

AAUW



Alexandria (VA) Branch



THE SCHOONER – August – September 2024

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SAVE THESE DATES:

8/1/24, 7p	Board Meeting
8/12/24, 7p	Diversity Book Group
8/27/24, 7p	Mystery Book Group
9/5/24, 7p	Board Meeting
9/8/24, 1p	Meet and Greet
9/9/24, 7p	Diversity Book Group
9/12/24, 7p	Great Decisions
9/14/24, 10a	Northern District Meeting
9/21/24, 3p	Francophile Group
9/24/24, 7p	Mystery Book Group
9/27-29/24	Atlantic Regional Conference

Dear Friends,

Our AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference is coming soon and will be the most exciting get-together of the Eastern States since 2017 when National held its last Conference. Your Board has voted to give the first 10 registrants from our branch a refund on the Friday evening dinner. Please come.

Our Meet and Greet will be on Sunday, Sept. 8th at Gail Kalin's home, in the Overlook community. As always, bring a favorite dish to share. This is one of our most popular get-togethers of the year, so please make an effort to come. See page 2.

Sylvia has done an amazing job of reviewing our bylaws. Our Board will discuss them and it will be sent to all members for voting.

We have an exciting year of programs coming up. Let us know what you want to have happen, and all together we will make it happen. This is your AAUW branch and it needs to reflect you.

Diane Schrier and Sylvia Linke
Co-Presidents

BRANCH NOTES

Programs

Gail Kalin, VP for Programs

Annual Meet & Greet Potluck

September 8, 2024, 1p

AT GAIL KALIN'S HOME

6254 SPLIT CREEK LANE

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312

RSVP, Text with what you'll bring,
202.365.5212





Empowering for Equity

Join Us
for the
AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference



**Connecting Voices from the Everglades
to the Northern Border**

September 27th–29th, 2024

Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference Center
1000 Virginia Center Pkwy, Glen Allen, VA 23059



**Share ideas
with AAUW
members from
12 states in
SWAP SHOPS.**

**Learn about issues that
matter in TRENDING
TOPICS.**

Read all about it and register here:

<https://aauwatlanticregionalconference.com>

Nearby Attractions – Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, James River Cellars Winery,
Richmond National Battlefield Park, VA Museum of Fine Arts, Children’s Museum of
Richmond, Crossings Golf Course

CAMPUS RELATIONS

Susan Cash
Danielle Beach
Chairs

New Project: AAUW Alexandria Sessions with NVCC Students at Braden Center

As part of its ongoing partnership with Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC), the Alexandria Branch of AAUW will be piloting some events at the NVCC Alexandria Campus Braden Center. These events will take place in the morning or afternoon on various weekdays. During these events, expected to last one to two hours, our members will have the opportunity to meet with students to discuss our academic backgrounds (our majors and other coursework). These will be informal conversations during which students can ask questions about how we handled challenges in the courses themselves and/or how we applied our coursework professionally. There is no need to prepare a formal presentation. The key point is reflection on the courses we took, which ones we found the most challenging, important takeaways from the courses, and how the courses helped us in our work. We should keep in mind that the ways the courses helped us may have seemed insignificant at the time. For more information and to indicate interest in participating, contact Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com.

Submitted by: Sylvia Linke, Co-President AAUW Alexandria

FOOD Donations for Nighthawk Nest Food Pantry

Branch members generously gave donations for the Nighthawk Nest Food Pantry at the June 2024 annual meeting. I took those donations to the food pantry at the Alexandria campus of Northern Virginia Community College. The college was grateful for the donations and the community support. It means a lot to them that members of the community are mindful of the students' well-being.

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.

FROM OUR TREASURER

Anne Simpson
Treasurer

PLEASE BE SURE TO PAY YOUR DUES IF YOU HAVE NOT! Unless you are new to AAUW and are on the new, rolling system, everyone who has not yet paid is in the grace period and will eventually be dropped. If you are still getting notices, you haven't paid. Ask me if you have any questions. You can pay with a credit card or you can send me a check at 1604 Old Drummer Boy Lane, Fort Washington, MD 20744.

PUBLIC POLICY

Title IX: AAUW is nonpartisan, but that does not mean we are not active on issues we value. For example, we support changes that strengthen and improve Title IX. Many [states have filed lawsuits](#) against the Biden administration's rule expanding Title IX protections to ban discrimination in schools based on gender identity and sexual orientation. And in July the House of Representatives voted to overturn these new rules. AAUW National issued a [call](#) to action asking Senators to stand up for students. (If you participated, thank you.) This, and other important issues, will be covered in the [AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference](#).
GOTV: The Alexandria branch has been involved with Reclaim Our Vote since AAUW-VA began this collaboration. Branches mail postcards to mobilize voters of color. The AAUW-VA goal for 2024 is to mail 5,000 postcards. Please email Diane (Diane.Schrier@gmail.com) to volunteer to help.

Something we thought you might like: [When Women Won the Right to Vote: A New Look at the 19th Amendment](#) Click and enjoy.



AUTUMN LEAVES

Susan Cash
AAUW Funds Chair

Our 2024 drive opened on July 1, 2024. Thanks to those of you who have already contributed. 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.

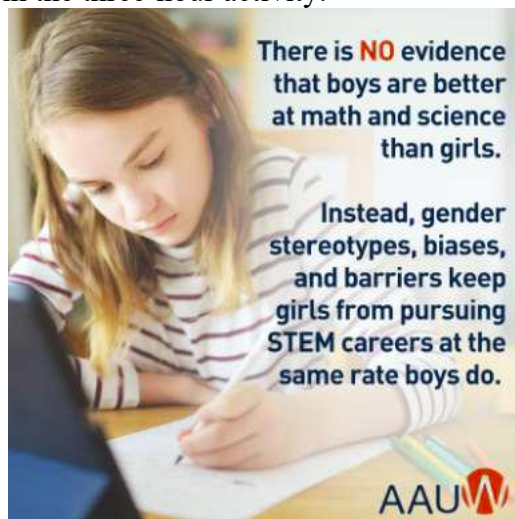
STEM Ed

Submitted by: Sylvia Linke, Co-President AAUW Alexandria

AAUW, in conjunction with Virginia Tech Innovation Campus, sponsored coding workshops this spring. The purpose of the workshops was to foster interest in girls in *Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math* activities. Workshop participants assembled a sensor for an automobile's back-up camera. The project was designed by a NASA engineer. Successful assembly of the STEM Lingo kits powered by Arduino boards required the students to use coding, which is the process of writing instructions for computers to perform tasks.

The Alexandria branch collaborated with the Watergate at Landmark Youth Committee to host an open workshop for students at Watergate at Landmark on June 06, 2024, to assemble the kits. A member of the Watergate at Landmark Board of Directors and other interested adults attended the session.

The workshop was a success as a diversity project. Students of a wide variety of ages, both sexes, and a variety of nationalities participated in the three-hour activity.



BRANCH ACTIVITIES



DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

Bonnie Hershberg

Thirteen members of the Diversity Book Group met on Zoom in July to discuss Barbara Kingsolver's Demon Copperhead. With one exception, the Group was united in its praise of the book, which is written in the voice of a young man in Appalachia, caught up in poverty, the social welfare/foster care system, and the opioid epidemic. The story is disturbing in its matter-of-fact rendition of the challenges that people face in our own state of Virginia, whose circumstances differ so dramatically from those of our more privileged class, with good access to stable and loving family lives, a good education, and consistent and competent health care. The characters, group members agreed, seemed like real people whose individual narratives fully engaged them and made some parts of the story truly compelling. All also agreed that using David Copperfield as the model for this novel was a new and creative way to tell a truth that should be relevant to all in this country. For the two recently naturalized US citizens in our group, this was a surprising story. One noted that in Central Europe, where she spent much of her early life, this underbelly of life in our country is not well advertised, if at all. While for another few, this story is well known even if through reading and films. All agreed, however, that the Group's discussion was rich with information and analysis that broadened and stretched all of our thinking. If you'd like to join our Group, please contact Bonnie Hershberg at hersh3b@gmail.com. We will be discussing Overground Railroad by Candacy Taylor on Monday, August 12, on Zoom from 7-8:30 pm. And The Vanishing Half, by Brit Bennett, on September 9th.

FRANCOPHILE GROUP



Susan Cash - Our next meeting, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 21 at 3 p.m., we'll discuss *Chateau Rock* by Martin Walker. Feel free to read another book by him. The meeting

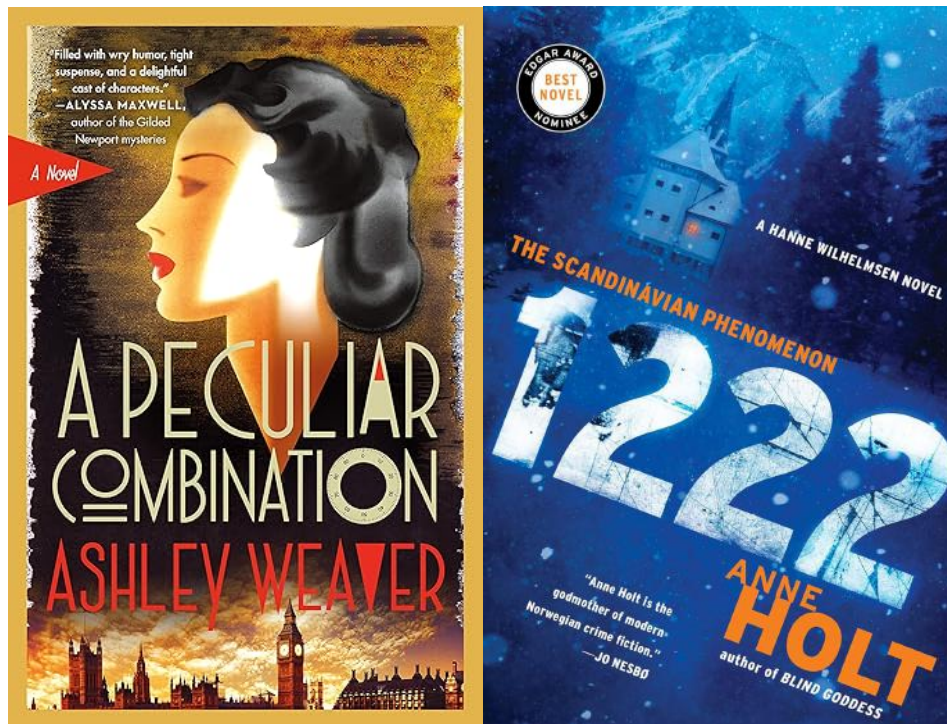
will also include a tribute to legendary singer Charles Aznavour to commemorate the 100th birthday. For more information, please contact Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com or 703/587-4790.



MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Susan Werner

The Mystery Book Discussion Group will meet on August 27 at 6:30 PM, once again at Fratelli on Van Dorn, before reverting to Zoom meetings in the Fall – unless COVID gets worse. Our mystery will be [A Peculiar Combination](#) by Ashley Weaver. In September, our mystery will be [1222: A Hanne Wilhelmsen Novel](#) by Anne Holt. We will meet via Zoom at our normal time of 7 PM.





When women vote, we change the conversation.

AAUW's voter engagement campaign — It's My Vote! — will give you the training, tools, and resources to help increase voter participation in your community.

The 2024 U.S. election will have a major impact on gender equity in education, women's economic security, and reproductive and civil rights. Click [here](#) then scroll down for important webinar information.

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/>



AAUW-Virginia is a coalition partner of [Fund Our Schools](#), working to improve the funding of the state's public schools. They are ***seeking volunteers for several Fund Our Schools subcommittees***: Administrative, Base Building, Communications, and Legislative. Serving on one of these committees is a way to use your skill sets and interests to help advance the work of the coalition, and allows members of other organizations to learn more about AAUW. Responsibilities and expectations are clearly defined and each committee has a strong leader. If you would like to get more information, contact Denise at denise.m.murden@gmail.com.



AAUW Logo Items for Purchase

Deadline for Orders is September 29, 2024

The funds raised by these sales will be used for the expenses of the AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference scheduled for September 27-29, 2024 in Glen Allen, VA (near Richmond), with excess donated to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund. We are pleased to offer our AAUW logo creations for sale regardless of whether you are registering for the Conference. *We welcome you to also attend the Conference.*

Place your order using the ONLINE Conference registration form.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER AND PURCHASE ITEMS ONLINE](https://aauwatlanticregionalconference.com/conference-purchases)

<https://aauwatlanticregionalconference.com/conference-purchases>

- **Ordering by September 6th: Your order must be picked up at the conference or you can arrange for it to be mailed to you by emailing the mailing address—as below.**
- **Ordering after September 6th: Your order can only be mailed directly to you by emailing the mailing address to suzanne@suzannerothwell.com.**

Branches should consider whether you wish to order multiples of items as branch member and speaker gifts and as a branch group purchase and have the order shipped to a single home address.

Any Questions? Email Suzanne Rothwell

2024 - 2025 CALENDAR – ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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

8/1/24, 7p Virtual, AAUW-Alexandria Board Meeting
8/12/24, 7p Diversity Book Group, Virtual, Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com
8/27/24, 7p Mystery book group, Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net
9/5/24, 7p Virtual, AAUW Alexandria Board Meeting
9/8/24, 1p Meet and Greet
9/9/24, 7p Diversity Book Group, Virtual, Bonnie Hershberg, hersh3b@gmail.com
9/12/24, 7p Great Decisions, Lynn O’Connell, lynnocconnellva@gmail.com
9/14/24, 10a Northern District Meeting
9/21/24, 3p Francophile Group, Virtual, Contact: Susan Cash scash5558@gmail.com
9/24/24 Mystery book group, Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net
9/27-29/24 Atlantic Regional Conference, Glen Allen, VA

2024 - 2025 BRANCH OFFICERS

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

VP Membership: Dr. Felicia Goss (FMGoss@icloud.com)

VP Program: Dr. Gail Kalin, (gailkalin@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Lane Stone (LaneStoneAAUWVA@gmail.com)

AAUW Funds: Susan Cash (scash5558@gmail.com)

Diversity and Inclusion: Dr. Gail Kalin (gailkalin@yahoo.com)

Public Policy: Diane Schrier (diane.schrier@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Anne Simpson (aseyedoc@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Eugenia Burkes (eugeniaburkes@mac.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 (lynnocconnellva@gmail.com)

Mystery Book Group: Susan Werner (susan.werner1@verizon.net)



**MARK THIS DOWN ON YOUR
CALENDAR!**

**2025 AAUW-VA STATE
CONFERENCE**

MARCH 29, 2025

(Preconference activities on March 28)

On **March 27-28, 1925**, the seven already existing local branches of AAUW in Virginia met in Williamsburg. When they adjourned, the **Virginia Division of AAUW** was a reality.

On **March 28, 2025**, join us in Alexandria as the **AAUW-VA centennial celebration** begins, and we jubilantly begin our second century of women changing the conversation.

The conference is being hosted by the AAUW-VA Northern District branches at the **Sheraton Suites Old Town Alexandria, 801 N. St. Asaph Street, Alexandria 22314** on **Saturday, March 29, 2025**, with preconference activities on **March 28, 2025**.

Great news! It's not too early to reserve a room. Guest rooms will be available for **March 28 & 29** (king/sofa bed or double/double for \$159 per night plus tax, * including a full hot breakfast for up to 2 persons.) Use this QR code to make a reservation:



or [use this link](#). You can also call 1 (888) 236-2427; use code **AAUW of Virginia Mar2025** to reserve a room. The rate is also available for 3 days before/after March 28 & 29 on a space available basis. You must make a reservation for March 28 and/or 29, and then email jrasolofoson@sheratonalexandria.com to book extra days.

The earlier you book a room the better because the 2025 Conference will take place on the eve of Cherry Blossom season and rooms in the hotel will book up early. Once our block is sold out, we might be able to add more rooms, but that will only be possible if the hotel is not already sold out.

***IMPORTANT NOTICE:** When making your hotel reservation, ignore any reference to a \$25 resort fee. You will **NOT** be charged this. The room rate is \$159 plus state and local taxes.