



# CONNECTION

APRIL 2018

Vienna Area (VA) Branch

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

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**April Branch Meeting**  
**Tour of Green Spring Gardens**  
Saturday, April 28th at 10 A.M.

See page 2 for details  
and carpooling options



## April Branch Meeting: Tour of Green Spring Gardens

Saturday, April 28th at 10 A.M. See below for carpooling options.

Our tour gives an example of how AAUW members serve the community. Master Gardener Susan V. has twice been president of Friends of Green Spring Gardens (FROGS) and actively contributes to this Fairfax County hidden gem. Green Spring Gardens Park is both a botanical garden and a historical treasure. Covering 31 acres, the park includes over twenty demonstration gardens, a native plant area, two ponds, a glasshouse and a historic house dating back to 1874. Plus a plant shop and a gift shop!

Our tour will focus on the demonstration gardens, which are designed to show homeowners what can be grown in our area. These include a rock garden, a waterwise garden, a "wildlife" garden for bees and butterflies, a colorful vegetable garden, a shrub border, a delightful children's garden and a wooded native plant area. For those with little or no space, there are three townhouse gardens, a patio with containers and a glasshouse filled with indoor plants.

In addition to the gardens, you will learn about Green Spring's designation as a national historic site, its national collection of witch hazels and the many programs offered throughout the year,

including programs for Title I schools. Please wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. Most of the tour will be on paved walkways, but there will be a few grassy areas. Our one-hour tour can't cover it all, so be sure to save time to explore on your own.

Directions: From the Beltway take Little River Turnpike (Rt. 236) east 3.5 miles to Braddock Road. Turn left on Braddock. The entrance is less than a half mile on the right (Witch Hazel Road) and is well marked. Follow the signs to the Horticulture Center where we will meet. NOTE: We do not recommend using your GPS. Although the official address is 4603 Green Spring Road, this is a dead end. Questions? Contact Susan V.

Some of us will carpool from the Giant parking lot in Vienna (at the end towards Tysons) so the driving can be shared. Please use our Evite link to let us know if you're coming on the tour and whether or not you'd like to carpool. The Evite link will be emailed to you.



## *From the Presidents*

### **New Officers**

Congratulations to our 2018-2019 Vienna Area branch officers who were elected on March 13th. We are confident that you will all do a great job and we support you enthusiastically!

- Co-Presidents: Jean F. and Suzanne R.
- VP for Programs: Aimee M.
- Secretary: Mary D.

### **Help Needed**

The branch urgently needs volunteers for the Newsletter and STEMtastics if either is to continue. Please see pages 4 and 5.

### **April 28th Meeting**

Consider bringing a friend to the Green Spring Gardens tour on April 28th, 10 AM. It's a great way to introduce people to our branch. We're looking forward to our guided tour by member Susan V!

-Either meet at Giant parking lot at 9:15 AM for a carpool—see instructions page 2.

-Or meet at Green Spring Gardens Horticulture Center for the program, which will begin at 10 AM

If you can, please respond to our Evite (page 2) to let us know if you're coming on the tour and whether or not you'd like to carpool.

If you did not RSVP and you find you can attend anyway, please either come to the Gardens or notify Connie for carpooling. We'll be happy to see you!

### **AAUW of Virginia Elections**

We will hold state officer elections online from April 24th until May 14th. The bios for those nominated is in the Winter/Spring 2018 Virginia Vision, page 6 ([https://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2018/03/Final\\_-2\\_2018\\_Vision-Winter\\_Spring.compressed.pdf](https://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2018/03/Final_-2_2018_Vision-Winter_Spring.compressed.pdf)). Look for email

about this.

The following is a list of candidates:

- Co-Presidents, Carol Stephens and Leslie Tourigny
- Co-Vice Presidents for Program, Sandy Lawrence and Cheryl Spohnholtz
- Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy, Susan Burk and Sylvia Rogers
- Vice President for Communications, Patsy Quick

### **AAUW National Voting**

Please be aware that online voting for the three items in of AAUW National bylaws amendment will begin in April. Each AAUW member is allowed one vote. The three items are:

1. To stagger the terms for National board members.
2. To open AAUW National board positions to people outside AAUW membership
3. To eliminate the degree requirement for AAUW membership.

Please see the entire discussion of these issues on page 8. In April each member will receive an email from National AAUW with a PIN and instructions for online voting.

### **Time to Renew**

Remember to renew your AAUW membership for next year! National AAUW has raised dues for the first time in 10 years, but our Virginia and Vienna Branch dues remain the same. The new amount is \$84 and you may renew online via the [AAUW.org](https://aauw.org) website or send a check to our treasurer, Gail R.

*Connie and Kristin*



## WE HAVE TWO URGENT NEEDS FOR HELP

- **Newsletter editors**
- **STEMtastics (next page)**

**NEWSLETTER:** Our branch is looking for two people to do the newsletter next year. Aimee M. will be Program VP and will need to turn over the newsletter to others, beginning with the September edition. We need to have other members step up! Aimee will show you how she does it, but there is flexibility to do it your own way. She'll also be available for support. Please let us know if you can help with this important job. The job previously had co-editors, and can be easily divided. Also it may be possible to do an every-other-month format.

There is little or no writing involved—members are very good about submitting materials on time. The primary jobs are collating materials, putting them into a uniform format (i.e., the same font, spacing, etc), checking to be sure no details are missed, and finally putting the material into the final form. The presidents help with proofreading and then distribute the newsletter. No prior experience needed.

Aimee uses MS Publisher to assemble the newsletter, and sends it for distribution in a PDF format, but any other program could be used, depending on the editor(s') preferences.

Jean F. and Suzanne R.,  
Incoming Co-Presidents



## Volunteers Needed

## STEMtastics – What Happened and What's Next?

STEMtastics 2018, a career day event designed to inspire middle school girls to pursue careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) scheduled for March 10, 2018, was cancelled by the Planning Committee about two weeks prior to the event. The committee took this action with deep regret due to problems with the delivery of the registration materials to the students. This problem resulted in an

unexpectedly low number of registrations, making it impossible to proceed with the event. The committee determined we needed a minimum of 375 registrations to have a viable number of students in each workshop. After registration was open for almost 4 weeks, we had received only 190 registrations. This was unexpected since in 2017 we received almost 400 registrations in the first two weeks.



In 2017, the registration process ran very smoothly when FCPS sent out one central email that we designed to the parents of the students at all 26 FCPS middle schools. In 2018, FCPS did not want to send one central email and instead utilized three different communications, none of which were effective. Critical to the success of a future event will be an agreement with FCPS about how to communicate the event to parents.



However, prior to any discussions with FCPS, the Planning Committee determined that there is an URGENT need to identify enough AAUW volunteers to serve in leadership positions on the committee. There are currently five key positions that need to be filled, including one co-chair. Each of the sponsoring branches has been tasked with looking

to fill certain positions. The Vienna Area branch needs to identify one person to work as part of a three-person subgroup responsible for the parent workshops. **If the key committee positions are not filled by April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Committee will disband and the event will not be held going forward.** Anyone interested in serving on the committee or in learning more about the position should contact Nadine

# AAUW STATE AND NATIONAL

*Come One, Come All!*  
AAUW of Virginia 2018 Conference  
Portsmouth Renaissance Hotel  
April 20-22

There is no better time to visit Portsmouth, Virginia than in the Spring! The AAUW of Virginia Conference offers a fresh gathering of AAUW members, workshops, speakers and other activities that have come to make this event a wonderful tradition. Meet Edith Mayo, an expert on women's political history; Dr. Zoe Spencer, an LAF plaintiff; and Dr. Christine Darden, a hidden figure from NASA and our Woman of Achievement. You will also meet members of the AAUW staff when they update us on AAUW news, and hear great presentations at the workshops.

Join us for a two-day meeting of excitement, renewal and synergy.

Find the full brochure at

<https://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2018/03/2018-AAUW-VA-Conference-Brochure-G.pdf>

**Registration goes from \$80 to \$95 on April 1.**

Click here to register now! <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/2018-aauw-of-va-state-conference/>

Click on page 9 of the brochure to reserve a room at the Renaissance:

Or call

**1-888-839-1775**

**Mention AAUW VA**

# AAUW National: Dues Increase

As you are probably aware, the AAUW Board of Directors voted in June 2017 to raise national dues for the first time in a decade, effective March 16, 2018. National dues will now be \$59. As Julia Brown, AAUW Board Chair, said recently on a video emailed to all members, by not having an increase in 10 year, our dues have not even kept up with inflation.

The website explains:

Annual dues currently account for 13 percent of AAUW's annual budget. They help to sustain and grow AAUW's programs and work that advances equity for women and girls. A combination of dues, donations, and corporate and foundation funding is critical to supporting AAUW's salary negotiation workshops, groundbreaking research, advocacy efforts, campus leadership programs, and so much more.

AAUW wants to keep its focus, maintain relevance, and increase its impact. We all know there is great value in doing so. Julia Brown emphasizes that if we want to realize the impact that women and girls deserve, we must ensure we have the resources necessary to make real change happen.

As AAUW members we want to participate in realizing the impact that women and girls deserve through our actions...AND, by putting our money where our mouth is, by proudly renewing your AAUW membership this spring. We must insure that AAUW has what it needs to change the climate for women and girls.

What else is new?

Half-year dues from January – March is being eliminated.

Paid Life Membership remains at \$980 until March 16, when it goes to \$1,180. If a Paid Life Membership makes sense for you, it makes sense to get it done now before the increase! Paid Life Membership is fully tax deductible.

Going forward it is useful to know that new members, who join at a branch program that is open to the public, will receive 50% off the national dues. And for every 2 members gained this way, branches will receive a free membership to give to a

person of their choice.

Give a Grad a Gift (at no cost to you or them!) is still available within 2 years of a student's graduation. Just fill out the form!

<https://www.aauw.org/?s=Give+a+grad>

Women and girls need AAUW more than ever! AAUW needs you more than ever. Stand up and be counted in something bigger than yourself! Renew your AAUW membership early!

## *Vienna Branch Policy*

### *AAUW dues*

\$59.00 National (\$10.00 increase)  
\$15.00 State (no increase)  
\$10.00 Branch (no increase)  
\$84.00 **TOTAL** Tax deductible = \$56.00

### *New member AAUW dues if joining at a public meeting*

\$29.50 National (half off regular price of \$59.00)  
\$15.00 State (no discount at public meeting)  
\$10.00 Branch (no discount at public meeting)  
\$54.50 **TOTAL** Tax deductible = 32.00

# AAUW NATIONAL BYLAWS AMENDMENT VOTE 2018

The following email will be sent to all members today regarding a By-laws Amendment Vote this spring. The AAUW National Board of Directors encourages discussion among members so all feel their voice is heard.

The AAUW National Board of Directors has voted to put three proposals for bylaws amendments before the membership for a vote this spring. The board strongly supports the proposed amendments that we believe will help keep AAUW vital as an organization and enable us to increase our impact in advancing equity for women and girls.

The proposed amendments address creating three-year staggered board terms, opening board service to those outside of the AAUW membership, and eliminating the degree requirement for membership. While rationale and details for each proposed amendment can be found on the [AAUW website](#), the overarching motivation for these changes at this time is to uphold and advance AAUW's mission and ensure optimal execution at the national board level.

The first two proposals would bring AAUW's board governance structure more in line with nationally accepted nonprofit best practices and the needs of the organization. The third proposal — to eliminate the degree requirement for membership — has come before the membership for vote a number of times. The board feels strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now perceived by many as counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

The board recognizes that we have not traditionally put proposals up for vote outside our AAUW National Election, but these proposed changes have been under consideration for several years by both the Governance Committee and the board, and we believe it is important to move forward without delay to position the organization for greater growth.

Members can comment on the proposed amendments and submit their own proposals from February 22, 2018, through March 22, 2018, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Voting will open on April 25, 2018, and close June 9, 2018, at 9 p.m. ET.

We encourage you all to engage in respectful debate that has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community, exercise your vote, and encourage fellow members to do the same.

You can direct any questions or concerns to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).

Respectfully,

Your AAUW National Board of Directors

# Seeing Women

In addition to all the women running for office, #metoo, and Wonder Woman, there are other signs of women becoming more visible and effective. Here are some of many examples



Laurie C. sent a link about obituaries in the NY Times finally coming into the 21st Century with more attention on women. [https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/obituaries/overlooked.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_180309&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=465638710309](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/obituaries/overlooked.html?emc=edit_th_180309&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=465638710309)

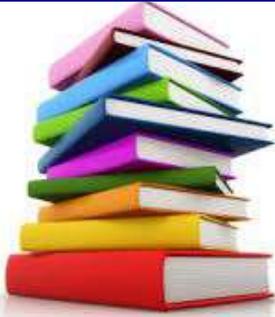


Look on social media or sign up for emails from “A Mighty Girl” for materials you can use to encourage the young women in your life.



Also look for the “Nobel Women's Initiative,” “Advocating for Peace, Justice and Equality” and profiling women of note.

# 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](http://Vienna-va.aauw.net)

### EVENING LITERATURE

April 4th 7:00 p.m

*Fixers* by Michael M. Thomas

An intriguing thriller of a conspiracy between Wall Street and the White House by a *New York Times*-bestselling novelist and longtime financial insider.

May 2nd book: *The Atomic Weight of Love* by Elizabeth Church

*Evening Literature meets the first Wednesday of the month*

### TUESDAY MORNING LITERATURE GROUP

April 17, 9:30 am

Lisa W. will lead the discussion on *The Velveteen Daughter*, by Laurel Davis Huber.

"The true story of two remarkable women: Margery Williams Bianco, the author of one of the most beloved children's books of all time—*The Velveteen Rabbit*—and her daughter Pamela, a world-renowned child prodigy artist whose fame at one time greatly eclipses her mother's. But celebrity at such an early age exacts a great toll..... Throughout, her life raft is her mother. The glamorous art world of Europe and New York in the early 20th century and a supporting cast of luminaries—Eugene O'Neill and his wife Agnes (Margery's niece), Pablo Picasso, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, and Richard Hughes, author of *A High Wind in Jamaica*—provide a vivid backdrop to the Biancos' story."

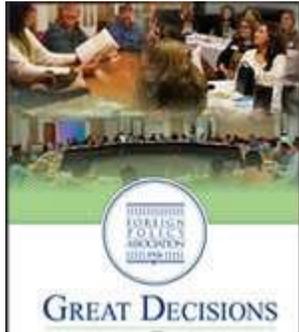
*Morning Literature meets the third Tuesday of the month.*

### NON-FICTION LITERATURE

May 14, 7:00 pm

For our final meeting of the year we will be reading *Hissing Cousins: The Untold Story of Eleanor Roosevelt and Alice Roosevelt Longworth*.

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



April 15, 2:00-4:00 PM

Topic: "Media and Foreign Policy"  
(Topic 4)

State and non-state actors today must maneuver a complex and rapidly evolving media landscape. Conventional journalism now competes with user-generated content. Official channels of communication can be circumvented through social media. Foreign policy is tweeted from the White House and "fake news" has entered the zeitgeist. Cyberwarfare, hacking and misinformation pose complex security threats. How are actors using media to pursue and defend their interests in the international arena? What are the implications for U.S. policy? Kristin M. will lead the discussion and Kathy C. will provide refreshments. Please let me know whether or not you plan to attend.

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

## BROWN BAG BOOKS

April 25th, 1:00 pm

Georgia C. will lead the discussion of *Janesville*, "the story of the struggles of a Midwestern town to survive in the aftermath of an economic disaster. ... Pulitzer Prize winning Washington Post journalist, Amy Goldstein, makes her literary debut with this engrossing investigation into 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 an evenhanded portrayal of workers, educators, business and community leaders, and politicians – notably Paul Ryan, a Janesville native who swept into town periodically."

*Brown Bag Books meets the last Wednesday of the month*

## MOVIE MEET UPS

The Movie Meet Ups group meets the **4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Next date: Tuesday, May 24



## INFORMATION PAGES

### April

- 4 Evening Literature
- 15 Great Decisions
- 17 Tuesday Morning Lit
- 20-22 AAUW Virginia Conference
- 24 Movie Meet Ups
- 25 Brown Bag Books
- 28 Branch Meeting-Green**
- Spring Gardens Tour**

### May

- 2 Evening Literature
- 14 Non Fiction
- 15 Tuesday Morning Lit
- 15 **Salad Supper**
- 20 Great Decisions
- 22 Movie Meet Ups
- 30 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 Gardens Tour 10:00 a.m., Susan V.
- May 15: Salad Supper, Branch Meeting

Don't let transportation issues  
keep you away!



Please e-mail or call Suzanne R. if you

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