

AAU

Alexandria (VA) Branch



THE SCHOONER – April 2023

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SAVE THESE DATES:

4/6/23, 7p Board Mtg
 4/10/23 7p, Diversity Book Group.
 4/13/23 7p, Great Decisions
 4/15/23 NVCC, Women Helping Women.
 4/21/23 7p, Little Theater of Alexandria fundraiser.
 4/25/23, 7p, Mystery book group.

Dear Friends-

Our Little Theater of Alexandria play will be April 21st. MARY STUART is continuing the Tudor story. It is our main fundraiser. Contact Susan Werner for tickets.

Susan.werner1@verizon.net

Please read the nominating committee report. Voting on this and our budget will be at our annual business meeting/luncheon on June 17th.

We have donated 7 GED books and a dictionary to Together We Bake. When we visited in November, they mentioned that some of their women needed to get their GED. This is an essential degree for their economic well-being. Gail Kalin donated one of the books.

We look forward to our May 20, Alexandria Celebrates Women's special Women's History Walk. See page 2.

We are collecting backpacks and school supplies for Women Helping Women at our June meeting. They spoke at our District meeting in February.

Have a wonderful Spring as the weather starts to warm up.

Diane and Sylvia, Co-Presidents

BRANCH NOTES

Programs

Leslie Tourigny



Come join us on **Saturday, May 20, 2023, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** for **the Alexandria Celebrates Women (ACW), Women's History Tour, guided by ACW Co-Founder and Vice President Gayle E. Converse.** *ACW is a volunteer 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization that recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of Alexandria's women of the past, present and future.*

Arrive at the Meeting Spot at the Alexandria Visitor Center at 221 King Street by 10:20 a.m. Public parking is located at City Hall, 301 King Street, directly across from the tour starting point, as well as on adjoining streets. Restrooms are available at City Hall and in the Visitor Center.

ACW's tour follows "a walking route through historic Old Town Alexandria and will stop by many of the sites associated with a wide array of diverse and courageous women who have been an integral part of Alexandria's history. One stop will be at the site of the former federal courthouse in Alexandria where in 1917 the suffragists arrested for picketing in Washington, DC and imprisoned in the DC Workhouse in Occoquan, were tried and released. The Alexandria Branch received a mini-grant from AAUW-VA to contribute to the historic marker at this site. Another stop on the tour is the Kate Waller Barrett Branch of the Alexandria Library, site of the 1939 sit-in.

Because space is limited, advance registration is required no later than May 7. [Sign Up Here.](#)

ACW suggests comfortable walking shoes; face mask, if preferred; hand sanitizer; water; sunscreen; hat; umbrella (as the weather dictates); and dressing in layers.

Please mark your calendars: Our next Northern District Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 30. Details to follow.

Here is a thank you letter from Together We Bake:



February 24, 2023

Dear Diane and the AAUW Alexandria Team,

On behalf of the Together We Bake Board and the Together We Bake team, thank you for your in kind contribution. Your support allows us to continue to provide high quality, empowerment-based workforce training and personal development for women in need. In the words of a recent TWB graduate, "Together We Bake allows women to build a solid foundation to work on their future. Without TWB, I don't know where I'd be today."

Thank you for your in kind donation of GED books and materials to Together We Bake, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. This letter serves as your official charitable gift acknowledgment and affirms that you received no goods or services in exchange for your donation.

These materials will be given to alumni Team Members of TWB who are in need of furthering their education. We are providing a space for women to empower themselves through education as they strive for career goals.

Again, thank you for your support of Together We Bake and for helping to empower women in need to reach self sufficiency. We couldn't do the important work we do without your amazing support.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Wright



Report Of The 2023 AAUW-Alexandria Branch Nominating Committee

Three Board of Directors' positions need to be filled for the 2023-25 term. The Nominating Committee's job was easy this year because all those currently serving in their positions were willing to continue serving for another term. The slate of officers recommended includes the following:

- * Co-Presidents: Sylvia Linke and Diane Schrier
- * Vice President for Programs: Leslie Tourigny
- * Treasurer: Anne Simpson

Voting will take place at the June branch meeting.

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee: Jan Jaynes, Rita Rutsohn and Margaret Zebrowski.

From Our Treasurer

It is that time again! You will be getting a notice that it is time for AAUW dues, but don't wait, you can do it now! As always, you can pay online with a credit card at the national website, AAUW.org, or send a check to me. Dues are now **\$103**, reflecting a \$5 increase in National dues that was approved two and a half years ago. It is still a bargain, considering the many things AAUW does to promote equity. My address is [1604 Old Drummer Boy Lane, Fort Washington, MD 20744](#).

Anne Simpson
Treasurer



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.

Volunteers Needed for Mary Stuart Fundraiser

We are all looking forward to our annual fundraiser at the LTA on April 21st. If you can help, please email me at breukelen48@gmail.com.

Please note that masks will be required in the theater. They are optional in the rest of the building.

Our branch this year is responsible for providing desserts, non-alcoholic beverages and setting up the room and decorations.

Food: Please let me know the dessert that you will be donating. So far, we have chocolate brownies and mini cupcakes. I will be bringing the non-alcoholic beverages.

Setup: We will need 2 or 3 volunteers to help me set up around 2-2:30 on the Friday afternoon at the LTA. We will also need volunteers to help pick up, deliver and arrange the food at the LTA prior to 6:45pm.

Intermission reset team: help clean up the tables and rearrange remaining food dishes for the intermission snack time.

Arlene Shapiro
breukelen48@gmail.com

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING STATEMENT

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.



April 21, 2023, 7p

Mary Stuart Fund Raiser – Get Your Tickets NOW – Support AAUW Goals

Please support AAUW’s effort/goals to help women and girls – so important still in today’s complicated world. We are now getting close to **our big night!!!** 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 each. 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) 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



Alexandria City Councilwoman, Amy Jackson, reads the city’s Proclamation for International Women’s Day on March 14, 2023, at City Hall in Council Chambers. Several branch members joined virtually.

KVELLS AND KUDOS (to us!)

At the February district meeting we started a collaboration with [Generation Hope](#) and [Women Giving Back](#) because YOU brought diapers and baby wipes that we donated to both organizations. Thank you!

BRANCH ACTIVITIES



GOURMET OUT

Susan Cash

Stay tuned for our future events. Our next event is targeted for May. Point of contact is Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com, 703/587-4790.



FRANCOPHILE GROUP

Susan Cash

The Francophile Group will meet on Saturday, May 27 at 3 p.m. via Zoom. Participants can read any of the books set in France by M.L. Longworth or Jean-Luc Bannalec (or another French-themed book of their choice) and share with the group what they found interesting. In the summer, we are planning to once again have our Bastille Day dinner. We are also planning a Zoom event with someone who recently moved to France (date and time TBA).

For more information, please contact Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com or 703/587-4790.



DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

Bonnie Hershberg

Reading a relatively current NYT best seller is a first for the Diversity Book Group. In March we discussed Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner, 34, whose memoir was published in 2021 and spent 66 weeks on the prestigious list. Ms. Zauner had previously been known in creative circles as an accomplished Indie rock star in the band, Japanese Breakfast. It was a curious name for the Korean born young woman who emigrated to the US at one and was raised by her Korean mother and American father in a rural part of Eugene, Oregon.

The book is a homage to Ms. Zauner's mother, who died of cancer when her only child was 25. It explores in depth this not so unique mother-daughter relationship and all the emotions we experience following the death of a loved one. For these reasons and others, most discussants thought it deserved the popularity it has garnered. While the focus is on the author's search for her cultural heritage and its impact on her family life, these and other themes struck many members as universal.

An important portion of the book is devoted to Ms. Zauner's obsession with the mastery of Korean cuisine. It is a necessary piece of her story as she sought to use it to bond with her mother and as a means to achieve her mother's approval. It became a profound way to also bond with her Korean heritage following her mother's death. All book group members were glad they read Crying in H Mart even if only a few remarked that they "loved it."

GREAT DECISIONS 2023



Lynn O'Connell

Our Great Decisions started off this past month with a fascinating presentation on Iran with Larry Korb. His vast experience, including as Assistant Secretary for Defense, brought much insight to the current situation. Below is the rest of the schedule for 2023. We meet via Zoom for each of the meetings, and we welcome AAUW members and guests to one, or all, meetings. Please contact Lynn O'Connell at lynnocConnellva@gmail.com to get on the monthly meeting list.

Planned meeting dates for 2023 (via Zoom and at 7 pm) are:

April 13 – Economic Warfare – The Power of Sanctions (facilitated by Howard Soroos)

May 11- War Crimes – A History of Crimes Against Humanity (facilitated by Danielle Beach)

June 8 – China's Foreign Policy – China's Push for Global Dominance (facilitated by Diane Schrier)

September 14 - Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, & Migration (facilitated by ???)

October 12 - Global Famine- Lack of food worldwide (facilitated by Tom Staal)

November 9 - Energy Geopolitics- The oil and gas industries in flux (facilitated by Sylvia Linke)

December 14 - Elections in Latin America- The rise of left-wing governments in Latin America (facilitated by Peter Kent)

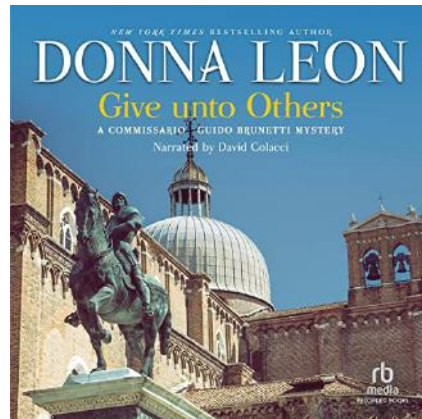
And a special thank you to each of our facilitators.



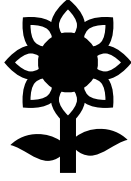
MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Susan Werner

A mystery set in a great location – Venice. If you are not a Donna Leon mystery fan, you are missing out. Please join us on April 25th to discuss Leon’s mystery: [Give Unto Others](#). We are still on Zoom. The time is 7PM. 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. Looking forward to our discussion. Happy Reading!!!



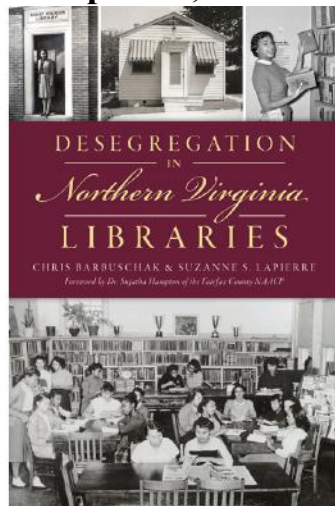
FROM OUR SISTER BRANCHES



See the attached flyer on [Springfield-Annandale's](#) May 5, Spring Fling.

Reston-Herndon Branch

April 12, 4PM



Join the Reston-Herndon Branch of AAUW and Fairfax county librarians, Chris Barbuschak and Suzanne S. LaPierre, to discuss their new book “**Desegregation in Northern Virginia Libraries.**” Many believe that Fairfax libraries were open to everyone since their founding in 1939, but the authors’ research found a hodgepodge of local rules that effectively barred Black users, not only in Fairfax but also in Loudoun and other counties. It took citizen protests and threats to cut public funds before the libraries were desegregated in the late 1950’s and 1960s. Join us on Zoom on **April 12 at 4PM** to hear this important story.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84345012613?pwd=Q2JjbmY2bFFlQk9GRjI4WWtrTXJkdz09>

FROM AAUW NATIONAL

Upcoming Webinars

Celebrating Diversity Month

Thursday, April 24, 2023, 2 p.m. ET

Please join the national Inclusion & Equity Committee's virtual webinar on Thursday, April 6, from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET. The webinar is designed to aid local branches and states as they prepare to celebrate Diversity Month in April and the World Day for Cultural Diversity on May 21. The webinar is designed to be interactive, with ample opportunities for participants to make suggestions and ask questions. Please join us on April 6!

Register [here](#).

Workshop: Diversity and Intersectionality

Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 7:30 p.m. ET

The national Inclusion and Equity Committee invites all AAUW members to participate in a virtual workshop on Wednesday, May 10, from 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm ET in preparation for World Day for Cultural Diversity (observed on Sunday, May 21). This workshop provides a hands on learning opportunity for AAUW members to explore aspects of diversity and intersectionality. Please join us on May 10!

Register [here](#).

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

4/6/23, 7p Board Mtg
4/10/23 7p, WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com The Henna Artist, Ilka Joshi
4/13/23 7p, Great Decisions –Contact Lynn O’Connell at lynnoconnellva@gmail.com
4/15/23, 9:30-2:30pm, NVCC, Women Helping Women. Contact: Sylvia or Susan.
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.
5/4/23, 7p Board Mtg
5/8/23 7p, WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, Rebecca Skloot
5/11/23, 7p, Great Decisions –Contact Lynn O’Connell at lynnoconnellva@gmail.com
5/20/2023, 10:30a, Women’s History Walk
5/23/22 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net.

2022-2023 BRANCH OFFICERS

Co-presidents: Sylvia Linke (SFLaauw@gmail.com) & Diane Schrier (diane.schrier@gmail.com)
VP Membership: Dr. Dawn Watkins, (dwnwtks@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)