

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.

Welcome to our new members! Rachel, Melanie, Judy, and Kris joined our branch in September. We look forward to getting to know you. Also, welcome back to Danny, Julia, and Laura, who are rejoining our branch after a brief hiatus. We are so glad you all are part of AAUW and the Vienna Area Branch.

We aren't quite back to pre-pandemic operations yet. Our next three meetings are planned to be in person but our watchword continues to be "safety." That means following public health guidelines and the rules of the venues where we meet. Masks and social distancing, even if not required, are encouraged. Please remember we are not only protecting ourselves but also our fellow members.

Looking to the future, your board is discussing our branch finances, both expenses and income. In recent years our budget has not accurately reflected expenses. We have tapped our cash reserves—which we are fortunate to have—and sometimes members have used personal funds to cover a branch expense. I'm grateful for the generosity of these members, but I feel strongly that the branch needs to pay its own way. We are also discussing if there are activities we would like to do if we had more funds.

On the income side, a recent survey shows our branch dues (\$10/year) are the lowest in AAUW-VA's Northern District. That alone does not warrant raising them, but it does indicate that if we need to increase revenue, a dues increase would not be out of line. We also have a cash reserve that is larger than is necessary for prudent operations. A crucial question is, what the best balance is between spending down some of the reserve and gradually raising dues?

I'd be glad to hear your input on this discussion.

As always, keep safe, keep healthy, and please keep in touch.

Upcoming Branch Programs

Mobile Professionals: A Career in Architecture

Tuesday, November 16, 2021
Patrick Henry Library, Vienna**
6:30 PM, Doors open
7 PM, Program begins

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

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



Carey Sienicki

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

**Please note: Masks are required inside all Fairfax County facilities. Because the library now limits attendance to 30 at meetings, please [contact us](#) beforehand if you plan to attend. Write the word "Program" in the Subject line.

**You're
Invited**

Reacquaint! Restore! Renew!

Annual AAUW Vienna Area Branch Luncheon
Saturday, December 4, 2021, Noon
Ristorante Bonaroti
428 Maple Aveunue E., Vienna

Inviting all Vienna Area Branch members! Get together with your branch friends for socializing and dining as we restart our annual December luncheon that will be held at Ristorante Bonaroti in its private dining room.

We will start with time to socialize, when you can order drinks, and then will join one another at tables for the meal. A group of AAUW members and friends will offer an interlude of enjoyable musical

entertainment this year.

The meal includes a salad, choice of six entrées, dessert, and soft drinks, coffee and tea. Wine and mixed drinks are extra. Vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free dishes are available also. The total cost is \$36, which covers the meal, tip, and taxes.

Get Out The Vote

Denise Murden, AAUW-VA Co-VP for Public Policy, thanked volunteers from 18 branches who sent out 1,500 cards in the postcard-writing campaign for “Reclaim Our Vote.”

AAUW-VA also supported the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) on National Voter Registration Day, September 28. Sixty-one volunteers in 21 different libraries in Fairfax County conversed with voters and collected voter registration forms; handed out bilingual flyers, *Facts for Voters*; and issued *What’s on the Ballot?*, a handout prepared by the LWVFA.



First-time registrant was helped at the Patrick Henry Library on Sept. 28, 2021. (Photo by Mary.)

Legislative Priorities

AAUW-VA is an official co-sponsor of the LWVFA Candidate Forums for the upcoming election season. [This link](#) takes you to the Virginia House of Delegates Candidates Forums page. Registrants submitted questions for the delegates on Paid Sick Days/Paid Family and Medical Leave, the Gender Pay Gap, and sexual harassment in the workplace. Susan Burk, AAUW-VA Co-VP for Public Policy, has scheduled

meetings with Virginia Senators to discuss paid sick days and paid family and medical leave.

AAUW-VA joined other state-wide organizations in signing a letter to the entire Virginia federal delegation to urge them to support the [Build Back Better](#) plan. The proposal would create 359,577 new jobs, raise wages for people who work in the care sectors, and generate additional income for Virginia families.

CEDAW

LWVFA reached out to AAUW-VA to support a resolution for the Fairfax Board of Supervisors to endorse the UN's Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women ([CEDAW](#)). Members

are participating in a group to draft a Fairfax resolution and also are working on a similar initiative for Alexandria.

AAUW-VA Lobby Day in Richmond



January 18, 2022 Evening reception for women legislators

January 19, 2022 AAUW of Virginia Lobby Day

Look for more information closer to these dates.

Branch Announcements

September Open House

WELCOME
new members
.....

On Saturday, Sept. 11, our branch held a highly enjoyable and successful Open House at Patrick Henry Library.

We welcomed four new members and look forward to getting to know each of them in the year ahead. Three former members recently rejoined as well.

New Members:

Kristin	Judy
Rachel	Melenie

Thanks to Laurie's personal invitations to local elected officials, we were happy that several attended the Open House: the Mayor of Vienna, Linda J. Colbert; Vienna Town Council member Chuck Anderson; and Hunter Mill District School Board representative Melanie K. Meren.

Our thanks go out to everyone who contributed to the Open House. You pitched in and made all the difference!



Linda with members.



Aimee with Chuck .



Laurie with Melanie

Photos above by Margaret.

Artemis House Donation Collection

Do good by helping women threatened by domestic violence

This year, we will collect donations for the residents of Artemis House at our November 16 program. In considering all we are thankful for in the month of Thanksgiving, please contribute store gift cards and standard-size personal care items to give to the women and children 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 violence and human trafficking. Artemis House residents generally arrive at the facility with little but the clothes they are wearing. Often, cards for grocery and drug stores are most useful because of the many types of items they can be used for. Donations are tax-deductible.

Bring your donations to the November 16 branch program at Patrick Henry Library.

Branch Announcements

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion News

Here are two opportunities to explore the topic of DEI.



1. On January 22, 2022, AAUW-VA will host a webinar from 10 AM to 11 AM for members around the state. The topic will be Creating Inclusive Spaces, and the discussion will feature three panelists. Look for more details in the next issue of our newsletter.
2. The [DEI page](#) of AAUW-VA's website includes recently posted content about critical race theory. Cyndi Shanahan, AAUW-VA Chair for DEI, worked diligently to ensure that these materials are accurate and non-political. This subject has been much in the news both locally and nationally. The resources on this website will help us understand the issue.

Great Decisions Topics for 2022

The Great Decisions group will start new sessions in January. This series, sponsored by the [Foreign Policy Association](#), empowers participants to discuss global issues shaping U.S. foreign policy and the world. The briefing book provides historical background, current U.S. policy and alternative policy options, informative maps, and more for each topic.

The topics featured in the 2022 briefing book are the following:

Changing Demographics	Quad Alliance
Outer Space	Drug Policy in Latin America
Climate Change	Industrial Policy
Russia and the U.S.	Biden's Agenda
Myanmar and ASEAN	

We meet monthly on the third Sunday at 2 PM from January - May and September - November. Currently we meet via Zoom. Continuing members of the group will have an opportunity to order the briefing books in November.

Please let me know if you have not been in the group before but would like to join for the year beginning in January. All are welcome!



Volunteers are Important

“Would you help?”

“Sorry, I'm too busy.”

“One time! Help just one time.”

“Sure!”



What? Help with the room setup for one branch program.

Who? You and one other person you ask to join you or who volunteers.

Where? Typically the Patrick Henry Library.

When? November 16, 6 PM.

February, March, April dates to be determined.

Why? Because the Program Co-VPs have already worked hard in advance to plan and organize the program and now could use your help.

But what specifically would I do? Arrive early to open the room; place a table near the entrance for our membership materials; set up chairs for the audience and at least one table in front, depending on the speaker's needs.

How will I know the speaker's needs? Aimee or Connie will coordinate with you beforehand and will be there early as well.

Is that it? Also help Connie or Aimee set up anything the speaker needs. If you have experience using the branch projector for speaker-centered programs – or a willingness to learn how – that would be a bonus. It is not required.

What about when the program ends? Other members who attend the program usually help clear the room at the end, returning chairs and tables to their proper places. That would not be your responsibility.

Vienna Branch Members Honored

Three members of our branch were among those recognized at the annual Mayor's Volunteer Recognition Reception on September 21, 2021. The event celebrated honorees from 2020 as well as 2021 and was held on the Vienna Town Green.

Receiving awards for their contributions to the Liberty Amendments Month Committee were the following branch members:

- Aimee
- Melanie
- Kristin

Congratulations!



Interest Groups



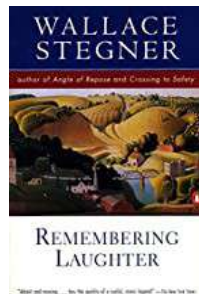
Groups planning to meet in person may need to change to Zoom.
Watch for an email closer to the meeting time to confirm the plans.
If you are new to a group, contact the chair to receive email notices.

Morning Literature

At this time, we plan to meet in person, but if conditions change, we'll be back on Zoom. We gather at 9:30 for socializing, then begin the book discussion at 10 AM.

November 16, 9:30 AM

Gail will lead the discussion on *Foreign Affairs*, by Alison Lurie.



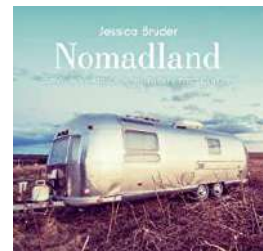
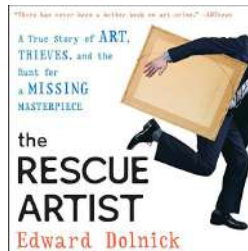
December 14, 9:30 AM

Susan will lead the discussion on *Remembering Laughter*, by Wallace Stegner.

Brown Bag Books

November 17, 1 PM (Note date)

The Rescue Artist by Edward Dolnick.
The world of art theft is portrayed by this account of the theft and recovery of Edward Munch's iconic painting "The Scream."



December 29, 1 PM

Nomadland by Jessica Bruder.
The phenomenon of older Americans who adopted transient lifestyles traveling around the United States in search of seasonal work.

Interest Groups (continued)

Great Decisions

November 21, 2 PM

The End of Globalization?

When the United States entered the 2020 election season, the merits and drawbacks of globalization were debated by the presidential candidates. With the passing of the Brexit vote and Donald Trump's America First doctrine, protectionist policies have become more prevalent, challenging globalization. What is globalization and how will it be affected by protectionist trade policies? How will the United States and the world be affected by such policies? Is globalization really at an end, or in need of a refresh?

Mary 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 before the meeting.

Reminder: No meeting in December

Look elsewhere in this newsletter for information about the 2022 topics.

New members are welcome to join any meeting. Contact the chair for more information.

Nonfiction Book Group

November 8, 7 PM

We will discuss *Tin Can Crucible* by Christopher Davenport. His recounting of his experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in the 1990s in Papua, New Guinea, includes reference to the lives of subsistence farmers there, as well as his exposure to the modern-day practice of sorcery and its violence.

Next date: January 10, 2022

Title will be confirmed at November's meeting.

Movie Meetup Group

The group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Those on the distribution list will be notified in advance whether we will meet in person at Cinema Arts or online via Zoom at 1 PM.

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

**Next dates: November 23
December 28**



Branch Program Schedule, 2021-2022

September 11	10 AM	Annual Open House
October 19	7 PM	Fighting Climate Change in Fairfax County
November 16	7 PM	Mobile Professionals: A Career in Architecture
December 4	Noon	Annual Vienna Area Branch Luncheon



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



Vienna Area Branch Leaders, 2021-2022

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.