

This past program year is ending with our annual luncheon on June 25, 2023. It's been a great year filled with varied programs—some of which were delivered in-person, while others Zoomed into our homes. Thanks to everyone who contributed ideas for programs, planned and executed programs, and of course, to everyone who attended programs.

Here's what our year looks like in retrospect:

September 11, 2022-Thanks to Danielle Beach for once again hosting our annual Meet and Greet at her beautiful home.

September 17, 2022-*Virginia Elections: Voter Access? Will my Vote Count?* This program was co-sponsored by the Alexandria and Mt. Vernon Branches and the Sherwood Regional Library. Thanks to Solveig Eggerz for planning this program, which was shown on Zoom.

October 16, 2022- *An Update on Public Education in the City of Alexandria.* Alexandria City School Board Chair Meagan Alderton and Vice Chair Jacinta Greene joined us again on Zoom to provide an update on the Alexandria City Public Schools and to answer our questions.

October 22, 2022-*AAUW-VA All-District Meeting.* All four AAUW-VA Districts sponsored this virtual meeting, which gave members the opportunity to hear from and ask questions of AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell.

November 18, 2022-*Together We Bake—Empowering Women Since 2012.* Members visited the premises of Together We Bake--a job training program to help women in need. Their mission is to help women gain self-confidence, transferable workforce skills and invaluable hands-on experience which will allow them to find sustainable employment and move toward self-sufficiency.

December 11, 2022-*Holiday Luncheon*-We returned to the Belle Haven Country Club once again for our Holiday Luncheon. Delegate Charniele Herring of the 46th Virginia House District, which encompasses some of the City of Alexandria, joined us to present a forecast of the 2023 General Assembly Session. Members once again brought donations for clients of the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program.

January 22, 2023-*The 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In: Telling Our Story* This program was a collaboration between our branch and the Alexandria Library and was offered in-person and virtually. Rose Dawson, Director of the Alexandria Library, presented the program.

February 18, 2023-*The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP).* This program was co-sponsored by the Alexandria and Mt. Vernon Branches and the Sherwood Regional Library and was presented on Zoom. ACRP is a "...citywide initiative dedicated to helping Alexandria understand its history of racial terror and work toward creating a welcoming community by equity and inclusion." This project is in partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama.

February 25, 2023-AAUW-VA *Northern District* in-person meeting. Our 11 Northern District branches gathered in person at the Beatley Central Library in Alexandria to hear from two nonprofit leaders: Sanah Jivani, Community Engagement Manager, at Generation Hope, and Cindy Dwyer, Board Member, at Women Giving Back. Members donated diapers and baby wipes for both organizations' clients.

March 12, 2023-*Getting Money Out of Politics*. At this Zoom program, Nancy Morgan, Coordinator of the Virginia Chapter of [American Promise](#), spoke about the status of money in our political process, reviewed policy options to address this issue, and explored actions which citizens can take to influence legislation to get money out of politics.

April 21, 2023-*Mary Stuart*-Once again, the Alexandria and Mt. Vernon Branches collaborated on an annual fundraiser for AAUW at the Little Theatre of Alexandria. Thanks to Arlene Shapiro for heading up this successful event for our branch.

May 20, 2023- Gayle Converse, co-founder of nonprofit Alexandria Celebrates Women, guided us through Old Town Alexandria on a *Women's History Walking Tour*.

We are actively planning for the next program year. Stay tuned for dates to save on your calendar. In the meantime, enjoy the summer.

Leslie Tourigny
AAUW Alexandria VP for Program
AAUW-VA Northern District Co-Representative