

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

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Candace and Susan

From the Co-Presidents

What a beautiful spring we've been having! It's the perfect time to extend thanks to those who have helped make this a great year for our branch:

- Special thanks go out to our exiting board members: **Gail** and **Jean** (Membership), **Kathy** (Finance), and **Sandra** (Newsletter). They have done wonderful work for our branch, and we deeply appreciate it.
- Our continuing board members also deserve thanks, including **Carol** (Secretary), **Nadine** (Fundraising; Diversity & Inclusion), **Julia Williams** (Programs), **Laurie** (Publicity), **Leslie** (Public Policy), and **Suzanne** (Bylaws). Their continuing contributions make our branch strong.
- Also, kudos to 2023's ad hoc Nominating Committee: **Jean**, **Kate**, and **Connie**. Thank you for finding two wonderful nominees (Sandra Wilson for Finance and Susan Alford for Membership) to fill the (upcoming) elected board vacancies.
- February's "Wine, Women, and Words" fundraiser was a great success thanks to the organizational acumen of **Nadine**. Thanks also to **Suzanne** for allowing us to use her lovely home, and to **Margaret** (who also takes photos for us) and **Kristin** for sharing wonderful words with all of us at the event.
- We continue to be grateful to our interest group chairs: **Connie** (Great Decisions), **Susan** (Movie Meetups), **Adrienne** (Morning literature), **Jean** (Nonfiction), and **Betty** and **Susan** (Brown Bag Books). Year after year our interest group chairs play a vital role in keeping our branch lively and stimulating.
- Two of our members also serve on the state board: You are amazing.
- Finally, an enormous thank you to the many **members of our branch** who provided unsung support this year. You brought refreshments, served on committees, hosted groups in your homes, set up and cleaned up after events, and shared ideas for speakers. Every year dozens of quiet "assists" help support the success of our branch, and this year was no exception. Thanks go out to all of you for your crucial contributions.

So let's celebrate on May 19 when we hope to see you at the **Brown Bag Picnic** at Glyndon Park. There will be socializing, munching, and a brief business meeting that will include the election of new officers. Here's hoping for great weather!

Susan, Co-President

Upcoming Branch Events

May Branch Meeting: Bring Your Own Picnic

Glyndon Park Picnic Area

300 Glyndon Street NE, Vienna

Friday, May 19, 11:30 a.m.



Glyndon Park picnic area.

As we did last year, we will have our final meeting of the year with the election and installation of officers at the **Glyndon Park Picnic area**. 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.

The area will be reserved for us until 2:00. Please plan to arrive around 11:30 A.M.

Please let Julia know of requests for assistance. In the event of rain, you will receive further instructions that morning.

Program VP

Join us July 13 When We Participate in Vienna's Liberty Amendments Month Celebration

Our branch will participate in the Town of Vienna's Liberty Amendments Month with a *Book Talk with Tweens and Teens: The Long Struggle for the 19th Amendment*.

We have been invited by staff at the Teen Center in Vienna to present the book talks to their summer campers on Thursday, July 13, at 3:00 pm. Approximately twenty-five to thirty campers are expected for the afternoon program. Books will be an assortment of fiction and nonfiction relevant to the topic and appropriate to the age group. Please contact for more information and to learn how you can support this special branch activity.

Check the Town of Vienna website for more information about **Liberty Amendments Month** and the activities planned for it, beginning June 17 and ending July 17.

Membership Committee



Among the books being considered are the four above and A Time of Courage

Renewing your AAUW Membership



How to Renew

Total Membership Dues

Total dues for regular members are \$97.

AAUW association dues are \$72. State dues are \$15 and branch dues are \$10. All but \$3 of the association dues are tax-deductible. No part of state or branch dues is tax-deductible.

A personalized, renewal reminder email will be sent by AAUW to you soon. Please do not renew until then.

Payment Methods

AAUW has stressed that online payment is the preferred method of payment. You will be able to pay your national, state, and branch dues as well as add a Fund donation. (Wouldn't it be nice to round up your regular membership amount to \$100? The renewal screens are set up for each of these functions.)

Renew Online

If you have logged onto the AAUW website within the last year, you have set up your personal account with your email as your user name and the password you selected. From the AAUW home page, take a shortcut and click on the Log In link above the red Donate button.

You now will be on the Welcome screen where you will enter your user name (your email) and password.* Click on the blue Log-In bar and advance to your Personal Snapshot page. Scroll to the bottom of that page and click on the blue Renew button. You are now

ready to begin the renewal process.

If you are technology-averse, you have the option of asking a Vienna Area Branch member who is computer-literate to help you renew online, or you may still submit a dues check.

Renewal checks

Your check will be accepted by the branch finance officer. Please make checks payable to AAUW Vienna Area Branch. If you wish to make a Fund donation, you may add that amount to your dues, and you can make note of it on your check. You also may write a separate check for the amount of the donation. Please refer to your directory for the mailing address of Kathy (branch finance officer), and pop the check(s) in the mail.

Thank you in advance for renewing before your expiration date, allowing us all to focus on the activities we have planned for FY24 in support of the AAUW mission.

* If you cannot remember your password, click on the Forgot Password link. The branch finance officer does not have access to the password you selected. PLEASE DO NOT CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT, which will only duplicate your record and throw off our branch membership numbers.

Finance Officer

Honoring Our Members

AAUW Funds Named Honorees

For each \$500 donated to AAUW Funds, branches may select an honoree to be recognized by AAUW of Virginia for service to the branch or community. Honorees may be individuals or groups and may be Vienna Branch or community members.

The Board of Directors voted to name the following 2023 honorees at its February 8 meeting:

- 1. Our Board of Directors – We honor the energy and commitment of our branch's Board of Directors, including all elected and

appointed positions, and thank them for their zeal and their ongoing dedication to our branch and to AAUW's mission.

- 2. Our Interest Group Chairs – We honor and thank our branch's interest group chairs who, thanks to their time and organizational skills, enrich our lives and make possible the diverse, ongoing activities of our branch.

AAUW of Virginia Named Honorees

Last fall, AAUW of Virginia solicited nominations of Virginia members to honor with this award. These are individuals whose actions have had a broad impact in furthering AAUW-VA's mission and priorities and who have provided exceptional service to Virginia. A committee reviewed the nominations. From those, they selected five honorees who were recognized at the 2023 AAUW-VA conference in March.



For over five decades, Kristin's commitment has led her to assume numerous roles at the branch, state, and national levels. Among these roles are the following: Branch President (three times!), President of AAUW-VA, and a member of the AAUW National Legacy Circle Team.

Throughout the years Kristin has modeled an unfailing determination to make a better world for girls and

women. To this day she continues to participate in diverse projects that touch lives and promote the goals of AAUW.

Here is Kristin's reaction to receiving the award: "I was truly surprised to receive this recognition from AAUW of Virginia at the recent state conference and felt very honored to be in the ranks of others thus recognized this year and in past years."

Co-President



Public Policy Matters: Primaries and Elections this Year

One of the most important things we can do to ensure the election of lawmakers who support AAUW's public policy agenda is to get out the vote. All Virginia delegates and senators are up for election in November so the stakes are high. Districts have been redrawn, so inform your friends and neighbors, as voters may be facing a ballot with candidates they know nothing about.

EARLY VOTING FOR THE JUNE PRIMARY ELECTION WILL BEGIN ON MAY 5 IN FAIRFAX COUNTY (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/early-voting>). AAUW OF VIRGINIA WILL PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION AS THE PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION APPROACH.

Go here to find your new Virginia House and Senate Districts:

<https://whosmy.viriniageneralassembly.gov/>

Step 1: Enter your address and click "Find Now"

Step 2: In the boxes for State Delegate and State Senator you will see the words "NEW IN" in red.

Step 3: Click the **NEW IN** to see your new district for each.

There is a wealth of information for the upcoming election including the candidates in party nomination contests. **Virginia Public Access Project** (VPAP) also offers a daily digest of news stories from all over the commonwealth.

Public Policy Chair

Wine, Women, and Words

Our Vienna Area Branch members really enjoyed the AAUW Funds fundraiser held in February. A wine-tasting event held at the home of Suzanne Rothwell was the perfect setting and opportunity for branch members to be reacquainted after Covid and simultaneously support our organization's mission.

The relaxed event was appropriately known as *Wine, Women, and Words*. Lisa Ames, manager and wine educator at The Wine Outlet in Vienna, introduced us to a variety of red and white wines. Each branch member also contributed goodies to a fabulous charcuterie that was enjoyed throughout the evening. It was a celebration of our history as an AAUW branch and as women living their passions in the workplace where equity and empowerment meet. We tasted it and we heard it!

The wine selections featured women winemakers from around the world. In addition, we learned about their personal journeys in the male-dominated wine industry. We tasted the wines of Ntsiki Biyela. She is

South Africa's first recognized female winemaker in that nation's 300-plus year history. Another featured winemaker was Judy Fowler. She is a native Virginian who earned a BS in marketing at Sweet Briar College and an MBA from UVA's Darden School of Business. After years of working in the corporate world, Judy decided to follow her dream by moving to New Zealand and becoming a winemaker. How full circle it was to have her son, Gray, pouring her wines for our tasting.

Branch members Kristin and Margaret offered their personal narratives and words of knowledge and inspiration. Kristin's recounting of our branch's participation in local and national events and Margaret's personal essays reminded us all that we are a creative community of women.

And now for the good news! The fundraiser raised over \$1,200! Members who were unable to attend sent generous donations and helped make this another success! Thank you, Vienna!

AAUW Funds Chair

Interest Groups



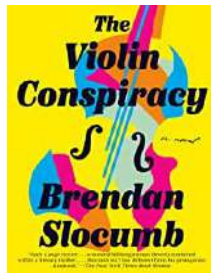
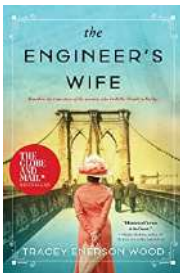
Groups planning to meet in person may need to change to Zoom.
Watch for an email closer to the meeting time to confirm the plans.
If you are new to a group, email the chair to receive email notices.

Brown Bag Books

May 31, 1 PM

The Engineer's Wife by Tracey Enerson Wood

Emily Roebling built a monument for all time. Then she was lost in its shadow. Discover the fascinating woman who helped design and construct the Brooklyn Bridge



June 28, 1 PM

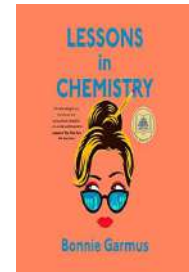
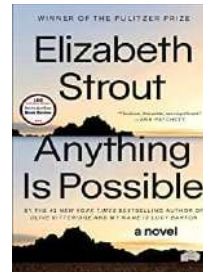
The Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocumb

A mystery about a Black classical musician whose family heirloom violin is stolen on the eve of the most prestigious classical music competition in the world.

Morning Literature

May 16, 9:30 AM

Danny Hall will lead the discussion on *Anything is Possible* by Elizabeth Strout.



June 20, 9:30 AM

Susan Williams will lead the discussion on *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

July 18, 9:30 AM

Book selection for next year and luncheon.

Interest Groups (continued)

Great Decisions

May 21, 2 PM

Politics in Latin America

Electoral results in Latin America over the past four years have led many observers of the regional/political scene to discern a left-wing surge in the hemisphere, reminiscent of the so-called “Pink Tide” that swept the area some 20 years ago. But how much do these politicians actually have in common? What implication does their ascendancy have for the region? By Jorge Castañeda

June 18, 2 PM

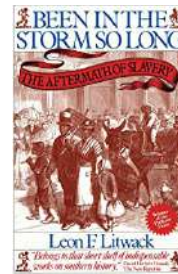
Global Famine

Fears of global food shortages have followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has disrupted grain shipments from the major grain producer. But what about countries and regions that were suffering before this impending shortage? How is famine defined, and how is it different from simple food shortages? What if any remedies are there? By Daniel Maxwell

Nonfiction Book Group

May 8, 7 PM

Pulitzer Prize-Winning, *Been in the Storm So Long: the Aftermath of Slavery* by Leon F Litwack



Movie Meetup Group

We meet at Cinema Arts for the early show to see the film announced in advance via email. All are welcome.

Those who can stay afterwards have lunch together at First Watch.

**Next dates: May 23
June 27
Sept. 26**

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	7:30 PM	2023 Va. Legislative Preview
February 25	4 PM	AAUW Fundraiser: Wine – Women - Word
March 7	6:30 PM	Viewing of <i>Iron Jawed Angels</i>
April 15	5:30 PM	Branch Potluck Dinner
May 19	11:30 AM	Bring Your Own Picnic; annual branch meeting

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



Vienna Area Branch Leaders, 2022-2023

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.