

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Issue Highlights

Program Details	2
From the Presidents	3
New Members	4
Public Policy	6
AAUW Funds	9
Interest Groups	10



November

7	Evening Lit Grp
10	Branch Program
13	Nonfiction Grp
13	Morning Lit Grp
18	Great Decisions
27	Movie Meetup
28	Brown Bag Books

December

5	Evening Lit Grp
8	Holiday Lunch
11	Morning Lit Grp



Strong Women and Their Stories

Saturday, November 10, 2018
10:00, Doors open
10:30, Program
Patrick Henry Library, Vienna

Join us to hear author Linda Harris Sittig discuss her novel, *Cut From Strong Cloth*. Copies will be available for purchase and signing.

Read more on page 2.



Branch Holiday Luncheon

Saturday, December 8, 2018
12:00 Noon
Ristorante Bonaroti
428 Maple Avenue East, Vienna

Enjoy good food,
Enjoy good company,
Do good by helping women under the threat of domestic violence.
See you December 8!

Read more on page 2.

More About Upcoming Branch Programs

Author [Linda Harris Sittig](#), who lives in Loudoun County, writes about strong women who persevered to follow their passions and achieve their goals.

Join us on November 10 as we welcome Ms Sittig and hear about her first novel, *Cut From Strong Cloth*. It is based on the life of her great-grandfather's first wife, Ellen Canavan, in pre-Civil War Philadelphia and Savannah.

Ellen's manufacturing efforts influenced military history when she helped to design a new type of textile for soldiers' uniforms and sold it to the U.S. government.



Meet the Author
Linda Harris Sittig

Saturday, November 10
10:00, Doors Open
10:30, Program
Patrick Henry Library

Ms Sittig's research into the Philadelphia textile industry of that period adds authenticity to her novel. She also read local diaries and newspaper articles of the era to validate Ellen's struggle to succeed.

Besides her novels, Ms Sittig writes the blog, [Strong Women in History](#). Here she highlights the stories of extraordinary women who wanted to make the world a better place. A recent post, for example, tells of Emma Gatewood, considered Guardian of the Appalachian Trail.

Bring a friend and enjoy hearing about strong women and their stories.

Share the joy of the season at the annual Vienna Area AAUW Holiday Luncheon at Ristorante Bonaroti in its private dining room.

The meal includes a salad, choice of five entrées, choice of dessert, and soft drinks, coffee and tea. Wine and mixed drinks are extra. Gluten-free, vegan, or vegetarian dishes are available also.

The total cost is \$38, which covers the meal, tip and taxes, as well as lunch for our speaker and our special guest, Jasmine Barnes from Artemis House.

For 30-plus years, our branch has supported Artemis House, a program of Shelter House, Inc. This non-profit



Saturday, December 8
at Noon
Ristorante Bonaroti

Speaker: Joe Meyer
Executive Director
and CEO of
Shelter House, Inc.

organization is the only Fairfax County 24-hour emergency shelter for women and children fleeing domestic and sexual violence, stalking and human trafficking.

At the luncheon, the branch will accept donations of store gift cards and standard-size personal care items for Artemis House residents. Donations are tax deductible.

For further information on donations and to make your reservation, contact Suzanne. Bring your \$38 check payable to Suzanne to the luncheon. Friends and family are invited.

Reservation deadline is December 3.



Suzanne and Jean

From the Presidents

Suzanne and I are happy to welcome the five new members who joined us in September! Remember that national dues are always discounted at our meetings held in the library or another public venue, so please bring a friend to our programs.

AAUW of Virginia recently congratulated the Vienna Area Branch for meeting AAUW's goal of the renewal of 90% of our members by September 30, and sent us a \$20 check as a token of recognition. Thanks to our Membership Co-Vice Presidents and others who helped make the Open House a success.

Many thanks go to Nadine, AAUW Funds Chair, for organizing the fall fundraiser. Twenty-five members and guests attended the dinner on Oct. 6, and several

other members made generous donations even though they could not attend. Huge thanks to Mary for offering her lovely home for the event. Thanks also to the members who cooked the delicious Southern dishes, and who helped set up and clean up afterwards. It was a wonderful evening!

We have some great activities coming in November and December. Be sure to read about the November 10 program and the December 8 holiday luncheon.

If you have comments or questions, or if you need a ride to an event, please email us at

ViennaAAUW@gmail.com.

Jean, Co-President

AAUW Logo Tote Bag

Get this roomy AAUW tote bag for your activities and as a gift. It is made of washable, medium-weight poly canvas and is just \$30. The best part is that \$10 goes to AAUW Fund and is tax-deductible. You have a choice of using the national or branch logo and a choice of strap color. For more details or to place an order, contact Suzanne.



National Logo



Branch Logo



Strap Colors (Photo shows med. blue strap.)

Branch Announcements

WELCOME
new members
.....

successful Open House at Patrick Henry Library. We welcomed five new members and look forward to

On Saturday, September 8, our branch held a highly enjoyable and

getting to know each of them in the year ahead. Our thanks go out to everyone who contributed. You pitched in and made all the difference!

*Susan and Donnie
Membership Vice-Presidents*



Linda

Linda works for the Georgetown Memory Project and is an expert on oral histories, restorative justice and the preservation of African American History. She has five grown children. Linda loves to run, hike and travel.



Carol

Carol is a retired engineer who currently works as a preschool aide. She likes to create pottery and to contribute by volunteering in organizations in support of women's issues.



Vivian

Vivian is a native Washingtonian – 6th generation! In the past she was an executive assistant in a law firm. These days she enjoys reading, needlework, gardening, spending time with grandkids and friends, as well as traveling



Valerie

Valerie works part-time at the Museum of Natural History doing admin work. She loves reading, making functional pottery, has two dogs, one husband, they are her children. She is a good friend.

Rosemary

[Photo not available]

Rosemary is a real estate agent and lives in Vienna, as do her children and their families. She is interested in current events, foreign policy, and human rights issues. She enjoys good conversation and a good laugh as well.

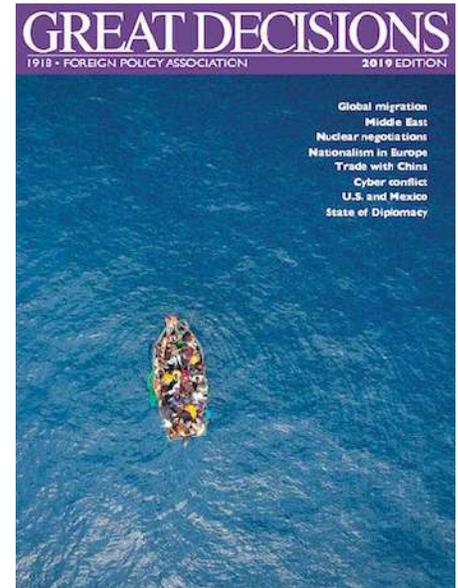
Branch Announcements (cont.)

Great Decisions Group for 2019

Great Decisions will start new sessions in January. The Great Decisions series, sponsored by the [Foreign Policy Association](#), empowers participants to discuss global issues shaping U.S. foreign policy and the world. The briefing book provides historical background, current U.S. policy and alternative policy options, informative maps and detailed graphs, suggested readings and resources, as well as opinion ballots for each topic.

We meet monthly on the third Sunday from January - May and September - November. I will take orders for briefing books on the new [2019 topics](#) in the first two weeks of December and at the Holiday Luncheon. Please contact me if you would like to join this group.

Jean, Great Decisions Chair



Curious about an Interest Group?

The Vienna Area Branch offers a variety of interest groups:

- Morning, evening, and afternoon literature groups as well as one that reads only nonfiction
- A Great Decisions discussion group
- A movie meetup group, followed by lunch together for those whose schedules permit.

Details about each of these, including book titles where appropriate, begin on page 10.

If a group piques your interest, please know you are welcome to join it without obligation or a commitment to attend every meeting. As a newcomer to the group, simply contact the group's chair and the host beforehand to let her know you will be there.

These groups are an excellent way to get to know other branch members and to stretch your mind at the same time.

From the Editor



Please send articles and photos for the next newsletter by **December 10, 2018**.

Sandra, The Connection Editor

Advocacy by AAUW of Virginia

AAUW of Virginia's Public Policy Co-Chairs for 2018-2020 are Sylvia Rogers and Susan Burk. In their message to branches, they urged each branch to have a Public Policy Chair. They wrote, "We need a 'virtual' team of members committed to passage of pay equity legislation and to ratification of the ERA in Virginia to make them happen."



Currently, no one in the Vienna Area Branch serves as Public Policy Chair. The primary role of the chair is to keep our members informed about the AAUW Public Policy Program and about how our members can support the Program at the national and state levels. The state co-chairs would send this information to our branch chair. For more information, please contact Suzanne.

Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) Ratification by Virginia

With Illinois' ratification of the ERA, only one more state is necessary to pass this Constitutional amendment. Virginia should be that 38th state! AAUW of Virginia believes the climate in Richmond is better than it has ever been to make this happen.

AAUW of Virginia is coordinating its efforts to support those of [VA Ratify ERA](#) and of [Virginia ERA Network](#). VA Ratify ERA has a wealth of information about the

history of the ERA and why it is so important for it to be ratified in the 2019 Virginia legislative session and sent to Congress.



For more information on AAUW of Virginia's activities to win ratification of the ERA, go to the [state website](#).

Equal Pay Legislation

Momentum is also building for equal pay legislation, despite the fact that five bills introduced in the Virginia legislature last year failed in committee. The Virginia Public Policy Co-Chairs will be reaching out to last year's bills' sponsors to urge their continuing

support of stronger pay equity laws. See a recent AAUW [press release](#) about the gender pay gap.



Virginia Redistricting

Vienna Area AAUW Branch has been proactive in supporting efforts to eliminate discriminatory gerrymandering of Virginia legislative districts. On June 26, 2018, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia concluded in a 2-to-1 decision that 11 Virginia House districts were drawn in a way that discriminated against African-Americans and must be

redrawn by October 30, 2018. Democrats submitted legislation to redraw the 11 districts to comply with the court order. Republicans are objecting to the plan and have asked that the District Court delay the October 30 deadline so that the case can be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Members at Work on AAUW's Public Policy Positions

Voter Registration Drive



Jean and Barbara are ready to help.

Applause for the branch members who staffed our voter registration table at the Patrick Henry Library on Saturday mornings from September 8 through October 13. Using iPads and the library's internet connection, we were able to provide citizens with an easy and secure way to register to vote, to check to see whether their registration was current, and to update addresses if necessary.

We also provided absentee ballot applications and gave information about in-person absentee voting. Our presence was a general reminder that an election is coming up November 6.

A special thank-you to Martha for storing supplies at her home during the six-week project.

Kristin, Voter Registration Chair

AAUW of Virginia Federal Lobby Day, September 27



Kristin walks to Dirksen Building on Federal Lobby Day.



Judge Brett Kavanaugh supporters and protesters gather outside Dirksen Building.

On this historic AAUW of Virginia Federal Lobby Corps Day, Kristin joined Leslie and Mary, branch members who volunteer regularly with AAUW Lobby Corps. While walking from Metro to the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Kristin and Mary heard supporters praying for

Judge Brett Kavanaugh. Many security officials and D. C. Police guarded the area.

In the Dirksen Building, an AAUW staff member briefed branch members from throughout Virginia on the day's issue: urging senators to stop the confirmation process

of Judge Kavanaugh and delay any votes. Sixteen paired-teams then visited 96 Senate offices and delivered AAUW-prepared materials for the senators. Protesters and supporters filled the hallways, spilling out into the street.

(Continued on next page)

Members at Work on AAUW's Public Policy Positions (cont.)

Kristin said, "After lobbying, some of the AAUW volunteers joined the silent vigil in the atrium of the Hart Building and then moved outside in a march that wound around Capitol Hill and concluded on the Mall." Not all Lobby Corps visits are this dramatic, but as Leslie

said, "It is always wonderful to walk across Capitol Hill and see the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, and the Capitol Building."

On Thursday mornings when Congress is in session, Lobby Corps volunteers represent the voices of

AAUW members across the country on key issues affecting women and girls.

Ready to become a Lobby Corps member? Email Mary for information about the next Lobby Corps Training Day.

Mary, AAUW Lobby Corps

What Can You Do at Home?

Stay up-to-date with AAUW's Advocacy Tool!

Take action on issues impacting women and girls by becoming a Two-Minute Activist. After you sign up, you will receive urgent email notices when your advocacy is needed most.

AAUW will provide all the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress.



What Can You Do on November 6?



Don't throw away your precious right to vote. Polls open at 6:00 am and close at 7:00 pm.

Your vote is your voice. Be heard!

Raising Funds for AAUW Fund

Photo Gallery from Southern Foods Dinner

Twenty-five members and guests enjoyed a lively evening together on October 6 while raising money for AAUW Fund. (Thanks to Margaret, branch photographer, for these photos.)



FAR LEFT: Pleasant temperatures drew all to the deck for hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

LEFT: Mary, Nadine, Dianne



FAR LEFT: Two of the four tables set for elegant dining with linens, candles, china and flowers.

LEFT: Nadine and Dianne were among those sharing memories of comfort food.

Your End-of-Year AAUW Fund Donation

The Vienna Area Branch has been proactive this year in its efforts to raise funds for AAUW Fund, which advances AAUW's mission by sustaining all its programs and activities that are important to the advancement of equity for women and girls. Donations are made on a calendar-year basis. Therefore, please make your AAUW Fund donation before the end of December if you have not done so already or wish to make an additional contribution.

AAUW Fund donations are fully tax-deductible. Information on the individual programs within the AAUW Fund is at <https://www.aauw.org/resource/>

[the-aauw-fund-faq/](https://www.aauw.org/resource/the-aauw-fund-faq/).

The easiest way to donate is online at <https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift/>. Be sure to enter your seven-digit AAUW ID number at the bottom of the donation page so our branch receives credit for the donation.

You can also call 800-326-2289 to donate by telephone or you can mail your check made payable to "AAUW Fund" to AAUW Development, P. O. Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045.

Please contact Nadine if you have questions.

Nadine, AAUW Fund Chair

Interest Groups



Please let your host know whether or not you will attend.

Earn money for AAUW Fund by using our Amazon link for all purchases. Link is here: <https://vienna-va.aauw.net/>

Evening Literature

November 7, 7:00 pm

Pachinko by Min Jin Lee. The story of a Korean family over four generations, beginning in 1910 during the time of Japanese colonization and ending in 1989. National Book Award finalist.

December 5, 7:00 pm

A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway. Sometimes called the best American novel from World War I, this is the story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his love for an English nurse.

Chairs

Morning Literature

November 13, 9:30 am

Kathy will lead the discussion of *The Lying Game* by Ruth Ware. Four girls were best friends at a boarding school in England. Each different in her own way, they were notorious for playing the Lying Game, telling lies to both fellow boarders and faculty.

December 11, 9:30 am

Gail will lead the discussion of *The Pursuit of Love* by Nancy Mitford. Mitford's most enduringly popular novel is a classic comedy about growing up and falling in love among the privileged and eccentric.

Chair

Brown Bag Books

November 28, 1:00 pm

Host TBA

The Stranger In The Woods by Michael Finkel draws on extensive conversations that the author had with Christopher Knight. Knight became "The Last True Hermit" when he left his home in Massachusetts in 1986, drove to Maine, and disappeared into the woods. He would not have a conversation with another person for the next 27 years.

December: No meeting

Upcoming date: January 30

The Interestings by Meg Wolitzer

Chair

Interest Groups (cont.)

Great Decisions

November 18, 2:00 pm

Global Health: Progress and Challenges

The collective action of countries, communities and organizations over the last 30 years has literally saved millions of lives around the world. Yet terrible inequalities in health and well-being persist. The world now faces a mix of old and new health challenges, including the preventable deaths of mothers and children, continuing epidemics of infectious diseases, and rising rates of chronic disease. We also remain vulnerable to the emergence of new and deadly pandemics.

December: No meeting

Meetings in 2019: See page 5 to learn how to order materials for next year's topics.

Chair

Nonfiction Book Group

November 13, 7:00 pm

Aimee will review *The Written World: The Power of Stories to Shape People, History, Civilization* by Martin Puchner. In this groundbreaking book, Puchner leads us on a journey through time and around the globe to reveal how stories have created the world we have today. Through texts selected from more than 4000 years of world literature, he shows how writing has inspired the rise and fall of empires and nations and the spark of philosophical and political ideas.

Chair

Movie Meetup

The group meets the fourth 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 email the chair to be included on the distribution list.

**Next dates: November 27
December: No Meeting**

Chair

Branch Program Schedule, 2018-2019



September 8	10:00 am	Open House
October 6	5:30 pm	Fundraiser: "Comfort Food, Southern Style"
★ November 10	10:00 am	"Strong Women and Their Stories," with Linda Harris Sittig, author of <i>Cut From Strong Cloth</i>
★ December 8	Noon	Holiday Luncheon with speaker Joe Meyer, Shelter House CEO
January 12	10:30 am	TBA
February 9	2:00 pm	"Vienna's Vanishing Black History," with members of Historic Vienna Inc.
March 9	2:00 pm	"Getting the Vote: Women's History," with members of Historic Vienna Inc.
April 9	7:00 pm	"Serving Women for 40 Years: The Women's Center," with Shirley Clark, Executive Director
May TBA	TBA	Branch 40 th Anniversary, Potluck Dinner, Installation of Officers

Future newsletters will include any updates to the schedule.