

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

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From the President

Dear Vienna AAUW Friends,

To paraphrase Doctor Who, time is a wibbly-wobbly thing. That may explain how the past two years of pandemic living seem like the longest two years of my life, while the same two years as branch president have passed in a flash. Time is strange.

Another time twist is that I'm writing this well in advance of our annual meeting and election of officers on April 23, while you are reading it after the event. I'm confident that the slate of candidates proposed by the nominating committee received resounding approval, and we now have Co-Presidents Elect Candace and Susan; Co-VPs for Programs Elect Julia and



President Laurie

Cornelia ; and Secretary Carol returning for a second term. Thank you all for agreeing to serve our branch. You have my full support and I hope the support of every member.

For the past two years I've been the lucky beneficiary of the work of a terrific, creative, and hard-working branch board. I thank them all! A few need special mention as they step away from their current roles.

Aimee and Connie brought us an "all killer, no filler" line-up of programs for two years (or four, in Aimee's case) as Co-VPs for Programs. They also handled the publicity duties for the events they planned, so they truly did it all. Thank you, Aimee and Connie.

Public Policy Chair Mary navigated the upheavals of the last few years with aplomb. In-person lobby days became Zoom briefings; political pendulums swung wildly back and forth. She stayed on top of it all and kept us informed on this key part of our AAUW mission. Our voter engagement maven, Kristin, is also handing in her clipboard after leading us through several voter registration drives and get-out-the-vote projects. Thank you, Mary and Kristin.

Other board members have agreed to continue serving, but that doesn't mean there is no room for you to join. There is so much our branch can do with each of us pitching in. Answer the call for volunteers, or bring your ideas to the new presidents, to help keep our branch vital—and fun, and engaging. The time you invest will be worth it!

Thank you all for a memorable and rewarding two years. I can't believe we made it to here! As always, keep safe, keep healthy, and please keep in touch.

Branch Announcements

May Branch Meeting: Bring Your Own Picnic

Glyndon Park Picnic Area

300 Glyndon Street NE, Vienna

Monday, May 16, 11:45 a.m.



Glyndon Park picnic area.

As we did last year, we will have our final meeting of the year and installation of officers at a picnic at the **Glyndon Park** picnic area on May 16. (Click link to see map of the location.) The area will be reserved for us until 2:00. Please plan on coming around 11:45 a.m.

And again we will do the “Music Man” Iowa picnic tradition: “You can have your fill of all the food you bring yourself.”

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.

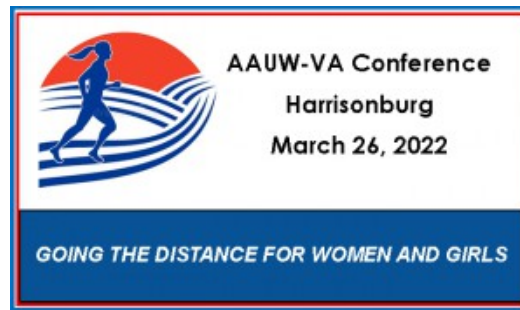
FY2022-2023 Dues Renewal Process

There are two big changes coming to the AAUW dues renewal process. Do not go to the AAUW website or reach for your checkbook yet.

1. There is a **delay in opening the dues renewal season** this year because AAUW is still making changes on its website and to its new membership database system, Community Hub. Branch finance officers have been told to delay communications with members on dues renewal until notified by AAUW staff. The transition is a major project for them, and they want to ensure all systems are fully tested before the renewal process begins.
2. **AAUW national dues will be \$67** for fiscal year 2022-2023. This reflects a \$5 increase. Neither branch nor state dues have increased. All but \$3 of the national dues is tax-deductible if you itemize deductions. Your exact dues amount will appear on your individual invoice based on your specific circumstances: lifetime membership, dual branch membership, etc.

You can expect an email from the Vienna Area Branch to announce when you can begin your dues renewal and how to proceed.

AAUW of Virginia State Conference Highlights



For the first time since 2019, AAUW members from Virginia were able to meet in person on March 25-26 to share branch experiences and learn more about issues of importance to women. The Harrisonburg Branch hosted the group of nearly 100 participants, and the warmth of their welcome made up for the cold winter weather.

Six members of our branch attended.

The Keynote Speaker was Kimberly Jenkins Robinson, JD, professor at both the University of Virginia School of Law and UVA's School of Leadership and Public Policy. Professor Robinson acknowledged both the historic strides already made, as well as the enduring inequities that persist in the state of women in higher education. She emphasized the need for new movements and law and policy reforms to tackle those inequities.

The pre-lunch session focused on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) with Carla Kimbrough, DEI Officer, Virginia Community College System, and Dr. Brent Lewis, Associate Vice President for DEI at James Madison University. Ms. Kimbrough also encouraged parents in the audience to use the resources of the community colleges around the state to lower the

costs of student debt.

For branches looking to attract younger AAUW members, Dr. Rosemary Green, Shenandoah University and Winchester Branch Member; Dr. Sally Sledge, Associate Professor of Management, Norfolk State University and Norfolk branch member; and Raven Knight, NCCWSL Student Participant, gave practical advice to navigate the college administrative process and appeal to the student population in order to increase the knowledge on campus of AAUW.

Dale E. MacAllister, local historian and author, gave examples of post-Civil War education for newly freed enslaved persons in the Shenandoah Valley.

The Changing Nature of Virginia Politics was a lively and knowledgeable session by Dr. Stephen J. Farnsworth, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, and Director, Center for Leadership and Media Studies, University of Mary Washington. He ended the conference with discussion of his concept that "the partisan tides come in and go out in Virginia politics, a place where there are no permanent majorities and no permanent minorities."

Speaker slides are posted on the [AAUW-VA website](#) and videos of sessions will be available soon.

AAUW's Legislation Priorities Call on Members to Act

AAUW of Virginia Co-VPs for Public Policy, Denise Murden and Susan Burk, reviewed the outcomes of the 2022 Virginia General Assembly session to 34 members on a Zoom meeting March 30.

Guest speaker Kim Bobo, from the Virginia Interfaith Center, which leads the Virginians for Paid Sick Leave coalition, said the introduced bill (SB352) for essential grocery store workers and health care providers passed the Virginia Senate and was left in House Commerce and Energy Committee. AAUW members should reach out to the delegates in their districts to keep the focus on AAUW's legislation priority for paid sick days.



Virginia General Assembly, Richmond.

The Paid Family Leave bill (SB 1330) has also been tabled in Commerce and Labor for next session. Senator Barbara Favola's sponsorship of Private Family Leave Insurance (SB 15) was signed into law by Governor Youngkin on April 7, 2022.

The General Assembly is meeting for a special session

to address the budget stalemate. To ensure the budget's surplus goes to education funding, AAUW recommends keeping full funding for at-risk, high poverty K-12 schools; maintaining teacher and staff with a 5% salary increase; and that the House and Senate support VA SB 490. (See <https://www.fundourschoolsva.org/> for more details.)

AAUW Celebrates a Historic Milestone: Ketanji Brown Jackson Confirmed

AAUW Chief Executive Officer Gloria L. Blackwell issued this statement on confirmation by the U.S. Senate of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court.



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson.

"We witnessed a historic and momentous occasion today when, in a bipartisan vote, the U.S. Senate confirmed Ketanji Brown Jackson as associate justice to the Supreme Court of the United States. As the first Black woman in this esteemed role, she will add to the breadth of insights, perspectives and life experiences on the bench—and our nation and our system of justice will be better for it. Congratulations to the soon-to-be Justice Jackson, and thank you to all the U.S. Senators who voted to confirm her.

"This moment marks another major step forward for women, and the American Association of University Women is proud to have been part of that progress. Over the course of our 140-year history, our activism and advocacy have contributed to the achievement of many firsts." [Read more.](#)

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.

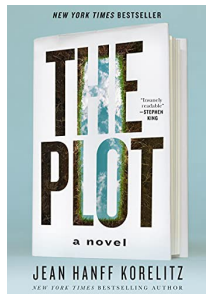
If you are new to a group, email the chair to receive email notices.

Brown Bag Books

May 25, 1 PM

Location at member's home to be announced.

That Churchill Woman by Stephanie Barron.
The life and loves of fierce New Yorker and mother of Winston Churchill, Jennie Jerome, aka Lady Randolph Churchill.



June 29, 1 PM

Location at member's home to be announced.

The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz.
A failed writer steals a plot to a novel that brings him fame, fortune, and success, but someone knows his secret and threatens exposure.

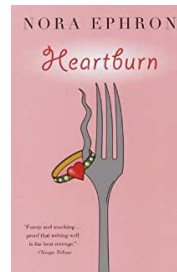
Next meeting: September 28

Group meets last Wednesday of month.

Morning Literature

May 17, 9:30 AM

Sandra will lead the discussion on *Heartburn*, by Nora Ephron. Please let Kristin know if you plan to attend.



June 21, 9:30 AM

Kate will lead the discussion on *The Four Winds*, by Kristin Hannah. Please let Adrienne know if you plan to attend.

July 19, 10 AM

Annual book selection and pot luck lunch

Interest Groups (continued)

Great Decisions

May 15, 2 PM

Russia and the US

Russia and the United States have many areas of conflict and some possible areas of mutual interest. Arms control, Russian interference in U.S. elections and support of cyberattacks, the status of Ukraine, the fate of opposition politicians in Russia, all continue to be concerning. How will the Biden administration in Washington approach these issues? [Note: these materials were written before Russia's invasion of Ukraine.]



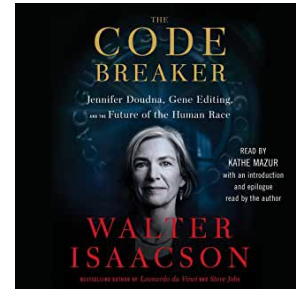
June 19, 2 PM

Myanmar and ASEAN

The situation in Myanmar, including the coup by the military in February, 2021, and the ongoing human rights crises, coupled with civil resistance by those opposed to the regime, has led to the chaos in the Southeast Asian country. How are neighboring countries reacting, and what role will ASEAN play?

Nonfiction Book Group

May 9, 7 PM



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

All are welcome. Please contact the chair for Zoom link or meeting location if you are new to the group.

Movie Meetup Group

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

**Next dates: May 24
June 28
Sept. 27**

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 VA 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
May 16	11:45 AM	Branch Picnic



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.