

# AAUW VIENNA CONNECTION

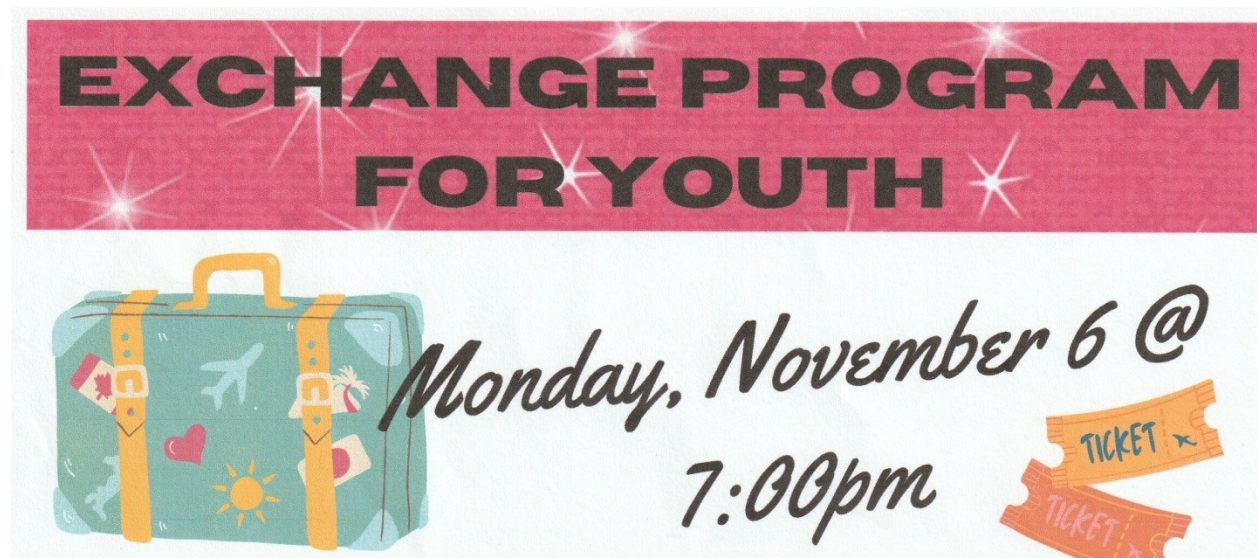
NOVEMBER 2023

[AAUW Vienna Area \(VA\) Branch](#)

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

For any questions, or for more information about anything in this newsletter, please contact [viennaauw@gmail.com](mailto:viennaauw@gmail.com)

November Program: Monday Nov 6.  
Patrick Henry Library



Our guest speaker will be U.S. Department of State Program officers from the Citizen Exchanges - Youth Programs Division of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. They will share pertinent information about programs such as the Youth Ambassadors Program, High School Study Abroad Scholarships, and more! In addition, we hope to hear from students who have participated in these programs. There will be time for the audience to ask questions.

## By-laws Report: Suzanne

National AAUW Bylaw Amendments: In spring 2023, AAUW national members nation-wide voted by more than two-thirds to approve changes proposed to the AAUW national Bylaws. The most significant changes were:

1. AAUW shortened the required 60-day notification period to members prior to the AAUW national Board voting on a dues change to a 30-day notification period.
2. AAUW national modified its procedures for AAUW national Board composition.
  - a. The requirements for Board officers (a subset of “directors”) are now in a separate section of the Bylaws from the one re directors. The Board officers of AAUW national continue to be the Board Chair, Board Vice Chair, Board Finance Chair, and Board Secretary.
  - b. These officers must be members of AAUW national and are elected by the Board of Directors from amongst the 12 member-elected and 3 Board-appointed directors. Thus, the membership will no longer elect directors to a specific board officer position—likely because it is inconsistent with corporate law.
  - c. The Executive Committee was revised from the Board officers plus two other Board members, to just being composed of the Board officers. The CEO serves as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board and Executive committee.
3. The AAUW national Bylaws amendments resulted in mandatory changes to the first seven articles of all affiliates (state and branch) bylaws, which AAUW national requires be completed by June 30, 2026. The Vienna Branch AAUW Bylaws have been amended as required.

Annual Collection to Help Women-In-Need



well over 30 years, our branch has annually supported residents of Artemis House (operated by Shelter House, Inc.) as our project to benefit women-in-need in our community and their children. With two locations, Artemis House is the only Fairfax County-sponsored 24-hour emergency shelter for women and domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking.

Accepts donations of store (not credit-card) gift cards and full-size personal care items that are given to the residents who generally arrive only with the clothes they are wearing. Gift cards from grocery, drug stores, and multi-purpose stores like Walmart and Target are the most useful for purchasing everything from medicine to diapers/toys/cloths. Donations of full-size adult or child/baby hand/body/face lotion, shampoo, and body wash and other personal care items are appreciated. Your donation is a tax-deductible donation to "Shelter House, Inc." In compliance with IRS policies, we do not collect cash donations for another non-profit. As Artemis House Chair, I am collecting gift card and personal care item donations from now through the annual December Holiday Lunch. You can mail gift card donations to me or arrange for me to pick up or you to drop off any your donation at my house by contacting me.

Thank you to AAUW Branch members for your decades of generous help to Artemis House women and children that mean such much to them!

## INTEREST GROUPS

### Tuesday Morning Literature Group

November 14, when we'll discuss *Everything I Never Told You*, by Celeste Ng.

We will meet beginning at 9:30am for coffee and socializing, then begin the book discussion at 10am. Watch for an email from Adrienne with the location.

### Wednesday Brown Bag Book Group

November 29, 1 p.m.

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

Co-recipient of 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his good looks, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. In a plot that never pauses for breath, he braves the modern perils of foster care, child

labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses.

Watch for an email with the location for the November meeting.

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## Non-fiction Book Group

Nov 13. Meetings are second Monday night at 7pm in alternate months. In September we met to select books for the remaining four meetings. Here are the results of the members' selections:

November: Necessary Trouble: Growing Up at Mid-Century, Drew Gilpin

January:

Edge of the World: A Cultural History of the North Sea/Transformation of Europe, Michael Pye

March:

Tyranny of the Minority: Why American Democracy Reached the Breaking Point, Steen Levitsky & Daniel Ziblatt

May: An Immense World: How Animal Sense Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us, Ed Yong

It would be great if I could have volunteers for other meetings and to lead discussions or bring refreshments. Please let me know what you might like to contribute!

Looking forward to seeing everyone and talking about these varied books.

Watch for an email for the location of the November meeting.

## GREAT DECISIONS PROGRAM with the Foreign Policy Association

Our Vienna Area Branch Great Decisions group will resume in January 2024. We hope to have everyone back and we welcome new branch members to this enlightening program. New members are welcome to join us by attending any meeting without an obligation to join for the year.

We meet 8 times a year on the third Sunday afternoon of the month. We meet in members' homes, watch a short video about the FPA designated topic, and discuss the issues. Please join us for stimulating conversation. If you are new to the group, please email me so I can include you on the distribution list.

You may visit the Foreign Policy Association site ([fpa.org](http://fpa.org)) for more information about the upcoming year. The briefing materials will be available for a small cost, either in printed booklets or in Kindle version. Go to [FPA.org](http://FPA.org), Great Decisions, Program Materials, and be sure you get the 2024 briefing materials. Right now that link is listed under "Announcements" on the right side. Preorders begin October 23rd.

The 2024 topics are below:

- Mideast realignment
- Climate technology
- Science across borders
- U.S. - China trade rivalry
- NATO's future
- Understanding Indonesia
- High seas treaty
- Pandemic preparedness

We're looking forward to another great year!

## Movie Meet Ups

November 28: The Movie Meet Ups group meets at Cinema Arts for the early show on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. The film is selected after we know what the choices are for that day. Those who can stay afterwards have lunch together at First Watch, in the shopping center.

Let Susan know if you would like to be on the email list. Just go to whichever movie you are interested in.

## Public Policy

Please join Leslie on November 2<sup>nd</sup> for a Metro trip downtown to the AAUW offices to attend a Lobby Corps training. Find out what it's all about. We lobby once a month, and it's enjoyable and satisfying. We're given the talking points on email the night before about the issue of the day, we talk to staffers in the Congressional offices, and we always lobby in pairs to support one another.

## 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 socio-economic status.

