



### *THE SCHOONER – January 2024*

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#### **SAVE THESE DATES:**

1/4/24, 6p PP Zoom  
 1/4/24, 7p Board Meeting  
 1/6/24, 12:55 Opera Group  
 1/8/24, 7p Diversity Book Group  
 1/10/24 General Assembly session begins.  
 1/13/24, 11a Anti-HT mtg  
 1/18/24, 6:30p Gourmet  
 1/21/24, 2p Program  
 1/23/24 7p Mystery book group  
 1/27/23, 3p Francophile, Tent  
 1/30/24, 5p Women Legislators' reception  
 1/31/24 Lobby Day  
 1/31/24 Christ House Dinner

Greetings to All this Holiday Season, Branch members gathered for a lovely holiday luncheon at Belle Haven Country Club. After a delicious meal, we listened to poems written by Zeina Azzam, the Poet Laureate of the City of Alexandria. Danielle Beach made the arrangements and Leslie Tourigny invited the speaker. We collected donations of gift cards and children's toys for the Alexandria Domestic Violence Shelter. Mary Anne Bier organized the collection and delivered the donations. We also collected non-perishable food and personal care items for the students at the Alexandria campus of Northern Virginia Community College. Sylvia Linke organized this collection and delivered these items to the school. School personnel were delighted to receive an automobile trunk load of food, diapers, etc. for the food pantry and thanked all who donated.

Susan Cash raffled off wine, candy, and other holiday gifts to those who donated to Autumn Leaves 2023. Thanks to all who have donated to this Fund drive. We have collected almost \$2000 to date. One-half will be donated to AAUW Greatest Needs and one-half will be retained by the branch to pay for the meals the branch provides for Christ House.

January 31 is AAUW-VA lobby day when branches gather in Richmond to meet with our state legislators to promote AAUW's public policy goals. There will be a reception for women legislators on the evening of January 30. See page 8.

There are many other AAUW activities in which to participate this month. Please join in.

Sylvia Linke and Diane Schrier, Co-Presidents

## BRANCH NOTES

### Programs

Leslie Tourigny  
VP for Programs

## The box office is now open!

*Wednesdays in Mississippi* will be  
available for on-demand streaming for two weeks  
only!

January 12-25, 2024

If you missed the in-person performances back in November, don't worry—Pipeline Playwrights is offering a recorded and edited version of **this amazing story of women (including AAUW women) working together for civil rights** during Freedom Summer 1964. Closed captioning is available.

**Tickets are on sale now**, with a special rate for families and students. (Individual screening code, \$15. Families/Groups screening code \$25. Students screening code \$10.) Groups of more than 5 people, are asked to contact us for details.

**Don't miss the play that brought audiences to their feet!**

Click [here](#) for tickets!

<p>Save The Date Northern District Meeting - March 9, 2024 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Details TBA</p>
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## Anti-Human Trafficking Ideas Brainstorming Event

Members of the Alexandria Branch have had a long-standing interest in finding ways to reduce human trafficking in the U.S., especially in our hometown of Alexandria. We have discontinued efforts on the Human Trafficking Rescue App, but there are many other things we can do, such as advocating for essential legislation.

Branch members are invited to attend a brainstorming session to propose measures the branch can take to combat human trafficking. Those who are interested in attending this session can meet on **Saturday, January 13, 2024**, at the Beatley Library at 11:00 A.M.

Please let me know ahead of time whether you will be attending this meeting. Space is limited and no more than 10 people may attend a meeting in the room I have reserved. You may reach me at [sylvia.f.linke@outlook.com](mailto:sylvia.f.linke@outlook.com).

Submitted by: Sylvia Linke, Co-President



### 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.

The AAUW Alexandria Branch Presents  
**An Update on Public Education in  
the City of Alexandria**



Please join us on **Zoom** on Sunday, **January 21, 2024, 2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m.**, to hear **Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Superintendent of the Alexandria City Public Schools**, update us on the schools and answer our questions.

**Join the Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83623887590>

Dial In +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 836 2388 7590

## Virginia Tech Innovation Campus

On December 13, 2023, Lane Stone (Left) and Leslie Tourigny (Right) joined Dr. Pamela Gilchrist (Center), Director of the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus K-12 Programs, at the campus' celebration of two years of community, school, and workforce engagement in the City of Alexandria and beyond. The Innovation Campus has "...set the goal to become the most diverse graduate technology campus in the country."



## Remembering Sandy Wargowsky

### Susan Werner

Sandy was a member of our AAUW Branch and the Mystery Book Discussion Group before she and her husband, Dick, retired to a Senior Community in Ashburn. Apparently, Sandy had a blood disorder that caused a low white blood cell count, and she was not able to fight off a case of pneumonia. I remember she loved to host the Mystery Book Discussion Group meeting in December because she and Dick had collected all these beautiful things from around the world while he was stationed in the Air Force. Sandy and Dick loved to entertain and did a lovely job of decorating their house.

Please contact me at [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net) if you would like Dick's address.



## AAUW Alexandria Participates in Scottish Walk

For the first time since the 1970s members of the Alexandria branch walked in the Scottish Walk, a celebration of the Scottish heritage of the City of Alexandria. On December 2, Diane Schrier, Sylvia Linke, Margaret Batko, Solveig Eggerz, Gail Kalin, and Anne Simpson made the trek through Old Town Alexandria. They were joined by both of Diane's daughters (Becky Pica and Jillian Schrier) and one of her granddaughters (Abby Pica). Virginia Kress was there to give encouragement.

The Scottish Walk is always held on the first Saturday in December. Its official purpose is to showcase the Scottish clans and other people of Scottish heritage. They celebrate the City of Alexandria's origin as a Scottish trading seaport. Over the years the event has grown to be a celebration of all things Alexandria. The High School's ROTC group, Girl Scout Troops, various non-profits like AAUW, and antique car owners all show off their finery. This year there were approximately 2,000 participants, with an estimated 3,000-4,000 people lining the parade route.

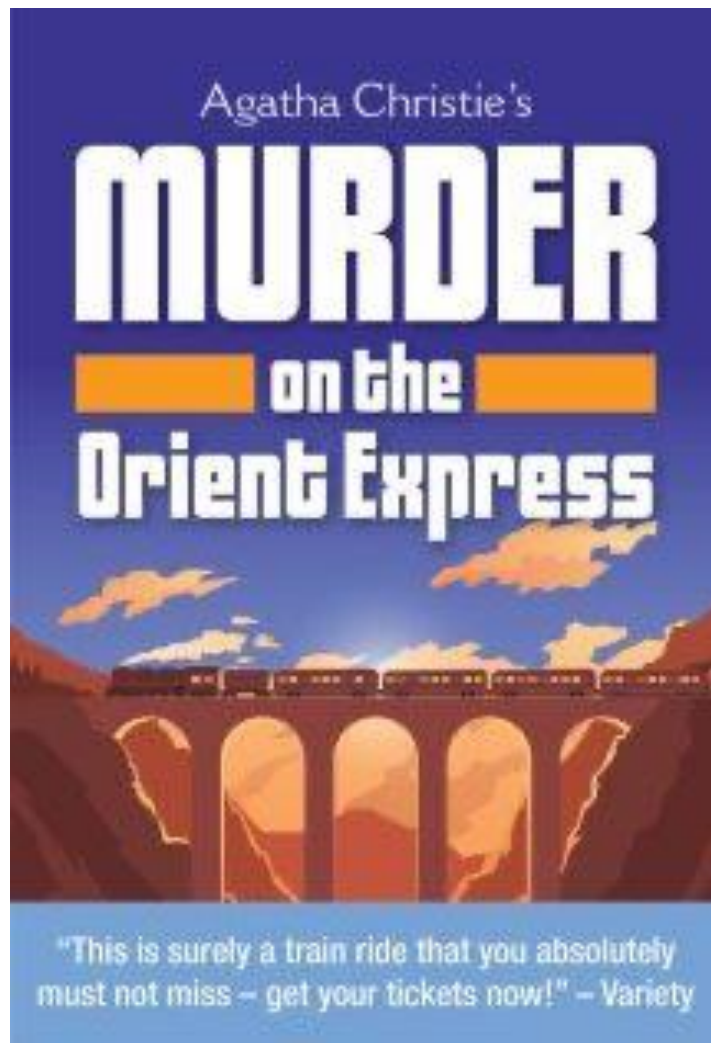
Although we had a long wait to start to walk, our spot near the end of the parade was advantageous. We were just in front of Clan Guthrie, who put on a show as they walked. An attractive young woman danced a brief highland fling at each corner of the block on the parade's route. A man led renditions of Woodie Guthrie's "This Land is your Land; this Land is my Land." Right behind the Clan Guthrie was the Clan Sinclair and bringing up the rear was a large Santa made from a snowman. People threw candy to the children and several parade observers engaged with us as we walked. They wanted to know what AAUW is and what we stand for. At the end of the parade route, we passed in front of a reviewing stand where the mayor called out our group's name and described our mission and some of our accomplishments. Kudos go to Diane Schrier for planning and pulling together the application theme, and regalia, for this event. AAUW Alexandria parade participants wore white sashes and sunflowers. We carried signs which featured famous Alexandria women and women who were trailblazers in the push for equity. This information was obtained from Gayle Converse of Alexandria Celebrates Women.

It was terrific to participate again in this wonderful celebration of Alexandria's history. Thanks to all who walked and worked to make this event a success.

Submitted by: Sylvia Linke, Co-President



OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER  
AT THE LITTLE THEATER OF ALEXANDRIA  
WILL BE HELD MARCH 22, 2024



Tickets are \$40 each. Contact Susan Werner about  
buying yours, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net)

## PUBLIC POLICY

Virginia Kress, Public Policy Chair

**Please mark your calendars and join us in Richmond!**

Preparations for our Lobby Days is underway. We have secured a room at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond for our Women Legislator's reception on January 30 at 5 p.m. We will be working with Greater Richmond - AAUW Branch members on this event. A block of 18 rooms have been reserved at the Hampton Inn, Richmond at a group rate of \$149 per night. This is the same hotel as last year. You can make reservations here:

<https://group.hamptoninn.com/xfvxmr>

In-person lobbying will be on January 31 and we are working on details for virtual lobbying on February 28. Issues for lobbying will depend on what is introduced by the newly elected members of the legislature after the election but will reflect our policy priorities.

## AUTUMN LEAVES

Susan Cash



Thanks to all of you who contributed to Autumn Leaves 2023 and congratulations to our drawing winners! We will continue to accept donations.

The funds raised are divided equally between the AAUW Alexandria Branch and an AAUW National Fund. ***Fifty percent of your donation is tax-deductible.***

If you would like to contribute, 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.



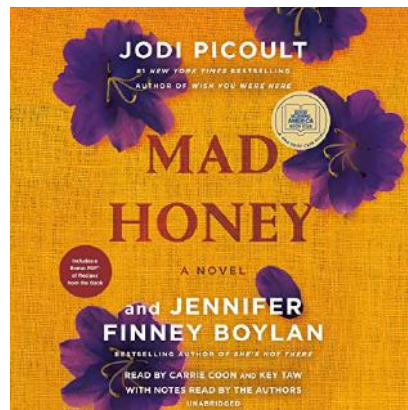
## BRANCH ACTIVITIES



## DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

Bonnie Hershberg

The group will start the new year on Monday, January 8, 2024, discussing Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan on line. If you are interested in joining us, please email Bonnie Hershberg at [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto: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. Tentative date and time is Saturday, January 27 at 3 p.m. 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. Stay tuned to the newsletter for future events.



## GOURMET OUT

### Susan Cash

Our next outing is tentatively planned to take place at Marib Traditional Yemeni Cuisine, 6931 Hechinger Drive, Springfield. Tentative Date: Thursday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m. Point of contact is Susan Cash, [scash5558@gmail.com](mailto:scash5558@gmail.com), 703/587-4790. Stay tuned to the newsletter for future events.



## MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Susan Werner

Happy New Year Mystery Lovers. Our first mystery for 2024 is Dana Stabenow's book: No Fixed Line. We will be meeting via Zoom on January 23, 2024 (*can you believe it is 2024 already!!*) at 7 PM. We will discuss our book and briefly share Holiday stories. To be included in the Zoom link or if you have questions about the Mystery Book Discussion Group, please contact Susan Werner at [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net). Also contact Susan with your mystery recommendations.

## THE OPERA GROUP - New

Diane Schrier

On January 06, branch members, family and friends are invited to attend the simulcast from the Metropolitan Opera of "Nabucco" at [AMC Hoffman](#) Plaza, 206 Hoffman St. Alexandria, 22312.

The simulcast starts at 12:55. As it may be crowded please buy your ticket ahead of time. Diane's seat is F15. We can meet in the lobby at 12:45. Afterwards we'll go to Aldo's for dinner. The opera is 3 hours and 5 minutes. Let Diane know if you will only meet us for dinner, [diane.schrier@gmail.com](mailto:diane.schrier@gmail.com).





## PUBLIC POLICY

Janine Greenwood  
Denise Murden  
Co-VPs for Public Policy

AAUW of Virginia was part of a coalition that defeated a proposed ordinance in Grayson County Virginia that would have made the county a “sanctuary for the unborn.” The ordinance would have denied women in the county access to abortion care. The drive for the ordinance was driven by outside conservative groups and was seen by these groups as a test case. The ordinance mirrored much of the legislation in Texas.

Denise Murden, Co-VP of AAUW of Virginia, testified at the hearing where the ordinance was defeated. Lane Stone, President, and Sarita McCoy Gregory, Administrator, filed a letter with the Board of Supervisors of Grayson County opposing the ordinance. The testimony and letter are attached.

To continue our advocacy in Virginia, don’t forget our **annual Virginia Lobby Day in Richmond on January 31**. Even if you cannot attend, we need information on your Delegates and Senators.

This is a request to our AAUW-VA members to complete our short poll to find out whether you will join us for our **AAUW OF VIRGINIA LOBBY DAY on January 31** in Richmond. We will also be holding a women legislators’ reception on January 30 at 5 p.m. Even if you can’t attend, we are also using this poll to find out which legislators represent our members.

Please fill out our quick poll by clicking: [AAUW-VA 2024 Lobby Day Events](#).

Whether you can attend or not, filling out our short poll helps us to know how many packets to prepare and which legislators have our members in their districts and will help us shape our plans for **Virtual Lobby Day on February 28**. More details on that to come.

We have reserved a block of **rooms at the Hampton Inn in Richmond for the night of January 30**. You can make reservations here:  
<https://group.hamptoninn.com/xfvxmr>

Our Public Policy Zoom meeting on January 4 at 6 p.m., which we will record, will provide our members with detailed information on which bills we will be advocating and supporting and how to do that.

We hope you will join us in our legislative efforts to advance equity for women and girls.

**Janine Greenwood & Denise M. Murden**  
Co-VPs for Public Policy, AAUW of Virginia

**2023 - 2024 CALENDAR – ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**  
(CHECK <https://alexandria-va.aauw.net> OFTEN)

1/4/24, 6p Pre-General Assembly AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom  
1/4/24 7p Virtual, AAUW-Alexandria Board Meeting  
1/6/24, 12:55 Opera Group  
1/8/24, 7p Diversity Book Group Bonnie Hershburg, [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com)  
1/10/24 General Assembly session begins.  
1/13/24, 11a Anti-Human-Trafficking Brainstorming, Beatley Library,  
[sylvia.f.linke@outlook.com](mailto:sylvia.f.linke@outlook.com).  
1/17/24 Virginia Interfaith Center (PSD Coalition lead) Day of All People (lobby day)  
1/18/24, 6:30p Gourmet Out group – Susan Cash, [scash5558@gmail.com](mailto:scash5558@gmail.com)  
1/21/24, 2p Program, Virtual  
1/23/24 7p Mystery book group, Susan Werner, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net)  
1/27/23, 3p Francophile Group, Susan Cash, [scash5558@gmail.com](mailto:scash5558@gmail.com)  
1/30/24, 5p Women Legislators' reception (Richmond)  
1/31/24 AAUW-VA Lobby Day (Richmond)  
1/31/24 Christ House Dinner, Margaret Zebrowski ([Mmzebrow@aol.com](mailto:Mmzebrow@aol.com)) & Jan Jaynes  
([janjjoek@verizon.net](mailto:janjjoek@verizon.net))

**2023-2024 BRANCH OFFICERS**

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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 ([lynnoconnellva@gmail.com](mailto:lynnoconnellva@gmail.com))  
Mystery Book Group: Susan Werner ([susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net))