

AAUW

Alexandria (VA) Branch



THE SCHOONER – October, 2023

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SAVE THESE DATES:

10/5/23 7p Board Meeting
10/9/23 7p Div. Book Grp.
10/12/23 7p Great Decisions,
10/16/23 Deadline to register
to vote/update your reg for
VA General Election.
10/24/23 7p Mystery book
group
10/27/23 Deadline to apply to
vote absentee by mail.
10/28/23 2:30 Alexandria
Hospital: Women Mobilize
the Community

Dear Friends,

Our year has started off very quickly. We give a big Thank You to our Meet and Greet extremely knowledgeable speaker, Mayor Justin Wilson, who spent over an hour with us, speaking about a wide range of issues. Our next program will be at the Lyceum, on Oct. 28th.

On November 11th Pipeline Playwrights will present: Wednesdays in Mississippi, a play about the Civil Rights Movement in 1964 and how a diverse group of women, upset at being ignored at the March, came together. AAUW was part of that group.

We have applied to join the Scottish walk. This will take place on Dec. 2nd in the late morning. While further details will follow, please schedule that morning to join us.

Many of us are involved with advocacy with other groups. Please let me know when you participate in another activity and what it involves, (for example, event, town hall meeting, public official meeting.)

We are very lucky to have a very active group and we appreciate the contributions that all of you make.

Yours,
Diane and Sylvia

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 NOTES

Programs

Leslie Tourigny
VP for Programs

Save these dates for exciting upcoming programs!!!

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 3.)

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 4.)

Saturday, Nov 18

Zoom
2:00-3:15 p.m.

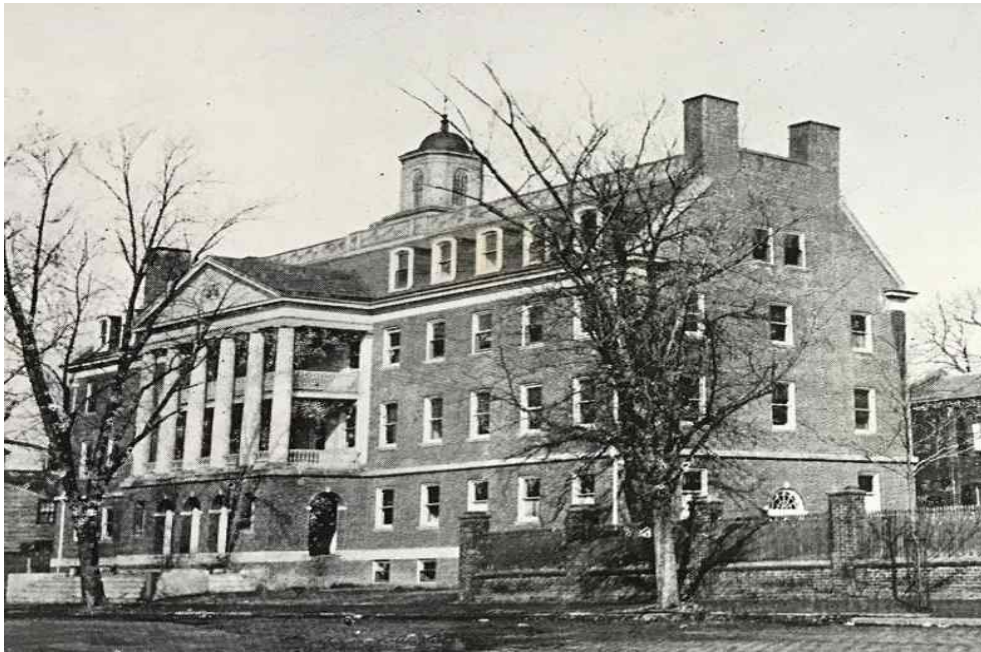
Dr. Pamela O. Gilchrist, Director of K-12 Programs at the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus, Alexandria

Sunday, Dec 10

12:00-2:00 p.m.

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

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 150th anniversary of the founding of the Alexandria Infirmiry-today's INOVA Alexandria Hospital."

Led by Julia Johns, in 1872 women met to organize the infirmiry. 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


As a group, we have sent approximately 300 postcards encouraging people to vote. A huge Thank You to everyone who participated this year. Early voting has already started, so please make sure that are issues are represented in Virginia this year. Education is one of our issues and our program with Virginia Tech will occur on Nov. 18th. Other issues are voting rights, women's pay equity, women's health, etc.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area will sponsor four candidate forums. AAUW-VA is proud to be a co-sponsor. These candidate forums will give voters an opportunity to hear candidates express their position on issues of importance to them. Since the Alexandria branch has members who live and vote in Fairfax County we are sharing the following on two of the events:

CANDIDATE FORUM

HEAR FROM THE CANDIDATES
Members at Large, Fairfax County School Board
October 5, 2023 at 7 p.m. EST

Register to attend this forum on Zoom by using this link: <https://bit.ly/3sF2WZU>
or this QR code.



Submit questions and receive a Zoom link to view the forum.

The certified candidates who have agreed to attend are:
Saundra T. Davis, Cassandra R. Aucoin, Linda A. Pellegrino, Ilryong Moon, Ahmed Mahdi Hussein, Maureen T. Brody, Robert K. "Kyle" McDaniel, Peter C. Gabor and Ryan L. McElveen

Sponsor

- **League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area**

Co-Sponsors

-
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Lambda Kappa Omega Chapter
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Alpha Beta Alpha Omega Chapter
- Alexandria-Fairfax (VA) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.
- American Association of University Women of Virginia
- Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
- Fairfax County Council of PTAs
- Fairfax County NAACP
- REV UP Virginia
- Sully District Council of Citizens Associations
- The Arc of Northern Virginia
- Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

LWVFA is sponsoring additional forums....visit LWV-Fairfax.org

CANDIDATE FORUM

HEAR FROM THE CANDIDATES
Chairman Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County
October 2, 2023 at 8 p.m. EST

View the forum live on Fairfax Public Access TV, channel 10, or by live streaming.

During the live broadcast, viewers can call-in with questions at the number provided.

The certified candidates who have agreed to attend are:

Arthur G. Purves (R)

Jeffrey C. McKay (D)

Sponsor

- **League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area**

Co-Sponsors

- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Lambda Kappa Omega Chapter
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- Alexandria-Fairfax (VA) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.
- American Association of University Women of Virginia
- Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
- Fairfax County NAACP
- Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- REV UP Virginia
- Sully District Council of Citizens Associations
- The Arc of Northern Virginia
- Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

LWVFA is sponsoring additional forums....visit LWV-Fairfax.org

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 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 her 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 or at 703.379.9664.



AUTUMN LEAVES

Susan Cash
AAUW Funds Chair

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 fundsraised 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.

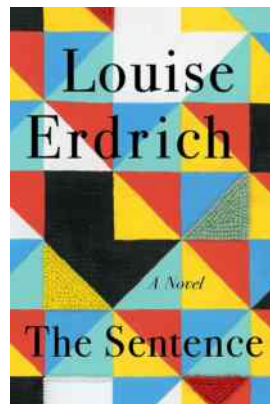
BRANCH ACTIVITIES



DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

Bonnie Hershberg

What a rich September discussion members of the Diversity Book Group enjoyed when they met to talk about Syed Masood's first adult novel, *The Bad Muslim Discount*. The dozen who participated unanimously reported pleasure in its reading, most saying that the irreverent humor, especially as it related to religion in general and Islam, in particular, was a welcome change from the many novels that deal with these topics. While this novel is an immigrant story, it is unlike any the group had read in its almost three year history. In addition, the group found many universal themes that could have generated hours of conversation, including differential commitments to the same religion, "otherness," punishment and redemption, justice, forgiveness, the complexity of gender dynamics. Moreover, the group took up what it means to be an American and assimilate, what love means in all its various permutations, and what it means to find agency and freedom. At our Monday, October 16 meeting from 7-8:30 on Zoom, the Diversity Book Group will be discussing *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich. If you would like to join us, please email Bonnie Hershberg at hersh3b@gmail.com.

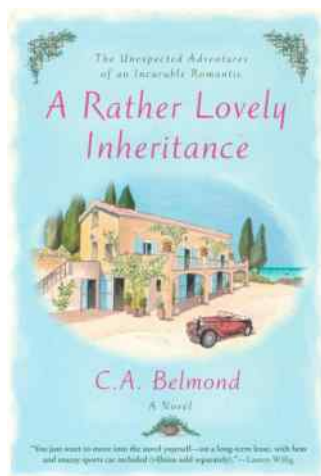




FRANCOPHILE GROUP

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 or 703/587-4790.



GOURMET OUT

Susan Cash

Stay tuned to the newsletter for future events. Point of contact is Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com, 703/587-4790.

GREAT DECISIONS

Lynn O'Connell

October 12, Virtual, 7p

Global Famine- Lack of food worldwide (with speaker, Tom Staal)

Fears of global food shortages have followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has disrupted grain shipments from the major grain producer. But what about countries and regions that were suffering before this impending shortage? How is famine defined, and how is it different from simple food shortages? What if any remedies are there?

November 9, Virtual, 7p - Energy Geopolitics- The oil and gas industries in flux (Sylvia Linke)

December 14, Virtual, 7p - Elections in Latin America- The rise of left-wing governments in Latin America (Peter Kent)

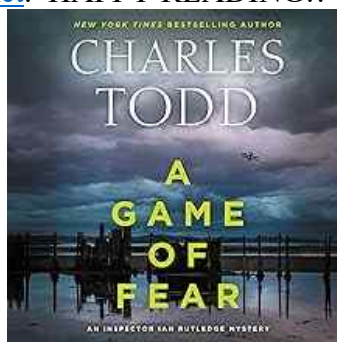
Please contact Lynn O'Connell at lynnoconnellva@gmail.com, if you would like more information.



MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Susan Werner

Mystery lovers, please join the Mystery Book Discussion Group to review Charles Todd's book: [A Game of Fear](#). This novel is part of the Todd's Ian Rutledge mystery series – the 24th in the series. The series was produced by the mother/son team of Caroline and Charles Todd. Alas, Caroline Todd passed away in August 2021. Our meeting will take place via Zoom on October 24, 2023, at 7 PM. If you are not already part of our mystery group, please let Susan Werner know you are interested so that she can make sure that you receive the Zoom link and for a copy of the mystery schedule. Watch out for our November ([Exiles](#) by Jane Harper) and December ([Blackmail and Bibingka](#) by Mia P. Manansala) meetings. If you have mystery book recommendations or questions about the Mystery Book Discussion Group, please contact Susan Werner -susan.werner1@verizon.net. HAPPY READING!!



KVELLS AND KUDOS

PEGGY HEISER AND ANNE SIMPSON, OUR TREASURER,
SING IN THE ALEXANDRIA CHORAL SOCIETY

Come find your inner child! Alexandria Choral Society's "Fables", the first concert of this season, presents music based on Aesop's Fables, Mother Goose, and Alice In Wonderland in addition to other pieces. The concert will be at **7:00 on Saturday, October 21st**, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road in Alexandria. Look for new member Peggy Heiser and Anne Simpson in the Alto section.

AAUW-VIRGINIA VOLUNTEER NEEDED – NEWSLETTER LAYOUT EDITOR

Three members of the AAUW-VA Communications Team (layout editor, copy editor, and VP for Communications) are who we have to thank for the *Vision*, published three times per year. If you enjoy working as part of a team and have computer skills, please email Dianne Mero, VP for Communications (dmeroaauw@yahoo.com) to learn more about the layout editor duties. This is an off-board position. Attendance at state board meetings is welcomed but not required.

The production process begins when the copy editor receives articles and graphics from branches and state board members, reads and edits substantially, and then emails the edited articles, or drops them into Dropbox, to the line editor.

Once notified that the last article has been sent, the layout editor arranges copy into a pleasing and professional-looking format. In the next 10-12 days she:

- Assembles the layout in Calibri 11 (font) for articles and variations of Garamond (font) for headlines.
- Inserts or corrects hyperlinks when needed.
- Once the layout is complete, emails the copy editor the draft in PDF for proofreading.
- After these edits are completed the layout editor sends the draft to the president/administrator and other designated persons for “fresh eye” proofreading. The line editor makes the final corrections and returns the draft to proofreaders for a final read.

The Vice President for Communication takes it from there and distributes the final Vision.

JOB IS DONE. Please consider volunteering!

FROM A SISTER BRANCH



Sherwood Regional Library

PRESENTING

Saturday, October 14, 2023

Sherwood Regional Library, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA

Movement is Medicine: Seniors Staying Strong

Join Mt. Vernon AAUW to discover proven strategies for senior health and wellness.



Our instructor, Jenny Grover, is a certified personal trainer with the International Sports Sciences Association (ISSA). She holds ISSA certificates in Senior Training, training Clients with Arthritis, Health Coaching, Nutrition, and Kickboxing. After 33 years with the Federal government, Jenny began her personal training career with a membership at Curves, where she became a coach. Post-Covid, she moved to Snap Fitness, where she now has clients at both the Belle View Shopping Center location and in Old Town.

Jenny says: "My goal in life is to help every person to live a healthy, independent life..." Her primary focus is helping older people to maintain strength, flexibility and balance.

Jenny's motto is "MOVEMENT IS MEDICINE!"

The meeting is free and open to the public.

For more information contact Mt. Vernon AAUW

AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com

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

- 10/2/23 8p Candidate Forum, Chair, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
- 10/5/23 Latina’s Equal Pay Day
- 10/5/23 7p Virtual, AAUW-Alexandria Board Meeting
- 10/5/23 7p Candidate Forum, Fairfax County School Board, at-large
- 10/9/23 7p Diversity Book Group Bonnie Hershburg, hersh3b@gmail.com
- 10/12/23 7p Virtual, Great Decisions, Global Famine (facilitated by Tom Staal)
- 10/16/23 Deadline to register to vote or update an existing registration for Virginia General Election. (Voters may register after this date, through Election Day, and vote using a provisional ballot.)
- 10/24/23 7p Mystery book group, Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net
- 10/27/23 Deadline to apply to vote absentee by mail in Virginia General Election.
- 10/28/23 2:30 Program meeting: *Alexandria Hospital: Women Mobilize the Community*, Alexandria Lyceum
- 11/2/23 7p Virtual, AAUW-Alexandria Board Meeting
- 11/7/23 Virginia General Election (Deadline to vote in person is 7 pm. Non-registered voters may register and submit a provisional ballot. Voting absentee by mail requires a ballot be postmarked on or before November 7.)
- 11/9/23 7p Virtual, Great Decisions Energy Geopolitics (facilitated by Sylvia Linke)
- 11/11/23 3p (Optional Program) *Wednesdays in Mississippi: Proper Ladies Working for Radical Change*; Play & discussion, Mt. Ranier, Maryland
- 11/13/23 7p Diversity Book Group Bonnie Hershburg, hersh3b@gmail.com
- 11/18/23 2p Virtual Program meeting, Dr. Pamela O. Gilchrist, Director of K-12 Programs, Virginia Tech Innovation Campus, Alexandria
- 11/28/23 7p Mystery book group, Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net
- 11/29/23 Christ House Dinner, Margaret Zebrowski (Mmzebrow@aol.com) & Jan Jaynes (janjjoek@verizon.net)
- 11/30/23 Native Women’s Equal Pay Day

2023-2024 BRANCH OFFICERS

Co-presidents: Sylvia Linke (SFLaauw@gmail.com) & Diane Schrier (diane.schrier@gmail.com)

VP Membership: 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)

