

# AAUW

Alexandria (VA) Branch



## THE SCHOONER – August & September 2023

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### SAVE THESE DATES:

8/24 7p Mystery book group  
8/30 Christ House Dinner  
9/7, 7p Board Mtg.  
9/10, 2:30p Meet & Greet  
9/11 7p Diversity Book Group  
9/14 7p Great Decisions  
9/22/23 Early in-person voting begins.  
9/23, 10:30a Northern District Mtg  
9/28, 6p AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom Meeting  
9/28, 7p Mystery book group

Dear Friends,

August and our new membership year are starting off very quickly. Even though August is popular for vacations, the Alexandria branch will be sponsoring several activities during the month, as you'll see in these pages. And September features one of the most important meetings of the year. Our Meet and Greet is Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 at the lovely home of Danielle Beach. Mayor Wilson will be our guest speaker. All branch members are welcome to bring guests.

We have been very involved with Women Going the Extra Mile. This is a 133 mile walk from Alexandria to Richmond, that Gayle Converse, VP of Alexandria Celebrates Women, is taking. Diane spoke about the branch and the fight for women's equity at the August 5<sup>th</sup> kickoff in front of Kate Waller Barrett Library and at the August 7<sup>th</sup> Women's Memorial in Lorton. Susan Cash and Virginia Kress (also AAUW-VA Finance Chair) represented the branch at the send-off at the Barrett Library. The [Alexandria Gazette Packet](#) and the [Connection](#) ran articles about this walk.

Yours,  
Diane and Sylvia

# BRANCH NOTES

## Programs

Leslie Tourigny  
VP for Programs

### **Save these dates for exciting upcoming programs!!!**

**Sunday, Sept 10**  
In-person  
2:30-4:30 p.m.

**Meet and Greet**  
Danielle Beach's house  
**Mayor Justin Wilson**, guest speaker (See page 3.)

**Saturday, Sept 23**  
In-person, 10:30a

**Northern District Meeting**  
*AAUW's Public Policy and Advocacy Agenda: Get Informed and Be Engaged;*  
**Speakers- Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director,**  
**Policy & Member Advocacy;**  
**Janine Greenwood, AAUW-VA Co-VP for Public Policy**  
Alexandria Beatley Library (See page 4.)

**Saturday, Oct 28**  
In-person  
2:30-3:30 p.m.

***Alexandria Hospital: Women Mobilize the Community,***  
**Alexandria Lyceum Curator Kristin Lloyd** will present a Gallery Tour  
of this exhibit at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria  
(See page 5.)

**Saturday, Nov 11**  
In-person  
3:00-6:00 p.m.

**(Optional Program) *Wednesdays in Mississippi: Proper Ladies***  
***Working for Radical Change;*** Play plus after-performance discussion.  
Pipeline Playwrights, Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill  
Road, Mt. Rainier, Maryland (See page 6.)

**Saturday, Nov 18**  
Zoom  
2:00-3:15 p.m.

**Dr. Pamela O. Gilchrist**, Director of K-12 Programs  
at the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus, Alexandria

**Sunday, Dec 10**  
12:00-2:00 p.m.

**Holiday luncheon**  
Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria  
Presenter: Zeina Azzam, Alexandria's poet laureate

## Annual Meet & Greet Potluck

Let's gather together to start off another year of AAUW programs—and invite some potential new members.

September 10, 2023 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Danielle Beach & Scott Campbell's Home

5621 Glenwood Dr. Alexandria, VA

Guest Speaker: Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson

Please RSVP by September 1 to DANIELLEAAUW@GMAIL.COM with the following information:

1. What are you bringing in any of the following categories: appetizers, desserts, and/or side dishes?
2. The names of any guests you are bringing.

Can't wait to  See You in September.  



**Northern District Meeting**  
**Saturday, September 23, 2023**  
**10:30 AM – 1:00 PM**  
**Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library**  
**5005 Duke Street, Alexandria**

**Our focus is on AAUW's Public Policy and Advocacy**  
**Agenda: Get Informed and Be Engaged.**

**Meet and hear our speakers:**



**Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior  
Director, Policy & Member  
Advocacy**



**Janine Greenwood, AAUW-VA  
Co-VP for Public Policy**

[Questions?? Contact: ltourigny@gmail.com](mailto:ltourigny@gmail.com)

**Back by popular demand! We will be collecting diapers and baby wipes for:**

**GENERATION HOPE** (<https://www.generationhope.org>)  
**WOMEN GIVING BACK** (<https://womengivingback.org>)

- *All items must be new, unopened, and in original packaging.*
- *Women Giving Back requests diapers in sizes 4 and 6.*

**Directions:** Heading east on Duke Street, you'll need to make a **left turn at the traffic light on North Pickett Street**, which is the street before you reach the library. There is a **CVS** on the corner. **After you turn and pass the two driveways for the CVS, turn right at the next driveway, where there is a small sign for the library.** You'll be in the library parking lot. Heading west on Duke Street to reach the Beatley Central Library at 5005 Duke Street, **you will be able to make a right turn into the library parking lot directly from Duke Street after you pass the library building on your right.**

Alexandria Hospital: Women Mobilize the Community  
October 28, 2023, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street

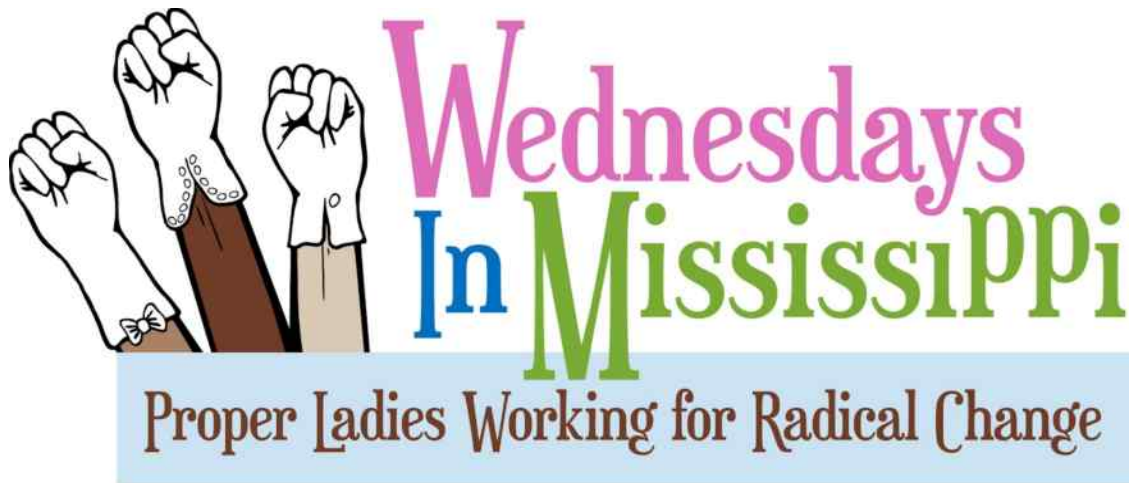


**Alexandria Hospital, Duke Street, 1917**

Come join curator Kristin Lloyd on Saturday, October 28, 2023, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Alexandria's History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, for a guided tour through the exhibit, *Alexandria Hospital: Women Mobilize the Community*, as well as some behind-the-scenes information.

*According to City of Alexandria website:* "Through the lens of women's activism... [this exhibit] marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Alexandria Infirmary-today's INOVA Alexandria Hospital."

Led by Julia Johns, in 1872 women met to organize the infirmary. Townspeople no longer had to travel to Richmond or Washington for hospital care. The first hospital facility was built in 1917 in the 700 block of Duke Street. For many years, the hospital was segregated. This exhibit...[highlights] the civic-minded women and organizations that founded and supported the Hospital, as well as the services provided to the white and black community."



**Saturday, November 11, 3pm in-person performance, followed by post-show discussion, at Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Road, Mt. Rainier, MD (Carpool sign ups to follow closer to the event.)**

**[Order your tickets today!](#)**

**AAUW members faced violence to fight for civil rights in 1964 Freedom Summer in Mississippi!**

They were called “communists” by segregation supporters.

A new play *Wednesdays in Mississippi* dramatizes the little-known activism of an inter-racial alliance of women who fought for civil rights in the South in 1964. Enraged at the exclusion of women from the 1963 March on Washington, Dorothy Height, director of The National Council of Negro Women, invited Northern women to join Mississippi women to struggle for voting rights, to support the Freedom Schools, and to aid the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

The "Wednesdays in Mississippi" coalition, which included the AAUW and the League of Women Voters, formed the only women's civil rights project led by a national organization.

Written by Nicole Burton, *Wednesdays in Mississippi* is produced by Pipeline Playwrights. Burton adapted the play for the stage from Debbie Z. Harwell's award-winning book by the same title. The November 11 performance will include a post-show discussion.

### **Who are the Pipeline Playwrights?**

Pipeline Playwrights strives to break through the glass ceiling women face in the American theater when they try to get their plays produced. The group of five mid-career women playwrights aims to close the theatre gender gap one play, one reading, one production at a time.

Pipeline Playwrights is based in Fairfax County, Virginia, and the digital world.

In 2018, Pipeline Playwrights launched "Our Time, Our Stories," a multi-year project to produce five new full-length plays. After the pandemic hit, Pipeline quickly pivoted to Zoom and presented dozens of online readings and events, including a full production of the first play in the "Our Time, Our Stories" series, Ann Timmons' *A Very Present Presence*. In 2022, Pipeline began producing live plays again (*Heartland* by Patricia Connelly and *Unprotected* by Jean Koppen) but is committed to continuing to serve audience members unable to attend live theater because of disability, caregiving responsibilities, or economics.

## PUBLIC POLICY

Virginia Kress, Public Policy Chair

We wrote postcards for [Reclaim Our Vote](#), to encourage people to vote in this very important election year. We are also creating Voter Guides so that everyone will know how candidates stand on our issues.

Thank you to our postcard writers: Margaret Batko, Mary Ann Bier, Solveig Eggerz, Bonnie Hershberg, Sylvia Linke, Diane Schrier, Arlene Schuchner, Anne Simpson, Diana Warrman, Priscilla Weiner, Susan Werner, and Sue Worden.

Remember, early in-person voting in Virginia starts **September 22**.

### From Our Treasurer and Membership VP

Arlene Schuchner, Membership VP  
Anne Simpson, Treasurer

Have you renewed your membership? You can pay directly with your credit card at [AAUW.org](http://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.

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

### Rita Rutsohn is our new Sunshine Chair

#### Let's Hear from You

Each day brings new challenges into our lives that carry happiness, sadness, new struggles and much more. Your Branch members want to hear about what's occurring in your life so they can support/help you if that's what you need or be a cheerleader for you in your good fortunate or simply send you a card to cheer you up or be that pleasant voice at the other end of the phone line to lend an ear. Rita Rutsohn, a 50-year, life member of AAUW has agreed to be the conduit for collecting and sharing your news as you wish. Rita can be reached at [rita.rutsohn@verizon.net](mailto:rita.rutsohn@verizon.net) or at 703.379.9664.



## 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 is now open.** 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.

## CAMPUS OUTREACH

Danielle Beach  
Campus Outreach Chair

We received this note of thanks from the NVCC student we sponsored to attend AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

Dear Danielle,

Thank you again for sponsoring my attendance at this year's NCCWSL! It was a life changing experience for me! I will admit that I was a bit intimidated initially, because I am 47 years old, and I expected that most of the attendees would be much younger than I was. And I was right. However, I realized right away that there was no need to feel intimidated. I immediately made two new friends at dinner on the first night, and we were stuck together like glue for the remainder of the conference! Beyond that, I was welcomed by all of the women who attended, and I was told on several occasions how much my story inspired some of them.

For me, the conference and the courses I participated in contributed so much to strengthening my identity, particularly as a woman and as a college student. The conversations I was blessed to have with some of the young women and the life lessons I able to share boosted my confidence in myself and my journey. I chose seminars that centered around activism and leadership development, and each seminar seemed to magically align with and build upon the other to provide the specific knowledge and opportunities for expression that I needed.

I learned that there are so many beautiful and intelligent women, of all backgrounds, ages and races that experience the same traumas in life, particularly in the workplace. And the most important lesson was that of the power of collaboration and the importance of seeing beyond petty differences to the bigger picture of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all of us!

I will forever be grateful for this opportunity, and I look forward to one day being able to pay it forward by



sponsoring another woman to attend and maybe even returning as a speaker and/or facilitator at NCCWSL at some point in the future. Thank you so very much again for sponsoring me, I am so very grateful, and I look forward to meeting you in person in September!

Sincere Regards,

Vashti Dominique Robinson

### **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.



## BRANCH ACTIVITIES

### CHRIST HOUSE

#### Margaret Zebrowski and Jan Jaynes

The next Christ House supper will be August 30th. Christ House is still serving its meals outside so we will prepare the boxed suppers for the guests and the residents. The catered suppers during Covid were a bit more than we had normally paid for, so any donations members can make will be greatly appreciated. We don't know when Christ House will start serving inside again, but the meals coming up for the AAUW 2023-2024 year will be: November 29th, January 31st, and May 29th.

Thank you for your continuing support.

#### Spa Cards for Christ House

It's hard to believe that the Alexandria Branch of AAUW started selling the GLAMDAYSPACARDS in December 2014 as a way to fund our five annual Christ House dinners. Initially, we started with 200 spa cards, and today, only 19 cards remain.

The cost to buy a spa card is \$45. This amount goes to our Branch to help fund the dinners. In return, the purchaser gets a spa card worth \$45 to defray the cost of the services purchased while at the GLAMDAYSPA in Alexandria. This venture has been a winner for everyone!

I would like to sell the remaining 19 spa cards in my possession and plan to bring them to Danielle's reception on Sunday, September 10. In the meantime, anyone can buy a spa card/s directly from me prior to the reception should call me at 703.379.9664.

Please help me sell the last 19 spa cards and add \$855 to the Christ House dinner budget. This will make Jan Jaynes and Margaret Zebrowski, the sponsors of the Christ House dinners elated.

And they make great gifts!!



### GOURMET OUT

#### Susan Cash

On Thursday, August 17 at 6 p.m., we met at the Bee Liner Diner, a relatively new restaurant located at 3648 King Street (Bradlee Shopping Center). The menu had a good selection of dishes and was generally appealing. If you are interested in joining us in future events, please contact Susan Cash, [scash5558@gmail.com](mailto:scash5558@gmail.com), 703/587-4790.



## FRANCOPHILE GROUP

### Susan Cash

At our next meeting, tentatively planned to be held over Zoom, we will discuss the book *A Rather Lovely Inheritance* by C.A. Belmond. Date and time is TBA. Later in this program year, we are 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](mailto:scash5558@gmail.com) or 703/587-4790.



## DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

### Bonnie Hershberg

The Diversity Book Group had a productive summer, meeting in person for a picnic and selecting the books we will discuss over the next 15 months. The group remains strong with our roster having stayed steady at 16 members throughout the last year. We continue to advertise through the Alexandria Library system and welcome new members. If you would like to join or want a copy of our upcoming selections, please email Bonnie Hershberg at [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com)

In July we finished the months' long process to craft our reading list. The first is [The Japanese Lover](#) by Isabel Allende, the selection for our August discussion. The book focuses on a variety of voices, including those of several Japan- and American-born Japanese who were interned during WWII. This topic will be a new discussion topic for us.

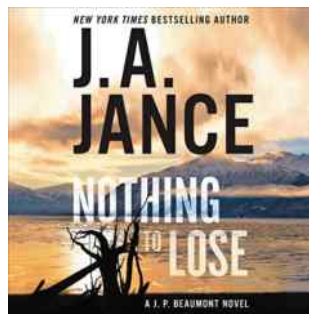
The months ahead promise to be exciting and informative ones for our group. The topics we've identified are wide ranging with books both old and quite new. For example, we will continue our effort to understand more about the Black and African American experience in this country and, for the first time, look at Japanese culture. We will read several very well-known authors like Louise Erdich, Barbara Kingsolver, and Toni Morrison, whose *Bluest Eye*, we will read later this year. Another "banned book author—Maia Kobabe—is also on our list, when we take up [Gender Queer](#), next year. As in the past, we are also reading several less well-known writers like Syed M. Masood, whose book, [The Bad Muslim Discount](#), mixes humor with tragedy to tell the stories of several Muslims in America. One of the books we will be reading is already a movie, [Women Talking](#), which seems like a most fitting topic for our group.



## MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Susan Werner

This Mystery Book Discussion Group will meet on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, via Zoom. Our first Fall mystery is Nothing to Lose by J.A. Jance. Our time is the usual 7 PM. We haven't read one of Jance's books for a long time, so it will be interesting to revisit this author. Thank you to Lane and Diane, our Zoom providers. 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.



## GREAT DECISIONS

Lynn O'Connell

**September 14, 2023, Virtual**

**Climate Migration: The Impact of Climate Change on a Nation's Population.**

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?

And here's our lineup for the rest of 2023:

October 12 - Global Famine- Lack of food worldwide (Presenter: **Tom Staal**)

November 9 - Energy Geopolitics- The oil and gas industries in flux (Presenter: **Sylvia Linke**)

December 14 - Elections in Latin America- The rise of left-wing governments in Latin America (Presenter: **Peter Kent**)

Please contact Lynn O'Connell at [lynnoconnellva@gmail.com](mailto:lynnoconnellva@gmail.com) to get on the monthly meeting list.

## **KVELLS AND KUDOS**

### **THANK YOU, ARLENE SHAPIRO!**

If you've enjoyed yourself at the Little Theatre of Alexandria fundraising performances these last years, thank ARLENE SHAPIRO! She has been the guiding force and we appreciate her. Our new LTA Chairs are Mary Ann Bier and Kitty Smith.



### **WOMEN GIVING BACK AND COMMUNITY LODGING**

The bags of school supplies that you donated at our annual meeting for Women Giving Back were delivered. They were delighted to receive them. Additional school supplies were donated to Community Lodging, which hosts after-school and mentoring programs for homeless families.

Here's a photo of what you donated-



## 2023 CALENDAR – ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

(CHECK <https://alexandria-va.aauw.net> OFTEN)

- 8/3/23 7p Virtual, AAUW-Alexandria Board Meeting  
8/14/23 7p Diversity Book Group, Bonnie Hershburg, [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com)  
8/15/23 Mom's Equal Pay Day  
8/17/23 6p Gourmet Out, Bee Liner Diner, Susan Cash, [scash5558@gmail.com](mailto:scash5558@gmail.com)  
8/24/23 7p Virtual, Mystery book group, Susan Werner, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net)  
8/26/23 Women's Equality Day  
8/30/23 Christ House, Dinner, Margaret Zebrowski ([Mmzebrow@aol.com](mailto:Mmzebrow@aol.com)) & Jan Jaynes ([janjjoek@verizon.net](mailto:janjjoek@verizon.net))
- 9/7/23 7p Virtual, AAUW-Alexandria Board Meeting  
9/10/23 2:30p Annual Branch Meet and Greet  
9/11/23 7p Diversity Book Group Bonnie Hershburg, [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com)  
9/14/23 7p Virtual, Great Decisions, *Climate Change*... Lynn O'Connell, [lynnocconnellva@gmail.com](mailto:lynnocconnellva@gmail.com)  
9/22/23 Early in-person voting begins for VA General Election  
9/23/23 10:30a Northern District meeting, Alexandria Beatley Library  
9/28/23 6p AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom Meeting (Pre-election)  
9/28/23 7p Mystery book group, Susan Werner, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net)

## 2023-2024 BRANCH OFFICERS

Co-presidents: Sylvia Linke ([SFLaauw@gmail.com](mailto:SFLaauw@gmail.com)) & Diane Schrier ([diane.schrier@gmail.com](mailto:diane.schrier@gmail.com))  
VP Membership: Arlene Schuchner ([arlene.schuchner@verizon.net](mailto:arlene.schuchner@verizon.net))  
VP Program: Leslie Tourigny, ([ltourigny@gmail.com](mailto:ltourigny@gmail.com))  
Secretary: Dr. Gail Kalin, ([gailkalin@yahoo.com](mailto:gailkalin@yahoo.com))  
AAUW Funds: Susan Cash ([scash5558@gmail.com](mailto:scash5558@gmail.com))  
Diversity and Inclusion: Dr. Gail Kalin ([gailkalin@yahoo.com](mailto:gailkalin@yahoo.com))  
Public Policy: Virginia Kress ([vmvkress@gmail.com](mailto:vmvkress@gmail.com))  
Treasurer: Anne Simpson ([aseyedoc@gmail.com](mailto:aseyedoc@gmail.com))  
Newsletter Editor: Lane Stone ([info@LaneStoneBooks.com](mailto:info@LaneStoneBooks.com))  
Special Interest Group Leaders:  
Campus Outreach: Danielle Beach ([danielleaauw@gmail.com](mailto:danielleaauw@gmail.com))  
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))