
AAUW VIENNA CONNECTION

DECEMBER 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.

December Program: December 9, noon, Pazzo Pomodoro Restaurant, Vienna

AAUW Vienna December Holiday Lunch

Saturday, December 9, 2023 at Noon

Pazzo Pomodoro Restaurant

Danor Plaza, 118 Branch Rd, SE, Vienna


You are invited to get together for socializing at the annual AAUW Vienna Area December Lunch that will be at the **Pazzo Pomodoro** restaurant in Vienna. Especially with husbands now joining our branch, Suzanne emphasizes that you are encouraged to invite your significant other, family and friends to our lunch. This is such a good opportunity to socialize with our wonderful branch members.

The restaurant has graciously agreed that each member will be separately billed for their meal. As usual, we will start with a social mix time and then join one another at reserved tables for our meal. Vegan/vegetarian and gluten-free dishes are available.

Reservations are necessary to ensure sufficient seating for all. Please email Suzanne your RSVP no later than **December 5th**. *This event is generally accessible, with one-step to the sidewalk and no steps into the restaurant.*

At this event, Suzanne will complete her final collection of donations of store gift cards and personal care items for Artemis House (See article November newsletter). Peter Gavigan, Assistant Director of Operations, Artemis House, will join us to receive our donations.

Annual Collection to Help Women-In-Need

 For 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 children fleeing domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking.

The branch collects 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 Event at noon on December 9th at Pazzo Pomodoro at Danor Plaza, 118 Branch Rd, SE, Vienna.

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

Review of the November meeting

Any visitor to the Patrick Henry Library would have been impressed with the wonderful attendance at the Vienna Area Branch November program. The topic, Foreign Travel for Youth, brought record attendees to our November program. The meeting room at the Patrick Henry Library was filled with students, parents, and grandparents from the Oakton and greater Vienna community, and our Branch members, eager to hear from our guest speakers! Our Branch hosted U.S. Department of State officers from the Citizen Exchange-Youth Programs Division of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, as well as participants of these programs. They shared with the audience pertinent information about the fully-funded programs offered by the State Dept, such as the Youth Ambassadors Program, High School Study Abroad. The discussion was moderated by Vienna Branch member Naureen Nalia who is a program officer in the Citizen Exchange-Youth Program Division at the State Department.

The program idea began in a conversation with fellow Branch member Nadine James about how to reach youth, especially students who may not be familiar with programs such as these. The diversity of the attendees certainly attested to the interest of our local youth. There was a robust question and answer session and materials were made available to anyone. The general consensus of Branch members attending was that this program should be offered again in the future.

And onward to the January meeting, early in the month of January:

AI (Artificial Intelligence) after ChatGPT

Saturday, January 6, 2024, 10:00 am Patrick Henry Library, Vienna, Virginia

AI technologies are fundamentally transforming our daily lives. They promise to transform the workplace, shift labor markets, redefine economies. How did we get here, and where are we going? This talk will first provide an overview of AI, its history, and its accomplishment. Then, it will focus on specific AI technologies that are changing our daily experiences, including new ethics-centered questions we are starting to ask. What does the future hold? What do we expect? What opportunities and dangers loom on the horizon of our digital society? Our speaker is Dr. Amarda Shedu from George Mason University's Speakers Bureau.

This program, presented by the Vienna Area Branch of AAUW and co-sponsored by the Patrick Henry Library of Vienna, is free and open to the public.

(Please see the planned schedule for the remaining year at the end of the newsletter)

Membership: Please greet our new members at the upcoming activities.

And plan to chat with someone you don't know well.

INTEREST GROUPS

Tuesday Morning Literature Group December 12: 9:30 am (second Tuesday this month)

Two short stories: "**The Snow Goose**," by Paul Gallico, and "**Bartleby the Scrivener**," by Herman Melville.

Bartleby the Scrivener: free in e-formats: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/11231>

Free pdf at: <https://moglen.law.columbia.edu/LCS/bartleby.pdf>

The Snow Goose: \$2.99 on Kindle or free pdf

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015003680454&view=1up&seq=1>

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.

Future meeting: January 16, 2024: *Mecca*, by Susan Straight.

Wednesday Brown Bag Book Group

This group will not meet in December.

Non-fiction Book Group (next meeting in Jan)

Meetings are second Monday night at 7pm in alternate months

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 Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us,
Ed Yong

GREAT DECISIONS PROGRAM with the Foreign Policy Association

Our first meeting will be on Sunday, January 21st, 2PM, at Conie's home. She will order the CD so we'll have it in time. Anyone who would like a printed book will be able to order it in December through the Foreign Policy Association website. Go to fpa.org and select Bookstore, then pre-order the 2024 booklet. The Kindle version doesn't seem to be available yet on Amazon, but it should be soon.

General information about Great Decisions

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.

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

Public Policy

Will you attend **Lobby Day in Richmond** with Leslie so we can put AAUW priorities in front of our state legislators? It will be held Wednesday, **Jan 31**, with a block of hotel rooms reserved for AAUW if you want a room the night before. Virginia AAUW will also hold a reception the evening of Jan 30 for Women Legislators that we are welcome to attend. You can make hotel reservations here: <https://group.hamptoninn.com/xfvxmr>. Our AAUW of Virginia Public Policy chairs are organizing now and they need to know who is coming, including our VA House and Senate district numbers, so they can try to assign us to visit our own lawmakers.

On the **AAUW National** front, November 30 was Native Women's Equal Pay Day.

The pay gap tends to be larger for women of color and in some cases the gap appears to be widening. Compared to white, non-Hispanic men, Native women make 59 cents on the dollar. The Equal Pay Day Calendar now encompasses a broader cross-section of women, including those who work part-time or seasonally, to represent a more accurate picture of how the gender pay gap impacts diverse communities. The COVID-19 pandemic pushed many women, especially women of color, into part-time or seasonal work, or out of the workforce all together. With the new inclusive methodology, we can advocate on behalf of all women in the workforce. Interested? For more information go to <https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/equal-pay-day-calendar/>

Also: Public Policy information from AAUW of Virginia

We were excited by some legislation introduced in Congress by Virginia Representative Bobby Scott, the America's College Promise Act of 2023. The legislation would create a joint state-federal partnership to provide free community college tuition. We sent Representative Scott a letter of support, which is attached. We also sent a letter to the editor of the Virginia Pilot which was published:

http://digitaledition.pilotonline.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=ab30691c-d479-46cf-9aa3-5fac64eba79f

Movie Meet Ups will not meet in December

The **Movie Meet Ups** normally meets at Cinema Arts for the early show on the **4th Tuesday** of the month.

Mini-Grant news from Kristin

Here is some happy news! The Vienna Area Branch has been awarded a mini-grant from Virginia AAUW for our *Liberty Amendments Month Community Project 2023*. Our branch is one of five across the Commonwealth to receive a mini-grant. We held the project in the AAUW fiscal year of 2024, so we were eligible to apply, even though our event was in July 2023.

I applied for the grant at the suggestion from Suzanne, and I will submit our receipts for the expenses we incurred (the books and bookmarks, all funded by donations from branch members.)

2023-2024 AAUW Vienna Area Event Schedule

PHL= Patrick Henry Library

Check the Newsletter for Updates

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| December 9
<i>Saturday, 12 noon</i> | <i>Branch Holiday Luncheon – Pazzo Pomodoro Restaurant, Vienna</i>
Social time with Vienna Area Branch members and invited friends |
| January 6
<i>Saturday, 10 am PHL</i> | <i>Artificial Intelligence After ChatGPT</i>
Dr. Amanda Shedu, George Mason University |
| February 3
<i>Saturday, 2 pm PHL</i> | <i>Starting a Woman-Owned Business With the Help of the SBA</i>
Cyndi Butler, Community Business Partnership, Women’s Business Center |
| February 24
<i>Saturday, TBD</i> | <i>AAUW Vienna Branch Fundraiser Event</i> |
| March 11
<i>Monday, 7 pm PHL</i> | <i>Affordable Housing: Myth or Reality?</i>
Jerry Poje, Fairfax County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee |
| April 20
<i>Saturday, 10 am</i> | <i>Paying Tribute: A Field Trip to the Turning Point Suffragist</i>
Memorial and Lucy Burns Workhouse Museum |

May 11 (Tentative)

Installation of Officers

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.