



THE SCHOONER – January 2023

INSIDE:

Co-presidents' letter	1
Branch Notes	2
Branch Activities	6
Calendar	11
Contacts	11

SAVE THESE DATES:

- 1/5/23, 5p, Pre-session Public Policy Zoom.
- 1/5/23, 7p Board Mtg
- 1/9/23, 7p, Diversity Book Group,
- 1/18/23, Virtual and in-person Lobby Day reception
- 1/19/23, 8:45a Lobby Day
- 1/22/23, 1:30 Program Mtg
- 1/24/23, 7p, Mystery book group
- 1/28/23, 3p, Francophile Group,

Dear Friends-

As the Holiday Season draws to a close, we hope that everyone was safe and healthy, and not badly affected by the storm. As always, the Holiday season brings family, happiness, reconciliation, but also loss, loneliness and sadness. Please remember those who have gone through a lot during this period.

The Senate has just voted to pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, which will ensure that employers give reasonable accommodations to pregnant workers. It passed overwhelmingly. This has been an important issue for AAUW. The government also passed a bill to keep the government open.

Our Holiday Luncheon was excellent. The food was very good, the day turned sunny, and it was wonderful to be reunited with friends. Our speaker, Del. Charniele Herring, former Majority Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates, was an excellent and informative speaker. She spoke about many of our main issues and what the next session might be able to do to accomplish them.

Our next meeting should be very interesting. We have Rose Dawson, Director of the Alexandria Library, speaking about the 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In. This will take place on Sunday, January 22nd from 1:30-3:00 p.m. in person at the Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street and live streaming. Please do your best to come to this very interesting session.

We look forward to starting the New Year together.

Diane and Sylvia, Co-Presidents

BRANCH NOTES
Programs

The 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In
Sunday, January 22, 1:30 – 3:00 pm
Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St, Alexandria, VA

Join us for a presentation by Rose T. Dawson, Executive Director of the Alexandria Library, in partnership with the American Association of University Women of Virginia - Alexandria Branch, sharing this Alexandria history. The event will be held in-person and simultaneously live streamed. You will be sent the live stream link prior to the event.

ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY

AAUW
Alexandria (VA) Branch

THE 1939 ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY SIT-IN: TELLING OUR STORY

One of America's first civil rights sit-ins took place at the Alexandria Library on August 21, 1939. As the Library's current Director, Rose T. Dawson has advocated for this important piece of history to ensure it continues to be recognized and remembered.

ROSE T. DAWSON
Director, Alexandria Library

EVENT DETAILS

**SUNDAY,
JANUARY 22
1:30-3PM**

**CHARLES E. BEATLEY, JR.
CENTRAL LIBRARY
5005 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22304**

HEADS WILL ROLL -



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

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 – no credit cards or online pay venues. Susan will be happy to mail you your tickets.

PUBLIC POLICY

Virginia Kress, Public Policy Chair

STATE LOBBY DAY!
January 19, 2023, 8:30a
Virginia State Capitol Building

We will kick off with a **Pre-Session Public Policy Zoom meeting on January 5, 5 p.m.** At this statewide gathering you will *learn how to advocate both in-person and virtually*. We will introduce you to tools and resources that will be available to our members throughout the session, highlight issues to watch for, and provide updates on our in-person Lobby Day plans, as well as how you can participate virtually. ***This is one meeting you will not want to miss.***

Time: Jan 5, 2023 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88121083620?pwd=Y1ptK0JEVDk5Tk5k3bGjJbGJoaXU3dz09>

Unfortunately, we were forced to cancel our Women Legislators Reception for the evening of January 18 due to lack of a venue, but we will **meet in person in Richmond for AAUW-VA Lobby Day on Thursday, January 19**. We are in the process of planning *a gathering in place of the reception, on Wednesday evening* for those members who will be arriving that day as well as for those who would like to join via Zoom.

We have *secured a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn & Suites Richmond Downtown* (700 E Main St, Richmond, VA 23219 [\(804\) 643-5400](tel:8046435400)) at the rate of **\$145 for the night of January 18**. Use the following registration link to get the reduced price:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=RICEMHX&groupCode=CHHAAU&arrivaldate=2023-01-18&departuredate=2023-01-19&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

If you have financial restrictions, a limited number of rooms in private homes have been made available to us. Please email denise.m.murden@gmail.com for more information.

Members are asked to complete our brief questionnaire regarding your plans for lobbying and advocacy. Please **also use this form for comments, questions, and suggestions** you may have concerning lobbying and advocacy during the 2023 session. It can be found here: <https://forms.gle/ZRyxTxLE8QYXi3Cv6> We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Richmond, and in our Zoom room. Thanks for all you do for women and girls!

Please also email Virginia to let her know if you can join us in Richmond, (vmvkress@gmail.com) so we can discuss carpooling and other arrangements.



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.

AAUW-VA

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2023 AAUW-VA annual conference will be held in Williamsburg on March 18. The annual business meeting will be virtual and is scheduled for March 25, 10a. Look for all the details in the next Vision.

The AAUW-VA board voted on the districts where future annual conferences will be held.

2024 – Southwest

2025 – Northern (that's us!)



BRANCH ACTIVITIES



GOURMET OUT

Susan Cash

Our next Gourmet Out event is targeted for February. The restaurant is currently TBD. An update will be included in the next newsletter. If you might be interested in joining us, please contact Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com, 703/587-4790.



MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Susan Werner

Happy New Year mystery lovers. The first mystery for 2023 is Clark and Division by Naomi Hirahara. We will meet on January 24th at 7 PM, once again meeting via Zoom to allow those living away from the area to join in. Address questions and suggestions to Susan Werner: susan.werner1@verizon.net.



FRANCOPHILE GROUP

Susan Cash

At our next meeting, Saturday, January 28 at 3 p.m. via Zoom, we will discuss the book The Last Baron by Tony Sancton. For more information, including the Zoom link, please contact Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com or 703/587-4790.



DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

Bonnie Hershberg

Despite the craziness of the holiday season, 11 members of the Diversity Book Group, including one at a family tree decorating party, joined us for a discussion in December of *Funny, You Don't Look Autistic: A Comedian's Guide to Life on the Spectrum* by Michael McCreary. Reaction to the memoir of this 20-something Canadian young man was unanimously positive. All considered it an entertaining but informative tutorial on the subject with an important take-away—when you know one person or read about one person with Autism, you know or have read about ONE person and one person only. We talked about how remarkable the author is, the support he has gotten from his parents, and his persistence in pursuing his goal to be a performer—a considerable challenge even for so-called neuro-typicals. The Diversity Book Group is continuing to meet the second Monday of each month on Zoom from 7:00 - 8:30 pm thanks to the support of the Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library. Please email Bonnie Hershberg at hersh3b@gmail.com if you would like to join us to discuss *Too Much Lip* by Melissa Lucashenko, our first look into a contemporary Australian Aboriginal community.

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. Here's the entire list for the year. Please join us.



Energy Geopolitics

Access to oil and gas has long held an influence over the politics of individual nations and their relations with others. But as more countries move toward sustainable energy, and supply chain shortages affect the availability of oil and gas, how will this change the way in which the United States interacts with the outside world? [By Carolyn Kissane](#)



War Crimes

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has resulted in widespread charges of war crimes and calls for justice. But what exactly are war crimes? Opinions of what constitutes a war crime have evolved, as have ways to identify and punish the perpetrators. How will the war crimes committed in Ukraine be dealt with? [By Francine Hirsch](#)



China and the U.S.

For the past ten years, the United States and China have been locked in a competition for who has the greatest global influence. One major point of contention is the status of Taiwanese sovereignty, which has become even more relevant recently with the possibility that Russia's invasion of Ukraine may prompt China to take similar action regarding Taiwan. How will the United States engage a China which is increasingly seeking to expand its sphere of influence? [By David Lampton](#)



□ [*Economic Warfare*](#)

Waging economic warfare consists of a variety of measures from implementing sanctions to fomenting labor strikes. Such tools are utilized by states to hinder their enemies, and in the case of the United States have been used as far back as the early 19th century. Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, economic warfare has been the main means for the west to challenge Russia. How effective will these sanctions be at convincing Russia to cease its war? [By Jonathan Chanis](#)



□ [*Politics in Latin America*](#)

Electoral results in Latin America over the past four years have led many observers of the regional/political scene to discern a left-wing surge in the hemisphere, reminiscent of the so-called “Pink Tide” that swept the area some 20 years ago. But how much do these politicians actually have in common? What implication does their ascendancy have for the region? [By Jorge Castañeda](#)



□ [*Global Famine*](#)

Fears of global food shortages have followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has disrupted grain shipments from the major grain producer. But what about countries and regions that were suffering before this impending shortage? How is famine defined, and how is it different from simple food shortages? What if any remedies are there? [By Daniel Maxwell](#)



□ [*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](#)



□ [*Climate Migration*](#)

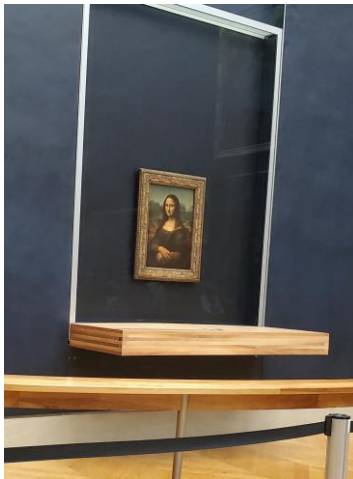
As climate change accelerates and drought and rising sea levels become more common, millions of people in affected regions must uproot themselves and seek safety elsewhere. Who are these affected individuals, and how might the United States aid them, and be affected by the migration? [By Karen Jacobsen](#)

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

KVELLS AND KUDOS

The Board wishes to express condolences to Danielle Beach on the death of her father. [Bert Beverly Beach](#), of Silver Spring, Maryland who passed away on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at the age of 94. Kudos on a life well lived.

Lane Stone, writing as Cordy Abbott, had this published in [CrimeReads](#). And later that month, her book, *The Collector*, was recommended as a mystery with an art theme.



FROM SISTER BRANCHES and ORGANIZATIONS

Good Info on 2023 VA legislative initiatives from League of Women Voters. I encourage those of you who are interested in learning more about legislative initiatives that are likely to be discussed/voted upon during the upcoming 2023 Virginia legislative session beginning on January 11 to watch the League of Women Voters of Virginia's excellent Pre-Session telecast. It is a five-hour telecast featuring representatives of the Virginia chapter of the National Association of the Mentally Ill (NAMI), the Sierra Club, AAUW, and many other nonprofits as well as some Virginia governmental organizations. Although it is produced by the Virginia League of Women Voters, many of the legislative initiatives discussed parallel those that interest AAUW members. You may find the Pre-Session telecast on the League of Women Voters of Virginia's You Tube site at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zEVu7qi58>. The telecast is very professionally done. It is a worthwhile investment of one's time. It will help you to be a well-informed, engaged voter and advocate for AAUW's legislative priorities.
Submitted by Sylvia Linke on 12/19/2022

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

1/5/23, 5p, Pre-session Public Policy Zoom
1/5/23, 7p Board Mtg
1/9/23, 7p, WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Virtual, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com
1/18/23, Virtual and in-person Lobby Day get-together
1/19/23, AAUW-VA Lobby Day
1/22/23, 1:30-3:00p Program Mtg: The 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-in. Loc- Beatley Library
1/24/23, 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net
1/28/23, 3p, Francophile Group, via Zoom, will discuss The Last Baron by Tony Sancton. Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com

2022-2023 BRANCH OFFICERS

Co-presidents: Sylvia Linke (SFLaauw@gmail.com) & Diane Schrier (diane.schrier@gmail.com)
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Francophile Group: Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com
Gourmet Out Group: Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com
Great Decisions: Lynn O'Connell (lynnocConnellva@gmail.com)
Mystery Book Group: Susan Werner (susan.werner1@verizon.net)