



Alexandria (VA) Branch
THE SCHOONER - April 2022

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SAVE THESE DATES:

- 4/7/22, 7p, Board Meeting
- 4/11/22 7p: Diversity Book Group,
- 4/14/22, 7p, Great Decisions
- 4/23/22, 10:30a, Program meeting - School to prison pipeline
- 4/24/22, 2p, Program meeting - Women's Health
- 4/26/22, 7p, Mystery book group
- 4/30/22, 1p, AAUW-VA, Conference, part 2, Virtual

Dear Friends,

The March program for the branch's general membership meeting on March 20 was a celebration of some of the Afro-American women who made significant contributions to the culture and social history of the City of Alexandria. The speaker for this program was Audrey Davis, Director of the City of Alexandria's Afro-American Museum. She has built this museum into a prestigious institution. Ms. Davis is very influential in the museum management field and in the field of Afro-American history, leading many boards and organizations which promote these disciplines. It was an informative and engaging presentation which made for a very special afternoon for AAUW members and their guests.

For several years now, two AAUW Alexandria members have supported a wonderful opportunity for female students at the Alexandria campus of Northern Virginia Community College. Lane Stone and Danielle Beach, who are both past branch Presidents, have enabled young women who are student leaders to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders sponsored by AAUW. Danielle and Lane have provided scholarships and transportation, if necessary, for conference attendees. This year was not exception. Once again Lane and Danielle stepped forward to make this special experience possible for some aspiring young women. Thank you, Danielle and Lane.

Diane Schrier and Sylvia Linke
 AAUW-Alexandria, Co-Presidents

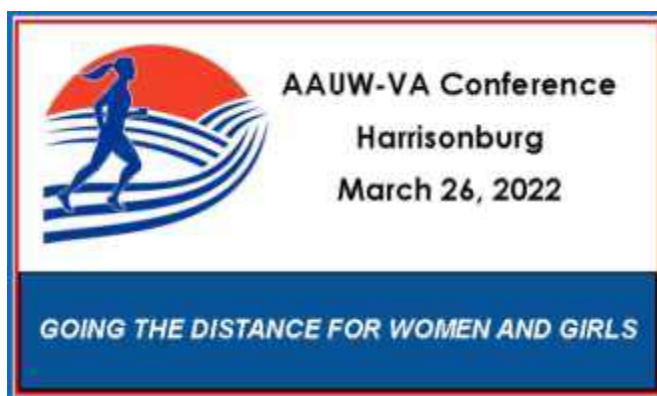
BRANCH NOTES

PLEASE JOIN US

For Part 2 Of The 2022 AAUW - Virginia State Conference

The AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting, will be held **via Zoom on Saturday, April 30, 1:00 – 3:45pm**, and will be virtual. Be on the lookout for an email with the link.

For your reference, here's a link to the [Conference Program Book for Part 1](#), which was held March 26 in Harrisonburg, Virginia.



LOOKING FOR BOARD CANDIDATES

Every spring the Board of Directors of the Alexandria branch appoints a Nominating Committee to recruit officers for the branch. The officers serve for two-year terms and perform the duties described in Appendix A to the branch's bylaws. This year, the officer positions with a term of two years for which the Nominating Committee is seeking candidates are Membership Vice-President and Recording/Corresponding Secretary. The Nominating Committee is also seeking an individual to fill the unexpired term of the Vice-President for programs. This is a one-year commitment.

Please consider serving in one of these positions if you are contacted by a member of the Nominating Committee, who are Lane Stone, Danielle Beach, and Gail Kalin. Serving as a branch officer can be a wonderful opportunity for personal growth and financial opportunity. You may find that you have a special talent that you did not realize you had. Some employers, including the federal government, accept volunteer experience that is relevant to a position as a means of fulfilling the experience required to qualify for certain jobs. It also gives you an opportunity to get to the branch and your fellow Board of Directors members better.

WE HAVE TWO PROGRAMS IN APRIL-



Mt. Vernon & Alexandria Branches



Sherwood Regional Library

Impact of School-to-Prison Pipeline: Restorative Justice as a Less Punitive Approach

**Via Zoom Saturday, April 23,
10:30 a.m.**

Hear experts discuss how criminalizing student misbehavior in our schools is trapping youth in a criminal justice system, thus ruining their lives and destroying communities. Learn how the community can support dignity-and empathy-based, less punitive methods such as Restorative Justice.

Zoom link to follow.

The meeting is free and open to the public.

Contact: AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com



Parisa Dehghani-Tafti is the Commonwealth’s Attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. She has a twenty-year record of criminal justice reform. She litigated at all levels of state & federal courts, including the US Supreme Court & the Supreme Court of Virginia. As a law professor at Georgetown University Law Center and at George Washington University School of Law, she has helped train the next generation of criminal law attorneys, teaching courses on wrongful convictions.



Dr. Kevin F. Gilbert has been in education for 25 years & currently serves as the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) for the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) in Howard County, Maryland. As the DEI director Dr. Gilbert is tasked with coordinating HCPSS’s efforts to be more diverse, promote equity, and ensure inclusion throughout the district. Dr. Gilbert’s leadership positions include serving as vice president for governance for the National Council of State Education Associations, chair of the NEA Committee on Human and Civil Rights, & co-chair of the NEA task force on Discipline and the School-to-Prison Pipeline.



Valerie Slater is a Youth Justice Attorney and Executive Director of the RISE for Youth organization advocating for the rights of youth and families facing justice system involvement or engaged with other systems charged with the care of Virginia’s youth. Valerie has also worked to protect the rights of children with disabilities in community, residential and juvenile justice facilities throughout the Commonwealth at the Disability Law Center of Virginia. Valerie is a fierce advocate for children and brings to her work an unwavering commitment to strengthening youth and communities to lead the efforts to realize their visions for change.

OUR SECOND PROGRAM –

THE SIX PILLARS OF BRAIN HEALTH Sunday, Apr 24, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Suba Saty from AARP will be presenting the Six Pillars of Brain Health *and activities that support brain health.*

It's never too late to focus on your brain health! AARP invites you to challenge yourself to “BE MORE” by taking one more step along the path by learning about lifestyle habits that support brain health. This fun and informative session is a great overview for anyone interested in learning more about brain health and will provide you with information on the latest research on brain health, lifestyle suggestions and resources to learn more.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85676853986>

Meeting ID: 856 7685 3986

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85676853986# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,85676853986# US (New York)

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



PUBLIC POLICY

Virginia Kress
Public Policy Chair

ON EDUCATION - The Virginia Association of Superintendents sent a letter to the Administration expressing some concerns on the Administration's education policies. Foremost among those concerns was that none of the Superintendents were consulted on any aspect of the interim report mandated by the Governor to end the use of inherently divisive concepts in K -12 education. The Association also disagreed with the removal of the "ED EQUITY VA" initiative to promote equity and diversity through resources for school districts. They also called for the end of the "tip line" to report divisive content.

SB 447, which would have banned salary history inquiries, passed the Senate and was sent to the House, where it was "laid on the table".

SB 490, which would increase specialized student support positions from 3 to 4, was continued to the 2022 Special Session.

HB 1024, which would take funds from public schools and redirect them to Education Savings Accounts to allow parents to use the funds for private school education, was passed by the House and sent to the Senate where it failed to pass.

On a positive note, the General Assembly did pass legislation protecting Virginia citizens from cyber-stalking and other forms of stalking conduct. This legislation passed both houses and has been sent to the Governor for his signature.

Virginia



MEMBERSHIP

Margaret Batko
Membership VP

We have a new member, Ginny Holloway. She graduated from George Mason University with a BIS in Early Childhood and Adult Education and a Masters in Education. She is employed in the Early Childhood Development Department at NOVA Alexandria. Her email is vholloway@nvcc.edu.

As we forward, we can anticipate receiving renewal notices from National. As a reminder, beginning July 1, the AAUW national dues will be \$67, of which \$64 will be tax-deductible. State dues and Branch dues will remain \$15 and the \$16 respectively.

CAMPUS OUTREACH

Danielle Beach
Campus Outreach Chair

Congratulations to Northern Virginia Community College students: Adrean, Sabrina, Anastasia, Hongmei. (Last names omitted since they are minors.) They are the recipients of our branch's grants to attend AAUW's [National College Campus Women Student Leaders](#), (NCCWSL) conference. The virtual AAUW two-day conference is the largest in the country for campus women.

We look forward to hearing about your experience! And to the conference going live next year.





AUTUMN LEAVES

Susan Cash
AAUW Funds Chair

The Alexandria Branch extends its heartfelt thanks to those who have donated to the Autumn Leaves 2021 fundraising drive. As of February 2022, \$2,288.89 has been raised.

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 each donation is tax-deductible. The portion retained by the Alexandria Branch will be used for the Branch's support of the Christ House meals program. Our drawing for prizes was held at the holiday luncheon on December 5.

We will continue to accept donations throughout the program year. 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.

FINANCE

Anne Simpson
Treasurer

National dues are set to increase this year from \$62 to \$67. As you may recall, AAUW is raising the dues gradually over three years to align them with what they should have been after several years of leaving them the same. This was voted on two years ago by the membership. State and branch dues are the same, so the total will be \$95.

An alternative is to pay for a lifetime National membership. The current cost for a lifetime membership is \$1,240, and it is easy to do when you go to renew. Once you have paid this amount, you will only owe state and branch dues from now on. After June 30th, lifetime membership goes up \$100 to \$1,340.



BRANCH ACTIVITIES



MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Susan Werner

Welcome friends to the wonderful world of mystery stories. Our mystery for April 2022 is Twenty-one Days by Anne Perry. This mystery series is concerns Daniel Pitt the son of Thomas and Charlotte Pitt. Thomas and Charlotte are the sleuths of author Anne Perry's first mystery series. Now we see the adventures of their grown son, Daniel. Our meeting will take place on April 26th at 7 PM. We will again meet via Zoom (thank you, Lane). If you have questions about the Mystery Book Discussion Group or suggestions for a new author, please contact Susan Werner at susan.werner1@verizon.net. Happy reading.



FRANCOPHILE GROUP

Susan Cash

Please follow the AAUW Alexandria newsletters for updates on future events—our annual Bastille Day dinner and a rescheduling of the meeting that had been planned for March 2022.

Please join us. For more information I can be reached at 703/587-4790, scash5558@gmail.com.



GREAT DECISIONS

Lynn O'Connell

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on Thursday, April 21, (NOTE DATE CHANGE) at 7 pm via Zoom for our Great Decisions discussion on Climate Change.

The ideological divide in the United States on the subject of climate change has impeded progress in curbing greenhouse emissions. But extreme weather events at both ends of the thermometer have focused attention on the consequences of inaction. What role will the United States play in future negotiations on climate?

Our facilitator will be Howard Soroos. Please contact Lynn O'Connell at lynnocConnellva@gmail.com for more information. We'd love to have you join us.

Become a Two-Minute Activist:

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>





WE'RE IN THE NEWS

The branch's February general meeting of the membership was engaging and a lot of fun. It was a discussion by four contemporary authoresses of their craft. One of them was Lane Stone, a member of the branch who writes mystery novels. She planned this special meeting and contacted the speakers. Thank you, Lane, and to our panelists, for the wonderful, enchanting program you prepared. For more information about this program please read an article that Diane Schrier, Branch Co-President, wrote and submitted for publication to the Zebra newspaper. See "Four Local Authors Honored at Forum Hosted by the AAUW of Alexandria on February 13th - The Zebra.

<https://thezebra.org/2022/03/08/four-local-authors-honored-at-forum-hosted-by-the-aauw-of-alexandria-on-february-13th/>

Former AAUW Alexandria Member Continues to Leave her Mark on the Environment

The March 2022 print version of the "[Zebra](#)" contains an article notifying readers that it is time to nominate Alexandrians for the 2022 Ellen J. Pickering Environmental Excellence Award. Ellen Pickering was a dynamic force in the conservation community in Alexandria. Among her many accomplishments she lobbied for the establishment of the Mt. Vernon Trail between the City of Alexandria and Mt. Vernon and for ensuring that the Alexandria City waterfront was accessible to the public. She also lobbied to preserve Founder's Park and protect it from high-rise development and implemented the planting of 1,000 citizen-donated cherry trees during her tenure as chair of the Alexandria Beautification Commission.

Members of the Alexandria branch of AAUW were well acquainted with Ellen Pickering. She was a long-time member and served as President of the branch from 1981-1983.

Ms. Pickering's family was instrumental in establishing the Ellen J. Pickering Environmental Excellence Award in her memory and continues to participate on panels which select those who will be recognized with the award (<https://alexrenew.com/sites/default/files/2021-02/20210216%20Board%20of%20Directors%20Meeting%20Final.pdf> (p. 9). The award recognizes the environmental and conservation contributions of Alexandrians to the City. For more information about Ellen Pickering, her accomplishments, and the award see the City of Alexandria's web site at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/earth-day/ellen-pickering-environmental-excellence-award#AboutEllenPickering>.

Submitted by Sylvia Linke, Co-President

ITEMS OF INTEREST

FROM SISTER BRANCHES

The **Springfield-Annandale Branch** will have its Spring Fling on May 17th. The speaker is Coline Jenkins who is the Great-Great-Granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

We are excited to invite you and your friends and family to our annual Spring Fling on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at the Springfield Golf and Country Club from 11 AM to 2:30 PM. It is the first Spring Fling in three years that we can all visit and share together. After a wonderful silent auction and delicious lunch, we will have the pleasure to hear a presentation by Coline Jenkins, the Great-Great- Granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. This is your opportunity to hear suffragist history and stories not told in books.

This year, we are offering the option of paying for Spring Fling by check or by credit. If a guest would like to pay by credit (see attached flyer), it will be through Eventbrite. With this service, it is easy to make the meal selection and to list table buddies. The convenience fee for paying by credit will bring the price from \$45 to \$49.43. Paying by check involves mailing a check along with the order form where meal choice and table buddies can be selected. Either way, we are excited about getting together in May. It is important to note that we will be following the current CDC guidelines.

Please invite your friends and purchase tickets as soon as possible so that our committee can continue to plan this wonderful event.

The Spring Fling Committee

The event will be held at the Springfield Golf and Country Club.

The sign-up form and flyer are attached.

FROM AAUW – VA



To take action click [here](#).

We are nearing the end of Virginia’s 2022 legislative session. The House of Delegates and Senate have each released their proposals for a new two-year state budget to start this July, and the differences in K-12 funding are stark. Each chamber has now elected representatives called “conferees” who will come together to negotiate a final “conference budget,” or a compromise between the two proposals.

With hundreds of millions of K-12 funding at stake, now is the time to reach out to conferees to let them know where you stand. Contact conferees to let them know you support the Fund Our Schools coalition’s budget priorities:

These are our top three priorities for the budget:

- **Keep \$269 million in At-Risk Add-On funding for high-poverty schools,** as proposed by the former governor’s introduced budget and the Senate.
- **Maintain the Senate’s proposed 5% teacher and staff salary increase over the next two years.** While this is a step, we need bolder investments to address the fact that Virginia offers the least competitive teacher pay in the country, contributing to a worsening teacher and school staff shortage.
- **Adopt House and Senate support staff ideas:** Tell lawmakers to provide funding to partially lift the cap on state funding for school support staff, as proposed by the Senate, and fund both the Senate and House versions of Senate Bill 490 to provide critical mental health staff and principal positions to our schools.

Your voice is making a difference: Just last week, thanks to education advocates lifting their voices, SB 490 (noted above) passed the House Appropriations Committee (and has since passed the full House!) and HB1024 to direct money away from public K-12 schools failed in the Senate Education and Health Committee. **As we look ahead to the end of the 2022 session, let's get these critical funding priorities across the finish line.** We are deeply grateful for your support.

In solidarity,

Fund Our Schools

FROM AAUW NATIONAL

Webinar

Social Justice: Creating Change

Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 7 p.m. ET

Social justice is at the core of what AAUW does every day. Whether at the national, state or local level, AAUW staff, volunteers and members work hard to build a more equitable world. What does it mean to support social justice, and how is that different (or the same) as racial justice and economic justice? Please save the date for a discussion of these critical issues.

Webinars are recorded and posted to the [AAUW website](#) shortly after each program.

Register Now

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

4/7/22, 7p, Board Meeting
4/11/22 7p, WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com
4/14/22, 7p, Great Decisions –Contact Lynn O’Connell at lynnocConnellva@gmail.com
4/23/22, 10:30a, Program meeting – School to prison pipeline.
4/24/22, 2p, Program meeting - Women’s Health
4/26/22, 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net.
4/30/22, 1p, AAUW-VA, Conference, part 2, Virtual
5/5/22, 7p, Board Meeting
5/9/22, 7p: WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com
5/12/22, 7p, Great Decisions –Contact Lynn O’Connell at lynnocConnellva@gmail.com
5/15/22, Annual Meeting
5/24/7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net.

2021-2022 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)
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)