

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

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Candace and Susan

### From the Co-Presidents

**Candace:** Brrrr! Here we are in coat and mitten season and...wait a minute. What happened to the September shopping spree we were going to take to buy tiaras for members of our branch?

**Susan:** I meant to, but life got busy and suddenly it was the season for different headgear – stocking caps! But then hats aren't the only way to keep warm in winter. There are other sources of warmth, too.

**Candace:** Hmm. Are you thinking of something we've talked about before? I'm referring here to a delightful aspect of branch membership: the feeling of belonging and friendship that comes from connecting with each other.

**Susan:** Candace, your intuition is spot on! Feelings are exactly what I was thinking of. In a survey that asked women why they join organizations, the #1 response was "friendship." That strikes me as very true!. AAUW exists to improve the lives of girls and women but in doing so it also nurtures personal friendships.

**Candace:** Yes. Our branch works hard to support AAUW's goals, but many of our activities – book clubs, movie meetups, and beyond – help us stay personally connected. And winter may be the season when we need that most.

**Susan:** True. During these months of little sunlight and lots of cold, I appreciate how our branch's daytime events get me out of the house and into spaces where I'm chatting with friends face-to-face. It always lifts my spirits.

**Candace:** Not to mention the convenience of Zoom on a winter's night. I get to see my AAUW friends and attend an event wearing my bunny slippers at home. Ahhhh.

**Susan:** Yes, we're all about safety and comfort at nighttime!

**Candace:** So we agree that we love how AAUW nurtures friends, good conversation, and human connection while working to improve the lives of women. And now, Susan, let's get back to our original topic.

**Susan:** Tiaras? I admit I don't have plans to shop right now. But there's a better source of shine than the cold glitter of a tiara.

**Candace:** Aha! You're thinking again of emotions.

**Susan:** As usual, Candace, we're on the same page. The glow we feel when we know we're not alone and are in touch with others is what truly lights us up.

**Candace and Susan:** *And so, from both of us to all of you: May you stay connected to friends and family during this chilly season. Stay warm and don't forget the hot cocoa. May the new year bring us all peace and joy!*

## Upcoming Branch Programs

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Va. Senator Jennifer B. Boysko,  
Democrat, District 33

### Preview of 2023 Virginia Legislative Session

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

7 :00 PM – 8:30 PM via Zoom

**Pre-registration required**



Va. Senator J. Chapman Petersen  
Democrat, District 34

Before Virginia’s 2023 legislative session convenes on January 11, get a preview on January 4 from area State Senators Chap Petersen (Dist. 34) and Jennifer Boysko (Dist. 33). The program will be held via Zoom and hosted by the Patrick Henry Library and the Vienna Area and Reston-Herndon Area AAUW Branches. Pre-registration for the Zoom meeting is required.

Senator Petersen represents the City of Fairfax and part of Fairfax County, including the Town of Vienna,

and Senator Boysko represents Reston and the Town of Herndon. They will discuss legislation and issues they anticipate arising in the upcoming session, especially those relating to AAUW’s legislative interests: gender equity for women and girls in education, employment, and opportunity. There will be time for questions.

Registration opens December 7, 2022. To register, please click [here](#).

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### Wine, Women, and Word

An evening in February during which we will hear from our poets, storytellers, and singers while we enjoy wine tasting and non-alcoholic options.

This will be our once-a-year fundraiser in 2023 for AAUW Funds. Look for details to follow.

## AAUW of Virginia Public Policy News

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### Lobby Day in Richmond: January 19, 2023

Do you want to connect with our state lawmakers? After a hiatus of two years due to Covid, AAUW-VA members from around the state will gather in Richmond on January 19 to lobby Virginia's 2023 legislators for our priorities.

Participants receive relevant information and training beforehand from Janine Green and Denise Murden, the state co-vice presidents for public policy. In the past, the governor has often met with our members for a short talk and group photo.

In addition to lobbying on January 19, members who can arrive the day before can attend a gathering the

evening of January 18. Branch members [deleted] plan to attend, driving to Richmond on the 18th. Email [deleted] if you would like more information about the events.

Hotel rooms at a group rate will be available for January 18 at a Hampton Inn in downtown Richmond. See details [here](#).

A limited number of rooms may be available through members of the Richmond branch as well. For more information, contact [denise.m.murden@gmail.com](mailto:denise.m.murden@gmail.com).

Make our voices heard in Richmond!



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### Priorities for Virginia's 2023 Legislative Session

- Protect access to abortion and women's right to make personal reproductive decisions with their medical care providers
- Eliminate systemic racism and sexism through changes to Virginia law and regulations
- Make childcare affordable and readily available for all families
- Protect full access to voting
- Ensure full public school funding and protect teachers from harassment and liability claims.

A complete list of AAUW-VA public policy priorities is available on the state website [here](#).

## Notes from November Branch Program: Let's Move Forward!



*Krysta Jones*



*Meg Tuccillo*

Many thanks to Krysta Jones and Meg Tuccillo, the AAUW of Virginia Co-VPs for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), for their in-depth presentation at the November 5 branch program held at the Vienna Community Center. [deleted] Vienna Branch DEI Chair, opened the program by introducing our speakers.

Meg and Krysta reviewed the definitions of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging and then strategized on ways the branch could integrate DEIB in its work. Next, attendees broke into groups to discuss how to attract more diversity in our membership.

The presentation concluded when Meg and Krysta listed some of these ideas. They included the following actions that branch members could take:

- Learn about the Fairfax County “**One Fairfax**” policy, adopted in 2017, which requires that the Board of Supervisors and School Board consider equity in the development of future policies, programs, and services.

- Review DEI resources listed at <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/diversity-inclusion-equity/>.
- Enter into collaborations with more diverse organizations to hold joint programs.
- Arrange and promote programs that will attract diverse members of the community.
- Seek to address the general difficulty of attracting younger people to attend our events and to become members given the dynamics of their work and family responsibilities.
- Continue to hold some programs via Zoom to increase the reach of and attendance at branch programs. In connection with this, assist members who find the Zoom technology daunting.

[deleted] Vienna Branch Program VP, extended the appreciation of the branch to Meg and Krysta for their informative and thoughtful presentation on the important priority of advancing DEI and belonging.

## Highlights of December Events

[Ed. note: [deleted] provided the summary information below, and [deleted] provided the photos from the lunch. Thank you both!]

**Donations to Artemis House:** Many thanks to our branch members who generously donated personal care items and \$1515 in store gift cards. Nurjan Ahmedova, Director of Development for Shelter House, stated, “We at Shelter House are truly grateful for your generosity! Gift cards are much needed to help pay for necessities. There are often needs that clients have that are not covered by any of our funding sources.”

**A Lively Time at December Lunch:** This year’s lunch was enjoyed by twenty-five branch members and one guest at Pazzo Pomodoro on December 3. There was much talk and laughter that reflected our pleasure at being together. We were particularly glad that several new members attended.



## 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.

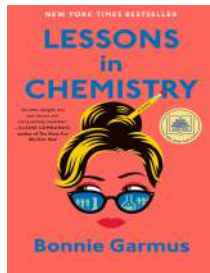
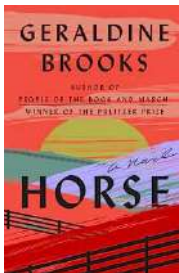
### Brown Bag Books

January 25, 1 PM

Host: [deleted]

*Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

The true story of a champion 19th-century racehorse that connects characters across time and place: Kentucky in 1850, New York City in 1954, and Washington, DC, in 2019.



February 22, 1 PM

Host: [deleted]

*Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

Set in 1960's California, a hilarious, idiosyncratic, and uplifting story of a female scientist whose career is constantly derailed by the idea that a woman's place is in the home.

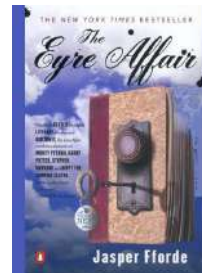
### Morning Literature

January 17, 9:30 AM

Host: [deleted]

[deleted] will lead the discussion on *The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde.

Please let [deleted] know if you plan to attend.



February 21, 9:30 AM

Host: [deleted]

[deleted] will lead the discussion on *Olga Dies Dreaming* by Xochitl Gonzalez.

Please let [deleted] know if you plan to attend.

## Interest Groups (continued)

### Great Decisions



Materials should be available on a pre-paid basis at [fpa.org](http://fpa.org) by January 6. Amazon should receive the Kindle version at the same time.

**January 15, 2 PM**

**Host:** [deleted]

### Energy Geopolitics

Access to oil and gas has long held an influence over the politics of individual nations and their relations with others. But as more countries move toward sustainable energy, and supply chain shortages affect the availability of oil and gas, how will this change the way in which the United States interacts with the outside world?

**February 19, 2 PM**

Meeting details will be sent beforehand.

### War Crimes

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has resulted in widespread charges of war crimes and calls for justice. But what exactly are war crimes? Opinions of what constitutes a war crime have evolved, as have ways to identify and punish the perpetrators. How will the war crimes committed in Ukraine be dealt with?

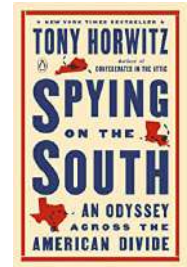
### Nonfiction Book Group

**January 11, 7 PM**

**Host:** [deleted]

*Spying on the South: An Odyssey Across the American Divide* by Tony Horwitz

Horwitz retraces reporting trips made by Frederick Law Olmstead through the pre-Civil War South and compares Olmsted's observations with Horwitz's modern experience of those regions.



### Movie Meetup Group

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

**Next dates: January 24  
February 28**

The group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month.

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



### Branch Program Schedule, 2022-2023

September 10	10 AM	Annual Open House
October 11	7 PM	In Our Own Voice, with NAMI Speakers
November 5	11 AM	Let's Move Forward
December 3	Noon	Annual December Lunch
January 4	7 PM	2023 Va. Legislative Preview
February TBA		



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

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### Vienna Area Branch Leaders, 2022-2023

[deleted]

**NOTE:** Each person's name is linked to her email address. Click the name to send an email.

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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.**