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# **AAUW VIENNA CONNECTION**

**FEBRUARY 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](mailto:viennaauw@gmail.com).

## **February Program:**

### ***Starting a Woman-Owned Business with the Help of the Small Business Administration***

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

**Saturday, February 3, 2024, 2:00 pm Patrick Henry Library, Vienna, Virginia**

Doors open at 1:30 pm, program begins at 2:00 p.m.

As Director of the Women's Business Center, Cindy Butler oversees training and counseling for individual entrepreneurs, as well as groups, who want to form a women-owned business. This program is co-hosted by Patrick Henry Library and American Association of University Women (AAUW).

## **Review of the January 2024 meeting:**

Artificial Intelligence, A Look to the Past and to the Future

Dr. Amarda Shehu, professor of computer science at GMU and Associate Dean for AI Innovation, College of Engineering and Computing, spoke to a packed meeting room at the Patrick Henry Library on January 6th. Approximately fifty AAUW members, guests, and the general public heard Dr. Shehu's synopsis of the history of AI and its promises and problems. The program was co-sponsored by the Patrick Henry Library and arranged through the George Mason University Speakers' Bureau.

**Looking ahead to the March meeting,**

Monday March 11, 7PM

Patrick Henry Library

## **Affordable Housing: Myth or Reality?**

Jerry Poje, Fairfax County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee

Ensuring the affordability of rental and owned homes is a central challenge to Fairfax County's sustainability. This lecture will elevate our shelter needs, implications for various demographic groups, trends and on-going county efforts. Discussion will focus on community roles in meeting the challenge.

**Also in March: MEETING of NORTHERN DISTRICT branches of AAUW of Virginia**

Saturday, March 9, 2024 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria.

Featured speaker Diana Parsell will discuss her book

*Eliza Scidmore, the Early AAUW Member Behind Washington's Cherry Blossoms.*

Scidmore was a journalist and travel writer who got her start as a newspaper correspondent in Gilded Age Washington in the 1870s who wrote authoritative books on Alaska, Japan, Java, China and India and an activist in the burgeoning U.S. conservation movement.

In 1920, Scidmore became an AAUW member.

Copies of the book will be available for sale.

A business meeting will follow.

## **INTEREST GROUPS**

### **Tuesday Morning Literature Group**

February 20: *When We Were Orphans*, by Kazuo Ishiguro.

We meet at members' homes 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**

February 28 1:00 p.m. *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion

**Non-fiction Book Group** next meeting in March,

Meetings are held the second Monday at 7pm in alternate months.

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**

February 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Topic: Climate Technology and Competition

If you are having trouble getting the briefing materials from the Foreign Policy Association, please contact me. If you are new and would like to be on the Great Decisions distribution list, please email me.

The remaining 2024 topics are below:

Science across borders

U.S.- China trade rivalry

NATO's future

Understanding Indonesia

High seas treaty

Pandemic preparedness

### **Movie Meet Ups**

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. 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! (Watch your email for an invitation from Nadine)

## **Public Policy AAUW of Virginia and National AAUW**

### **Virginia AAUW Lobby Corps**

**February 28** will be our first Virtual Lobby Day. All members will be asked to advocate for AAUW priorities to our representatives in the Virginia General Assembly. We can each choose whether to place phone calls or send emails. You can read more about this at <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/aauw/directors/publicpolicy/> .

Specifics about which bills to advocate for (or against) will be made clear as the bills progress in the Assembly process.

**virtual trainings on February 8 at [9:30am](#) and [5:00pm](#).**

**Want to make your voice heard this election year? Join AAUW Lobby Corps!**

Over the past fifty years, Lobby Corps has put a face to AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls, and we invite you to join us! Lobby Corps gives you the tools and resources to amplify your voice and your impact. And, you get to do it with other gender equity advocates in your community.

Lobby Corps members have made tens of thousands of in-person visits to congressional offices on issues including Title IX, pay equity, reproductive rights, and the Equal Rights Amendment. Lobby Corps is only a two-hour commitment once a month. We meet on Capitol Hill on the third Thursday of each month when Congress is in session. Volunteers receive in-depth information about our issues and are paired with experienced Lobby Corps members for office visits. Lobby Corps is AAUW in action!

**Event:** AAUW Lobby Corps Virtual Training

**Date:** February 8

**Times:** [9:30am](#) and [5:00pm](#) (follow link to register for the time you select)

**Location:** Zoom

**Kalina Majercak, AAUW Policy Associate** [majercakk@aauw.org](mailto:majercakk@aauw.org).

*P.S. Please see information on upcoming AAUW webinar:*

- [School Boards: The Battleground for the Education Culture Wars](#), Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 pm ET

## **National AAUW Open Membership Proposal**

In January, National AAUW announced proposed amendments to the national bylaws recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee that would open membership to “. . .any individual who supports AAUW’s purpose of advancing equity for women and girls . . . .”

Every AAUW member has the right to comment on this proposed change to the bylaws and then to vote on the proposal. ***As a member of AAUW, your voice and your vote count. AAUW-VA members are encouraged to review, comment, and vote on this proposal.***

- To read AAUW’s rationale for this change, review the proposed amendments, and submit a comment -- go to [PROPOSAL](#)
- To access resource material for branch discussion of the proposal -- go to [OPEN MEMBERSHIP TOOLKIT](#)

### Key Dates

January 26 | Comment period ends at 5:00 pm ET

April 3 | Voting opens (online voting is encouraged)

May 15 | Online voting ends at 12:00 pm ET (noon) and results announced online

## **Vienna Branch Nominating Committee**

Our branch's 2024 Nominating Committee has been formed and will be working this winter/spring to identify candidates for upcoming vacancies on our board.

## **Legacy Circle**

Show a Little Love!

February, the month of valentines and cupids and hearts, is a great time for showing a little love for AAUW! One way is to make a planned gift to AAUW, in your will or trust or to name AAUW as a beneficiary or recipient of an IRA or a bank account...or via other means.

This is a gift for the future, no need to turn to your checkbook or credit card right now! You don't need to be wealthy to do this, and every gift, no matter its size, is deeply appreciated. I made my own planned gift back in 2014, after my husband's death, because I realized how much AAUW meant to me...in terms of what I had gained from it in leadership skills and experiences and how large a part of my life it had been. I also was sure that AAUW would work hard for future generations of women and girls, and extend my work beyond my mortal reach. I wanted my gift to reflect the circle of supporting friends I had gained, too.

In making a planned gift to AAUW you will be joining fellow Vienna Area branch members and me in the AAUW Legacy Circle: Beverly Larson, Suzanne Rothwell, and Mary Wall.

I will be happy to talk to you about making a planned gift to AAUW. Also check out the following resources:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/>

Note that AAUW has a four star rating on Charity Navigator.

## **2023-2024 AAUW Vienna Area Event Schedule**

*PHL= Patrick Henry Library*

**Check the Newsletter for Updates**

**February 3  
the SBA**

*Saturday, 2 pm PHL  
Center*

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

Cyndi Butler, Community Business Partnership, Women's Business

**February 24  
Event**

*Saturday, TBD*

***AAUW Vienna Branch Fundraiser***

**March 11  
or Reality?**

*Monday, 7 pm PHL*

***Affordable Housing: Myth***

Jerry Poje, Fairfax County Affordable Housing Advisory



Committee

**April 20  
Suffragist**

*Saturday, 10 am*  
Museum

***Paying Tribute: A Field Trip to the Turning Point***

Memorial and Lucy Burns Workhouse

**May 11 (Tentative)  
Officers**

**Installation of**

### **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.