



CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 2018

Vienna Area (VA) Branch

<http://vienna-va.aauw.net/>

Sister Simone Speaks on Social Justice!



**Saturday
February 10, 2018
10:00 AM**

**Vienna Community Center,
Vienna, Virginia**

Sister Simone Campbell

- Nationally recognized social justice activist
- Author of *A Nun on the Bus*
- Executive Director of NETWORK

Presented by

American Association of University Women
and Patrick Henry Library



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Don't miss Sister Simone speaking on Social Justice!

February 10, 2018 at 10:00 AM
Vienna Community Center
120 Cherry Street SE

Note the venue—We will have lots of room so invite your friends and neighbors. And please widely distribute the poster found on the last page.

The American Association of University Women and Patrick Henry Library are co-sponsoring a presentation by Sister Simone Campbell, on February 10, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the Vienna Community Center. Sister Simone is a nationally recognized social justice activist and is the author of *A Nun on the Bus*. The focus is on economic justice, immigration issues, healthcare reform and voter turnout. The cover of the book states "How all of us can create hope, change, and community."

Sister Simone is a noted speaker and educator across the country on public policy issues. She is a driving force for programs that promote tolerance, equality, peace and justice. She has received numerous awards and been featured speaker at many large gatherings. She has appeared on "60 Minutes," "The Colbert Report", and "The Daily Show." As was written in the New York Times: "Who doesn't love a feisty nun?" In her spare time Sister Simone is a lawyer, writer and poet.





From the Presidents

We have a great slate of branch officers for the next two-year term. Please see the article on page five of this newsletter. We will have our election at the March business meeting on Tuesday, March 13th. We will take nominations from the floor also, as long as the nominee has agreed to run. Thank you to the nominating committee for doing this job, and to the candidates for being willing to take on leadership roles in our branch. Be thinking about how *you* can contribute to our branch in the next program year; there are many ways to help, big and small.

Our January branch program "Women at the Helm" gave our members an opportunity to hear Vienna Mayor Laurie DiRocco, and Councilwomen Carey Sienicki and Linda Colbert discuss how they came to be in public office, and their perspective on what women bring to elected office. We had 22 members and two guests turn out on a cold Saturday morning.

Be sure and mark your calendars for our February program when Sister Simone Campbell, nationally known figure, will speak about social justice issues. See page two for details. A few other dates to remember:

- AAUW State Lobby Day in Richmond on Feb. 7th
- Northern District meeting on March 3rd
- STEMtastics Conference on March 10th
- State AAUW Conference in Portsmouth April 20-22nd, *Changing the Climate for Women and Girls*

Enjoy all of the varied activities in store for you during the cold days and evenings in February!

Connie and Kristin

Remember to checkout our new branch website at Vienna-va.aauw.net. And remember to go to our website and click on the Amazon link before you shop on Amazon, so your purchase will earn dollars for our AAUW Fund. Be sure to tell any family members or friends who use our Amazon link about this.

AAUW VIRGINIA NEWS

Leslie Tourigny, AAUW of VA Public Policy VP

State Lobby Day Reminder

On Wednesday, February 7, 2018, we will be holding our annual State Lobby Day, and I hope that we will have a large cadre of members participating. I am currently working on preparing the agenda, which is an exercise in solving a Rubik's Cube. I will let you know when all the pieces fall into place, but I am not anticipating having a firm agenda until a couple of days before February 7th. However, you should expect that the day's agenda will begin early (8:30 am or earlier).

Once again, members from the AAUW Greater Richmond Branch (GRAAUW) will graciously be opening their homes to host any of our members participating in State Lobby Day, who arrive on February 6, and want to spend the night. Anyone who wants to partake of the GRAAUW hospitality should let me know no later than January 25.

[Coordinate through Kristin M]. Also, there are hotel rooms available through a block of rooms reserved by the League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA) for \$139 plus tax for the night at the Hotel Berkeley, 1200 E. Carey Street, Richmond, VA, 804 225-5149. Mention LWV-VA when you call.



Redistricting Reform

Citizens Work on Redistricting Reform

Gerrymandering— the practice of drawing electoral district lines to benefit one political party — poses a serious problem for our democracy. In jurisdictions nationwide legislators have drawn maps that allow them to choose their voters rather than enabling voters to choose their representatives, a reversal that undermines the concept of fair representation. AAUW has long advocated for protecting voting rights as well

as ensuring equitable political participation and representation. But poorly drawn or purposefully unfair electoral district lines can threaten these ideals. With the 2020 census looming, there is a focus on electoral district boundaries.

Many citizen advocates are taking matters into their own hands and drafting ballot proposals to reform redistricting in their states. Colorado, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, and Utah all have ballot initiatives underway. Additionally, members of AAUW of Pennsylvania and AAUW of Virginia are working to advance legislative solutions to this problem.

Human Trafficking

State Legislative Proposals to Curb Human Trafficking

A new toolkit from Shared Hope International provides rankings based on each state's human trafficking laws and offers policy solutions to strengthen existing legal frameworks. The guide focuses on six primary areas – criminalization of domestic minor sex trafficking, criminal provisions addressing demand, criminal provisions for traffickers, criminal provisions for facilitators, protective provisions for child victims, and criminal justice tools for investigation and prosecution. Tennessee earned the highest ranking. Coupled with the Polaris Project's model state legislation resource and the AAUW and National Council of Jewish Women Sex Trafficking Toolkit, advocates have many avenues to pursue in the fight to stop human trafficking.

Leslie notes: A new toolkit from Shared Hope International provides rankings based on each state's human trafficking laws. It shows that Virginia improved two grades, but unfortunately that means we went from an F to a C. More work to be done.

2018 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee for 2018, comprised of Kate M, Nadine J and Connie D submits this report to the Vienna Area AAUW Branch of our slate of nominations for the following officer positions for terms from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020.

Co-Presidents: Jean F. and Suzanne R.

Jean and Suzanne joined the Vienna Area Branch in 2004 and 1995, respectively. Each previously served at different times as Branch President. Suzanne has also previously served as Branch Secretary and as Educational Foundation, AAUW Fund, Public Policy, and Artemis House Chair or Co-Chair. Jean also served as Vice President and Co-Vice President Membership for four years and chaired the Great Decisions Group since 2010. Both have been honored as an AAUW Fund Named Gift Honorees. Pleasant fact: they knew one another prior to joining AAUW when they worked as securities law attorneys at the same regulatory organization for the securities industry. Suzanne is currently serving (and will continue to serve) as the Bylaws/Resolutions Chair on the AAUW of Virginia Board.

Vice President Program: Aimee M.

Aimee joined the Branch in 2007, has been serving as Newsletter Editor since 2014, was honored as a Named Gift Honoree in 2015. She has chaired the Evening Literature Group for several years, and currently chairs the Non-Fiction Group.

Secretary: Mary D

Mary joined the Branch in 2017, is active in the AAUW Lobby Corps, was a STEM volunteer in 2017, and is a member of Great Decisions.

The Branch membership will vote to fill the three fiscal year 2018-2020 officer positions at the Branch Annual Business Meeting to be held after the program on March 13, 2018 at the Patrick Henry Library. Under the Branch Bylaws: "Election shall be by a majority vote of the Individual Members present in person at the meeting and voting, a quorum of twenty (20) percent of the Individual Members eligible to vote being present. Proxy voting is not permitted."

Nominating Committee

January Branch Meeting



A warm thank you to Mayor Laurie DiRocco and Town Council Members Linda Colbert and Carey Sienicki who talked about issues facing women in government in Vienna. Thanks also to Kristin M. who prepared excellent questions. An interesting takeaway was the importance of volunteering on town commissions and committees. Participants also discussed the importance of resisting pressure to become politically partisan, as it eliminates the need for extensive fund-raising



Reminder: Call for Volunteers!

STEMtastics: Inspiring Middle School
Girls to Pursue STEM Careers
Saturday, March 10, 2018

Vienna AAUW is working with three other local AAUW branches, Fairfax County Public Schools and NOVA Systemic Solutions to present STEMtastics 2018.

STEMtastics offers a half-day Saturday program of events focusing on STEM topics for middle school students. Professional Women who work in STEM fields lead a wide variety of student workshops that include an interactive or hands-on component. While students are in the workshops, parents may attend presentations covering topics such as how

to finance college and how to support their children in STEM courses.

We are calling for branch members to assist us on March 10 (family and friends welcome to help too). Give your name to Nadine or to Marlene C.

Nadine



Some of AAUW
Vienna members at
Women's March
2018



AAUW partners with LWV on voter registration



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE FAIRFAX AREA
With OneVirginia2021

presents

Redistricting Forum

Sunday, February 25, 2018

1 – 5 p.m.

Sherwood Community Center

3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030

Speakers

Delegate Ken Plum

Professor Rebecca Green

Co-Director of Election Law Program, William & Mary Law School

Brian Cannon

Executive Director, OneVirginia2021

Olga Hernandez

Redistricting Expert, League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

Students from William & Mary Law School (with their redistricting maps)

Register here: <https://redistrictingvaforum.eventbrite.com>

Free of charge; donations appreciated

Remember: Elections Have Consequences

ONEVIRGINIA2021
VIRGINIANS FOR FAIR REDISTRICTING

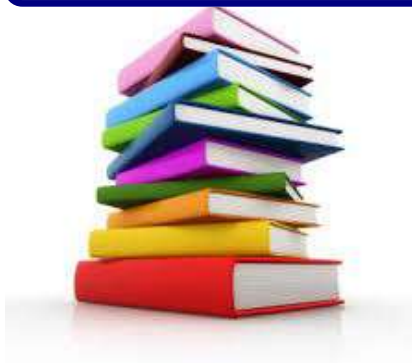
Patrick Henry Library

Partnering with AAUW

AAUW and the library sometimes partner to present events of public interest, such as the presentation this month of Sister Simone Campbell and next month's "A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time." Here are other community resources offered this month. Please contact **Deb Smith-Cohen**, Assistant Branch Manager, at dsmit1@fairfaxcounty.gov to receive monthly updates.

<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Start Time</i>	<i>End Time</i>	<i>Description</i>
English Conversation Group	Fridays: February 2, 9, 16, 23	10:00am	11:30am	Practice your English conversation skills in a group. Adults.
Drop-in Computer Tutoring	Fridays: February 2, 9, 16, 23	2:00pm	4:00pm	A volunteer tutor is available to assist you with Internet use, setting up an email account and using basic software. Drop-in help only. Adults.*
	Tuesdays: February 6, 13, 20, 27	10:00am	12:00pm	
Sister Simone Campbell Speaks at Vienna Community Center	Saturday, February 10, 2018	10:30am	12:00pm	Vienna AAUW and Patrick Henry Library will host Sister Simone Campbell: American Roman Catholic Religious Sister, lawyer, lobbyist and executive director of NETWORK. NOTE: This event will be held at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St SE, Vienna, VA 22180. Adults.
Classic Books Discussion Group	Thursday, February 15, 2018	1:00pm	2:00pm	Join writer/scholar Amanda Holmes Duffy for a discussion of a classic novel. Embers by Sandor Marai. Adults.
Healthy Strides Wellness Book Club	Tuesday, February 20, 2018	7:30pm	9:00pm	Make healthy strides in your own life by joining the Healthy Strides Wellness Book Club. The discussion will be led by a Fairfax County Park Authority fitness and wellness expert. The books are: Strong is The New Beautiful by Lindsey Vonn and Women, Food, and Desire by Alexandra Jameson. Adults.
Patrick Henry Book Club	Thursday, February 22, 2018	1:00pm	2:00pm	The Boys in the Boat by Daniel Brown. Adults.
English Conversation Group	Friday, February 23, 2018	10:00am	11:30am	Practice your English conversation skills in a group. Adults.
"Not Just for Teens" Adult Book Club	Monday, February 26, 2018	7:00pm	8:00pm	Are you an adult who loves YA lit? If so join us for discussion and fun. I will always write back : how one letter changed two lives by Caitlin Alifirenka & Martin Ganda.

Interest Groups



Interest Groups

Please be sure to let your hostess know whether you're coming or not.

EARN \$ FOR AAUW FUNDS! Use the Amazon link for your purchases-found at

Vienna-va.aauw.net

EVENING LITERATURE

February 7th 7:00 p.m

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

"The story of Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov, a Russian aristocrat sentenced to house arrest for his association with a poem with revolutionary overtones. Although the Count was imprisoned during the onset of Communism, he saw the changes in government reflected in the way the hotel operated. While one might think the Count would have an unfulfilling life in the hotel, the Count's life in bondage turns out to be quite rich and purposeful. Themes in the novel include finding one's place in life, the impact of the arts, and the breakdown of the ideals of the aristocrat."

March 7th book: *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen

Evening Literature meets the first Wednesday of the month

TUESDAY MORNING LITERATURE GROUP

February 20, 9:30 a.m.

Martha Nichols will lead the discussion of ***My Name is Lucy Barton***, by Elizabeth Strout.

Lucy Barton is recovering slowly from what should have been a simple operation. Her mother, to whom she hasn't spoken for many years, comes to see her. Gentle gossip about people from Lucy's childhood in Amgash, Illinois, seems to reconnect them, but just below the surface lie the tension and longing that have informed every aspect of Lucy's life: her escape from her troubled family, her desire to become a writer, her marriage, her love for her two daughters. Knitting this powerful narrative together is the brilliant storytelling voice of Lucy herself: keenly observant, deeply human, and truly unforgettable.

Following meeting: March 20

Morning Literature meets the third Tuesday of the month.

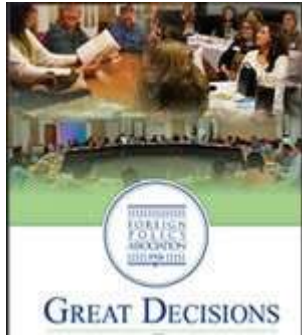
NON-FICTION LITERATURE

March 12, 7:00 pm

Margaret D will lead the discussion of *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*. "Atul Gawande's ...new book, "Being Mortal," is a personal meditation on how we can better live with age-related frailty, serious illness and approaching death.

It is also a call for a change in the philosophy of health care. Gawande writes that members of the medical profession, himself included, have been wrong about what their job is. Rather than ensuring health and survival, it is 'to enable well-being.' " (NY Times)

Non Fiction Literature meets the second Monday of every other month. (September, November, January, March, and May)



February 18, 2:00-4:00 PM

Topic: "Russia's Foreign Policy"
(Topic 2)

Under President Vladimir Putin, Russia is projecting an autocratic model of governance abroad and working to undermine the influence of liberal democracies, namely along Russia's historical borderlands. Russia caused an international uproar in 2016, when it interfered in the U.S. presidential contest. But Putin's foreign policy toolkit includes other instruments, from alliances with autocrats to proxy wars with the U.S. in Georgia, Ukraine and Syria. How does Putin conceive of national interests, and why do Russian citizens support him? How should the United States respond to Putin's foreign policy ambitions? Nadine J. will lead the discussion and Cornelia N. will provide refreshments. Please let Mary know whether or not you plan to attend.

Great Decisions meets the third Sunday of the month 2-4 pm.

BROWN BAG BOOKS

February 28th, 1:00 pm

Georgia C. will lead the discussion of *Janesville: An American Story* by Amy Goldstein. Based on 3 years of probing interviews, Pulitzer Prize winning Washington Post journalist Goldstein makes her literary debut with an engrossing investigation of Janesville, Wisconsin, where General Motors, the town's major employer, closed its plant in 2008. Goldstein reveals the shattering consequences of the plant's closing through the eyes of workers, educators, business and community leaders, and politicians – notably Paul Ryan, a Janesville native, who swept into town periodically. Janesville is a simultaneously enlightening and disturbing look at working-class lives in America's heartland.

Brown Bag Books meets the last Wednesday of the month

MOVIE MEET UPS

The Movie Meet Ups group meets the 4th Tuesday of the month for a morning movie and lunch afterwards. Movie choice, time and place will be provided by email a week to ten days in advance. Please contact Susan V. to be included on the distribution list.

Tuesday, February 27

INFORMATION PAGES



February

- 7 Evening Literature
- 7 Lobby Day in Richmond
- 10 ***A Nun on the Bus* author
Sister Simone Campbell**
- 18 Great Decisions
- 20 Tuesday Morning Literature
- 25 LWV Forum
- 27 Movie Meetups
- 28 Brown Bag Books

March

- 3 Northern District meeting
- 7 Evening Literature
- 10 STEMtastics Conference
- 13 **Branch Meeting**
- 18 Great Decisions
- 27 Movie Meetups
- 28 Brown Bag Books

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. AAUW, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who hold an associate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

2017-18 AAUW Program Schedule

- September 2: Open House, Patrick Henry Library
- October 10: Gerrymandering, Laurie Cole, Oakton Library 6:30
- November 4: "Deep Freeze," Dian Belanger,
Patrick Henry Library 2:30-5:00
- December 2: Luncheon, Lauren Witherspoon, Development Coordinator
for Second Story, Bonarati Restaurant, noon
- January 13 "Women at the Helm" on Saturday, 10:30 a.m.
Patrick Henry Library
- ★ Feb 10 *A Nun on the Bus* author Sister Simone Campbell at Vienna
Community Center
- March 13: "A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time," Paula Tarnapol Whitacre,
Patrick Henry Library (co-sponsor)
- April 28: Green Spring Garden Tour 10:00 a.m., Susan V
- May 15: Salad Supper, Branch Meeting

SAVE THE DATES:

March 10, 2018—STEMtastics

April 20-22, 2018 —AAUW OF VIRGINIA 2018 CONFERENCE

Don't let transportation issues
keep you away!

You may not be comfortable driving, especially now that it is getting dark earlier. We would like to have you continue to attend our gatherings.

Please e-mail or call Suzanne R. if you

- * Would like to arrange a ride to any meeting.
- * Would be willing to drive someone.





It is never too soon to begin planning to attend the 2018
AAUW of Virginia Conference!

Changing the Climate for Women and Girls

April 20-22, 2018

Portsmouth Renaissance Hotel

Location, Location, Location! The Renaissance Hotel sits on the Elizabeth River flowing between Portsmouth and Norfolk. Two easy blocks away is the downtown area with shops, restaurants and museums. A quick ferry ride gets you to Norfolk.



What a perfectly perfect location!!

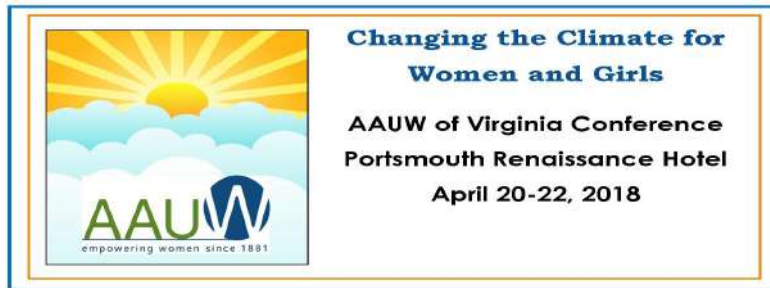
Hotel Reservations 855-214-4563

Group Rate \$129 \$5 per night parking 100% Water view rooms

Indoor pool, whirlpool, sundeck, and complimentary exercise facilities

Watch for more information and conference registration form in the *VISION*.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE AAUW OF VIRGINIA CONFERENCE



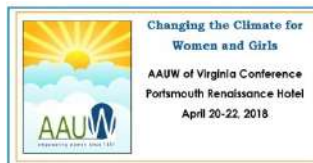
Join your fellow Virginia AAUW members at the state-wide conference in Portsmouth, Virginia. Attend discussions, workshops, inspiring programs and meet with members from around the state.

Conference Registration: The AAUW of Virginia 2018 Conference will be held in Portsmouth, VA April 20th to 22nd. To register for the Conference, go to:

<https://aauw-va.aauw.net/2018-aauw-of-va-state-conference/>

The early registration fee is \$80, including the Saturday lunch. After April 1, it is \$95. The Saturday banquet dinner is \$40.

Hotel Registration: To reserve your hotel room at The Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel at \$129 per night, either:



1. go to <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/conference/> and click on registration -- OR --

to go to the on-line hotel room

2. call reservations directly at 1-888-839-1775 and identify that you are attending the AAUW conference April 20-22 to get the special group room rate.

Note: Regardless of information on the hotel website, our group rate entitles us to a self-parking rate of only \$5. Last day to book a room is March 20, 2018.

Suzanne R

Vienna Branch Secretary

Sister Simone



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