
AAUW VIENNA CONNECTION

JANUARY 2024

[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.

January Program:

AI (Artificial Intelligence) after ChatGPT

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

Doors open at 10:00 am, program begins at 10:30

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 in the horizon of our digital society? Our speaker is Dr. Amarda Shehu from George Mason University's Speakers Bureau.

Dr. Amarda Shehu is a Professor in the Department of Computer Science in the College of Engineering and Computing at George Mason University, where she is also Associate Vice President of Research for the Institute of Digital Innovation. Shehu obtained her Ph.D. from Rice University in 2008, where she was also an NIH predoctoral fellow in the Nanobiology Program and was dually trained in AI and Molecular Biophysics. She is a 2022 Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) and has received several awards, including the 2022 Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

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.

Review of the December meeting: OUR DECEMBER EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Donations to Artemis House: Many thanks to our branch members who generously donated \$1,875 in store gift cards and an estimated charity value of \$75 in personal care and other needed items. The generosity of our members who contributed so much is very appreciated by Artemis House as reflected in the message below received from Shatoya Snell, Community Coordinator for Artemis House. If a member wishes to do more now or during the year for Artemis House, their Walmart and Amazon wish lists are at:

<https://www.artemishouse.org/donate>

“Thank you so much for the incredible donations and gift cards [A]AUW provided for Artemis House over the weekend! Your organization's incredible commitment to serving the vulnerable members of our community has proven invaluable in our efforts towards building a community free of homelessness and domestic violence, and for that, we are truly grateful. We look forward to continuing to collaborate together in service of our community.”

A Lively Time at December Lunch: This year’s lunch was enjoyed by twenty-seven branch members at Pazzo Pomodoro on December 9. There was much talk and laughter that reflected our pleasure at being together.

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

February 3

Saturday, 2 pm PHL

Starting a Woman-Owned Business with the Help of the SBA

Cyndi Butler, Community Business Partnership, Women’s Business Center

INTEREST GROUPS

Tuesday Morning Literature Group January 16, 9:30 am (Third Tuesday)

Mecca, by Susan Straight.

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

Wednesday Brown Bag Book Group January 31, 1:00 pm

The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese

The long-awaited new novel by the author of *Cutting for Stone*. Spanning the years 1900 to 1977, *The Covenant of Water* is set in Kerala, on South India's Malabar Coast, and follows three generations of a family.

Watch for an email from the leaders with details of the location.

Non-fiction Book Group January 8, 7:00 pm

Meetings are held the second Monday at 7pm in alternate months. January meeting will be at the home of Mary. Watch for an email from Jean with details, or contact Jean as shown below.

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, Steven
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

Sunday, January 21, 2pm, At the home of Connie

Anyone who would like a printed book will be able to order it through the Foreign Policy Association website. Go to fpa.org and select Bookstore, then order the 2024 booklet. The Kindle version should also be available.

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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 (Repeated from last month, since Lobby Day is later in the month of January.)

Will you attend **Lobby Day in Richmond** 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. Please email our Public Policy Chair so she can send the Public Policy Chairs the names and districts for our Vienna branch delegation.

Movie Meet Ups

The **Movie Meet Ups** group meets at Cinema Arts for the early show on the **4th 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. Susan sends an email a week ahead, with the movie selection for the month.

AAUW Fundraising event: save the date

Save **Saturday, February 24, 2024** for our annual Branch AAUW Fundraising event! In light of the difficult times we seem to be experiencing in the world, Nadine has plans for us to come together with other like-minded women and men and enjoy food and fellowship!

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.

