

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

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From the President

Dear AAUW Friends,



President Laurie and Josie.

At last! Glimpses of a future where we meet and mingle are not a mirage. As more of our members are vaccinated against COVID-19 and the government's guidelines are easing, we are planning to meet IN PERSON on May 11, 2021. Huzzah!

It won't be a free-for-all, and sensible precautions will be followed. See all the details in the article on page 2. But the important thing—the thing that gives me hope—is that we are looking forward to being together once again. And it is a picnic. I love picnics.

At our May meeting we will install the officers recently re-elected: Kathy as Finance Officer and Gail and Jean as Co-VPs for Membership. I'm grateful to them for serving another term. At the same time, I hope we the members don't become complacent that there will always be someone else to fill these roles for our branch. If you haven't served on the board, or it's been a long time since you served, please consider standing for office next year. We need to share the duties of leadership.

We can share in the fun, too! Please join branch members in celebrating "**Liberty Amendments Month**" in the Town of Vienna. July 10-16 is dedicated to the 19th Amendment. Our branch proposes to stage the play, "Failure is Impossible," as well as support other groups' activities celebrating Women's Suffrage. Read more on page 4 about our plans, and contact me if you want to join in.

Until then, stay safe, stay healthy, and please keep in touch.

Laurie President

May Branch Program

Bring Your Own Picnic

Glyndon Park Picnic Area

300 Glyndon Street, NE, Vienna

Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 11:45 a.m.



We will have our final meeting of the year and installation of officers at a picnic at the **Glyndon Park** picnic area on May 11. (Click link to see map of the location.) The area will be reserved for us and open beginning at 11:45 a.m.

Following pandemic protocols, we will be outdoors with adequate spacing. Please wear a face covering except when eating.

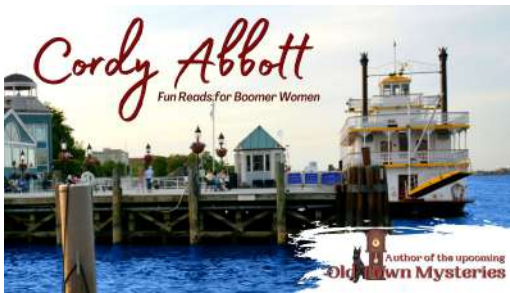
Caution also demands that we each bring our own picnic meal and supplies. Use your imagination for

your food, drink, and settings or go with your all-time favorites.

You can park and enter either from Beulah Road, which is a longer gentle walk, or from Glyndon Street, which is a shorter, slightly steeper climb. We want to include everyone, so we will have one or more wheelchairs available or someone to walk with you. Please let Aimee know of requests for assistance.

In case of rain, the gathering will be on Zoom, and the link will be sent that morning.

Highlights of April Program



Our branch enjoyed a delightful presentation by Lane Stone, author and fellow AAUW member who is also a co-president of the Alexandria Branch. Thirty-four of us logged in for a wide-ranging discussion of the process of writing and efforts to get publishers to better support sales of women authors. She described how she balances an active volunteer life, the discipline of writing, and a personal life.

Lane also gave us a brief history of mystery genres and a look into her upcoming book series, Old Town Mysteries. Written under the pseudonym Cordy Abbott, the series will be set in Old Town Alexandria. You can find out more at her [website](#) and her [Facebook](#) page.

Any Program Ideas?

We are not sure what our format will be like for the 2021-2022 program year. We welcome your ideas for both in-person and remote speakers. Please contact one of the program co-vps using her email linked above.

Two Minute Activist Network

From Kate Nielson, AAUW Director of Public Policy, Legal Advocacy, & Research:

“As a voter, you hold an incredible amount of power over your elected officials. You’re their boss and they have to take your opinions into account. When a whole bunch of constituents focus their voices collectively on an issue, we can really shape the conversation. That’s the power of AAUW’s Two-Minute Activist Network — we’ll notify you when your voice is needed the most and help you harness your power to make change.”



Kate Nielson



Become a Two-Minute Activist

Send emails and texts to your legislators to fight for equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education and more. [Sign up here](#) to get regular alerts to be able to take timely action.

Use the Two-Minute Activist to tell Congress you support the following:

- **Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act** - AAUW and our supporters have worked for 24 years to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. On April 15, 2021, the House voted 217 to 210 to pass the bill with bipartisan support. As this critical bill heads for the Senate, we need to mobilize members quickly to ensure we get it across the finish line.
- **Pass the FAMILY Act** - Unlike the majority of developed countries worldwide, the United States does not guarantee paid annual leave, paid time off for illness or family care, or paid parental leave. And for many Americans, this unpaid time off work is untenable, and it threatens their economic security. That’s why AAUW is calling for passage of the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act, which would create a national self-funding, paid family and medical leave insurance program.

Name Tags are Here!

Anyone who ordered a personalized name tag can pick it up at the May 11 picnic at Glyndon Park. Payment of \$5 is due upon receipt. A reminder email will be sent closer to the date of the gathering.

Branch Announcements

Have You Received Your Dues Renewal Invoice Yet?



Individualized invoices were sent to each member via email on April 15. The most efficient, accurate, and preferred way to pay your dues is via your credit or debit card by clicking on the link contained in the email. If you have mislaid that email, contact me for a duplicate copy.

The new AAUW national dues rate (\$62) is contained

on the invoice, as well as your specific membership information (e.g., dual branch member or life member). State and branch dues are included in the statement, and your payment covers all three (national, state, and local). Remember that \$59 of your national dues is tax-deductible. State and branch dues are not tax-deductible.

Payment by personal check will be accepted but will require a longer time to process to allow for manual administrative procedures and postal delays. Make checks payable to AAUW – Vienna Area Branch and mail to my address as listed on your invoice.

Help is available by calling AAUW at 800-326-2289, weekdays, 10-5 p.m., or by contacting Kathy.

Celebrate the 19th Amendment for “Liberty Amendments Month”



Our branch will submit a proposal to be part of the Town of Vienna’s month-long celebration of the “Liberty Amendments”— that is, the amendments that extend “rights and liberties to U.S. citizens who originally were excluded from the Constitution.”

From June 19 to July 19, each of the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 19th Amendments will be the focus of one week of activities in Vienna.

During the second week of July our branch hopes to stage the reader’s theater play, “Failure is Impossible,” which uses original source material to tell the story of the fight for passage of

the 19th Amendment.

Kristin will direct the play, and we will need help with backstage support (e.g., props) and front-of-the-house staffing (e.g., information table and other duties). Contact me to get involved and to help us publicize our branch.

Deadline for proposals is May 1. We do not know yet if we will receive approval for our proposal, so our plans are tentative until then.

Branch members may also want to participate in other groups’ activities that week, including a suffragist rally re-enactment.



2020 BY THE NUMBERS

Amid a global pandemic that upended every aspect of life, AAUW continued to thrive, finding new ways to work toward our goal of economic security for women and girls.



30,000

People reached by our 35 free webinars featuring career tips, advice on activism, interviews with thought leaders and other educational offerings.



29

Minority-serving institutions, including 18 Historically Black Colleges and Universities, that now offer AAUW's Start Smart training, bringing the number of colleges and universities hosting the program to 142.

\$3.6 million

Awarded to more than 200 recipients for the 2020-21 academic year with the goal of advancing educational opportunities for women around the globe.



62,400

Letters sent to elected officials urging immediate action on COVID relief, paid leave benefits, voter access and other key AAUW public policy priorities.

1

New learning community launched: AAUW's Equity Network offers leadership training to early- and mid-career participants who are committed to social justice.

The **EQUITY** Network

227

Media outlets have featured AAUW's work in 2020, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *NBC News* and more.

5

Cases that AAUW is supporting to help women fight workplace discrimination, Title IX violations and pay inequity.



4

Research reports or updates undertaken this year, exploring the plight of Latina essential workers, women in manufacturing, how college debt disproportionately burdens women and the effect of the gender wage gap on women of color.



180,167

Women trained in salary-negotiation skills through our **Work Smart** and **Start Smart** programs to date.

Interest Groups



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 Jean, Chair

May 16, 2 p.m.
China and Africa



The Covid-19 crisis has put a massive strain on what was a growing positive economic and political relationship between China and the continent of Africa. As Chinese President Xi Jinping's centerpiece "Belt and Road initiative" continues to expand Chinese power, the response to the spread of Covid-19, as well as the African governments' growing debt to China, has seen pushback. What are some of the

economic and political issues between China and Africa?

Nadine will lead the discussion. The video will be shown at the beginning of the meeting.

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

Next meeting: September 19, 2021

Morning Literature Group Adrienne, Chair

Please let Adrienne know if you will participate in any of these meetings.

May 18, 10 a.m.

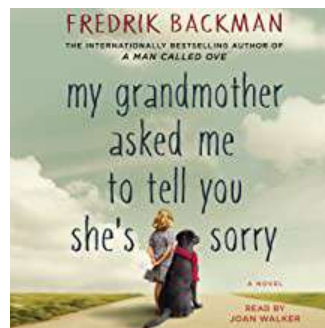
Leslie will lead the discussion on *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry*, by Fredrik Backman.

June 15, 10 a.m.

Kristin will lead the discussion on *The Pull of the Stars*, by Emma Donoghue.

July 20, 10 a.m.

We will discuss and choose titles for the coming year.



Interest Groups (cont.)

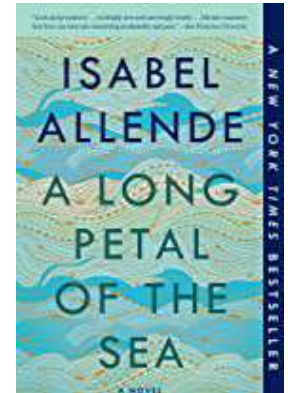
Brown Bag Group

Susan and Betty, Co-Chairs

May 26, 1 p.m.

The Exiles by Christina Baker Kline

An ambitious, emotionally resonant novel about three women whose lives are bound together in nineteenth-century Australia and about the hardships they weather together as they fight for redemption and freedom in a new society.



June 30, 1 p.m.

A Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende

An epic novel spanning decades and crossing continents follows two young people as they flee the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War in search of a place to call home in Chile.

Movie Meetup Group

Susan, Chair

May 25, 1 p.m.

June 22, 1 p.m.



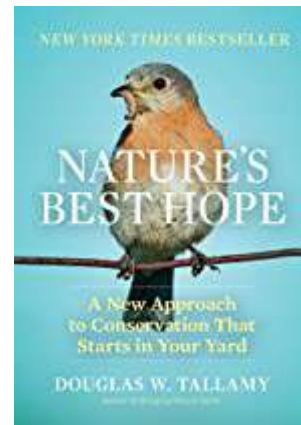
The group meets via Zoom on the 4th Tuesday of the month to discuss a movie of each participant's choice on a streaming platform. Please contact the chair to be included on the distribution list.

Nonfiction Book Group

Jean, Chair

May 10, 7:30 p.m.

Aimee will lead the discussion on *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard* by Douglas W. Tallamy.



Branch Program Schedule, 2020-2021

September 8	7 p.m.	Protecting the Vote, with Kat Calvin
October 17	10 a.m.	Challenging Racism, with Alicia Jones McLeod
November 16	7:30 p.m.	Exploring Social Justice in Policing and Education
December 21	7 p.m.	Winter Solstice Celebration
January 5	7 p.m.	Climate Change in the Commonwealth of Virginia, with James Kinter, PhD
February 9	7 p.m.	Peggy's Picks, with Peggy Bercher
March 9	7 p.m.	Sue Langley, Local Owner, Sue's Silk
April 6	7 p.m.	Lane Stone, Local Author; annual branch business meeting
May 11	11:45 a.m.	Picnic at Glyndon Park, Vienna; installation of officers



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.