



**THE SCHOONER – March 2023**

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**SAVE THESE DATES:**

- 3/2/23, 7p Board Mtg
- 3/9/23, 7p, Great Decisions –
- 3/12/23, 2p, Program Mtg:
- 3/13/23 7p, Diversity Book Group
- 3/18/23, 10a, AAUW-VA Annual Conference,
- 3/25/23, 10a-noon, AAUW-VA Annual Business Mtg.
- 3/25/23, 3p – Francophile Meeting,
- 3/28/23, 7p, Mystery book group,
- 3/29/23, Christ House Dinner,

Dear Friends-

March is coming in as a lion for much of the country, but hopefully the rest of the month will be as lovely as a lamb. Little Theater of Alexandria fundraiser is coming. It will be April 21<sup>st</sup> and Susan Werner has tickets. Donations are always welcomed. We are responsible for sweets. 😊 Arlene Shapiro will be in touch with you about that. We can see old friends and meet new friends and enjoy ourselves.

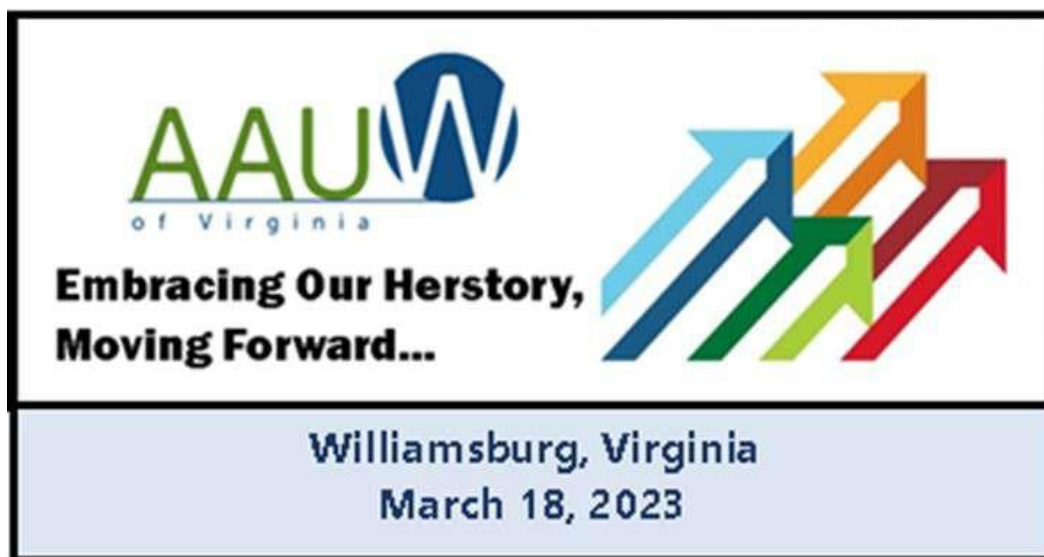
The Nominating Committee is meeting to propose officers/directors for the next two years. Positions to be filled are President, Program and Treasurer. We would also like volunteers to: keep track of City Council, keep track of School Board, a DEIB co-chair, plus different committees. There will be updates started to our bylaws after National solidifies their new bylaws.

Our State Conference is March 18<sup>th</sup> in Williamsburg, a great place to visit for a weekend, and meet other members from AAUW. The business meeting will be a zoom meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

We are having our last zoom meeting of the year on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Nancy Morgan will be speaking about a topic that has indirectly impacted all of us “Getting Money Out of Politics”. After that we will all be together for our meetings for the rest of this year. I can’t wait to see everyone.

Diane and Sylvia, Co-Presidents

AAUW of Virginia invites you to join us in  
Williamsburg,  
the city of our founding, for  
**Conference 2023!**



Click [HERE](#) for all the details and to register.



The Conference and Annual Business Meeting are being held separately.

The Conference will be held on March 18 at the Holiday Inn & Suites Williamsburg – Historic Gateway in Williamsburg, VA from 9:45 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.



The Annual Business Meeting will be held via Zoom on March 25, 10a.

# BRANCH NOTES

## PROGRAMS

Leslie Tourigny  
Program VP

**March 12, 2023, 2:00 p.m.**

Do you know that Virginia is one of only five states with no limits on campaign finance?

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Do you think it's time to get big money out of politics?

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If your answers are “yes”, then please **come join us on Zoom on Sunday, March 12, 2023, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. to hear from Nancy Morgan, Coordinator of the Virginia Chapter of American Promise**, which is working to pass an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that “would set reasonable limits on the raising and spending of money to influence our elections.” Nancy will be talking about the status of money in our political process, reviewing policy options to address this issue, and exploring actions which citizens can take to influence legislation.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84385455094>  
Meeting ID: 843 8545 5094

Dial in  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
Meeting ID: 843 8545 5094

## Right in Our Own Backyard

**Leslie Tourigny**  
Program VP

On Saturday, February 25, AAUW-VA Northern District held the first of its two 2023 meetings right here in Alexandria at the Beatley Central Library. With 40 people attending from 10 of the 11 branches, it was quite apparent how much everyone welcomed the opportunity to meet in-person—something we haven't gotten to do too much since 2020.

The meeting focused on maximizing our impact in the community through collaborations. We heard from leaders from two organizations that, just like AAUW, empower women:

Sanah Jivani, Community Engagement Manager, at



and Cindy Dwyer, Board Member, at



Both of our speakers delivered informative and powerful presentations, that included an overview.



Cindy Dwyer



Sanah Jivani



## **Evening at the Theater & Support for AAUW Goals!**

**April 21, 2023, 7p**

Please support AAUW's effort/goals to help women and girls – so important still in today's complicated world. You can support these goals by buying tickets for Alexandria AAUW Branch's annual fund-raising event: the play "Mary Stuart" at The Little Theater of Alexandria on April 21, 2023. The tickets are only \$35.00 a piece. We will have a reception prior to the start of the play – lots of goodies. (contact Arlene Shapiro if you can help with the reception.) Contact Susan Werner ([susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto: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 or hold them at the box office for you to pick up the night of the play. If you are not able to attend, a small donation would be appreciated. See attached flyer for further details.

## PUBLIC POLICY

Virginia Kress, Public Policy Chair

Crossover Tuesday took place on February 7, 2023. That is the date when any bill must pass from its originating chamber to the corresponding chamber for consideration. Several bills of concern to the AAUA-VA were either not voted on in their respective chambers or were defeated in the corresponding chamber. Primary among these were bills restricting access to abortion and bills that would have diverted funds from public education to various savings accounts plans. SB1101 Paid family and medical program passed the Senate but the corresponding House Bill, HB 2035 died in committee. On a brighter note HB 1895 which prohibits employers from requiring current and prospective employees to sign NDAs that would prohibit such employees from disclosing a sexual assault also passed in the Senate.

Both Chambers are currently working on reconciling their respective budget bills prior to the February 25th deadline. One key element of that process will be how the General Assembly will fund the gap in education funding caused by the miscalculation of the impact of the Governor's repeal of the State portion of the sales tax.



## 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



### GOURMET OUT

Susan Cash

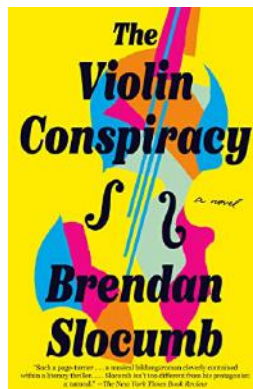
Stay tuned for our future events. We will not meet in March. Point of contact is Susan Cash, [scash5558@gmail.com](mailto:scash5558@gmail.com), 703/587-4790.



### MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Susan Werner

Greetings mystery lovers. Our March mystery will be The Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocumb. This book is described as a musical thriller with some unexpected notes. The date of our meeting is March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. We are still meeting via Zoom. If you have questions about the Mystery Book Discussion Group or suggestions for a mystery for the group to read, please contact Susan Werner: [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net). Happy Reading!!





## FRANCOPHILE GROUP

Susan Cash

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 25 at 3 p.m. via Zoom. Attendees are invited to choose a book or article that they have found interesting and give a brief summary to the group. For more information, please contact Susan Cash, [scash5558@gmail.com](mailto:scash5558@gmail.com) or 703/587-4790.



## DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

Bonnie Hershberg

Fourteen women in the Diversity Book Group met virtually on February 13 to discuss Refugee High: Coming of Age in America by Elly Fishman. Ms. Fishman, a Chicago journalist, was inspired to explore the lives of refugee adolescents at a local public school, Sullivan High, following the Muslim Ban on immigrants in 2017 and the precarious situation of most foreign born people living in the US during the last administration.

Participants enjoyed the book, getting an intimate view of the lives of four particular students from different corners of the globe as they wrestled with landing in a dramatically new life. As intriguing for many were the mini portraits of those who staff the English Language Learner program and those within the school—like the principal—and in the community who support it. The conversation was a lively and rich one. Several members shared their experiences as immigrants, teachers, and a high school PTA President and reflected on how evocative the read was for them.

On Monday, March 13 the group will be discussing Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner. If you would like to join our Zoom meeting, please email Bonnie Hershberg at [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com).



## 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.



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](mailto:lynnocConnellva@gmail.com) to be added. You (and guests) are welcome to attend one time, or each of our meetings.

## AAUW-Virginia



February 23, 2023

Senator Jennifer McClellan  
Pocahontas Building  
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Senator McClellan:

On behalf of the 1000 members of AAUW of Virginia, we want to express our congratulations on your historic election to the US House of Representatives. We have been grateful for your tireless advocacy for women and girls during your years in the Virginia General Assembly and we are thrilled that you can now take this advocacy to the national stage.

On March 14, AAUW and other organizations will mark Women's Equal Pay Day. This is the day in 2023 to which women on average must work to equal the pay men received in 2022. It is tragic that for women of color, this date is many months later in the year. Over half the states have a better ratio of pay equity between men and women than Virginia. The AAUW national website offers many resources that may be helpful to you and your staff in your new role.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/gender-pay-gap-by-state/>

We look forward to continuing to work with you in your new role and are looking forward to addressing our next letter to you as a member of Congress. Please let us know if we can be of assistance in any way.

Warmest regards,

Janine Greenwood and Denise M. Murden  
Co-VP of Public Policy  
AAUW of Virginia  
[Aauwvpublicpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:Aauwvpublicpolicy@gmail.com)

Cc: Robin Lucas, AAUW

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

3/2/23, 7p Board Mtg  
3/9/23, 7p, Great Decisions –Contact Lynn O’Connell at [lynnocConnellva@gmail.com](mailto:lynnocConnellva@gmail.com)  
3/12/23, 2p, Program Mtg: Money and Politics  
3/13/23 7p, WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Virtual, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com)  
3/18/23, 10a, AAUW-VA Annual Conference, Williamsburg, VA  
3/25/23, 10a-noon, AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting, Virtual  
3/25/23, 3p – Francophile Meeting, Virtual, Susan Cash, [scash5558@gmail.com](mailto:scash5558@gmail.com)  
3/28/23, 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net).  
3/29/23, Christ House Dinner, Contact: Margaret Zebrowski ([Mmzebrow@aol.com](mailto:Mmzebrow@aol.com)) & Jan Jaynes ([janjjoek@verizon.net](mailto:janjjoek@verizon.net))  
4/6/23, 7p Board Mtg  
4/10/23 7p, WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Virtual, Bonnie Hershberg, [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com)  
4/13/23 7p, Great Decisions –Lynn O’Connell at [lynnocConnellva@gmail.com](mailto:lynnocConnellva@gmail.com)  
4/21/23 7p, Little Theater of Alexandria fundraiser, *Mary Stuart*  
4/25/23, 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net).

**2022-2023 BRANCH OFFICERS**

Co-presidents: Sylvia Linke ([SFLaauw@gmail.com](mailto:SFLaauw@gmail.com)) & Diane Schrier ([diane.schrier@gmail.com](mailto:diane.schrier@gmail.com))  
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Christ House Dinners: Margaret Zebrowski ([Mmzebrow@aol.com](mailto:Mmzebrow@aol.com)) & Jan Jaynes ([janjjoek@verizon.net](mailto:janjjoek@verizon.net))  
Diversity Book Group: Bonnie Hershberg ([hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com))  
Francophile Group: Susan Cash, [scash5558@gmail.com](mailto:scash5558@gmail.com)  
Gourmet Out Group: Susan Cash, [scash5558@gmail.com](mailto:scash5558@gmail.com)  
Great Decisions: Lynn O’Connell ([lynnocConnellva@gmail.com](mailto:lynnocConnellva@gmail.com))  
Mystery Book Group: Susan Werner ([susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net))