

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

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Mobile Professionals: A Career in Architecture

Thursday, March 12, 2020
Patrick Henry Library, Vienna
6:30 p.m., Doors open
7 p.m., Program begins

Our guest speaker in March is Vienna resident Carey Sienicki. She is a registered architect, a founding member of the Vienna Business Association, and has served the town for over 15 years, including serving four terms as a Council member.



Carey Sienicki

Like many working women, Carey faced the challenge of frequently uprooting her career due to other family pursuits. She will talk about architecture as a career and adapting to these challenges.

This program is co-sponsored by the Patrick Henry Library.

Women in the World: Peace and Security

Saturday, April 18, 2020
Patrick Henry Library, Vienna
1:30 p.m., Doors open
2 p.m. Program begins

Cynthia Akuetteh is a retired diplomat and was the United States Ambassador to São Tomé and Príncipe and to the Republic of Gabon. She had a distinguished career with the Peace Corps and the Department of State.



Cynthia Akuetteh

Although much of her experience focused on Africa, she dealt with the Middle East, Canada and Latin America and with trade and energy policy. She will share her insights about the impact of these issues on women.

This program is co-sponsored by the Patrick Henry Library.



Suzanne and Jean

From the Presidents

We have a lot going on this spring in the Vienna Area Branch! Suzanne and I thank Aimee for organizing AAUW mission-driven speaker programs throughout this program year.

After the program on March 12, we will hold the election of branch officers for the 2020-2022 term. The AAUW of Virginia 2020 State Conference will be held in nearby Alexandria from April 17-19. Our April program will be held on April 18, which unavoidably overlaps part of the state conference due to scheduling constraints. Please consider inviting a friend to our public library programs and introducing

them to other members during the socializing time.

The January program on Women Entrepreneurs and the February program on Civil Rights in Alexandria were interesting and well-received. We appreciate the turnout by members, guests, and visitors to support our speakers.

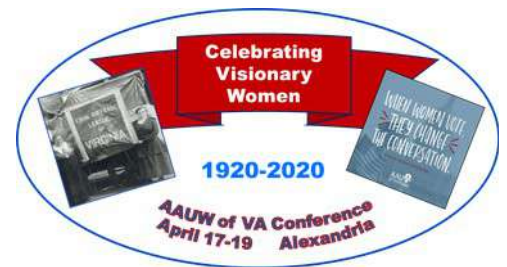
I hope you will look through all the upcoming events in this issue and come join us!

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 of Virginia Conference – Celebrating Visionary Women

April 17 – 19, 2020
Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites
Old Town Alexandria



Conference Highlights

- Spend a long weekend or a Saturday in Old Town for a change of pace
- Celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage in the United States
- Presentation by women from the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial
- Keynote Speaker on April 18: Janice Ruth, Library of Congress, curator of the exhibition ***Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote***
- Discussion with AAUW Senior VP for Advancement and Partnerships
- Evening banquet on April 18 honoring Women of Achievement Awardees: State Senator Janet Howell and Harvard student-scientist from Alexandria, Ana Humphrey
- Raffle basket fundraiser for AAUW Greatest Needs Fund
- Workshops, presentations, panels, social time, optional early morning walks
- Optional tours of Alexandria Black History Museum, Women's History Walking Tour of Alexandria

Download brochure for full details and mail-in registration form. **Online registration** available at AAUW of Virginia website.

AAUW of Virginia State Lobby Day: January 15, 2020



Gov. Northam met with over 40 AAUW-VA volunteers for 30 minutes, at the Patrick Henry Building, conference room, at 9 a.m., in Richmond. Susan Burk (Co-VP for

Public Policy with Sylvia Rogers), presented to the Governor AAUW's priorities, including eliminating the gender pay gap. Currently, women in Virginia are paid 79 cents for every dollar paid to men. She recommended laws Virginia can enact to close the gap, ranking the Commonwealth 30th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Volunteers took the material that AAUW researched on the gender pay

gap to the various delegates and senators. AAUW serves as a resource on the [pay gap statistics](#) broken down by state and congressional district.

Sylvia Rogers had drafted an Equal Pay Day Proclamation, prepared for Gov. Northam and presented to him during our meeting, with the request that he issue it to the state of Virginia on March 31, 2020, the day when the earnings of white women catch up with the 2019 earnings of white, Non-Hispanic men.

The next State Lobby Day was scheduled for February 12. It coincided with the League of Women Voters Lobby Day and their planned commemorations of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

Mary, Public Policy Chair

Virginia Ratifies the Equal Rights Amendment: January 15, 2020

After our visits to members of the House of Delegates and the Senate, Kristin, Diane, and I were able to sit in the House of Delegates Gallery to hear Speaker of the House Eileen Filler-Corn; Del. Carroll Foy (D- Prince William); and others, as the House of Delegates for the

first time passed the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) designed to guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex and ratified the resolution. The resolution passed in both the House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate.

Mary, Public Policy Chair



Virginia State Capitol in Richmond on January 15, 2020, when AAUW-VA members lobbied to eliminate the gender pay gap in Virginia.



Some of the members who attended the reception hosted by AAUW-VA for Virginia women legislators on January 14, 2020.



Members in the House of Delegates Gallery before the historic vote on the ERA.

Reflection on the Equal Rights Amendment



Members of AAUW of Virginia were in Richmond on January 15 for State Lobby Day when later that day, coincidentally, the Virginia House of Delegates passed the ERA resolution. Kristin was among those witnessing the historic event. The next day she marked it with an entry in her blog. With her permission, we reproduce the entry.

Constitutional Amendment

January 15, 2020

You have been driving for what seems like years. You have endured three flat tires out of the four on your car. You have driven through rain storms. And sand storms. And snow storms. Your kids have thrown up in the back seat so many times you have lost count.

And finally you have reached your destination and you just sit in your driver's seat and stare.

That is a bit the way I felt today sitting in the back row of the gallery while hearing the speeches and watching the vote to ratify the ERA in the House of the General Assembly of Virginia, the 38th and the final state needed to ratify the amendment and make it part of the Constitution of the United States of America (except for some technical problems we will have to deal with). The ERA had never reached the floor of the Virginia House for a vote, because the majority party had never let it come out of committee—or even sub-committee. The ERA had passed several times with bi-partisan approval in the Virginia Senate but never in the House of the Virginia General Assembly. But the 2019 state election had pushed the power levers.

And thus the gallery of the House today was packed with people of all ages and colors jubilant to see history made. Many were wearing the gold-white-purple sashes such as I had worn in the ERA marches down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington DC in

August of 1977 and July of 1978. I was 35 years old in 1978, wearing white in the blistering heat and confident that together we could make the world a better place. It would take much longer than we thought. Forty-two years have passed since that march. There were women who made it their life purpose to see the ERA pass, and at least one of them is sitting in the gallery today.

A black woman delegate, a graduate of the former all-male Virginia Military Institute, introduces the resolution and speaks about being on the right side of history.

A transgender delegate speaks about her mother and what the ERA means to her.

An older woman delegate speaks about marching in 1978 with her daughter. She is wearing the same sash that she wore then.

Delegates from the other side speak in opposition.

It is time for the vote. The resolution passes, 59-41. The gallery erupts with cheers, applause, hugs. I stand quietly, my eyes filled with tears.

Such a simple statement: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

Kristin

Branch Announcements

Newsletter Deadline: April 10

Please send articles and photos for the next newsletter by April 10, 2020.

Tax Deduction for 2019

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

- If you paid \$84 total dues in 2019, the tax deduction is \$56.
- If you joined at a public event and paid \$54.50 total dues in 2019, the tax deduction is \$26.50.

Please contact the branch finance officer if you have questions.



Published in The Washington Post



Three members of the Vienna Area Branch recently had Letters to the Editor published in The Washington Post within one month of each other – two on the same day. Our congratulations to Laurie, Margaret, and Adrienne.

Branch Members Nominated for State Board

In case you missed the article in the recent issue of *Virginia Vision*, two of our members accepted nominations for the state board. Our thanks to them both for stepping up to serve in these leadership positions.

Voting will be by online ballot, with information emailed to you on April 26, 2020.

Branch Potluck Dinner: May 9

Save the date for our last gathering of the program year at the home of Suzanne. We will also install the new branch officers and recognize our AAUW Funds Named Honorees for their service to the branch.

Interest Groups



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

Morning Literature

March 17, 9:30 a.m.

Kristin will lead the discussion of *Life After Life*, by Kate Atkinson.

Please let Kate know if you plan to attend.

April 21, 9:30 a.m.

Candace will lead the discussion of *The Great Alone*, by Kristin Hannah.

Please let Danny know if you plan to attend.

Brown Bag Books

March 25, 1 p.m.

Jean will lead the discussion of *Cold Comfort Farm* by Stella Gibbons. This parody of D.H. Lawrence's and Thomas Hardy's melodramatic novels follows orphaned socialite, Flora Poste, as she descends on her relatives at the aptly named Cold Comfort Farm.

April 29 1 p.m.

Margaret will lead our discussion of *Madame Fourcade's Secret War* by Lynne Olson. In 1941 a 31-year-old French woman, born to privilege and known for her beauty, became the leader of a vast resistance organization. She was the only woman to hold such a role. The group's name was Alliance, but the Gestapo dubbed it Noah's Ark.

Interest Groups (continued)

Great Decisions

March 15, 2 p.m.

Red Sea Security

The Red Sea has remained vital for global trade since the time of ancient Egypt. Once home to the spice trade, the Red Sea now sees millions of barrels of oil a day transported across its waters. With major nations like China, France, Italy, and the U.S. building large ports and bases in the region, what does the future of the region look like? Nadine will lead the discussion.

April 19, 2 p.m.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Almost every nation has enacted laws criminalizing human trafficking, and international organizations, governments, and NGOs sponsor a large variety of projects to curb trafficking and slavery. Billions of dollars have been allocated to these efforts. What is the international community doing to combat slavery and trafficking? Nora will lead the discussion

Nonfiction Book Group

March 9, 7 p.m.

Laura will lead our discussion of *Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets* by Luke Dittrich.

As a young boy, Henry Molaison, injured his head and developed epilepsy. In a bid to improve his condition, surgeon William Beecher Scoville drilled into his temporal lobe region, performing a partial lobotomy. The operation was unsuccessful but spawned years of cognitive testing reported in the psychological literature.

Next Date: May 11, 7 p.m.

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 24
April 28**

Branch Program Schedule, 2019-2020



September 7	10 a.m.	Open House
October 19	2 p.m.	Fearless Women: An Afternoon of Storytelling
November 21	7 p.m.	Family Friendly Legislation, with Briana Sewell
December 7	Noon	Holiday Luncheon with Mayor Laurie DiRicco
January 11	2 p.m.	Women Entrepreneurs: Creating a Sense of Community, with Jen Morrow
February 25	7:30 p.m.	Civil Rights in Alexandria, with Audrey Davis
★ March 12	7 p.m.	Mobile Professionals: A Career in Architecture, with Carrie Sienicki
★ April 18	2 p.m.	Women in the World: Peace and Security, with Cynthia Akuetteh
May 9	5 p.m.	Potluck dinner, installation of officers

Schedule is subject to change.

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, or socioeconomic status.