



## THE SCHOONER – June - July 2024

### **INSIDE:**

<i>Co-Presidents' letter</i>	1
<i>Branch Notes</i>	2
<i>Branch Activities</i>	8
<i>Calendar</i>	13
<i>Contacts</i>	13
<i>Regional Conference</i>	14

### **SAVE THESE DATES:**

6/06/24, 7p	Board Meeting
6/10/24, 7p	Diversity Book Group
6/11/24, 6p	Gourmet Out
6/13/24, 7p	Great Decisions
6/22/24, 1p	Annual meeting
6/25/24, 6:30p	Mystery book group,
7/04/24, 7p	Board Meeting
7/15/24, 7p	Diversity book group,
7/18/24, 6p	Gourmet Out & Francophile
7/23/24, 7p	Mystery book group
7/31/24	Christ House Dinner

Dear Friends,

June is a busy month for many of us. It is full of Father's Day celebrations, weddings, graduations, and other special events. Please make time in your busy schedules to attend our business luncheon on Saturday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, where will elect key officers for the upcoming fiscal year, pass a budget, and receive annual reports from the branch's leadership and committees.

This is a great opportunity to connect with other branch members. Please send in your reservation to the Vice-President for programs, Leslie Tourigny.

Members are asked to donate non-perishable food items, baby supplies, and hygiene items to the Nighthawk Nest Food Pantry at the Alexandria campus of Northern Virginia Community College.

AAUW-VA is the host state for the Atlantic Regional Conference. Registration information is on the last page.

Have a great summer, everyone!

Diane Schrier and Sylvia Linke  
Co-Presidents

## BRANCH NOTES

### Programs

Leslie Tourigny  
VP for Programs

### End-of-Year Luncheon

Date: Saturday, June 22, 2024

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Clyde's at Mark Center

1700 N Beauregard Street

Alexandria, VA

Abundant on-site parking behind the restaurant. We will order from a varied menu and pay with separate checks.

**RSVP by June 16 to Leslie at [ltourigny@gmail.com](mailto:ltourigny@gmail.com).**

We will collect nonperishable food items for Northern Virginia Community College's [Nighthawk Nest Food Pantry](#) and Barnes & Noble gift cards for NVCC students to use at their bookstore. See the May 27 email for more donation suggestions.



**Please join us at the June 22 Annual Meeting and VOTE to show your appreciation to these candidates!**

## **YOUR BOARD CANDIDATES:**

### **Candidate for Vice President for Membership: Dr. Felicia Goss**

Dr. Felicia Goss is a 30-year education professional who is passionate about eliminating the disparities that prevent a level playing field for all. As a product of the New York City Public School System, Felicia is very aware of the impact education and caring educators can make on a person's life. She had dedicated her life to making education equitable for all. She is a BS and MS graduate of Kennesaw State University in Metro Atlanta, and a PhD graduate of Grand Canyon University. She is currently an Analyst with the federal government. In her spare time, Felicia is active in her local community where she assists with the local food pantry and helping to improve the environment. She enjoys spending time with family and her sorority sisters, reading, traveling and sewing. She is a huge NBA fan and has recently taken up swimming and bowling with her son.



### **Candidate for Vice President for Program: Dr. Gail Kalin**

Gail Kalin, Ph.D. is a Clinical Psychologist in private practice as a psychotherapist for almost 30 years, specializing in clinical hypnosis and EMDR therapy. She is also an adjunct faculty member of George Washington University Medical School where she mentors medical students as part of their program.

She is a graduate of Brown University and Yeshiva University's Masters and Doctoral program in professional psychology. Her dissertation was on cognitive sex differences and the

role of sex hormones (especially androgens in delayed puberty boys) on these differences and on cognitive development early in life.

Gail is a former AAUW Alexandria Branch co-president (along with Lane Stone) and currently serves as Board Secretary. She is proud to be a member of AAUW, especially the dynamic Alexandria Branch. Her diverse interests include new developments in science and technology, health, mental health and consciousness, as well as the arts, spirituality and multi-culturalism. She is the proud mother of an adorable mischievous parrot and an equally adorable and bossy cockatiel, both who will be future AAUW members once they qualify with 2 years of college (flight school?) education.



#### **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.

## Report on AAUW's Human Trafficking Forum held at the Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch of the Alexandria Public Library on May 11

Submitted by: Sylvia Linke, Co-President, and Solveig Eggerz

Human trafficking survivor, Evelyn Chumbow, told of feeling trapped with no possibilities for escape, during the years she was enslaved by a wealthy woman in Potomac, MD. From age nine to 17 she cooked, cleaned, and cared for the woman's children with no payment for her work.

She suffered regular beatings and was cut off from the outside world. When she finally escaped with the help of several good people, Ms Chumbow's enslaver was sentenced to several years in prison.

Erica Reid, Senior Engagement Manager at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center Countering Human Trafficking, described how teenagers can be lured into being sexually trafficked. She showed a video featuring a lonely teenage girl who was being pulled into trafficking through an attractive teenage boy posing as a potential "boyfriend." An observant teacher became aware of changes in his previously cheerful and engaged student.

These included—falling behind in her homework, seeming unusually tired, admitting she'd given up her cell phone to her "boyfriend." She no longer had "time" for school work.

Ms. Reid provided warning signs for teachers, parents and other adults but also for potential victims of trafficking. Both speakers emphasized that labor and sexual trafficking are far more prevalent than we know. Because of trafficking's hidden nature, we must become extra alert to its warning signs. Ms. Reid works with the Blue Campaign within Homeland Security that works to eliminate trafficking.

To report suspected human trafficking to Federal law enforcement: 1-866-347-2423

Evelyn Chumbow is currently active in developing employment opportunities for

trafficking survivors and has provided human trafficking and human rights related service to the law firm of Baker and McKenzie LLP. She has received numerous awards and recognition of her service, such as the 2021 Abolitionist Award from the Nomi Network and the 2015 Peace Seeking Award from the Presbyterian National Church. She is currently the Operations and Survivor Leadership Director for the Human Trafficking Legal Center.

She focuses on educating the public on human trafficking and develops and offers media campaigns, provides awareness training to the public, and initiates partnerships with various organizations and agencies throughout the country. Both speakers made dynamic presentations and provided extensive informative on this topic. They distributed literature and posters on human trafficking from the Department of Homeland Security provided to the Human Trafficking Rescue Team.

[To get help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline:1-888-373-7888](https://www.humantraffickinghotline.org/)

All who attended the forum were pleased with the quality of the event. The Human Trafficking Rescue Team worked very hard to make this forum a success. Human Trafficking Rescue Team members are Solveig Eggerz, Peggy Lynn Heiser, and Anne Simpson. The team was led by Sylvia Linke and Diane Schrier.



## ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

Anne Simpson  
Treasurer

It is spring, time to start thinking about renewing your membership. Do it while you are thinking about it! You can pay dues with your credit card on the AAUW website, [AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org), or send a check to me payable to the branch. The dues for this year are the same as last year, \$103. \$72 is tax deductible.

## PUBLIC POLICY

Virginia Kress  
Public Policy Chair

The Virginia legislative session has now for all intents and purposes concluded. AAUW-VA intends to keep working with Reclaim Our Vote on postcarding and you will be hearing more about that in upcoming weeks.

We encourage you to become an AAUW Two-Minute Activist. Signing up is easy. Just click here:

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>



## AUTUMN LEAVES

Susan Cash  
AAUW Funds Chair

Thanks to all of you who contributed to Autumn Leaves 2023. ***Our 2024 drive will begin on July 1, 2024.*** The funds raised are divided equally between the AAUW Alexandria Branch and an AAUW National Fund. ***Fifty percent of your donation is tax-deductible. All who make a donation received by the Thursday before the holiday luncheon will be eligible for the drawing held at the luncheon. In addition, the first five people to make a donation will be eligible for a prize of their choice. They will also be eligible for the drawing.***

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

### CHRIST HOUSE SOUP KITCHEN

Margaret Zebrowski and Jan Jaynes

The next Christ House supper is July 31. Be on the lookout for an email from Margaret ([mmzebrow@aol.com](mailto:mmzebrow@aol.com)) about contributions and volunteering. We will need contributions of cherry tomatoes, small carrots, clementines and cookies. Two members are needed to help assemble the 70 supper bags.



### DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

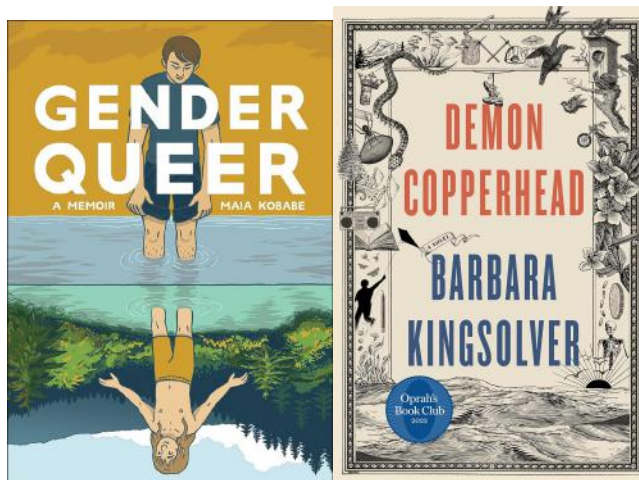
Bonnie Hershberg

Twelve members of the Diversity Book Group (DBG) met in May to discuss Steph Cha's *Your House Will Pay*. The novel, set primarily in 2019, explores the relationship between the African American and the Korean and Korean American communities in Los Angeles. It draws on two 1991 real life events—the shooting of an African American 15-year-old young woman by a Korean shop keeper and the beating of African American Rodney King by police, both in South Central LA. As with any well written novel, the themes are both timely and classic— forgiveness, redemption, inherited trauma, and parenting in these complicated times, to name a few. The book also paints a portrait of a variety of women, whose strength might be one of the only characteristics they share. Members of the group liked the book, drawn in by the well-paced story line and its easy read.

The DBG promises the next two months will be outstanding discussions of interesting books as well. On June 17, we will discuss the graphic novel *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe. You likely recall that this is one of the “banned” or “challenged” books we decided to read this year. You might also recall that participants agreed that another of these books that we read already —Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*—proved to be gratifying and made for a lively and informative read. On July 15 we will tackle (560 pages) the work of another award winning author, Barbara Kingsolver, whose newest book, *Demon Copperhead*, was inspired by the classic *David Copperfield*. Those ambitious members who have already read it have noted that it too is a worthwhile read. If you would like to join the group or have an interest



in any of these books, please contact Bonnie Hershberg at [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com). We have 17 active members but and generally have some dozen attend; Zoom, however, happily gives us room for more.



## FRANCOPHILE GROUP



### Susan Cash

Our discussion of *The Years* by Annie Ernaux (winner of the 2022 Nobel Prize) has been tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, June 15 at 3 p.m., over Zoom (alternate date is June 29). Stay tuned for more details.

In addition, we plan to have our annual Bastille Day dinner the evening of Thursday, July 18 at Bistro L'Hermitage in Occoquan (located at 12724 Occoquan Road. Tentative time is 6 p.m. For more information, please contact Susan Cash, [scash5558@gmail.com](mailto:scash5558@gmail.com) or 703/587-4790.

## GOURMET OUT



### Susan Cash

Our next event is tentatively planned for Tuesday, June 11 at 6:00 p.m. at Pho Hai Duong Vietnamese Restaurant, 4231M Markham Street, Annandale. Our July event will be a joint outing with the Francophile group at Bistro L'Hermitage in Occoquan (12724 Occoquan Road) on 7/18/24, 6p. Point of contact is Susan Cash, [scash5558@gmail.com](mailto:scash5558@gmail.com), 703/587-4790.

## GREAT DECISIONS 2024



On June 13, 7p our topic is: *U.S. – China Trade Rivalry*. China's economic rise and current policies of increasing the role of the state in the economy have led some U.S. policymakers to seek to deny China access to U.S. technology and investment. This is seen as a necessary corrective to decades of predatory Chinese economic policies. Is this a wise strategy, and how effective can it be?

To attend, please email me at [lynnococonnellva@gmail.com](mailto:lynnococonnellva@gmail.com).



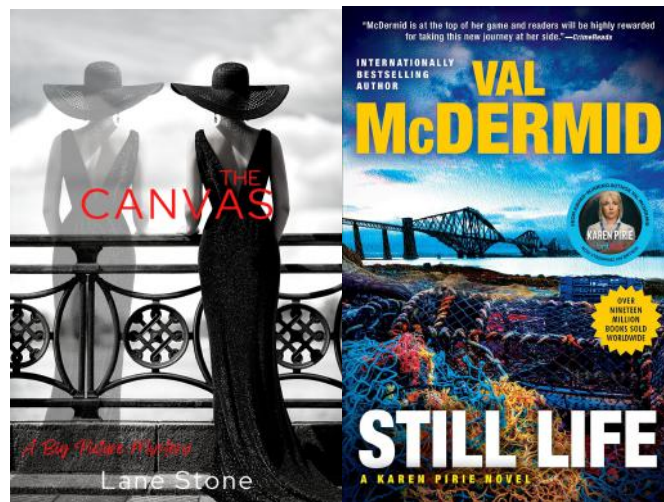
## MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Susan Werner

Greetings, mystery lovers. In June, we will be discussing the second book in a trilogy by our own mystery author, Lane Stone. The book is entitled The Canvas. Join us on Zoom on **June 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM**. Hopefully, you have read the first book in Lane's trilogy, The Collector, but even if you have not, please try to read The Canvas. It will be exciting to find out what next is happening to our sleuth. Do join us for the discussion. A discussion with Lane and her insights is always fascinating.

In July, we will be reading Val McDermid's mystery novel, Still Life. Because it is summer, we will have a change of pace and will meet Fratelli, 410 Van Dorn St, Alexandria at **6:30** for fine Italian food – although you don't have to eat to join the group and participate in the discussion. The date of the meeting – **July 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

As always, if you have any questions about the Mystery Book Discussion Group and/or have recommendations, please contact Susan Werner: [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net)  
Happy Reading.





(via 5/15/24 email)

AAUW Members,

The 2024 AAUW election is now complete and we are grateful for all those who took the time to vote. Congratulations to Melissa LaDuke, Dianne Owens, Sona Pancholy, and Christine Schmitz on their election to the AAUW Board!

On behalf of the AAUW Board of Directors, we are disappointed that the initiative to open AAUW's membership did not pass.

We understand that this outcome may feel exclusionary to some. But AAUW's history is one of continual change and growth, even in the face of challenges. That same resilient spirit must guide us now as we seek to fulfill AAUW's purpose to advance equity for women and girls.

There are many ways to engage with AAUW and support our mission beyond membership. Please encourage members and non-members alike to engage with us — to become [Two-Minute Activists](#), to attend our webinars and events, to apply for a [fellowship or grant](#), and to share the information and resources from our [website](#), which support women's economic empowerment.

The AAUW Board of Directors is committed to AAUW's future and to strengthening the connection with all our members and our community of branch and state organizations. We can all do more to support AAUW's efforts — and we will won't stop working for an equitable future for women and girls.

Julia T. Brown, Esq.  
Board Chair, 2017-2024

Cheryl Sorokin  
Board Chair, 2024-2025

To access the full election results and FAQ (including the potential to vote on this issue again in the future), please visit the [AAUW Election page](#).

## 2023- 2024 CALENDAR – ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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

6/6/24, 7p Virtual, AAUW-Alexandria Board Meeting  
6/11/24, 6p Gourmet Out  
6/13/24, 7p Great Decisions  
6/17/24, 7p Diversity Book Group Bonnie Hershberg, [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com)  
6/22/24, 1p Annual meeting, Clyde's at Mark Center  
6/25/24, 6:30p Mystery book group, Susan Werner, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net)  
7/4/24, 7p Virtual, AAUW-Alexandria Board Meeting  
7/15/24, 7p Diversity book group, Contact: Bonnie Hershberg, [hersh3b@gmail.com](mailto:hersh3b@gmail.com)  
7/18/24, 6p Gourmet Out & Francophile Groups, Susan Cash, [scash5558@gmail.com](mailto:scash5558@gmail.com)  
7/23/24, 7p Mystery book group, Susan Werner, [susan.werner1@verizon.net](mailto:susan.werner1@verizon.net)  
7/31/24 Christ House Dinner, Margaret Zebrowski ([Mmzebrow@aol.com](mailto:Mmzebrow@aol.com))

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