



THE SCHOONER – February 2023

Dear Friends-

AAUW 2023 has started off quickly. Our book groups and other groups are active and members are coming together once again. Our meeting at the Beatley Library “The 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In: Telling Our Story” was very successful and had a full audience, plus many people who live-streamed. Our February 18th meeting will be a joint meeting with Mt. Vernon, on The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project.

Our State Convention will be in Williamsburg on March 18th. It should be very informative and enjoyable. Everyone should have received an email about this. The business meeting will take place by zoom on March 25th.

There are many activities that every member can take part in. If there is anything that you want to do, please let us know. Committees like Membership and Public Policy still need members. A co-chair for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is still needed, as is a committee to incorporate STEM into programs.

Lobby Day was very successful, in spite of rather iffy weather forecasts. Many of AAUW’s priority bills are either in committee or have a corresponding bill in the other chamber. AAUW was recognized in both chambers. Education is a very hot issue. So far, some of the worst bills failed. The bill prohibiting the asking of previous salary (SB 1136) has gone to the Committee of Commerce and Labor. The Paid Family and Medical Leave Act (SB 1101) was referred to the same committee.

This is your group. You can create the interest groups that you like.

Diane and Sylvia, Co-Presidents

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SAVE THESE DATES:

2/2/23, 7p Board Mtg
 2/13/23 7p, Diversity Book Group
 2/18/23, 10:30a, Program Mtg
 2/20/23 Gourmet Out,
 2/25/23, 10:30, District Mtg
 2/28/23 7p, Mystery book group

BRANCH NOTES

Programs

Branch Holds First Program Meeting of 2023

Over four centuries ago, the noted philosopher Baruch Spinoza said that “If you want the present to be different from the past, study the past.” Our branch took this sage advice on January 22 when we co-sponsored a program with the Alexandria Library entitled *The 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In: Telling Our Story*. The August 21, 1939, Alexandria Library sit-in—a peaceful act of civil disobedience--was one of the first sit-ins in the United States. Sit-ins became a widely used tactic during the civil rights movement years later.

The Alexandria Library, under its esteemed Executive Director Rose T. Dawkins, has meticulously researched, preserved, and [told this story](#)—and she told it again to those assembled at the Alexandria Beatley Library and to those who watched the simultaneous livestream on Zoom. In case you missed it, you can watch it by clicking this [link](#).

The Alexandria Library received the 2020 American Library Association’s John Cotton Dana Award and the 2020 American Library Association’s Excellence in Library Programming Award for its work done on the 1939 Library Sit-in.

The program was also an excellent opportunity for branch membership co-VPs, Arlene Schuchner and Dawn Watkins to inaugurate the branch’s new membership brochures with members from the community attending the program.

Left to right: Leslie Tourigny, AAUW Alexandria, Brenda Mitchell-Powell, author of *Public in Name Only: The 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In Demonstration*, Rose Dawson, Alexandria Library Executive Director. Arlene, Dawn, and a friend.





Mt Vernon and Alexandria Branches



Sherwood Regional Library

Saturday, February 18, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ZOOM

Register: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/9346784>

THE ALEXANDRIA REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

Speakers Audrey P. Davis, Co-Director of the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP), and Tiffany Pache, Project Coordinator for ACRP, will discuss this “...city- wide initiative dedicated to helping Alexandria understand its history of racial terror and work toward creating a welcoming community bound by equity and inclusion.” This project is in partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Montgomery, Alabama.

Davis and Pache will highlight the pilgrimage taken by ACRP, members of the community, and ACHS students last fall to the EJI National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum, with the purpose of delivering soil collected from locations that symbolically reflects the lives of Alexandria’s two known lynching victims – Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas.

Audrey P. Davis is the Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum. She is a former gubernatorial appointee to the Board of Directors for Virginia Humanities. In 2016, Ms. Davis was appointed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe to the State Historical Records Advisory Board. She was reappointed to this board in 2018 and 2021 by Gov. Ralph Northam. In 2018, Ms. Davis was appointed by Gov. McAuliffe to the Task Force for the Identification of the History of Formerly Enslaved African Americans in VA/. Ms. Davis is featured on the WETA documentaries, *Discovering Alexandria Parts I and II*, and *Martyrs, Mayhem and Martial Law: Life in Civil War Alexandria*. She was an on-set historical consultant for the PBS series *Mercy Street*, set in Alexandria. It premiered nationally in January 2016 and ran for two seasons.



Tiffany D. Pache is the Project Coordinator for the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project. In this role, she is responsible for producing a newsletter and other ACRP publications, as well as supporting ACRP’s committees, programs and events. Prior to joining ACRP, Ms. Pache worked as a journalist, as well as an education policy analyst.



Before becoming a reporter, Ms. Pache worked with a series of nonprofit organizations dedicated to nonviolence and conflict resolution. In the 1990s, she worked in Belfast, Northern Ireland, as the Project Coordinator for the Global Nonviolence Project. After returning to the United States, Ms. Pache worked with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for the Study of Nonviolence in Los Angeles as the Program Director.

Northern District Meeting
Saturday, February 25, 2023,
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
In-person at the Beatley Central Library
5005 Duke St., Alexandria

Join your AAUW sisters for an informative program focusing on maximizing our impact in the [community through collaborations](#).

Come hear from two non-profit leaders:

1. Sanah Jivani, Community Engagement Manager, at



2. Cindy Dwyer, Board Member, at



Questions?? Contact: ltourigny@gmail.com

HEADS WILL ROLL -



Evening at the theater- April 21, 2023, 7p

This year's Alexandria AAUW Branch's fund-raising event is the play "Mary Stuart" at The Little Theater of Alexandria on April 21, 2023. The tickets are \$35.00 a piece (\$7.00 tax deductible). Please join us in supporting AAUW's goals to help women and girls. Arlene Shapiro will be sending out messages on how you might help with the reception. Contact Susan Werner (susan.werner1@verizon.net) to reserve your tickets. Make checks out to AAUW Alexandria or pay via cash. Sorry – not credit cards or online pay venues. Susan will be happy to mail you your tickets.

PUBLIC POLICY

Virginia Kress, Public Policy Chair

Standards of Learning - update

On January 6, 2023 Governor Youngkin's administration released another draft of K - 12 history and social science Standards of Learning ("SOL"). The January draft seeks to combine the November 2022 draft prepared by Governor Youngkin's administration, which faced vocal opposition, with elements of the August SOL draft presented by Governor Northam's administration. The Board of Education will meet on February 1st to consider this third SOL draft, as well as any public comments, and an alternative SOL draft prepared by an outside group of three history and social science professional organizations. This group, which consists of Virginia Social Sciences Leaders Consortium, Virginia Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and American Historical Association, released their 63 page draft in December 2022. They prepared their alternative SOL draft at the request of the State Department of Education. This alternative draft also includes elements of the August and November SOL drafts. In December 2022, the Virginia's Commission on Civic Education urged the BOE to adopt this alternative SOL draft.

Legislation update:

There are several bills that have been introduced to the Virginia General Assembly that AAUW has joined with NOW in supporting. Here is a brief summary of some of those bills.

HB 2003 This bill would require any employer that employs 50 or more employees to provide harassment and workplace discrimination training to supervisory and non-supervisory employees.

SB 1248 This bill adds the requirement that any business seeking approval for tax incentives for economic development projects must commit to maintaining a 30 % gender balanced and diverse board of directors for their company.

HB 1895 The bill will amend Sec. 40.1- 28.01 of the Virginia Code by stipulating that "Any provision in a non-disclosure or confidentiality agreement that aims to conceal the details relating to any claim of sexual assault as a condition of employment is void as against public policy."



AUTUMN LEAVES

Susan Cash
AAUW Funds Chair

Thanks to all who donated to our Autumn Leaves 2022 fundraising drive. The funds raised will be divided equally between the Alexandria Branch and AAUW National's Greatest Needs Fund. ***Fifty percent of your donation is tax-deductible.***

We will continue to accept donations. To contribute to Autumn Leaves 2022, please mail a check, ***payable to AAUW-Alexandria***, with Autumn Leaves on the memo line, to Susan Cash, 8402 West Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308. Autumn Leaves 2023 opens on June 1.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

Christ House

Margaret Zebrowski and Jan Jaynes

Christ House is not serving inside yet so for the August 31st and the November 30th meals, volunteers put together 58 boxes of food in the kitchen at Christ House. The boxes, provided by Christ House, then were distributed by the staff to the guests that were waiting outside.

August 31st - 60 boxes of food- 2 pieces of pizza, apple, tomatoes, carrots, cookies, and water. 7 residents of Christ House in addition were served. Total cost was \$242.74.

November 30th - Included in each box were 3 pieces of pizza, mandarin oranges, tomatoes and carrots and 2 cookies. We donated bottles of water. We also provided the meal for the 7 residents of Christ House. Marino's Pizza- \$244.93; Costco-\$99.70; vegetables/ fruit/cookies. Total cost was \$344.63.

Prior to October, 2022, the meal, at a cost of \$500, including a \$50 tip, had been catered and delivered by The Italian Place in Alexandria. Christ House stopped indoor eating early in the pandemic, so we catered a number of times.

The next Christ House supper is March 29th. We don't know yet when Christ House will resume indoor meals.



GOURMET OUT

Susan Cash

Our next Gourmet Out event will take place at Executive Diner, 1400 Duke Street (next to the Shiloh Baptist Church) on Monday, February 20 (federal holiday). This President's Day/Fat Monday (Lundi Gras) gathering can be at lunch time or at dinner, depending on which time is more popular with interested participants. Feel free to wear Mardi Gras colors. February 27 will be a makeup date if needed. This restaurant has a wide-ranging menu which should appeal to a variety of tastes. Parking is available on two sides of the building in specially marked spaces. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com, 703/587-4790.



MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Susan Werner

Greetings mystery lovers. Our mystery for February will The Collector by our own Lane Stone. We can all ask her questions on how she came up with this intriguing mystery. We will meet on February 28, 7 PM via Zoom. Thank you, Lane, for agreeing to talk about your work and for providing the Zoom link. If you have questions about the Mystery Book Discussion Group, or suggestions for mysteries you would like the group to read, please contact Susan Werner: susan.werner1@veizon.net. Happy Reading!!!





FRANCOPHILE GROUP

Susan Cash

Our next meeting is targeted for either Saturday, March 25 or Saturday, April 1. The topic will be decided at our January 28 meeting. For more information, please contact Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com or 703/587-4790.



DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

Bonnie Hershberg

For the first time since its inception in January 2020, the Diversity Book Group read a novel by an Australian author. Melissa Lucashenko identifies as a Black lesbian of Aboriginal descent. She also counts Ukrainian and Russian as part of her ancestry but in her award-winning work, Too Much Lip, published in 2020, she clearly writes from the perspective of a fictitious Aboriginal community. It is one, however, that she also knows well from her own life experiences. With few exceptions, the 12 participants who met in January to discuss her work registered a highly positive reaction. While the frequent use of Aboriginal slang can deter a reader's easy progress through the story, it serves an important role not only in adding authenticity to the "yarn," but also highlights one of the novel's many themes, including racism, forgiveness, family, feminism, gender and class power, spirituality, and assimilation. When asked by our volunteer facilitator to use one adjective to describe Too Much Lip, several participants called it "eye opening," "surprising, and "intriguing." One described the experience as "kaleidoscopic," the opportunity to look through a kaleidoscope at a community with which we have no experience and see many of its cultural, physical, social, and economic attributes. Too Much Lip takes the reader on a journey well worth taking if you have even a remote interest in things Australian or Aboriginal. On Monday, 13 Feb., the Group will be discussing Refugee High: Coming Of Age In America by Elly Fishman, 2021. If you would like to join us, please email Bonnie Hershberg at hersh3b@gmail.com by 11 Feb.

GREAT DECISIONS 2023



Lynn O'Connell

Our first meeting of 2023 will be on March 9, 7p - Iran At A Crossroad. Discussion leader will be Larry Korb. Please join us.



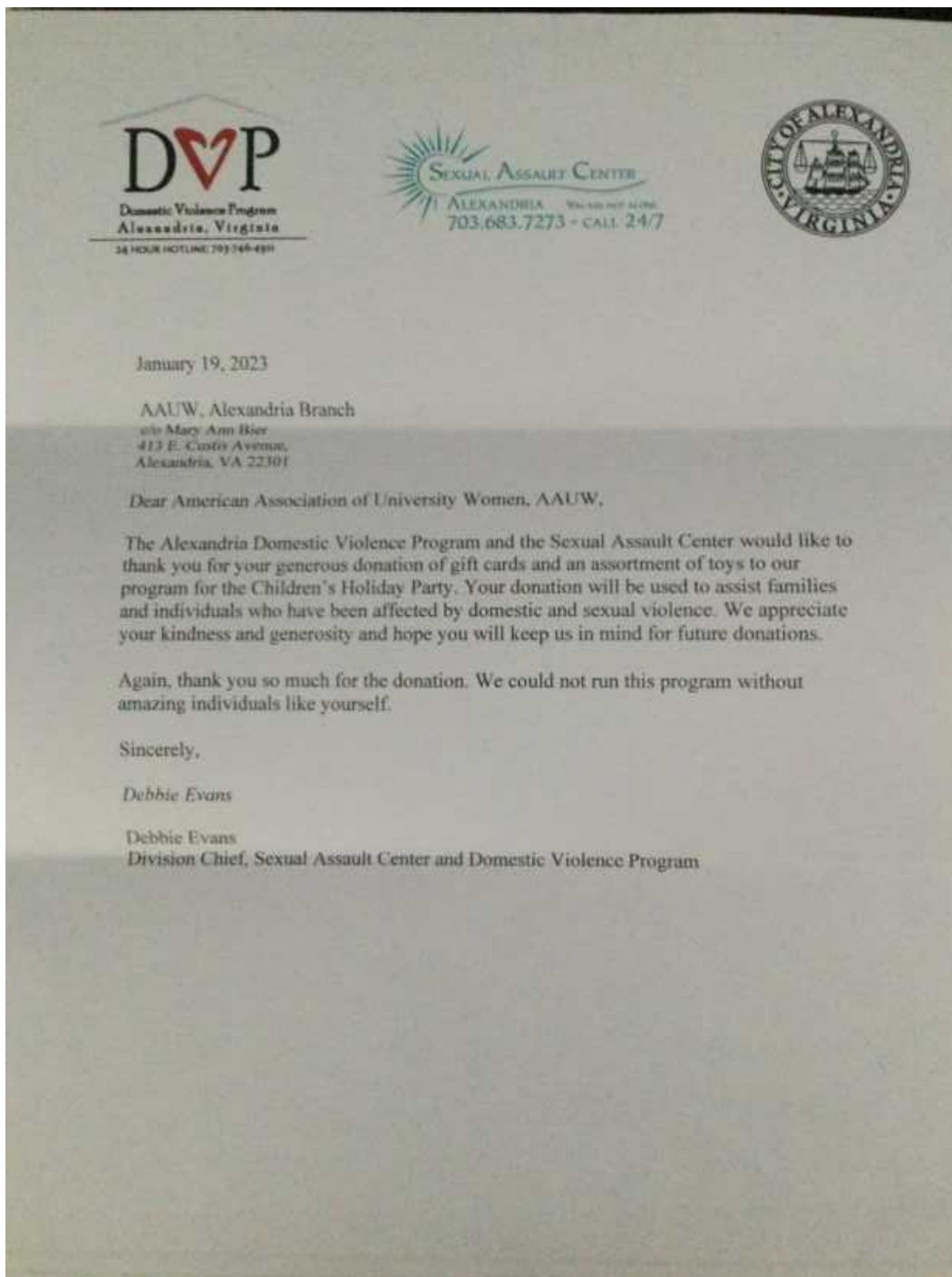
Iran at a Crossroads

By the fall of 2022, Iran was in a state of turmoil due to widespread protests against government-enforced wearing of the hijab, a failing economy, an ineffective new president, and the looming succession of the country's leader, Ayatollah Khamenei. Abroad, renewal of the Iran nuclear deal seemed doubtful and tensions remain high between Iran, Israel, and Arab states. Many Iranians have lost hope of a better future, and the country seems at a crossroads. How should the United States deal with it? [By Lawrence Potter](#)

Not on the Great Decisions email list? Please email Lynn O'Connell at lynnocConnellva@gmail.com to be added. You (and guests) are welcome to attend one time, or each of our meetings.

KVELLS AND KUDOS (to us!)

The branch received the following letter thanking us for contributions made at our holiday luncheon to Alexandria's Domestic Violence Program.



2023 CALENDAR – ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
(CHECK <https://alexandria-va.aauw.net> OFTEN)

2/2/23, 7p Board Mtg
2/13/23 7p, WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Virtual, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com
2/18/23, 10:30a, Program Mtg: The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project. (w/Mt. Vernon Branch) Sherwood Regional Library. Contact: Leslie Tourigny, (ltourigny@gmail.com)
2/20/23 Time TBD, Gourmet Out, Contact: Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com
2/25/23, 10:30, Northern District Meeting, Beatley Library
2/28/23 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net.
3/2/23, 7p Board Mtg
3/9/23, 7p, Great Decisions –Contact Lynn O’Connell at lynnoconnellva@gmail.com
3/13/23 7p, WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Virtual, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com
3/19/23, 2p-4p Program Mtg: Women In Art, Loc TBD
3/28/23, 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net.
3/29/23, Christ House Dinner, Contact: Margaret Zebrowski (Mmzebrow@aol.com) & Jan Jaynes (janjjoek@verizon.net)

2022-2023 BRANCH OFFICERS

Co-presidents: Sylvia Linke (SFLaauw@gmail.com) & Diane Schrier (diane.schrier@gmail.com)
VP Membership: Dr. Dawn Watkins, (dwnwtkns@gmail.com) & Arlene Schuchner (arlene.schuchner@verizon.net)
VP Program: Leslie Tourigny, (ltourigny@gmail.com)
Secretary: Dr. Gail Kalin, (gailkalin@yahoo.com)
AAUW Funds: Susan Cash (scash5558@gmail.com)
Diversity and Inclusion: Dr. Gail Kalin (gailkalin@yahoo.com)
Public Policy: 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)
Francophile Group: Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com
Gourmet Out Group: Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com
Great Decisions: Lynn O’Connell (lynnoconnellva@gmail.com)
Mystery Book Group: Susan Werner (susan.werner1@verizon.net)