



## THE SCHOONER – March 2024

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### SAVE THESE DATES:

3/7 7p Board Meeting  
3/9 10:30a Northern District Meeting  
3/11 7p Diversity Book Group  
3/14 7p Great Decisions  
3/22 Little Theatre of Alexandria  
fundraiser  
3/26 7p Mystery book group

Dear Friends,

AAUW-Alexandria is an amazingly strong group. Over the decades we have been involved in every aspect of life in Alexandria and the United States. To stay strong we need everyone involved at whatever level one can do. Our programs function because of you. We also need to bring more women into our group.

Our state conference will be held on April 12-13th, in Lynchburg. This is a beautiful area and the conference should be excellent. Let us know if you want to carpool. The [winter/spring Vision](#) has more details and the registration form.

We're in the planning stages of the first AAUW - Regional Atlantic Conference. Nine states are working to get our members together for an exciting time with good speakers. Ours will be on Sept. 27-29<sup>th</sup> at Virginia Crossings in Glen Allen, Virginia. This is a vacation resort and conference center.

We're about to have an important National vote on member requirements. When you receive your ballot email, please respond and vote.

We are very active. Please get involved.

Diane Schrier & Sylvia Linke, co-presidents

## BRANCH NOTES

### Programs

Leslie Tourigny  
VP for Programs

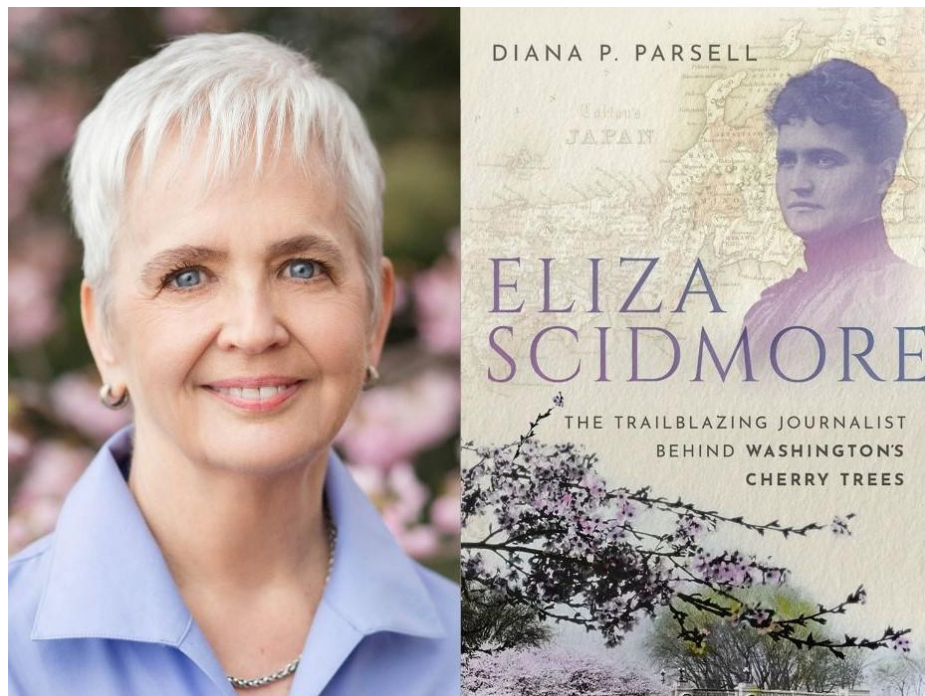
### **Northern District Meeting**

**Saturday, March 9, 2024**

**10:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library**

**4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria**



Diana Parsell, author and member of the AAUW McLean Area Branch, will introduce us to **Eliza Scidmore, the Early AAUW Member Behind Washington's Cherry Blossoms.**

As Diana's book reveals, Scidmore was an extraordinary journalist and travel writer who got her start as a newspaper correspondent in Gilded Age Washington in the 1870s. She wrote authoritative books on Alaska, Japan, Java, China and India; was an activist in the burgeoning U.S. conservation movement, in association with major figures like John Muir; and was the most influential female at the early National Geographic, as the first woman elected to the board (in 1892) and to publish photographs in the magazine. In 1920, Scidmore became an AAUW member. Copies of the book will be available for sale.

*A business meeting will follow.*

## **National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum**

### **April 6, 2024, 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.**

If someone asked you where the Baseball Hall of Fame is, you'd probably know it's in Cooperstown, New York. What if someone asked you where the National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum is? Would you be able to tell them it's in Alexandria, Virginia?

- “The National Inventors Hall of Fame was founded in 1973, and its museum was moved in 2008 to the campus of the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Alexandria, Virginia. The museum is run by the nonprofit **National Inventors Hall of Fame** in partnership with the USPTO.”
- “The mission of the National Inventors Hall of Fame® is to recognize inventors, promote creativity, and advance the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship.”

Come join us on **Saturday, April 6, 2024, 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.**, at the **National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum**, located at **600 Dulany Street,\*\* Alexandria**, for a museum tour, followed by a **presentation about the museum's STEM programming for K-12 and college students.**

The museum exhibits showcase U.S. patent holders, and include “Women In Innovation,” “Breaking Barriers: Honoring Extraordinary Black Inventors,” and “Champions of Innovation”— “the team of inventors behind the revolutionary Jogbra®: the world's first sports bra.”

Please let Leslie Tourigny at [ltourigny@gmail.com](mailto:ltourigny@gmail.com) know if you are coming for the tour.

**\*\*The museum “...is easily accessible from the King Street and Eisenhower Avenue Metro stations,” and several Alexandria Dash bus routes. Paid parking is available at the East Parking Garage, 551 John Carlyle St, (703) 683-3140.**

## **FEBRUARY PROGRAM FOLLOW-UP**

### **Senator Adam Ebbin Speaks to Branch Members**



With the halfway mark of the 2024 General Assembly Session in the rearview mirror, and the session ending on March 9, Branch members welcomed Virginia State Senator Adam Ebbin via Zoom for the February 25<sup>th</sup> program. Senator Ebbin represents the newly redrawn 39<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes the entire City of Alexandria and parts of Arlington and Fairfax Counties. He has been a consistent supporter of legislation on AAUW's list of public policy priorities.

Senator Ebbin was able to update us on the current status of key legislation, especially bills supporting AAUW priorities and those we opposed. For the first time, state legislation prohibiting employers from seeking salary history of prospective employees, a key measure to reducing the gender pay gap, passed both the State House and Senate. Other AAUW-supported legislation that has passed both houses includes those increasing flexibility for advisory bodies and regional bodies to hold virtual meetings and to allow members of public bodies with disabilities and members who are caregivers of people with disabilities to count towards quorum when participating remotely; establishing a right to obtain and engage in contraception; and prohibiting issuance of a search warrant for seizure of menstrual data. Next step for all of these is to see whether the Governor signs them. None of the anti-abortion bills passed.

#### **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING STATEMENT**

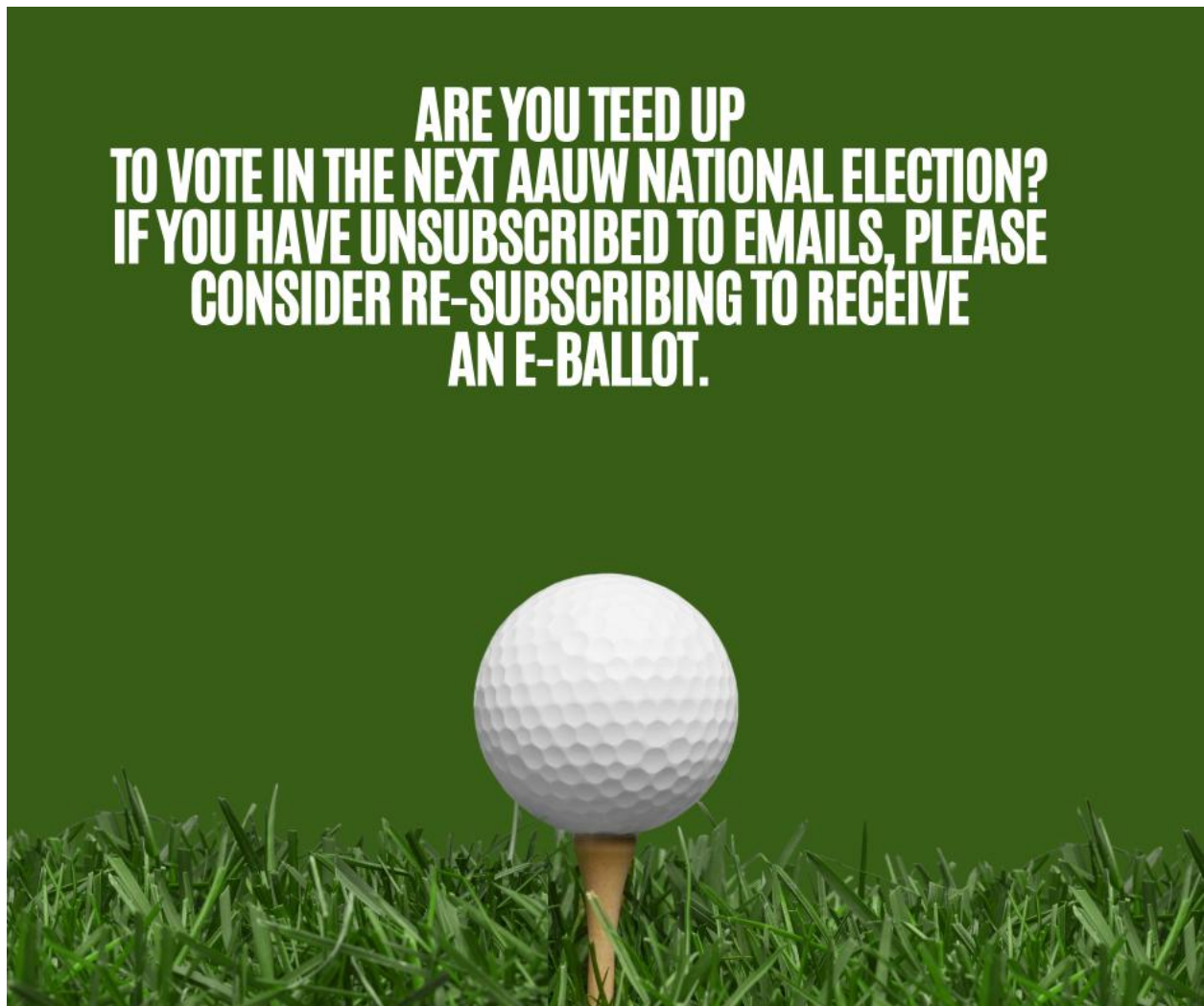
In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

### **It's Time to Recruit New Branch Officers**

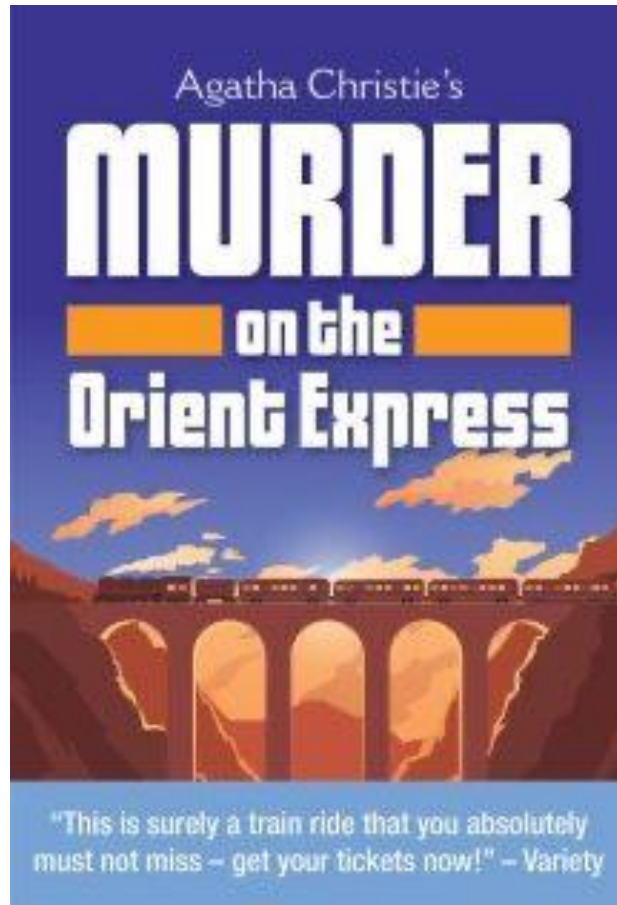
Every year some of the senior officers of the Alexandria branch finish their terms and it is necessary to recruit replacements. This year, the current Secretary and Membership V-P finish their terms. Also, the current Program V-P is resigning her position at the end of the membership year.

It is the job of the Nominating Committee to recruit replacements for these positions. The Nominating Committee is an independent Committee composed of three members of the branch. This year's Nominating Committee is Lynn O'Connell, Peggy Heiser, and Esther Massey. Please give serious thought to serving as one of the officers whose term concludes this year. If you receive a call from someone on the Nominating Committee, please say "Yes." Serving as a senior officer can be quite rewarding. It presents the individuals who fill these positions with opportunities for growth and to get to know the branch members. Contact Lynn, [lynnocConnellva@gmail.com](mailto:lynnocConnellva@gmail.com), to volunteer.

Sylvia Linke, Co-President







The Alexandria Branch of AAUW is proud to co-sponsor an evening at the Little Theatre of Alexandria with the AAUW Mount Vernon branch on March 22, 2024. The play is the classic Agatha Christie's, **Murder on the Orient Express**. This year Alexandria will provide savories for the pre-show reception and Mt Vernon will provide sweets. You are welcome to provide an appetizer or a non-alcoholic beverage (Mt Vernon provides the wine). We will need some volunteers to help with our part of the setup as well as with the clean-up at the end of the show.

- Contact Mary Ann Bier, [marybier@comcast.net](mailto:marybier@comcast.net), 703-203-2942, if you would like to donate a food item or are able to volunteer at the reception.
- Contact Susan Werner, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net), 703-270-5378, to purchase and reserve tickets.
- Tickets are \$40 each – please consider buying two tickets to help us pay for our share of the 'house'. If you cannot attend, a donation is always welcome. \$16 is tax deductible. Proceeds support AAUW. Checks should be made payable to AAUW-Alexandria. (Or cash. No credit cards, please.)
- The theater is located at 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Parking is on the street, or in some closed businesses' parking lots. Please read the signs!
- The reception starts at 7:00 pm and the play starts at 8:00 pm.

## PUBLIC POLICY

Virginia Kress, Public Policy Chair

SAVE THE DATE: FORUM ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING MAY 11, 2024

The Anti-Human Trafficking Team of the Alexandria branch is planning a forum on human trafficking. The date/time is 11:00 am on Saturday, May 11. The forum will be held at the Burke branch of the Alexandria Public Library system. We are currently inviting speakers. For further information contact Diane Schrier or Sylvia Linke, Co-Presidents.

Submitted by: Sylvia Linke 571-329-5953 (mobile), [sylvia.f.linke@outlook.com](mailto:sylvia.f.linke@outlook.com)



## AUTUMN LEAVES

Susan Cash  
AAUW Funds Chair

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.

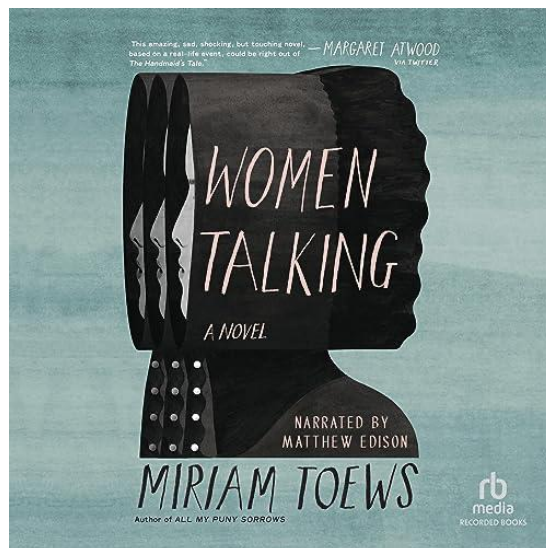
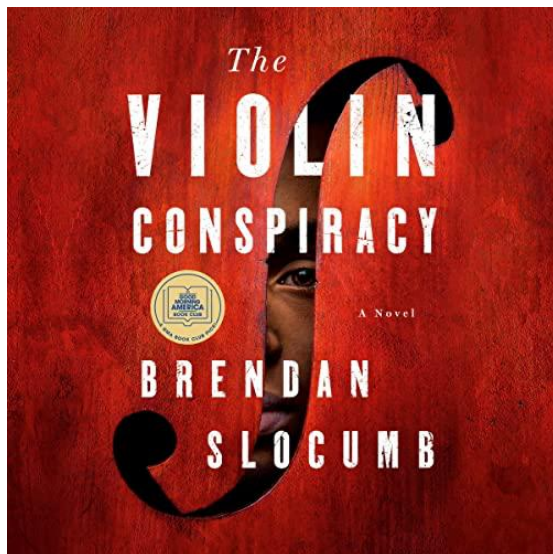
## BRANCH ACTIVITIES



## DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

Bonnie Hershberg

The Diversity Book Group met in February to discuss *The Violin Conspiracy*. It recounts the fictional story of both a famous and invaluable instrument and the man that came to own it. As a Black classical musician, one of the two protagonists is subjected to all the forms of racism that we do not generally associate with Black musicians who have earned fame in other genres. The book was well received by participants and sparked considerable and thoughtful discussion. For Monday, March 11 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm on Zoom, we will be discussing Miriam Toews novel, *Women Talking*. The 2022 film, which won critical acclaim but was not a commercial success (guess why), is based on the book. While the story is basically the same, this reader found the focus of the book quite different from that of the movie. Both are definitely worth a look and discussion. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Bonnie Hershberg at [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com).





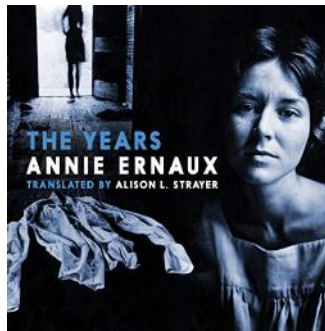


## FRANCOPHILE GROUP

### Susan Cash

At our next event, we plan to discuss *The Years* by Annie Ernaux (winner of the 2022 Nobel Prize). We hope to meet via Zoom in March on either Saturday, March 16 or Saturday, March 30 at 3 p.m., depending on which date works for the most people.

For more information, please contact Susan Cash, [scash5558@gmail.com](mailto:scash5558@gmail.com) or 703/587-4790.



## GOURMET OUT

### Susan Cash

Our next outing is planned to take place at Marib Traditional Yemeni Cuisine, 6931 Hechinger Drive, Springfield. It has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 29 (Leap Day) 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.

## GREAT DECISIONS 2024



Many thanks to Larry Korb, former Assistant Secretary of Defense, for addressing the group about the Future of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on February 8. NATO has become an issue for the November election.

On March 14 Howard Soroos will lead a discussion on Mideast Realignment. The United States and Middle East are at a crossroads. In spite of a reduced presence in the Middle East, the U.S. still has significant national interests there and the area is a key arena for global power politics. Can the U.S. continue to defend its interests in the Middle East and globally with a lower level of military and political involvement, or should it recommit to a leading role in the region?

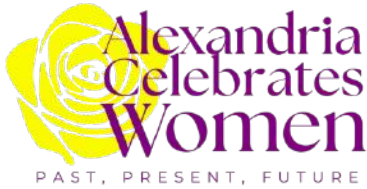


## MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

[Susan Werner](#)

The Mystery Book Discussion Group will meet on March 26, 2024, at 7 PM via Zoom. Our March mystery is Blanch Cleans Up by Barbara Neely. Join us to discuss how the smart, intrepid cleaning lady solves this mystery. If you have questions about the Mystery Group or suggested mystery titles, please contact Susan Werner: [susan.werner1@veizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@veizon.net). Happy Reading!





### **“Making History to DC”**

#### ***Women’s History Walk planned for March 23, 2024***

On the “heels” of its historic Walk from Alexandria to Richmond last August, **Alexandria Celebrates Women (ACW)** [Alexandria Celebrates Women](#) will again lead the way – this time, a seven-mile trek from Old Town Alexandria to Washington, D.C.

To commemorate Women’s History Month (March) and the 2024 Cherry Blossom Festival, ACW will partner with **WalkArlington Saturday March 23, 2024** as walkers, cyclists, families and dog walkers travel the scenic Mount Vernon Trail while enjoying women’s history briefings by experts along the route. Stops include Lady Bird Johnson Park, the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Women’s Memorial.

Participants are invited to **wear shades of pink** to denote the Cherry Blossom Festival and to **“pack your own lunch”** for this **FREE** event to celebrate **Women’s History Month, the Cherry Blossom Festival and the beautiful Mount Vernon Trail!**

**Celebrate the Cherry Blossom Festival and Women’s History Month in the Nation’s Capital!**

Date: Saturday March 23, 2024 (Rain date: Sat. April 6, 2024)

Start location: Canal Center, 11 Canal Center Plaza, Alexandria, Virginia

Start time: 10 a.m. EDT (Walk ends in DC at approximately 3 p.m.)

Registration (FREE) <https://thezebrapress.evvnt.events/events/alexandria-celebrates-women-making-history-to-dc-walk-3-23-2024/tickets> or [Alexandria Celebrates Women](#)

#### **Wear Pink and Pack a Lunch!**

*Note: The Mount Vernon Trail is a short ride or walk from the Arlington Cemetery, Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, and Rosslyn [Metro stations](#).*

Alexandria Celebrates Women recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of Alexandria, Virginia women of the past, present and future. The volunteer 501 (c)3 charitable non-profit organization acknowledges the distinguished history of Alexandria’s heroines while celebrating the empowerment of Alexandria’s modern women. [Alexandria Celebrates Women](#)

## KVELLS AND KUDOS

Alexandria Choral Society is traveling to Capital One Hall in Tysons for its March 9th concert. With the Virginia Chamber Orchestra, it is presenting Gabriel Faure's Requiem. Treasurer **Anne Simpson** and member **Peggy Heiser** can be spotted in the Alto Section. Tickets are available by going to the website, [alexandriachoralsociety.org](http://alexandriachoralsociety.org).

## THIS! AAUW in a fortune cookie!





## **PUBLIC POLICY**

Janine Greenwood  
Denise Murden  
AAUW-VA Co-VPs for Public Policy

On January 31, more than 30 AAUW of Virginia (AAUW-VA) members joined our Lobby Day in Richmond and met with over 80 General Assembly legislators about our 2024 legislative and policy priorities.



Nancy Kula (left) and Leslie Tourigny (right) with Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker



L to R: Esther Massey, Lane Stone, Del. Charniele Herring, Diane Schrier

Learn more about AAUW of Virginia's 2024 legislative and policy agenda and prepare for Virtual Lobby Day by visiting our [resource page](#), which includes our 2024 Lobby Day packet.



## AAUW – National

### It's My Vote! Introducing the 2024 Voter Engagement Campaign

**Wednesday, March 6, 7 p.m. ET**

The AAUW Action Fund is launching our It's My Vote! 2024 Voter Engagement Campaign.

When: Join us for a kickoff call on Wednesday, March 6, at 7 p.m. ET to learn how AAUW can support voter engagement work around the country. On the call, we will share the training, tools, and resources available to members to engage in this effort.



May we ask a favor?

AAUW-VA VP for Communication, Dianne Mero reports that there was only a small percentage of members who opened and read the Vision. The last edition was emailed out on February 19, 2024. If you haven't already, please open it up and check it out. (It helps our mailing system work better if we have a high percentage of opened emails.)



**We hope to see you in beautiful Lynchburg  
for our 99<sup>th</sup> AAUW-VA Conference**

**April 12 – 13, 2024**

**Sightseeing, shopping, and being with AAUW members! Come  
early and do it all!**

**Hilton Garden Inn  
4025 Wards Road, Lynchburg, VA 24502**

**[ONLINE AAUW-VA 2024 Conference Registration](#)**



*After you register email Diane Schrier to discuss carpooling, [diane.schrier@gmail.com](mailto:diane.schrier@gmail.com).*

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

3/7/24 7p Virtual, AAUW-Alexandria Board Meeting  
3/8/24 International Women's Day  
3/9/24 10:30a Northern District meeting, Burke Library  
3/10/24 General Assembly ends  
3/11/24 7p Diversity Book Group Bonnie Hershburg, [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com)  
3/14/24, 7p Great Decisions  
3/22/24 Little Theatre of Alexandria fundraiser  
3/26/24 7p Mystery book group, Susan Werner, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net)

**2023-2024 BRANCH OFFICERS**

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