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# **AAUW VIENNA CONNECTION**

**MARCH 2024**

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 [viennaaauw@gmail.com](mailto:viennaaauw@gmail.com).

## **March Program:**

### ***AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN VIENNA AREA: MYTH OR REALITY***

Monday, March 11, 2024, 7:00 pm Patrick Henry Library, Vienna, Virginia

Doors open at 6:30 pm, program begins at 7:00 pm

Jerry Poje, member of the Fairfax County Human Services Council and its Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, as well as an executive committee member of the non-partisan Campaign for Housing and Civic Engagement, will be our speaker.

He will share his long experience working on affordable housing access and strategies in Fairfax County. 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, and ongoing county efforts. Discussion will focus on community roles in meeting the challenge.

The program is co-hosted by Patrick Henry Library and American Association of University Women (AAUW).

## **Looking ahead to the April meeting**

**April 20**

*Saturday, 10 am*  
Workhouse Museum

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

Memorial and Lucy Burns

Watch the April newsletter for more details, such as carpooling.

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## **Review of February Fundraising Luncheon**

Branch members attended our annual AAUW-Funds fundraiser event held at the home of Co-President Susan on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. The potluck luncheon's theme "Let There Be Music!" was recognition of our members who enjoy music and use their musical talents in our community. Also, February is Black History Month and attendees joined together and sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" a song the NAACP has designated the Black national anthem. Kristin closed the program portion of the event with reading Amanda Gorman's poem, "The Hill We Climb". So far, our treasurer has received donations totaling \$1060, and that does not include donations submitted directly to National. Once again, by working together, our branch has reached our fundraising goal. We have much to celebrate!

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## **INTEREST GROUPS**

### **Tuesday Morning Literature Group**

Our next meeting will be held **Tuesday, March 19, at 9:30 am**. The discussion is on *The Storied Life of AJ Fikry*, by Gabrielle Zevin.

### **Wednesday Brown Bag Book Group**

**March 27, 1:00 pm**

*Chenneville* by Paulette Jiles

John Chenneville, a Union army lieutenant arrives home in St. Louis where he finds out his sister and her family were murdered. Consumed with grief and driven by vengeance, John undertakes an unrelenting odyssey across the lawless post-Civil War frontier seeking redemption.

### **Nonfiction Book Group**

**The March meeting has been rescheduled to March 18, 7 pm**

*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

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

## **GREAT DECISIONS PROGRAM**

**March 17, 2 pm**

The topic is: Science across Borders, by Mila Rosenthal

Scientific advances benefit from collaboration between researchers, but what happens when material, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) is controversial and important to a

nation's national security? Is there a middle ground between sharing information and denying access? How can we regulate cooperation?

The remaining 2024 topics are below:

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.

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## **Public Policy**

Branch Members Lobby the Virginia General Assembly

Three branch members, Suzanne Rothwell, Kristin Moyer, and I, went to Richmond on January 31 where we joined forces with 31 other AAUW members from around the state to lobby our State Senators and Delegates. Our Virginia AAUW public policy chairs, Janine Greenwood and Denise Murden, briefed us at the newly-built General Assembly Office Building and gave us materials to hand out. Then we met with representatives to tell them about AAUW and we brought AAUW priorities to their attention:

- Advocating for abortion rights and for a reproductive rights Virginia Constitutional amendment
- Advocating for economic security and equity for women in the workplace
- Making childcare affordable and readily available for all families
- Ensuring full public-school funding and a strong system of public education that promotes equity, diversity, and inclusivity
- Protecting full access to voting through a Virginia Constitutional amendment

Kristin summed up our experience nicely, saying “I thought the lobby day was particularly well organized and productive this year and am so glad I could attend!”

## **Beyond the Vienna Branch**

### **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.

# AAUW of VIRGINIA 2024 CONFERENCE

Please join us for the 2024 AAUW-VA State Conference  
at the Hilton Garden Inn, Lynchburg, VA

Saturday, April 13, 2024 ~ 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**REGISTER NOW!**

The link below has everything you need

**[AAUW-VA 2024 CONFERENCE BROCHURE](#)**

Traditionally, several members of the our branch attend the AAUW of Virginia Conference each year. Read the brochure, and if you are interested in attending, please contact Gail and we can set up carpools and maybe even hotel roommates.

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**To Vienna Branch members:** please read this; it concerns opening AAUW membership to "...any individual who supports AAUW's purpose of advancing equity for women and girls...".

## **National AAUW Open Membership Proposal**

### **Bylaws and Resolutions Chair Report**

#### **AAUW Open Membership Proposal**

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

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

#### Key Dates

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.

Thanks go out to those serving on this important committee.

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## **Branch Board Meeting**

Saturday, March 2 at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Candace open to all.

Please let Candace know if you would like to attend.

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## **Legacy Circle**

Show a Little Love! This is reprinted from the February newsletter

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.

**Kristin**



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## **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.