothly, and we hope to be able to announce the final result soon. While there is one

BRANCH NOTES

PROGRAM

Sunday, November 14, 2021, 2:00 PM

AAUW Alexandria invites you to a presentation on Money Smart, AAUW's new program on helping women of all ages manage their money to their greatest benefit. Mia Smith, Director of Programs for AAUW-National, will be our speaker. Among the topics covered are budgeting, money plans, types of credit and debt, retirement plans and investments.

The Zoom Link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88675511918>

Meeting ID: 886 7551 1918

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!

Sylvia Linke, Co-President

AAUW Alexandria has been awarded a \$350 mini-grant from AAUW-VA to help fund the Angel App project. The Angel App was awarded this grant because it directly supports AAUW's efforts to address the scourge of human trafficking. It also provides an excellent opportunity to highlight AAUW-VA's commitment to addressing challenges faced by women and girls, and the contributions our members make in and for their communities.

Members of the app's development team have been asked to submit a report at the completion of the project. This report should contain information necessary for the Virginia State level of AAUW to build a record of successful activities and lessons learned that other branches may find useful. The team has also been asked to submit an article to the Vision at the appropriate time.

The members of the team that is developing the Angel App are all members of the Alexandria branch of AAUW. They are Diane Schrier and Sylvia Linke, the current Co-Presidents; Lane Stone and Gail Kalin, the most recent past Co-Presidents; Dawn Watkins, one of the newer members of the branch; and Sudha Sundar, the talented person who is coding the app.



PUBLIC POLICY

Virginia Kress

CEDAW

Though the US has not ratified the Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) over 40 cities/counties/states have taken action to “Make the Global Local” by passing either an ordinance or resolution supporting the treaty’s principles. AAUW-VA and branches are working to get Fairfax County and Alexandria added to this list. The website, [Cities for CEDAW](#), has more information.

REMEMBER TO VOTE!!

On election day, November 5, or at Beatley Library on:

Wednesday, October 27	1 pm - 8 pm
Thursday, October 28	1 pm - 8 pm
Friday, October 29	1 pm - 5 pm
Saturday, October 30	10 am - 5 pm



MEMBERSHIP

Margaret Batko
Membership VP

We have undertaken multiple initiatives to encourage membership renewal during this continuing pandemic crisis that has disrupted all our lives. Anne Simpson sent invoices for dues to all members registered as of June 30, 2021. She has sent follow-up invoices to members who have not renewed. Margaret Batko sent follow-up emails and also mailed follow-ups to all current members who have not renewed and not indicated that they would not be renewing.

Currently we have 57 members, down from 61 in May 2021. Twelve members have not renewed, 5 of whom have indicated that they will not be doing so. Seven people have not responded. Eight new members have joined the Branch, some who previously were at large national members whom we contacted about joining the Branch, some transferred their memberships because they were attracted to our activities.

Although October 3, 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!



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.

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.

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

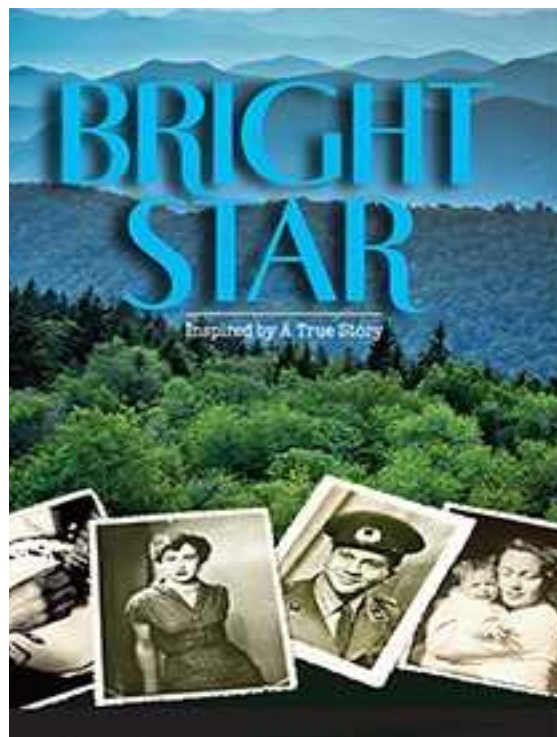
Together with the Mt Vernon Branch, the Alexandria Branch AAUW will hold its annual fundraising event at the Little Theater of Alexander (LTA). The music, book, and story for “Bright Star” were written by Steve Martin, acclaimed actor, comedian and musician, and Edie Bricknell.

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**.



BRANCH ACTIVITIES



MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Susan Werner

Our November mystery is set in France: Murder Below Montparnasse by Cara Black. The date of the meeting is November 23rd with our usual meeting time of 7 PM. We will continue to meet via Zoom. Thank you, Lane. If you have questions about the Mystery Book Discussion Group, please contact Susan Werner: susan.werner1@verizon.net. The mystery group welcomes new members and suggestions for mystery novels. Please join us!!



FRANCOPHILE GROUP DISCUSSION

Susan Cash

After a break for the holiday season, our next meeting is planned for a date in January. Please follow our news in upcoming Alexandria Branch newsletters.
POC: Susan Cash, 703/587-4790, scash5558@gmail.com

CAMPUS OUTREACH

Danielle Beach

Sylvia Linke now on Northern Virginia Community College's Braden Center for Women, Gender and Social Equity's advisory board.



GREAT DECISIONS 2022

Lynn O'Connell

Here are the topics we'll study next year. Please let me know if you'd like to be added to the mailing list.

Topic 1: "Changing Demographics" (Bonus Article) by Joseph Chamie

Topic 2: "Outer Space" by Eric Berger

Topic 3: "Climate Change" by Ron Bee

Topic 4: "Russia and the U.S." by Allen Lynch

Topic 5: "Myanmar and ASEAN" by Hunter Marston

Topic 6: "Quad Alliance" by Kevin Rudd

Topic 7: "Drug Policy in Latin America" by Mónica Serrano

Topic 8: "Industrial Policy" by Jonathan Chanis

Topic 9: "Biden's Agenda" by John Ikenberry

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 convened some dozen women to discuss the highly controversial novel, American Dirt, once again on Zoom. In a far-ranging conversation that touched on many of the book's themes—immigration, the plight of migrants seeking asylum in the United States, sexual violence, maternal love, trauma, loss, class divides, the meaning of family, personal courage, and a host of others—the group unanimously enjoyed the read, despite its disturbing content. Several noted that they could really identify with the protagonist and had a whole new perspective on the issue. Published in 2020, the book attracted both acclaim and outrage, with author Jeanine Cummings attacked for appropriating a culture to which she does not belong and exploiting violence and stereotypes. However, that criticism didn't resonate with the Group. When asked if participants would recommend the book to others, the answer was a resounding yes. It was not only a cliff hanger from one scene to the next but most found it well-structured, informative, beautifully written, and believable. The interesting and well-developed characters are likely to stick with us for some time to come.

CHRIST HOUSE

The Glam Day Spa cards are still available and the \$45 goes to support our Christ House meals. They make a great holiday gift- for yourself or a loved one you want to pamper. Easy to mail and easy to use. Mail checks to Anne Simpson. Email her for her address: aseyedoc@gmail.com.

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

ITEMS OF INTEREST

From AAUW-National

On behalf of the Board of Directors of AAUW, I'm thrilled to announce that Gloria L. Blackwell will be the new Chief Executive Officer of the organization, effective October 18, 2021.

Gloria currently serves as AAUW's Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer and has extensive experience leading within the organization. She's managed and expanded AAUW's esteemed fellowships and grants program—awarding more than \$70 million in funding to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and abroad. She's spearheaded innovative programs, including the award-winning salary negotiation workshops, which have reached more than 190,000 women nationwide.

Gloria initiated and built partnerships with major funders, local governments and institutes of higher education. And she has significantly expanded the organization's outreach to girls and women of color. But most of all, Gloria has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to AAUW's vision of achieving equity for all. Before joining AAUW 17 years ago, Gloria worked at the Institute of International Education (IIE) in Washington D.C., leading and managing girls' education programs in Africa and mid-career fellowships for global professionals. She began her career as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Cameroon and was the Country Desk Officer at the D.C. headquarters for five Sub-Saharan countries.

Talented, thoughtful and passionate about AAUW's mission, Gloria is the right leader at the right time. The Board has complete confidence in her ability to steer the organization through rapidly changing and challenging times in our country and to tackle new (and age old!) obstacles to gender equity.

We feel grateful and privileged that such an exceptional executive has accepted our invitation to lead our organization into the future. Please join us in congratulating and warmly welcoming Gloria Blackwell to her new role as AAUW CEO.

Thank you,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia T. Brown". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "J" and "B".

Julia T. Brown, Esq.
Board Chair

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Introducing Margaret Batko, Vice - President for Membership

Margaret Werts Batko is currently serving as the Vice-President for Membership of the Alexandria branch of AAUW. In this position she is responsible for membership recruitment, development, and retention. This is a big job with many facets. She prepares the annual directory of branch members; reaches out to at-large members of AAUW in the Alexandria area and encourages them to join the branch; keeps track of who has not renewed their annual branch membership and follows-up with these individuals to encourage them to renew their membership; records who attends branch meetings and follows up with visitors; and does a host of other things. Margaret is an artistic person who recently prepared and distributed some lovely cards depicting branch activities to remind those who had not yet renewed their membership of how much AAUW can contribute to their lives.

Margaret was the previous branch Secretary and kept us all straight on what transpired at Board of Directors and branch meetings. Also, she has donated art and craft supplies to a local nonprofit that promotes the development of self-image in young girls through reading books about amazing women.

Please extend a hearty thank you to Margaret for being such a wonderful member through the years.

Contributed by: Sylvia F. Linke, Co-President AAUW Alexandria

KVELL AND KUDOS

Go 2311! On October 3, Margaret Batko completed the 30-mile in Culpepper, Virginia 1/2 metric century. She said it was, "A real ride." We agree!



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

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