

**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.*

We are poised to make some changes at our branch. First up: in-person meetings! With our fingers crossed, we are planning our March and April programs to be held at the Patrick Henry Library. I am looking forward to seeing everyone!

Another important change: Our nominating committee is now at work to compile a slate of candidates for next year's board. We will be electing a President, Secretary, and VP for Programs. Please consider taking on one of these roles, or an appointed position on the board. We need your talents and perspective! Contact me if you are interested.

One change has already happened: This year instead of selecting individual members as AAUW Funds Named Honorees, the board unanimously decided to honor "Our Resilient Members." Your flexibility, creativity, and support brought our branch through the challenges of the past year. It is a recognition well deserved!

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

## Upcoming Branch Events

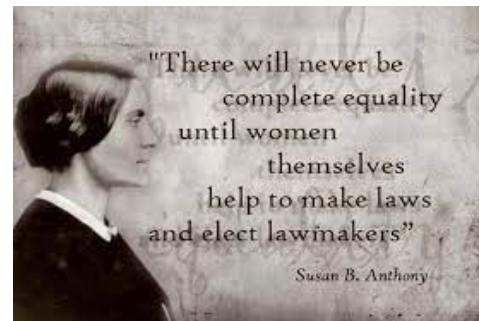
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Suffragist Florence Jaffray "Daisy"  
Harriman (1870-1967)

### ***Failure is Impossible:*** **A Readers' Theater** **Production**

Saturday, March 19, 2022  
Patrick Henry Library, Vienna  
10 AM Doors Open  
10:30 AM Program Begins



In recognition of Women's History Month, Vienna AAUW is proud to present *Failure is Impossible*, by Rosemary H. Knowler and directed by Kristin.

This readers' theater production dramatizes the struggle for women's suffrage using the words of historical figures who played roles in that struggle. Those figures include Abigail Adams, Elizabeth Cady

Stanton, Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, and Lucy Stone.

Branch members participating are Kristin as the narrator and Laurie, Nadine, and Julia as readers, each portraying several different people in the suffrage movement.

This program is co-sponsored by Patrick Henry Library.

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### **Promoting International Religious Freedom**

Saturday, April 23, 2022  
Patrick Henry Library, Vienna  
3 PM doors open  
3:30 PM program starts

Ambassador Cynthia Akeutteh recently retired from an illustrious career with the State Department, primarily in Africa.

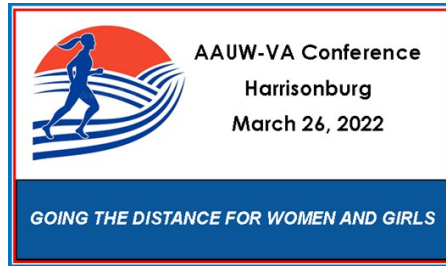
She has returned to work on the issue of international religious freedom. She will explain how the State



*Amb. Cynthia Akeutteh*

Department promotes religious tolerance and freedom around the world.

Please join us to discuss this very topical issue. The program is co-sponsored by the Patrick Henry Library.



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2022 AAUW OF VIRGINIA STATE CONFERENCE  
WHICH WILL BE CONVENED IN TWO PARTS.**

**Part 1** will be held on **Saturday, March 26, 2022, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, as an **in-person event** at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center on the James Madison University campus in Harrisonburg. You will hear from and be able to question informed and inspiring speakers on AAUW mission-related topics that support the theme of *Going the Distance for Women and Girls*. The conclusion of the program will provide an opportunity for the four state districts to convene and elect representatives to the State Board for 2022-2024.

Details regarding speakers and hotel registration for Friday night may be found in the *2022 Conference Brochure*.

**Part 2** of the conference, the **AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting**, will be held **virtually via Zoom on Saturday, April 30** – the starting time TBD.

**Part 1** The AAUW-VA State Board is pleased to announce that because operating budget costs were lower between March 2020 and now, due to the pandemic, we are returning some of the unspent funds to members in the form of a **lower conference registration fee, which includes morning beverages and lunch. The registration deadline is March 11.**

AAUW of Virginia Members	\$25.00 until March 4 (\$30 March 5 -11)
Students	\$30.00*
Other Non-AAUW of Virginia Attendees	\$35.00

\*Branches may consider sponsoring the attendance of students from college/university partners they interface with.

***REGISTER ONLINE [HERE](#) FOR PART I***

**For those who want to register using “snail mail,”  
please use the form following the Harrisonburg tourism information in the 2022 Conference Brochure.**

## Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion: Creating Inclusive Spaces

An atmosphere in which branch members feel valued and respected is a key component of having an inclusive branch.



This topic was discussed by three distinguished panelists at the AAUW-VA online seminar on January 22, 2022: **Somya Dwivedi-Burks**, **Krysta Jones**, and **Jonathon Zur**. All three are based in Virginia, and Krysta is a member of the Arlington Branch.

They offered practical suggestions on ways to make members feel respected and valued. To create an inclusive space requires both an action plan and an

intentional, sustained practice. In particular, members must be open to receiving feedback and know when to speak up and when to listen.

We must work to ensure DE&I is embedded in our branch culture. We all have bias, but we must be willing to call ourselves out. Being able to get out of our comfort zones and to identify specific actions and behaviors may lead to membership retention.

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## Public Policy Matters

AAUW strongly supports an excellent public education for all children and opposes the use of publicly funded vouchers or publicly funded private schools for a few. Without well-funded public schools, Virginia will never close the education achievement gap.

Since Lobby Corps is not meeting in person, lobbying by members continues in emails, letters, and phone calls to Virginia lawmakers to oppose legislation that would divert public funds to private schools and home schooling.

AAUW is committed to open and fair elections that are broadly accessible to all voters; to nonpartisan voter education efforts that promote equitable political participation and representation in appointed and elected offices; and to expanding voting rights.

Members are urged to contact their Congressional lawmakers to support the Freedom to Vote Act and the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R.4). The latter has passed in House of Representatives but not in the Senate.

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## AAUW Dues Increase

For fiscal year 2023, which begins July 1, 2022, the AAUW national dues will be \$67, of which \$64 will be tax-deductible. Our branch dues will not change from the current \$10 annual rate.

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## Liberty Amendments Month Returns: June 19 – July 19, 2022

The Town of Vienna is planning now for this year's **Liberty Amendments Month** celebration.

Our participation last year was rewarding for the members involved and for the branch's profile in the community. We need someone to serve as our representative on the 2022 LAM planning committee. If you are interested, contact [Laurie](#) or [Aimee](#) for information.



*Photo from a 2021 Liberty Amendments Month event.*

## Interest Groups

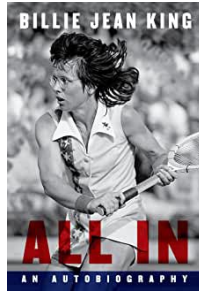
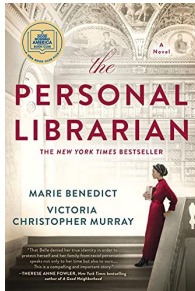


Groups planning to meet in person may need to change to Zoom.  
Watch for an email closer to the meeting time to confirm the plans.  
If you are new to a group, email the chair to receive email notices.

### Brown Bag Books

March 30, 1 PM

*The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict.  
The little-known story of Belle da Costa Greene, J. P. Morgan's personal librarian who became one of the most powerful women in New York despite the dangerous secret she kept.



April 27, 1 PM

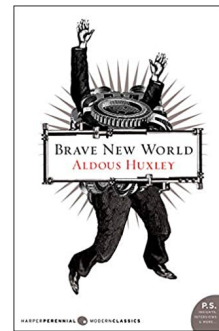
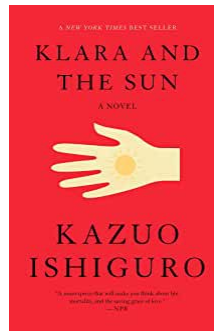
*All In: An Autobiography* by Billie Jean King.  
A vivid and detailed account of her rise to sporting greatness and her struggles to attain equal treatment for women in a shockingly discriminatory sport.

### Morning Literature

March 15, 9:30 AM

Kathy will lead the discussion on *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro

Please let Candace know if you plan to attend.



April 19, 9:30 AM

Laurie will lead the discussion on *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley.

Please let Susan know if you plan to attend.

## Interest Groups (continued)

### Great Decisions

March 20, 2 PM via Zoom

#### Outer Space

The launch of Sputnik 1 in October 1957 marked the beginning of the space era and of the space race between the United States and the Soviet Union. In the 21st century, there are many more participants in space, including countries such as India and China, and commercial companies such as SpaceX. How will the United States fare in a crowded outer space?



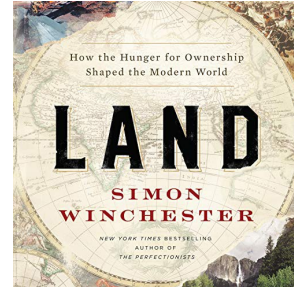
April 10, 2 PM via Zoom

#### Climate Change

The ideological divide in the United States on the subject of climate change has impeded progress in curbing greenhouse emissions. But extreme weather events at both ends of the thermometer have focused attention on the consequences of inaction. What role will the United States play in future negotiations on climate?

### Nonfiction Book Group

March 14, 7 PM via Zoom



We will discuss *Land: How the Hunger for Ownership Shaped the Modern World* by Simon Winchester.

**Next date: May 16**

*The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race* by Walter Isaacson

### Movie Meetup Group

We will meet at Cinema Arts for an early show. Those who can stay afterwards have lunch together at First Watch.

**Next dates: March 22  
April 26**

The group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month.

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



## 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 Branch Luncheon (Canceled)
January 3	7:30 PM	Preview of 2022 Virginia Legislative Session
February 12	2 PM	The Art of Travel
March 19	10 AM	<i>Failure is Impossible</i> : a Readers' Theater Production
April 23	3 PM	Promoting International Religious Freedom



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.