

AAU

Alexandria (VA) Branch



THE SCHOONER – May 2023

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SAVE THESE DATES:

5/4/23, 7p Board Mtg
5/8/23, 7p, Diversity Book Group
5/11/23, 7p, Great Decisions
5/20/23, 10:30a, Women's History Walk
5/23/23 7p, Mystery book group
5/27/23, 3p, Francophile Group

Dear Friends,

It is time for your ideas for next year's programs. We want you to contribute so we meet your needs. Please let me know what you would like to learn about.

Two major incidents have occurred recently which need a comment. Virginia's Diversity chief said that the concept of diversity and equity is the wrong mission, that it is dead and that it destroys excellence. When his concept is applied to women's finances and to prejudices, one sees that without equity and diversity, excellence is impossible. Everyone needs a fair starting place at the gate, in order to achieve excellence. Otherwise, the obstacles in terms of education, opportunities, housing, childcare, financial solvency and other issues are extremely difficult to resolve. The other major issue is another murder using an AK47 or AR 15. Five people were slaughtered. Automatic weapons were designed for soldiers in war. Until 2006, there was a ban in place. A new ban must be instigated, and sensible gun regulations must be created. Legislatures must be held accountable by our voices and our votes.

Diane and Sylvia, Co-Presidents

BRANCH NOTES

Programs

Leslie Tourigny



Saturday, May 20, 2023, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Alexandria Celebrates Women (ACW), Women's History Tour

The walk will be 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.

From Our Treasurer and Membership VP

Arlene Schuchner, Membership VP
Anne Simpson, Treasurer

Community Hub is now ready for your dues! You can pay directly with your credit card at AAUW.org or you can send a check to Anne Simpson, 1604 Old Drummer Boy Lane, Fort Washington, MD 20744. Dues are a total of \$103, \$72 for national, \$15 for state, and \$16 for branch. \$69 of this is tax deductible. You will see reminders coming from National, three all together over the next few months, but you don't have to wait. Get it done!

If your address, email or phone numbers have changed please provide your new information when you renew.

Why Renew?

AAUW National



- More than 320 recipients received \$6 million in AAUW fellowships and grants for the 2022–23 academic year—the highest amount in our history! The funding advances educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe.
- In the third year of the pandemic, AAUW continued to grow its online programs, hosting more than 58 webinars.
- AAUW’s Start Smart and Work Smart salary negotiation trainings continued to be AAUW’s most sought after programs, reaching more than 4,000 participants in 2022, and over 190,000 to date.
- We continued our work with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other minority serving institutions (MSIs), thanks to a generous grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation. A total of 17 minority-serving colleges, including 8 HBCUs, 7 women’s colleges and 2 MSIs, now offer AAUW’s Start Smart training, bringing the number of colleges and universities currently hosting the program to 77.
- Our powerful annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) engage over 500 students from more than 300 college campuses nationwide through workshops, panels and an inspiring keynote from Nikole Hannah-Jones, creator of The 1619 Project.
- In its second year, AAUW’s STEMEd for Girls program gave over 200 participants and their caregivers the opportunity to explore STEM subjects and careers.

• AAUW's Two-Minute Activists sent 19,539 letters to elected officials calling for action on AAUW priorities such as pregnant worker fairness, voting rights, confirming Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court, and more.

• THE SIMPLE TRUTH THE ABOUT THE GENDER PAY GAP, 2022 Update used the earnings ratio of all workers for the first time — including seasonal and part-time employees — to capture a more accurate picture of the labor market. Previous versions of the report used only data of full time workers.

• Two other research reports were published:

<https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2022/01/WPG-Power-Gap-at-Elite-Universities-Full-Report.pdf>

https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2022/08/PerfectStorm_NYC-Student-Debt-Survey-Report_Aug2022.pdf



- Monthly Programs chosen and planned by members
- Monthly AAUW Book Groups
- Dining Group
- Francophile Group
- Beautiful monthly newsletter: *The Schooner*
- Enjoyable Theater-Event Annual Fundraiser
- Great Decisions Group
- Fellowship with people of like mind
- Supportive friends in time of need



- State Lobby Days in Richmond
- Public Policy Leadership (a voice in Richmond)
- Branch Mini-Grants for programs
- Liaisons to National
- A community of friends around the state.
- State Newsletter (*Vision*) 3 times a year
- State Conference with great speakers & fellowship

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING

Dr. Gail Kalin

Is Meritocracy a Myth?

On April 20, AAUW-VA DEIB Co-vice presidents, Meg Tuccillo and Krysta Jones held a statewide zoom meeting. Several of attended and watched the [Video](#) on “Is Meritocracy a Myth? I’m passing along the link to share this valuable information with you all.

“Education in the United States is broadly framed as meritocratic: If you work hard and achieve in your studies, you’ll get ahead in school and life. In this way, the country’s education system has historically been considered an equalizer, a mechanism by which poor people get on equal footing with the wealthy, and Black people — once prevented from going to school — catch up with white people.”

Is that really the way life works, or Is Meritocracy a Myth?



AUTUMN LEAVES

Susan Cash
AAUW Funds Chair

Thanks to all who donated to our Autumn Leaves 2022 fundraising drive and made the drive a success.

Autumn Leaves 2023 opens on June 1. The first five contributors can select a prize AND participate in the drawing to be held at the holiday luncheon. All who make a donation that is received by the Thursday before the holiday luncheon can be entered in the drawing. The funds raised will be divided equally between the Alexandria Branch and an AAUW National Fund. ***Fifty percent of your donation is tax-deductible.***

To contribute to Autumn Leaves 2023, 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.

PUBLIC POLICY

Virginia Kress, Public Policy Chair

There have been a number of incumbent retirements and changes in districts due to redistricting, which will make both early voting and regular voting a bit more challenging to navigate. AAUW-VA public policy group has sent some helpful information on how to manage the process.

EARLY VOTING FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION WILL BEGIN ON MAY 5 IN FAIRFAX COUNTY (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/early-voting>) AND IN LOUDOUN COUNTY (<https://www.loudoun.gov/182/Upcoming-Elections>). Not all races and/or parties will have primaries. AAUW OF VIRGINIA WILL PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION AS THE PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION APPROACHES. OUR BRANCH AND AAUW-VA WILL PROVIDE RESOURCES TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE CHANGES IN YOUR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS FROM REDISTRICTING. Click here to find your new Virginia House and Senate Districts <https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>

Step 1: Enter your address and click “Find Now”

Step 2: In the boxes for State Delegate and State Senator you will see the words “NEW IN” in red.

Step 3: Click the NEW IN to see your new district for each.

There is a wealth of information for the upcoming election including the candidates in party nomination contests [here](#).

VPAP also offers a daily digest of news stories from all over the commonwealth.

There may also be changes in your polling place so be sure to check your local polling websites for your correct polling site.

On other matters, Governor Youngkin signed a bill introduced by now Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan that extend the existing educational fund to help victims who were denied an education under the Massive Resistance. The original fund was created 20 years ago and starting this summer the fund will be available to their children and cousins.

The public comment period on Virginia’s membership in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative ended this week. Over 6,000 comments were logged and the majority of them supported Virginia’s membership in RGGI. The comments will be reviewed but as of now the Governor continues to try to remove Virginia from RGGI via regulatory action.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES



GOURMET OUT

Susan Cash

For our next outing, we plan to try out the Bee Liner Diner, a relatively new restaurant located at 3648 King Street (Bradlee Shopping Center). The menu has a good selection of dishes and should be generally appealing. Date and Time is TBD, based on availability of interested participants. If you are interested in joining us, please contact 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

The Diversity Book selected yet another winner to discuss in April. [The Henna Artist](#) by Ilka Joshi focused on the trials and tribulations of a young Indian woman in the 1950's, taking place primarily in the colorful city of Jaipur. There is nothing about the novel we could call a cliché, however. Despite the difference in time and place, many readers were struck by how relevant the story and themes are to life in the US at this moment. Many discussants noted the masterful writing—the cadence and language in particular. If you have an interest in women's resilience; the clash of classes, eras, and cultures; religion vs. superstition, the definition of success; and darn good story telling, members of the Diversity Book Group overwhelmingly recommend this novel for your reading pleasure and reflection.

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.

GREAT DECISIONS 2023



Lynn O'Connell

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:

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

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

Happy Spring mystery lovers. Our May mystery, The Woman in the Library, has been described as a “literary adventure.” The Woman in the Library’s author is Sulari Gentill. Gentill is an Australian author who studied astrophysics before becoming a corporate lawyer. The date of our meeting is May 23, 2023, and time is the usual 7 PM. We will again meet via Zoom. If you have questions about the Mystery Book Discussion Group, please contact Susan Werner -- susan.werner1@verizon.net.

FROM OUR SISTER BRANCHES



See the attached flyer on **Springfield-Annandale**’s May 5, Spring Fling.

FROM AAUW-VA

When you receive your email with information on voting in the state election, please do vote. It's painless and your input is valuable.



FROM AAUW NATIONAL

Upcoming Webinars

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](#).

Uh, about that postcard: (and thank you if you responded!)

I received a yellow post card and/or e-mail about an AAUW Data Verification / Oral History Project - Is this a scam?

- No, it is not a scam – AAUW is working with PCI to update member data and ask members to participate in an Oral History Project. Post cards were received earlier than anticipated – and an email communication was sent to all members from AAUW on April 25th. It is important to note that if you do not receive our emails – you may be unsubscribed or in need of updating your email address with us.

What is the Oral History Project?

- The Oral History Project is an effort to collect and memorialize the memories, experiences and impact that AAUW membership has had on the lives of our individual members across the country. These stories will be compiled into both a digital and hardcopy bound book. There is also an opportunity for members to purchase their own copy of the book, as well as other AAUW branded items, if they so choose.

How will PCI be contacting me?

- PCI will contact AAUW members directly through postcards and emails, addressed to you from Katrina Sun Breese (Senior Director of Institutional Advancement), to encourage participation. PCI will not conduct outbound calls to members, except to return your calls.

Why are we doing this project?

- Data Verification – While you may have received our post card and recently renewed your membership, we often find that emails and phone numbers are out of date. Updating your data ensure we can stay in touch with what is happening at AAUW and important information about your membership. It is also an added value that PCI is conducting this project, at no cost to AAUW National.
 - o Thus far – over 1/3 of respondents have updated their contact information.
- Oral History – AAUW has a long and rich history, well-documented throughout the years in our Archives. We also employ a part-time Archivist and engage the volunteer Archive Corps to organize and maintain this history. That being said – the lived experiences of every day members are not well-documented, nor shared broadly. This project will give us access to audio recordings, transcriptions of stories, and photos submitted from members who choose to participate. While conducting a project of this kind would typically be a significant investment, PCI is doing this work at no cost to AAUW.
 - o Thus far – over 2,000 stories have been shared

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

5/4/23, 7p Board Mtg
5/8/23 ,7p, WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Virtual, 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 lynnocConnellva@gmail.com
5/20/23, 10:30a, Women’s History Walk
5/23/23, 7p, Mystery book group, Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net.
6/1/23, 7p Board Mtg
6/8/23, 7p, Great Decisions –Contact Lynn O’Connell at lynnocConnellva@gmail.com
6/12/23 7p, WBCCF: Diversity Book Group, Location: Burke Library, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com Girl in Translation, Jean Kwok
6/17/23, Annual Mtg. Time/loc TBD
6/27/23, 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: Arlene Schuchner (arlene.schuchner@verizon.net)
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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 (lynnocConnellva@gmail.com)
Mystery Book Group: Susan Werner (susan.werner1@verizon.net)