

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

Issue Highlights

Program Details	2
From the Presidents	3
ERA Status	4
Public Policy	5
AAUW of Va. Conf.	6



March

- 6 Evening Lit Grp
- 9 **Branch Program and Business Mtg.**
- 11 Nonfiction Grp
- 17 Great Decisions
- 19 Morning Lit Grp
- 22 Movie Meetup
- 27 Brown Bag Books

April

- 3 Evening Lit Grp
- 6 AAUW of Va. Conf.
- 9 **Branch Program**
- 13 No. District Mtg
- 16 Morning Lit Grp
- 23 Movie Meetup
- 24 Brown Bag Books
- 28 Great Decisions



Leigh Kitcher as Elizabeth Cady Stanton. (Photo by Karen Kirk)

Have you seen the display series on Women's Rights at the [Freeman Store and Museum](#)? The current presentation on suffragettes closes March 1. You are not too late, though, for we will bring the history, and more, to you in this program.

Read more on page 2.

Getting the Vote: Women's History

Saturday, March 9, 2019
Patrick Henry Library, Vienna
1:30 p.m., Doors open
2:00 p.m., Program

Annual Business Meeting Follows



Shirley Clark, The Women's Center CEO.

What were you doing in 1974? That is the year Patty Hearst was kidnapped and a House committee passed articles of impeachment against Richard Nixon, who resigned days later.

Meanwhile, in Vienna, [The Women's Center](#) opened its doors. Join us to hear the story of how the organization has grown in numbers of clients, programs, and locations and how it envisions its future.

Bring a friend; one of you may hear about a workshop of interest to you.

Read more on page 2.

Serving Women for 45 Years: The Women's Center

Tuesday, April 9, 2019
Patrick Henry Library, Vienna
6:30 p.m., Doors open
7:00 p.m., Program

More About Branch Programs



Cartoon by Henry Mayer depicts the first states to allow women to vote.

Saturday, March 9, 2019
Doors Open, 1:30 p.m.
Program Begins, 2:00 p.m.
Patrick Henry Library, Vienna

Getting the Vote: Women's History

Our guest speaker, Leigh Kitcher, is active in Historic Vienna Inc. She is also the curator of the Freeman Store and Museum's five-year series of exhibits focusing on the Women's Rights Movement. These exhibits will culminate with the 2020 centenary of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote.

Join us to hear her review how women got the right to vote, beginning with the changes in society that led to women *wanting* the right to vote. Leigh will also describe the events of 1917, when women picketing the White House were arrested and, during the Night of Terror, were beaten and force-fed.

In her illustrated talk, Leigh will bring to life the leaders in the women's suffrage movement and the inevitable conflicts that arose between them.

Remember to stay after the program for a short business meeting, when we will vote on officers for 2019-2021.



Tuesday, April 9, 2019
Doors Open, 6:30 p.m.
Program Begins, 7 p.m.
Patrick Henry Library, Vienna

Serving Women for 45 Years: The Women's Center

Do you know someone who is ...

- Getting their finances in order?
- Entering or re-entering the workplace?
- Coping with separation, divorce or the death of a loved one?
- Looking for support for women over 55?
- Interested in mindfulness?
- Coping with domestic abuse or surviving sexual violence?
- Seeking training to give mental health support?

Shirley Clark, CEO & Executive Director of The Women's Center, will introduce us to The Center and the wide range of services it provides. Since it was founded in 1974, it has grown to include service to women, men, families, young adults, and children. The Center now serves 4,000 people annually at locations in Virginia and Washington, DC. Bring a friend and come hear about The Center's services, volunteer opportunities, monthly open houses, and more.



From the Presidents

Our branch has made a very productive start to 2019. The government shutdown caused the cancellation of our January 12 program, but some of our members attended the January 19 Women's March in Washington. Aimee Martin drafted a letter to the Vienna Town Council supporting ERA ratification, and, at its January 28 meeting attended by several branch members, the Town Council approved the resolution. Suzanne participated in the development of the AAUW of Virginia comment-letter submitted on January 30 to the U.S. Department of Education expressing opposition to proposed amendments to Title IX regulations. Our February 2 program on

African-American Historic Presence and Contributions in the Vienna Area was an overwhelming success. Several members went to Richmond to participate in AAUW of Virginia Lobby Day on February 7.

We have more great plans for March and April. Join us on March 9 for our program on Women Getting the Vote and the branch Annual Business Meeting with election of officers. At our program on April 9, we will learn about The Women's Center in Vienna.

If you have comments or questions, or if you need a ride to an event, please email us at ViennaAAUW@gmail.com.

2019 Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee, comprised of Susan, Kristin, and Kate, submits this slate of nominations for the following officer positions, with terms running July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021:

Finance Officer: Kathy

Membership VP: No candidate has come forth

Please consider serving your branch as the

membership vice president; this is a critical position. To learn more about the position, contact Susan, our current membership co-vice president. Susan has created helpful materials for the incoming VP, and two branch members have agreed to serve on a membership committee. Susan will brief the new VP and committee members in June.

Annual Branch Business Meeting: March 9, 2019

The meeting will be held after the program at Patrick Henry Library on Saturday, March 9. In order for a candidate to be nominated by the Nominating Committee, a member must inform the committee by March 1. Nominations may be made from the floor

with the consent of the nominee.

Members are urged to attend the March 9 program and to vote afterwards so that a quorum – twenty percent of the eligible members – is present. Proxy voting is not permitted.

Equal Rights Amendment Ratification Status

ERA Resolution Passed by Vienna Town Council



At a Vienna Town Council meeting on January 28, the council unanimously approved a resolution urging state legislators to ratify the ERA. This was the culmination of a branch project headed by Aimee, program vice president.

Aimee drafted a letter from the branch to Mayor Laurie DiRocco in mid-December, asking for the resolution. The letter included supporting attachments and examples of resolutions. Aimee also made a presentation at the January council meeting to affirm

the important impact of their determination. With the passage of the resolution, Vienna was added to the list of Virginia jurisdictions seeking ERA ratification.

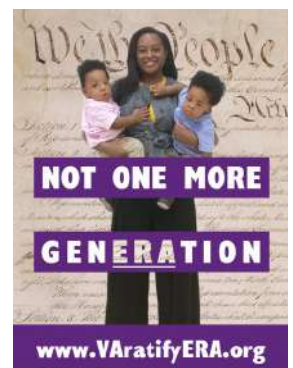
Many thanks to our members who showed support by attending the meeting. Our branch extends thanks also to Mayor Laurie DiRocco and Councilmember Carey Sienicki for agreeing to present the resolution to the council.

Results Mixed in Virginia General Assembly

The Virginia Senate once again passed ERA ratification legislation in the 2019 legislative session. However, once again, the assigned House of Delegates subcommittee blocked the legislation from going to a floor vote. Other efforts were made to send the ERA measure to the House floor for a vote. These failed to achieve that goal before a deadline for such alternative actions.

This continuing pattern is unfortunate. There were a sufficient number of bipartisan sponsors of the ERA House bill to ensure House approval, but only if the bill could reach the House floor for a vote by all delegates. Perhaps the 2019 election for members of the House of Delegates will change the outcome of future ERA legislation in Virginia.

Go to [AAUW of Virginia](#) for the latest news on the status of ERA ratification.



Lobbying for AAUW Public Policy Priorities

AAUW of Virginia Lobby Day: February 7, 2019

Vienna Area Branch members Leslie, Aimee, Kristin and Suzanne joined eighteen other AAUW of Virginia members from around the Commonwealth for Lobby Day in Richmond on February 7. In the morning they visited their delegates and senators to express their thanks for sponsorship of ERA ratification bills. They also distributed AAUW materials concerning our top legislative priorities for the 2019 Virginia General Assembly session.

Later in the morning the entire group met in the office of Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn. On December 8, 2018, she was elected to lead the House Democratic Caucus, the first time a woman has held this position.

The evening before Lobby Day, AAUW of Virginia hosted a reception for women legislators and staff. Aimee, Kristin, and Suzanne attended, as did representatives of VA Ratify Era and AAUW national staff.

Kristin Moyer



AAUW of Virginia reception for women legislators and staff the evening before Lobby Day.

AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps Training: January 31, 2019

Capitol Hill Lobby Corps members Mary and Leslie braved a cold day in January to attend the two-hour training at AAUW's national office in D.C. CEO Kim Churches greeted and thanked the members for attending. Members were briefed on AAUW's public policy priorities for the 116th Congress.

Every Thursday morning that Congress is in session – about 30 Thursdays a year – a senior AAUW staff member briefs those lobbying on that week's priority. Then members visit selected congressional offices to educate policy makers. Please contact Mary for more information.



Branch Announcements

Newsletter Deadline

Please send articles and photos for the next newsletter **by April 10, 2019** to Sandra.

Tax Deduction for 2018

A portion of your national AAUW dues is tax-deductible as a charitable donation if you itemize.

- If you paid \$84 total dues in 2018, the tax deduction is \$56.
- If you joined at a public event and paid \$54.50 total dues in 2018, the tax deduction is \$26.50.

Please contact Gail, Finance Officer, if you have questions.



AAUW of Virginia Northern District Meeting

The spring meeting will take place on **Saturday, April 13, at 1 p.m.** at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. This will be a gathering for branch presidents and program and membership VPs. It will be a workshop/discussion of what has been working well in your branch, and a chance to share ideas with other branches. More information will be forthcoming as the date gets closer, or contact Kate.

Special Meeting of Nonfiction Book Group

Interesting in reading Michelle Obama's book, *Becoming*? The nonfiction group is considering a "bonus" session to discuss this book, probably in March or April. Please contact Aimee if you would like to join them.



AAUW of Virginia 2019 Conference

Saturday, April 6, 2019, Roanoke Valley

Optional activities Friday evening, April 5, 2019

For detailed information regarding lodging, conference schedule, and conference workshops, see the brochure [here](#). Members can register for the conference in one of the ways listed below.

- Use the mail-in form in the conference brochure
- Use the online [registration form](#) on the AAUW of Virginia website



Interest Groups



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

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

Evening Literature

March 6, 7 p.m.

The Masterpiece by Fiona Davis “takes readers into the glamorous lost art school within Grand Central Terminal, where two very different women, fifty years apart, strive to make their mark on a world set against them.”

April 3, 7 p.m.

Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson is set on a small island in the Puget Sound that is “at various moments a courtroom drama, an interracial love story, and a war chronicle.”

Chairs

Morning Literature

March 19, 9:30 a.m.

Laurie will lead the discussion on *Manhattan Beach*, by Jennifer Egan. Pulitzer-winner Egan makes haunting use of shore and water motifs to explore the liminal spaces through which her protagonists move. The book's emotional power demonstrates Egan's extraordinary gifts.

April 16, 9:30 a.m.

Margaret will lead the discussion on *Prince of Tides*, by Pat Conroy. This bestselling Southern drama is about the destructive repercussions of keeping an unspeakable family secret.

Chair

Brown Bag Books

March 27, 1 p.m.

Members chose to read either *Subliminal* or *Elastic* by Leonard Mlodinow. Both books take a look at the unconscious part of our minds and how our brains do such things as generating new ideas.

April 24, 1 p.m.

As of the newsletter deadline, members are voting on various suggestions for April, May and June meetings. Contact the chair for more information.

Chair

Interest Groups (continued)

Great Decisions

March 17, 2 p.m.

Location to be determined.

Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?

Nuclear weapons have not gone away, and the Trump administration has brought a new urgency, if not a new approach, to dealing with them. The president has met with Vladimir Putin as well as Kim Jong-un and has decertified the Obama nuclear deal with Iran. To what degree should past nuclear talks guide future U.S. nuclear arms control negotiations?

April 28, 2 p.m.

Europe Populism and Immigration

Mass migration, and the problems associated with it, have directly abetted the rise of populist parties in Europe. Opposition to immigration was the prime driver of support for Brexit; it brought a far-right party to the German Bundestag for the first time since the 1950s; and it propelled Marine Le Pen to win a third of the vote in the French presidential election. In addition to calling for stronger borders, however, these parties are invariably illiberal, anti-American, anti-NATO and pro-Kremlin, making their rise a matter of serious concern for the national security interests of the United States. Kathy will lead the discussion.

Chair

Nonfiction Book Group

March 11, 7 p.m.

We will discuss *Cocktail Hour under the Tree of Forgetfulness* by Alexandra Fuller. The book is an intimate exploration of Fuller's parents and of the price of being possessed by Africa's uncompromising, fertile, death-dealing land. Difficulties follow the family even as the mother fights to hold on to her children, her land, her sanity.

Next date: May 13, *The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story*

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: March 26
April 23**

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	Dr. Dwandalyn Reece, National Museum of African American History and Culture
February 2	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 Leigh Kitcher
★ April 9	7:00 pm	Serving Women for 45 Years: The Women’s Center, with Shirley Clark, CEO and Executive Director
May TBA	TBA	Branch 40 th Anniversary, Potluck Dinner, Installation of Officers

Future newsletters will include any updates to the schedule.



Vienna Area Branch Leaders, 2018-2019

AAUW Diversity 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, and socioeconomic status.