

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

### Issue Highlights

Nov. Program	2
December Events	3
AAUW-VA News	4
Announcements	5
Interest Groups	6
Branch Contacts	8



### November

- 9 Nonfiction Group
- 16 Branch Program**
- 17 Morning Lit Group
- 15 Great Decisions
- 18 Brown Bag Books
- 24 Movie Meetup

### December

- 5 Artemis House  
Donation Drop Off
- 8 Morning Lit Group
- 21 Solstice Toast
- 30 Brown Bag Books

### From the President



*President Laurie and Josie.*

Two months ago my letter to you was all about the *how* of maintaining branch operations during the pandemic. Lately the *why* it's important that we keep going has been on my mind. Whether it's via technology or in person, *why* we meet is what defines us.

We need each other. To survive and prevail over the tumult of news, pestilence, and natural disasters bombarding us, we need the interactions AAUW provides. Our appetite for understanding issues is fed by the programs offered at every level, local to national. Our intellectual curiosity is sharpened by participating in groups discussing books, movies, or current events. Our desire to serve our

community is channeled through activities supporting women's issues and democracy itself.

Most of all, our human need for comfort and support is met by our friends. Our smart, thoughtful, funny, resourceful, clever, creative, compassionate, AAUW friends.

We aren't just in a holding pattern this year waiting to get back to "normal." We continue as a vital organization with a lot to offer women (just check out this newsletter for what we are doing).

And we can't let up on our efforts to build our membership. You can help our branch by inviting a friend to an upcoming program or to join AAUW. Please resolve to do this in the next two months. Then we can start off 2021 celebrating *who* we are.

Keep safe, keep healthy, and please keep in touch.

## November Branch Program

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Walter Alcorn



Shirley Ginwright



Sean Perryman



Leona Smith-Vance

### Exploring Social Justice in Policing and Education

Monday, November 16, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Meet via Zoom

We are honored to have four distinguished guest speakers this month who will share their experience and knowledge in two areas of current relevance.

#### Social Justice in Policing

Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn will discuss current initiatives in the Fairfax County Police Department.

Shirley Ginwright, Chair of the Fairfax County Communities of Trust, will talk about their role in improving police relations with the Fairfax County community.

#### Social Justice in Education

Sean Perryman, President of the Fairfax County NAACP, will join Leona Smith-Vance, Director of Equity and Family Engagement at Fairfax County Public Schools. They will discuss social justice concerns and initiatives in the county school system.

This program is a joint presentation of three organizations:

- **AAUW Vienna Area Branch**
- **Optimist Club of Greater Vienna**
- **Virginia State Organization, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Alpha Nu**

Our thanks to everyone in these organizations who helped us plan the program.

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**REGISTER NOW!**

This program is shared among three groups, and we hope you will attend. Please register by emailing [ViennaAAUW@gmail.com](mailto:ViennaAAUW@gmail.com) by November 12. You will receive the Zoom link on November 13.

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## December Seasonal Events

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### December 5: Artemis House Holiday Donations

Let us share the joy of the season in spirit and lots of telephone and Zoom gatherings. Although we cannot hold our annual Holiday Lunch as usual, we must continue our support for the residents of Artemis House.



For 30-plus years, our branch has supported Artemis House, a program of Shelter House, Inc. This non-profit organization is the only Fairfax County 24-hour emergency shelter for women and children fleeing domestic and sexual violence, stalking and human trafficking. As usual, the branch will collect donations of store gift cards and standard-size personal care

items for Artemis House residents. The cards and items are given to Artemis House families at holiday celebrations. The cards help them buy needed clothing, medicine, children's toys, groceries, pay for gasoline, and make long-distance calls to family, among other things. The personal care items are much treasured by residents. Donations are tax-deductible.

#### To make your donation:

- When Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Where Drop by Suzanne's house
- How Leave gift cards in basket, leave personal care items in box inside front door.

If you cannot come on December 5, contact Suzanne to make other arrangements.

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### December 21: Toast the Return of the Sun!



Let's join together on the Winter Solstice to toast the longest night of the year and the beginning of longer days. There are many traditions around the Winter Solstice, but most of them involve candles or fireplaces.



So light a candle, pour yourself a libation, and join us for an hour of socializing via Zoom. It won't be as cozy as a real hug, but we'd like to hear from you.

All are invited to drop in any time between 7 and 8 p.m. on December 21.  
Look for the Zoom link a few days beforehand.

## AAUW of Virginia Supports Amendment 1

AAUW of Virginia has long advocated that voting is a foundational right. However, in Virginia this right has been diminished because our Constitution allows the General Assembly and the Governor to redraw election districts every 10 years for both houses of the General Assembly and the U.S. House of Representatives. This has allowed elected officials to select their voters instead of allowing voters to select those representing them.

This November we have the best chance we have ever had to strike at the heart of the partisan gerrymandering that has plagued redistricting in Virginia for decades. For this reason, AAUW of Virginia has formally endorsed the **FairMapsVA** campaign, which is advocating for a “Yes” vote on Amendment 1.



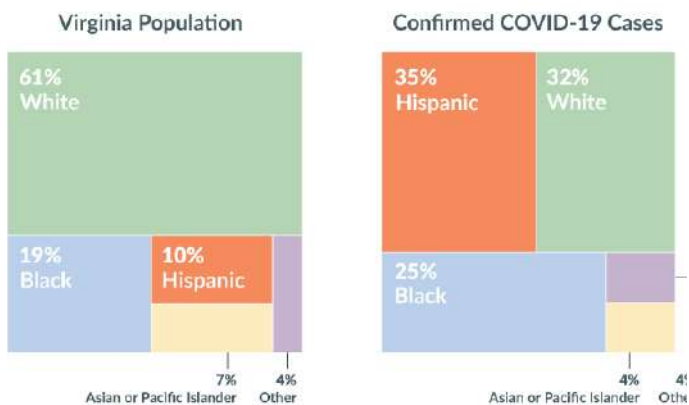
This Amendment is the result of a decade-long advocacy effort. It has passed in the Virginia legislature twice with bipartisan support. If Amendment 1 is approved by the voters on November 3, redistricting will be assigned to a citizen-chaired, bipartisan commission composed of eight citizens and

eight members of the General Assembly, with an equal number from each House and each major political party. A 3/4 vote of the commission’s members will be required to approve district maps, thereby requiring substantial approval across party lines.

## COVID-19 and Hispanics: Disproportionate Load

As reported in the AAUW of Virginia Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion [website](#), Hispanics have borne the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic in Virginia. While they make up 10 percent of the population, Hispanics

account for more than one-third of confirmed cases in which the race of persons tested were reported. The visual below from [vpap.org](#) illustrates the issue.



Hispanic: Individuals of any race who identify as “Hispanic or Latino”

Black: Non-Hispanics who identify as “Black or African American”

White: Non-Hispanics who identify as “White” alone

Asian or Pacific Islander: Non-Hispanics who identify as “Asian” or “Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander”

**Note:** Data for COVID updated on 8/17/20. Excludes instances where race was not reported.

## Branch Announcements

### Update: Get Out The Vote 2020

The Vienna Area Branch participated in the Vote Forward non-partisan letter-writing campaign as our Get Out the Vote 2020 project. Members sent a total of 200 letters to encourage “traditionally under-represented voters” in North Carolina, Florida, Texas, Wisconsin, and Georgia to vote. We exceeded our goal of 150 letters!

Many thanks to our letter writers.



*Among the 200 letters our members wrote for Vote Forward.*

### Vienna Area Branch Budget, 2020-2021



At a Board of Directors meeting October 6, 2020, the board unanimously approved the following budget.

**NOTE:** The branch has ample reserve funds to cover the budgeted loss if any loss actually occurs.

#### Operating Income

Total (Branch Dues @\$10) **\$ 490**

#### Operating Expenses

Branch Liability Insurance	\$ 190
AAUW Northern District Dues	\$ 10
President	\$ 85
VP Membership (marketing)	\$ 100
VP Programs	
Honoraria/gifts	\$ 300
Zoom Service	\$ 149
Larger participant Zoom fee	\$ 65
Fundraising	\$ <u>100</u>
Total	<b>\$ 999</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 509</b>

### Our Branch Zooms!

Pictures from the September 8 program, Protecting the Vote.



*Some of the members and guests who attended the program.*



*Guest speaker Kat Calvin, founder of Spread the Vote.*

## Interest Groups



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

Group meetings will be via Zoom unless otherwise described. If you are new to a group, contact the group's chair to receive the email notices.

### Great Decisions

**November 15, 2:00 p.m.**

#### Artificial Intelligence and Data - The Global Race for the New Frontier

Policymakers in many countries are developing plans and funding research in artificial intelligence (AI). Global growth is slowing, and not surprisingly, many policymakers hope that AI will provide a magic solution. The EU, Brazil, and other Western countries have adopted regulations that grant users greater control over their data and require that firms using AI be transparent about how they use it. Will the U.S. follow suit?

Cornelia will lead the discussion. The video for this topic can be [viewed free here](#).

A link to join the conference will be sent to group members shortly before the meeting.

**Reminder: No meeting in December.**

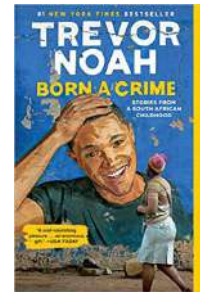
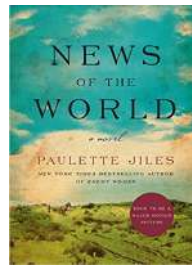
**Chair**

### Brown Bag Books

**November 18, 1:00 p.m.**  
**(Note date change)**

*News of the World* by Paulette Jiles

In the 1870's, an aging itinerant news reader returns a young girl captive to her people in a multi-layered novel of historical fiction.



**December 30, 1:00 p.m.**

*Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah

Comedian Trevor Noah's memoir of his childhood combines vignettes and reflections on the history and culture of South Africa.

**Co-Chairs**

## Interest Groups (continued)

Group meetings will be via Zoom unless otherwise described.  
If you are new to a group, contact the group's chair to receive the email notices.

### Nonfiction Book Group

**November 9, 7:00 p.m.**

Jean will lead the discussion of *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah, host of The Daily Show. From Booklist review: "His candid and compassionate essays deepen our perception of the complexities of race, gender, and class."

**Next meeting: January 11, 2021**

Chair

### Movie Meetup Group

**November 24, 1:00 p.m.**

**December: No meeting**

The group meets on the fourth Tuesday of most months via Zoom to discuss films available for streaming through [Cinema Arts Theater](#).

Please contact the chair to be included in the distribution list.

**Next meeting: January 26, 2021**

Chair

### Morning Literature Group

**November 17, 10:00 a.m.**

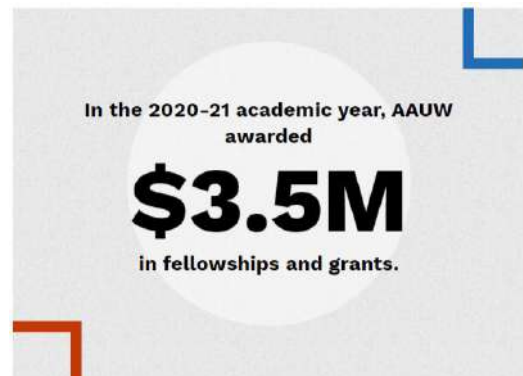
Susan will lead the discussion on *Excellent Women*, by Barbara Pym. Please let Adrienne know if you will attend.

**December 8, 10:00 a.m.**

Dianne will lead the discussion on *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, by Leo Tolstoy. Please let Adrienne know if you will attend.

Chair

From AAUW's Twitter account



Since 1888, AAUW has been one of the largest funders of women's graduate education, investing in women who go on to change the world.

[Read More.](#)

**Branch Program Schedule, 2020-2021**

<b>September 8</b>	7 p.m.	Protecting the Vote, with Kat Calvin
<b>October 17</b>	10 a.m.	Challenging Racism, with Alicia Jones McLeod
<b>November 16</b>	7:30 p.m.	Exploring Social Justice in Policing and Education
<b>December 21</b>	7 p.m.	Winter Solstice Celebration



**viennaauw@gmail.com**

**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.