

**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.*

Both my parents were teachers, so the academic year defined our family's life. To me, September feels more like the start of a new year than January 1 ever does. It also happens to be the start of our AAUW program year. Happy New Year!

We start with cautious optimism about our ability to meet in person. Our annual **Open House** will be held at **Patrick Henry Library on Saturday, Sept. 11, from 10:00 to noon**. Please join us to give a warm welcome to potential members! And please, invite a friend to attend and join.

October's program on climate change is also planned to be in person at Patrick Henry Library (see page 2), but "safety" and "flexibility" will be our watchwords. Meeting via Zoom remains an option if health directives compel it. Your health and safety are the highest priority.

Our branch's essay on "What We Did on Our Summer Vacation" has to feature our participation in the Town of Vienna's inaugural Liberty Amendments Month celebration. We focused on 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment activities. Through the dedicated efforts of Aimee, we were a credited sponsor and active player in the events—including a costumed suffragist rally. Our marquee event was the performance of "Failure Is Impossible." Cheers and thanks to actors Kristin, Susan, Dianne, and Nadine; stagehands Cornelia and Sandra; usher Rosalie; photographer Margaret; and voter registrar Adrienne. By popular demand, the play's revival is already in the works.

Being part of the Town's activity was important beyond celebrating the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. It was our branch's re-engagement with community life in a visible way. I hope we can build on this in the coming year to acquaint more people with what we—and AAUW—have to offer. Let's make that our new year's resolution.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and please keep in touch.

## Upcoming Branch Programs

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### Annual Open House

**Saturday, September 11, 2021**

**10 AM to noon**

**Patrick Henry Library**

**Welcome** our branch's new program year by being part of our annual open house, when we welcome members back from vacation and greet potential members.

**Members** from each of our interest groups will be present to describe their activities and will bring displays about their group. We will offer discounted membership dues to new members and to those who have not been AAUW members for at least two years.

**Please invite your friends** who may be interested in joining! An associate degree, R.N., or higher degree is

required to join. National AAUW dues are half price during this event, which is a great bargain.

**Interest group leaders** should attend or send another member to discuss your group as our guests tour the displays. Please update your posters to show your recent or upcoming activities. We would appreciate your arriving at 9:30 to help with the setup.

This is our branch's major new member outreach event. Each year at this event, we attract many visitors and gain several new members. Please make every effort to participate!

*Membership Co-VPs*

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### Fighting Climate Change in Fairfax County

**Tuesday, October 19, 2021**

**6:30 PM doors open, 7 PM program**

**Patrick Henry Library**



*Dr. Kambiz Agazi*



*Rev. Dr. Jean Wright*

Forest fires...droughts...floods...melting ice caps...even the basic movement of the oceans is changing. The bad news of climate change is in our daily newspapers, and we can feel helpless to do anything.

Our October program features two speakers—one from our county government, one from a community activist group—to tell us what is being done on the local level and how we can help.

**Dr. Kambiz Agazi** is the Director of the Office for Environmental and Energy Coordination in Fairfax County. The **Rev. Dr. Jean Wright** is a co-founder of **Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS)**.

Come on October 19 to hear some good news!

This program is co-sponsored by Patrick Henry Library.

## Previous Branch Events

### May: Picnic at Glyndon Park

Members mingled maskless at Vienna's Glyndon Park on May 11, 2021. Following pandemic protocols then in place, people brought their own lunches. All present were vaccinated so social distancing was not required. What a treat to be in-person finally!

Branch President Laurie also conducted the installation of officers for 2021-23



Some of the members who gathered on a sunny spring day for the picnic May 11.

### July: Celebrating Passage of the 19th Amendment

Our branch participated in Vienna's celebration of Liberty Amendments Month by performing a readers' theater play on July 10, 2021, at the Community Center. Written by Rosemary Knower, *Failure is Impossible* uses original source material to tell the story of the fight for passage of the 19th Amendment.



Members also took part in a re-enactment of a suffragist rally.





## Branch Announcements

### Vienna Area Branch Budget, 2021-2022



At a Board of Directors meeting August 4, 2021, 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) **\$500**

#### Operating Expenses

President	\$ 100
VP Membership (marketing)	\$ 100
VP Programs (honoraria/gifts)	\$ 300
Fundraising (publicity, admin costs)	\$ 50
General Branch	
Zoom Service	\$ 158
Ad in Va. Conference Program	\$ 35
Liability Insurance	\$ 196
AAUW Va. Northern District Dues	\$ 10
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 949</b>

**Balance** **\$ 449**

*Finance Officer*

### Branch Project: Voter Registration



The Vienna Area Branch will once again hold voter registration at the Patrick Henry Library during the annual fall book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Patrick Henry Library. The dates are as follows:

- Saturday, October 9, 10 AM - 4 PM
- Sunday, October 10, 10 AM - 2 PM

This is an opportunity to provide a public service and give our branch visibility in our local community.

We will need volunteers for two-hour shifts on both days. Please contact me if you can help.

*Voter Engagement*

### Public Policy: Enact the Equal Rights Amendment



(ERA), which would guarantee women the same rights as men under the Constitution.

This amendment was first introduced in 1923, and by

1977, 35 states had ratified the ERA—but then progress halted until the required 38 states passed it. Virginia became the 38th state to ratify in 2020.

Alas, it stalled again because of a questionable deadline for ratification. By passing S.J. Resolution 1, the constitutional amendment process will move forward and the ERA will become the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Use AAUW's **Two-Minute Activist form** to urge our senators to pass S.J. Resolution 1.

*Public Policy*

## Interest Groups



Groups planning to meet in person may need to change to Zoom.  
Watch for an email closer to the meeting time to confirm the plans.  
If you are new to a group, contact the chair to receive email notices.

### Morning Literature

**September 21, 9:30 AM**

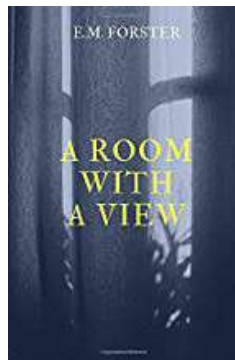
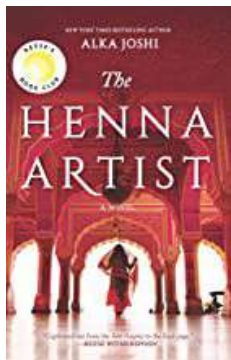
Julia will lead the discussion on *The Henna Artist*, by Alka Joshi.

Please let Gail know if you plan to attend.

**October 19, 9:30 AM**

Candace will lead the discussion on *A Room with a View*, by E.M. Forster.

Please let Susan know if you plan to attend.



### Brown Bag Books

**September 29, 1 PM**

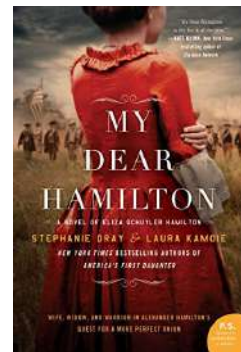
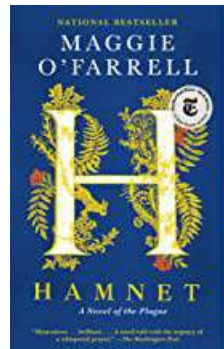
**Location TBA**

*Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell  
A richly drawn and intimate portrait of 16th century English life set against the death of Shakespeare's son, Hamnet.

**October 27, 1 PM**

**Location TBA**

*My Dear Hamilton* by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie  
Well-researched and dramatic retelling of the story of Eliza Schuyler Hamilton, wife of Alexander Hamilton.



## Interest Groups (continued)

### Great Decisions

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

**September 19, 2 PM**

#### The Two Koreas

The Korean Peninsula is facing a defining era. Attempts by South Korean President Moon Jae-in and former U.S. President Donald Trump to repair the rift between North and South lost any momentum as Pyongyang continued to test long-range missiles for its nuclear weapons program. As the rift between the U.S. and China grows further, South Korea may end up in the middle of the two superpowers.

Connie will lead the discussion.

**October 17, 2 PM**

#### The World Health Organization's Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrust the World Health Organization (WHO) into the limelight, for better and for worse. While some of the Trump administration's criticism of the organization was unfair, the response to the early stages of the pandemic left many experts wanting more from the WHO. What is the WHO's role in responding to international pandemics? What can be done to improve the WHO's response to future global health crises?

Margaret will lead the discussion.

### Nonfiction Book Group

**September 13, 7 PM**

Meet via Zoom unless otherwise notified.

During our first meeting of the year, we share reviews of nonfiction we found interesting, satisfying or important during the summer, and suggest books to be put on the list for the coming year.

We then do a ranked preference vote for books to discuss, and we gather again for the first book on November 8. Please join us!

Contact the chair to be included on the distribution list.

### Movie Meetup Group

The group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1 PM.

Those on the distribution list will be notified in advance whether we will meet in person or online.

Please email the chair to be included on the distribution list.

**Next dates: September 28  
October 26**



**Branch Program Schedule, 2021-2022**

<b>September 11</b>	10 AM	Annual Open House
<b>October 19</b>	7 PM	Fighting Climate Change in Fairfax County



Schedule is subject to change; future newsletters will include updates.

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**Vienna Area Branch Leaders, 2021-2022**

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**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.